

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

October 2021

News



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From Sonya

At this time of year, we are aware of the harvest being brought in all around us. We thank God for those who work hard to produce our food. But we also recognise that the fruitfulness of the land is due to the provision of our generous God. It is He who sends the sun and rain and who causes the crops to grow and the animals to flourish.



Our generous God is also interested in the fruitfulness of our lives. What fruit is evidenced in us as we go about our everyday tasks? Galatians 5:22+23 says this, “The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!” Does that describe the fruit of our lives?

None of us can produce this kind of fruit in our own strength, but the good news is that we don’t need to strive to be patient or kind. We do need to be open to God and obedient to Him, allowing the Holy Spirit to produce this fruit in us. We co-operate with His work by confessing that we need God’s help and asking Him to work in us. This is one way that God wants us to produce fruit – by modelling godly character. Another way is by doing good work – so that whatever we do, whether the work we do is paid work or not, we do it to the best of our ability and as worship to God.

So, as we celebrate the fruitfulness of the earth, let’s ask God to make our lives fruitful as well. Blessings to you all, Sonya

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.
Proverbs 3:5-6

From the Deacons

Thanks to Ian and Sonya the deacons were able to meet at their home, and were given wonderful refreshments. Sonya read from Ephesians 4, asking us to reflect on those words or phrases which sprung out as God's voice. We all thought those words "Christ gave (His Holy Spirit) to equip His people for works of service ...and from Him the whole body grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" stood out most. After considering and praying for those on our pastoral list we discussed future events:- services, SupaClub, Open the Book, Home Groups, Messy Church, Harvest, Shoeboxes, Remembrance Day, the Big Quiz and Christmas. And then of course the state of our finances and maintenance. It was a very productive and happy meeting which ended at 9:30 pm.

New Collection Box



A new collection box has been put into the entrance of the chapel. This will be available for anyone who wishes to make a cash or cheque donation to the church instead of donating online. Gift Aid envelopes will also be available for those who are able to make use of them.

The Chapel Stables



It won't have escaped anyone's attention that the stable block is now dangerous and in a parlous state. The problem is due to it falling within the curtilage of the chapel, resulting in it having a Grade 2 building listing. The deacons have sought advice on how to go about having the building demolished (before it falls into our neighbour's garden, the farmer's field, or onto someone entering it) and building something in keeping with the church's modern ministry on its footprint. The Local authority planning officer told us we may have to rebuild it as it is, ie a stable block, in spite of being told it would be of no use to us as a church building. We have also sought advice from the Baptist Union Listed Buildings Advisory Committee but were told the stable block is not within their remit because it is not used as an ecclesiastical building. Acting on Adrian Male's advice the deacons have now asked Clive Miller Planning to apply for planning permission for us to have the building demolished so we can build a safe building/Psalm 23 garden? on its footplate. Please pray for a successful outcome for this thorny project.

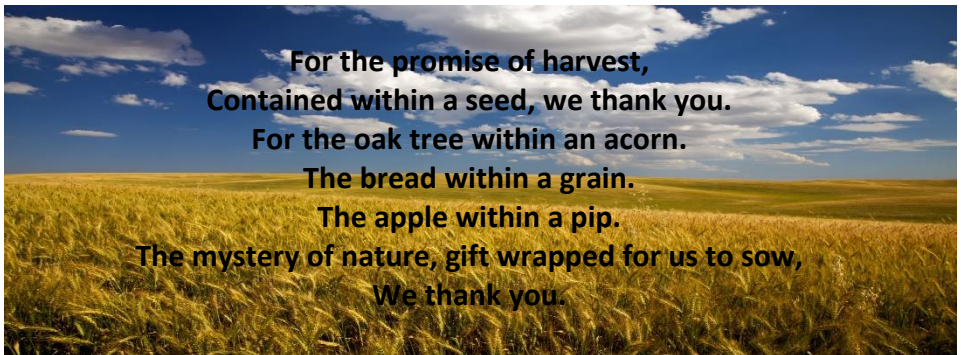
Home Groups

There are two Homegroups which meet regularly to study the Bible, to pray together and to support each other. If you are interested in joining a Homegroup, please contact Sonya.



Messy Church will restart on **Sunday 10th October**, starting at **10am** with a delicious *breakfast* followed by crafts and activities suitable for all ages, and ending with a time of celebration including a Bible story and some songs.

We are really looking forward to welcoming back all our regular families and would love to meet any new families who would like to see what goes on!



**For the promise of harvest,
Contained within a seed, we thank you.**

For the oak tree within an acorn.

The bread within a grain.

The apple within a pip.

The mystery of nature, gift wrapped for us to sow,

We thank you.

Acknowledgement – John Birch/Faithandworship.com



John Scott

A service was held on Friday 17th September to celebrate and give thanks for the life of John Scott. Bill and Sarah, his son and daughter, told us about his long and active life. He'd been born in Calcutta but returned to the Scottish borders and he was always proud of his Scottish roots. It was here that he worked on the family market garden and developed green fingers. He studied engineering and joined the REME as an officer cadet in 1946, serving in Singapore, Japan, Germany and Cyprus as well as the UK. We heard how enterprising he was – in Cyprus he

formed a Go-kart team which beat the Shah of Iran's team!

He and Paddy married in 1950 and it was while he was stationed at Sherford that they fell in love with the Somerset countryside and decided to settle here. They bought Chatsworth House and renovated it, installing mod cons such as a bath and indoor loo.

He retired from the army in 1969, which, he said, left him free to do whatever Paddy wanted him to do. This included gardening and helping to look after their grandchildren.

John and Paddy were involved in many village activities. They drove the minibus for the OAPs, delivered Meals on Wheels, washed up for Luncheon Club, was treasurer of Burrowbridge Garden Club. At any church activity, John was always there, setting up tables and pergolas and generally helping behind the scenes. He regularly took part in Cameo outings. He was a blood donor. In 2012 he and Paddy were awarded the Somerset County Council Chairman's award for services to the community.

The reading was from Ecclesiastes 3, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Sonya spoke of his long full life with many seasons, adventure and experience. Everything he did was with a kind and thoughtful smile. He will be much missed

For our Prayers

John and Karen Barnes

Alan and Kay Chedzoy

Ian and Sonya Setchell

Adrian and Louise Grinter, Charlotte, Matt, Laura
and Hannah

Nicola and Roger Edwards

Our friends at St Gregory's



We continue to hold in our prayers others who are known to us at this time in our community – Judith and David Hincks, Anne Jackson, Freda Gadsby, the Robinson family, Paddy and her family, Hannah, Luke and Will, the Case family.



BMS Birthday Scheme

We celebrate the birthdays this month of Alison White on the 14th and Gill Yaskin on the 7th

We wish both Alison and Gill a very happy day and thank them for supporting the scheme.

October Flowers

3rd Harvest Flowers

10th Dianne Callaghan

17th Anne Jackson

24th Ruth Gadsby

31st Liz Hembrow

Nov 7th Gill Yaskin

October 2021 Calendar

| Day | Time | Event |
|------------|-------------------|---|
| Sun 3 | 10.30am | Family worship with Communion with Rev Sonya Fruitfulness on the Frontline 3 |
| Wed 6 | 7.30pm | Home Group |
| Wed 6 | 12 noon | Luncheon Club in the schoolroom |
| Thurs 7 | 9.15am 9.30am | Church open for prayer TWiGs in the schoolroom |
| Sun 10 | 10.30am | Messy Church starting with breakfast at 10am |
| Mon 11 | 10am- 1pm | Church open for quiet prayer |
| Wed 13 | 7.30pm | Home Group |
| Thurs 14 | 9.15am 9.30am | Church open for prayer TWiGs in the schoolroom |
| Sun 17 | 10.30am | Family Worship with Rev Sonya Fruitfulness on the Frontline 4 |
| Mon 18 | 7.30pm | Deacons Meeting |
| Wed 20 | 12 noon 7.30pm | Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home Group |
| Thurs 21 | 9.15am 9.30am | Church open for prayer TWiGs in the schoolroom |
| Wed 27 | 12 noon 7.30pm | Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home Group |
| Sun 31 | 10.30am | Family worship with Rev Sonya Fruitfulness on the Frontline 6 |
| NOV | | |
| Wed 3 | 12 noon | Luncheon Club in the schoolroom |
| Thurs 4 | 9.15am 9.30am | Church open for prayer TWiGs in the schoolroom |