

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

February 2024

News



Minister:

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From Sonya



As Easter is early this year, Lent is almost upon us – Ash Wednesday is 14th February! I would like to encourage you to join with us as a church as we prepare for Easter by joining LICC in their “On Purpose devotional journey” during Lent. Here is their information about it:

“With Jesus, our work, family life, friendships, and interests all serve a higher purpose. The accountant who views her daily work as sacred and significant, even when colleagues insist it’s just a grind. The grandmother who talks to her granddaughter about Jesus every week over Sunday lunch. The head boy who jumps to the defence of the student who’s picked on by everyone else in the year. No matter how mundane our everyday tasks and interactions may seem, they all have deep purpose in God’s eyes. In our work, family life, friendships, interests, and neighbourhoods, we’re invited to join in his redemptive work, making earth more like heaven. And that means wherever we go and whatever we do, we do it with purpose – God’s hands and feet in his world.

This Lent devotional journey invites you to think differently about everything you do. Over 40 days, you’ll get to grips with the Bible’s view of purpose and read true stories of how that purpose is worked out in all kinds of Christians’ lives today. Finally, in Holy Week you’ll prepare for Easter with an examination of how Jesus reveals His true purpose in the days before His crucifixion.”

You will be able to join in by signing up for emails at www.licc.org.uk/onpurpose or via the YouVersion app, by searching “Licc purpose”.

I’m excited about the journey that God is leading us on this Lent and hope you will join us.

Blessings to all of you,
Sonya

New Verse of the Year



A new verse has been chosen for the year: Jeremiah 29 v11 -12 and it seems very relevant for our church at this time and will hopefully encourage us all as we journey through this year.

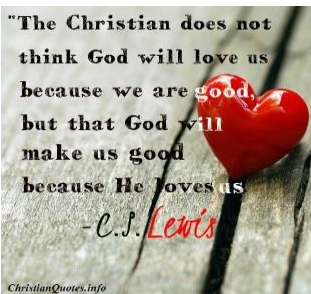
“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.”

Jeremiah 29 v11-12

The picture on the front of this month’s newsletter shows the “Hope and a Future” mug which contains part of our new verse. The mug is by Hannah Dunnett who, with her musician husband Ben, uses her creativity to express herself and her faith through the arts.

Hannah uses different bible verses, hymns and religious texts to create cards, homewares and artwork. Ben has created 8 albums of reflective piano pieces, worship music and a collection of children’s songs all of which are available on audio CDs. For more information, have a look at their website www.benandhannahdunnett.com

A little quote for Valentine’s Day...

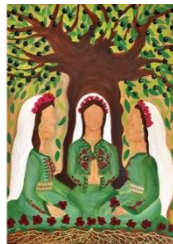




World Day of Prayer

Friday March 1st is the World Day of Prayer and a joint service will be held on that day at the Baptist Church in Stoke St Gregory at 3pm

Christian women from Palestine have written the service for this year, giving them an opportunity to reflect on continuing challenging times, encouraging Palestinian Christian women to keep searching for a deeper understanding among all the people who share the land, trusting for and hoping in the humanity of one another.



People and Population

Palestinians are a scattered population with over 12 million living all over the world. Estimates suggest that just over 5 million Palestinians currently reside in Palestine and Israel. There is a small Christian

minority in this predominantly Muslim country, making up about 2% of the Palestinian population.

Christianity and Interfaith Issues

The Christian Church in Palestine is an active church, rich in history and diverse in traditions, with a unique mission and calling. In the area from which Christianity spread and many denominations arose, Jerusalem alone is home to thirteen historically recognised churches throughout the Holy Land and worldwide. Christian-Jewish interfaith connections are central in the ongoing conversations regarding Israel and Palestine.

More information about the World Day of Prayer can be found on the website www.wwdp.org.uk

Church Training Day



Church members and our congregations are warmly invited to join Revd. Carl Smethurst, (Regional Team Leader for Mission, South West Baptist Association) at the Baptist Church on **Saturday 24th February** for the “Engaging with Contemporary Culture Training Day”

The day aims to address some of the fundamental questions of our faith today...

- Why does the gap between Christian Church and the world in which we live seem to be growing ever bigger?
- Why is it that those of us who are both sides of that gap seem to find it increasingly difficult to bridge it?

The day will offer an opportunity to discuss possible answers to those questions whilst considering the Good News of the gospel of Jesus Christ and how we can make it relevant to those living in our communities today.

The day will start at **10.00am** and will finish at **4.00pm**. Refreshments will be available throughout the day and we will have a short break at lunchtime for a Bring & Share. If you'd like to bring along a bible plus a pen and paper that would be great, although these can be provided on the day.

Please let Sonya know if you're able to attend this day's training so we know how many to set up for.

For our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers – David Akerman, Tim and Julia Spotswood, Mary Strange, Betty Woodland, Judith & David Hincks, Joan Thatcher, Alison Katte.



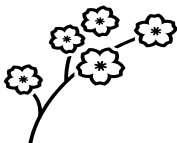
Our love and prayers are with the families of Marice David and Fran Lawrence. Maurie has been a longstanding member of our lunch club, usually the first to arrive and always with a ready smile right up to the week before he died. Fran and her husband Phil, faithfully delivered our newsletter to their neighbours in Polkesfield for many years until “relieved” by the Covid lockdown in 2020. They will all be sadly missed.

BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthday this month of Anne Coate on 25th .

We thank her for supporting the scheme and wish them a joyful day.



February Flowers

- 4th** Messy Church
- 11th** Paddy Scott
- 18th**
- 25th** Lesley Perry

3rd March *Easter Messy Church*

February 2024 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Thrs 1st	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 4th		MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Mon 5th	7.00pm	Deacons Prayer Meeting
Weds 7th	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Homegroup
Thrs 8th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 11th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE with Communion Followed by Church Members Meeting
Weds 14th	7.30pm	Homegroup
Sun 18th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE
Mon 19th	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting
Weds 21st	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Homegroup
Thrs 22nd	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sat 24th	10am to 4pm	Church teaching day – Contemporary Culture with Carl Smethurst
Sun 25th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE
Tues 27th	2.00pm	Open the Book planning meeting
Weds 28th	7.30pm	Homegroup

Thrs 29th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
MARCH Fri 1st	3.00pm	Joint World Day of Prayer Service at SSG Baptist Church (prepared by women from the church in Palestine)
Sun 3rd	10.00am	Easter MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am

Church Finances

Like many people right now, our costs are increasing but unfortunately our income isn't. In order for us to have a minister and to maintain the chapel building, we rely solely on the kind and generous donations that are given by church members and others in our community who use the church.

A monthly Standing Order is a really helpful way to give to the church since regular monthly amounts enable us to budget better. Setting up a Standing Order can be done very easily if you bank online or you can telephone your bank. You can alter the monthly amounts or pause the payments if needed. To set up a Standing Order you will need the following information:

Account Name: Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

Account Number: 00604544

Sort Code: 30-98-45

We are always incredibly grateful for any donation, however small, and are very aware that there will be those who are unable to give anything at this time. It is never an easy task asking for money, but we do have to recognise that there is a real risk of the Baptist Church in Stoke St Gregory having to close if we are unable to increase our income.

