

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church
June 2023
News



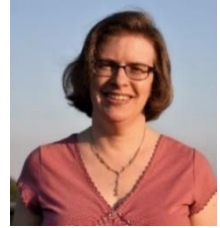
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From Sonya

Psalms 105:1 “Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done.”



As you know, Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church has had a problem hanging over our heads for years with regard to the stable building at the back of the chapel. Being Grade 2 listed but also condemned because it was falling down made it a huge challenge to deal with. A large amount of money would be needed to make it safe, but we were restricted to what we could do because of the listing. The church has discussed and prayed for many years about how to resolve this issue.

This is why we are so grateful to God for providing everything we needed to do the necessary building work on the stable. We thank God for Mark Taylor, the architect who has given us so much good advice. We thank God for all the volunteers who have worked so hard in so many ways to get to this moment. We thank God for all the grant funders and individuals who gave money towards this project. We thank God for T. A. Green, the contractors who have done such a great job of restoring the stable to how it was. Most of all we thank God for His enabling, empowering and provision, and that we can now move forward without this issue hanging over us.

We are planning to have a grand opening and dedication of the stable at our annual strawberry tea which is at 3pm on Saturday 24th June. You are all welcome to come and celebrate with us on this day.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.
Jeremiah 17:7-8

Church Meeting

Members met after the Sunday service at the end of May and discussed various items on the agenda, including future events, church finances, previous services and general ongoing maintenance needs. We also watched a short film about the newly updated Alpha Course that Sonya proposed as something to possibly run as a church in future months. Many people have come to faith during an Alpha course, and it is a wonderful opportunity to explore through open discussion the great questions in life. Prayers were requested to seek if it might be the right time to hold an Alpha Course in our community.

Luncheon Club



There was a wonderful turn out last month by the Luncheon Club when they met together to celebrate the King's Coronation. Regular members had invited friends, so the Schoolroom was wonderfully filled. Crowns were worn and a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all.

Fundraising Event for the Church Grounds



A very special afternoon was enjoyed by all those who attended Jean Pimm's Tea & Cake afternoon in the Village Pavillion. The event was held to raise funds to help with the upkeep of the graveyard. Old friendships were rekindled, delicious cakes were eaten and over £1,700 was raised! A wonderfully kind and generous donation of a leaf blower and a lawn mower was also received. Thank you so much to all involved!

Help Needed!



Tim is organising a gathering of volunteers to help for a couple of hours with some weeding, strimming, painting, and fixing of noticeboards in the church grounds. If you are able, please join him at **10am** on **Saturday 17th June** at the chapel. As the saying goes – many hands make light work!!

Strawberry Tea and Grand Opening of the Stables



Please join us on Saturday 24th June at 3.00pm at Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church.

We will be celebrating and giving thanks for the completed works on the Stable block in the chapel grounds with Strawberries, Cakes, Scones and Tea.

The old stables had fallen into disrepair over the years and being Listed, have been an ongoing financial and safety concern for the church. The renovated stables now give us a lovely new outside space that can be used for outdoor services, and hopefully community events in the future.



ARC – the charity we supported last year, has asked us to promote their Big Sleep Out in June. A few of us took part last year by “sleeping out” in the church grounds to raise much needed funds for the charity. Please contact ARC if you’d like to take part this year, or if you would like to make a donation to the charity.

Membership News

The Stannard family have kindly shared a wonderfully insightful and interesting article written by their youngest son, Matty, following his surgery for cochlear implants in August last year.

Titled “A New Better Normal” Matty writes about his journey of discovering just how limited his hearing was and the impact of being deaf. He describes his experiences of adjusting to using hearing aids through school, the difficulties he faced with socialising and interacting with friends, and finally the fascinating process of transformation from ‘residual hearing + hearing aids’ to ‘hearing via processors’.

Throughout the article, Matty demonstrates an incredible resilience and an impressive ability to adapt to his hearing disability. He is a black belt in Taekwon-Do, he mountain bikes, he’s doing his Silver DofE award and The Ten Tors!! He really is a very special young man!

The Stannards currently have another reason to be proud – Eleanor has recently been offered her first teaching job as an NQT at a school in South Bristol. Many congratulations to Eleanor – she will definitely be a huge asset to the school.

If anyone would like to read Matty’s article in full, please email the.saunders@care4free.net and Amanda will forward it to you.

CHURCH AGM

The AGM will be held straight after the service on Sunday 25th June. Please attend if you can. It is a great opportunity to review what has taken place over the year and to vote on what happens in the next one. New deacons are being sought so please put your name forward if you are interested or speak to one of the current deacons for more information.

For our Prayers

Ali and Jason Pook, Freddie and Nelly
Geoff Treasure
Jain Fairfax
Leah and Simon Van Looy, Jack and Max
Mike Hutchings
Residents and staff of our care homes



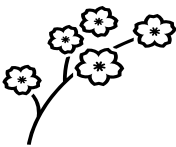
We continue to pray for healing for Joan, Mary, Anne J, Stuart M, and for family members of those within the church membership.

BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthday this month of Gillian Akerman on the 16th

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



June Flowers

4th Messy Church
11th Alison White
18th Amanda Saunders
25th Kathy Davidson

July

2nd Messy Church

June 2023 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sat 3rd	10.00am – 4.00pm	SSG Envirofair in the Village Hall
Sun 4th	10.30pm	MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Weds 7th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 11th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 11th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE with COMMUNION led by Eric Skinner
Tues 13th	2.00pm	Open the Book planning meeting
Weds 14th	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Homegroup
Thurs 15th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 18th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE Luke 7: 1-17
Weds 21st	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 22nd	9.30am- 11.30am 7.30pm	TWiGs in the Schoolroom Deacons Meeting
Sat 24th	3.00pm	Strawberry Tea and Grand Opening of the stables
Sun 25th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE Luke 7: 18-35 CHURCH AGM (following coffees after the service)
Weds 28th	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club Homegroup
Thurs 29th	9.30am – 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom