

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

March 2025

News



Minister:

Rev. Sonya Setchell

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From Sonya

Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.”



As the church enters a new and different season, I encourage you all to fix your eyes on Jesus and to seek to follow Him wholeheartedly. Jesus began a good work in the church here and if you continue to listen to Him and to follow His leading, He will continue to work in and through you. And remember to “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” (Matthew 6:33)

Blessings to all of you,
Sonya

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church: A Celebration Tea for Sonya

As many of you will know, our Minister Sonya will be leaving us towards the end of March to take up a new position as Minister of



Tamworth Baptist Church. Over the years, through her ministry, Sonya has made many friends in the local community. There will be many of us who will miss Sonya's involvement in the school, village shop, craft group etc., as well as Messy Church parents & children, Anglican Church members and, of course, our own church members. Friendships have been formed over the years, so we should like to mark the occasion by thanking her & Ian & wishing them both well for the future with a **Celebration Community tea**, in the Baptist Church, on **Saturday 22nd March, 2.30 - 4.30pm**. Do

please come along and join with us!

Should anyone wish to contribute towards a gift for Sonya, please contact Ruth Loveridge who is co-ordinating this.

Women's World Day of Prayer 2025

Service held at North Curry Parish Church on Friday 7th March at 3pm

This year's WWDP is planned by women from The Cook Islands. Tarani Napa and Tevairangi Napa, a mother and daughter duo, created this year's artwork. They share the vision they had for their composition based on Psalm 139:14: *'I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made'*.

"Our Heavenly Father blessed our islands of the sea. From the northern islands across the ocean to the southern islands, the golden sun shines through the clear blue skies and birds freely fly. From the bright, white sandy shores all the way to the highest mountain top our islands are abundant with fresh produce and colourful flora and fauna. The lagoons and oceans are bountiful with sea life, fish and gems (like black pearls), which link us to the world.



On each island the mighty coconut tree stands tall, a symbol of strength and goodness. The coconut tree provides for our health and wellbeing. We have discovered how to use every part, from the fronds to the very deep roots for food, drink, medicine, shelter and much more. The coconut tree is essential to our survival and is the tree of life for our people.



We are grateful for the arrival of Christianity to our shores 200 years ago. The gospel of Jesus Christ brought hope, peace and light. In time, our cultures have interwoven with Christianity, and the blessings are evident today. As guardians and caretakers of God's marvellous works, we always treasure these words, 'I made you wonderful'.

Our women play a vital role in keeping our heritage and traditions alive. They are the keepers of talents, teachers and mentors. From mothers to daughters, the cycle of life, faith and love continues here on our islands of paradise. We show our respect and love for God and for one another in harmonies of song and prayer. Our precious Tivaevae quilts represent patience, love and unity. We honour God's love and mercy with hats we wear to church, woven by skillful loving hands from the strands of rito, the young coconut leaf. We adorn ourselves with sweet scented Tiare tropical flowers, made into crowns and garlands. From the heart, we teach and nurture our beloved children, the younger generation, our future.

At the closing of a gathering, our Tongareva elders always say these powerful words of encouragement: '**Kia mau te serenga! Kia mau te napena! Kia mau!**' This means '*hold on tight to who you are, in all aspects of your existence!*' We are wonderfully made by God, and we should cherish all the aspects of who we are!"

The Lord's Prayer in Cook Islands Māori
Te Pure Ā Te 'Atu

E to matou Metua I te Ao ra
Kia Tapu toou ingoa
Kia tae toou Basileia
Kia akono ia toou anoano I te Enuā nei,
mei tei te Ao katoa ana
Omai I te kai e tau ia matou I teiā nei ra
E akakore mai I ta matou ara
Mei ia matou
I akakore I ta tetai ara ia matou nei
Auraka e akaruke ia matou Kia timata'ia mai
E akaora ra ia matou mei te kino
Noou oki te Basileia
E te Mana, e te Kaka
E tuātau uatu
Amene

For our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers – Jonathan and Karen Stannard, Gill, Paddy, Sonya & Ian, and all our faithful members and friends who, for various reasons, are unable to be with us on Sunday mornings

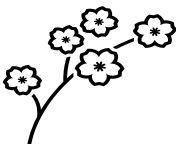


BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate a few birthdays this month: Tim Spotswood on the 4th and both Alison Katte and Dianne Callaghan on the 17th.

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



March Flowers

- 2nd** Messy Church
- 9th** Alison White
- 16th** Gillian Akerman
- 23rd** Jean Pimm
- 30th** Dianne Callaghan (Mothering Sunday)

6th April Easter Messy Church

March 2025 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sun 2nd	10.00am	MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Thurs 7th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Fri 7th	3.00pm	Joint World Day of Prayer service at North Curry Parish Church. Service planned by women from the Cook Islands
Sun 9th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION
Thurs 13th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 16th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE Church Members meeting afterwards
Thurs 20th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Fri 21st	10.00am	SSG Primary School service at SSG Baptist Church
Sat 22nd	2.30pm to 4.30pm	Afternoon Tea to say goodbye to Sonya at SSG Baptist Church
Sun 23rd	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE Church lunch afterwards
Thurs 27th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 30th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE (MOTHERING SUNDAY)
APRIL	10.00am	EASTER MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am

Sun 6th		
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Church Giving

The Baptist Church at Stoke St Gregory relies solely on donations. Should you wish to make an online donation at any time, please use the following details, using the reference "Church Giving":

Account Name: Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

Account Number: 00604544

Sort Code: 30-98-45



“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*