

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

December 2024

News



Minister:

Rev. Sonya Setchell

01823 490975

07485 004486

www.ssgbaptist.com sonyacsetchell@gmail.com



From Sonya

This Advent we are taking time to reflect on our 'down to earth' Saviour – the Jesus who stepped into the mess and detail of life on Earth and calls us to do the same. To do this we are using some resources produced by LICC (London Institute of Contemporary Christianity). If you would like to join with us you can access a daily reflection either by signing up to receive emails on this webpage: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/down-to-earth-a-christmas-devotional-journey/> or by searching for LICC Down to Earth on the YouVersion app on your phone.



Here are a few more details about what we will be exploring: When Jesus was born as a human being in an ordinary guest room in the small town of Bethlehem, he upended what the world thought it knew about God. Not distant and untouchable, he became truly down-to-earth – God with us, God living like us, God doing all the everyday things that humans do. His example is one of humility and involvement. Of putting your boots on and getting out there. Of getting your hands dirty, working to make Earth more like heaven. His mission touches every part of life – every place, task, and relationship – and he calls us to play our part in it. In this 25-day Advent devotional journey, you'll get fresh perspective on the familiar Christmas story and be inspired to follow the down-to-earth Saviour in your everyday life.

So let's take time to explore our down-to-earth Saviour this Advent and be equipped to go out into His world, joining in His down-to-earth mission.

May you all experience the presence of God during this Advent and Christmas season. Blessings to you all, *Sonya*

"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

Christmas Messy Church

We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Christmas Messy Church on Sunday 8th December. As usual we are starting with breakfast at 10am. Then we will explore the Christmas story in detail through various different craft activities. We will act out the Christmas story together and sing some fun Christmas songs. Hope you are able to join us!

Nativity stable experience

This is a joint event with the Athelney Benefice. You are invited to a special nativity experience using the stable behind Stoke St Gregory Baptist Chapel on Thursday 12th December at 5pm. We will meet in front of the chapel at 5pm and explore the Christmas story in words, some acting and maybe some songs too. Please bring a torch and dress up warmly. Refreshments will be served afterwards.



Family Christingle service



4.30pm on Christmas Eve. There is an opportunity to dress up as a nativity character and join in with our pop-up nativity, but it's not compulsory! Come along and celebrate the good news of Christmas with us. Refreshments served afterwards.

For our Prayers

Please continue to hold the Saunders family in your prayers. Amanda says she is finding life very busy going to and from Musgrove and is having lots of meetings. Freddie is getting stronger day by day, is getting to grips with his wheelchair and starting to learn how to get in and out of it; he's keen to try it out around the hospital grounds. Amanda was so pleased to hear we'd had special prayers for Freddie and would like to send her gratitude for these."

Please keep the following people in your prayers – Judith Hincks, Simon Robinson, Mary Strange, Freda Gadsby, Tim Spotswood, Chris Coate, Paddy Scott, Sonya and Ian, Betty Woodland, Irene and Ron Browning. People in the community struggling with loneliness and mobility issues. Comfort and heal, merciful Lord, all who are in sorrow, need, sickness, or any other trouble.

Ruth says - It's quite a busy time for Church finance in the run up to Christmas as we are setting the budget for next year and working out our contribution to Home Mission. I am still learning the job - so prayers would be really valued.

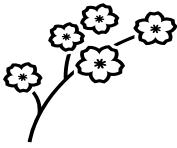
BMS Birthday Scheme

We celebrate the birthday this month of Julia Spotswood on the 15th. We thank her for supporting the scheme and wish her a joyful day.

Luncheon Club

On December 11th we will be hosting Christmas Lunch. These have always been enjoyable occasions with the tables decorated for Christmas, cards and gifts for everyone and special guests invited. This will be our last lunch for the foreseeable future as no young cooks have stepped forward to take this on. However, we hope to organise other events: a tea party with a film, supper with a talk, fish and chips, are ideas that have been put forward. Watch this space.

November Flowers



1st Dianne Callaghan
8th Messy Church
15th Gill Yaskin
22nd Christmas
Arrangements
29th
2025
Jan 5th Messy Church



From the deacons

The deacons met in the Manse the last week of November to pray and seek the Lord. Sonya led us in prayer and devotions. Those on our pastoral list were lifted to the Lord in prayer.

We looked forward to church services and activities up to and over Christmas and to the challenges we are likely to face.

The meeting finished with the Grace being said together.

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: 30-98-4

December 2024 Calendar

Day	Time	
Sun 1st	10.30am	Family Worship service with communion
Weds 4th	7.30pm	Homegroup
Thurs 5th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Fri 6th		Willowset nativity in Baptist Chapel
Sun 8th	10.00am	Christmas Messy Church starting with breakfast
Weds 11th	10.00am	School Christingle Service at SSG Baptist Church
Wed 11th	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club Homegroup
Thurs 12th	9.30am- 11.30am 5.00pm	TWiGs in the Schoolroom Nativity experience in Stable
Sun 15th	10.30am	Family worship service
Weds 18th	7.30pm	Homegroup
Thurs 19th	9.30am- 11.30am 6.30pm	TWiGs in the Schoolroom Carols in Square – refreshments in Church Room
Sun 22nd	10.30am	Carol Service
Tues 24th	4.30pm	Christingle
Weds 25th	10.00am	Christmas Day Service
Sun 29th	10.30am	Family Worship Service
2025 Jan 5th	10.00am	Messy Church starting with breakfast