

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church  
November 2022  
News



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## From Sonya

### Where can we turn?

There seems to be more and more uncertainty and instability in our world, and we seem to lurch from one crisis to the next with no respite. Many of us are struggling with the constant uncertainty and the persistent rumours which suggest to us that everything will get worse, not better. So, what can we do?



For a start, maybe we need to take more control over which story we are listening to the most. Is it the negative story of the media or the story a particular political party is proclaiming? I read this in a book today, “The story of God should get more of your attention time than any other media.” This makes sense because it matters which story we allow to shape our thinking.

Ephesians 1:20-21 says that Jesus is now “in the place of honour at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms... far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.” Jesus is the ruler of the world. This doesn’t mean that everything that happens in the world is as God wants it to be – far from it – but it does mean that we have hope for the future, no matter how difficult the present seems.

Here is a quote from a reflection on Psalm 23 to hang on to at this time: “My reality is not determined by pandemics, politics, or anything else. I live in God; He lives in me. His goodness is with me today, and my future is wonderful.”<sup>1</sup> Hope you find it helpful.  
Blessings to you all, Sonya

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<sup>1</sup> “Resilient” by John Eldredge

## From the Deacons

The deacons did not meet in October so there's no report to give currently. However, the deacons are regularly in discussion about pastoral matters and finances and spend time praying, particularly for the funding of the stable block restoration.

A Church Meeting was held on 2nd October following the Sunday service. 16 members attended and discussed the various items on the agenda, voting on key decisions and exchanging ideas about the running of the church and its services. The next Church Meeting will be held on **Sunday 20th November**, again after the Sunday service. It would be good to have you there if you're able to make it.



## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

If you would like to pack a shoebox, please pick up a leaflet from the Schoolroom explaining how to do this and what to include. Shoeboxes will be collected from the chapel during the week of 14<sup>th</sup> November so it's time to start packing if you're planning to do this. Please read carefully the list of items that can and can't be included in the shoeboxes since there are now a number of changes due to new customs' regulations. Alternatively, you can go online and prepare a virtual shoebox that will be put together and sent off on your behalf. [www.shoeboxonline.org.uk](http://www.shoeboxonline.org.uk)

## Reeves Feast

The Reeves Feast is a local fund to support villagers in a time of need. The fund does not have a great amount in it, and we are always grateful to receive donations.

We are hoping to financially support the Warm Hub project in the Village, and the Community Larder. Both these are going to offer opportunities for people to reduce their worries in these challenging times within our Village.

One way of giving support could be passing across the extra payment for Winter Fuel, or just making a contribution. Donations can be made to the following account: Account Name: Reeves Feast  
Account No: 34612060 Sort Code: 30-90-92

Please contact **Heather Venn** (01823 491483 or [hettyq42@aol.com](mailto:hettyq42@aol.com)) or **Gill Yaskin** (01823 490010 or [gill.yaskin@gmail.com](mailto:gill.yaskin@gmail.com)) if you would like to discuss anything pertaining to this small charity fund.

## Village Charity Lunch

On Monday 28th November at 12.30 – 2.00pm there will be a charity lunch in the church room by St Gregory's Church, given by the W.I in aid of ACWW.

Before Covid, the lunches were a regular monthly event which seemed to be greatly enjoyed and are a wonderful way for people to hold lunches for their favourite charity. If anyone would like to discuss an idea for a future charity lunch, please contact Annette Gage on 01823 490297

You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance. *Psalm 65:11 (NLT)*

## A reminder of fundraising events taking place this month...



### TALK & SUPPER

**Thursday 10th November.** “Taunton Under Siege” - A talk by Michael Davidson at the Baptist Chapel

6.30pm for 7pm Supper followed by 8pm Talk

Talk & Supper - including a 2-course meal & coffee - £14

Talk only – Donations accepted on the night

Tickets available from Stuart Mark (07956981679) or Kathy Davidson (07721368165).

They will also be on sale in the Village shop.



### CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING EVENING

**Tuesday 29th November 6.30pm** (time to be confirmed) at the Baptist Chapel. £45 per person (includes demonstration by Edwina Hanford from Edwina’s Flowers, glass of wine & nibbles, plus all materials to make your own wreath. Please contact Lesley Perry on 01460 68934 or email [chardperrys@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:chardperrys@hotmail.co.uk) for further information and to book your place.

Money raised from both these events will go towards SSG Baptist Church funds.



### Zero Hour

Look God, I've never spoken to you  
But now I want to say how do you do,  
You see God, they said you didn't exist,  
And like a fool, I believed all this.  
Last night from a shell hole I saw your sky  
I figured right then that they told me a lie.  
Had I taken the time to see the things you made  
I'd know they were not calling a spade a spade.  
I wonder God if you would shake my hand  
Somehow, I feel you will understand.  
Funny I had to come to this hellish place  
Before I had time to see your face.  
Well, I guess there is not much more to say.  
But I am sure glad God that I met you today.  
I guess zero hour will soon be here,  
But I am not afraid since I know you are near.  
The signal – Well God, I'll have to go,  
I like you lots, this I want you to know.  
Look now – this will be a terrible fight,  
Who knows – I may come to your house tonight.  
Though I wasn't friendly with you before  
I wonder God if you'll wait at the door?  
Look now, I am crying – see – shedding tears.  
I wish I had known you all these years.  
Well, I will have to go now God – goodbye.  
Strange – since I met you, I'm not afraid to die.

*Anonymous American Soldier WW1*

This poem was given to me by my father, which had been shared with him by one of his friends with whom he had served whilst in the army. It moved me greatly, so I wanted to share it. It is never too late with God...

A.S

## For our Prayers

Chris and Anne Coate

Steve and Charlotte Pimm and Megan

Betty Woodland and Family

Tony Williams

Jonathan and Karen Stannard, Eleanor, Toby  
and Matty

The deacons

Our country, our new Prime Minister and his government

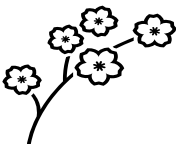


We lift to God in prayer all those who volunteered, sacrificed, served, fought, and died, for our freedom. We will remember them.

We're sad to announce that Joan Upham recently died. Her funeral will take place in Ruishton on the afternoon of 12<sup>th</sup> November, followed by interment in our graveyard. May she and John rest in peace together.

Karen and John Barnes' youngest daughter, Rosanna, has recently announced her engagement to Danny Harris. Many congratulations to both of them!

## November Flowers



**6th** Amanda Saunders

**13th** Parish Church (Remembrance)

**20th** Gill Yaskin

**27th** Joan Thatcher

**4th December** Alison Katte

## November 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
<b>Weds 2nd</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Homegroup
<b>Thurs 3rd</b>	9.30am– 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Deacons' meeting
<b>Sun 6th</b>	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE WITH COMMUNION Nehemiah 5: 1-19
<b>Mon 7th</b>	12.30pm	Village Warm Hub soup lunch
<b>Weds 9th</b>	7.30pm	Homegroup
<b>Thurs 10th</b>	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
	6.30pm	Meal & Talk with Mike Davidson (Taunton Under Siege)
<b>Sun 13th</b>	10.45am	JOINT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE at St Gregory's Church
<b>Tue 15th</b>	2.00pm	Open the Book rehearsal
<b>Weds 16th</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 17th</b>	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 20th</b>	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE. Nehemiah 6: 1-16 CHURCH MEETING after the service
<b>Weds 23rd</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 24th</b>	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 27th</b>	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE. Advent 1: Prophecies of Jesus' birth from Micah
<b>Tues 29th</b>	6.30pm tbc	Christmas Wreath Making Workshop
<b>Weds 30th</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group



