

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

September 2022

News



Minister:

Rev. Sonya Setchell

01823 490975

07485 004486

www.ssgbaptist.com ssgbaptists@gmail.com



From Sonya

Mark 4: 26-29 “Jesus also said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he’s asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come.”



This month we are celebrating Harvest. It is right for us to acknowledge that it is God who ultimately causes crops to grow. Farmers do their part of the work and then watch to see whether the right weather will come at the right time, or if pests will come and destroy the crops, and whether it will be a good harvest or not. They put seed in the ground and trust that they will germinate and grow and ultimately produce fruit. So, it is right for us to thank God for the harvest in all its forms – those which have already been gathered in and those which are yet to come.

But we recognise that farming is much harder work than Jesus seems to portray it in this passage! Farmers work really hard to produce food and we know that farmers are under much pressure at the moment of all different kinds. So, let’s also show appreciation at this time to the farmers that we know who work so hard to produce food for us to eat and let’s support them in any way we can.

Blessings to you all, Sonya

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

From the Deacons

The deacons met in the Schoolroom in August and were grateful to have the company of Nigel Manges from the South West Baptist Association. We were able to voice our concerns about the current state of our church's finances and were encouraged by Nigel's wise and helpful suggestions.

Prayer will continue to play a major part in confronting and resolving our difficulties and in addition to the weekly prayer pointers that are given out each Sunday, the deacons agreed to pray together on a regular basis. At the meeting we brought before the Lord many people who were on our pastoral list – some named and some not.

We discussed different ideas for future services and fundraising events and also had a good discussion about gratitude. We acknowledged that we have so much to be grateful for within our church, our personal lives and our community, and as well as approaching God with a thankful heart, we must try to take the time to thank those around us, especially those who carry out tasks that often go unnoticed.



Upkeep of the Graveyard

Maintaining the church grounds and the graveyard is one area where we are trying to reduce costs. This means at times leaving the grass to grow longer in some areas (this is also a more natural way to attract insects and wildlife). If you would like to donate

towards the upkeep of the graveyard, your contributions would be gratefully received. Donations via bank transfer are preferred (please add "Graveyard Upkeep" as a reference) but cash or cheques can be put in an envelope and posted through the Manse letterbox (please write "Graveyard Upkeep" on the outside of the envelope).



Gift Day – Sunday 4th September

If you would like to make a contribution to the life of the church the best way to do so is by bank transfer.

Our Bank Account details are:

Account Name: Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

Account no: 00604544

Sort code: 30 98 45

Please put “Gift Day” as a reference.

If you prefer cash or cheque, envelopes will be provided during the Sunday service; they will be in the foyer with the gift aid forms.

If you have not completed a Gift Aid form, please complete one and include it in your envelope. You must be a UK taxpayer. This enables us to claim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate.

Whatever your contribution is to the life of the church, whether financial, time or something else, we would like to thank you. We couldn't manage without you.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We are holding a **Harvest Supper** on Saturday 24th September at 6.30pm in the Schoolroom. All are very welcome to join us for a Ploughman's meal and to enjoy fellowship and some of the wonderful produce that is grown and harvested in our surrounding countryside. Please telephone or email Amanda to confirm your attendance by 14th September so we know how many to cater for (the.saunders@care4free.net or 01823 698398)



Our **Harvest Service** is being held on Sunday 25th September at 10.30am The church will be splendidly decorated as usual, and is an opportunity to give thanks for the abundance of food that is produced by our hardworking farmers, and a time to remember those who live in areas where there is a struggle to grow enough food.



This year our Harvest donations will go to "*Good Land*" - the BMS World Mission's 2022 Harvest Appeal. This aims to help the people who live in Ghusel – a remote community in Nepal's mountains. With support from

BMS World Mission, the community can achieve better education for their children, veterinary training so their animals don't die needlessly, and access to clean water and better healthcare to improve the lives of the whole community.

Thank you to the bees!

A bee and a hive are part of this year's Baptist Assembly imagery as a helpful metaphor of their connectedness as Baptists Together.



As we celebrate Harvest, we should remember how crucial bees are for our environment and that a significant proportion of our food is provided by bees. Bees pollinate 70 types of crop – either the many vegetables and fruits we eat directly (apples, tomatoes) or the food for the animals that we then consume. An estimated one third of food we consume in the UK is pollination dependent. Commercial honeybees are considered livestock by the US Department of Agriculture because of the creatures' vital role in food production. Bees also make wax and honey – an average colony produces 14kg of honey. All this shows why the status of bees is monitored so closely, and threats to their health regularly highlighted.

Geoponika, a 10th century Byzantine work on farming, says:

“The bee is the wisest and cleverest of all animals and the closest to man in intelligence; its work is truly divine and of the greatest use to mankind.”

Bees and particularly honey are frequently referenced in the Bible. Honey features more than 60 times, often used in the context of blessing, abundance and purity. Here are a few, but I wonder how many more you can find?!

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. Exodus 3:8

They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. Psalm 119:103

When he returned later to take her, he turned aside to look at the carcass of the lion; and behold, a swarm of bees and honey were in the body of the lion. Judges 14:8

(An extract taken from the Summer 2022 magazine Baptists Together)

For our Prayers

Mary Cooper
Ruth and Steve Loveridge
Dianne Sheppard
Joan Thatcher
Gill and Anthony Yaskin
Lunch Club



We also keep others in our prayers this month – Dawn, Sonya, Tim, Kathy, Paddy, Freda, Jan and Stuart. Also, all of our young people who are returning to school, college or university or embarking on new ventures. May our Lord keep them all close to Him.

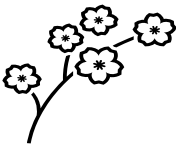
BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthday this month of Liz Hembrow on 23rd.

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

August Flowers



4th Freda Gadsby

18th Jean Pimm

11th Lesley Perry

25th HARVEST

October 2nd HARVEST

September 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sun 4th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE with Communion GIFT DAY
Weds 7th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
Thurs 8th	9.30am– 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 11th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE. Eric Skinner preaching
Thurs 15th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 18th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE. Stuart Mark preaching
Weds 21st	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Home Group
Thurs 22nd	9.30am- 11.30am 7.30pm	TWiGs in the Schoolroom Deacons Meeting
Sat 24th	6.30pm	HARVEST MEAL in the Schoolroom
Sun 25th	10.30am	HARVEST SERVICE (offering for BMS)
Weds 28th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 29th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom

Upcoming Events for your Calendar...!

As part of our fundraising initiative, we have a couple of exciting events lined up for November – full information will follow in due course but make a note in your calendars for now.

Thursday 10th November – An Evening Talk & Supper with Mike Davidson

Tuesday 29th November – Christmas Wreath Making with festive refreshments.