

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

April 2023

News



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From Sonya

As we look around our world today, we see many things that are not as we want them to be and not as God wants them to be. We see wars, earthquakes, environmental crises, injustice, death and destruction. We may wonder what the future holds and whether things can improve, or will everything continue to get worse?



The Good News is that Jesus has done everything necessary for the world to be renewed and for all things to be made right. In His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead, Jesus won the ultimate victory over sin and death and separation from God. Colossians 1:20 says, “For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.” This means that whatever we see at the present time, all things will one day be made right when Jesus returns to earth. Justice will be done; the earth will be renewed and there will be peace.

We can choose to opt in now to be a part of the Kingdom of God and to play our part in bringing reconciliation and abundant life to our communities. It begins by admitting our own responsibility for the problems in the world and asking God to renew us and fill us with His Holy Spirit so that He can use us in His life-giving mission. Will we choose to do that?

I pray that we will all grasp the meaning of the cross and resurrection in a deeper way this Easter.

Blessings, Sonya

Church Meeting

At the end of March, 18 of us met after the Sunday Service. We were able to pray for those on our pastoral list and discuss various matters concerning the running of the church.

Members were updated on the progress made with the Stable repairs and ideas were sought for celebrating the eventual completion with the hope that people from the wider community would join us.

We were able to review past events and services and were able to hold a frank and honest discussion about what people liked and didn't like about the varying styles of services that are held. It's important to know that people can share their views and give feedback, and that they will be respectfully listened to.



The Big Quiz that was held back in February was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Quizmaster and Head Chef Ian fed us and entertained us with ten rounds of questions covering a multitude of topics, and competition was keen between the teams!

It was lovely to see a good mix of people both from church and from the village and a great sum of £128.43 was raised for Church Funds. Watch out for future quizzes...

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

Easter Services



Easter Messy Church Service – Join us for breakfast at 10am on Sunday 2nd April to celebrate Palm Sunday. Family fun with Easter craft activities and singing – all ages welcome!



Ecumenical Good Friday Service at the Baptist Church – 10am Friday 7th April. Tea/Coffee and Hot Cross Buns afterwards.



Sunrise Services

Come and celebrate the start of Easter and watch the sun rising over the beautiful Levels. Meet either outside the Baptist chapel or if you're feeling energetic, walk to the top of Burrow Mump! Both services will start at 6.15am Sunday 9th April



Easter Sunday Communion Service – 10.30am

All are welcome and there may be something small, chocolate and egg shaped at the end of the service...

Church Charity for 2023/24



The Farming Community Network (FCN) was chosen by the membership as the charity the church will support for the forthcoming year.

FCN has over 400 volunteers based throughout England and Wales, who provide pastoral and practical support to farmers and farming families. FCN has a Christian ministry in farming. Many FCN volunteers are motivated

by faith, showing the love of God to farming people in a very practical way.

Farming Community Network was previously known as the Farming Crisis Network but changed name in 2013 to dispel the myth that they can only offer help at times of crisis and to encourage people to seek help when problems and difficulties first arise, rather than leaving things to reach a real crisis point.

Some stark facts about farmers in the UK –

- 25% of farming families in the UK live below the poverty line.
- Every year, approximately 5,000 farming families across England and Wales are affected by bovine TB.
- Approximately 1 farmer a week dies by suicide.

In September 2019, FCN launched a new initiative called FarmWell. FarmWell is a one-stop online resources hub to help farmers and farm businesses stay strong and resilient.



Stoke St Gregory and the surrounding villages have very many links with farming and many in our community are farmers. It will be good to offer our support to the Farming Community Network and hopefully raise awareness and much needed funds over the forthcoming year. If anyone has any fundraising ideas for FCN, please contact Sonya or one of the deacons.

If you would like to learn more about our chosen charity, please look at FCN's website www.fcn.org.uk and also their FarmWell website www.farmwell.org.uk



SATURDAY 1ST APRIL 2.30PM-4.30PM AT THE WILLIAMS HALL, SSG

Anne Merritt is hosting a fundraising event for Brain Tumour Research. *Teas, Coffees & Homemade Cakes *Raffle *Stalls *Sweetie Tuck Shop. Everyone is encouraged to wear a hat of their choice to the event. Please support Anne if you're able to.

For our Prayers

Ana and Tim Pearce and Joshua
Sue Hembrow
Hannah and Luke and William
Des and Lesley Perry
Colin and Jan Gorton
Shirley Worgan



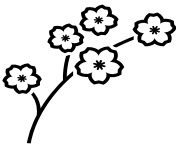
Please also pray for all those in our community and their family members who are struggling with or recovering from poor health. Also for all those in our communities involved in farming and countryside stewardship.

BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate one birthday this month – Paddy Scott on the 11th.

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



April Flowers

2nd Messy Church
9th Easter Flowers
16th Easter Flowers
30th Ruth Loveridge

May

7th Messy Church

April 2023 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sun 2nd	10.30pm	EASTER MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Weds 5th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Homegroup
Friday 7th	10.00am	Joint Good Friday Service at SSG Baptist Church
Sun 9th	6.15am	EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE (outside the Baptist Chapel)
	10.30am	EASTER SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE with Communion.
Weds 12th	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting
Sun 16th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE with Stuart Mark
Weds 19th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
Thurs 20th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 23rd	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE with Laurie Burn
Weds 26th	7.30pm	Homegroup
Thurs 27th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 30th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE