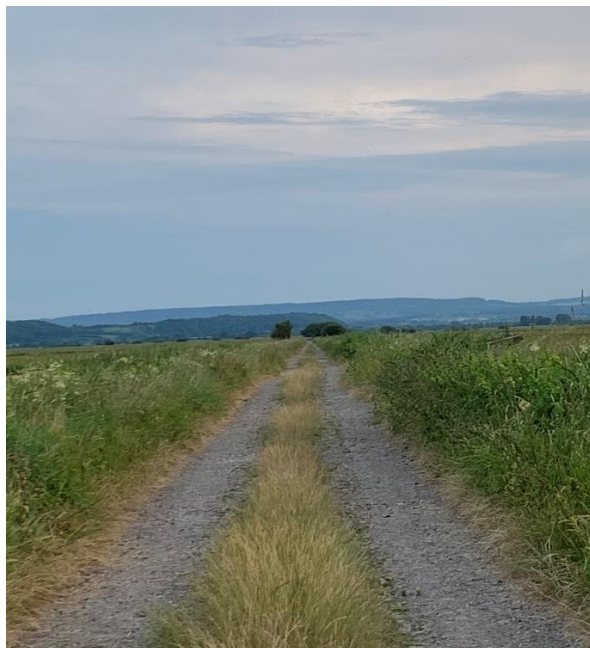


Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church  
July 2023  
News



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## From Sonya

Are you taking time to rest? Or are you taking time to recharge?



This was a question which caused me to ponder a few weeks ago. If we are not careful, we can lead lives which are so busy that we rush from one place to another and rarely stop. The Bible makes it clear that rest is important and that taking one day a week to stop our usual work is vital to our well-being. We are valuable to God because of who we are not because of what we do.

But when we do stop, what kind of things do we do? Maybe we do things like watching television, watching films, scrolling through social media etc. These things may be a form of rest as they are different from our usual work, but do they really help us to recharge? I wonder what things recharge you. I think for myself it is doing something creative or taking time to walk in beautiful scenery particularly beside streams or waterfalls, or spending time with friends.

Over the summer why not have a think about what activities are recharging for you and try to get a better balance between working and taking time to recharge? I'm sure that you will find that you are more productive after you have taken time to recharge, and it will definitely help your well-being.

Blessings to you all and hope you have a good summer,  
Sonya

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*

## From little acorns...



Jean Pimm asked if we could include a note in the newsletter, explaining why she organised the Cake & Tea Afternoon that was held in the Pavilion back in June, and to thank all those involved. I think it is such an encouragement to read Jean's words.

It just shows what can be achieved if you have a good team of friends and family around you to help make the seeds of an initial idea flourish so beautifully. Thank you, Jean, for being so motivated in making such a difference to the upkeep of the graveyard on behalf of so many, and for writing such a lovely note...

### *Coffee, Tea & Cakes*

*After Christmas when Steve told me he may have to stop mowing the chapel graveyard and grounds because of a lack of church funds, I asked my friend Diane what we could do to help, and the idea of an afternoon tea was born.*

*It occurred to me, all those families that had moved away from the village, but had parents or loved ones buried here, probably never realised the situation. So those were the people I invited - over 40 families - and apart from 3 that didn't bother to reply they all came or sent me donations.*

*It was a wonderful afternoon, seeing people sitting in the sun, eating, drinking, and chatting to village friends they hadn't met up with for a long time.*

*Diane and I would like to give a special thanks to those that helped us on the afternoon to make it such a great success,*

*Kim, Charlotte, Steve, Chris, Anne, Alison, Jill, and Lesley. Without your help the two of us could not have coped with nearly 60 people. Thank you to Megan and all those who made us cakes, donated tea and coffee, and to those who also gave donations. The amount raised was amazing, far more than we ever hoped for, and it just proves the feelings the people have, as several people have written or told me, the graveyard where our loved ones are buried is a very special place, and it is essential it is kept mown.*

*My thanks to Diane (she may prefer to keep herself in the background!) but she was an essential part of the day's success.*

*Jean Pimm*

## Charity Lunch

Please try to support this lunch at the end of the month – they are always good fun to attend and raise much needed funds.



### Charity Lunch

31<sup>st</sup> July at 12.30

In the schoolroom.

Proceeds are in aid of the Stable Block.



The SWBA Team invites you and your church family to their Celebration Lunch and AGM on **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at Crech St Michael Church** for an afternoon of getting to know each other better, worshipping God and sharing stories of what He is doing across the region.

There will be a Bring & Share Lunch between 1pm & 2.15pm  
Fun and games will be organised for children during the Celebration. A Zoom link is available for those wanting to take part in the celebration and AGM but not able to be there in person. Full details are available on the SWBA website [www.swbaptists.org.uk](http://www.swbaptists.org.uk)

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***Please note that there will not be a newsletter for August, however we will email/print a calendar showing the dates of services and other church events for the month of August.***

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## Church News

What a wonderful afternoon we all shared, celebrating the completion of the stable renovations. Our Strawberry Tea allowed many friends from the village and wider community to gather in the glorious sunshine, and to enjoy the delicious cakes, strawberries, and cream scones in the church grounds and inside the shelter of the stables. Lesley gave an excellent speech about the history of the stables and



how we got to where we are today, and then Katherine led us in a short prayer of dedication for the stables.

We are so grateful to the many people who made the renovations possible. It will be an exciting time ahead - being

able to use the space inside the stables for a multitude of different events and services. A BIG thank you to Dianne for organising the running of the Strawberry Tea, and for the generous donations made during the afternoon – over £200!



## For our Prayers

Christine and Adrian Stables  
Dianne Callaghan  
Freda Gadsby  
Jane and Niall Waters-Fuller, Harry and  
Alexander  
Mary Strange  
South West Baptist Association



Please pray for Gillian Akerman. We give thanks that Anne Jackson is back at home again from hospital. We pray that all those who are going away on holiday over the next couple of months are kept safe during their travels, and return feeling rested and refreshed.

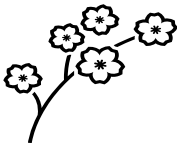
## BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthday this month of Kathy Davidson on the 2nd.

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

## July Flowers



**2nd** Messy Church  
**9th** Gillian Akerman  
**16th** Songs of Praise  
**23rd** Amanda Saunders

## July 2023 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
<b>Sun 2nd</b>	10.00am	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b> starting with breakfast at 10am
	1.00pm-4.00pm	South West Baptist Association Picnic Lunch & AGM at Creech St Michael Baptist Church
<b>Weds 5th</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 6th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting at The Manse
<b>Sun 9th</b>	10.30am	<b>FAMILY SERVICE with COMMUNION</b>
<b>Weds 12th</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Homegroup
<b>Thurs 13th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 16th</b>	11.00am	<b>SONGS OF PRAISE</b> on the Playing Field with St Gregory's Church
<b>Weds 19th</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 20th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 23rd</b>	10.30am	<b>FAMILY SERVICE followed by Church Meeting</b>
<b>Weds 26th</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club
	7.30pm	Homegroup
<b>Sat 29th</b>	5.30pm for 6.00pm	Church BBQ
<b>Sun 30th</b>	10.00am	<b>MESSY CHURCH</b> starting with breakfast at 10.00am