

# Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

## March 2024

### News



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## From Sonya



### New Life!

As I have chatted to people recently, many people are encouraged to see signs of new life springing up from the ground after a long winter and lots of rain. I certainly enjoyed seeing my miniature irises produce beautiful flowers at the beginning of January.

In John 12:24, Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” We will celebrate again this Easter, the awesome truth that Jesus’ death on the cross and His subsequent resurrection, has led to the possibility of new life for every person that God has made. Jesus had to die in order that He could be raised with a new kind of body which will live forever.

Through the love of God the Father, in sending His Son to die for us, then we too have the opportunity to enjoy that new life that will last forever. In order to do this though, we need to be willing to die to ourselves and our own wants and choose to live a fulfilling life following Jesus. Then we can experience that life in all its fullness which Jesus came to bring us. What amazing good news!

Hope you all enjoy celebrating the Good News of Easter!

Blessings to all of you,  
Sonya

### Church Training Day – New Date!

Please note the new date for the training day with Carl Smethurst. It will now be held on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, 10am-4pm**

## EASTER SERVICES



### **PALM SUNDAY**

24<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am – A Family Service to start Holy Week at the Baptist Chapel, remembering the time that Jesus triumphantly rode into Jerusalem.



### **GOOD FRIDAY**

29<sup>th</sup> March at 11.00am - A joint service will be held at St Gregory's Church to remember Christ's crucifixion.



### **EASTER DAY**

31<sup>st</sup> March - Meet together at 6.30am at the back of the Baptist Chapel to watch the sun rising and welcome in the new Easter Morning. Dogs are very welcome; wrap up warmly and bring along a hot drink if wanted!



Please join us inside the Baptist Chapel at 10.30am for an All Age **EASTER CELEBRATION!!** Come along and explore together what Easter means to us through songs, videos, stories and activities.

## ALIVE! 2024

Is Jesus Alive? If this makes you wonder, read on...

ALIVE is a series of beautifully produced short films which tell the stories of some of the people who encountered Jesus after his resurrection and address key human needs, showing how Jesus' resurrection still meets the needs of people today. It explores the human need for love, hope, peace, freedom and purpose.

On the ALIVE journey, participants will meet some of the people who met the alive Jesus and whose lives were changed as a result; people like **Mary** who experienced love, **the disciples** on the road to Emmaus who had hope restored to them, **Thomas** who needed peace, **Peter** who found freedom and **Paul** who was given a new purpose. Many people today are looking for the same things, love, hope, peace, freedom and purpose. The ALIVE resources aim to build a bridge between felt need now and what the ALIVE Jesus offers.

Would you, or do you know anyone who would, benefit from exploring these themes in a small group by watching a video together and then discussing it? If you would like to know more, follow the link below and have a look at the video trailer, or talk to Sonya:

[https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/399115/Alive\\_Easter\\_2024.aspx](https://www.hopetogether.org.uk/Groups/399115/Alive_Easter_2024.aspx)



## A Fun Easter Quiz!



1. How many Easter eggs are sold in the UK every year?
2. Which country started the tradition of the Easter bunny?
3. How many marzipan balls are traditionally on a simnel cake?
4. The first Easter eggs were dyed what colour?
5. In Switzerland, what animal delivers Easter eggs to children?
6. What is the Sunday before Easter Sunday called?
7. What is the official flower of Easter?
8. Where is Easter Island located?
9. When was the first recorded use of decorated Easter eggs?
10. In the Bible, who betrayed Jesus just before his crucifixion?
11. What dance traditionally takes place at Easter?
12. What do the marzipan balls on simnel cake represent?

### ANSWERS

1) 80 million 2) Germany 3) 11 4) Red 5) The Easter Cuckoo 6) Palm Sunday 7) White lilies  
8) The Southeast Pacific 9) 13<sup>th</sup> Century 10) Judas Iscariot 11) Morris Dancing 12) Jesus's 11 disciples (excluding Judas).

Quiz adapted from Country Living Magazine

## For our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers – Anne Jackson, Tim & Julia Spotswood, David & Judith Hinks, Mary Strange, Joan Thatcher, Anne & Chris Coate, Freda Gadsby, Alison Katte, the Family of Diana Silk, Kath Staple, Louise Grinter.

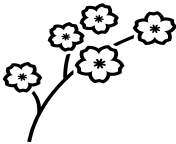


## BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate a few birthdays this month: Tim Spotswood on the 4<sup>th</sup> and both Alison Katte and Dianne Callaghan on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

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



## March Flowers

- 3rd** Easter Messy Church
- 10th** Julia Spotswood
- 17th** Freda Gadsby
- 24th** Jean Pimm
- 31st** Easter Flowers

**7th April** tbc

## March 2024 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
<b>Fri 1st</b>	3.00pm	Joint World Day of Prayer Service at SSG Baptist Chapel – praying for Palestine.
<b>Sun 3rd</b>		<b>EASTER MESSY CHURCH</b> starting with breakfast at 10am
<b>Mon 4th</b>	7.00pm	Deacons Prayer Meeting
<b>Weds 6th</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Homegroup
<b>Thrs 7th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 10th</b>	10.30am	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE with Communion</b> (Stoke Stampede taking place)
<b>Thrs 14th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 17th</b>	10.30am	<b>FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE</b>
<b>Weds 20th</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Homegroup
<b>Thrs 21st</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting
<b>Sat 24th</b>	10am to 4pm	Church teaching day – Contemporary Culture with Carl Smethurst
<b>Sun 24th</b>	10.30am	<b>PALM SUNDAY FAMILY SERVICE</b>
<b>Fri 29th</b>	11.00am	<b>GOOD FRIDAY Joint Service at St Gregory's Church</b>

<b>Sun 31st</b>	6.30am	<b>EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE – outside, at the back of SSG Baptist Chapel</b>
	10.30am	<b>ALL AGE EASTER CELEBRATION SERVICE at the Baptist Chapel</b>

## 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: 30-98-45**



**“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***