

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church
October 2022
News



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From Sonya

The season we are in now has been referred to often by the media as the 'new normal.' But what is this 'new normal' and how can we live as faithful followers of Jesus at this time? At a webinar I was at the other day it was suggested that uncertainty is the new normal! It is certainly true that you never quite know what you are going to hear when you switch on the news, but it is rarely good news.



Over the next few weeks, we are going to be exploring the book of Nehemiah on Sunday mornings. Nehemiah was a good leader who returned from exile in order to help accomplish the rebuilding of the city walls of Jerusalem. The walls were broken down which meant that the people had no security. This was a difficult time for the people of God. In the book of Nehemiah, we encounter real people in disastrous circumstances, where people are killed, as well as in happy situations, where people have the joy of returning to the homeland of their forefathers. Sorrow, joy, and hope filled people's lives as they endured this difficult period in the history of Israel.

There are many lessons which we can learn from Nehemiah about how to serve God and others during difficult times and when facing huge challenges. Why not come along on Sundays as we explore together what God has to say to us through the book of Nehemiah? I think we'll be glad we did.

Blessings to you all, Sonya

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

From the Deacons

The deacons met in the Manse in September and it was good to be able to get together again to discuss and reflect on things that had taken place since we last met in August.

Sonya read an article from Rural Ministries magazine which was very interesting and which highlighted some of the issues faced by churches in small, rural communities. We felt that some of the challenges that smaller, rural churches are currently dealing with are shared by our church here in Stoke St Gregory, but felt that God is working just as powerfully in these places as He is in larger churches.

We spent time praying for those on our pastoral list before asking the Lord to guide us through our meeting and decision making.

We discussed the different upcoming services and events that are planned for the next few months and started thinking about the Christmas services which is always challenging when the weather still feels like summer!

CHURCH MEETING

There will be a Church Meeting on Sunday 2nd October. This will be held straight after the Sunday service once coffee has been served. Please attend if you are able.

Church Grounds Tidy Up Saturday

We will be holding another Tidy Up session on Saturday 29th October 9am to 12noon. Just turn up when you can, with any gardening equipment you think you might need (secateurs, strimmers, hedgecutters etc) Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided!

THANK YOU!

Our Gift Day which was held on Sunday 4th September, raised the incredible total of **£7,860** from both online giving and cash/cheque donations. Gift Aid is still to be added to this total so the church funds will receive a very welcome boost and will make a huge difference to facilitate the running of the church, helping enable Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church carry out the Lord's work in our local community.

We are so grateful to everyone who gave something, however large or small. We also always recognise the gift of people's time and giving in other ways that are not necessarily financial – EVERYTHING given in whatever format is so warmly valued.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SUPPER

A wonderful evening of food and fellowship was had by all who attended our harvest supper. Sincere thanks go to everyone who kindly and generously donated the delicious food and to those who set up the tables and made everything look so beautiful and festive. Stuart Mark did a wonderful job in coordinating the evening and making it the success it was.





CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING COURSE

Come and enjoy a lovely evening creating your own Christmas Wreath with Edwina Hanford from Edwina's Flowers.

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Chapel

Tuesday 29th November (time to be confirmed)

£45 per person, to include a demonstration by Edwina, a glass of wine & nibbles, plus all materials needed to create your own beautiful wreath (with guidance from Edwina if wanted) ready to hang on your door. All money from the evening will go towards church funds.

Come along on your own or with friends!

Please contact Lesley Perry on 01460 68934 or email chardperrys@hotmail.co.uk for further information and to book your place.



“TAUNTON UNDER SIEGE”

A talk by Michael Davidson

Stoke St. Gregory Baptist Church, Thursday 10th November.

6.30pm for 7pm Supper

8pm Talk

The talk reflects on Taunton’s role in the Civil war, focusing on the Sieges of 1644 - 1655. The social, political and religious factors leading to the war, and its aftermath, are considered.



Col Robert Blake.
Parliamentarian
Commander of
Taunton

Tickets - including a 2-course meal & coffee - £14

Talk only – Donations accepted

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

They will also be on sale in the Village shop.

For our Prayers

John and Karen Barnes
Alan and Kay Chedzoy
Ian and Sonya Setchell
Adrian and Louise Grinter, Charlotte, Matt,
Laura and Hannah
Nicola and Roger Edwards
Our friends at St Gregory's



We also keep others in our prayers this month – Dawn, Sonya, Chris & Anne, Des & Lesley. King Charles III as he continues to grieve and as he steps into his new role. May our Lord keep them all close to Him.

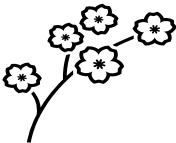
BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthdays this month of
Alison White on 14th
Gill Yaskin on 27th

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

October Flowers



2nd HARVEST

16th Anne Jackson

30th Liz Hembrow

9th Alison White

23rd Ruth Loveridge

6th November Gill Yaskin

October 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sun 2nd	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE with Communion Nehemiah 1: 1-11 CHURCH MEETING (straight after the service)
Weds 5th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Homegroup
Thurs 6th	9.30am– 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
	7pm	Deacons' prayer time
Sun 9th	10.30am	MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Tue 11th	2pm	Open the Book planning meeting
Weds 12th	7.30pm	Homegroup
Thurs 13th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 16th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE. Nehemiah 2: 1-20
Weds 19th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 20th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 23rd	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE. Nehemiah 3 and 4: 1-6
Weds 26th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 29th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 30th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE. Nehemiah 4: 7-23