

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

September 2023

News



Minister:

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From Sonya

This is the time of year when we celebrate Harvest together. We thank God for His provision over the past year, and we bring something of what we have received as a gift to offer back to God. In this local area, we are also aware of the harvest of willow, for example, that is yet to come, and we trust God to enable this harvest to be brought in also.



We are especially aware at this time of our dependence on the weather – the need for the right temperatures at the right time, water when it is needed to enable the crops to grow and dry weather in order that they can be harvested. We pray and ask God to continue to enable our farmers to produce good harvests over the coming years.

The Bible also speaks about a spiritual harvest and of the need for workers to bring in that harvest also. There are many people who do not know Jesus yet and do not know the hope, the peace and the new life and purpose that a relationship with Jesus brings. So, let's thank God for the physical harvest and trust God for the harvest yet to come. But let's also be aware of the spiritual harvest and look to share God's love and good news with those we live alongside each day.

Blessings to you all,

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

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our **Harvest Service** is being held on Sunday 24th 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 (who have had to overcome many difficulties this year), 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 “*Days of Plenty*” - the BMS World Mission’s 2023 Harvest Appeal. This aims to help farmers who live in Gulu in Uganda. Their lives have been blighted over the years by famines, wildfires, climate change and civil war. As a church, we support two Ugandan BMS missionary workers (Benon and Genesis) so it feels very appropriate to be supporting the “*Days of Plenty*” appeal. Any donations received during our Harvest Service will be used to support agricultural work in Uganda. Here are a few examples of how your donations could make a change:

- **A gift of £12 could enable a farmer to sell their crops through Cek Cam and earn up to 30% more for their family.**
- **For £38 you could buy a specialised crop like onions for a household to plant, kick-starting an abundant harvest.**
- **£86 could cover a week’s wages for a worker to meet the spiritual needs of people in Gulu, as well as helping their physical needs.**

Tim has kindly written a short piece about Genesis and Benon, our two missionary partners, which gives a fascinating insight into the work they do in Uganda.



OUR TWO MISSIONARY PARTNERS

Genesis Acaye and Benon Kayanja, Ugandan nationals, are our BMS missionary partners. Genesis is located in Gulu, situated in the north of Uganda; Benon is based in Kampala. They both worked with Joe and Lois Ovenden and have taken on and expanded the work started by the Ovendens. Some of the communities in

which Genesis and Benon work have been isolated through the 20 year war that has severely damaged the region - just recently 37 children were killed by a militia and in another incident a school was raided and six students kidnapped.

- Genesis trained as an agriculturalist and works through local church networks in Gulu and surrounding Districts, supporting farmers to improve their living standards by increasing income and profitability. He is training farmers in better methods of crop and animal production, aiming for higher value crops (maize, rice, groundnuts, beans etc.) and strengthening links with the markets. He carries out training activities with groups of farmers on food and nutrition security,, environmental protection (agro-forestry) and agri-business. There is a big Agro-Forestry project in Gulu. Genesis' aim is for these rural families to have adequate food for their families and enough to sell so their children will be able to go to school. Through his work he hopes to strengthen the faith of the people with whom he comes into contact.
- Benon, an accountant, is the operations coordinator for BMS in Uganda and works in partnership with the Gulu New Life Baptist Association and the Kasese Baptist Association. The aim is to

CHARITY LUNCHES



The charity lunch that was held at the end of July in the Schoolroom was well attended and raised the wonderful sum of £185.40 which will be used towards the costs of the ongoing renovations to the Stable block.

Plans are being made to hold another Charity Lunch in the Schoolroom, this time in support of The Farming Community Network. Please add **MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER** to your diaries/calendars and look out for more information nearer the time. It would be wonderful if we could raise a good sum to support the work of the FCN and also raise awareness within our community.

THE BIG TEARFUND QUIZ



Another date for your diaries – The Big Quiz is making a welcome return on **SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER at 7pm**

Teams of up to 6 can use their general knowledge to compete with others during a fun evening, with a light supper provided.

Teams are welcome to bring along their own drinks and snacks. Full information about the Quiz Night will be provided nearer the time, with details of how to register your team beforehand.

For Our Prayers

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



We also keep others in our prayers this month – Stuart M, Gillian, Irene, Mary S, Anne J. Also, all of our young people who are returning to school, college or university or embarking on new ventures. Our farmers and their families. May our Lord keep them all close to Him.

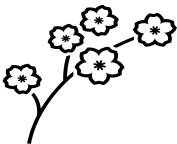
BMS Birthday Scheme



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

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

September Flowers



3rd	Messy Church	10th	Jean Pimm
17th	Freda Gadsby	24th	HARVEST

October 1st HARVEST cont'd

September 2023 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Sun 3rd	10.00am	MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Weds 6th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
Thurs 7th	9.30am– 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 10th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE – Speaker: Rev. Kathryn Morgan
Thurs 14th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 17th	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE – Speaker: Lesley Perry
Tues 19th	2.00pm	Open The Book planning meeting
Weds 20th	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Home Group
Thurs 21st	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 24th	10.30am	HARVEST CELEBRATION SERVICE (offering for BMS Harvest Appeal)
Weds 27th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 28th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
OCTOBER Sun 1st	10.30am	FAMILY SERVICE with COMMUNION – Speaker: Heather Andrews from Montecute Baptist Church