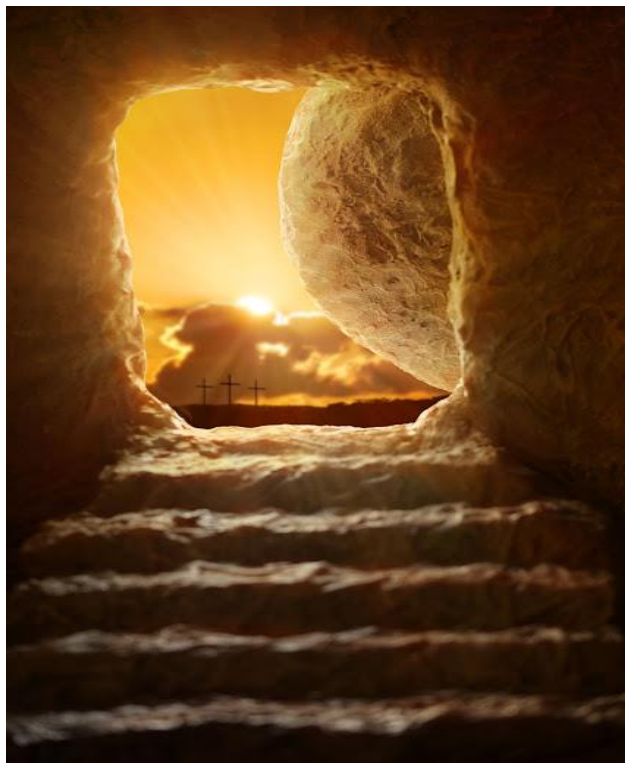


Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

April 2024

News



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From Sonya



Easter doesn't stop

On Easter Sunday we sang a song from Engage Worship called "Easter Doesn't Stop." Here are some of the words it contains: "Easter doesn't stop on Sunday, when Jesus walked out of the tomb. What a great surprise, he was raised to life! But Easter doesn't stop there. Easter is a new beginning to fix what's broken in this world. Sing it loud today, Jesus made a way. Yeah, Easter doesn't stop here."¹

Easter Sunday may be over again for another year, but the victory that Jesus won at the cross over the forces of evil is still effective on all the other days of the year. Easter is a new beginning to fix what's broken in this world. There are many things that we can see which are broken within our world – wars and disasters, injustice and poverty to name a few. Jesus calls each of us to be part of the solution, to allow Him to work in and through us by His Holy Spirit to play our part in working to solve some of these problems. The completion of the process to fix all that is wrong in the world will not be seen until Jesus comes again, but some things can be improved now.

Jesus' victory over death brings us the hope that we need as we look at the issues in our world. Let's resolve as the above song encourages us, not to stop "telling the whole, great story of Easter" or "living out the true story of Easter." Easter doesn't stop.

Blessings to you all,
Sonya

¹ Words and music © Timo Scharnowski, admin. ChurchSongs.co.uk

Church Training Day – Reminder!

A little reminder about the Training Day with Carl Smethurst on **Saturday 13th April, 10am-4pm** which will explore how we engage with Contemporary Culture.

The day will address some of the fundamental questions of our faith today...

- Why does the gap between the Christian Church and the world in which we live seem to be growing ever bigger?
- Why is it that those who are both sides of that gap seem to find it increasingly difficult to bridge it?

There will be the opportunity to discuss some of the possible answers together and there will be regular breaks for tea/coffee. Please bring along something to share for lunch, plus any snacks to keep you going through the day!

CHURCH AGM

We will be holding our AGM after the Sunday service on **Sunday 28th April**. If you have ever considered becoming a deacon, now is the time to speak to Sonya or one of the other deacons if you'd like to know what's involved. We particularly need new deacons who could take on the roles of Secretary and Treasurer so please pray about this if you feel you would like to put yourself forward for nomination.

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH



We would love to get together with as many as possible to share lunch and have a good catch up with each other. We will be having a Bring & Share lunch after the service on **Sunday 7th April** and all are very welcome to join us!

Please let Dianne know if you're planning to come along and let her know what dish you'd like to bring to share for lunch.



CHARITY LUNCH

A charity lunch will be held in the Schoolroom at **12.30 on Wednesday 29th April** in aid of Safe Families UK – our chosen charity for 2024. The Parish Church is already involved with supporting Safe Families UK so it would be wonderful if this lunch was well attended and supported.

Safe Families work with over 35 local authorities around the UK. Safe Families offer hope, belonging and support to families, children and care leavers; they do this primarily, but not exclusively, with and through local churches. Safe Families is made up of over 5,000 volunteers from over 1,000 churches and community groups.

Host volunteer families offer short periods of respite when children cannot stay at home, in much the same way as a good neighbour or relative might step in when things are difficult. It is a voluntary arrangement, and one in which the birth parent/carer remains in control at all times. It is therefore quite different from fostering or adopting. Families may be referred by their local authority, school, GP, CCG's, community agencies or they may self-refer.

There are various ways to volunteer with Safe Families – **Hosting** (caring for children in your own home for a short spell) **Befriending** (befriending and supporting struggling parents and/or offering daytime only care for children) **Providing Resource** (Supporting families by providing useful goods or skills) **Praying** (for staff, volunteers and families) and **Financial Support**. For more information, please visit the website www.safefamilies.uk



Dates for Messy Church:

Sunday 14th April

Sunday 12th May

For our Prayers

Please keep the following people in your prayers – Anne Jackson, Tim & Julia Spotswood, David & Judith Hinks, Mary Strange, Gillian and David Akerman, Family and Friends of Brenda Upham and of Kath Staple.



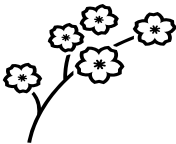
Please also pray for The Princess of Wales and King Charles and all those who are undergoing treatment for cancer.

BMS Birthday Scheme



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

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



April Flowers

- 7th** Easter Flowers
- 14th** Messy Church
- 21st** Kathy Davidson
- 28th** Liz Hembrow

5th May Amanda Saunders

April 2024 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Weds 3rd	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Homegroup
Sun 7th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE with COMMUNION, followed by a BRING & SHARE LUNCH
Mon 8th	7.00pm	Deacons Prayer Meeting
Weds 10th	2.30pm 7.30pm	Thanksgiving Service for the life of Brenda Upham Homegroup
Sat 13th	10am – 4pm	Church Training Day with Carl Smethurst
Sun 14th	10.00am	MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast
Weds 17th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
Thurs 18th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 21st	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE (Jamie preaching)
Weds 24th	7.30pm	Homegroup
Thurs 25th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 28th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE followed by a CHURCH MEETING AND AGM
Mon 29th	12 noon 7.30pm	Charity Lunch in the Schoolroom - in aid of Safe Families UK Deacons meeting

Weds 1st	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Homegroup
Thurs 2nd	9.30am – 11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 5th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE with COMMUNION

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*