



STOKE ST. GREGORY BAPTIST CHURCH SOMERSET CHURCH PROFILE



VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY

- **Stoke St. Gregory is a rural village with a population of approximately 1,200 spread over a wide area. Local employment includes small businesses and agricultural industries. The nearby towns of Taunton and Bridgwater are the major areas for professional and industrial employment. There are good links to the M5 and train services for those who need to travel further afield.**
- **The church is situated on a hill with stunning views over the Somerset levels. In the heart of the village there are two pubs and a village shop. Major stores are situated in Taunton, Langport and Bridgwater.**
- **There is a thriving Pre-School and Primary School, the Willowset Pre-School has an Outstanding OFSTED rating and the school a Good rating. A coach collects and transports older children to Heathfield Community and Huish Episcopi Secondary schools, which also has a sixth form. There is a daily bus service into Taunton for those attending further education colleges or for commuting to work or to shop.**
- **G.P. services and a Post Office are available at North Curry, a distance of approximately 3 miles.**

HISTORY

- The building of Stoke St. Gregory Church was completed in 1896. There is a 3-4 bed roomed Manse built next to the chapel. Over the last 15 years the church had undergone a number of positive changes to adapt to modern life. Within the last five years the chapel has been extensively refurbished. The pews have been removed from the



sanctuary and the office for the minister and the kitchen have been updated. Access and facilities for those with disabilities have been installed along with an AV/ PA system and induction loop. The church is now a welcoming space used for a variety of activities for all ages.

MEMBERSHIP

- Over recent years our membership has grown with 47 on the roll, some of whom live outside the area. Membership is “open” attracting a variety of people from various denominational backgrounds. Average attendance on Sunday is around 30.
- During the last few years there have been two baptisms.
- Most age ranges are represented including families and single persons, although the majority are over the age of 50.
- We have a core of five children who attend Junior Church regularly, and a small number of teenagers who are occasional attendees and some who are away at university.
- There is a register of Members and Associated Friends with links to the church.



BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- **The church has a strong belief in working together and has remained open to working with other churches. Through theology and biblical teaching and worship the church is given opportunities to grow in faith.**
- **Church Governance – The church has seven regular Deacons and continues to encourage a broad representation of its membership. The Church adheres to the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle and has a constitution which we adopted in 2015. We are part of the South West Baptist Association.**
- **We are a friendly, inclusive and relaxed church family who enjoy a blend of contemporary and traditional styles of worship involving children and adults. We often share fellowship with cake and fresh coffee.**
- **Café Church and communion are both offered once a month and Messy church once every half term. The fellowship assists in worship, reading, leading Prayers and other aspects of church services.**



WIDER RELATIONS

- **Locally there is only the Parish Church and ourselves. Relationships with the Parish Church are friendly, with regular exchanges and shared services.**

Community - there are a wide variety of activities we provide serving the church family and wider community:

TWiGs – Toddlers With God, once a week

Luncheon Club, once a fortnight

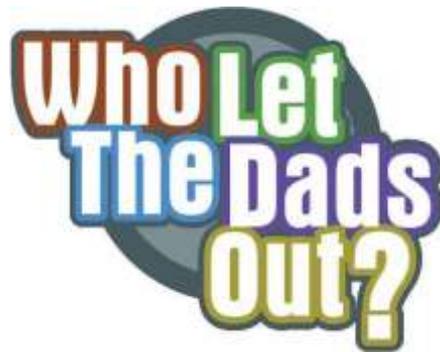
CAMEO – Come And Meet Each Other, once a month

WLTD – Who Let The Dads Out, once a month

A Summer Tea, annually

Songs of Praise jointly with the Parish church, annually

- The Church also has links with the village church school and pre-school and our minister has visited regularly. Open the Book is run jointly by members of local churches and taken into both Stoke St Gregory and North Curry primary schools on a regular basis.
- We have an updated website and send out notifications via email, monthly newsletter, website and facebook.



ACTIVITIES

- The Church meets for worship on Sunday mornings at 10.30 am and there is a mid-week home group for bible study and prayer. The Church is open for Quiet time one day a month. We run occasional study series, sometimes ecumenical.
- The children go out during the Sunday service for Junior Church each week, apart from when we hold our Café Church service, which is an all age service held once a month.
- We give regularly to BMS World Mission and Home Mission as well as other causes.
- We are a Fair Trade Church.

THE FUTURE

- As a congregation we wish to be a church that is relevant for the 21st century.
- The church's vision is to follow a clear Christian message using everyday language. We are open to exploring new ways of developing this.
- We want to continue with other churches to deepen links within the village and schools in order to help to foster a Christian community.

- **We would like to increase the existing fellowship and develop pastoral outreach into the surrounding area.**

THE MINISTER

- **Will work as part of our team to bring about the Church's vision.**
- **To lead church life in the community through inspiring services with a personal touch, helping people to develop their Christian faith.**
- **To help us to discover and develop our skills within the fellowship to take God's message to the local community and beyond.**
- **Must be able to relate well to all ages.**

