

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church
August 2022
News



Minister:

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From Sonya

Build back better?

For a while last year, the phrase, ‘build back better’ seemed to be everywhere, on the lecterns of Covid briefings, on the lips of politicians and on the news. Recently, with all that has happened, the phrase has disappeared. And yet the work of building back following the destruction of the pandemic continues.



But what does building back ‘better’ really mean? And how do we do it? On Sundays we have been looking at what the prophet Haggai has to say to us about this. Haggai is one of God’s prophets who spoke God’s word to the leaders of the returned people of Israel following their exile in Babylon. This is God’s word to people learning to follow God in a new world, following a devastating and widespread event. We are also learning to follow God in a new world, following a devastating and widespread event and as such, the book of Haggai has much wisdom to impart to us as we seek to rebuild.

We began by reflecting on God’s message to His people challenging them about their priorities. The people were spending all their time, focus and money on building luxurious houses for themselves, and neglecting to rebuild the Temple so that they could worship God. We also reflected on what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.” Over the summer, let’s take some time to reflect on how we are living and what that says about what our top priorities are. As Jesus reminds us, if we are willing to seek God and His Kingdom first, then He will provide all that we need.

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

Having had to postpone the original date of our meeting due to Covid and personal circumstances, we were pleased to be able to meet as deacons at The Manse for our July meeting. Following a time of prayer and reflection, we had lengthy discussions about the state of the church's financial situation and shared thoughts and ideas about how we might manage it. We were all in agreement that prayer would play a vital role in dealing with the difficult way ahead. Some of the ideas for reducing our overheads and for increasing our income will be brought to the church membership at the Church Meeting on 31st July.



Fundraising for Arc (formally Taunton Association for the Homeless)

Thanks to the amazing generosity of church members, family and friends, the Stoke St Gregory team who took part in the Big Sleep Out managed to raise £1403 for Arc, with a grand total of £5,600 being raised overall.

This will help so many people locally who find themselves homeless. A huge thank you to everyone who supported.



Messy Church

Lots of fun was had by those who attended the Outside Messy Church in July. Delicious pizzas were made and consumed and it was good to have the company of the younger members of the village and their grown-ups!

DON'T FORGET the next Messy Church is on **Sunday 14th August**. Join us for breakfast at 10am

Church Summer BBQ

Saturday 16th July saw the Church Fellowship & friends join together for a BBQ in the grounds of the Chapel on a lovely sunny day to enjoy fellowship & good food. Thanks to Tony & Ian for manning the barbecues, various members for producing salads & especially such wonderful desserts. This event was well attended & judging by the appreciative comments thoroughly enjoyed!



For our Prayers

Maurie David
Liz and Robert Hembrow
Alison Katte
Maryna Byshenko
Julia and Tim Spotwood
All school staff, pupils, parents and grandparents



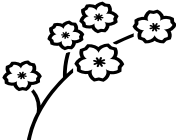
We also pray for Des, Lesley, and Tim and for all others who are recovering after recently having had Covid. For Joan Thatcher and for Stuart Saunders.

BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthday this month of Kathleen Staple on 23rd and Chris Coate on 26th
We thank them for supporting the scheme and wish them both a very happy day.

August Flowers



7th	Anne Coate	14th	Mary Strange
21st	Julia Spotswood	28th	Irene Browning

September 4th Freda Gadsby

August 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Weds 3rd	7.30pm	Home Group
Sun 7th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP – Haggai 2: 20-23 God's promises never fail.
Weds 10th	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Home Group
Sun 14th	10.30am	MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Sun 21st	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP
Mon 22nd	7.30pm	Deacons meeting
Weds 24th	12 noon 7.30pm	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom Home Group
Sun 28th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP