

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

February 2022

News



Minister:

Rev. Sonya Setchell

01823 490975

07485 00448

Secretary:

Tim Spotswood

01823 490142

www.ssgbaptist.com



From Sonya

When you think of good friendship, what do you think of? Spending time with someone you care about, talking and listening to each other, enjoying doing something together, maybe even spending time in companionable silence? God wants us all to have this kind of friendship with Him. He wants us to enjoy being with Him and to spend times in silence with Him. He wants us to share our lives and our hearts with Him, and to listen to what He wants to say to us.



Over the next few weeks in our services on Sunday mornings, we are going to be investigating the subject of how we can all learn to hear God more. We will look at activities to practise which can help us to be more open to hearing God. We will ask questions like how do we know that what we hear is from God? What does God's voice sound like? And many more questions. We will do this by exploring the stories of a number of characters from the Old Testament who heard God and asking what we can learn from their example. As we approach this subject, be excited. God wants to speak to you! And God wants to help you learn to hear His voice more. He will teach all of us over this time if we are willing to engage with Him. And who knows what God might say to us!

I look forward to exploring this with you.

Blessings, 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 on a chilly evening so were grateful for the hot cups of tea and coffee that Ian kindly offered us on arrival. Sonya started the meeting with prayer then each of us read aloud a section from Joshua 8:1-20 and then discussed how Joshua was able to re-energise his people by listening to God, obeying His instructions, and leading by example and from the front.

We discussed the various ongoing maintenance issues within the chapel and its grounds and were reminded of how grateful we are for the variety of help and advice we receive from members of the church and our community. We reflected over the Christmas period and were thankful that some services and events were still able to take place, despite the ongoing pandemic disrupting plans yet again. We were able to discuss various future events and services for this year and felt optimistic and full of hope about the plans.

The accounts for the year ending 31/12/21 were looked at and the deacons decided to review the accounts with Liz every three months, starting in March. Sonya suggested a new verse for the year – Psalm 65:11 and we also considered some suggestions for the church's charity for 2022. These suggestions, along with the budget were discussed and decided upon at the Church Meeting which was held the following week.

New Verse for 2022

A new verse for the year has been chosen. It is verse 11 taken from Psalm 65 (NLT)

“You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance.”



Church Charity for 2022

Arc was chosen as the charity that the church will support for 2022. Formerly known as Taunton Association for the Homeless, Arc's mission is to offer

supported accommodation where people can be inspired and empowered by their own strengths.

Through their Outreach Team which covers the Sedgemoor area, Arc aims to ensure that no-one has to spend more than one night homeless, and they work hard to support rough sleepers, getting them into accommodation as quickly as possible. The team conduct early morning walkabouts, locating any new rough sleepers and checking on those that are known to them.

The charity owns and runs 16 properties in Taunton and Bridgwater, housing 176 people. Linley House in Taunton is their 40-room hostel which is staffed 24/7. There are additionally 16 'satellite properties' each housing between 5 and 15 individuals. These properties allow Arc's clients to live in a more independent environment, preparing them for their own homes when ready. Victory House in Taunton was launched in 2018 and is specifically for veterans, offering 8 bed accommodation alongside specialised support with issues such as PTSD, institutionalisation and returning to civilian life.

Arc provides Pathway Workers who help prepare their clients to transition into their own homes when ready by helping with costly deposits and fees when renting, and in purchasing white goods and basic start up furniture. They also run the Arc Academy to assist clients with their recovery, mental health, skills, employment and education, offering a timetable of courses and activities run by volunteers.

Plenty more information can be found on Arc's website www.arcinspire.co.uk Hopefully you will agree that this is a local charity that is important to support and that sadly there are still too many people in our area who find themselves without shelter or hope.



Book Review

There are so many wonderful books that can help, inspire, and enrich our Christian lives so it is always good when someone recommends a book that they have enjoyed reading. Tim has kindly sent this review:

The Bible; A Story that Makes Sense of Life by Dr Andrew Ollerton.

(Andrew Ollerton wrote and presented “The Bible Course” which Sonya introduced us to before lockdown)

I have just finished this book and have found it extremely useful, enjoyable and would thoroughly recommend it to anyone interested in learning more about the Bible as a library of books. By reading Andrew Ollerton’s book you will get a picture of the way the various Biblical books fit together and encourage you to dig more deeply into the Scripture.

The book is easy to read without using academic language, but it is intellectually thoughtful and scholarly. It is a great book for anyone wishing to make sense of the Bible and its importance to our lives as Christians. ‘The Bible; A Story that Makes Sense of Life’ divides the Biblical story into six parts (Origins, Exodus, Exile - based on the Old Testament, and Messiah, Spirit, and Hope based on the New Testament) The author connects these with six aspects of the human condition (our desire for meaning, our quest for freedom, cry for peace, our need for love and community, and our longing for home). Each section contains seven mini chapters, at the end of which there is a recommended Bible passage, a reflection and prayer suggestion.

If you would like to recommend a book that you have found helpful in your Christian journey, please speak to or email Amanda with your review (long or short!) – the.saunders@care4free.net 01823 698398



BMS Birthday Scheme

We celebrate the birthday this month of Anne Coate on 25th.

I'd also like to add some rather belated BMS Birthday celebrations, (together with an apology for omitting them in the previous two newsletters!) ...

Julia Spotswood on 15th December

Tony Yaskin on 27th January

Freda Gadsby on 28th January

We hope you were all able to enjoy your birthdays.

We thank each of them for supporting the scheme and wish Anne a very happy day on the 25th.

If you are interested in finding out more about the BMS Birthday Scheme or think you might like to join it, please speak to Joan Thatcher who is our Birthday Scheme Secretary. In return for a donation to the BMS Birthday Scheme, you will receive a birthday card each year and will receive the added bonus of knowing your donation is supporting medical and health work around the world via BMS World Mission.



For our Prayers

David and Eileen Hunt
Ian and Lyn Greenaway
Joan Upham
Rachel and Simon Robinson, William and
Thomas.
Stuart Mark
Our friends at St Gregory's



We also continue to hold in our prayers Judith and David Hincks, Mary Strange, Anne Jackson, Freda Gadsby, Joan Thatcher, Betty Woodland, Jean Pimm.

With Arc becoming our charity for 2022, we offer our prayers to all those who find themselves homeless, especially those who sleep rough, and to those who work to care for them and support their needs.



February Flowers

6th Anne Coate
13th Mary Strange
20th Julia Spotswood
27th Kathy Davidson

March

6th Lesley Perry

February 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Thurs 3rd	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 6th	10.30am	MORNING SERVICE with COMMUNION (with Lesley & Des Perry taking the service)
Tues 8th	2pm	Open the Book planning meeting
Weds 9th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 10th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 13th	10.30am	MESSY CHURCH (Breakfast served from 10am)
Wed 16th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 17th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting
Sun 20th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP Old Testament characters who heard God 3: Moses
Wed 23rd	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Sun 27th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP Old Testament characters who heard God 4: Gideon

Newsletter Distribution

The deacons are mindful of the quantity of newsletters that are currently printed and feel that we should be trying to encourage more people to receive the newsletter via email to reduce the church's carbon footprint. **If you currently receive a paper copy of the newsletter please contact Amanda BEFORE 25th MARCH** to confirm whether you still need a paper copy, or to provide your email address so we can email you future newsletters. We will continue to have some printed newsletters in the chapel and some in the Village Shop. You can of course always print off your own copy from the emailed newsletters. Please ask if you need help doing this. Thank you for considering your options and helping protect our planet!

To contact Amanda – Tel 01823 698398 Email the.saunders@care4free.net