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STOKE ST GREGORY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS NOVEMBER 2017

A COMMUNITY CHURCH IN THE HEART OF THE SOMERSET MOORS

OUR VERSE FOR 2017

Together, we are God's house, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord.' (Ephesians 2:20 - 21)



Moderator: Rev Peter Morgan
Secretarial Responsibility: Alison Katte 07812 094157

Hello! I'm Peter.

It seems strange to me to be writing on the page where Barbara's letter always appeared in recent years, and it is probably a big surprise to you!

I have just become the 'Moderator' at Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church. In the Baptist Union, a suitably experienced person is asked to come alongside a church, in a voluntary capacity, between one minister leaving and another one arriving. The task is to encourage and support the ongoing life of the church, as well as guiding the process of finding a new minister. This person – the Moderator – attends meetings when the deacons or members of the church are discussing plans, and is available on the end of a phone to offer advice to them. From time to time, the Moderator will lead the Sunday worship service too, and it was my delight to do that with my wife recently.

So let me introduce myself. My wife and I live in North Petherton on a new housing development called Wilstock Village where we are active in the local community. We are both retired

2

Baptist Ministers and Kathryn also had a regional

and national church role. Many years ago, we were the ministers at Chard Baptist Church and chose to return to Somerset five years ago for retirement.



So we know the area well. It is a pleasure, and of course a challenge, to come alongside the people in a church at a time of change. Barbara will be missed, having moved on to her new ministry at Lee Abbey, and leave a gap. However, the deacons and members want to sustain the life of the church and the welcome it offers to the wider community. I anticipate a time of prayer, of listening, of more prayer, of conversation, and even more prayer! I hope to add a sprinkling of guidance and encouragement.

God is good and his steadfast love endures forever. Change is challenging, but with God it is an opportunity for new things, new direction and new opportunities. May God bless you,
Peter
(Revd Peter Morgan)

Deacons

Who is responsible for the different aspects of church life:

Alison Katte

Secretarial responsibility, TWiGs, Messy Church and Junior Church, Financial Team

Alison White

Pastoral responsibility, Luncheon Club, TWiGs, Messy Church, Newsletter

Des Perry

Buildings, including the Manse

Dianne Callaghan

TWiGs, Messy Church, Catering, Financial Team

Jamie Marriott

Buildings, Junior Church, Financial Team

Gillian Akerman

Flower rota, Catering/kitchen advisor

Niall Waters-Fuller

Treasurer, AV, Newsletter

The deacons would like to thank all those who worked so hard to prepare the Manse for the new tenants. They would also like to thank everyone who helped with Barbara and Bill's farewell Barn Dance, especially Sue Hembrow, Alison Katte and Jamie who gave the presentations. The evening was well attended and very enjoyable.

The next **Church Meeting** will be on Friday 17th November, not as previously arranged. The

agenda will include preparations for drawing up the church profile and members are asked to prayerfully think about this in advance.

The church profile should say something about the ethos of our church. There are three main questions:

What are we like as a church now? Present membership, worship style, social setting, theological outlook and current mission will be the sort of things covered here. Where does God want us to go in Mission and Ministry? Answering this question will determine something of God's vision for our Church.

What sort of ministry do we need to take us into that future? Among the emphases to be considered are teaching, evangelism and team leadership. In this process of reflection a picture of a potential Minister begins to emerge, which will help in the search.

A small group takes on the work of writing the profile but it has to be endorsed by the church meeting. The exercise of producing it can do a great deal to help us gain an understanding of ourselves and God's vision for our future. There is more about preparing a profile on the Baptist Union Website in the Resource section: "Facing a Pastoral Vacancy."

Dear friends,

Bill and I want to say a very big THANK YOU for all your kind words, good wishes and gifts when we left Stoke St Gregory. We were really touched by the thought and planning that went into collecting all the lovely memories of our time in Stoke that have appeared in the Newsletter and that are in our delightful little 'treasure box' - they are indeed memories to be treasured. We use the beautiful Muchelney pottery each day, and think of you all as we do so. Thank you too for the amazing way that you 'danced us out'! We had such fun at the barn dance - the food was fabulous, the dancing entertaining, and it was so lovely to be surrounded by so many good friends enjoying themselves; thank you to all who made it possible.

We also want to say a huge thank you to the lovely folks who came along and lent a hand to help us move out of the manse. Your help with numerous runs to charity shops, the tip, the cleaning, feeding us, etc. etc. was invaluable - we couldn't have done it without you!

As we look back on our 8+ years in Stoke St Gregory we do so with much gratitude to God and to His people for our time with you. We

all stepped out in faith when I was appointed as minister at the Chapel and as I look back I see so many ways where God has been at work in all our lives. I will always feel blessed to have been part of the story of this particular part of the Body of Christ, and I look forward to seeing how the next chapters of its life unfold. Be assured that you continue to be in our prayers.

Life here at Lee Abbey is good. We have been very warmly welcomed and feel very much part of the Community here already. We have both 'hit the ground running' since we started work; no two days are the same! We very much look forward to welcoming you as guests to our lovely new home at some time in the near future. Please do continue to pray for us - there are some challenges still to be dealt with as we transition to a completely different way of life. Please do keep in touch too - I'll give you something of a 'flavour' of life at Lee Abbey from time to time.

with love and blessings,

Barbara, and Bill.

Our address:

The Byre
Lee Abbey
Lynton
N. Devon
EX35 6JL

Luncheon Club will meet on November 1st, 15th & 29th. If you are not able to come it is useful if you can contact Alison (490380) or Liz (490828) so that we don't buy more food than is needed. If you would like to come and bring a friend – we'd be very pleased to welcome you. Our Christmas meal will be on December 13th.



You are very welcome to come along on Friday 10 November and enjoy being with your friends after school. There will be the usual programme of crafts, games, stories, worship followed by a meal. This month's theme is 'Family'.

Samaritan's Purse

Time to get packing that shoebox. Leaflets available as a guide to age groups and suitable gifts.



Also found online at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk

Charity Lunch

Monday 27 November
12.30 to 2.00 pm
At the Baptist schoolroom
In aid of the
Cats Protection League



Hosts: Julia
Clewes
& Sue
Hembrow

From Annette: I am now thinking of next year's lunches and would love to hear from anyone who would like to give a lunch for their favourite charity. So please let me know. Thank you. 490297

Home Group at Ralph and Mary's will be studying "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence during November. This will be a new venture as we look at an old text (c 1680) about having simple conversations with God every day and finding God in the smallest tasks we do. Is this something we could practise in the 21st century? Join us for tea followed by reading and discussion on Wednesday afternoons.

Everyone is welcome.

NOVEMBER FLOWERS



5th	Alison White
12th	Mary Strange
19th	Kathy Davidson
26th	Anne Coate
Dec 3rd	Dianne Callaghan

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Graham, Valerie & Stephen Board
Jean Pimm
Stuart & Amanda, Georgie, Amelia
Freddie & Olivia Saunders
Luncheon Club
Residents of Griggs Hill

Our love and prayers are also with
Jan and Colin as Jan recovers from
her operation;

Other members of our church family
who are on their way to
recovery;

Arthur, Ruth and Steve's elder
grandson who is undergoing surgery
on his ankle on 7th November;

John and Joan Upham, and others
known to us who are dependent on
their families and carers for whom

6

we also pray;

Tony, having completed a mission
assignment in India where they
refurbished a 24 bed eye clinic is
now in Cambodia managing the
building of a floating school – a new
experience for Tony;

The Chedzoy family following the
death of much loved Stan.
Stan was born and brought up in this
village and played an active part in
the life of the community. He was
interested in new ideas in agriculture
and was the first farmer in the village
to own a combine. At the Christingle
Service there were four generations
of Chedzoys in the church.

Fellowship Christmas Card

This will be available to sign on the
last Sunday at the end of the month.

It is our way of sharing our
Christmas thoughts and wishes as
a church family as well as with all in
Stoke and beyond who have been
in some way associated with the
church during the year.

In lieu of the individual cards (and
postage) we may have sent, a
donation to the BMS World Mission,
part of the Baptists Together family
would be appreciated.

From **Alison Katte** ...if you haven't
found it yet, we have a shiny new
website: www.ssgbaptists.org.uk
....we are looking for volunteers with
skills to update it...ideally 2 people
....if you would like to help please
let me know.

Service of Remembrance



**Sunday
12th Nov
10.45 am**

It is our privilege to host this year's parish service.

We are delighted to welcome back our dear friend David West, Wreaths will be laid in honour of the fallen by Nick Sloane and Richard Dobson and we look forward to the local Scouts, Cubs and Beavers joining us. This is an opportunity for us all to come together to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

SLaMS

Somerset Levels and Moors Sheds now has thirty active members. They meet on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons at the former Basket and Craft Centre off the A361 at Burrowbridge. Men come from all walks of life and anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to join. There are facilities to pursue hobbies or practical interests or learn new skills. They are currently renovating some cast iron finger posts for Burrowbridge. Contact Colin 698612 for more details.

Voluntary Service Overseas

We are so proud to hear that Alice Marriott will be flying out to Bangladesh in the new year to join a VSO programme. Alice's main challenge will be working with females who are denied education. So many are married off by their families to secure a dowry.

Alice needs to raise £1500 towards this work. If you'd like to help and wish to do so online please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alice-marriott98>

Or alternatively, join us at the following event:

Community Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th Nov
at 10.30 am
Baptist Church
Coffee,
Cakes to enjoy or take home
Cards handmade by Alice
Donations towards Alice's trip

Cameo the next meeting will be on Monday 6th November at Kath Staple's house. Meet in the Church car park at 2pm for lifts. There will be a quiz followed by tea.

Date	Time	Event
Wed 1	12.00 3.00	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home group with Mary and Ralph (442123)
Thur 2	8.30 9.15	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sun 5	9.30 10.30	Church open for prayer Family Worship with communion with Rev Elsie Howell
Mon 6	2.00	CAMEO – tea and quiz with Kathleen Staple
Wed 8	3.00 7.30	Home group with Mary and Ralph Deacons' meeting
Thur 9	8.30 9.15	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Fri 10	3.30	Messy Church
Sat 11	8.30 9.00	Prayer time Who Let the Dads Out? in the schoolroom
Sun 12	9.30 10.45	Church open for Prayer United Remembrance Day service with Rev David West
Mon 13	9.00-7.00	Church open for prayer all day
Wed 15	12.00 3.00	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home Group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 16	8.30 9.15	Prayer Time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Fri 17	7.30	Church meeting
Sat 18	10.30	Coffee morning - to raise funds for VSO
Sun 19	9.30 10.30	Church open for Prayer Café church with Abigail Lintern
Wed 22	3.00	Home group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 23	8.30 9.15	Prayer Time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sun 26	9.30 10.30	Church open for Prayer Family worship with Chris Pitman
Mon 27	12.30	Charity Lunch at the Baptist schoolroom
Wed 28	12.00 3.00	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home Group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 29	8.30 9.15	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Dec 2	10.30	Family worship with communion