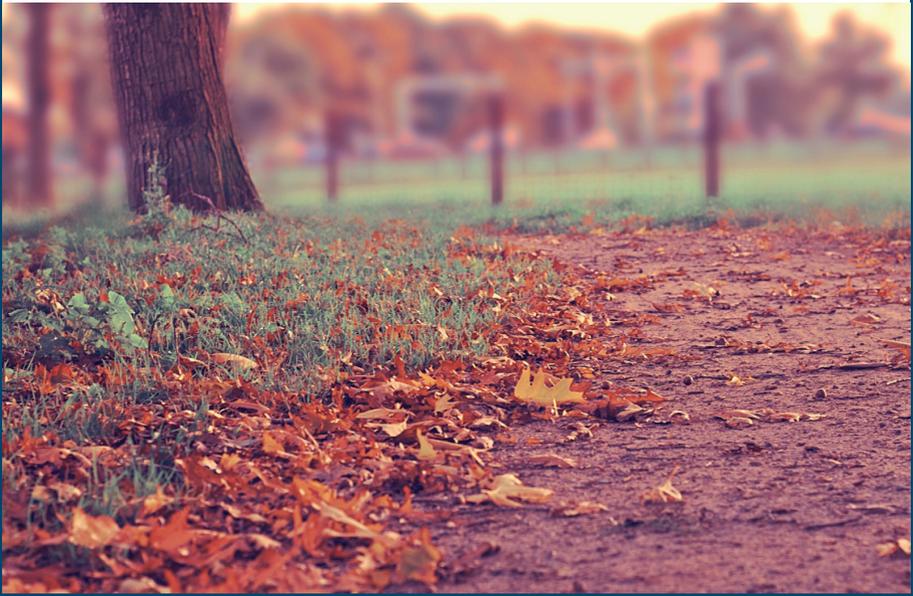


[www.ssgbaptists.org.uk](http://www.ssgbaptists.org.uk)

# STOKE ST GREGORY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS OCTOBER 2017

## 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)*



Dear friends,

'When I gave my leaving speech at College in Bristol, I ended with a quote from a popular film of the time - 'So long, and thanks for all the fish.' \* If I wanted to adapt it for my time here in Stoke St Gregory, it might be, 'So long, and thanks for all the chocolate!' Chocolate seems to have been a theme that has run through my ministry here! Liz, at my Induction, said that one of the reasons the search committee thought that they wanted to pursue things with me was that my answer to the question, 'What do you do when you're stressed?' hadn't been, like every other person they'd met, anything to do with praying or going for long walks, but that I simply answered, 'I eat chocolate'. Here, they thought, is a woman we can work with! Whether it was because they were all chocoholics (definitely not), or averse to praying or long walks (also definitely not) or just simply the fact that I was just myself, I don't ever remember being told or asking. But as I reflect on these last 8 years or so, I see that that's what I have offered this church and this community - myself. Because that's what I offered to God over 40 years ago when I committed my life to Him, that's what I offered again 15+ years ago when I responded to the call to ministry, that's what I offered again when I was inducted as pastor and minister of this church family and it is

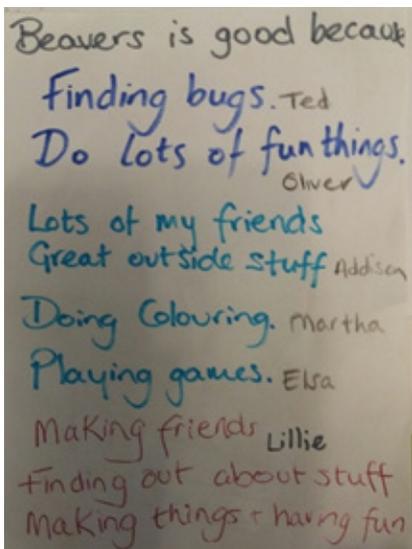
2

what I have offered day by day as I have led worship, preached, prayed, visited, sung, danced, told stories, listened, crafted worship, talked, chaired meetings, cut out ridiculous shaped items late on Saturday nights, wept, laughed, eaten more meals and cake than I could possibly have imagined, cooked, cleaned, painted, tidied, nursed babies, showered myself and every conceivable surface in glitter, played games, built igloos, made play dough, etc. etc. etc. In all these things I have offered to you, my family in this church and in this place, myself and through myself I hope that you have seen God. Not because I am a perfect 'free sample of Jesus' - I'm far from that, as you well know - but because, I hope and pray, through the cracks and the offering of my life I hope that something more of God's love and grace has been revealed. If it has, and if through some small thing that has happened in our time together you have seen and grasped something more of the mystery and closeness of the God who loves and saves us, then it's all been worth it, and to Him be the glory and praise. You will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers as we move on to pastures new. With love, from Bill and myself. \*The film? 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy'



## Goodbye Barbara & Bill...

Last month we ran out of space.... In this issue we hear from the Scouting community, a Dad who is let out on Saturdays, and of Barbara's involvement at Stoke school.



### Cubs

We love going to the Willows and Wetlands exploring; we love the creative NIGHTS, and crafts; I like playing stuff, and fun games; 'Fundays' and camps; Cubs gives us time to play with our friends and do good teamwork.

### Scouts

I find that scouts gives me opportunities that I wouldn't normally have a chance to do,

such as kayaking, camping on the moors or orienteering. I find scouts really fun an enjoyable and a great opportunity for young children to learn lifelong skills. It's also a great chance to meet people your age in your area. *Barnaby Eddy*  
Thank you so much for everything you've done for us. *Rory Long*



### From Kath - Beaver Leader

On behalf of the whole village, as a parent and a leader I can't express in words how grateful we are that Barbara worked so hard to set up Beavers and be the leader during our first year. The children of the village have gained so much from all the Scouting experiences they have. As a leader the support that Bill has given us as a treasurer enables us to run fun activities in Beavers, Cubs and Scouts - without him I doubt I will have survived this long as a leader. His calm and measured manner not to mention his infinite patience with us leaders has been the backbone keep the group going. Additionally we have always been welcomed at 'Barbara's House' as they all refer to the chapel!! Good luck from all of the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and leaders.

## Stoke St Gregory school

As a governor and chair of governors Barbara has led the way through example with her knowledge and understanding of not only the school but educational issues both local and national. She has dedicated a large amount of her time to be in school and has attended many training courses to enhance her knowledge and pass this on to others.

She has been enormously supportive of the head teacher, other members of staff and governors. Most of all she has always had the education and welfare of the children at the centre of all she has done and will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the children currently at the school, former pupils, staff and governors we would like to say an enormous thank you for everything she has done and wish both Barbara and Bill every success and happiness in the future. *Tony McKenzie & Deborah Barrett*

### Who Let the Dads Out?

I am a stay at home dad and have been attending the TWiGs toddler group. Both my younger children love coming along and so do I, but sometimes feel a little out of place, there being very few men. However it was here where Bill spoke about Who Let the Dads Out? Once Bill had said that there was coffee and bacon rolls he had convinced me. WLTDO is great. It's a friendly place to be, to chat and to let the kids play

while enjoying, sometimes, a second breakfast depending on what time the little ones have woken me up. I come with all four of my children, aging from 12 down to 2 and they all love it. I think the older ones just



go for the bacon but each time I tell them it's on they all want to come.

The younger two enjoy playing and having breakfast with their friends. For me it's not just the bacon and coffee, but the opportunity to chat and meet new people. We have been going for almost 2 years and I have encouraged some of my friends to join us on Saturday morning. I highly recommend it!  
*Simon Hutchinson*

### On your way...God's speed

We seem to have been saying our goodbyes and sharing cake with Barbara and Bill for the whole of September. At Barbara's official last Sunday service we welcomed our friends from St Gregory's and the wider community. It was lovely to have a full church giving thanks that morning, many of whom joined us for our Bring and Share Lunch. A joyous occasion. Now with the packing done and dusted, the whole community has celebrated Barbara and Bill's ministry and friendship with us at the Village Hall. "We wish you joy, peace and hope as you settle in your new home, new ministry,

new community, meeting exciting challenges at Lee Abbey”. With our love.

While we are conscious of our responsibility to carry on the expanded ministry left by Barbara and Bill, we also recognise that parallel with this growth, we have all worked hard to enhance our space and facilities, to be the welcoming and user friendly place befitting our time; continuing the legacy and stewardship of the church family at Stoke since the current building held its opening meeting on May 5th 1896 – with ‘Luncheon and Tea ....laid at One and Five, in the Old Chapel and School Rooms’

We give thanks to God for the vision and ministry of the fellowship over the years.

## **The way forward**

With Barbara leaving us we need as a church to think about her replacement. The process for Baptists starts with setting out a church profile. This needs to describe what we think are our values and strengths as a church family, and also make clear what we would want a new minister to focus on together with the church.

Writing a church profile can be a real challenge. Different people have differing views on what is important and can feel strongly about this.

We want the profile to summarise and pull together these threads and still be clear for any prospective

minister. The key elements in our last church profile were that we wanted someone full time who would be able to get involved with village life. Barbara and Bill certainly met their brief.

However we are not expecting our new profile to be identical because the church family has moved on with Barbara during the past 8 years so it will be important to consider our current needs very carefully.

We will submit our profile to the regional team in charge of placing ministers and they will send CVs of potential candidates back to us. The Deacons will then get an opportunity to ask one or more of these candidates to meet with us so that we can get a preliminary feel of them and they of us.

The next step is to ask them to come along on a Sunday and to lead a service. If this goes well, they will be asked back a second time and the church will get an opportunity to chat with them and ask questions. At any stage in this process one or both parties might feel that this does not seem to be the right match and we would go back to the regional team again.

As you can see this can be a fairly measured process. However our experience with Barbara and with John previously is that the time taken to choose carefully is time well spent. We ask for your prayers as we embark on this new adventure for us.*Jamie Marriott*

## Home Group

We meet on Wednesday afternoons enjoying fellowship and exploring different topics. The Spring Harvest notes we are using at the moment are looking at aspects of the Holy Spirit and what they mean for us in our every day lives. We find the subject challenging and there is plenty of discussion, often with more questions than answers. Our experiences in life and our backgrounds are very different but we find that in sharing together we sometimes come to a different understanding. Getting to know each other better helps us to support and encourage one another.

If you ever feel like joining us we would love to see you and we can arrange a lift if necessary.

**CHARITY LUNCH**  
**Monday 30 October**  
**12.30 to 2.00 pm**  
**At the Baptist schoolroom**  
**In aid of**



The September lunch raised £122 for CLIC Sargent. Thank you for your support. Annette Gage 490297

6

## Come And Meet Each Other



small group of us went to Buckfast Abbey last month. There has been a monastery on this site since 1018 but it was destroyed during the dissolution. After 350 years some Benedictine monks returned and in 1905 with just £5 in cash and the loan of a horse and cart rebuilding started. One of the brothers was a mason and he had four helpers. Finances were so tight that they built their own workshop and made their own scaffolding. What a leap of faith! Building was not completed until 1937. Now visitors can visit the Abbey church and walk in the peaceful gardens beside the River Dart. But the main purpose of the building and lives of the monks is to give glory to God and inspire others to do the same. Next month's outing is on Monday 2nd October to the Rural Life Museum in Glastonbury, recently re-opened after a major redevelopment project. Meet in the chapel car park at 1.30 to share lifts. Names to Paddy or Mary, please.



## October Flowers

1st	Harvest Flowers
8th	Dianne Callaghan
15th	Amanda Saunders
22nd	Valerie Board
29th	Alison White
Nov 5th	Paddy Scott

Harvest was celebrated with customary displays by 'all-age' participation. Our thanksgiving was led by Rev John Courtie, followed by a fellowship Bring and Share harvest lunch. A lovely occasion.

### FOR OUR PRAYERS

Chris and Anne Coate  
Maurice David  
Eileen and David Hunt  
Tim and Julia Spotswood  
Messy Church  
The residents of Slough Lane

Our love and prayers are also with

**Lesley and Des** as they journey to and from Surrey where Des' mother is very unwell.

**Tony and Gill** as Tony embarks on another mission. He is leaving for India shortly.

**Jan and Colin** as they continue to value our prayers

We continue to pray for our friends who have been in hospital, those awaiting outcomes of tests and consultation, their families, those who love and care for them as well as their doctors and medical teams.

Congratulations to **Mark and Athena Dare** on the safe arrival

of Rosie. It was lovely to see Athena and meet Rosie at TWiGs recently.

We are delighted to welcome **Luke and Hannah** as members of our church family.

### Keeping in touch

\*The new Website is up and running. The contact is Alison Katte

\* Gill Yaskin and Alison K are taking over the church Facebook page.

### BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays this month are Alison White on the 14th, Gill Yaskin on the 27th and Ron Gadsby on the 29th. Happy birthday to you all. Gifts to the scheme help support the medical work and health work of the BMS World Mission around the world. For stories go to

bmsworldmission.  
org/  
birthday



<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Sun 1	9.30 10.30	Church open for Prayer Morning worship with Communion
Mon 2	1.30	CAMEO visit to Glastonbury Rural Life Museum
Wed 4	12.00 3.00	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home group with Mary and Ralph (442123)
Thur 5	8.30 9.15	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Fri 6	7.30	Deacons meeting
Sun 8	9.30 10.30	Church open for prayer Café Church
Mon 9	9.00 – 7 00	Church open for prayer all day
Wed 11	3.00	Home group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 12	8.30 9.15	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sat 14	8.30 9.00	Prayer time Who Let the Dads Out? in the schoolroom
Sun 15	9.30 10.30	Church open for Prayer Family Worship
Wed 18	12.00 3.00	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home Group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 19	8.30 9.15	Prayer Time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sun 22	9.30 10.30	Church open for Prayer Family Worship
Wed 25	3.00	Home group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 26	8.30 9.15	Prayer Time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sun 29	9.30 10.30	Church open for Prayer Family worship
Mon 30	12.30	Charity Lunch at the Baptist schoolroom in aid of the Royal British Legion



Coming in November