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STOKE ST GREGORY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS JANUARY 2018



OUR VERSE FOR 2018

*YOU WILL SEEK ME AND FIND ME WHEN YOU SEEK ME WITH ALL
YOUR HEART.*

JEREMIAH 29: 13 (NIVUK)



Moderator: Rev Peter Morgan

Secretarial Responsibility: Alison Katte 07812 094157

Happy new year to you all!

I wonder whether you are into new year resolutions? I found, many years ago, that they didn't stay long in my mind, or were soon pushed



to one side by some other concern that seemed more pressing! So, I had to rethink how to move forward

year on year making my faith more relevant to my everyday lifestyle.

As this year began, the challenge came once again as to how, in retirement, I could be a better servant of Jesus Christ in 2018. Rather than have a grand year-long resolution, I find it helpful to have a short-term goal, conscientiously thinking day by day what I can do to be a better person. The start of the new year does give an opportunity for a fresh start in various aspects of life, but happily Jesus will give us a fresh start day on day!

At Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church, there is a long-term vision for the church and the community in this new year. But for this to come into being, it will take daily prayer, daily faithful service, and daily encouragement. It's what we do positively day by day that brings about change!

Yours, in His grip and grace,
Revd Peter

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity : That all may be free

18th – 25th January

The head of the family gathers us all in...
ushered from near and far,
we each take time to find our place;
so we can take our seat at the table.

The meal is prepared,
the banquet set.

For some, the table is just out of reach for now;

we lift them up
so they can see the others,
reach the food that seemed distant before.

For others, the chairs are too heavy to move;

so we swap places,
shuffle around
and help them get comfortable.

Couples move around,
gaps are filled,
odd numbers don't matter;
after all...

it wouldn't be a proper family gathering
if we weren't all there.

Reflection from Day 7 WPCU

For our Prayers

David and Gillian Akerman
Anne Gadsby
Jimmy and Sian Higginson,
James and Marley
Dawn and Jamie Marriott,
Alice and Luke
Our neighbourhoods

VSO update from Alice

Thank you all for your generosity. I have been able to get up to and beyond my fundraising total ahead of deadline. The bring-and-buy sale was a great success,



raising over £200 with an extra thank you to Sue Hembrow for being the maharaja of

organisation. It won't be long now before I am off on my travels, all my horrible injections are over (thank goodness). The next step is getting the necessary clothing in order although I hope I can get the majority of appropriate clothing in Bangladesh itself, I am looking forward to the beautiful textiles. I hope to keep in touch with more details while I'm away.

January Flowers

7th Joan Thatcher
14th Mary Strange
21th Jan Gorton
28th Karen Stannard
Feb 4th Kathy Davidson

BMS Birthday Scheme

Happy Birthday to Tony Yaskin and Freda Gadsby on the 27th and 28th respectively. Their donations support medical work of BMS World Mission

How well our Christmas events have gone this year. Friends and families of our Stoke and surrounding communities have enjoyed one or another or all these activities.

Christmas was...

..... marked by the church family taking a journey with Junior Church as they retold the Nativity story;
our beautiful Christingle service, with carols, readings, the symbolism of christingles;
sharing Christmas morning with young and not so young.

With thanks to Ruth, Luke and Jamie and all who contributed. It was a joy to share all these with so many friends and families of our Stoke community and surrounding villages.

Welcome to 2018.....

As we continue to journey on together in faith ...
come and enjoy any of our varied activities:
TWiGs (Toddlers with God)
Who Let the Dads Out?
Messy church & Sunday worship
Home groups,
CAMEO
Luncheon Club
Quiet prayer....and so much more.

Remember, keep Friday 19 January at 3.30 free for Messy church. Come with the family!

Day	Time	Event
Sat 6	10.00 – 4.00	Quiet day, St Rita's Retreat & Conference Centre, Honiton Contact: revshowell@gmail
Sun 7	9.30	Short communion service led by Tim Spotswood
	11.00	Stoke Stampede – 10k run
Mon 8	9.00 - 5	Church open for Prayer all day
Wed 10	12.00 3.00	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home group with Mary and Ralph 442123
Thur 11	8.30 9.15	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sat 13	8.30 9.00	Prayer Time Who Let the Dads Out? in the schoolroom
Sun 14	10.00 10.30	Church open for prayer Café Church led by the deacons
Wed17	3.00	Home group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 18	8.30 9.15 12.30	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom CAMEO annual lunch at Holly Farm, followed by planning for 2018
Fri 19	3.30	Messy Church
Sun 21	11.00	United Ecumenical service at St Gregorys for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Mon 22	7.30	Deacons meeting at Leeswood, Meare Green
Wed 24	12.00	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom Home group with Mary and Ralph
Thur 25	8.30 9.15 7.30	Prayer time TWiGs in the schoolroom PCC/Deacons meeting in the schoolroom
Sun 28	10.00 10.30	Church open for prayer Family Worship with Rev Hannah Alderson
Mon 29	12.30	Charity lunch in the Church room, hosted by PCC
Wed 31	3.00	Home group with Mary and Ralph
Feb Sun 4	10.00 10.30	Church open for prayer Family Worship with communion Revs Peter and Kathryn Morgan followed by Church Meeting