

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

# STOKE ST GREGORY BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS MARCH 2018



Moderator:  
Rev Peter Morgan

Secretarial  
Responsibility:  
Alison Katte  
07812 094157



**OUR VERSE  
FOR 2018**

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

**JEREMIAH 29: 13  
(NIVUK)**

Dear Friends,

I love the flowers that appear at this time of year: first the snowdrops and crocuses and then the daffodils. Individually they are gems but in groups they look at their best. I wonder if that should challenge us about how we should view ourselves, each special to God, but making the most impact when committed to a community of people.



As we go through this season of Lent we come to Holy Week at the end of the month. This is a hugely meaningful week for Christians and a challenge for anyone who wonders what life is all about. So much happened to Jesus and his followers in the week that began with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, now known as Palm Sunday. False accusations and intrigue led on to pain and a brutal death. It seems strange that the Friday that saw Jesus, the Son of God, hanging on a criminal's cross is known to us as Good Friday and celebrated by eating hot cross buns.

However, without Good Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of the perfect Jesus, there would be no forgiveness for us and no hope for the future.

2

Without God's sacrifice of his Son, we would not know his amazing grace and love for each one of us.  
Yours, in Christ,  
Revd Peter

### **Rev Dianne Tidball** **President of the Baptist Union**

Will be leading worship at Yeovil Baptist Church in South Street on Sunday 4th March.

We are all encouraged to attend the service at Yeovil at 10.30 am.

**The President's main role is as a communicator / facilitator of our Union's vision and mission**

Dianne has said:

"I believe in the local church.

There is nothing so engaging and attractive as a group of people sharing together the love of Christ. As Christians worship, care for each other, and look to serve their community with kindness and compassion, and share Good News they are an inspiration and a catalyst for transformation."

We are sure she will have something to share that will inspire us in our journey.

**A buffet lunch follows - you are all welcome to join us – an idea of numbers would be great please.**

Please note: That Sunday, we welcome Tim Spotswood to lead our Stoke Family worship with communion.

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

## Why become a Church member?

### What does it involve?

Those considering membership need to ask these questions and those of us who are already members would do well to be reminded of the answers we gave when we were received into membership.

As Baptists we are called to belong to a community of believers, covenanted to God and each other. Becoming a member demonstrates the sincerity of our commitment to Christ and His people and follows the example of the first Christians. 'and



they devoted themselves to the apostles'

teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer' Acts 2:42.

Becoming a Church member is not akin to joining a club or a society but is a full time commitment carrying with it important responsibilities. As Church members we show we have accepted the Christian way of life and encourage, nurture and pray for others and take an active role in passing on our faith to new generations. In our turn we can be assured of the support and love of other Christians.

Members are called to use their God-given Spiritual gifts and talents to help build up the body of Christ and to participate fully in the life of His church, locally and globally. This involves taking an active part in the church's governance, attending meetings, sharing in the process of making decisions, and committing time, energy and finances to the church.

Church membership is challenging, but we do not do it alone; we have the help of the Holy Spirit to guide and help us. What a wonderful feeling.

*Tim*

**Baptist Basics 4 – Church Membership, can be found on the website: [www.baptist.org.uk](http://www.baptist.org.uk) in the Resource Library.**

## New Members:

Stuart Mark was welcomed into membership at our café church service in February. Stuart is already playing a part in the life of the church, helping with Messy Church, Luncheon Club and contributing to services. It's good to have you with us, Stuart.

In December David and Judith Hincks became members. They have been worshiping with us for a while so we're delighted to welcome them.

## **“ Strange”**

Ralph was a member of our church for many years, serving as deacon and treasurer for 20 years.

His background in public finance made him ideal for the job, which he carried out with calm efficiency. He was a deacon during more than one pastoral vacancy, he had also served during the first kitchen remodelling; he and Vic Imrie built it. He really had “seen it all before”. This experience made him a great source of wisdom and strength.

Usually quiet in meetings, when he did speak it was to the point and always worth listening to. He was part of the bible / home study group for many years and could usually be relied upon to do his homework before every meeting. He particularly liked William Barclay’s commentaries and quoted from them where appropriate.

At his thanksgiving service Mary told us something of his early life. He worked at the education department in County Hall where it was his habit to answer the phone with “Strange”! An example of the wry sense of humour that we loved.



After he died, Mary found this prayer in one of his pockets and asked for it be read at the service:

***Prayer for humility  
O Father, give us the humility  
which***

***Realises its ignorance,  
Admits its mistakes,  
Recognises its need,  
Welcomes advice,  
Accepts rebuke.***

***Help us always***

***To praise rather than  
criticise,***

***To sympathise rather than to  
condemn,***

***To encourage rather than to  
discourage,***

***To build rather than to  
destroy,***

***And to think of people at their  
best rather than at their worst.***

***This we ask for thy name’s  
sake.***

Ralph will be much missed by Mary, his family and his wider church family and friends.

Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments to the tea after the service. We hope we did Ralph proud. It was lovely to see so many people stay after the service to chat and share memories of a very special man.

## Prayer Circle

While the church is without a minister, Alison White and Dianne Callaghan will have pastoral oversight of the church and fellowship.

The prayer chain is going to be revived but in a slightly different way, using email as well as phone. If there is a situation or a person that you feel needs to be prayed for, contact Alison (490380) or Di (698084). They will then contact members of the chain and ask them to pray. Anything you tell them will be kept confidential by all members of the Chain.

If you are interested in being part of this ministry then please talk to Alison or Di and they will tell you more about it.



Don't forget that the church is open once a month on the second Monday for quiet prayer.

If there is someone that you would like us to pray for during the day then please leave their name in the prayer corner.

As well as people undergoing particular difficulties we also pray for our deacons and Peter Morgan as they lead our church into the next stage of our journey. There is a lot of extra work for them to do as well as additional responsibility.

## Cameo

At our meeting in February we were pleased to have a good turn out to hear Julia Spotswood talk about being a magistrate. Julia has served in Taunton for over 20 years, she told us about the application and training processes, the sorts of cases that they deal with. We were then invited to pass sentence on a woman caught shoplifting. Snippets of extra information affected our judgements and we could see how complicated some of the cases can be. The talk was followed by a bring and share tea and Julia carried on answering questions. Thank you very much for a most enjoyable afternoon. Our March meeting is at the home of Mary Cooper in Curload: tea and a quiz. Please let Alison know if you can come.

### CHARITY LUNCH

Monday 26 March  
12.30 – 2.00 pm  
at the Parish Room  
hosted by Annette & Carolyn  
for the RNLI



**Thank you all.** The January lunch in aid of The Bumble Bus raised a wonderful £150.

More volunteers for lunches are needed! Annette 490 297

## Flowers



March 4th Lesley Perry  
11th Hazel Hutchings  
18th Gillian Akerman  
25th Kathleen Staple  
April 1st Easter Flowers  
(Donations)

### For our prayers

David and Judith Hincks  
Alison Mellors, Betsy & Emily  
Mike and Kath Long, Rory,  
Toby & Harry  
Irene and Ron Browning  
Junior Church  
Residents of Curload

We are sorry to hear that Mary Cooper is in hospital, but know she is in good hands. Our love and prayers are with her and the family.

Also in need of special care are Pat Hembrow, Pam Botterill and Joyce Hembrow. We pray for their peace and comfort, as well as for their families at this time.

We also remember in our prayers all those who daily live with pain, chronic medical conditions, other difficulties and concerns.

May they be given strength and comfort to take one day at a time.

6

## BMS Birthday Scheme

Celebrating birthdays this month are Tim Spotswood, on the 4th, Hazel Hutchings on the 6th and Dianne Callaghan and Alison Katte, both on the 17th. They all belong to the birthday scheme, giving a gift to the work of the BMS World Mission: **ONE MILLION LIVES transformed by 2020.**

Our love, best wishes and thanks to you on your special day.

If you were in church when Des and Lesley led worship last month you will have heard Les speak movingly about small acts of kindness, including acts of appreciation. With that in mind we would like to say thank you to all the people who have helped with the newsletter: by contributing articles, news items, reports and their experiences. A big thank you to Niall who transforms our words and pictures into a very professional looking letter suitable for printing and circulating by email.

We would also like to thank the 10 or so people who deliver throughout the village and those who have posted out newsletters to friends who have re-located and are not in touch by email.

It was lovely to meet a former resident of Curload who enjoys receiving the letter and continues to enjoy news of our activities ..... Thank you, everyone. We couldn't manage without you.

## Easter services 2018

In the run up to Easter, the United, community Lent course continues in the schoolroom on Mondays. Rev John Tyler is leading the York Course, On the Third Day. Please note: our 'Wednesday' home group is part of this course.

'Mothers' will be the theme for

### **Messy Church** on

9th March reflecting

Mothering Sunday that weekend, the 4th Sunday in Lent. This Café church will be led by the deacons

**Maundy Thursday** – there will be a Reflection Hour from 7.30 – 8.30

On **Good Friday** our friends from St Gregory's join us at 11.00 for a united service, led by Rev Hannah Alderson.

As **Easter Sunday** dawns, do join us for the united Sunrise Service held in the Baptist grounds and led by Rev Tricia at 6.30 a.m. Jamie will light the fire!

Then, at 8.30, Easter Breakfast will be served. Come and enjoy!

We are pleased to have Rev David West with us for our Easter communion service at 10.30a.m.



## Pastoral Vacancy latest news

We have now forwarded the Church Profile and the summary (short profile) to Nigel Manges, SWBA to begin the process of searching for a minister.



2017 was the fifth full year the foodbank has been in operation; 2,212

food parcels containing 3 days food for 3,044 adults and 1,841 children were given out.

This was an increase of 40% parcels from the previous year representing almost 30% more people fed.

The Foodbank remains entirely dependent on donations of food and money to provide emergency help to those in crisis.

The turnover of 48 tonnes of food donated in 2017 represents a lot of work for the volunteers sorting and date checking to ensure safe storage and used in date order.

Hearing from the Foodbank directly we learnt that even having fed so many more people, at the end of 2017 their warehouse was full to capacity. Distribution of parcels has continued apace during January and February, and supplies now need to be replenished.

There is a particular demand for tinned fish and sugar and small tins of cold meats. The small tins cater for the needs of single people who depend on food parcels.

| Day     | Time                    | Event  |
|---------|-------------------------|--|
| Thur 1  | 8.30<br>9.15            | Prayer time<br>TWIGs in the schoolroom   |
| Fri 2   | 7.30                    | Women's World Day of Prayer, United service at the Baptist church prepared by the women of Suriname                            |
| Sun 4   | 10.00<br>10.30<br>10.30 | Church open for prayer<br>Family worship with Communion – Tim Spotswood<br>Yeovil Baptist Church – Rev Dianne Tidball (page 2) |
| Mon 5   | 4.00                    | United Lent course with Rev John Tyler - schoolroom  |
| Wed 7   | 12.00                   | Luncheon Club in the schoolroom  |
| Thur 8  | 8.30<br>9.15            | Prayer time<br>TWIGs in the schoolroom   |
| Fri 9   | 3.30                    | Messy Church   |
| Sat 10  | 8.30<br>9.00            | Prayer Time<br>Who Let the Dads Out? in the schoolroom   |
| Sun 11  | 10.00<br>10.30          | Church open for prayer<br>Mothering Sunday Café church   |
| Mon 12  | 9 - 7.00<br>4.00        | Church open for Prayer all day<br>Lent course with Rev John Tyler in schoolroom  |
| Thur 15 | 8.30<br>9.00<br>2.30    | Prayer time<br>TWIGs in the schoolroom<br>CAMEO Quiz and tea at the Old Stores, Curload  |
| Sun 18  | 10.00<br>10.30          | Church open for prayer<br>Family worship with Rev Eric Skinner   |
| Mon 19  | 4.00                    | Lent course with Rev John Tyler in schoolroom  |
| Wed 21  | 12.00                   | Luncheon Club in the schoolroom  |
| Thur 22 | 8.30<br>9.15            | Prayer time<br>TWIGs in the schoolroom   |
| Sun 25  | 10.00<br>10.30          | Palm Sunday Church open for prayer<br>Family Worship with Chris Pitman   |
| Mon 26  | 12.30                   | Charity lunch in the Parish room for RNLI  |
| Thur 29 | 7.30                    | Maundy Thursday Reflection Hour  |
| Fri 30  | <b>11.00</b>            | United Good Friday service with Rev Hannah Alderson  |
| April 1 | 6.30<br>8.30<br>10.30   | Sunrise service in Baptist grounds led by Rev Tricia.<br>Easter breakfast<br>Sunday worship and Communion with Rev David West  |