

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- **Book Giveaways**
- **Lemon Polenta**
- **End of Year Social at Winter Wonderland, Hyde Park**
- **We Serve Others**
- **...Just for laughs!**

INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:

Book Reviews	2
Gardening Tips for Winter	2
Devotional— Hold On!	2
Festive Recipe	3
Departmental Feature	3
So What's Going On...?	3
Children's Story	4
Puzzle Time	4

Check out our website for previous editions of The Stokey Advent Times on the "Read All About It" web page.

Let Us Keep The Faith...

Dear Friends,

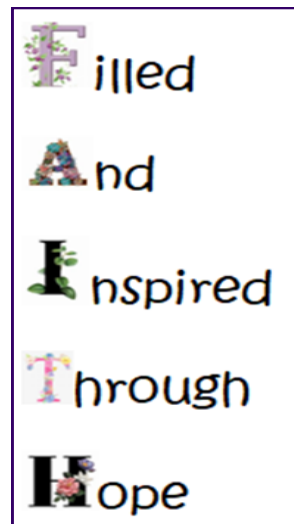
Recently I have been reading three chapters in the Bible;

- Exodus 15
- Luke 5
- Matthew 6: 9-13

For many of us, the last two years have been filled with stress and testing times while others have experienced great loss, for example last year I lost a brother and this year a sister and was not able to travel due the COVID restrictions.

It made me remember the hardship of when I was growing up as well as other times through out my life up until now but rather than continually dwelling on it and becoming

engrossed in my sorrows, it made me discover a deep inner strength that can only come from God.



I reflected on and also encouraged myself to continue to trust and hold onto God's unchanging hand through the

storms of life as our God is more than enough, focusing on the great miracles that He did for His people in Exodus 15 and Luke 5 and finally the prayer in Matthew 6: 9-13 solidifying His will in our lives, as well as God leading us not into temptation and the forgiveness of our sins.

Therefore brothers and sisters let us continue to trust, serve and love God with our whole being.

Let us keep the faith that God will not only see us through our trials but also our tribulations even though it is hard to do so at times, let us not be discouraged and let us pray one for another in Jesus Name. Amen.

- Sis P Vincent

Building Work Resumes!

2021 saw the resumption of building works at the back of the church. The first stage demolition (of the Prefab) took place in May of last year, but due to Covid-19 further works were put on hold and ran into delay.

Having appointed Brights Construction Services (who recently completed works for the SEC's £8.2m construction of Hay's Wood Retreat) work is once again in full swing.

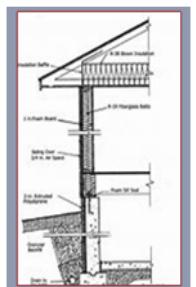
The next stage of the project was to complete all below ground works up to damp-proof course, inclusive of drainage and block and beam floor. This next stage cost £67,000 and began in October of this year and has since been completed.

It is estimated that the total project will cost in the region of £400k. We have already secured £115k and the Building Committee hope to raise

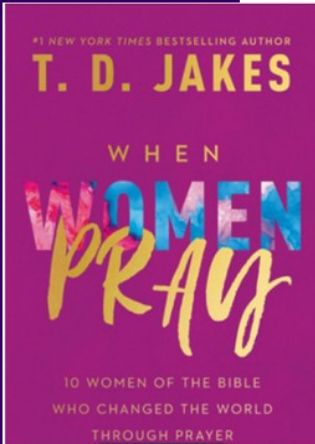
the balance in order to proceed to the next stage through various means, as well as fund raising events.

Let us continue to pray and support this vision of a 2 storey building for both recreational and community use.

To God be the Glory.



Book Reviews (& Giveaways!)



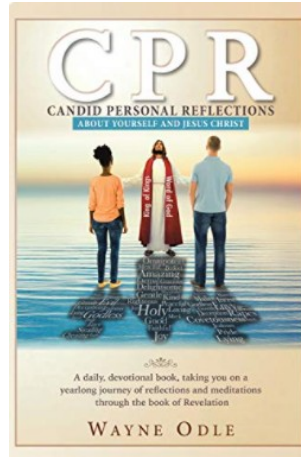
When Women Pray...by T.D. Jakes

Bishop T.D. Jakes's latest offering is an easy read and speaks to us through the lives, struggles and experiences of 10 women in the bible. No matter what you're going through, you will be able to relate in some way and come away feeling that this book was written just for you! I

Bishop T.D. Jakes is able to write so authentically from a woman's perspective, whilst bringing home the importance of prayer in our daily lives and the empowerment it gives.

Candid Personal Reflections...by Wayne Odle

This unique devotional centres around the book of Revelation. Each



daily reflection presents the opportunity to discover and re-discover the awesome nature and character of The Soon Coming King.

CPR is the ultimate "quiet-time" devotional that allows you to reflect, mediate and consider your journey with the God of second chances.

GRAB YOUR FREE COPY!

We have 2 copies of each book to give away. For your chance to win a copy please send your name and address and book preference to uzomaxx@yahoo.co.uk. Names will be randomly selected on the 31st December 2021. Closing date for entry is midnight 30th December 2021.

Gardening Tips for Winter

Over the last 18 months or so, many of us have found much needed solace in our gardens (or balconies) and have taken to trying our hand at some gardening..and even planting. So for those budding gardeners and novices alike, here's some great tips to prepare and maintain your green space over the winter months.

Flowers

-Protect terracotta pots from cracking in freezing weather by bringing them indoors or wrapping in bubble poly-thene.

-Rake up accumulated fallen leaves in borders that could

be harbouring slugs and other pests.

-Move plants in pots to a sheltered spot if conditions turn very cold, as their roots are more exposed to the elements.

-Prune climbing roses between now and February.

Garden maintenance

-Put out fresh water for birds every day during frosty weather.

-Bring all watering equipment indoors, including hoses and sprinklers, so they don't freeze and split.

-Order summer-flowering bulbs such as lilies and gladioli

Looking after your lawn

-Avoid walking on your lawn when it's blanketed by heavy frost or snow, as this damages the grass.

-If it's a mild winter, continue to cut the lawn as it grows, but raise the height of the mower blades.

-Keep clearing leaves off the lawn to let the light in and prevent dead patches appearing.

-Send your lawnmower and shears to be serviced and sharpened while they're less in demand.

Vegetables to sow in December:

Broad Beans

Onions

Garlic



Devotional - Hold On!

So let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who has promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23.

I love this verse! So much so that it is stuck to my PC at work and reminds me daily of the faithfulness of God. We are encouraged to hold on, to grip tight to the reason we do what we do as followers of

Christ. To not waver or falter, but to remain steadfast and sure in what we believe, but even more so in whom we believe.

For the hope we profess, that blessed hope, is not a mere wish or feeling. No, the hope that we profess is anchored in Jesus the Christ, yes its grounded in hope personified. The verse reminds us to hold fast because the hope we have is not

whimsical, but is made sure and certain by the One that cannot lie. The One who remains forever faithful, even when we are not. The One who is not slack concerning His promise.

So let us hold on, no matter the circumstance or challenge. Let us hold on simply because He who is able has promised.

Thank you Jesus.



Festive Dessert—Lemon Polenta Cake



So the festive holidays are upon us - and for a self-confessed Foodie -It's aaaaalllll about the food.!

In our home this recipe is one of our favourite desserts. I have tweaked the original recipe slightly so it's easier and quicker to make. The result is a cake that is both moist and ever-so moreish!
-Uzoma Clarke-

FOR THE CAKE:

- 200 grams organic soft unsalted butter (plus some for greasing)
- 200 grams soft brown sugar
- 200 grams ground almonds
- 100 grams polenta (cornmeal)
- 1 tsp of cinnamon or nutmeg (based on your preference)
- 1 tbs of vanilla essence
- 1½ teaspoons baking powder (or omit for gluten free option)
- 3 large organic eggs
- zest of 2 lemons (save juice for syrup)

FOR THE SYRUP:

- juice of 2 lemons

- 125 grams icing sugar

METHOD

1. Grease a 23cm / 9inch (Pyrex) pie dish lightly with butter.
2. Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C Fan/gas mark 4/ 350°F.
3. Place the butter in a saucepan and heat until completely melted. Pour melted butter into a bowl or jug and set aside.
4. In a separate bowl mix together the almonds, polenta, baking powder, cinnamon (or nutmeg) and lemon zest.
5. Add the eggs and vanilla essence to the melted butter, mix in well before adding to the dry ingredients. Be sure to combine all the ingredients well using a wooden spoon.
6. Finally pour mixture into the prepared dish and place in the middle of the

pre-heated oven for about 40 minutes.

7. You can test if the cake is ready using a cake tester which should come out cleanish and, most significantly, the edges of the cake will have begun to shrink away from the sides of the dish. Remove from the oven.
8. Make the syrup by boiling together the lemon juice and icing sugar in a smallish saucepan.
9. Once the icing sugar has dissolved into the juice, you're done.
10. Prick the top of the cake all over with a cake tester (I use a fork), pour the warm syrup over the cake.
11. Serve warm with your choice of cream. Enjoy...you deserve it!

Departmental Feature - Youth Department

The majority of all that was achieved for the Youth this year was facilitated on Zoom, which enabled us to make the most of the resources available with so many restrictions on all aspects of everyday life.

So many programmes were the highlight of the year, but we are truly thankful for the 'I Will Go' Youth Week of Prayer in Spring 2021. It was truly a memorable week, filled with prayer, transformation, truth & re-commitment, delivered by Brother Carlton Graham.

Then Sabbath the 18th of September will truly be a Sabbath to remember, restrictions were lifted and so were our spirits. Our first taste as a department, facilitating true worship, testimony and praise again... In person.

This year has taught us that we must do all we can with what we have, when we can.

Who would have thought that we would be restricted to digital worship for the majority of 2021. But...Who would have also thought AYS would

have been globally accessible to all with an internet connection.

I would like to personally thank most importantly God... Amanda, Asher, Latiqua, Abi, Aaron, our Youth who supported us throughout 2021 and our members who were there to keep us together, the Eldership, Pastoral and Board teams. This year was not easy, but you all made it worth it!

God Bless.

Youth Leader - Elder Lemar Smith

"...we must do all we can with what we have, when we can."

So What's Going on...



Children's Story— We Serve Others

Melissa was on a retreat with a bunch of other students. At the end of the retreat, the leaders challenged everyone to wash someone else's feet as a way to serve each other. Imagine how grossed out you'd feel about kneeling down and washing the sweat and dirt off of your friend's hot and stinky feet after playing outside all day. That's exactly how Melissa felt.



But that's also exactly what Jesus did in John 13. He and his friends had been traveling all day, and as they prepared for supper, Jesus took a bowl of water and a towel, knelt before each of them, and washed their tired and grimy feet. Jesus wanted to make sure his disciples understood that serving others was important. In Mark 10—when Jesus' disciples were arguing about the positions of authority they wanted in his kingdom—Jesus told them that he hadn't come to be served, but to

serve others. By washing their feet, Jesus showed them what it means to serve others. When it was her turn to wash her friend's feet, Melissa realized she hadn't come to this retreat just for herself. She was there to serve others as well. As she dried her friend's feet with a soft towel—and her friend did the same for her—she was moved by the beauty of the event. When we think about following Jesus, *serv*ing others is at the top of the list. It is a privilege to be able to walk alongside other people and use the gifts that

God has given us to share the love of Christ with them as we serve.
PRAYER
 Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us such a great example of what it means to serve each other. Help us use the gifts that you have given us to serve others everyday. Amen.



Joke Corner..

What kind of car would Jesus drive? A Christler.
 Who in the Bible knew the most people? Abraham knew a Lot.
 Where was Solomon's Temple located? On the side of his head

Puzzle Time!



Three Healings Word Search— circle words from the three healings Jesus performed that are recorded in Matthew 8:23-9:8 (NIV).

M	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	B	U	S	L	D	S	O
A	B	C	W	I	P	A	A	L	L	W	B	V	A	E	B	K
S	P	R	A	Y	V	E	A	S	O	M	W	D	G	T	O	N
W	F	I	H	Y	I	H	L	L	O	K	I	O	C	A	A	O
E	A	U	T	H	O	R	I	T	Y	A	P	U	R	E	T	C
R	I	L	H	J	L	G	D	O	P	R	A	I	S	E	D	K
S	T	T	K	A	E	H	O	O	X	R	R	A	G	Y	Y	S
O	H	E	I	S	N	S	B	L	E	S	A	E	D	S	E	O
U	U	O	Y	S	T	A	U	N	C	A	L	M	E	L	U	N
S	J	E	D	G	E	V	O	S	H	I	Y	N	S	E	W	O
N	B	S	D	L	P	C	M	W	A	C	Z	O	R	E	O	F
O	E	N	R	G	A	D	A	R	E	N	E	S	D	P	E	G
S	I	E	T	R	L	L	N	E	I	E	D	M	O	I	N	O
W	A	V	E	S	Y	Y	P	H	T	P	S	X	N	N	E	D
H	K	S	N	G	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	D	G	K	I

- Jesus
- gadarenes
- boat
- paralyzed
- obey
- disciples
- faith
- authority
- forgiven
- praised
- calm
- sleeping
- violent
- walk
- Son of God
- waves
- wind
- man

