

# Stalham Baptist Church

## Weekly News Bulletin 23rd December 2018

**Pastor:** Rev. Ron Skivington 01692 582731  
**Assistant Pastor:** Jerry Otieno 07733837687  
**Secretary:** Geoff Reynolds 01692 672120  
**Ministry Team:** Whole Fellowship



### Ron is leading a Family Service with a Young People's Play

We would like to offer a very big welcome to any visitors who have joined us this Sunday. Would you kindly sign our visitors' book at the back of the Church and you are very welcome to join us for refreshments in the Stables at the end of the service.

### For Your Prayers

As part of our weekly worship we have a **Prayer Team** available to anyone who would like the support of others in prayer. You can find today's prayer team **Sheena and Diana** in the prayer tent at the back of the Church.

During December please pray for the residents of **St Benet's Road, St Benet's Close and Robert Smith Court**. Please pray for Linda Turner, regional moderator, who had surgery for her bowel cancer yesterday, 18<sup>th</sup>, which went well, please keep praying for Linda and Malcolm her husband as she begins the recovery process.

Please keep praying too for all those who, during the year, have faced ill health, bereavement and other difficult times.

### Virtual Prayer Room

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Jerry asked for prayers to be continued for Wendy as she has started to receive palliative care. Please continue to pray for those in need of support, prayers are always greatly appreciated.

**To join the ever growing WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone.**

### A Christmas Prayer

As we approach the holiday season, we are faced with yet another opportunity to pause in the midst of all the excitement, decorations, and commercialisation, to consider again the origin of Christmas--the One whose birth we celebrate. Let's not forget the true meaning of why we celebrate during this time of year. Celebrate the baby Jesus and trust Him as Saviour and Lord. In a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life--burdens that can steal the joy right out of Christmas and an inner voice whispers, "We need your peace, Jesus."

Lord, we still hear the wonderful message, in churches, led by enthusiastic musicians or choir members. Yet we confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the bills will be paid, when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever? Is the message still true?

In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. Forgive us for forgetting--that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came: to save us from our sinful condition, and to give us life eternal, the joy of relationship with a holy God. Your birth--and Your death--sealed Your promise to us forever.

For those whose hearts are battered by sorrow or broken relationships, for those whose lives know only conflict and confusion, for those whose bodies are tired and tested beyond their ability to endure this year--precious Saviour, draw them close to You. Let them know You are still the same Jesus who was born of a virgin, not in a hospital but an animal barn, laid in a manger of hay. You are still the One sent by a heavenly Father who offered not condemnation for our sins, but love and forgiveness--and daily, divine fellowship.

### Coming Services

#### Christmas Day Morning

10.00 am

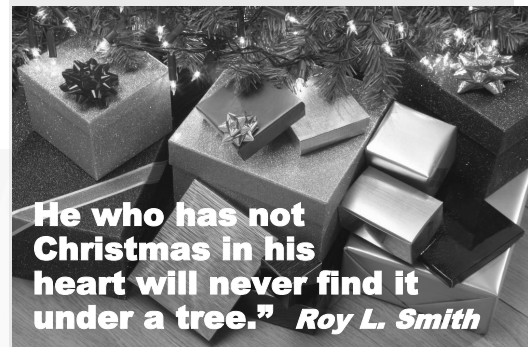
Bring and Show presents  
Christmas Attire welcome

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>

10.45am

Ron is leading

"Still looking back to look forwards"



### Over 60s Table Tennis Club

During Christmas week the Table Tennis club will be meeting on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am. The following week the club will resume their normal day meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.

Thirty four people attended the Christmas lunch at the Poachers Pocket.

Alex said "A big thank you to all who have supported the club throughout 2018".

If you would like more info on the Table Tennis Club contact Alex on 07763116911.



## Church Diary

The deacons have decided to implement a new church diary that will be part of our web site. It is planned to show all events and activities taking place in the church, including external and private bookings, plus anything organised by those in the fellowship at their homes or elsewhere. It is also planned to include events organised by others that may be of interest to church members.

The new diary is seen as a vital tool, both to show to potential new members that we are an active seven day a week church, and to help improve our administration and finances. It will be available for anyone to view, but only those who are authorised will be able to add or update entries in the diary.

It is vital that the diary is fully maintained as Janet will need correct information when answering questions from those who might wish to use our buildings.

We now need a team of people to take responsibility for maintaining the diary. If you run anything that takes place at or in the connection with the church then you need to apply for login details so you can keep everyone informed. If you do not have an email address yourself, it is vital that you find someone who can keep your entries in the diary up to date on your behalf.

None of us want to see events that clash, people telling us the church was closed when the diary told them a group was running, or worse, finding someone has booked the slot that you traditionally use!

Please contact Greg Chapman using [diary@stalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:diary@stalhambaptist.org.uk) to ask for more information and login details saying for which activities you will take responsibility.

## A Thank You From Ron

Thank you to all who over the past year have played their role as a minister of our church, the things that people may not necessarily see but that happen are as important as the more obvious things and all are equally needful and appreciated, so thank you again. Ron

## Thank You

David would like to thank everyone for their prayers, good wishes and advice after his heart attack last week. I have been blessed by everyone's kindness and the healing hand of the Lord. I would also like to thank the emergency services and all those at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital who look after me. And a special thankyou to Dr Thomas Sarev and his team who performed the operation in the early hours of the morning.

## Candlelit Service

The Candlelit service was a great success with SBC packed with around 180 people. The afternoon tea in the stables attracted 64 people. A big thank you to all those who helped put on a wonderful event. The collection raised £337.58 which was split between Open Doors and the local SWAN centre for women with mental health problems. Teresa Benson who organises the group that meets in the youth club every Wednesday morning for craft and art activities at 10.00.am says "Please pass on my heartfelt thanks to your congregation. Every penny allows me to provide more support to more ladies in the area."

A happy Christmas and a happy new year to you all.

## December 30th Service

Flowers: Christmas Flowers

Welcome: Maggie and Jenny

Refreshments: Elaine and Iris

## For Your Diary

### Monday 7th January

Deacons Meeting 7.30 in Stables

### Saturday January 12th

Men's breakfast 8.30am in the Stables

Guest speakers the HOPE Mission from Hickling

## Quotes of the Week

"The reality of loving God is loving him like he's a Superhero who actually saved you from stuff rather than a Santa Claus who merely gave you some stuff."

*Criss Jami, Killosophy*

## A Christmas Carol

"And how did little Tim behave?" asked Mrs Cratchit, when she had rallied Bob on his credulity and Bob had hugged his daughter to his heart's content.

"As good as gold," said Bob, "and better. Somehow he gets thoughtful, sitting by himself so much, and thinks the strangest things you ever heard. He told me, coming home, that he hoped the people saw him in the church, because he was a cripple, and it might be pleasant to them to remember upon Christmas Day, who made lame beggars walk, and blind men see."

"But you were always a good man of business, Jacob," faltered Scrooge, who now began to apply this to himself.

"Business!" cried the Ghost, wringing its hands again. "Mankind was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business. The deals of my trade were but a drop of water in the comprehensive ocean of my business!"

"Merry Christmas! What right have you to be merry? What reason have you to be merry? You're poor enough."

"Come, then," returned the nephew gaily. "What right have you to be dismal? What reason have you to be morose? You're rich enough."

*Charles Dickens*