

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 3rd May SBC News

This Week's On Line Service

"Please don't let me be misunderstood"



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington 01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno 07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

Welcome to Sunday 3rd May On Line Service

Pat will be leading and Ron is preaching and continuing the series on 2nd Corinthians. This week 2 Cor 1:12-22
"Please don't let me be misunderstood"

You can follow the service on the SBC website on Sunday

www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/.

Then click on the icon pictured left.

Ron's Further reading

1 Corinthians 16:1-8, Acts 20:1, John 16:7-13, Genesis 3:15, Jeremiah 31:33

For Your Prayers

Remember the family and friends of Gwen Smith whose funeral will take place on Monday. Please also pray Michael Gell [Snr.] who died early Tuesday. He was a regular at coffee and chat for many years.

Please pray for all those working hard to bring services to the fellowship and the wider community.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Jean Mollett**.

Also pray for all the volunteers working to support those isolated by the virus in our community by collecting shopping and medicines.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday David and Eileen posted "Please can you continue to pray for Jean Mollett who is still in great deal of pain, in her lower back."

On Wednesday Diana asked for prayers for Jerry who on Thursday was having 5 times 40 minute interviews via zoom starting at 9.30am regarding to his application to become an accredited Baptist Minister with the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

Late on Thursday Jerry posted he had been successful.

Also, on Wednesday Elaine asked for prayers for a local family. Their baby boy was born during the first week of the lockdown and has a heart compliant. On Monday he was sent to Great Ormond Street Hospital where he and they are been told he needs a lung transplant. Elaine said "The family need emotional and physical help which no one can give them. Please pray for them."

On Thursday Maggie sought prayers for Maureen Booth who has long term issues with her elbow that has not improved and it is highly likely she will be admitted to hospital where she may need surgery.

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

Call to Prayer Great Success

Wednesday's Call to Prayer using Zoom for 40 minutes was a great success.

Organised by Diana Gordon prayers were said covering much of our current situation. Zoom connects people visually and in sound, the screen of faces gives a comforting feeling of togetherness.

There is much power in praying together and one prayer triggers another. Diana is planning another Call to Prayer soon. Details will be in the bulletin and Diana will send by email an easy to use link.

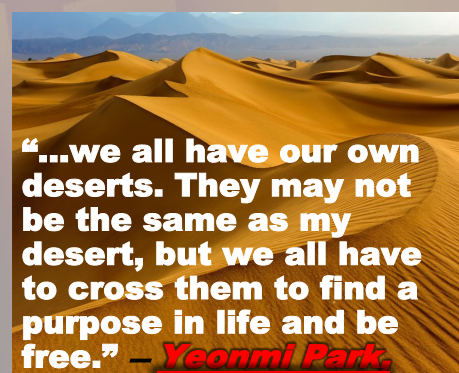
If you are reading this newsletter as a PDF you can click on the red highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.

Don't forget you can also follow what's happening at SBC on twitter <https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch> and on Facebook www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist

FOOD BANK

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank or for anyone who wants to sign up to help in the community with food or medicine deliveries. It is manned by either Ron or Jerry. Also, The Good News paper and the Community Scene Magazine are available at the back of the church.

The **Food Bank** is open on Fridays in the Stables from 1.15 to 3.00pm. If you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Citizens Advice Service 0344 411 1444, the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk.



"...we all have our own deserts. They may not be the same as my desert, but we all have to cross them to find a purpose in life and be free." – Yeonmi Park.

On Line Services

The online services go from strength to strength. Last Sunday had a lovely moment when Diana asked all those from the fellowship to close their eyes and picture the people who sat close to them at our Sunday service. "Can you see Monica and Frank sitting on the left and John Applegate on the sound desk?" was her starting point.

Fran posted on the WhatsApp Virtual prayer room. "Thank you for today's service. Did as you suggested Diana and while music played I closed my eyes and pictured the faces of our fellowship. Waiting to see all in our church again." We are blessed as church that we have talented people who are working hard each week to produce some brilliant online services enabling the fellowship to come together each Sunday in a virtual way.

For me, the Sunday service was the launching pad for the week to come, uplifting and strengthening me for whatever the coming week held for me. Often helping making sense of the world around me and challenging my actions and views. The great work by the team putting together the online service is helping me fill that gap.

Not everyone has a computer or smart phone to receive the services or the bulletin but the sermons are being put on to CDs and delivered, and some people are receiving printed copies of the sermon. Bulletins are being printed and delivered to those who cannot see them online. If you know someone who would like to receive the sermons or bulletin contact Ron.

You Don't Know What You've Got

In 1970 singer song writer Joni Mitchell released the song "[Big Yellow Taxi](#)" with the line "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone."

Currently people throughout the world are realising the truth of those words. As the bubble many of us live in shrinks ever smaller and all those important materialistic truths we held dear now seem hollow and misleading, we are faced with the simplicity of our existence. Those missing truths, physical human contact, giving someone struggling a hug, a hug of welcome, standing or sitting in a group chatting, visiting friends and family, working, playing, closely watching sports and events together. That has gone at present.

We are designed for such things; it is our success as a species. The question is, "What happens when we come out of this crisis?" Recently someone told me within two weeks everything would revert to how it was pre lockdown. I could see their point. But has the virus been a tipping point in this world? Has it shone a light on the way we exist and our priorities? Will it be the catalyst of change to take humanity to a better place? Will you revert to pre lockdown thinking and actions? Will the nations revert to the pre-Corona 19 world and all of us then sit patiently waiting for the next catastrophe?"

For certain, as Christians, this is a tipping point for reaching out to the community around us that is searching to fill a vacuum of the lost "truth" of materialism and celebrity culture. That vacuum can be filled with the truth in Jesus' love for us all.

Encourage people to watch the online services which break down the perceptions of church life. Perceptions are people's reality - those barriers to faith must be broken down. Watching and listening to an online service in the safety of your home could be the first step to faith and a new life for many. Send the link for the services by email or text, phone people and talk about them, as we have seen by the Corona 19 things can spread very quickly given the right conditions. Joni Mitchell's words "Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone," are powerful. What is gone is the glue holding us socially and physically together that we have taken for granted for so long. As a church the spirituality of the love of Jesus is thriving in a new way and is ready to be shared.

Quotes of the week

"We awaken by asking the right questions. We awaken when we see knowledge being spread that goes against our own personal experiences. We awaken when we see popular opinion being wrong but accepted as being right, and what is right being pushed as being wrong.

We awaken by seeking answers in corners that are not popular. And we awaken by turning on the light inside when everything outside feels dark."

"I have been finding treasures in places I did not want to search. I have been hearing wisdom from tongues I did not want to listen to. I have been finding beauty where I did not want to look, and I have learned so much from journeys I did not want to take. Forgive me, O Gracious One; for I have been closing my ears and eyes for too long. I have learned that miracles are only called miracles because they are often witnessed by only those who can see through all of life's illusions.

I am ready to see what really exists on the other side, what exists behind the blinds, and taste all the ugly fruit instead of all that looks right, plump and ripe."

— [Suzy Kassem](#), Rise Up and Salute the Sun: The Writings of Suzy Kassem

"... But these sceptics are only selectively sceptical. They think themselves enlightened for resisting all this new proof and remaining steadfast in mistrusting anything that someone else says, but it is a false enlightenment to accept only those ideas that align with one's worldview and reject those that don't."

— [Ken Ilgunas](#), Trespassing Across America: One Man's Epic, Never-Done-Before (and Sort of Illegal) Hike Across the Heartland

"It's not easy to give up a worldview that is built into your bones and imprinted on your brain like the sound of your own father's voice."

— [Yeonmi Park](#), In Order to Live: A North Korean Girl's Journey to Freedom

That is, the law was given to us through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

— [John 1:17 \(ERV\)](#)

Material sent to publicity@stalhambaptist.org.uk or telephoned to David Child on 07799 262645 may be used in any of the church's print or electronic media. Deadline for the print edition of the Bulletin is Wednesday 7:00pm.

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