

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 31st May SBC News
This Week's On Line Service
"We live by faith"



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Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

Welcome to Sunday 31st May On Line Service

Robert Emerson will be leading and Ron preaching, continuing the series on 2nd Corinthians. This week 2 Cor 4:16-5:8

"We live by faith"

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

Rev 2:4, 2 Cor 11:23f, 12:7, 1Cor 15:51, 1 Thes 5:10, Jn 14:1f Jn 1:14, Ex 33:12f

For Your Prayers

Please pray for all those in the fellowship and community who are unwell and receiving treatment in these difficult times.

Please pray for the Deacons who are holding a Zoom meeting on Monday 1st June at 7.00pm

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Daniel, Victoria, Gracie, Poppy and Autumn Nicholson.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday 26th Diana posted "Hi all. Just an update. I had my 5th treatment this morning. Also the results of the scan I had last week. Good news! Scan showed a really good response to treatment. They still want to complete six but have cancelled the last two. So just one more to go. Because of the more recent problems with loss of feeling in my fingers and toes the doctor has reduced the dosage of the drug that causes it and said that as my response has been so good they might not give it at all next time. I asked if it would be permanent and he said they can't say. In some people it can be a residual effect. Because it is a side effect for me and has been more recent that is positive.

Thank you all for the continued prayers. I am so thankful to God for his blessings and draw great strength from the prayers and support you have given."

Also, on Tuesday David posted "Please pray for Paul Child who was a member of SBC and is now a vicar in Durham. Paul is having a fairly serious operation of Friday."

On Wednesday Jan asked "Please pray for Jan Slade who was taken into hospital today with chest pains and has

been diagnosed with heart failure which can be treated. She is coming home tonight."

Also on Wednesday Diana said "I know its late for this but my daughter Hannah has just gone into labour. If you are able please can you pray for a safe delivery. At 37 it is her first baby."

Later Diana said "A very excited Grandma who ahs been awake all night. Welcome to the world Isabel Nicole." Pictured left.

EBA Week of Prayer

Follow the link below to take you to the EBA week of prayer. Joining in with 'Thy Kingdom Come' <https://www.easternbaptist.org.uk/>

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.



"Faith is not like a raincoat, only to be worn on drizzly days."

Kevin Ansbro

Food Bank

This is part of report covering North Norfolk dated 22nd May:
Last week we gave out 32 family parcels and 23 standard. This is the first time that families have outstripped demand for standard, which reflects the number of parcels collected from us by the two agencies still visiting their clients and who are working mostly with families. Looking at the data on a wider basis, I found that the number of vouchers we fulfilled in April this year was 243, compared with 108 in April 2019. This is an increase of 125%. For people fed, the number this year was 700, compared with 263 last year, an increase of 165%. The figure for children fed is remarkable: 323 this year compared to 89 last year, an increase of approx. 265%. This conclusively shows the impact this crisis is having on families.

Also donations for the same area in April was 7500kg which is up 85% on the monthly average and the same is expected in May.

So thank you to all who have been supporting Foodbank and please keep praying for those individuals and families who are finding it hard to make ends meet at present.

SBC Finance News

Refurbishment

We have some exciting news reference to the refurbishment of the school room and alterations writes SBC Treasurer Stewart Marsh.

Stalham Baptist Church has received a significant donation for the building fund, some significant pledges and an offer of an interest free loan the Deacons and I are very excited.

Furthermore, four builders have received an invitation to supply initial quotations for the work.

One of the Deacons is currently in the process of applying for grants although I understand many of these bodies are shut due to Covid-19.

We have a long way to go to have enough money to complete the work yet, but it is looking more hopeful.

General Finance

I was concerned when the Covid-19 pandemic hit our country how SBC finances would work and not least about how we might all be affected.

I have been pleasantly surprised because of the willingness of members and friends of the church to continue giving.

We have received special donations for the Pastor's stipend fund and also the general fund.

Some of our members have also increased their giving thank you, it is clear to me that God has touched hearts in all sorts of ways.

There are no actual figures in this update, but I am planning to publish them on the Forum fellowship area next week (mid-week) and paper copies will be available for those people that require one.

Please remember cash or cheques can be left at Henry Nicholson's Three Windows Brumstead Rd. Thank you one and all.

John White Tradition and Pride

How's this for another thought on 'Tradition and Pride'? Exodus 17 vs. 6, the need is great, so God says to Moses 'take your rod, go and strike the rock'. He does and the need is met. In Numbers 20 the need is great again, so he takes his rod, as before, and strikes the rock, vs.11, and the need is met. Did he not listen, or was it as before [tradition]? Because in vs. 8 God had said SPEAK to the rock! Although the need was met, note what Moses says to the people, vs. 10 "Hear now you rebels must we [pride] bring water for you out of this rock"! On both accounts, consequences vs.12. So, what we do, why do we do, even how do we do? **Even God gives updates!**

Take care. John

Quotes of the week

"Faith runs towards the barricades because it can see the other side. Faith dares the raging storm because it can feel the calm. Faith challenges the status quo because it can imagine the new frontiers. Because faith can see, feel and imagine, it endures the immediate pains, stretches patience to its limits and makes living a hope adventure. Being human, we can survive with occasional doubts. But when doubts become so habitual that they graduate to unbelief and culminate into hopelessness, life becomes hazardous. We are better off when we see both with our outer and inner eyes. The inner eyes see beyond the pain, the weakness, and the challenge. They fuel hope and give us reasons to live. The eyes of faith then become our indispensable ally in our unstable world."

— **Abiodun Fijabi**

"You might not get the apology you deserve. You might not get answers to explain the actions of others. You might not get truth that makes sense to you. You might not get people to understand what you went through because of them. You might not get communication. You might not get maturity. You might not get mercy or even common decency. You might not get respect or the chance to explain your side of the story. However, you do get to choose how people treat you. God loves you enough to bring people into your life who won't hurt you, abuse you, betray you, lie and gossip about you, psycho analyse you, break your heart or make you an option or choice. He will bring people into your life that will love you, respect you, fight for you, show gratitude for your love and want to be a part of your life mission. The best part of this is you don't have to convince them of your worth. They want to be there. They know your value. They know your struggles. They are in touch with their own faults and understand you struggle just like everyone else. They won't hold you to a greater standard than they do themselves. They care about you and don't want to see you cry, feel discouraged or give up on this life. When you know the power of who you are and what you have to accomplish you will scratch your head in disbelief that you allowed other people to dictate who you are based on little knowledge of what God knows about you and your life purpose. Letting go isn't about accepting defeat or acknowledging you were wrong. Sometimes letting go is realizing that God has something better in store for you."

— **Shannon L. Alder**

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.

Church Website: www.stalhambaptist.org.uk www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist Contact Stalham Baptist Church on 01692 582731
<https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch> <https://www.instagram.com/stalhambaptistchurch>
You can find SBC's Privacy Policy on <http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/privacy.php>

CORONAVIRUS: CRISIS AND RELIEF IN ASIA

“Our government does try to help people in need,” Hana* says. “But some of our most remote communities have been neglected when they were identified as Christians. We distribute this aid to the Christian pastors and leaders.” Hana is an Open Doors partner in an Asian country we can’t name for security reasons. She’s already helping hundreds of Christian families get the vital food, medicine and financial assistance they need, but there is much more to be done. “These are going to pastors and partners who are being sidelined and ignored,” says Hana. “Each parcel is a point of hope and mercy for their communities. They contain enough food and soap to get families through at least two months. We have planned a few dozen more of these distributions.”

TWO TYPES OF RISK THAT OPEN DOORS PARTNERS FACE

This work has to be done in secret. Everyone involved faces two great risks: of being imprisoned by the authorities, and of catching the contagious virus themselves. Hana says, “They wear gloves and homemade masks. Unfortunately, we don’t have any protective suits, but we do sanitise the bags and the cars. We trust God. He has done so much for us.”

As Hana says, it’s also important to explain to these communities how to combat this virus. “We not only give them food but also a quick presentation, from a distance, on safety and hygiene protocols to encourage them to stay safe and act smartly at this uncertain and confusing time.

However, it is very painful to see how our people have been neglected and ignored because of their Christian faith.”

Hana has seen this discrimination first-hand: “I was going to get some medicines for one of our medical workers. A woman walked right up to me and suddenly took a step back. I thought she did it because of social distancing but then I could hear her utter from under her face mask, ‘Oh these filthy people, when will they ever leave’. Suddenly, I remembered I was wearing a necklace with a cross.”

DESPAIR AND HOPE

Messages of despair and hope alternate. Hana says, “I’ve heard people cry before, but this is something else, much deeper. At the same time, I’m very proud of our teams who provide hope to persecuted Christians. I’m amazed by how much they accomplish. We distribute relief and have social

Below, Persecuted Christians receiving urgent Open Doors aid in Bangladesh



media campaigns to encourage Christians. Yet, we worry about everyone. People can’t go to church. Their Christian family has been taken away from them.”

Your support can make an incredible difference. Your gifts and prayers help these persecuted believers know the presence of their worldwide church family, standing by them as they disproportionately suffer the effects of coronavirus and the lockdown.

This is a pandemic that is impacting every nation in the world, to a greater or lesser extent. Official response, and the likelihood of Christians receiving aid, differs in each country. You might already have read about the crisis in India on the Open Doors site, and how your support is making a crucial difference. Having spoken with partners across Asia, here are updates, testimonies and calls for help from different countries in Central, South and South East Asia. This isn’t an exhaustive list of countries facing need or receiving relief – but gives a snapshot of how your support is needed for, and reaching, those in urgent circumstances

NORTH KOREA

Official reports from North Korea state media claim that there are no cases of coronavirus in their country, and that a few hundred people only are ‘under medical observation’ – but this report has been described as ‘impossible’ by the US Commander General Robert Abrams. Though North Korea is notoriously isolationist, it also has extremely poor medical services and infrastructure. If the virus is spreading in the country, as is quite likely, there will be little that can be done to prevent it. In many countries, the virus spreads quickly in crowded, unclean prisons. North Korean prisons and labour camps are already unbelievably horrendous – they might also become hotbeds for the pandemic. Anybody who is discovered to be a Christian is likely to end up in one of these prisons, along with the rest of their family.

“At the moment we cannot do much for the believers,” an Open Doors partner says. “We encourage them via our weekly radio broadcasts.” Please keep praying for our brothers and sisters in North Korea, the place where Christians face the most extreme persecution.

Lord, we pray that You would protect vulnerable believers in North Korea, showing them the depths of Your love, protection and strength. May our courageous brothers and sisters in North Korea know You more closely than ever.

BANGLADESH

An Open Doors local partner says, “Some of the believers are starving. Some are forced to eat less, so that they can maximise the number of days they can continue to have food. Some are borrowing money with high interest rates to buy food.”

Thanks to your prayers and support, Open Doors has so far provided help for 74 families in Bangladesh, but the need is far greater. Please pray for Open Doors local partners as they take risks to reach and support those in need.

[Read more about the situation in Bangladesh](#)

God, please give Open Doors partners wisdom, courage and resilience to take vital food and support to suffering families in Bangladesh. Give joy to our persecuted Bangladeshi family.

To read about other Asian countries being supported by OpenDoors click [here](#).