

# Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 21st June SBC News  
This Week's Online Service  
"Don't squander God's grace"



**Pastor:** Rev. Ron Skivington 01692 582731  
**Assistant Pastor:** Jerry Otieno 07733837687  
**Secretary:** Diana Gordon 07951949128  
**Ministry Team:** The Whole Fellowship

## Welcome to Sunday 21st June Online Service

Barbara Reynolds will be leading and Ron is preaching, continuing the series on 2nd Corinthians. This week 2 Cor 6:1-10

"Don't squander God's grace"

You can follow the service on the SBC website on Sunday

[www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) Then click on the icon pictured left.

## Ron's Further Reading

Lk 12:16f, Mt 24:36f, Lk 11:9f, Ro 8:28-37, Acts 16:6f

## For Your Prayers

Please continue to pray for the businesses slowly opening in Stalham High Street and surrounding areas.

Please pray for those awaiting hospital treatment and those receiving it.

Also pray that as the lockdown restrictions are reduced there will not be a second wave forcing those making the decisions to return to the lockdown measures. Pray that the Lord will give them the wisdom to balance decisions between the safety of people and the economy.

## Open For Prayer

SBC has been open for personal prayer from 15th June. The church is already open 10.00am to 12 noon Monday to Friday to support the Foodbank if anyone would like to pray quietly in the church you will be welcome. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met.

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 12th Maria Marsh asked for prayers for her colleague Andy who was having emergency laser eye surgery for a detached retina.

Maria later posted "They have operated they believe it was successful and now he is returning home thanks for all your prayers."

On Sunday Julia Maile asked for prayers for David who was having a scan that evening and was also experiencing more pain in his back.

On Monday Jane posted "Prayer is requested from Christopher who lives in Bournemouth he would like prayers for his heart problems, general health and sleep problems." On the same day Pat updated Oliver's situation. "They would not do the scan because he had a slight temperature (probably as he is teething) and it has been rescheduled for Thursday. Now the teeth have come through he is much better and has not had many of the "fit" incidents. Will update you after the scan. We all thank you for your prayers and feel sure that the outcome will be good." On Thursday David posted "Thank you for your prayers for Paul he has returned home."

He later posted "Please pray for Geci's family in Brazil. The country is currently being badly affected by the pandemic."

Susie asked for prayers for Joe. "He is in agony after falling yesterday." Susie said. "He can hardly move his knee and will have to be taken to A&E at Cromer."

## Zoom Call to Prayer

The next call to prayer will be on Thursday 25th June at 7.00pm. Diana will be sending out a 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](http://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](mailto:minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk).

**In total there are 14.3 million people living in poverty in Britain, according to a study from the Social Metrics Commission (SMC). This includes 8.3 million working-age adults, 4.6 million children and 1.3 million pension-age adults.**

"If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin."

— Charles Darwin,

## Homeless but not hopeless:

### George's story

BMS weekly update, 11 June 2020

**"When someone is homeless the church should be very understanding, more understanding than anyone else."**

These are the words of George Williams, who became 'street homeless' in 2014. The struggles of homeless people in the UK were pushed back into the spotlight when the Coronavirus started spreading here. While many people who had been living on the streets are now temporarily housed in hotels, it's unclear where they will go next. And many others across the country have been put at risk of homelessness as they have lost their jobs and income during the pandemic.

Earlier this year, BMS World Mission got an insight into what it's like to be homeless from George. He says, as Christians we "have to try and understand [homeless people] even if it's not understandable, and treat them with respect." If you'd like to understand a bit more about what it's like to live on the streets in the UK, [read this interview with George today.](#)

Please pray with us for the thousands of rough sleepers who are currently living in hotels and other temporary accommodation, and for those who now find themselves at risk of losing their homes due to Coronavirus. Pray that permanent solutions can be found, and that – though our buildings might be closed – the Church can shine as a people of hope, help and understanding at this time.

Sarah Stone

Former Senior Editor

BMS World Mission

### Pray for Leah Sharibu

As the world continues to contend with the coronavirus, there are many for whom COVID-19 is just one more threat on top of many others they have faced for years, and for whom threats to their lives and livelihoods are likely to continue long after the pandemic has passed.

On 14 May Leah turned 17 years old, but there were no celebrations. The date marked Leah's third birthday as a captive of the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP), an offshoot of the notorious Boko Haram terrorist group.

Leah was one of 110 girls abducted from their school in Dapchi, Nigeria, on 19 February 2018. Five of them died in captivity. The following month the surviving girls were put into vehicles and returned to their families following government negotiations, but Leah was not among them.

The sole Christian in the group, Leah, who was just 14 at the time, was told she would be freed only if she renounced her faith and converted to Islam. However, in a show of inspiring and unwavering bravery, Leah refused. She has remained the terrorists' captive ever since.

Leah shares her captivity with another Christian, nurse Alice Ngaddah, who was abducted with two other humanitarian workers in March 2018. In October 2018, following the execution of both of Alice's Muslim colleagues for alleged apostasy, ISWAP declared that Leah and Alice would be their slaves for life.

For more information go to [Baptist Together international news.](#)

### Lyn Matthews

**Can we pray for Lyn Matthews who regularly receives the SBC bulletin.**

She lives in Durban SA and regularly preaches in some of the most difficult places in the city. On Thursday she emailed.

"One of our 60-year-old ladies who live in our apartment complex has

tested positive for corona virus.

The lady and her husband are both in quarantine at the moment.

Because we are so many in one building, our front doors are sealed off and no one is allowed in or out of the building.

Just when our restrictions were being lifted, I was so looking forward to a full day out!

I was supposed to go with Alan Wagner, my pastor to record a sermon onto his computer to preach a message online to Lighthouse Church on Sunday.

All will have to be on hold!

I have not had any contact with the couple but others in the building have, so we have all been in our rooms for 48 hours waiting for the health department to come.

I think tomorrow, the whole building will be screened for temperatures, and perhaps those who have been in contact, need to get tested. Only thing is very few of us are on medical aid, and the cost to be tested is r850 (£39.40)

So, we will need to go to a hospital or a clinic.

I am very happy I do not have any symptoms or feel sick or have a temperature.

God bless, I am feeling strong in faith, He will protect His children."

### Quotes of the week

"I spend a whole lot of time in a whole lot of places that don't do me a whole lot of good, when God has spent a whole lot of time inviting me to spend the whole of eternity with Him."

**Craig D. Lounsbrough**

"Here is the paradox of the thing we call *freedom*: the farther we wander from God and the more we try to break free from him, the more enchained we become.

Every step we take away from Him leads us farther from the freedom of Jesus and closer to the cruelty of Cain."

**Steven James, Story**

"You are fettered," said Scrooge, trembling. "Tell me why?"

"I wear the chain I forged in life," replied the Ghost. "I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it."

**Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol**

My chains have gone I've been set free

My God my Saviour has ransomed me

And like a flood His mercy rains

Unending love, Amazing grace.

**Chris Tomlin Amazing Grace**



Last Sunday was Tax Justice Sunday this article taken from the Baptist Times is written by Justin Thacker, National Coordinator, Church Action for Tax Justice. The service is still available online if you click on the link.

### Why I'm marking Tax Justice Sunday

Tax injustice harms so many – but campaigning against it works. Here's how, and why, Christians can play their part, beginning with Tax Justice Sunday (14 June). By Justin Thacker

It's not often that the British public agree about anything, especially in relation to issues of morality. But one point they nearly all seem to agree upon is that we should pay our taxes. In recent [opinion polls](#), it has consistently been shown that more than 80 per cent of the public consider tax avoidance to be morally wrong. This is true right across the political spectrum from Conservative to Labour, from Leave to Remain and across income groups and genders.

Perhaps part of the reason for this is that we are aware of the injustices caused by our current tax regimes. For every £1 we send in aid to the global south, about £3 is removed through tax dodging by large multinational firms. Once all taxes are taken into account (VAT, Council, National Insurance and not just Income) the care worker on minimum wage pays a higher rate of tax than the millionaire boss of the care home enterprise. Taxes that impact the wealthiest have all been cut over the last 30 years, while those that impact the poorest have all increased. This is why wealth inequality continues to rise year on year with the wealthiest 10 percent now owning at least five times more than the bottom 50 per cent combined. To top it all, it is estimated that around \$8tn dollars is currently [sitting in tax havens around the world](#). All of this makes it seem that the world is a very unfair place.

And that goes to the heart of who we understand ourselves to be as Christians. Our radical sense of equality is given to us virtue of being created in the image of God. In the ancient world, the concept of the divine image was reserved for the supreme ruler, but in the pages of Genesis the divine image is conferred on everyone. Under God, we are all of equal worth and dignity.

This is why our scriptures repeatedly find ways to encourage the sharing of resources for the benefit of all.

We see this in the Jubilee principles when every 50 years all debts were to be cancelled; we see it in the Early Church (Acts 2) when people sold land and property and distributed proceeds according to need;

and we see it in Paul's letter to the Corinthians when he tells them "the goal is equality" (2 Cor 8:14).

At the same time, the Scriptures are also frequently full of condemnation for those who have made a god out of greed, selfishly hoard their wealth, exploit their workers or fail to pay what they owe either to the ruling authorities or their workers.

This is why we campaign on tax justice issues. We believe it reflects our God-given mandate for equality and justice. It is also why just a month ago, a number of national church leaders, including the moderator of Baptist Union Council, the Revd David Mayne, signed [a joint letter to the Times](#) highlighting the injustice of tax avoidance. And that letter, and its associated news coverage, seems to have had an impact. Since it was published both the Welsh and Scottish governments have changed their policies on bailouts for companies registered in tax havens and they have both called for the chancellor to do the same. Campaigning can make a real difference.

So what can we, as Christians and as churches, do?

Well next Sunday (14 June) is Tax Justice Sunday. An [online church service](#) has been prepared to mark the occasion and you could use all or part of that service with your congregation. While the service does focus on issues of inequality and tax justice, it could be used on any Sunday if 14 June is not available.

Or you could explore the biblical and theological issues associated with tax justice by downloading and using our [small group study guide](#), you could [sign our petition](#), or as a church consider becoming a tax justice congregation. Our [regular newsletter](#) also provides material to keep you informed and lists of action you could take both corporately or individually to further the cause of tax justice.

Tax dodging genuinely hurts the poor. It reduces the flow of income that could be used for public services and it is fundamentally unfair. And because it hurts poorest households, it especially hurts women, those from ethnic minorities and those who are sick or disabled. Ron Sider recently wrote "neglect of the biblical teaching on structural injustice or institutionalised evil is one of the most deadly omissions in many parts of the church today."

Tax injustice is just one of those evils and doing something to mark Tax Justice Sunday could

be your way to begin to tackle it.

Justin Thacker, National Coordinator, Church Action for Tax Justice

