

# Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 28th June SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"NO COMPROMISE "



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

## Welcome to Sunday 28th June Online Service

Jerry is leading and preaching, continuing the series on  
2nd Corinthians 6:14-7:1

"NO COMPROMISE "

Structure of Jerry's Sermon:

Why believers should Not Compromise their faith.

1. **The Nature and Identity of Believers v 14-16a**
2. **The Command of Scripture v17**
3. **The Promises of God v 16b,18-7:1**



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.

## Jerry's Further Reading

Leviticus 19:19, Deut 22:9-11; Matthew 6:19-24; Luke 16:13-15;  
1 Cor 5: 9-11; 1 Cor 8; 1 Cor 10

## For Your Prayers

Continue to pray for those who have been in isolation and are now able to leave their homes, many are anxious about their safety. Please also pray for parents still apprehensive about returning their children to school. Pray for those awaiting hospital treatment and those receiving it. Please also pray for Ron, Jerry and the Deacons who have a Deacons Zoom meeting on 29th June at 7.00pm.

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 19th Norma posted "Hi, all thank you all for your lovely caring messages and prayers - surgery went well and I chose not to be sedated and watched the whole procedure - it was amazing, couldn't feel a thing and it will take about 24 hours to get some feeling back. Got to keep the hand elevated across my chest and I've got a huge purple sling looks very impressive, go back in 2 weeks."

On Sunday Victoria asked please continue to pray for Paul. This is from his Facebook page. "Been home a week now, and I guess I'd been hoping to write about all the great progress I'd be making. Unfortunately, however, it's still rough going. The infection I picked up still hasn't cleared, so the GP gave me a different course of antibiotics to try and get rid. Still needing painkillers as sore in numerous places, and as brilliant as Miriam and the kids have been at trying to help, if they were being honest they'd tell you when I do drag myself out of the bedroom I'm pretty rubbish company at the moment! Sorry this is a bit of a frowny one, but if you would join me in praying for a better weekend and some steps in the right direction it would be appreciated."

On Tuesday Julia posted "Please continue to pray for David who has an hospital appointment on July 8th."

Later on Tuesday Diana asked "Please can you pray for Greg. He was at the doctors today. Seems to have some abdominal bleeding. He is to get an urgent appointment at King's Lynn."

On Wednesday she said. "Just an update. Greg had a telephone call today from the hospital to arrange an telephone appointment with the specialist for 30th June. They will then decide what priority to give."

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

**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

**Evil Influence is like a nicotine patch, you cannot help but absorb what sticks to you.**

E.A. Bucchianeri



## Thoughts on coming out of Lockdown

Although during the week the government announced churches can begin to reopen for services as well as for private prayer there are still enough restrictions in place that mean we could not hold a service in any real meaningful way at present.

The deacons will discuss our way forward on Monday and we will advise the fellowship next weekend of the steps we will take going forward but we will not be open on the 5th July.

One of the things we want to see though as we get back to a greater normality is a church where "Jesus is at the centre" and a verse I would like us to ponder and think about is Acts 2:42. It reads " [the church] devoted themselves to the apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers" I read recently those 4 points are like the wheels on a car, all need to be in place. It was love for Jesus and others that drove them forward to share and care, all were participants too as the Holy Spirit worked through them.

Give Thanks that God has been doing many good things during this season and continue to pray that He will bless our communities in the coming days. Ron.

## 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 by accepting donations, if anyone would like to pray quietly in the church at that time you will be welcome. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met.

## Stables Study Group

The Stables Bible Study Group continues to meet via Zoom every two weeks. The Next meeting is on Wednesday July 1st. Please contact Diana for a link to the Zoom meeting.

## Prayer for Escape by Frankie Dilch

Lord. I have reached my Christian retirement sitting contented in front of Your gentle glowing log fire I bath in the warmth of Your love and Grace. When the world's troubles interrupt my comfort zone, I pray from my armchair, my work done I feel blessed Lord, fulfilled, your servant. In my Christian youth I was restless in your embrace, energised, constantly trying to feed those whose hunger could only be fed by You. In Isaiah 43:19 (ERV). You told me "**Because I am doing something new! Now you will grow like a new plant. Surely you know this is true. I will even make a road in the desert, and rivers will flow through that dry land.**"

And I grew like a new plant and followed your road into the desert of other's despair and need, the rivers of Your word and love were soaked up by the aridness of many people's hearts.

Those days long gone my Christianity matured, wrinkled in the heat of the desert sun. My energy eroded by sandy winds of failure.

Dear Lord, who was tortured to death on the cross, for me, as we come out of the lockdown, energise me, provide a pin to burst the comfort bubble surrounding my life, let me escape and become again the messenger that boasts of your Love and Salvation, without fear of ridicule, ambivalence and hate. Amen

## About Cromer Food Bank

**'The foodbank was there when we really needed it, it was an absolute lifeline.'**

We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

We have 7 distribution centres open across North Norfolk, although we have closed the Aylsham Rec centre during the Coronavirus crisis. Our foodbank is supported by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area.

The Cromer & District foodbank was set up in 2012 to provide emergency, essential food items for people in crisis within North Norfolk. We operate within an area totalling 200 square miles – which includes coastal areas, several market towns and extensive rural areas – and with a population of approximately 70,000. In addition to food, we provide a range of essential toiletries and household items. We also work closely with the Children's Services and can provide nappies, wipes, formula milk and other essential items for **babies and toddlers**.

We have distribution centres, Cromer and Stalham, whilst having offices in North Walsham, Holt and an outreach post in Aylsham.

## Get Help

We know that anyone can reach crisis point and we're here to help when that happens. In the Stalham area the **Food Bank** is open on Fridays in the SBC 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.

## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living. An idol has such controlling position in your heart that you can spend most of your passion and energy, your emotional and financial resources, on it without a second thought."

- **Tim Keller, The Counterfeit Gods**

"Paul is not calling for a Christian's ghetto. Instead,...he is calling for a Christian "Colony", that is " an island of one culture in the middle of another," a " Colony of resident aliens within a hostile environment, which in the most subtle but deadly of ways, corrupts and co-opts us as Christians."

- **Scott J. Hafemann, The NIV Application Commentary**

"Reflecting on what God has done for us in the Lord Jesus Christ should ultimately lead us to throw ourselves into living for him in a way which reflects that we belong to the one and only God. That is, we should live holy lives. And we should do this for the rest of our lives, until God finishes the process of making us more like the Lord Jesus. And we should do it in the awareness that we are living with and before and for the God of all power and holiness, to whom we will all give an account for the way in which we lived."

- **Gary Millar, 2 Corinthians For You.**



# Healthcare chaplaincy in a Pandemic

## **Adrian Woodbridge, Lead Chaplain, Norfolk & Norwich University Hospitals NHS**

Adrian is a Baptist healthcare chaplain and spoke to the **Baptist Times**

### **What changes have you experienced during the pandemic?**

We no longer have a Sunday service so we have turned the chapel into a quite reflective space for patients and staff support, a drop in sanctuary from the hospital with comfy seating and opportunity for a coffee. The hospital is a quieter place with virtually no visitors.

### **Are you still able to operate in your hospitals?**

We are still able to operate as normal and have access to all wards. We have had to complete mask and PPE training in order to maintain access and have been issued with Scrubs. The knock on effect of this is that visits to a patient on a Covid ward will take more time with donning PPE and showering straight after.

### **Are you doing more work from home?**

We have a team of five, and two of the team are working from home due to ongoing health issues. We also have a team member ill with suspected Covid. We are managing to find roles for our team working from home but this can be limited as a lot of the work of Chaplaincy is face to face contact. We have been able to appoint bank staff from ministers who have availability including one of our regional ministers and a local university chaplain.

We are running a bereavement support line and a staff support line, our Chaplains who are working from home are operating this.

### **Are more staff reaching out to you at this time?**

We are seeing a slight increase in staff support but because of restricted movement around the hospital staff are coming straight in and going straight home and staying on ward in between. The hospital is working hard to find ways to connect with staff in various ways.

### **What are the challenges and stresses of your role at the moment?**

We have a lot more phone calls from families who can't be with their loved ones and would like to get messages to them. We have started using iPads so that families can Skype their loved ones and this has been very well received. Because of the time it takes to prepare we have had to prioritise our visits at peak demand times.

### **How would you encourage prayer – both for the NHS (staff, patients and families) and yourselves?**

Hospitals have had a lot of change in a short time including the fact that lots of staff have had to work from home, there has been ward and staff movement as people have been redeployed. As life starts to return there may be a lot of changes that are here to stay, and hospital may seem an unfamiliar environment to many staff, pray for this moment as hospitals re-establish and people return to a 'new normal'.

## **Sarah Crane, Lead Chaplain at Milton Keynes University Hospital**

Sarah is a Baptist healthcare chaplain and wrote a reflective article for the Baptist Times.

If I'm honest the last two and a half months have been a

bit of a blur. In early March we had the second Covid-19 death in the country and from there things have changed at a rapid pace day by day. Our hospital has now cared for over 100 people who have died from Covid-19 and we know the journey isn't over.

Firstly, the hospital suspended volunteers visiting on the wards. Then national guidance was given to suggest that Chaplains could respond to requests for visits but not visit from bed to bed speaking to patients and their visitors. I am currently our only fulltime Chaplain and have still been able to work in the hospital every day, but we have been creative in enabling the wider team of Chaplains, who are shielding, to offer support via phone and video calls. I have also had the kind support from a local colleague, the Revd Ruth Gookey, who has been able to join the staff bank and support both patients and staff.

Our staff have been incredible, however, the hero rhetoric is largely unhelpful. These professionals have had to adapt and respond to a situation which has changed rapidly. They have been frightened, exhausted, generous and giving. They are highly skilled people who have done their best amidst the same anxiety everyone else is facing. We have kitted out a new Staff Hub and have seen a bit of an increase in staff seeking support from Chaplaincy as well as P2P, our Staff Listening Service. The same worry and anxiety exists here too and we have worked hard as a hospital to provide support and information about wider support for those who are struggling.

Although Covid-19 cases are reducing, we know that is it far from over. Hospitals will have to develop new ways of working to deliver planned and emergency care alongside care for those with Covid-19.

Please do pray for our teams; for wisdom for those responsible for developing plans to reopen services; for rest for those who are tired and spent; for vision to see what changes we need to keep from our rapid shapeshifting; for peace for those who are grieving; and for the love and kindness of God to fill our hospital each day.

## **Nik Hookey part of the chaplaincy team at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust**

Nik wrote for the Baptist Times. "I feel like I'm on a desert island," she said. "I'm so alone. There's nothing to do. They said there would be other people in this room. But they brought me in here and left me here, all alone." "I'm so glad to see you," she added.

I smiled at her to reassure her. Then I realised that she could not see my smile, because it was hidden behind my surgical mask. The only clue that I was a chaplain was the little white plastic strip of a clerical collar at my throat. This addition to my clothing, which for years before I had considered to be an affectation, suddenly seemed so important.

"My son can't visit me," she went on. "He brought me in, so now he has to self-isolate. He works for the church. do you know him?"

I shook my head. She had told me this the first time I met her, and I did not know her son. I did know that she had been without visitors for days, and she was one of the first in the area to get the virus.

"Shall I read you some verses from the Bible, and pray for you?" I asked.

"Yes please," came the reply.

When I left, a while later, she was reassured. She was not forgotten. She was cared for. And the NHS cared enough for her to make sure that her spiritual needs could be met as well as her medical needs.