

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 9th August SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"God gets jealous?"

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington 01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno 07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

Welcome to this Sundays Online Service

Pat Dabbs is leading and Ron preaching, continuing the series on 2nd Corinthians. This week 2 Corinthians 11:1-6

"God gets Jealous?"

You can follow the service on the SBC website on Sunday www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured left.



Ron's Reads

Jn 10:7f, Eph 5:22f, Ex 20:5, Jn 10:10 Mk 9:42f

For Your Prayers

Please pray for our government as they wrestle with balancing peoples health against the wealth of the country. Help them Lord not use the pandemic as an excuse to introduce legislation that benefits a few. Enter their hearts Lord so they can become like Jesus a "servant leader." Also pray for those in our fellowship and community that are still extremely anxious about restarting their social lives in a safe way. Please pray for the people of Beirut.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Barbra and Geoff Reynolds.**

WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room

On Thursday 30th **Sue St John** posted "Hi my friend's husband, is having a triple bypass operation today at Papworth. I found out by chance and said we'd pray." Sue went on "Please also pray for little Millie, my sisters niece, three months old who had the MRI scan two weeks ago. She has infancy Shuddering Syndrome, which is quite rare and should resolve its self by the age of 4. She continues to have these episodes several times a day, however there has been some improvement since Monday when we really prayed at home."

On Friday **Sue** reported "**Bob** is doing fairly well. He had two done . Next one next month. Not open-heart surgery quite amazing what they can do up your arm."

On Saturday **Victoria** posted. "Please pray for **Poppy**. I'm absolutely gutted to say that after just over 2 years in remission and 9 months medication free, Poppy has relapsed and has restarted her treatment today.

She has been leaking protein for over a month and this week has been particularly stressful and worrying with 'is she/'isn't she going to relapse'. We nearly restarted treatment on Wednesday but her levels dipped just enough to hold off. She is back on the highest dose of steroids you can have (she will be on these for several weeks) which last time killed a bone in her foot (meaning she had to wear a boot cast for 3 months), along with other side effects too. I'm hopeful this is just a blip and this treatment will put her back in remission and keep her there. However, if she becomes steroid dependent like in previous relapses, we will need to find another treatment to try and get her back off the steroids. Relapses can result in scarring to the kidneys and for some children this leads to kidney failure, dialysis and waiting for a kidney transplant. One of the cruellest aspects of Nephrotic Syndrome is that in a high percentage of children who do have a kidney transplant, the disease returns to attack the new kidney - it is a treatment option but not a cure. There is no cure for nephrotic syndrome just treatments we can try to keep her in remission. Depending on how quickly she responds to the steroids and what dose she is on in September will effect if she can return to school or not, something she is so desperate to do.

We have had good days and bad days in **Poppy's** journey so far and this is just the start of it's next chapter. Being 8 and very much more aware this time brings along it's own challenges. We will as always try to take this one day at a time x"

On Wednesday **Jan Skivington** requested "Please pray for **Henry's** brother **Roger** who is very poorly."



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 & OPEN FOR PRAYER

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and for personal prayer.

Since June 15th people have been welcome to pray quietly in the church at that time the Food Bank donations are being received. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met.

Also, The Good News paper, bibles, books 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.

This week Monday 10th

Deacons Zoom meeting
at 7.00pm

Wednesday 12th at 7.00pm
Zoom Bible Study contact
Diana for a link to the meeting.

Thoughts from Ron

You may remember a few weeks ago we asked the question how can we become more an Acts 2:42 church, well some are now beginning to meet in small groups in gardens to fellowship, pray and talk about God's word together.

Something else we can do is read the scriptures together, so we are going to give a reading plan each week for you to follow if you wish. Starting today the challenge is to read the 6 chapters of Galatians over the coming week.

This letter tells us something of Paul's own journey, it describes the true gospel and ends with implications for our Christian living. As you read ask these questions, what does Galatians have to say about God, about me, and find one thing that challenges you to do or to be and perhaps share what you have been learning. Also, next Sunday we hope to have virtual communion as part of our Sunday service.

A Thank You to All Who Have Helped

On the 22nd July Ron received a letter from Stalham Town Council. *Dear Reverend Skivington Stalham Town Council would like to record its thanks for the work undertaken by the Stalham Baptist Church during the recent Covid19 pandemic.*

The role undertaken by both yourself and Jerry Otieno in coordinating volunteers and supporting the North Norfolk District Council hub was invaluable.

The Council is aware that there are members of the community who through your initiative have also made a significant contribution by volunteering, and would be grateful if you are able to share this letter of thanks with those involved.

Yours Sincerely Susan Wellerd Town Clerk Stalham Town Council

Weekly Prayer Focus: 9th August 2020 Bures Baptist Church

Bures Baptist Church is a small congregation in the beautiful rural village of Bures, on the Suffolk/Essex border. We are a close-knit, family-friendly group, with a mix of ages and links to our local schools and our brothers and sisters at the village C of E. Our minister is Cath Brown, who has been with the church since 2011 and recently completed her ministry training with Spurgeon's College.

During lockdown the church has been working through weekly Bible studies on the book of James and more recently Mark. Some have been doing this on their own, others over phone or video call, and since restrictions have eased, some in gardens too! We have also recently added online services to our provision, giving us some more reflections on the readings, guided prayers and sung worship.

It has been a very difficult time for many in our congregation but the people of the church have risen to the challenge of supporting one another and continuing to reach out to the community around them. We continue to pray for comfort and healing for all those who are hurting in our midst and we are very much missing being able to gather together. We are now working hard to ready our building for reopening soon.

We are really missing seeing everyone from our (usually) weekly toddler group and youth club, amongst other events. However the youth group has been able to resume and we are grateful for this!

We would appreciate prayer for:

- Wisdom and protection as we move towards reopening our building.
- Our witness to the community while we are unable to operate in our usual ways
- Our vision to renovate our hall and create a community hub/café - that we can resume our plans and fundraising when the time is right

Quotes of the Week

"There is nothing wrong about Christianity or religion, but there is something wrong with many of the people who lead or follow Christianity. Some manipulate others into thinking, if they don't do what they say. Then they are not Christian enough or believers. Bible said you must test the spirit. Not all church leaders or followers represent Christ. Some represent themselves. They are not doing it for God, but are doing it for themselves.

Jer 14:14 -1 John 4:1 -1 Thes 5:21"

De philosopher DJ Kyos

"A spirit ushered by false teachings is like a body nourished by sweets. The adult, as opposed to the child, will come to understand reasons one cannot live a healthy existence on nothing but candy; so likewise, the Christian must come to understand that one cannot know and love the will of God under false doctrine."

Criss Jami, Healology

"The Bible is filled with stories of true prophets speaking tough words to belligerent audiences. John the Baptist lost his head. The prophet Isaiah was sawed in two. The prophet Zechariah was stoned. It's not always popular to tell the truth.

The problem with false prophets is that they usually tell partial truths. There's a Yiddish proverb that says, "A half truth is a whole lie."

Carey Kinsolving

Don't expect a false prophet to appear as Darth Vader. Remember the story of Little Red Riding Hood? The big, bad wolf disguised himself in grandmother's clothes. Don't expect anything less from false prophets. Outwardly, they look as innocent as sheep, but inwardly, they're ready to pounce and devour.

Memorise this truth: "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

Kids Talk About God is written and distributed by Carey Kinsolving. Visit www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org.

Lord as I sometimes stumble along the path to your salvation. Help me spot the false prophets beckoning me along their effortless comfortable paths with their soft words, promises and oh so simple to believe talk in my moments of doubt.

That is until you reach the end of the road.!



Franky Dilch

Life on hold? No!

Our business is not to wait in frustration, drumming our fingers and wanting to “get on with our lives”, but to ask, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” By Colin Sedgwick

“I just want to get on with my life!... It’s so frustrating when everything’s on hold...”

Have you found yourself saying – or just thinking – something like that recently? I’m referring to the coronavirus pandemic, of course. Quite apart from the great sadness of premature and unexpected deaths, and all the fear and uncertainty, it’s just so frustrating. Oh to get back to normal!

I certainly find myself thinking this way. But then I know I must take myself in hand... No! The idea that life is “on hold”, as if someone has pressed the pause button and all we can do is sit and wait for things to start running again, is wrong.

Hayley with Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby

It’s as if life – *real* life – consists of just two parts: there’s the stuff I *have* to do simply in order to keep going – work, earning a living, looking after home and family, and all the normal everyday chores and duties; and there’s the stuff I *like* to do for leisure and enjoyment. Anything else is an intrusion, an interference that I am entitled to resent.

But no. We have never been promised an easy ride, and in reality anything that life, for whatever reason, throws at us, is still part and parcel of life as a whole.

If we are Christians we believe that our lives are in the hands of the God who is our loving heavenly Father. And this means that whatever happens to us will one day be woven into a bigger, wider picture which at the moment is hidden from us. And this, in turn, means that it is our responsibility to view these things, however unwelcome, in as positive a light as we possibly can. As the saying goes: every *problem* is an *opportunity* if only we can see it right.

Think of Esther...

Esther was an ordinary Jewish girl. She lived among her people under Persian domination nearly 500 years before Christ. We don’t know what life was like for the Jews at that time, but there are indications that it wasn’t too bad.

But a crisis arose. Xerxes, the king, fell out with his queen, Vashti, and decided to replace her. Esther, who was exceptionally beautiful, ended up being chosen as the new queen. Xerxes wasn’t aware she was Jewish – but a top official called Haman was, and he had a bitter grudge against the Jews. Especially, he hated Esther’s older male cousin and guardian Mordecai, who had acted to scotch a plot on Xerxes’ life. Cutting the story short, Haman poisoned Xerxes’ mind against the Jews – and got him to sign a decree that all the Jews were to be “destroyed, killed and annihilated” (Esther 3:13).



If we think the present pandemic is bad (and it certainly is), imagine how this news must have terrified the Jewish people.

But Mordecai has an idea: he tells Esther that, even though it might cost her her life (and that was a real possibility: this kind of marriage didn’t have much to do with love), she must go to the king, expose what Haman is up to, and plead for the decree to be overturned.

In case Esther is reluctant, Mordecai points out that if she does nothing she will die anyway with the rest of her people, so she might as well take the risk. And then he produces his clinching argument: “*And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?*” (Esther 4:14).

As if to say, “Esther, it’s no coincidence that you were gifted with great beauty... that Vashti fell out of the king’s favour at just the point she did... that I was around at a time to do King Xerxes a significant service... that you now are in prime position to bring about the rescue of your people... No! God’s hand is in this... *and, Esther, he has a job for you to do*”.

Is it ridiculous to compare a threatened mass slaughter in the ancient world with a horrible virus threatening the lives of millions today? I don’t think so.

True, none of us can do anything remotely as dramatic as what Esther was able to do. But in principle there is no difference; we too have our role to play; we’re not marking time; God has a purpose for us too.

Shakespeare's Hamlet told his friend Horatio: "... there's a divinity that shapes our ends, Rough-hew them how we will..." Yes! And that "divinity" is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So our business is not to wait in frustration, drumming our fingers and wanting to "get on with our lives", but to ask him: "Lord, what do you want me to *do*? You have blessed me greatly. Now, how can I myself be a blessing to others? Please show me what good I can do, however slight it may seem".

And then get on and do it.

Loving Father, I don't want to treat these difficult days as just an interruption in my "normal" life. No, I want to use them as fully as I can for the good of others and for your glory. Please show me how. Amen.

Colin Sedgwick is a Baptist minister with many years' experience in the ministry.

He is also a freelance journalist, and has written for The Independent, The Guardian, The Times, and various Christian publications. He blogs at sedgonline.wordpress.com

Sheringham BeachLife features in virtual carnival

Sheringham BeachLife has gone on-line for 2020, and a video presentation of the popular Beach Special has been released as part of Sheringham's virtual Carnival this year. Tony Rothe reports for [Network Norfolk](http://NetworkNorfolk.com). The Norfolk and Norwich Christian community website

The **BeachLife** outreach, organised by the churches in **Sheringham**, usually takes place on the town's clifftops and beach during the last week of the summer holidays, but this year has been cancelled because of all the coronavirus restrictions.

However, the organisers were approached by the **Sheringham Carnival** committee to produce an on-line version for inclusion in this year's virtual carnival. BeachLife were delighted to agree, and the team met, in a socially distanced manner, on the lawn behind **Lighthouse Community Church** on a sunny day in July to record 20 minutes of fun/laughter and mayhem!



The result was a shortened version of the **Beach Special** which would normally kick off each day's activities during the summer outreach. The video includes a cheese puff challenge, the "lockdown medley", the obligatory gunge tank, and a brief talk by **Peter Skivington**, from the organising team, pointing out how connecting with Jesus means we can live the life we were created for. There was also a drama by **Sally Frere-Smith** telling the story of David and Goliath.

"The BeachLife tagline is 'life to the full in Jesus' " explained Pete, " and we want the young people to realise that you can only fully come alive when you have a connection with Jesus, and He is the way to live life to the full".

Next year's outreach will run from **Tuesday to Friday August 24 to 27 2021**.

To watch Virtual BeachLife 2020, [click here](#).

To read about last year's BeachLife week, [click here](#).

For more information, visit the [Sheringham BeachLife website](#).

The pictures above from the video show the Lockdown Medley and one of the team, **Barbara George**, being "gunged" in the gunge tank. They are courtesy of [Gareth Gabriel Film and Photo](#).

If you would like to receive Network Norfolk sine up at by clicking [here](#).

