

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 20th September SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"Final Words"

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

Welcome to this Sunday's Online Service

Pat is leading and Ron is preaching, continuing the series on 2nd Corinthians. This week 2 Cor 13:1-10

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

2 Cor 7:6f, 11:22f, Ps 139:23f

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the family of Brenda Burton-Pye whose funeral is on Friday.

Also pray for those who fear being made redundant in our community as companies downsize and please pray for the young people who are finding it very difficult to find jobs.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Dan and Sue St John.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Saturday 12th Henry said "My brother Roger is home. Hospital have put him on steroids which has eased his breathing. Please continue to pray for him and Ann. Thank you."

Also, on Saturday Maggie posted "Elspeth and Alex have asked if we would pray for their very close friends Fran and Tom. They live very close to Portland Oregon where the devastating fires are at the moment. Thankyou very much." Followed by Maureen who asked "Please could you pray for Abbie our granddaughter, her epilepsy became worse yesterday and she was taken to hospital, she is still being monitored, thank you, Maureen."

On Wednesday Victoria posted "Prayers for Poppy please: positively she managed a whole week back at school...I was so pleased for her. However, she relapsed yesterday (for the 7th time) so restarted her treatment today. Home-school it will be for the next few weeks or longer depending on what second line treatment she is put on and if it works or she relapses straight away again. I was initially gutted for her to miss school but I'm actually very positive about it now as she gets some very rare one on one time with mummy and it's definitely the best place for her to be while so poorly. I'm waiting for her nephrologist to arrange a meeting with the specialist from Nottingham children's hospital for us to discuss what second line treatment is best for her this time. The options they have mentioned are

- she goes back on the tacrolimus which worked brilliantly for 18 months before (but had to stop because it became toxic to her body) but she would need to have a kidney biopsy first to check for scarring of the kidneys from the 18 months previous long term treatment

- Oral chemo for 8 weeks

- Staying on steroids long term at a lower dose

I'm keen to get the second line treatment started asap as I fear she is becoming dependent on the steroids again and we need to find something to keep her in remission long term so prayers for the meeting to be arranged soon so these options can be discussed in detail and prayers for the right choice to be made would be much appreciated. Thank you as always x"

On Thursday Pat Dabbs posted "Update on David Osborne. He has been told by the consultant that surgery is unlikely before December at the earliest. Given the urgency of his condition he needs prayers to bring the procedure forward to avoid permanent long term damage."

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

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 the time that the Food Bank donations are being received. Jerry or Ron will be on hand to ensure all safety measures are met.

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

Wednesday 23rd 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

**Fear is the glue that keeps you stuck.
Faith is the solvent that sets you free."**

Shannon L. Alder

Testimony Tuesday

Stewart has produced the first in a new weekly series called 'Testimony Tuesday' where we will be sharing testimonies of what God has and is doing in and through our lives, which will be posted on Facebook www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist

For those not on Facebook, below is a link to Stewart's testimony.

May the Lord be glorified as we tell of His righteous acts and deeds of salvation all day, for their number is past our knowledge. - Psalm 71:15

<https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/testimonytuesday/ttstewart.mp4>

If you would like to do a testimony contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Harvest Community Scene

Because of the pandemic we have not produced a printed Community Scene. However, we do have an online version. Go to <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/communityscene.php>

Harvest Appeal

Our harvest service will be on Sunday 27th September when we will be supporting the BMS appeal which this year is called Operation Chad looking at the hospital the Shrubsole's work at. If you wish to support this year's appeal donations can be sent to SBC by Bac's Sort Code: 20-99-21 Account Number: 00821705. marked BMS Chad Appeal or log on to <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/donate.php> for more details or deliver cash or cheques to Henry at 3 Windows Brumstead Road Stalham. Also, if you wish to donate tins to support Foodbank, they can be dropped off at the church 10am -12.00 noon any weekday morning.

Standing Strong

You are invited to STANDING STRONG 2020 Open Doors Celebration, SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER, 7.45-9.30PM. We will be joining thousands of believers from across the UK and Ireland for one evening with our extraordinary family to celebrate one faith, one hope, one Lord. We will worship with our persecuted family and find out how their courageous faith can strengthen us all. Tim Hughes has made an exclusive song for this event. Please REGISTER www.opendoorsuk.org/standingstrong We have already! Eileen and David.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at the book of Ruth the strong theme that comes through in this book is that kindness will be rewarded. There are many important themes in the book of Ruth. The two main themes are: God's providence, and the idea of a kinsman redeemer. The book starts off in the time of the Judges. If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

EBA Week of Prayer 20th September 2020

This week would have seen the EBA Annual Gathering happening on Saturday. Like so many events this year this has had to adapt and change.

Back in May the EBA team facilitated some Zoom discussions with about 50 of our ministers entitled "What do we think God is saying" and out of those discussions have come five themes, one for each day this week. On our website you will find resources for each day which will include a Biblical reflection, prayer points and an interview to promote further thought and discussion around each of the topics. We invite you to join us each day as together we pray into each theme.

Topic: EBA Prayer Zoom Meeting Time: 9.30am

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201290903>

Meeting ID: 882 0129 0903 Passcode: 794152

Understandably this isn't always possible so we would encourage you in your prayer times this week to reflect on these five themes.

Monday - Discipleship is more than programmes

Who am I praying for to come to faith? How is someone I know going to come to faith?

Tuesday – Discipleship is relational

How do I make the best of God given opportunities with my closest friends and neighbours?

What am I able to bring to my small group?

Wednesday- Discipleship happens where God places us

I am Jesus's representation here and now therefore what am I doing and who do I meet Monday to Saturday? How am I showing Jesus to these people who I spend time with?

Thursday – Discipleship in Lockdown makes new connections

During this time who has my church made new connections with?

How can I help grow these connections and disciple these individuals?

Friday – Discipleship means still listening to God and going deeper with God

How well am I rooted in God? What fruit for Jesus am I producing? Am I prepared to go where God is calling me?

EBA 2019 Round Up

As our annual gathering 2020 has needed to adapt to the current Covid-19 situation, we have put together a short round up of the 2019 year in video form. The video is just over 5 mins long and details some of the items we would have shared with you during the day at our gathering. You will find the video here <https://youtu.be/vQR8midqXBs>

Also just a reminder that our AGM will take place via Zoom on Monday 21st September 6.45pm for a link to join the Zoom please email secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk

Thank You

Elspeth would like to thank all who prayed for friends Fran and Tom of Sunriver, near Portland, Oregon. As of Monday they were safe but have to stay indoors because of the smoke from the fires.

Good News

Copies of the Autumn's "Good News" paper are available at the back of church if anyone wants to collect one and give some away.

Leprosy Mission

The **leprosy Mission Autumn/Winter catalogues** are now available at the back of the church (open Mon to **Fri 10am to 12 noon.**)

Orders sent via Barbara Reynolds (Stalham Baptist's "trading partner") will save you postage, make a donation towards church funds (in many cases 20% of your order) and enable the leprosy mission to assist folk with this awful disease. You pay the same prices seen in the catalogue. Please either send your order to Barbara at Cameo Cottage, Church Lane, Potter Heigham, NR29 5LR, **email me at barbarageoff@gmail.com**, pop it in the box in the church or leave a message on my ansaphone 01692672120 (excuse the singing!)

Quote of the Week

"Religion, like science, is only noteworthy when it emphasizes a matter of what is true rather than whose belief is greater or lesser or which deity works for whom. Sincere religion and tested science are similar in that their assertions can be argued logically and objectively; otherwise, we get false cults and babble."

— **Criss Jami**, Killosophy

"When faced with a choice, humans almost invariably seek a no-action, no-change option, even when one of the presented alternatives is quantifiably and logically more advantageous."

— **Sylvain Neuvel**, The Test

Seeking a just peace in the Holy Land: World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel

September 13 to 21 is the [World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel](#). In this blog Cheryl Kipping, a member of Beckenham Baptist Church, shares insights from visiting the Holy Land and introduces EAPPI – the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel – and the actions it's taking to promote a just peace. Writes Cheryl Kipping in the [Baptist Times](#).



Visiting the sites of the Biblical stories can be a moving experience for people that have been to the Holy Land. Hebron, where Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, and Rebecca are buried, is rarely included in pilgrim itineraries. It has been described as a 'microcosm of the devastating impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on civilians' by Human Rights Watch, an international organisation that investigates human rights abuses around the world. Visiting Hebron can be distressing and troubling. It is the largest town in the West Bank, which, with Gaza and East Jerusalem, have been identified as territories which could form a Palestinian state under the two-state solution. The West Bank has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 war. The occupation is illegal under international law (Article 42, Hague Regulations).

Since 1997 Hebron has been divided into two areas: H1 and H2. H1 is under the control of the Palestinian Authority. H2 is under the control of Israel. H2 includes most of the old city of Hebron including what was the market and commercial sector. About 700 Israelis live in settlements in H2. Settlements are communities inhabited by Israeli citizens built on occupied Palestinian land. They are illegal under international law (4th Geneva convention). In addition to the 700 settlers, there are a similar number of Israeli soldiers in H2 to maintain the settlers' safety.



About 33,000 Palestinians live in H2. Their movements are severely restricted and enforced with check points, roadblocks (gates and concrete walls), watchtowers and the use of photo recognition technology. Many Palestinians need to pass through checkpoints to access their own homes. In some parts of H2 Palestinians are not permitted to drive or even walk, yet these same areas are freely accessible to settlers. Shuhada Street, one of the main streets, has been designated a 'closed military zone' resulting in shops and businesses being closed, either because they have been shut down by military orders or because their owners have abandoned them because of the restricted access for customers and suppliers (see [United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Human Affairs](#) - UNOCHA).

Zidane, a Palestinian who lives on Shuhada Street, said, 'When I walk out my front door, I can walk to the left but I am not allowed to walk more than 20 metres to the right. I can barely remember what some of that part of Shuhada Street looks like.'

Palestinians in H2 are often harassed and they, and their property, physically attacked by settlers. A 2018 survey of Palestinians conducted by UNOCHA found that over a three year period nearly 70 per cent had been affected by settler violence. Furthermore, the homes of 75 per cent had been searched by Israeli forces. These searches often involved intimidation and threats.

Salwa and her children, who live in H2, have been physically attacked by settlers, their grape vines and olive trees have been poisoned and their home invaded by soldiers during military exercises.

Many Palestinians, international observers and some Israelis believe ending the occupation is essential to achieve a just peace in which all can live with freedom and dignity in Israel and Palestine.

This is also one of the aims of [EAPPI - The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel](#). EAPPI is a [World Council of Churches initiative](#). It was set up in 2002 in response to requests to the international community from church leaders in Jerusalem to provide a protective presence for Palestinian civilians. In the UK and Ireland the programme is co-ordinated by the Quakers on behalf of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The Baptist Union, as well as several other denominations and charitable organisations, are partners of the programme.

EAPPI sends international volunteers, Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs), to live in Palestinian communities for three month placements.

They work alongside Israeli and Palestinian groups seeking a just peace: monitoring human rights, providing a protective presence and passing on information about the situations they encounter to international organisations such as the United Nations. EAs are not pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian but pro-human rights.

The situation in Israel/Palestine is complex and the conflict long-standing. So do EAs make a difference? Many Palestinians report that if EAs are present they are less likely to be harassed by settlers or intimidated by Israeli soldiers, their treatment at checkpoints is likely to be more humane, and they receive practical and emotional support at times of challenge such as when their home has been demolished. EAs work closely with Israeli and Palestinian peace activists. This allows them to feel that they are not alone. Many of the Palestinians and Israelis EAs work with want them to tell their stories when they return to their home countries.

So what can you do? You can read [eyewitness blogs](#) from EAs to learn more about the stories of people in Palestine and Israel – blogs about Zidane and Salwan's experiences are here: [Zidane](#); [Salwa](#). You can follow EAPPI on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) (@eappiukireland) and sign up to its [email newsletter](#). Once international travel is possible again you could visit Israel/Palestine with an organisation that enables people to gain a different perspective on life in the Holy Land eg [Amos Trust](#), [Zaytoun](#), [ICAHN](#) (Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions).

You can find out more about applying to be an EA at www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi.

Further information about Hebron is available from [B'tselem](#), an Israeli human rights organisation.

During the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel, an initiative of the World Council of Churches, people of faith are encouraged to pray and take action to promote a just peace in Palestine and Israel. Here is [a prayer](#) you may want to use during this week.

Image (top page 3) | EAs accompanying children to school down Shuhuda Street

Cheryl Kipping is due to serve with EAPPI next year. She has visited Israel/Palestine several times initially volunteering on a kibbutz, and subsequently going on an 'Alternative Pilgrimage' organised by Amos Trust. It was on this trip that she learned more about the realities of the conflict for Palestinians and Israelis.

She says 'Having seen the impact of the occupation on the ground I wanted to do something about the situation. God requires us to act for justice and we know that faith without works is dead. As a Christian who has recently retired from full time work it seemed that this was the time and opportunity to put my faith into action and serve with EAPPI.'

Pray for the Love We Need to Work Together in Unity

Dear God, we pray for our churches, our workplaces, our schools, and our communities.

We ask for your help in being a light in every place you've given us to walk. Give us care and wisdom as we live and work with one another. Help us to look to another's needs before our own, and to always be ready to serve those around us by the power of your love within us. Even in every dark and broken place, for the times we feel like we're barely making it through, give us your joy Lord, your grace, and the powerful presence of your peace.

We pray for all those in authority, for every leader of our nation, that you would give them your wisdom and discernment as they lead. We pray that their hearts would be directed first to you, that they would recognize where their true help and strength come from. We ask that you guard their coming and going, that you would be their refuge and their peace. We pray that you would surround every leader with wise counsel, that they would be humble and kind, patient and loving through their actions and words. We pray that their faith in you would be unwavering, strong, resolute, and firm.. Amen

From I believe.com

