

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 27th September SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"Harvest"

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

Ron is leading and preaching, from John 9:1,6-7, 10-11,13,24-25 Isa 49:23b

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

Ps 24 [especially 10] Mk 5:1f, Isa 55:8-9

For Your Prayers

Please pray that as a community we can work together to protect the vulnerable, support those suffering from anxiety and progressive depression as we seem daily to be moving further and further away from the normality we knew. Also pray for those whose spiritual health is declining as we spend so much time separated from the strength and refreshment of our fellowship.

Lord as I wander the desert of restrictions and feel further and further apart from those I travelled with in Your love, provide me Lord with your oasis of reassurance that I may drink deeply and refreshed continue to grow spiritually and stay on the path you set to salvation.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Lorraine Stuart**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Saturday 19th Jane Skivington posted "Please pray for Ezra our youngest grandson. He is in hospital and is struggling to breathe so is having to have a nebuliser every hour during the night as he isn't improving enough at present. Thank you Jane."

On Sunday Jane said "Thank you for your prayers please keep praying. Ezra is a bit better this morning but has to have 4 hours between the use of the nebuliser before he can go home God is answering prayer thank you so much."

Jane posted on Monday "Thank you for praying for Ezra he is a lot better and hopes to get home, late afternoon."

Harvest Intercessions

Generous God, at this harvest time we thank you for all the good things you give us. As we thank you for our food, we remember all those who do not have enough for even one proper meal each day. Lord, bless all those who suffer because of the greed of others. We pray for the homeless, and those who depend on the charity of others. We pray for the work of the Booth Centre, and local foodbanks, providing food for those in need. Help us to share the harvests of the world more fairly, so everyone can be fed and there will be no more starvation. Lord of the harvest: hear our prayer.

At this harvest time we thank you for the world we see around us; For the flowers, the trees and the animals. Bless all those who care for them, Lord. Help us to protect your creation by being careful about how we use your resources, so that there will be clean water, clean air and plenty of wild birds, mammals and insects to maintain the ecological balance of our countryside. Lord of the harvest: hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all that is good in your creation and all who bring in the Harvest of the sea and the land. We are conscious of so much that we get wrong. So we give thanks too, for your grace and patience with us, when we fail to look after your world as we should. Help us to change so that we too become a new creation walking in the light of your Gospel. Lord of the harvest: hear our prayer.

Source of all life, and giver of all that is good, hear our prayers and grant us all that is in accordance with your will; Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.

[Harvest intercessions by Church of England](#)



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

Monday 28th 7.00pm

Zoom Deacons Meeting

Thursday 1st 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer meeting 7.00pm

Contact Diana for a link

"Seeds you plant today determine the harvest"

you reap tomorrow."
— Matshona Dhliwayo

Testimony Tuesday Testimonies Needed

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 and could be watched on <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/testimonytuesday/ttstewart.mp4>

We need some contributions. If you would like to do a testimony contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Harvest Appeal

Sunday's online service will be supporting the BMS appeal which this year is called Operation Chad looking at the hospital the Shrubsoles 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.

Empanda Contributions

Over the last few harvests SBC has given Empanda Housing in Stalham, which temporarily houses 10 young homeless people, donations of food following our harvest service. If anyone would like to give a donation of food eg. cakes, biscuits, sweets, fruit or other, please bring them to Jan and Henry Three Windows at the latest by 1st Oct, thank you

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 Romans 8: 18 – 39 "We will have glory in the future." Is there any inspiration in this reading for our current situation? If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Community Fridge

The community fridge project is taking shape. Jane Skivington will be meeting with Katie from North Norfolk District Council and the volunteers early next month to progress the scheme.

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.

EBA Annual Review

Click on the link to hear a great [testimony](#) of God at work:

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](mailto:barbarageoff@gmail.com), pop it in the box in the church or

leave a message on my ansaphone 01692672120 (excuse the singing!)

Harvest Community Scene

The magazine contains articles from Ron, Diana and as far away as South Africa. Because of the pandemic we have not produced a printed Community Scene. So we have produced an on line edition that has been well received. Go to <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/communityscene.php>

Guinebor 11 Hospital Chad

In Sunday's online service is a video showing the work at the Guinebor 11 Hospital in Chad where Bethan and Gareth Shrubsole are working. If you would like to contact the Shrubsoles you can send pictures or letters to Geoff Reynolds or email them at bshrubsole@bmsworldmission.org you can also read an article in the [Community Scene](#) about their lives in Chad.

Quotes of the Week

"While there may be many things in life you wish to harvest not every seed you plant will grow." — *Rasheed Ogunlaru*

"Don't be discouraged if people don't see your vision, your harvest. All they see from their perspective is that you're watering a whole lot of dirt. They don't SEE what seeds you've been planting with blood, sweat, tears and lack of sleep. Make sure you don't abandon or neglect it because "they" don't see it. You have to KNOW and believe for yourself. They don't see the roots and what's budding under the dirt. But it's okay, because it's NOT meant for them to see it. While you wait, MASTER it. You continue to do YOUR work and have unwavering faith! Remember why you started planting in the first place. Your harvest WILL come!" — *Yvonne Pierre, The Day My Soul Cried: A Memoir*

"If you are too lazy to plough, then you should never expect a harvest." — *Proverb 20:4*

"Harvest is real, but be wise to sow what you will love to reap in the new year, because your day of harvest is fast approaching." — *Bamigboye Olurotimi*

Remember this: The one who plants few seeds will have a small harvest. But the one who plants a lot will have a big harvest. ⁷ Each one of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You should not give if it makes you unhappy or if you feel forced to give. God loves those who are happy to give. *2 Corinthians 9: 6-7*

Did You Know?

"We Plough The Fields and Scatter," a song that is traditionally sung at harvest time, is amongst the most performed hymns in the United Kingdom with a shortened version appearing in the 1971 musical '[Godspell](#)'. The author is the German poet, Matthias Claudius (1740 -1815), the son of a Lutheran Pastor. Aged 19 Claudius started studying Theology but soon changed to law and languages at the same time rejecting Christianity. In 1777, feeling discontented with the general emptiness of his life, and having suffered a severe illness, he returned to the faith of his younger years and thereon also wrote many poems with a distinctive Christian flavour. He renounced position and income to return to a former position as the editor of the literary portion of the *Wandsbecker Bote*, which position he conducted in a distinctively Christian spirit.

Taken from Diana Gordons Article in Community Scene. If you would like to read all of the article click [here](#).

The Rule of Six

In light of the Government's new Rule of Six, here's a look at some other famous Rules of Six, and how they might provide some encouragement to us today. Taken from the [Baptist Times](#) by Darren Blaney.

Just when you thought it was safe to go out again....

A new day, a new regulation. Many people feel frustrated and confused again, struggling to understand how this new rule will affect their family and social life, while churches must once again reassess their plans for emerging from lock-down.

However, before we despair at Boris' 'Rule of Six', we should remember that there have been other 'Rules of Six' before this one which have had a very positive effect on those that have used them. Perhaps this is a good time to review them and see what they can teach us?

Achieving More Every Day - Ivy Lee and the Building of A Steel Empire.

Ivy Lee was born in America in 1877, the son of a Methodist minister. He is considered the father of modern public relations but started out as a young management consultant. Keen to further his career, he one day obtained an appointment with Charles Schwab, the founder of Bethlehem Steel. Schwab explained that he was a very busy man and most of his managers were struggling to get more done as well. If Lee had any advice on this problem, Schwab would be happy to listen, otherwise he had a company to run!

Lee asked Schwab to take a piece of paper and write down on it all the things he had to do that day. Then Lee instructed him to identify the six most important items on that list. This took Schwab just a few minutes.

"Now", said Lee, "organise those in priority order from

the most important to the sixth most important."

This took Schwab another minute or two. "When you come to work tomorrow," advised Lee, "start with number one on that list. Don't let anything stop you or distract you, and keep working on it until you have completed it or until you can take it no further. Then move on to number two, and so on. Don't worry if you don't get through all six items. If you could not do them using this method, you would not be able to do them any other way either. At the end of the day, make a new list of six for the following day."

Lee invited Schwab to try this 'Rule of Six' for 30 days and to teach his managers to use it too. At the end of the 30 days, he could pay Lee whatever he thought the idea was worth.

A month later, Lee received a cheque from Schwab for \$25,000 (approximately \$400,000 in today's money!) Schwab said it was the most profitable advice he had ever received, and credited the method with helping Bethlehem Steel grow from being a small company to one of the largest Steel producers in the US.

So if you're struggling to get everything done, and who isn't, perhaps Ivy Lee's Rule of Six is worth a try?

Pursuing Your Dream - The Rule of Six and the Most Successful Book Series in History

A slightly different version of the Rule is taught by management consultant Bob Proctor. He advises people to think about their long-term vision or goal. This could be in business, or a family dream, or a personal goal. Whatever it is, write it down clearly, advises Proctor. He then recommends that on each and every day you write down a list of six things that you can do on that day to move you towards your goal.

These don't need to be large tasks. In many ways, the smaller they are, the better, as one is more likely to get them done. It could be writing an email, making a phone call, or setting aside 10 minutes to work on a small task. As long as each task moves you towards the goal, it counts. Over the course of a year this adds up to nearly 2,200 actions, or 2,200 steps closer to one's dream.

Jack Canfield and Mark Victor-Hansen used a very similar approach to completing and publishing their best-selling book *Chicken Soup for the Soul*. There's was a Rule of Five, with the pair of them doing five things each day that moved them towards completing their book, finding a publisher, and then marketing it. The result of their 5-a-day efforts? *The Chicken Soul for the Soul* book has sold more than 65 million copies, and the whole series has sold more than half a billion books, making it one of the



most successful book series in history.

So if you are forever putting off a long-term goal or vision, perhaps this Rule of Six (or Five) is worth a try to get you going in the right direction?

The Rule and Building a Long-Term Ministry

This system seems to work not only for goals but for broader, long-term ventures, such as building a career. Dr John Maxwell practises a Rule of Five for developing his ministry. He knew that he wanted to pursue a calling of speaking, training and writing. He reasoned that to do this effectively he needed to do five things every day: read, file relevant material, ask questions, think and write. So that is what he has done, every day, for years. The result (apart from all the books and online courses he has produced) is that he is considered one of America's foremost authorities on leadership, both within the Christian church and in the secular realm too.

The Baptist Union has just reminded us in its leaflet on [Continuing Ministerial Development](#) that "Ministry is a long game." What is your vision for your long-term ministry? What five or six practices or habits, repeated regularly, would get you there? Why not develop your own Rule of Six?

A Guide for Prayer and Faith

One final application of a Rule of Six comes from my friend and Baptist church planter, Steve Hill. Many years ago, he and a few colleagues came up with a 1-3-6 Plan, based on 1 Cor 3v6. "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." Here is how it worked.

God alone gives the increase, but we have a role to play in planting and watering. So each Christian picks 6 non-Christian friends or family members, and commits to praying for them for a year. (This can be praying for all six every day, or more likely, a different person on each day of the week, with a day left spare for catching-up if a day is missed.) As part of the praying, one asks God for an opportunity to witness to each of the six friends during the coming year and also the opportunity to invite each of them to a service or outreach event. The idea is then to trust God that at least three of them will attend, and at least one of them will come to faith. Hence 1-3-6. If each and every Christian did this, the church would see significant growth (Another take on '1...3...6')

At a time when many leaders are wondering how to do evangelism in our zoom-focused, covid-19 limited world, perhaps we should take advantage of the opportunity provided by fewer meetings, and instead use the time to focus on preparing and training Christians for witness. If everyone of our members in everyone of our churches started doing this Rule of Six during this period, what might the results be over the next 18 months?

What's Coming Next?

Boris Johnson's new Rule of Six feels like the last straw for some folk. People are speaking of Christmas being cancelled, and others are starting to fear that 2021 might bring more of the same. People in my own church are talking about not being able to cope with much more and being desperate for things to go back to normal.

But what if that is still a long way off? Or what if the old normal is never coming back at all? Perhaps one of these alternative Rules of

Six might offer a little hope and comfort? For all of them have one thing in common - they put us back in charge of our own actions. They remind us that whatever constraints there are on the outside, as humans made in the image of God we can always exercise choice on the inside... and make it a choice that moves us forward.

Prayer From Social Justice

Let us pray for the poor, hungry, and neglected all over the world, that their cries for daily bread may inspire works of compassion and mercy among those to whom much has been given.

Let us pray for the farmers with limited or marginal land throughout the world, for those who lack access to water and other resources, and for the light of research and support services to shine in the lives of all God's people.

Let us pray for the health of women, children, and families around the world, especially for an end to maternal and child mortality, that in building healthy families, all God's people may be empowered to strengthen their communities and repair the breaches which divide nations and peoples.

Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation, for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people, and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

Let us pray for all nations and people who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity, that their hearts may be lifted up to the needs of the poor and afflicted, and partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world may flourish and grow. Lord, hear our prayer.

<https://socialjusticeresourcecenter.org/prayers/poverty/>

