

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 11th October SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"Blessed are those that Mourn"

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

Barbara is leading and Ron preaching, from Matthew 5: 4
"Blessed are those that Mourn"

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 13:5, Ps 139: 23-24, Lk 15:11f, Jn 14:1f, Ro 8:37f 7:15f

For Your Prayers

Please pray for those members of the fellowship and in the wider community who are still waiting for urgent hospital treatment delayed by the pandemic. Many are in pain or debilitated and are suffering depression as they wait with no clear idea when their health needs can be dealt with.

Also pray for those suffering anxiety about their jobs and future prospects as the number of redundancies grow. The unemployment rate in July was 4.1% and is thought to be currently growing and job vacancies are declining.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Barbara Webb**.

A Thank You

Alan Diggins would like to thank everyone for their prayers during his recent hospitalisation. Please continue to pray for the family.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday 6th posted Jerry posted " Please pray for Pam's grand daughter Zoe and her boy friend Desi who contracted Corona Virus while on holiday in Cyprus. She is a third year student at Oxford Uni and is currently self-isolating."

Prayers in a time of Coronavirus

Working for your kingdom

Lord Jesus, give us the grace to hear your voice,
And the strength to continue working for your kingdom in this time of pandemic.
Do not allow us to be indifferent to those who today suffer the loss of a loved one, or who suffer from the absence of work.
But give us the courage to accompany and side with those who suffer violence or injustice. Amen.

Prayer: Javier Eduardo Martinez Rueda from Colombia. Javier is team director at Programa de Desarrollo y Paz, an organisation working on peacebuilding as part of our Hands On Magdalena Medio project.

God's healing hand

To our brothers and sisters who have contracted and are suffering due to the Coronavirus Disease, we pray that God's healing hand may rest upon you.
To medical doctors, nurses and the supporting staff who are in the frontline of the fight against COVID-19, may the Good Lord sustain you and inspire you to render your life-saving services with due care, love and compassion. To all those who have lost their loved ones due to the Coronavirus outbreak, we convey our deepest sympathies. We pray that their souls, through God's mercy, may rest in eternal peace. We pray that God may grant all bereaved families his consolation and strengthen their faith and hope in Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord. Amen.

Prayer adapted from the 2020 Easter Message of the Catholic Bishops of Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe

At This Time

Dear Lord, At this time of pandemic, Let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are weak or poor.

Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours.

Let us take advantage of living together as a family.

Let us attend to moments of prayer.

Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope. Amen.

Prayer adapted from a radio message from Rodolfo Valenzuela Núñez, Bishop of La Verapaz, Guatemala.

Taken from Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.



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 12th 7.00pm

Zoom Deacons Meeting

Thursday 15th 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link

Lighthouse Church Durban SA

PRAYER

- our supernatural lifeline

Watch Alan Wagner's talk [Here](#)



Christmas Community Scene

We are planning to produce and deliver a Christmas Community Scene in Stalham amounting to around 1600 copies. In the past we have relied on members of the fellowship to deliver the magazines. The online Harvest edition was a success but there are many people in the community and fellowship that do not have access to the internet.

The printed magazine has helped SBC to reach out to the community since Easter 2017 and has highlighted the activities and support SBC organises in Stalham area. In the current situation the printed version will keep many in the district informed of our plans for the coming year and what assistance we can offer. If you could help just delivering a small number of the magazine around where you live, please contact Ron or David Child.

News from Cromer Food Bank

During October, the following items would be particularly welcome:

Deodorant – male and female, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Toothbrushes – adult and child, Shaving foam and razors, Washing Powder/Liquid, Household Cleaning Products, Toilet Rolls, Bin liners.

We cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.

Financial donations are always welcome. Please see our website for details.

You can contact us by telephone Monday to Friday 9.30am until 3pm.

The office is open Monday to Friday 9.30am until 12noon.

info@cromerdistrict.foodbank.org.uk www.cromerdistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Thank you from Jan Nicholson

Thank you to all the folk who contributed gifts to the residents of Empanda Housing, they were gratefully received.

Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal

9th – 16th November 2020. Why not prepare a standard size shoe box to pack for a boy or girl and fill with fun toys, hygiene items school supplies? For more details and information leaflets are now available at the back of the church

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out is eternal. Be part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift. Operation Christmas Child is part of the mission of Samaritan's Purse established in 1970, which is an international development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Gospel. So let's not pass by on the other side. Leaflets, which detail items to be put in the boxes, are at the back of the Church. For more information: Contact Magda Nicholls on 01692 580002 Go to [A group of children in a rural setting, many holding up shoeboxes filled with gifts, participating in Operation Christmas Child. The children are smiling and appear to be in a field or outdoor area. A banner in the background reads "OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD".](http://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

christmas-child/ for more information.

Details of the collection of boxes at St Marys as of yet to be finalised.

Testimony Tuesday

Watch Jane Skivington's YouTube testimony by to be found on the public area of SBC forum by clicking [here](#).

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at Matthew 25: 31-41

What was Jesus telling us about being on the left or the right and what did He mean regarding the consequences of where you stood? If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Quote of the Week

"Our age reminds one of the dissolution of the Greek city-state: Everything goes on as usual and yet there is no longer anyone who believes in it. The invisible spiritual bond which gives it validity, no longer exists, and so the whole age is at once comic and tragic--tragic because it is perishing, comic because it goes on."

— Søren Kierkegaard

"It is ultimately the ebony of our pain, our blackest monuments, which lead us to seek an enlightened way of living. We are unable to hear the voice leading to our own salvation until we fall into the depths of an abyss manufactured by living a heedless life. From this state of floundering in the gloomy lagoon, we can awaken to find the light bearing the seeds of truth that will redeem us. Looking inward, we overcome stubborn resistance, and we revivify long lost and forgotten powers. The experience of soul-searching perspicacity transfigures us. We might even feel as if we died a spiritual death and then we were reborn. From our dark pit, a shaft of light emerges."

— Kilroy J. Oldster

"Shedding an independent, individualistic sense of self, is an apt place to start when remaking oneself. The task of divesting my egoistic coat-of-arms requires that I first understand how I came into being, ascertain how a person forges a baseline personality, and discover how I can modify my template for self-construal. I need to surrender an arrogant sense of self-importance, acknowledge towering ignorance, and learn how to live humbly. I hope to parlay personal humiliation and self-hatred into a transformative act by invoking a spiritual death of my egotistical being that results in a resurrection of a more astute and kinder human being."

— Kilroy J. Oldster

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine,

but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty - it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."

— Mother Teresa

"Inside of me there are two dogs. One is mean and evil and the other is good and they fight each other all the time. When asked which one wins I answer, the one I feed the most." Chief **Sitting Bull**

Becoming anti-racist

Hayley Young and Rich Blake-Lobb introduce the Anti-Racism Reflective Action group, formed to help Baptists set aside time to reflect with God and others about racial basis and how that is reflected in our ministry and mission

In the immediate aftermath of George Floyd's murder in June, many of us reflected on how we could really be part of a change of culture to really embody Black Lives Matter.

Justice Enabler Wale Hudson-Roberts [wrote](#): 'As Baptists Together our tradition should fly in the face of superficial platitudes about racial justice, often from the comfort of our homes, churches and Baptist Associations. Rather, it should commit white Baptists to participate in sacrificial protest with your black and brown sisters and brothers around the world.

God is not a neutral observer in matters of justice, racial or otherwise. God sides against injustice, with countless numbers of people of colour in this country and, everywhere, where people cry out in pain: "I can't breathe ..."'

These are powerful words and laid down a call and change to white ministers, pastors and members of Baptist churches that we move beyond the hashtag, or temporarily turning profile pictures black, and be committed to sacrificial protests.

Many of us (white ministers) felt ill-equipped as to our shame we hadn't done the work of becoming anti-racist. Many of us leading churches, felt that we weren't negative or racist, but we had not set aside time to reflect with God and others about our own racial basis and how that is reflected in our ministry and mission.

So, a group of ministers, regional ministers and college staff came together via Zoom to create the 'anti-racist

reflective action group'; we started by reading together *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla F Saad.

This book was incredibly challenging as daily we were confronted with our unconscious biases and caused to think about our background, culture and how that impacts our thought-process.

The book challenged and convicted us, as white people. At times we felt uncomfortable, but acknowledged our discomfort is as nothing compared to the daily racism experienced by our black brothers and sisters. It was a process that we needed to start, and should not end with the reading of a book, but in our own changed behaviours, ongoing listening and actions.

We continue to meet weekly over Zoom to reflect, lament, and give space for us to be challenged.

The book spoke to us about our thinking and I think all of us who took part can say that we have been changed but the challenge the book presented to us.



We acknowledge that this is an ongoing process of us becoming anti-racist and now out of that reflection we are continuing to journey together as a group of Baptists on Zoom, to work through 'We Need to Talk about Race' by Ben Lindsay. As we move our reflection to how we can lead and

be in churches and communities and module being anti-racist.

We acknowledge as a group of white ministers and college staff that our work has only just begun. We recognise that despite previous appeals, reports and recommendations for change (such as the [Journey Report \(2011\)](#), BUGB: Faith and Society) we have failed to heed these calls or action the proposals and therefore failed in our commission to love our neighbours.

As we continue to challenge, change and motivate our places of influence we acknowledge that saying sorry is not enough, we must move beyond the platitudes and into positive action.

Hayley is the Regional Minister (Mission Enabler) for the South Wales Baptist Association and Rich is Minister at Yiewsley Baptist Church, London.

The Anti-Racism Reflective Action Group can be accessed on Facebook [here](#)

Baptist Times, 05/10/2020

Online Assembly 2020

The online Assembly for the Baptist Union of Great Britain took place on 16 September 2020 and was led by General Secretary Lynn Green.

The following is taken from the report in the Baptist Times. You can watch the whole event by clicking [here](#).

'Catching the wind of the Holy Spirit'

Lynn explained that towards the end of 2019 she sense that God was saying '**we need to set our sails to catch the wind of the Spirit.**' It's not about getting where 'we want to go'; more a sense from the Lord that we need to hoist our sails to be ready and open and actively waiting for God's leading and empowering – and then trusting Him that He will take us wherever He wants us to go... that sense of allowing God to take us, being open to God.

Lynn said this image has become more and more significant as 2020 has unfolded. 'We've found ourselves in a season of indefinite uncertainty. We don't know where it's going. We're having to trust that God's spirit will lead and guide us.'

However, even though we're in a time of uncertainty, it doesn't mean God is not at work – it does mean that 'we need to stop, look and listen for Him, and to continue in responsive discipleship.'

Listening to God, listening to each other - new Baptist films

In autumn 2020, in a joint project with the Faith and Society Specialist Team, Baptists Together Mission Forum and The Fuelcast, we are offering [a series of films](#) where people from all corners of the Baptist family share how they have heard God speaking during 2020.

Technology didn't allow for the trailer for the films to be shown on the night, but it has now been integrated into the final cut of the full Assembly online replay, and can be found below. The films are released each Tuesday - find out more at baptist.org.uk/listening

Our five current priority areas

One of the ways we want to encourage and catalyse big dreams for Baptists Together is by identifying what's important now, explained Lynn. We can inspire one another and 'release the energy of our movement in a focused way'. [Baptist Union Council discerned five priority areas](#), and Lynn highlighted each in turn.

We want really inspire and encourage each other to really embody our value of **embracing adventure in mission and discipleship**.

'I really believe that God is doing a new thing – and we want to be doing new things. And this has become even more important during the pandemic – working out what mission and discipleship is this season needs new and creative thinking.'

Key to this is **developing leadership**, our second priority area. 'We need to see our need to see our existing leaders deeply rooted in God and flourishing, and we need to be raising up new leaders too.'

The third area is **children, young people and families**. 'We value their presence in our movement and churches, and we want children and young people to

encounter the presence of Jesus. This is something we really want to work on and focus on together.

Alongside this we are grateful for our **young adults**, another focus area. We want to encourage and release them to follow God's call on their lives. We also want to be shaped by the faith of young adults, and allow them to lead us into new things.

The final priority area is the **digital revolution**. 'If we had any doubts about the importance of digital mission at the beginning of 2020, we certainly don't now. Connecting, engaging, harnessing the potential of digital is key. We also want to reflect biblically and theologically on the impact of digital and virtual reality, and think about what it means to be human.'

In practice, our pioneer ambassadors and young adults have established round tables, to give focus and energy. Lynn encouraged anyone with a passion to connect with the Round Tables.

[She highlighted #missionaladventure](#), a new online portal that's enabling us to share mission stories, ideas and resources – it's 'a real peer collaboration space,' said Lynn. In the area of digital mission a scoping group has just met to work out what's already happening, and how we can develop that further.

One thing that God has been showing us in 2020 is his heart for justice, said Lynn. 'We're continuing to prayerfully reflect and act, to raise awareness of justice, and to raise awareness of experiences of injustice, hearing the pain of others. Justice is an issue we want to be focusing on in every aspect of our lives.'

One project coming to fruition is the review of the settlement process for ministers. 'We are praying that this and other developments in leadership areas will enable more people to respond to the call to ministry.'

Concluding this section, Lynn said 'We have so much to be thankful for. Our God is a faithful God. We have so much to celebrate. Our God is at work in us and through us. And we still have much to do. God is leading us into his new thing.'

We don't know where we're headed, what life will look like in a month's time let alone a year's time, but we'll trust as we set our sails to catch the wind of God's spirit that He will take us where He wants to go. And that's where we want to be – with him.

Baptist Assembly Online 2020 concluded with prayers led by President Yinka Oyekan.

