

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 25th October SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness"

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

Jerry is leading and is preaching, from Matthew 5: 6

"Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness"

You can follow the service on the SBC website on Sunday

www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured left.



Sermon Structure

1. Hunger and Thirst
2. Righteousness
3. Satisfaction

Jerry's Reads

Ps 42:1-11; 63:1-11, John 6:26-27; 14:13-14
Matt 5:10,20;6:1,33, Rom 3:20-31; 9:30-10:4 1 Cor
1:30, 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 3:8-11, Isai 32:17;
Isaiah 55:1-3, Jer 2:11-13, Ps 107:9

On Hunger and Thirst:

On Righteousness:

On Satisfaction:

For Your Prayers

Please pray for David Osborne who has an operation on Wednesday.
Pray for those who have little or no disposable income so when their jobs cease they are living a hand to mouth existence on a reduced income.
Pray that people will still keep donating to the food bank which is a lifeline for many in financial difficulties.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Shirley Westgate.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 16th Victoria posted Please pray for Paul, Miriam, Martha, Susannah, Timothy and Phoebe. See the below, taken from Paul's Facebook.

"Today's the day. Round 4, supposedly, hopefully, the last chemotherapy, starts here. But, as anyone who has ever played a video game knows, the final boss is always the hardest.

While the last round lacked the excitement of a late-night A & E excursion it made up for it in drawn out side effects and horrible moods for those around me to cope with. I am, frankly, terrified of what the next few weeks hold. I don't write this to elicit sympathy or for dramatic effect, but I guess amongst the brave face and the 80's hair-metal gifs I'm saying this is hard - hard on me, certainly, but even more so on those around me watching and feeling everything just as keenly, but left feeling powerless and exhausted after almost 6 months of battling on my behalf. And then - well, it's not over. Staying 'shielded' for a minimum 4 weeks, and regular appointments for 5 years to monitor my progress, mean the shadow cancer will look over all of us for a while yet, as it does for so many. So if you are the praying type, please do hold Miriam and the kids tightly in your prayers. They, along with Jesus, have been my strength and my inspiration throughout all this. Then do the same for those who you love, and who love you. Thanks x"

Also on Friday Jane asked "Please pray for Alan Diggins who now has a chest infection too. Thank you."

Wisdom Prayer for Governments

Heavenly Father, your word tells us in James 1:5 that if anyone asks for wisdom, you will give it. Lord gift our government wisdom to make good choices and decisions. Guide their thinking and sharpen their minds.

Help them to choose wisely between the options that are set before them. Protect them from clouded judgment of self-interest and bless them with a sound mind. Protect them from being double minded or unstable during their decision-making process.

Let all that they do to bring honour to you. In Jesus name, amen.

James 1:5

Do any of you need wisdom? Ask God for it. He is generous and enjoys giving to everyone. So he will give you wisdom.



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 26th 7.00pm

Zoom Deacons Meeting

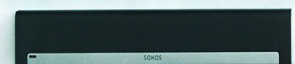
Thursday 29th 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link

"The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It is not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven, but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the X-rated video, but the prime-time dribble of triviality we drink in every night."

— *John Piper, A Hunger for God*



Reopening the Church

Guidelines re- opening the church from 1st November:

As numbers will by necessity be restricted we would ask anyone who would like to attend a morning service please to contact Diana by E mail

[secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk] by text /phone/what's App on 07951949128 by the Friday prior to the Sunday, to allow time for the seats to be re arranged depending on who is coming, and so we can maintain the 2 metres rule. Please do not come if you are in any way feeling unwell. Remember to keep your distance at the door on entry, we will use our usual entrance, the door to the car park is for exit only either at the end or to access the toilet.

For the meantime we will only use the disabled toilet. Sanitise your hands on entry and masks will need to be worn except by those leading the service from the platform. Masks will be available in the church and a donation asked for the food bank.

When practical the church will be ventilated.

Remember the form of service will be different as we can't sing, although we will have live music, the bibles and hymn books have been removed so bring your own. Also we will not initially be running children's groups and we have had to remove the table from the front so again please bring any toys, books, drawing equipment you may want for your family.

The service time will be shortened and will not include the weekly sermon but we hope to vary what we do.

For those wishing to give, plates will be on a table at the door and on the platform as people leave.

We also won't be having tea and coffee after the services.

Again we appreciate that while some are keen to be able to attend church to worship together and to have some "fellowship contact" many will not wish to or for health reasons believe it not advisable to come so for the foreseeable future we will continue to provide the regular service in its current formats.

Pastors and Deacons

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at 1 Peter 2: 13 - 25

How does this fit with the so called democratic times we live in? If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Shoe Box Appeal Update

Any shoe boxes can be left by the font at St Mary's church Stalham from Friday 6th November.

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.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 25th October Fulmerston Christian Fellowship

Fulmerston Church is rooted in the centre of a deprived estate in Thetford, Norfolk, with an outward-focused ministry supporting the local community. It was planted while the estate was being built as one of three London overspill sites around Thetford and has since gone on to support a number of groups, notably older residents and families, with a community minister in place for a number of years.

Despite the inevitable upheaval caused by Covid-19, the church remains positive in its outlook, and is grateful for the chance to connect with the community in a number of

different ways. These include weekly magazines for the regular congregation and fortnightly versions delivered to almost 40 older residents connected to the church. Activity packs have also been compiled and shared with local families, before they were able to restart the small youth group run in partnership with Youth For Christ. A Portuguese church also began meeting in one of the church rooms on Saturdays, which has offered an encouraging new way of engaging with the community. These small but effective initiatives have enabled the church to remain connected, helped (of course) by Zoom meetings and small groups gathering in the church garden or car park until the church was able to recently resume its Sunday services.

Fulmerston are grateful for the EBA's prayers and ask us to especially pray for:

- ◆ Thanking God for Mum and two children and the middle aged woman who have been coming to church for the first time since lockdown – both people with whom we have been working for some years.
- ◆ The three members of our fellowship who are struggling with life's challenges and for whom this period of social isolation has not been good news.
- ◆ We have some exciting ideas for Christmas and will need wisdom as we proceed creatively and safely.
- ◆ And again we need wisdom and creativity as we seek to find ways of keeping in touch and supporting those that we know and love in our mission work in the local community.

A Big Thank You

A big thank you for all those who have volunteered to deliver the Christmas edition of Community Scene.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak.

We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."
C. S Lewis, "The Weight of Glory"

"Thou madest us for Thyself,
and our heart is restless,
until it rest in Thee."- St. Augustine of Hippo

"receiving Christ in a saving way means preferring Christ over all other persons and things. It means desiring him — not only what he can do. But what he is. It means being satisfied with all that God is for us in Jesus.

We don't receive Jesus in a saving way when we receive him as a ticket out of hell or into heaven. He is not a ticket. He is a treasure — the greatest treasure. He is what makes heaven heaven. If we would be satisfied with a pain-free heaven without him there, we do not receive him — we use him."

- John Piper

" All the trouble in the world today is due to the fact that man is not right with God, for it is because he is not right with God, that he has gone wrong everywhere else. That is the teaching of the bible everywhere. So the desire for righteousness is a desire to be right with God, a desire to get rid of sin, because sin is that which comes between us and God, keeping us from a knowledge of God, and all that is possible to us and for us with God and from God."

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Celebration as Centre of Hope in Latakia, Syria, reopens

The Centre of Hope in Latakia, Syria, has been able to re-open and offer new classes and activities for a wide range of children. And it's run thanks to your support!

Like everywhere, Syria has taken measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus – and that meant that activities at many Centres of Hope had to temporarily close. Not least because Centres of Hope – run by Open Doors partners to serve their communities – had to refocus more of their efforts towards humanitarian and emergency aid.

Now, though, they are starting to re-open full operations, with the appropriate safety procedures and protections in place. We recently heard from a Centre of Hope in Latakia, a coastal city in the west of Syria, that has just re-opened with new and improved facilities.

Showing Jesus's love to Latakia

"We are very excited to share our new activities and additions in the centre with you," says the spokesperson in Latakia. "After the quarantine ended and educational institutes reopened, we immediately restarted our Centre of Hope. This first day after the lockdown ended, we bought masks and sanitisers for the children and we stressed that they should use the masks and sanitise their hands whenever they leave the classroom, in order to maintain safety.

"We were able to add three new classes to our programme. Now we are teaching there two days a week."

"From the moment we enter the school building, the children come running to meet us. It shows us how happy they are in the Centre of Hope," says Fadia Louka, a teacher in the centre. "I see a big change in their educational level. When we first came, they didn't know any English, or know how to multiply numbers and now everyone can multiply numbers off by heart."

Fadia has seen a change in the children's hearts, as well as their minds. "In the beginning, when someone gave the wrong answer to a question, the class would make fun of them. But, after lessons on love, they started apologising to each other instead of having a fight. With activities about love, forgiveness and being thankful we aim to plant seeds of goodness in the hearts of the next generation," Fadia shares.

The new classes are for children aged six to nine, and they have proved extremely popular with local parents – so

popular, in fact, that the centre has reached maximum capacity that can be safely taught. Registration was open to anybody in Latakia, regardless of faith background: the Centres of Hope want to show Jesus's love to the community, and they don't attach conditions to entry. But they do want to make sure that they show Jesus as the real source of hope.

Praising God

"The first thing we did was inviting everyone to our church, to celebrate that we were back," says the Open Doors partner. "We prayed and thanked God for the opportunity He gave us to continue our work with the children. Then we played various games with the children, and finally we distributed stationery to every one of them. We were so happy to see the smiles on their faces!"

But it's not just young children. The centre also attracts teenagers, and there are enough volunteers to do separate activities with them. "In the younger kids' group, we danced and sang songs about Jesus, we told a biblical story and made a funny sketch. For the teenager group, we showed a Christian movie and then discussed it."

Thank you!

None of this would be possible without the prayers and generous gifts of Open Doors supporters.

Many of you have stood with your persecuted brothers and sisters in Syria for many years, and Open Doors is now five years into a seven-year campaign Hope for the Middle East. And by showing that hope to children, Open Doors partners are helping to ensure the long-term survival and strength of the church in Syria.

"We are praying to reach an even a larger number of children. We want to show them the love of God and to tell them the good news of salvation. We could not have done it without you. Thank you for your continuous support that keeps us going."

International Day of Prayer

Unite in prayer for our persecuted family.

We are very excited to invite you to a unique online prayer event to mark this year's International Day of Prayer for the persecuted church.

In place of our monthly Prayer Without Borders webinar, we will be joining together with our friends at [CSW](#), [Release International](#) and [Evangelical Alliance](#) for an evening of prayer and worship. This jointly hosted webinar will feature the latest news, testimonies and prayer requests from China, India and Nigeria.

We believe that when God's people unite together in prayer, God's kingdom breaks through in new and powerful ways. So please join us on this special day of unity with the global church, as we stand together with the most persecuted and cry out to God.

"Truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven." Matthew 18:19

To be part of this event please register your place on [Eventbrite](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For more go to [Open Doors](#)

The Centre of Hope in Latakia



'Its my dream'

Are we following our dreams - or Jesus? By Michael Shaw

I was a student in the mid-90s. It was the era of Blur and Oasis, as well as the Stone Roses, Suede and Pulp. One of Pulp's best known songs [Common People](#) told the story of a young woman from a wealthy background who wanted to be ordinary. The point of the song was that, even if she lives that life, at any point she could call her Dad and he would rescue her.

I was in a conversation with a young woman, who works for a national justice organisation. I spoke about my situation in Devonport, about the high levels of deprivation I see around me. In response, she said, 'It is my dream to live on an estate.'

As I was reflecting on the conversation, while I admired her passion and enthusiasm, those words struck me. You see the thing is it is not my dream to live where I do, far from it; my wife and I often dream of a different life, I have an alert set up with one of the online estate agents of houses that we could never afford but can dream about living in. I live where I live not because it is my dream, but because this is where God has called me, and until he calls me elsewhere, then this is where I will stay.

But then I thought more, it is not the dream of my neighbours either, or some members of our church community. This area is maybe one of the few areas they can afford to live in, such as the low house prices and rent. This is not the dream location for many.

However, even they have some choice, but others have been moved here because there is a high level of social housing. They were not given a choice to live here, they just had to move here. They would probably love to have greater choice about where they live.

For others, Devonport has been the only place they have ever known, they may never have lived anywhere else, and that stretches back several generations. They have any aspirations drummed out of them, and have been constantly told (both consciously and unconsciously) that they are not worth anything more and their dreams will never be fulfilled.

Then there are the men and women who live in the homeless hostel nearby or the various bedsits that surround it. When they were growing up it was not their dream to live in this temporary way, but a life event, abuse in childhood, loss of job, partner or home has left them seeking sanctuary in this place and the location is not accidental: not many other areas in the city would allow a homeless hostel in the heart of their community.

Our conversation moved onto programmes, and models for how you get people in the wider church into justice. To me though there is one simple model that I have followed: deep listening. I come to a community like Devonport not to be the solution, but to learn. To recognise that each day is a learning day, that my clever solutions are probably not that clever. The model of Jesus was incarnation, and incarnation is costly, it was costly to Jesus, but if we are to follow Jesus, the incarnation is the only model we have.

I doubt it was Jesus' dream to become human, live the life of a homeless itinerant preacher and die the death of a thief.

Like so many in my community it is not my dream to be here, but while the world tells us to follow our dreams, Scripture tells us we need to follow Jesus, and following Jesus is not always a comfortable life!



Image | Roman Denisenko | [Unsplash](#)

Michael Shaw is minister of Devonport Community Baptist Church

Taken From Baptist Times

