

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 1st November SBC News

This Week's Online Service

"The Merciful"

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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 Jerry is preaching, from Matthew 5: 7
"The Merciful"

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. What is Mercy?
2. Who are the Merciful?
3. What it is To Show Mercy?

Jerry's Reads

Exo 34:6, Lam 3:22-23, Micah 6:8 Matthew 18:21ff; 6:14, Luke 10:25-36, Eph 4:32,
Col 3:13, Tit 3:5, Heb 2:17, 1 Pet 2:10.

For Your Prayers

Please pray for those growing even more anxious as a possible total lockdown looms on the horizon. Also pray that people will not panic buy that leads to food wastage and those without storage capacity go without. Also remember those who are facing cuts in their incomes and those struggling to feed their families.

Please pray for SBC as we attempt to open up the church for services.

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

Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday 20th Pat Dabs posted on behalf of David Osborne "Dear Friends, First of all, thank you for all the many encouraging messages which I have received. I go into hospital at 7.00 am tomorrow morning and I do so with no feelings of anxiety buoyed by all the prayers that are being offered on my behalf. This morning in our quiet time together Teresa and I were guided to verse 4 of the 23rd Psalm, "Even though I walk through the dark valley of death, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me." Please pray for my consultant, Mr. Lutchman, that God may work through his hands to fully utilize the skills which have been gifted to him enabling surgery to be completely successful. Please pray also for Teresa who may find the waiting and wondering tomorrow a great strain.

Thank you all for your thoughts and especially your prayers. Our God is a great God. Every blessing, David.

House of Commons Prayer

"Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen."

Prayer for the end of the virus

SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus:

Almighty and merciful Father, whos your love to all your creation.

We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families. We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people.

Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.

[Prayers from Catholic Agency for Overseas Development CAFOD](#)



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

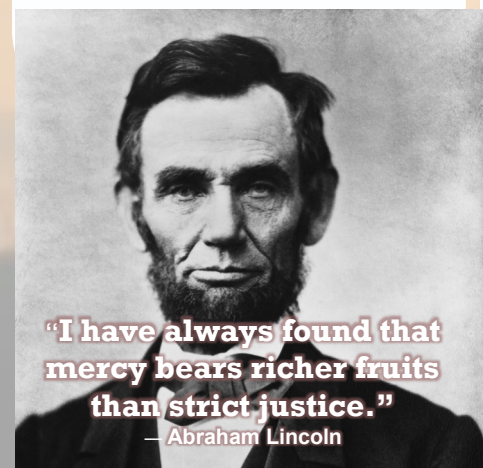
Monday 2nd 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 4th 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link



"I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice."

— Abraham Lincoln

Reopening the Church

The Church will be open this Sunday for the first time since March 15th (Beware the Ides of March) and the theme will be Psalm 126. The Message

It seemed like a dream, too good to be true,
when GOD returned Zion's exiles.

We laughed, we sang,
we couldn't believe our good fortune.

We were the talk of the nations—
"GOD was wonderful to them!"

GOD was wonderful to us;
we are one happy people.

And now, GOD, do it again—
bring rains to our drought-stricken lives
So those who planted their crops in despair
will shout hurrahs at the harvest,
So those who went off with heavy hearts
will come home laughing, with armloads of blessing.

Next week will be holding a Remembrance Sunday Service. As numbers will by necessity be restricted we would ask anyone who would like to attend a morning service please contact Diana by email [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.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at 2 Timothy 3

Paul seems to give Timothy an apparent dose of reality, is it the same for us? 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. All we be collected by 10th November.

Stalham Baptist Church Harvest Appeal BMS Appeal Operation Chad The Guinebor 11 hospital

The harvest service has always been important to me as a farm manager and I was always thankful when all the cereal crops were safely gathered into the barn.

The hymn "We Plough the Fields and Scatter the good seed on the land but it is fed and watered by Gods almighty hand."

That verse speaks volumes to me both in spiritual terms and in growing crops.

Farmers are totally reliant on the weather and God's provision even in the world of modern technology and as we go about our lives and share the love that God has for us it is God alone that can change hearts.

In Africa there are a lot of very poor people who barely earn enough money to feed themselves let alone pay for Medical care. A hospital like the Guinebor 11 is such a vital facility and on a personal level one which I am pleased to

be asked to support.

I noticed on the video that it costs £240,000 per annum to staff the hospital also that £695 would pay for the care of 52 patients, 4 life saving surgeries and the delivery of 5 babies.

We haven't quite made the £695 but considering that the harvest Service was very different this year and we missed out on the harvest supper and the following sale we have done very well.

We have raised £600.00. If there is anyone that would still like to make a donation to this very worthy cause. It is not too late, I can still pass it on.

Thank you very much everybody for your generous support.

Stewart Marsh

Leprosy Mission

Usually this time of year we have a coffee morning for the Leprosy Mission, but sadly this won't happen now.

If you would like to give to the Mission, please can you send any gifts/donations to Henry, Three Windows, Brumstead Road, during the

month of November, and he will send them on. Cheques can be made out to the Leprosy Mission.

Don't forget, Barbara Reynolds is happy to obtain gifts, calendars and cards through the Leprosy Mission brochure, saving you time and postage. and also making some profit for SBC as well as the Leprosy Mission itself.

Thank you from Barbara Mixer

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness [Mercy], so God sent us a Saviour."

Charles Sell, *Unfinished Business*.

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you".

- **C.S. Lewis**

"Justice is getting what you deserve.

Mercy is not getting what you deserve.

And grace is getting what you absolutely don't deserve.

..... benign goodwill. unprovoked compassion. the unearnable gift"

— **Cathleen Falsani**

"Mercy is getting down on your hands and knees and doing what you can to restore dignity to someone whose life has been broken by sin (whether his own or that of someone else)....[The Samaritan] did not deal with the cause of the man's need by chasing the robbers... [and] he did not complain about the failure of society to meet the man's need... The Samaritan addressed the immediate need set before him and did what he could to bring relief."

- **Sinclair Ferguson**

"God loves us just the way you are, he accepts us the way we are but He loves us too much to leave us the way we are. God's mercy is a free gift but costly to receive. One of the costs of receiving God's Mercy is that He calls us to be merciful to others"

- **Rev. Peter Adam**



Open Doors

Pastor and wife in Bangladesh beaten in attack that leaves home and church destroyed

Please could you pray for a pastor and his wife in Bangladesh after they were senselessly attacked by a gang of some 25 people, believed to be over a land dispute. Their house and church were also destroyed. They continue to be threatened with further reprisals.

The house of Pastor Badal and his wife that was demolished and burnt

Imagine your peaceful Sunday evening being brutally interrupted by a large gang of attackers. They're armed with axes and machetes, intent on beating you and destroying not just your home but your church.

That's exactly what happened to Pastor Badal Day and his wife in north-eastern Bangladesh – all because of a land dispute.

The gang ignored Badal's pleas

The gang of some 25 attackers arrived at the couple's home at around 8pm on Sunday 18 October. "We, Christians, are a minority here," Pastor Badal Day pleaded with them. "We are not against anybody. Please do not do this. Please have mercy on us." Despite this, both Pastor Badal (57) and his wife Josna Rani Day (50) were beaten up.

The pastor appealed to the attackers not to destroy his house and the church, but they wouldn't stop. "I begged them not to destroy the church," he explains. "I begged, holding their legs, saying, 'Please, do not attack the church. We worship here.' But they refused to listen to me."

Before leaving, the perpetrators issued a fresh warning. "You leave this place by tonight," they said. "If we see you here tomorrow, then you will be killed. Leave this place soon if you want to survive."

All because of a land dispute

Pastor Badal later discovered that the gang were acting on the orders of a powerful local political

leader. The politician had aggressively occupied a portion of the pastor's land a few years ago when he built a mill on his land. The pastor had tried to reclaim the portion back but failed; instead, he was threatened for taking legal action.

The pastor believes that they are trying to forcefully grab all his land. He has informed the local police. At first, they did not want to file the case, presumably because of the politician's power, but later they agreed to it.

Pastor Badal and his wife are currently living in a small tent, at the corner of their broken house. He continues to receive threatening, anonymous calls telling him to not proceed with the case, otherwise they will suffer greater repercussions.

Worsening persecution and Bijli's story

Bangladesh has risen 10 places in the World Watch List this year, reflecting worsening persecution in all spheres of life. Radical Islamic groups are growing in influence, further exposing minority groups such as Christians (who make up just 0.5% of the 168 million population) to persecution.

Converts to Christianity from other faiths – usually Islam – are especially vulnerable to family and community ostracism. This includes 10-year-old Bijli, whose name we have changed for security reasons. Sometimes she comes home crying because her 'friends' have attacked her. "Mother, they have beaten me," she says to her mother. "They don't allow us to join in with them."

Your generosity last year meant she and her family could enjoy celebrating Christmas with around 100 other Christian families from Muslim backgrounds – the first time many had experienced Christian fellowship.

[Discover more about Bijli and the Christmas celebration you made possible, and how you can help more persecuted Christian children to not feel alone this Christmas](#)

Learn more about the work of OpenDoors how you can help them by clicking [here](#).

“How is it acceptable for someone with a 21st Century disease to be labelled an outcast by the UK media?”



The [Leprosy Mission](#) has written to UK national newspaper editors and the BBC in a bid to stop them from using derogatory language to people affected by a 21st Century disease.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 we have witnessed a proliferation of the word 'leper' used in the media in connection with the virus.

Following the government imposing a lockdown on Leicester this week, the press is littered with the phrase 'Leicester leper', the unfortunate alliteration tragically bolstering a catchy headline and soundbite.

National Director, Peter Waddup, described the word 'leper' as outdated, derogatory and stigmatising to the millions of people today affected by leprosy globally.

He said: "It is associated with fear and being an outcast. It reduces a person to merely a disease and increases the stigma around leprosy, something we work tirelessly to counter.

"I do obviously realise the media's intention isn't to stigmatise people affected by leprosy. It is, this week, to describe the alienation a person feels because of coronavirus. However references to 'Leicester lepers' only serve to perpetuate the age-old prejudice millions endure today because of leprosy.

"How is it acceptable for someone with a 21st Century disease to be labelled as an outcast by the UK media?"

"There might be only a handful of people diagnosed and treated with leprosy in the UK each year that would know the

hurt this causes. But we are part of a global society where leprosy, although treatable, remains a huge problem.

"I have met too many people who have unnecessarily suffered terrible physical disabilities and the huge emotional hurt of being rejected by their friends, family and community. This is all because of leprosy and the prejudice surrounding the disease which the word 'leper' only goes to perpetuate."

The UN's principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy, published in 2010, states the use of the word 'leper' should be removed from government publications and for the media to portray people affected by leprosy with dignity. The same year the BBC's journalist style guide was amended to include that the word 'leper' should not be used in reporting. Yet the pejorative term ceases to be omitted from all BBC content.

Peter said: "Only by fighting against the use of this pejorative term globally can we begin to rid the world of leprosy. Stigma undoubtedly remains the greatest barrier preventing people from coming forward for treatment.

"We are calling on our loyal network of amazing supporters across the UK who have done so much to help people affected by leprosy across Asia and Africa to ask people not to use the 'L-word'.

"This may mean contacting a newspaper or gently having a quiet word with their church leader after the service should they use the term 'leper' when talking about a Bible story."

For more information about the Leprosy Mission click [here](#)



[Leprosy Mission](#)