

Stalham Baptist Church

Sunday 6th December SBC News

“The Promised King”

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

Maggie is leading and Jerry is starting a new sermon series: “**The King of Christmas**” (Matthew 1 & 2) This Sunday he is preaching from Matthew 1: 1 -17
“The Promised King.”

You can follow the service on the SBC website on Sunday
www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured left.



Jerry's Sermon Structure:

- 1) The Humanity of the King
- 2) The Promised King
- 3) The King of Grace

Jerry's Reads

Genesis 12:1-3, 22:17-18, 49:10, 2 Sam 7, 1 Chronicles 17:11-14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Matthew 21:1-17, Luke 3:23ff, Gal 3:15-16 & Rev 19:11-16.

For Your Prayers

Please pray for those who, as Christmas approaches, find that due to the collapse of many companies they are struggling to support themselves and their families. Pray also for those preparing the SBC Candlelight and Christmas services in these difficult times. Remember those of the fellowship and the community who are currently delivering the Christmas Edition of the Community Scene.

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **David Ash.**

Prayer Room

On Saturday 28th Victoria posted “Update on mum - she had her operation/biopsy yesterday which took five and a half hours. She is in a lot of pain. Please continue to pray for her. Thank you x.” On Thursday Victoria posted “Thank you for your prayers for my mum. She is now home from hospital. She is still in lots of pain but being looked after by me, my sister and brother. Please continue to pray for her. Her next appointment is on the 15th December x.”

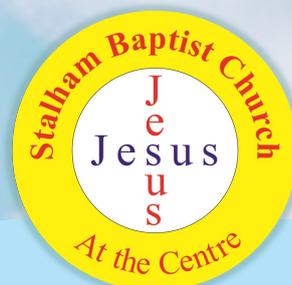
To join the ever-growing WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room and Devotion WhatsApp site text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone

Prayers in a time of Coronavirus by Nick Fawcett

Here's a new prayer I've written for the countless victims of coronavirus – in some sense, essentially all of us – and for the possibility that an end to the pandemic and its associated crisis may perhaps be in sight in the months ahead.

God of mercy,
hear our prayer for all those whose lives,
during this past year,
have been overturned by Covid-19;
those who have suffered and died,
those who still struggle with the after-
effects of the illness;
those who have lost loved ones as a
result;
those in our hospitals and health centres
exhausted by the demands made upon
them;
those in our nursing and residential
homes,
who have been so vulnerable,
yet who have felt so isolated;
those who have developed vaccines and
treatments,
or who continue to work upon them,
and those whose job it will be to
organise and roll out the vaccination
programme;
those in governments and positions in
leadership,

seeking to take right decisions for the
present and the future;
those whose livelihoods have been
undermined,
even destroyed,
by the economic impact of lockdowns
and the like;
those facing years of unemployment
and an uncertain future
as a result of the pandemic's impact.
Our country,
our society,
our world,
is broken –
hurting,
but hoping;
fearful of the future,
yet praying for a miracle.
Hear our prayer,
and, in your love,
pick us up
and put us together again.
Amen.



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 & PERSONAL PRAYER

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and personal prayer. 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 7th 7.00am

Zoom Deacons Prayer Meeting

Thursday 10th 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer Meeting
Contact Diana for a link



Christmas Services

Guidelines permitting, we are planning to hold services during December. The measures we have put in place to protect people create a Covid-safe SBC to the best of our ability. You will need to book a place for all our services as space is limited. We are able to have musicians and singers on the stage but currently the congregation will have to wear masks and not be able to sing.

To book a place please contact Diana Gordon on - 07951949128 you can also text or Whatsapp the same number or email secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Candlelight Services Sunday 13th and 20th December

All welcome for traditional Carols

Starting at 4.00pm.

These services will be relayed to the car park we can therefore offer a "drive in option"

When booking your place, you will need to tell Diana which option you are booking

Celebrate Christmas Day Morning at 10 am

This will be a short service to celebrate the Saviour's birth.

Sunday 3rd January. Celebrate the New Year with us - Family Service 10.45am

Please book with Diana Gordon for any of these services.

Please don't book a slot or attend if you have any Covid symptoms.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at James 2: 14-26

Do we always back our faith with works? If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Help Needed

Temporary rented accommodation needed for a homeless man. He will qualify for rental support from the council. If you can help please contact Diana -

secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Leprosy Mission

Eileen Neill says "Very soon £180 will be sent towards the work of the Mission. Thank you to all who gave."

Food young people's centre in Stalham

We hope to deliver a Christmas hamper to Empanda in Stalham which gives housing related support to young people.

If anyone wishes to donate gifts or home baked items please drop them round to Jan and Henry who will pass them on with greetings from the church, thank you.

A Big Thankyou

A big thank you to all those currently delivering the Christmas edition of Community Scene.

Weekly Prayer Focus:

6th December 2020

Godmanchester Baptist Church

Godmanchester in Cambridgeshire is located where the A14 trunk road crosses the River Great Ouse and is home to the busy and active Godmanchester Baptist Church. Lead Pastor Revd Daniel Beckett oversees a thriving church of almost 400 adults and 300 children and young people across various congregations and community activities. The church has a very high level of internet accessibility among the fellowship and has moved many activities online. The main worship area has been transformed into a recording studio for broadcasting Sunday services each week, including live music from the worship bands. Services are on Youtube at [youtube.com/godmanchesterbaptistchurch](https://www.youtube.com/godmanchesterbaptistchurch). It is hoped that next spring will allow outdoor gatherings for everyone to meet together in person.

In addition there is a more traditional monthly "Songs of Praise" service online which is viewed by over 100 older people.

Over the summer groups of six met up for tea parties in various gardens.

This autumn, instead of small groups, the whole church is undertaking the Alpha course as a boost to their faith and reminder of the Christian truths. Over 85 people are booked in to one of the three online sessions held each week.

In response to the Covid crisis the Baby and Toddler group have set up a toy library, the Foodbank and Money Advice service continue to be very busy, and the 'Love Food Hate Waste' project is able to make

donated food available to those in need.

There is a range of different online weekly youth activities but these present challenges of staying connected.

For Prayer

- 1.How the church makes sure it remains accessible and available to the community with the good news of Jesus
- 2.For the activities and meetings as they continue to reach different groups and many people within the fellowship.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"The mission of the church today is to submit ourselves to the Son of David who right now rules invisibly from heaven until he puts every enemy under his feet. And our mission is to announce the good news to people in every neighbourhood and every nation that they can be happy subjects of Christ's kingdom forever if they transfer their allegiance from the kingdom of this world to the kingdom of Christ....Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the eternal King of the world will come from heaven and establish a reign of joy and righteousness and peace over all his loyal subjects forever and ever. And until he comes, the worldwide mission of the church is to extend complete, free, universal amnesty to people from every nation." - **John Piper**

"Someone has counted three hundred and thirty-three prophecies in the Old Testament about the person, coming and ministry of the Messiah. These prophecies were in circulation long before the birth of Christ, and concern specific details about the place and nature of his birth, his home, his work and precise details of the death by crucifixion. It has been calculated that the chances of these prophecies being fulfilled in one person are one in eighty three billion. The very remarkable thing is that these prophecies are fulfilled in detail in the person of Jesus Christ. This is itself, a very powerful piece of evidence for the identity of Christ and the reality of Christian truth."

Charles Prince

"Why Must the Redeemer Be Truly Human?"

That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also, that he might sympathize with our weaknesses." - **New City Catechism**

"What we see in Jesus is true humanity. What we see in his incarnation, his earthly life and ministry, is what humanity was meant to be, what Adam was created to be but ruined in his sin and his fall. So, as Romans 5 teaches, the first man Adam sins, and through his sin death enters the world. But here comes a second Adam, a true Adam, Christ, who is truly man. What Christ does in his humanity is nothing short of remarkable. In his humanity, he offers to God everything that we owe God. In his humanity, in his perfect obedience to God's commands, he offers to God the obedience that we refuse to give him (and could not give him) because of our fallen, sinful nature." -

Thabiti Anyabwile

Diagnosing and treating leprosy

Towards our goal of **zero leprosy transmission**, we work with our partners to diagnose and treat the condition and its complications as early as possible.

Firstly, we **engage governments** to make finding and curing leprosy part of state healthcare provision. We advocate integrating leprosy treatment programmes into wider healthcare services to reach more people with the disease.

To diagnose leprosy early, **we work with other local partners, like churches and community leaders**, to be proactive in their local areas. By increasing awareness and challenging misconceptions, they can encourage people to seek the support they need.

And **we support healthcare professionals** to train and get experience in treating and curing leprosy. We help them recognise the symptoms of the disease and address complications, like clawed hands, dropped feet and damaged eyelids, with surgery.



The Leprosy Mission
England and Wales

We help hospital staff reach out into areas where people have less access to medical care and may therefore miss the chance to be diagnosed and treated. This can be through satellite clinics operating out of larger hospitals, outreach camps in more isolated rural areas, or door-to-door checkups.

Working with healthcare professionals increases the chance of people being diagnosed early and correctly. So they get the help they need before their bodies are permanently disabled.

We are a world leader in leprosy research, continually developing and trialling innovations to reduce leprosy transmission and improve early diagnosis. We support world-class leprosy research centres in Nepal, India and Bangladesh. The teams there partner with the best in their field to carry out cutting-edge research. Studies they are currently involved in include the development of an early diagnostic test, which could transform many lives.

Sugnathini's story Pictured Left

Sugnathini had been experiencing loss of sensation and lighter patches of skin on her hands and arms for some time when a leprosy screening programme took place in her village in Sri Lanka.

When she was diagnosed with the disease, her thoughts immediately turned to her five-year-old daughter and baby son. She was worried that she would be unable to care for them or that they might get leprosy too.

Our partners in Sri Lanka were able to reassure Sugnathini that by taking her course of multidrug therapy, she should have no further symptoms and would not pass the disease on to her children. She was also concerned about facing stigma from her friends and neighbours. But thanks to awareness-raising about leprosy locally to combat harmful myths about leprosy, she has faced no discrimination.

SBC regularly raises money for the Leprosy mission Eileen Neill is soon to send £180 to the mission.

For more information go to <https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/>



Annoying people - and prayer

What do you do about people who annoy you? A reflection by Colin Sedgwick

What do you do about people who annoy you? Ignore them? Avoid them? Gossip behind their backs? Treat them with a frosty politeness? (I take it that if you're a Christian – and very likely even if not – you would not stoop to do them actual harm.)

Just asking the question might cause us to smile, roll our eyes and heave a sigh. Well, that's all very well as long as that annoying person isn't actually present. But let's be honest, annoying people can be, well, *really* annoying in the flesh – they "get our goat", spoil our day – and then, grrr, we end up feeling guilty.

I knew somebody once who would routinely end a conversation with the words "See you then – I'll give you a tinkle". By which he meant "I'll ring you some time" (though he never did). Every time he said that – it was, ridiculously, the word tinkle that did it – I felt that I could cheerfully smash his teeth straight down his throat (in Christian love, of course).

More seriously, I'm aware that some people have to live with really intense irritation hour after hour from, perhaps, a maddening family member or an obnoxious boss at work. Possibly, dare I suggest it, from somebody at church. If that's the case it really is a problem, and no joking matter. Yes, annoyingness can cover a wide spectrum of seriousness.

The Bible tells us that we are to love one another, to be patient and forgiving towards one another.

Love is patient, love is kind... 1 Corinthians 13:4

Be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2

Be patient with everyone. 1 Thessalonians 5:14

I've put just three simple verses to that effect at the top. No Christian could possibly disagree with that – but, let's be honest, it's easier said than done.

I remember once struggling with negative feelings towards some people I met from time to time. They were perfectly nice people – sincere Christians, and probably far more Christlike than me (not that that's difficult, of course). But there were things about them – opinions, mannerisms, tastes – which I found seriously difficult to cope with. I felt bad; and rightly so. And then one day the thought came into my mind, "Why not put them on your daily prayer list?"

(I ought to explain that I'm one of those Christians who find it helpful to use lists for prayer. It's not everyone's thing, of course, and it's not the only way I pray, but I find it helps me to be at least a little bit disciplined, even at risk of becoming rather mechanical.)

Whatever... what a simple, and obvious, idea it was! Why hadn't I



thought of it before? But... would it make any significant difference?

I can only report that yes, it did. The next time I saw these people it's no exaggeration to say that I saw them with new eyes. Which is exactly what I had prayed for: "Lord, please help me to see these people *as you see them*, and so to love them as you love them".

Almost immediately they ceased to be just irritating and exasperating, and became needy and vulnerable. I realised that they had problems – "issues" as they say these days – which explained a lot of what I had found hard to stomach. Quite simply, I began to feel a real sense of what I can only call compassion.

I don't say it will necessarily always "work" quite that dramatically. But just in case you feel you are suffering this kind of torment, I can only recommend it as a good place to start: isn't God in the business of changing hearts and minds?

Notice, though, please, that the people being changed weren't the people I had a problem with. No – it was me. And isn't that precisely the way prayer is meant to work? Prayer that leaves the pray-er unchanged is a mockery. So I should mention too that God put another thought into my mind...

Could it be that, ahem, I am a person who sometimes drives other people up the wall? Oh, surely not! I'm such a pleasant, easy-going, easy-to-get-along-with person, aren't I? No silly mannerisms or grating habits; no irritating little foibles... Mmm... I'm not so sure.

Could it even be that someone reading this blog has been tempted to smash my teeth straight down my throat?

Oh dear! What can I say but... SORRY! And thank you for loving me and being so patient with me. Please pray for me, even to see me as God sees me.

Father God, please help me to be loving and patient with people I find it hard to tolerate. Still more, help me to be aware that to many others I am just such a person myself. Amen.

Colin Sedgwick is a Baptist minister with many years' experience in the ministry.

Written for the Baptist Times

Photo by [John Fowler](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Always be humble and gentle. Be patient and accept each other with love.

Ephesians 4:2