

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 28th February 2021



This Sunday's online service "And Fear Came Upon Every Person"

Pat is leading and Ron is preaching from Acts 2: 42 - 47

You can follow the service on the SBC website from Sunday morning.

go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured right.



Ron's Reads

Gal 4:4, Ex 19, 32, 1 Sam 8, 2 Chron 7, Ezek 10:18

For Your Prayers

The funeral service for Julie Gunton will be held at Oakham in Rutland at 2.30pm March 1st. Please pray for her family.

Please pray for Ron, Jerry and the deacons who have a Zoom meeting on Monday at 7.00pm and also for Beth Powney regional minister who will be joining them.

Pray also for those who are regularly attending hospitals for treatment.

Pray for all members of the fellowship that are currently in hospital awaiting treatment or surgery.

Pray for Jane and Ron as Ron will be traveling to Garforth then returning with Jane who has been helping Bee and David after the birth of their baby girl, Niah.

Also pray that the plans laid out in the Government's "road map" will allow the country to journey into a time returning us to a form of normality.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Alan and Pat Dabbs**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 19th David posted "Please pray for Marc Child who is in A&E. Later he added please pray for Marc who has been admitted to N&N."

On Saturday Jerry asked "Please continue praying for Ruth. Robert just informed that she had to be urgently rushed back to the hospital last night in an ambulance. She's got pancreatitis and it sounds serious because the doctors said that some of her levels are fatally high. Thanks for praying."

On Tuesday Jerry posted "Thanks a lot for praying for Ruth. She got home around tea time today."

The following day DJ Steve said "Just to let you all know I'm going to hospital today for 2 appointments, hope you all will have a good day and speak soon."

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

A Prayer for Strength When You're At Your Weakest

Lord Jesus, give me the strength to stick it out over the long haul—not the grim strength of gritting my teeth but the glory-strength God gives. It is strength that endures the unendurable and spills over into joy, thanking the Father who makes me strong enough to take part in everything bright and beautiful that he has for me. Jesus, give me strength in my weakness. Amen.

~ Wendy van Eyck

A Prayer for Strength and Encouragement

Lord, like David, I need your encouragement in a time of trial and anguish. Thank you that you are always on the throne, always my God, ready to save. Thank you for being the same God to me that you were to David. Thank you for always being near and always rescuing me from my fears and hurts. Lord, help me remember that daybreak might be just ahead, that this trial will not last forever. Fill me with hope that daybreak is coming and that your love will always prevail! In Jesus' Name, Amen!

~ A Good Thing Devotional

Taken from Crosswalk click [here for more prayers](#).

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731
Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687
Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128
Ministry Team: The Whole
Fellowship

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, 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 miniister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

For your Diary

Monday March 1st 700pm
Deacons Zoom Meeting
Thurs March 4th 7.00pm
Zoom Prayer Meeting.
Contact Diana for a link.



Operation AGRI

Jan Nicholson writes. Operation Agri are holding their second Webinar on Monday 1st March at 7pm by Zoom and all are warmly invited. They will be sharing up-to-date news of the projects, and discussing progress and challenges, as well as ideas for promoting OAs work. If anyone is interested, please register with Malcolm Drummond at admin@operationagri.org.uk

See page 4 for more information about Operation Agri.

Daffodils

Edna is once again selling daffodils at her front gate and the proceeds will go towards the church building fund.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at Matthew 4: 1 -11. How easy has been over the endless months of lockdowns and restrictions, starved of social contacts and time together as a fellowship at SBC on Sundays to be tempted to lose faith in God's love?

If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

Poppy Nicholson

As most of you know Poppy has Nephrotic Syndrome (a rare kidney disease with no cure). We are going to be taking part in the Nephrotic Syndrome Trust (NeST) March Marathon, to help raise vital funds towards hopefully one day finding a cure. Each of the 5 of us are going to try and complete a marathon throughout March (spread out over the month, not 26.2 miles in one go!) We are allowed to complete the distance by any human powered means as we like: run, walk, cycle, scoot etc! The aim is for each family to try and raise £100 but we are hoping to raise as much money as possible as this is our first fundraiser. If you would like to donate please click on the link below to go to our GoFundMe page where you can read Poppy's story and donate. Or if you would prefer donations can be given to Henry. We really would appreciate any donation at all, no matter how small. Thank you in advance! Victoria.

https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-nicholsons-march-marathon-for-nest?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link&utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1

EBA Prayer Focus 28th February 2021 Gorleston Baptist Church

Gorleston is on the East coast of Norfolk, within the Borough of Great Yarmouth but with a separate identity, being 'South of the River'. Its sea-front recently featured as the setting for the Danny Boyle film 'Yesterday'.

It is a mixed area demographically. This includes significant levels of deprivation, and one of the Church's ministries is to those with basic needs including food-poverty. A dedicated and experienced team of volunteers have excelled in helping meet the increased need during the pandemic.

After several years of pastoral vacancy, a new minister, Mike Flynn, started in the autumn. This promises to be an exciting new chapter in the life of the church, but of course the current focus is on getting through the on-going Covid crisis.

There is the capacity for occasional services in the building; but the main worship offering at the moment is a weekly service on Zoom which works very well in the circumstance, and is supported by a team of folk gifted in worship leading and IT. A highlight last month was a very successful Christingle service on Zoom with many guests joining in.

Prayer points:

- For wisdom, patience and resilience as the church maintains a faithful witness in the midst of the ongoing pandemic
- For Mike and his wife Kay as they settle into the area and life with the fellowship
- That the love of Jesus would be shared deeply and widely in the areas served by GBC

Leprosy Mission

The **leprosy Mission Spring 2021 catalogues** are now available at the back of the church (open Mon to Fri 10 a.m. to 12 noon.) They include the Fairtrade Easter eggs with Easter activity book.

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 and can also order anything you see on their website www.tlmtrading.com

Energy Needs

If you are, or know someone who is, struggling with their energy bills Cromer Food Bank offers a scheme called Energybank that can help. Contact the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk Citizens Advice Bureau can also give advice and possible assistance. Click [here](#) for a link.

Quotes of the Week

"The good news is as epic as it gets, with universal theological implications, and yet the Bible tells it from the perspective of fishermen and farmers, pregnant ladies and squirmy kids. This story about the nature of God and God's relationship to humanity smells like mud and manger hay and tastes like salt and wine...It is the biggest story and the smallest story all at once--the great quest for the One Ring and the quiet friendship of Frodo and Sam."

— **Rachel Held Evans**, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*

"Salvation belongs to the sinner. Jesus already has bought the salvation of the worst sinner, just as He did for us. That's the reason He told us to go tell the Good News; go tell sinners they're reconciled to God."

— **Kenneth E. Hagin**

"The good news that Jesus announced, like the good news that his first followers announced about him, was not a piece of advice, however good. It was about something that had happened, about something that would happen as a result, and about the new moment between those two, the moment in which people were in fact living, whether they realized it or not."

— **N.T. Wright**, *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good*

"Once people grasp that the events of the Messiah's death and resurrection have transformed everything and that they are now living between that initial explosive event and God's final setting right of the world (when God is "all in all"), then everything will change: belief, behaviour, attitudes, expectations, and not least a new love, a real sense of belonging, which springs up among those who share all this. That is what so much of Paul's writing is about."

— **N.T. Wright**, *Simply Good News: Why the Gospel Is News and What Makes It Good*

Hugs from above

Baptist minister Patrick Coghlan introduces his latest book, a resource of reflections and prayers for those who have entered into retirement and later life. Taken from Baptist Times.

It is with great pleasure that I announce the publication of my new book *Hugs from Above* – book number 39 (41 counting two that came out only as e books).

A great friend phoned this morning after seeing the book cover, saying, 'And isn't that what everybody needs at the moment? – A hug!'

God is great at hugging; he has plenty of hugs available; and social distancing does not prevent us from receiving one.

Hugs from Above is about retirement and later life, and ironically it has been published only weeks after I became eligible to receive my state pension. It is primarily a resource of reflections and prayers for those who have entered into retirement and later life. It looks at some of the changes that take place, and some of the difficulties that might be experienced at such a time – pointing the reader towards some helpful and encouraging verses from the Bible. *Hugs from Above* also offers the challenge of considering starting some new ventures after retirement or in later life.

The prayers are relevant, uncomplicated and honest. They look at feelings, fears, anxieties, joys, thanksgiving, hopes and dreams. Prayer is the key that unlocks the power and unconditional love of God to flow into our lives, and the lives of those that we love and care about, in amazing ways – just like a big hug from God! *Hugs from Above* encourages the reader to pray with faith and expectation.

Let me tell you a little about myself, and my background: I am the minister at Worstead Baptist Church in Meeting Hill (North Norfolk). I am also the chaplain of Aylsham and district Care Trust (ACT), and the manager of ACT Counselling Services – both of which are based in the ACT Centre, in Aylsham. ACT is a Christian community care charity, and does a lot of work with older people – but not solely. The ACT Centre is part of the St Michael's Care Complex.

In my work as a minister, chaplain and counsellor, I have had considerable experience of working with people of most age groups, in the context of providing ministry and



care. This book follows several other books that I have written for people who are in retirement and/or later life: *Never Too Old* (Moorleys); *A Glass of Homemade Lemonade* (Veritas); *Creating Church At Home* (Kevin Mayhew); and *Still Valued and Blessed* (Kevin Mayhew).

I am married to June and we have two grown-up children – Rachel and Jonathan – and June and I have recently become grandparents to Isabella. What a joy that is. For my leisure I enjoy quality family time, dog walking and going out on my red 1950s style motorcycle.

I have been an enthusiastic author for many years. I began by putting together little books of poetry, and getting some of my poems included in anthologies. I had my first book published by Moorleys, in 2001 – *Anytime – Chats with God* (informal prayer). I have written a variety of Christian resources for different age groups, and some family novels.

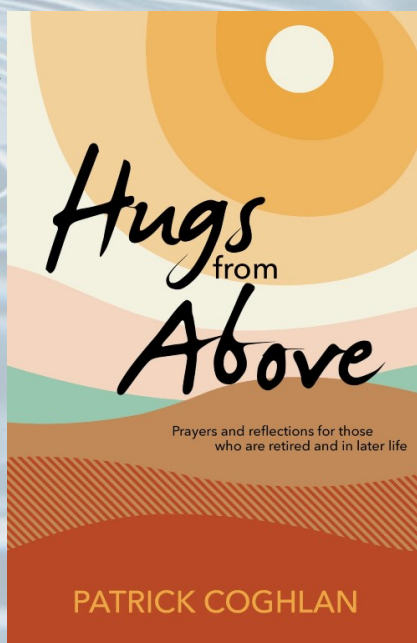
So, why did I write *Hugs from Above*? First of all, I love writing for God. Secondly, I feel that God has given me a real heart to bring words of truth, comfort, and encouragement to people in later life. Thirdly, I love writing prayers for people to use. And fourthly, when God gives me the idea for a new book, it just seems to flow. I do believe that it is from God the inspiration comes – and I thank and praise him for that.

Book number 40 is at the publishers, waiting to come out.

Might I conclude by saying, "I have no intention of retiring at the moment!"

Patrick Coghlan is the minister at Worstead Baptist Church in Meeting Hill (North Norfolk). He is also the chaplain of Aylsham and district Care Trust (ACT), and the manager of ACT Counselling Services

For more information about Baptist Times click [here](#)





Operation Agri is a development charity which supports Christian-led rural and urban development projects in three continents, showing the love of Jesus in action by attacking the basic causes of poverty amongst some of the most disadvantaged people in the world, regardless of their religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

OA supports sustainable development work such as agricultural centres to assist farmers, and irrigation schemes for rural communities. OA also supports projects that bring lasting improvement to people's lives, such as basic health clinics, and women's empowerment groups in urban slums.

The short video on the below is from our 2021 Appeal, **Go for Growth in Uganda**. This and longer videos for the new appeal will be on our appeal DVD, USB memory stick, or may be accessed directly from our Appeal page, as well as on our [YouTube channel](#) as soon as they are all available. For more details, or to pre order this year's pack, see below.



We thank God that the local government sponsored us to participate in the zonal farmers show in Mbeya region. It was a good chance to show the IMARIKA activities such as Conservation agriculture, fuel efficient stove making, VICOBA, beekeeping and afforestation.

TANZANIA – TIME FOR TREES!

Our Resource pack **Tanzania – Time for Trees!** features the **Imarika Project** in central Tanzania. It's good for Harvest festival, if we are back in church by then! Or... share one of the PowerPoints or videos in an online 'Zoom' service – maybe in June – to see how they are caring for the environment, and to enjoy Tanzanian worship songs!

You can order [Time for Trees! resources via our website](#). The order page also has a link to download resources.

The **Imarika Project** had hoped to start another village tree nursery in April, but this is postponed. The team cancelled all training, but appointed a part-time worker in each community to oversee the work – planting trees, sustainable farming, bee-keeping and village savings group. In one village, an additional Imarika savings group is starting! The existing group plan to give them basic training, until the team can come to give further training support. Tanzania has not imposed strict lockdowns, but other countries are worried this may allow the virus to spread, so are closing borders with Tanzania. Churches are still open and encouraged to pray. We too pray that the virus won't spread to the villages.

For more information about Operation Agri click

<https://www.operationagri.org.uk/>

IMARIKA FRUIT HARVEST (TANZANIA)

News from our **Time for Trees** Imarika project in Tanzania is that the team are "excited to see many people have been getting good fruit such as pawpaw especially at Isimani area where there is a lack of fruit."

IMARIKA groups grow fruit trees, agricultural trees for improving soil fertility, and timber trees. In April most of the groups started to plant avocado seeds in the nursery and the seedlings are growing very well. Two groups have now grafted their avocado seedlings. During August and September trees have been planted out from the nurseries. They are doing well, and looking green.

The Village Community Banks are progressing well, all VICOBA groups are active, buying shares on a weekly basis, growing their savings and giving out loans to their members.