

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 21st March 2021

This Sunday's online service "Repercussions of the Miracle" We will also be celebrating the Lord's Super



Barbara and Geoff are leading and Ron is preaching from Acts 4: 1 - 22

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

Mt 22:23f, Mark 3:30, Dan 3, 2 Thess 2:9 Dt 32:4,15 Ps 118:22, Job 38:6

For Your Prayers

Please pray for those local businesses that are deemed non essential, that when they are allowed to open they can re-establish their customer base and manage to keep their enterprises viable.

Remember those in the fellowship and wider community that are suffering with different medical problems and are waiting for appointments or currently having treatment.

Pray that the Lord can guide our government so they can find solutions for all as the pandemic's hold is easing.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Evelyn Eagling**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 12th Jane posted "Please keep praying for Jan Slade she is still in hospital."

Over the weekend many thanks for the Mother's Day cards were posted.

On Sunday Julia Mail posted "Please would you add David to your prayers. He is having another biopsy tomorrow morning. Thanks Julia."

On Monday Diana asked "Can you please pray for Eric? He is having some trouble with his heart and is due at the doctors this morning for another ECG."

On the same day Doreen posted "Please could you pray for Barry and his wife Val, they are friends of mine. Barry was taken into hospital yesterday."

Also on Monday Geoff posted "We have just delivered our Community Scene round, as many folk are doing, so could we all pray for those receiving them that the Lord will speak through the content of the magazine." Geoff went on "Also on our round I saw Brenda. She had an accident on her mobility scooter last week, it turned over, and she is very sore particularly her knees. Please pray for an easing of the pain, she sees the doctor tomorrow for an injection to ease the swelling."

Julia posted "Hi, we got home a little while ago. David is alright. Just has to wait 3-4 weeks for the results now. Thank you for your prayers."

On Wednesday Jane asked "Can you please pray for Peter Baine he is going in for a double hernia operation tomorrow, thank you."

On Thursday John and Pauline White asked "Tracy our Daughter In Horsham, Sussex, is in Hospital with Corona virus and is poorly. Would value prayer for her. [It brings home just how helpless we are save for prayer]."

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

Prayers for the Week

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom. All our desire is known to you, therefore perfect what you have begun, and what your Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer.

We seek your face, turn your face to us and show us your glory. Then shall our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect.

St Augustine of Hippo

Alone with none but thee, my God, I journey on my way.
What need I fear, when thou art near O King of night and day?
More safe am I within thy hand than if a host did round me stand.

Columba, c.521 - 597

Come to us, O Christ, as the wind that blows the autumn leaves, as the song that soothes the troubled child, as the melody that lifts the anxious spirit. Fill us with affection for you that is unbounded, desire for you that is unrestrained and a yearning for you that throws caution to the winds, and this for your own love's sake. Amen.

Richard Rolle (c.1300-1349)

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 minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

For your Diary

Mon March 22nd 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wed March 24th 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

"Everybody, even the worst stinker on earth,



is somebody for whom Christ died."

— Robert Farrar Capon,

SBC AGM 18th April

The church meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday 18th April 2021 at **12.00midday**.

There will be a strict time limit of 1 hour. Agenda and Reports will be sent out nearer the time.

Deacons Elections:

1. We have 3 deacons who were due to be re-elected at the 2020 AGM. This couldn't go ahead because of the first lock down. All 3 were willing to stand and the diaconate proposed that their term be extended by a further year, which proposal received no objections. The deacons now propose that these 3, namely Diana Gordon, Henry Nicholson and David Child complete their further 2 years in office and this will be put to the vote at the AGM.
2. Maggie Harpur's term of office expires this year and Maggie has agreed to stand again. I am therefore nominating Maggie to be a candidate and require 2 people to support that nomination. Can you please contact me no later than 21st March if you would like to support this nomination. I will then arrange for the requisite slip to be signed by the first two people responding.
3. We have no limit on the number of deacons able to be appointed therefore if there is anyone else you feel would be suitable for office and who agrees to stand please find 2 people to support your nomination and provide me with those details no later than 21st March. I will then ensure you have the requisite slip to sign and return by 28th March. I would remind you that to be eligible to stand for election the person must have been a church member for at least 52 weeks and have been baptised by full immersion. I would be grateful if you could confirm your attendance at the meeting as soon as possible in order that I can be sure we have a quorum. Thank you for your support at this difficult time Diana.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at John 13. How easy do you find it to be a servant leader in the many aspects of your life when you take the lead?

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

Community Scene

A big thank you to all the people who have delivered or are delivering the Easter Edition of Community Scene. You can read the online Easter edition of Community Scene by clicking [HERE](#).

Sonrise Service

We are currently planning a Easter Sunday Zoom Sonrise service, details will be in next week's newsletter.

Daffodils

We are still harvesting daffodils to raise money for SBC. Bunches of the spring flowers are available outside Edna's house in St Johns Road and also outside SBC 10 to 12 midday on weekdays.

As of Monday 15th March £372.60 has been raised.

Empanda

Jan Nicholson will be taking a few things to Empanda housing for Easter. If anyone would like to donate sweets, chocolate, homemade cakes or other cakes, biscuits etc, please bring them to Jan and Henry before the end of March.

EBA Prayer Focus 21st March 2021 Earls Colne Baptist Church

Earls Colne is a beautiful, large and thriving Essex village in the Colne Valley situated between Stansted and Colchester. The present Baptist Church building was built in 1896 to seat 750 people. At that time it was the largest in the county.

We currently have 20 members, many of whom are actively

involved in the church. A large majority of our members live in the village and the nearby town of Halstead, with others travelling from further afield.

We aim to be a friendly and accepting church community, depending on God and each other as we navigate life's struggles, recognising that we are all works in progress and all saved by grace.

We currently connect on Sundays via a YouTube playlist made up of three links to worship songs, a sermon, readings/prayers by members of the congregation and a gallery of photos showing what different people have been up to during the week.

At the moment Chatterbox, our parent and toddler group, Messy church and other outreach activities are on hold but we are still connecting with each other via weekly coffee mornings and small groups on Zoom, phone calls, walks and a Whatsapp group.

We ran a joint Alpha Course and Christmas service (on Zoom) for the local care home, with the parish church St Andrews, last year which was encouraging.

Prayer focus

Please pray for us as we begin looking for a new minister to take over in September when our current interim minister leaves to start her training at Bristol Baptist College.

Quotes of the Week

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

— **Pope John Paul II**

"The Word we study has to be the Word we pray. My personal experience of the relentless tenderness of God came not from exegetes, theologians, and spiritual writers, but from sitting still in the presence of the living Word and beseeching Him to help me understand with my head and heart His written Word. Sheer scholarship alone cannot reveal to us the gospel of grace.

We must never allow the authority of books, institutions, or leaders to replace the authority of *knowing* Jesus Christ personally and directly. When the religious views of others interpose between us and the primary experience of Jesus as the Christ, we become unconvicted and unpersuasive travel agents handing out brochures to places we have never visited."

— **Brennan Manning**,

"I knew that to really minister to Rwanda's needs meant working toward reconciliation in the prisons, in the churches, and in the cities and villages throughout the country. It meant feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the young, but it also meant healing the wounded and forgiving the unforgivable.

I knew I had to be committed to preaching a transforming message to the people of Rwanda. Jesus did not die for people to be religious. He died so that we might believe in Him and be transformed. I'm engaged in a purpose and strategy that Jesus came to Earth for. My life is set for that divine purpose in Jesus Christ. I was called to that--proclaiming the message of transformation through Jesus Christ."

— **John Rucyahana**, [The Bishop of Rwanda: Finding Forgiveness Amidst a Pile of Bones](#)

The people of Myanmar and Mozambique are on our hearts and in our prayers



The Leprosy Mission England and Wales

A prayer update from National Director, Peter Waddup

We invite you to join us in prayer for the people we serve and our dedicated colleagues in Myanmar and Mozambique. Both countries are making international headlines for the wrong reasons. There is immense suffering and hardship and sometimes it is difficult to know how to pray in such situations. I have been privileged to have witnessed The Leprosy Mission's work in both Myanmar and Mozambique and it breaks my heart watching the news. It's at times like these that I need to remind myself of all God has done through the compassion and giving of our faithful supporters in the past year.

The global pandemic and lockdown saw so many of the people we serve without food and basic medical care. Only by the giving of our supporters, God enabled us to reach many thousands of people in need of basic provisions, hope and healing.

I remind myself of this each day when I think of the current situation in Myanmar and Mozambique. Peace sounds such monumental task and almost unachievable in human terms. But then I remember that we serve an extraordinary God who continues to breakthrough and answer our prayers. Safe in this knowledge, please allow me to guide you through our current prayer needs in Myanmar and Mozambique.

Myanmar

[Myanmar](#) (formerly Burma) has been under military rule since 1 February, following a general election in which Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party had a landslide victory.

The military is now back in charge and has declared a year-long state of emergency. Ms Suu Kyi has been detained along with members of her party. Many people have taken to the streets in Myanmar to protest against military rule.

- Praise God that our colleagues in Myanmar are safe and that we have been able to make daily contact with them. They are working hard to keep in touch with the people we serve.
- Pray for the people of Myanmar, especially those disabled by leprosy who often find themselves on the edge of society. There have been talks on sanctions from the international community in response to the military coup. We pray that any sanctions imposed do not push the most vulnerable in society into deeper poverty.
- Pray for the safety of our staff and their families in Myanmar at a time when there is fear on the streets. Pray that they will be able to reach and help those who need it the very most. We pray for a spirit of trust and unity between staff and the people we serve.
- Myanmar was a country under military rule from 1962 to 2011. At a time when national morale is low because of the global pandemic, we pray that the people of Myanmar will not lose hope of freedom and that democratic processes will be upheld.

Mozambique

The backdrop to The Leprosy Mission's [Unconditional Appeal](#) to help rid Mozambique of leprosy is incredibly challenging. The threat of violence, homelessness, extreme

weather, hunger and Covid-19 are a daily reality for the people of Cabo Delgado.

Since 2017 those living in Mozambique's most northern province have witnessed threats from men with guns and machetes. More than 2,000 civilians have been killed, property looted and homes destroyed. Government buildings, including schools and health posts, have been burnt to the ground. United Nations reports that half a million people have fled Cabo Delgado because of the violence.

[Mozambique](#) is ranked among the poorest countries and is one of the world's least developed nations. Around two thirds of the population live under the poverty line of US\$1.90 a day.

- We thank God for the opportunity we have through UK Aid Match to make twice the difference in Mozambique through the generosity of our supporters giving to The Unconditional Appeal.
- Pray for the safety of our staff and government health workers who risk their lives each day to reach people affected by leprosy. Pray for God's protection as they travel to remote villages to give the cure for leprosy and lifechanging care. Please pray for an end to the violence and for peace to prevail.
- Pray for the Covid-19 situation in Mozambique which has seen a rising tide of the South African variant. Please ask God that those needing medical treatment will be able access care.
- Pray for a good harvest for the people of Cabo Delgado who mainly survive through subsistence farming. Presently it is the 'hungry' season ahead of the harvest in Mozambique. Many farmers are still recovering from the devastation and flooding caused by Cyclone Kenneth and Cyclone Idai in 2019. Please ask God for opportunities for communities affected by leprosy to market any surplus crops they may have to increase food security.
- Pray for those who have had to flee their homes and communities to escape the violence. Please ask God to bless the work of The Leprosy Mission and the churches in helping to feed and support those left homeless and traumatised by the insurgency. Please pray they have all they need to rebuild their lives.
- Pray for the success of The Unconditional Appeal which seeks to help rid Mozambique of leprosy by raising awareness, improving access to healthcare and challenging deep prejudice surrounding the disease. Pray that people affected by leprosy will be welcomed home to their villages. Please pray that those showing the early signs of leprosy will have the awareness and confidence to step forward and seek treatment.

Thank you for praying. God bless you.

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

One way to support the Leprosy Mission is to order cards, gifts or books from the catalogues at the back of our church – this gives profit to the mission and also SBC. Donations can be added to any orders if you wish.
Barbara R.

Imagining a new community.

Something to read

When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?

- Matthew 21:40.

Something to think about

We walk this Lent journey in 2021 so painfully aware of the sustained destruction and exploitation of God's generous gift to us, the earth to which we belong. We are reminded again and again that 'our home is on fire', with young people pointing out that generations of abuse and short-term profit-making has ruptured the very fabric of our lives.

Our Lent reflections offer us a time to take stock and imagine again the fostering of a new community that finds ways to counter the power and greed of our time, a community that walks away from the religion of commerce and power.

In our gospel reading in Matthew about the parable of the tenants, Jesus portrays the leaders of his time as rebellious tenants. They have forgotten who they are and how to be in life-giving relation with others around them. With their distorted sense of reality and consuming greed, they mismanage the vineyard and seek to control and own it for their exclusive benefit. This is the very opposite of God's intentions in which the land and resources are a gift to enable us to live in shalom and grace.

The mirror of the parable portrays us all too clearly as those who have mismanaged God's gift to us, seeking to control and own it for the exclusive benefit of a privileged few, whilst at the same time distorting and destroying our humanity. Jesus' parable in Matthew 21 is a sobering declaration – the tenants will be destroyed and the vineyard will be given to others.

Maybe this Jubilee inspired redistribution of resources offers us a new imagination of being community; a call to remember who we are and stop denying our greed and culpability in making a



society that strips away the dignity of others and destroys our very means of life in our quest for self-enrichment. Can we imagine a community of gift and grace? A community of repentance and forgiveness?

May this Lent season remind us to pray for such a community and the transformation of our world, but also to believe it can be done and to act in imaginative ways that foster shalom in our time.

Something to pray

Creator God, who placed this planet and all its resources into our care,

encourage those who now remind us of our responsibilities,

both to you and future generations,

to do all that is necessary, whatever the cost, to save this world that we call home,

so our children and theirs might not look back, both in shame and anger,

at what we, in denial, have failed to do.

A prayer by Jon Birch
(faithandworship.com)

Today's contributor is Graham Philpott. Graham is Director of Church Land Programme in South Africa. The Church Land Programme works to affirm, learn from and journey with those who are systematically excluded and impoverished in their struggles related to land and justice.

Source <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/daily-bible-readings>

Image by [Anja](#) #helpinghands #solidarity#stays healthy from [Pixabay](#)

