

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 11th April 2021



This Sunday's online service "Dying to be Recognised"

Jerry is leading and preaching from Acts 4: 36 - Acts 5: 11

Three things wrong with Ananias and Sapphira;

- 1. They Loved Money 5: 2-3**
- 2. They Loved The Praises of Men v 2**
- 3. They Lied To The Holy Spirit. 3-4, 9**

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.



Jerry's Reads

Josh 7:10-26, Eccl 5:10, Matthew 23:3, 25-28, Mark 3:38-30, Luke 16:13-15, John 8:44, Eph 4:30; 1 Tim 6:10 & Heb 10:29

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the Zoom AGM meeting on 18th April, that as a fellowship we can collectively take SBC forward.

Please pray for the businesses in Stalham as they reopen that they may stay viable and continue to successfully trade in the coming months.

Pray that the violence in Belfast will come to an end and the communities will be able to live in peace with each other.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Dorothy Fairweather.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Easter Sunday Sue StJohn posted "So lovely to see you all at 6.30am (for the Zoom Sunrise Service that was attended by over 30 people) and thanks for such a joyful service."

On the same day Maggie posted on behalf of Eileen Neil "Please can you pray for David. We have had the paramedics out. They are now taking him to James Paget hospital. Happy Easter as we rejoice in our risen Lord and Saviour."

Geoff Reynolds later said "Will pray for David and Eileen. Was special to share in the Zoom Sunrise service. Good to rejoice together on this special day."

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

Easter Services

A big thank you for all those involved in creating two online services and a Zoom service for the Easter period. SBC is blessed with talented people that created ways of us as a fellowship and wider community to celebrate the risen Lord together.

Prayers for the Week from [Bible Study.com](http://BibleStudy.com)

Dear God,

When our minds are distracted and overwhelmed by our personal and societal circumstances, renew and restore our minds daily. During times when we cannot think clearly, strengthen and direct our minds to your Word for hope and encouragement. Help us to keep our minds focused on You. Restore mental clarity and balance when anxiety rises. Restore positive thoughts and affirmations in our minds so that we can be beacons of hope and love. Give us the courage and discipline to continually seek your Word to renew our minds.

In Jesus' name, Amen

Dear God,

When we feel hopeless, restore our hope in who You are. Reaffirm our strength and hope that are found in You, and not what we see. Remind us of the purposes that you have for us and the resources to accomplish what You have called us to do. Remind us of your faithfulness and not to lose hope in Your goodness, provision, and sovereignty. Revive our hope in You to inspire, encourage, comfort, and restore all that has been lost and broken.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Dear God,

We look for Your guidance and wisdom to restore and heal systems of injustice that continue to permeate our country and the world. Amidst racism, educational disparities, and healthcare inequalities, remind us of Your sovereignty. Unify where there is division and help us to view each other in the image of You. Forgive us for times that we have played any role in perpetuating systems of injustice, and soften our hearts to listen and hear from those who are different from us. Thank you for Your restorative power that can heal broken hearts, systems, and indifference. Teach how to continue to glorify You in our actions, attitudes, and minds.

In Jesus' name, Amen

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

Mon April 12th 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Thur April 15th 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 18th 12noon

SBC Zoom AGM

Register with Diana to take part

SBC AGM 18th April

The church meeting will be held via Zoom on Sunday 18th April 2021 at **12.00midday prompt as there will be a strict time limit of 1 hour. So please log in early.**

Agenda and Reports will be sent out nearer the time.

SBC Secretary Diana says "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." Contact Diana

07951949128 or email secretary@stalhbaptist.org.uk

Join the Zoom Meeting On

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5185800970>

Meeting ID: 518 580 0970

Join by mobile

01314601196,,5185800970# 02030512874,,5185800970#

Join by landline by dialling

0131 460 1196 Or 0203 051 2874 Or 0203 481 5237.

Meeting ID: 518 580 0970

Reflections for AGM 18th April

The deacons feel it appropriate to ask if anyone has any particular reflections on this past year they would like to share or thoughts on going forward as church. If so please send them either to Diana or Jerry. It is hoped this may form part of the AGM discussions on the 18th April.

As we do go forward may we be a church that is praying for boldness and wisdom.

A Big Thankyou

We would like to thank folks for their prayers for our daughter Tracy. What's happened is a miracle, she's home! In truth though, ITS ANSWERED PRAYER, clearly it works, He still does listen, to such even as I. Every blessings John and Pauline White.

Thankyou Card sent to Ron

Pauline and John White's daughter Tracy sent a card to Ron saying "I have been home from hospital for 5 days now and my strength is returning very slowly, but it is so good to be alive. What a journey I have been on because of covid 19. To say thank you for your prayers and support doesn't seem enough but thank you God bless" You can see the card at back of the church.

Another Thankyou

Jan Nicholson says "Thank you to all the folk who gave donations for Easter to Empanda, Henry and myself delivered them on Thursday, they were gratefully received,"

Testimony Tuesday

This week's Testimony Tuesday is by Jenny Payne. To see her testimony click [here](#)

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at Matthew 31-46. How many times have you prayed for your needs and not the Lord's? How many times have you ignored His request?

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

Amazing Total

A big thank you to Barbara and Bennie Mixer, Edna Woolsey and Henry Nicholson for the amazing total achieved this year by picking and selling daffodils. (Drum roll) the total was £808.

EBA Prayer Focus 11th April 2021

Elmswell Baptist Church

Elmswell is a rapidly developing village just off the A14 in central Suffolk and home to Elmswell Baptist Church which is a small but very lively fellowship with a busy programme of activities pre-COVID. In October Stephen Spurgeon stepped back from leadership after eighteen years and recently retired Baptist minister Revd Norman Tharby took on the role of church moderator in November 2020 and currently leads Sunday services twice a month. At the

moment all services are taking place on Zoom and it is encouraging that some new people have joined in. For those who do not use the technology, there is regular contact to keep in touch.

A midweek Zoom coffee morning that started out as a chat and catch-up has become a weekly Bible Study as well and they have just completed a Lent series of studies.

In normal times the church has a monthly lunch club for older people and a weekly ladies' fellowship group, both of which involve people without any church connection.

There are a lot of new houses being built in the village and whilst this brings opportunity for church growth, there has been no real gain to date. The average age of the church members is going up and it would be great to welcome new, and younger, people to be an active part of the fellowship.

For the church there is the challenge of coming out of COVID, starting meetings again after lockdown and seeking God's guidance on what the church will look like in future.

For prayer:

- Give thanks for new moderator Revd Norman Tharby in post since November
- For wisdom and discernment on the way forward, especially coming out of lockdown
- For younger people to get involved and participate in the life of the church
- For a clear vision for the future of the church and the courage to change and adapt

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Christian giving is a responsive act. It represents gratitude to God. It is a symbol of self-giving. Therefore, giving is not a once-for-all event, but a regular part of life. It is a spiritual discipline that reminds us who we are and whose we are."—

Herb Mather

"Hypocrisy is not the gap between doing and feeling; it's the gap between public persona and private character...Hypocrisy is the failure to practice what you preach. The hypocrite is not the Christian who struggles against sin, fights against temptation, and keeps doing what is right even on his worst feeling days. That's a hero. The hypocrite is the Christian who uses the veneer of public virtue to cover the rot of private vice. He's the man living a double life, the woman fooling her friends because she has church clothes, the student who proudly answers the questions in Sunday school and just as proudly romps through immorality the rest of the week. The sin of hypocrisy is not that we are more messed up than we seem. That's true for all of us. The sin is in using the appearance of goodness to cloak the deeds of evil. The sin is in thinking that who others think you are matters a great deal more than whom God knows you to be." —**Kevin DeYoung.**

"If we allow money to become our master, it'll always lead to fear of loss, resentment in our families, and ultimately a despising of God. Money will never relent in its pursuit of everything we value."—**Ivan Mesa**

"Even if we do not have a strong sense of merit, we may crave the same result, namely the praise of men. Jesus warns us not to give charity or pray or fast in order to be seen by others. "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them" (Matthew 6:1). "When you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others" (Matthew 6:5). "And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others" (Matthew 6:16). Jesus calls them "hypocrites" because in their praying and fasting they want to appear as if they treasure God, but in fact they treasure the praise of men."—**John Piper** (*What Jesus Demands from the World*, pg127)

Capt Sir Tom Moore - a reflection on a meaningful life

It struck me that we can learn some spiritual lessons from Captain Tom's life that will stand us in good stead for our own lives, writes Darren Blaney

Like so many people I was sad to learn of the passing of Capt. Sir Thomas Moore, known to everyone as Capt. Tom. As he was laid to rest over the weekend I am sure many of us paused for a moment to reflect on his amazing life, especially the last, dramatic 12 months. In that time he...

*Raised over £36 million for NHS Charities
*Became a Guinness World-Record Holder for the most money raised by a sponsored walk

*Had a UK #1 hit single, which in turn gave him...

*A second entry in the Guinness World Records, this time for being the oldest person to top the singles' chart.

*Wrote his autobiography which became a Sunday Times #1 best-seller

*Was Knighted by the Queen

*Received over 10,000 cards from across the world for his 100th birthday

*Started the Capt. Tom Foundation, a charity dedicated to helping overcome loneliness in society.

As I reflected on all this, it struck me that we can learn some spiritual lessons from his life that will stand us in good stead for our own lives.

You're Never Too Old to Be Used by God

Just think about how much Sir Tom achieved in his last year... and that at 99! Age is never a barrier to service as far as God is concerned. The Bible is full of examples that teach this.

Abraham was 99 when he had one of his most profound experiences with God. (Genesis 17 & 18) Nor was that the end of things; he had other experiences and adventures with God still further ahead (see for example, Gen 21v1-6).

Moses didn't start his life's work for God until he was 80!

It is all too easy to worship at the altar of children, young people and families. And to be fair, it is vital and right that we try to reach these people.

Yet we can subtly fall into the trap of believing that somehow older people are past it, that they've had their day, that they are in some ways yesterday's people. Indeed a recent presentation by the South East Baptist Association claimed that ageism is now the most widely experienced form of discrimination in Europe. Thank goodness Capt. Tom didn't believe that he was past it! And as God's people, we shouldn't either.

When God Decides to Move, He Can Move Very Quickly

In January of 2020 no-one had heard of Capt. Tom, by the Summer of that year he was an internationally known, fund-raising record breaker. By the end of the year he was a Knight of the Realm and a best-selling author. Sometimes when things happen, they happen quickly, and this is especially true with God.

Consider Joseph in the Old Testament. He had had prophetic dreams of his family bowing down to him, yet his journey through life was one of being at the mercy of others--thrown into a well, sold into slavery, taken to a far country, falsely accused of a crime, thrown into a prison and left to rot there. Yet when God moved, He moved with speed and power -- Daniel went from Prison to Prime Minister in just one day! Never underestimate how quickly God can change your situation around when He decides to act.

Nothing is Ever Wasted in Life

Reading Capt. Tom's story it is interesting to note how things in one stage of his life prepared him for things in later life. As a child he was fascinated with stripping down and repairing motorbike engines and with racing the bikes cross-country. When he joined the Army in WW2 and was sent to India, there was a major communications issue to be dealt with. Radio signals were unreliable because of the mountainous conditions and the Japanese would regularly break through the Allied

lines in order to sever communication cables. So it was decided that motorcycle dispatch riders were the only solution.

Tom's experience with cross-country riding made him an ideal choice for this task. When they discovered how good he was at it, they put him in charge of training others. Likewise, he continued his fascination with engines and began stripping down the engines on the tanks his unit worked with whenever they went wrong--and they frequently did. So good was he at this that he was sent back to England to train as a mechanic who could go back and train others. (Although the war ended before he was able to return to the front lines.)

We find a similar thing with many of God's servants in Scripture

Moses spent 40 years learning to live in the wilderness and shepherd sheep there, which proved ideal preparation for shepherding the people of Israel through the wilderness for four decades.

David, while still a young lad said that learning to fight the bear and the lion as a shepherd was perfect preparation for fighting Goliath...and so it proved.

The Apostle Paul's background was as a Pharisee well-versed in the Torah and also as a tent-maker. Both proved useful in God's plan to use him as a missionary.

Nothing is ever wasted in God's economy. What if some of these very painful things that we are going through at the moment are actually God's preparation for us for something special He has planned 10 or even 20 years down the road? Seeds sowed in sorrow can lead to fruit harvested in joy. Remember Joseph's words, "God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."

He Did What He Could, Where He Was, With What He Had --And So Can We.

If you read his autobiography you'll realise that the motto of Capt. Tom's life was to muck in and make the best of any situation. As Dr John Maxwell says "Things tend to turn out best for those who make the best of how things turn out." That thought is worth pondering over. It was that approach that got Tom through WW2, a very difficult first marriage, and a number of unfortunate set-backs in life and in work. It is also what inspired him to do his famous 100-lap sponsored walk in the garden.

We see the same thing in Jesus' Parable of the Talents. Each servant is given something to put to work, and it seems that the Master's expectation is that they will do what they can with it, to make the most of the investment that had been made in them. The only servant punished is the one who doesn't "do what he can, where he is, with what he's got" but instead - out of fear - buries his talent in the ground.

There is a wonderful little passage at the end of Judges 3, about Shamhar. "After Ehud came Shamgar son of Anath, who struck down six hundred Philistines with an oxgoad. He too saved Israel."

That's it; that's all we're told. He had an oxgoad. He struck down Philistines with it. He saved Israel. Capt. Tom had a walker. He raised millions of pounds. He gave hope to people. They did what they could, where they were, with what they had.

What's In Your Hand?

Capt Tom is one of the heroes from this Covid pandemic. As I reflect on his life he challenges me about what I can do to make a difference. It is all too easy to think that there is nothing I can do. Capt Tom gives the lie to that thought. When Moses questioned God about how he was going to get anyone to listen to him, God asked a simple question in reply. "What is that in your hand?" For Moses it was his staff, and it was to become an instrument of divine authority through which miracles were performed and a nation liberated. For Capt. Tom it was a walking frame, and it became an instrument of divine mercy through which miracles of a different sort were performed.

What's in your hand? As we remember the good Capt. let's learn from his example and *do what we can, where we are, with what we've got.*

Darren Blaney is minister of Herne Bay Baptist Church

[Source Baptist Times](#)

Daily Bible Reading April 4th

Easter Sunday.

Something to read

Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?

- - John 20:15 from full reading John 20:1-18 ..

Something to think about

'The world is more full of weeping than you can understand.' William Butler Yeats, Irish poet.

Some have called her crazy – crazy for standing at the foot of the cross and risking association with this enemy of the state who is being executed; crazy for getting up and coming to the tomb, in the dark and on her own, according to John's account of the resurrection.

Whatever craziness Mary Magdalene has been accused of, she comes up with a very rational explanation of events as she approaches the open tomb. Even in the darkness she can see a deeper darkness where the stone has been removed from the entrance. For her, the stark reality is: 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid him.'

The body that had been flogged, crucified and pierced; the body that had been anointed in life by Mary of Bethany with perfume and tears; the body that had been anointed in death by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus with myrrh and aloes, wrapped in linens and laid in a new tomb – this is the body that has been taken.

No body to grieve over, to be near, to help the reality of the last week of events to sink in. Without the body to grieve over, Mary weeps all the more.

'Woman, why are you weeping?' It seems like an obvious question to ask this woman by an empty grave? These are tears of grief and loss. 'Why are you weeping?' is a question that can be asked of many women across the world.

Many women, like Mary Magdalene, are marginalised; they bear the brunt of much loss – loss of dignity, loss of choice and even loss of life.

Dr Singha, executive director of Christian Aid partner Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) in Bangladesh, tells the story of a woman who came to sign the deeds for her new home – a home built to resist the increasing incidence and intensity of flooding caused by a changing climate.

She was asked her name in order to complete the paperwork, and she began to weep. She was asked: 'Why are you weeping?' to which she replied: 'No one has ever asked me my name. I have always been the daughter of someone, the sister of someone, the wife of someone, the mother of someone.'

'Women, why are you weeping?' Mary hears a voice tenderly ask her the same question a second time. John gives us a reader's view and we, along with Jesus, will hear her to the moment of recognition. One word is enough.

In hearing her name, Mary knows and is known. Today, all those who weep are invited to listen, to hear their name and to know that they and their circumstances of grief and experiences of suffering are known as they are known.



Their weeping has not gone unnoticed or without understanding. Jesus also once stood by a tomb and wept. He was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved when he saw the tears of Mary and Martha by the tomb of their brother Lazarus. He was grieved by the hold of suffering and death in the world.



There is indeed a time for weeping, but today is not that day, unless they are tears of joy. Today, Jesus's words: 'I am the resurrection and the life' (John 11:25) become flesh. Today, we are willed to the moment of recognition that every tear will be wiped away, that death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more.

'Christian hope begins where every other hope stands frozen stiff before the face of the unspeakable,' according to Thomas Merton. Even in the face of the unspeakable suffering of the world, we are given the hope of another possible world; a world that is free from extreme poverty and suffering.

This is not an escapist hope but a hope that we put into practice every time we give, act and pray with Christian Aid. It is the hope that while weeping lasts for a night, joy will come in the morning.

Today, we are willed to look beyond what may seem to be the stark reality of things and recognise the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!

Something to do

Join us in [prayer for this time of coronavirus](#)

Something to pray

This is the day of new creation.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

This is the day of resurrection.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

This is the day of peace restored.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

This is the day of life abundant.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

This is the day the Lord has made.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

Today's contributor is Wendy Lloyd, who coordinates worship and theology resources at Christian Aid.

Source Christian Aid [Daily Bible Reading](#)

For more information about Christian Aid click [here](#)

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