

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 16th May 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC
and Ron will be preaching from Colossians 3:12-17
Jerry is leading this Sunday's online service and will be preaching from
Nehemiah 1-11 "Nehemiah - The Man Who Cared"

You can watch the online service on the SBC website from Sunday morning,
go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ Then click on the icon pictured right.



Structure of Jerry's Sermon

Nehemiah cared enough to:

- 1.) Ask (vs 1-3)
- 2.) Weep (vs 4)
- 3.) Pray (vs 5-10)
- 4.) Act (vs 11)

Jerry's Reads

Luke 18:1-8, 1 John 4:7-21, Romans 10:1ff, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 6:18,
Philippians 4:4-7 James 5:13-20 and 1 John 1:8-10

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the situation in Jerusalem that is spreading rapidly outwards and for India as covid is now beginning to affect the poorer rural regions where there are few medical facilities and pray also that treatments will be made available to tackle the growing number of people contracting mucormycosis (black fungus) that has a 50% mortality rate within one to three days.

Pray for those in the fellowship who are currently receiving hospital treatment and those waiting in the queue for operations.

Pray a thankyou that SBC is blessed with people that have risen to the challenge of providing online services and now the live services and explored different ways of reaching out to the community with the love of God.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Ruth Hayward**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Sunday Geoff forwarded a message from the Shrubsoles "My Chadian friend Djim was released from prison today without charge. Thanks for your prayers."

On Tuesday Julia posted "After further appointments with pain management and Cardiology, David is having two procedures as soon as possible to put him in the best condition for his surgery and recovery. Thank you for your prayers. Everyone seems to be working hard to give him the best chance.

Thomas is hoping to have his surgery (for hernia) in about 3 months. Jx)

To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the power of prayer and/or the Devotion WhatsApp site text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone

A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve in the face of seemingly endless violence. Guide the leaders of the people of the Middle East to know Your will and to support a just peace for all of Your children.

God of love, lifting up the holy land for all humankind, breathe love and compassion into our prayers with a desire for nothing other than peace: peace in our hearts, peace for all creation, and especially peace in the land that is called holy.

God of hope, we lift up the city of Jerusalem, distracted and divided, yet still filled with promise as all the cities of the world. Come again into our cities, places of worship, Upper Rooms and Gethsemanes, that we may be given sight to recognize You.

God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before You the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in Palestine and Israel and from the ongoing occupation. Shower upon all the people of the Holy Land the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

God of the nations, give to all our people the blessings of well-being, freedom, and harmony, and, above all things, give us faith in You that we may be strengthened to care for all those in need until the coming of Your son, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

Source The Church of Scotland

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 news-
letter 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 fol-
low what's happening at SBC
on twitter [https://
twitter.com/StalhamChurch](https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch)
and on Facebook
[www.facebook.com/
stalhambaptist](http://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 May 17th 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wed May 19th 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

Wed July 14th

Bethan & Gareth Shrubsole
our link missionaries are
home from Chad and will
be visiting us.

Church Open

The Church is now open and a Covid secure system is in place requiring masks to be worn and a booking system requiring those attending to book each week by contacting Diana by email secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk Whatsapp or telephone **07951949128**.

Alpha Course

The Alpha Course will start on September 13th if you need more information email Dan St John alpha@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at Matthew 18: 21-35. How many times has it not been easy to forgive and how often have you not forgiven?

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

Message from the Food Bank

Thank you for your support and generosity without which the foodbank work would not be possible.

During May, the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Sponge Puddings, Jam, Squash, Instant Snacks – Mugshot, Pot Noodle, Cuppa Soup, Crisps, Sweets and Chocolate, Toilet Rolls, Male and Female Deodorants, Razors, Shampoo and Conditioner, Household Cleaning Products – Sprays, Cloths, Kitchen Roll, Non-bio–Laundry Detergent and Nappies size 6.

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol. You can find details how to access the Food Bank on the front page of this newsletter.

EBA Week of Prayer

One week to go until the EBA week of prayer. Writes Hayley Beckett Secretary, Eastern Baptist Association **We will gather together to pray on Zoom for up to 45mins Monday to Friday for the week of 17th – 21st May**

Mon – Fri mornings - 9.30am Wed evening - 7pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201290903Meeting>

ID: 882 0129 0903

Passcode: 794152

Below are some daily reflections around each of the topics using some of the passages mentioned in the Sermon

"Don't pitch your tent to early" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Huocpfq-oN4&t=1swith> .

1. **Going and travelling – leaving what is known** Genesis 12:1-9 (1-4 & 9)
 2. **Moaning and grumbling – this is too hard** Exodus 14; Exodus 16:1-3
 3. **Waiting is too hard - misplaced worship** Exodus 31:18 – 32:1-14 & Luke 9:28-36
 4. **Turning back – what we had before was better** Numbers 13:25-33; Numbers 14:1-4
 5. **Fixing eyes on the goal- God's plans are greater** Ruth 1
- These reflections can be used for personal use and for small group use. There will also be 5 short video reflections to complement the topics these will be available at the weekend on our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC 22L-RN5rjWZC1kz GqSOg> or by following the direct links from our website <https://www.easternbaptist.org.uk/news/week-of-prayer-17-21-may/>

If your church wishes to use these resources differently and at different times, then feel free to do so. The main aim is to bathe our association, churches and each other in prayer for this week.

Hayley Beckett Secretary, Eastern Baptist Association

EBA Prayer Focus 16th May 2021

Eastwood Baptist Church

Our church is situated on the north west of Southend-on-Sea; we are blessed with the seaside and countryside on our doorstep.

We are currently looking for a new minister to join our MIT, Jo Hellenbrand, who looks after our older people in the church. Like many churches the pandemic has made us draw on our strengths as a fellowship to care for each other to make sure everyone is supported, physically, mentally and spiritually.

Our knowledge of technology has increased with on-line services and Zoom Prayer Meetings and we also included an 'after Sunday morning service Coffee time via Zoom' along with Talking Jesus, Prayer One and Prayer Two courses. Along with another local church, we delivered 155 gift bags to care home residents and staff at our three local homes in Eastwood at Christmas and Easter. Many helped in this outreach which was very well received.

In January 2021 we opened up our church as a Food Bank Distribution Centre linked with The Trussell Trust and again we have received much support and are finding it wonderful to be able to help those in need at this time.

Our prayer requests:

For us to continue to find ways to reach out to our community.

To establish our Youth work again after the pandemic. Seek our Lord Jesus Christ in finding a new minister for our church.

SWAN a helping hand

The phone number for Teresa Benton in last weeks newsletter was incorrect you can contact her on 07340 604241

info@swanladiesnorfolk.co.uk you can find more information <http://www.swanladiesnorfolk.co.uk/>

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"I believe that prayer is the measure of the man, spiritually, in a way that nothing else is, so that how we pray is as important a question as we can ever face" —**J. I. Packer**

"When we live up to our calling, we remember that in God's church people do not set the agenda, they are the agenda. Our allegiance to God and his gospel will be demonstrated in our service to his people, to those who will become his people, to those made in his image. It is in this sense that Christians must be constantly asking what is best for the people of God. Our allegiance to Jesus Christ, our confession of him as Lord, entails a profound commitment to further his interests—and it does not take much reading of Scripture to perceive that his interests are tied to the well-being of His people. " —**D.A Carson**

"What a man is on his knees before God, that he is, and nothing more."—**Robert Murray M'Cheyne**

"It also seems to me that that's where any kind of effective ministry starts, it starts with showing up. It starts with being initially available. Somebody said the greatest ability it availability. There is a sense in which that is true because no matter what other ability you might have, if you're not available, the other ability is not of any consequence. Everything starts with being there. Everything starts with showing up. ...You're never going to have any kind of impact on the world unless you are willing to set aside that designated time and place to be in the presence of the living Christ, with His people, in His Word, in communing prayer with Him.

I tend to think that many people never bother to go to the lost because they can't even bother to get together with the saved. They never have much to say to those that are without Christ because they have very little to say to Christ Himself."— **John MacArthur**



Open Doors

Kusum's in-laws blamed her for her husband's death.

But God stepped in.

When Kusum's husband and son died, her in-laws said her faith was the reason. But God has worked miracles in the lives of her family and community – and used your prayers and support to sustain Kusum.

When Open Doors local partners in India first visited Kusum*, she was facing terrible persecution from her own family. She had already suffered deeply – losing both her husband and her son to illness. What made it even worse was that her community blamed Kusum for these two tragedies.

"The villagers didn't allow me to bury my son," she remembers. "They said, 'You brought this curse upon your family! Because of your faith, your husband and your son are dead!' In the end, I was allowed to bury my son on the outskirts of the village. I was all by myself. Nobody was allowed to help me."

You might expect Kusum to get support from her in-laws, but the opposite was the case. Her father-in-law threatened to kill her.

"It's your fault my son is dead!" Kusum remembers him yelling outside her house, swinging an axe. "It's your fault my grandson is dead! You killed them with your toxic faith! Come outside! I will cut you to pieces!"

Kusum kept praying – and her prayers were answered

Throughout it all, Kusum was determined to cling to her faith. She prayed fervently to God. "I had only one certainty: I would not betray Jesus. Despite all of my tragedies, He has never disappointed me."

And God is answering Kusum's prayers in ways she hadn't ever expected. As well as receiving financial and spiritual support from local Open Doors partners, thanks to your help, Kusum has seen an enormous shift in the attitude of her village.

"Due to my Christian faith, I faced a lot of persecution from my in-laws and the villagers," Kusum says, "but now many villagers are coming to Jesus in my village. Since the pandemic lockdown, ten new families have come to Christ!"

Kusum's family are coming to Christ

Most of the new Christians in Kusum's community came to faith after they were healed through prayer. Several times a week, she joins with the other believers in her village to pray. "When we gather for prayer, we pray for all Christians who are facing persecution. At the same time, I explain to all those believers that no matter how much persecution comes, we have to remain in the Word of God. We must be ready to face persecution." Kusum is especially thrilled that members of her own family have come to know Jesus! "My in-laws used to persecute me a lot, but now they believe in Christ," she shares. "Many times, they used to come to my house to kill me. I always used to pray for them. The Lord heard my prayer, and now they are believers.

"Everyone has come to faith except my father-in-law – although he is also learning about the Christian faith. He now asks me to pray for him."

Life under lockdown

Like most of us, life became difficult for Kusum during lockdown – but she has not felt abandoned, thanks to you. "My financial condition was not good... but even at that time, God helped my family and fulfilled all my needs. My father and my brother used to bring everything I needed. I also got relief from Open Doors local partners. They helped me start a grocery store for my livelihood, and they always ask about my wellbeing and help me."

As the pandemic continues to worsen in India, please pray for protection for Kusum and those she knows.

Kusum has seen enormous change in her family and neighbourhood, but persecution is not over. She asks for prayer, as threats and discrimination continue around her. "Persecution is still going on in nearby villages," she shares. "We get drinking water from the village hand pump. Right now, we get rations in the ration card, but some people in the village are saying that they will stop our ration card and will not even provide water. The number of believers is growing in my village, so the people of the nearby villages are inciting the people of our village against us."

**Name changed for security reasons*

For more information about the work of OpenDoors click [here](#).

Cromer Food Bank Update

It is more than a year now since we entered the world of lockdown and restrictions and during that time we have seen many changes at the Foodbank, some will be temporary whilst others will be lasting. We have provided uninterrupted service for Foodbank clients during this time, through the commitment, enthusiasm and perseverance of our volunteer teams across the distribution centres, warehouse, van and office and we are indebted to each and every one of them.

During the last financial year, we have seen the demand for our Foodbank increase significantly. Vouchers fulfilled were up 26%, people fed up by 42% and the number of children fed by 66%.

Despite the fact that we were supporting one particular school through lockdown, there is a definite trend towards more families needing us. However, incoming donations were 66375kg, up 50% on the previous year. Once again we have been able to meet increased demand. One final statistic, in the last 5 years the number of vouchers fulfilled has increased by 60%. The goal of reducing the need for Foodbanks does not seem to be attainable at present so we will continue to work with agencies and community groups to meet the need of people in crisis for the foreseeable future.



Due to the increasing demand on our service, the trustees have decided to appoint an Assistant Project Manager who will assist in the day to day operations and take on, and work with current volunteers, on all aspect of communications. To cope with increased demand, we have decided to put an order in for another van. It will be the same model as our present one, but increased battery capacity will enable us to cover greater distance. We plan to use the van, which we hope will be with us in August, at distribution centres when we eventually return to opening them fully. It is likely that we will continue to offer delivery for clients along with the opportunity to visit the centre to collect and speak to someone about their situation.

For a long time now we have been discussing whether a different name would better reflect who we are and so it has been decided that we will re-brand as North Norfolk Foodbank. We are very aware that we have always been a district wide Foodbank and our boundaries in the last year have stretched even further, so it seems a logical step for our name to reflect this. We will be in touch with you about this in due course.

We had a very successful Christmas hamper delivery programme and we are now planning to offer schools support with their breakfast clubs, which will enable the neediest children in each school to receive a meal at the start of the day. We will also



continue to support the community larders and fridges that are spread across our district. In addition, we have decided to extend our Energybank scheme supporting people with their energy bills through the summer.

However, whatever projects we take on, we will never lose sight of the fact that our main aim is to support people in crisis with food parcels and, if necessary, signpost them on to agencies that can provide help with the issues that cause the crisis. This we will continue to do with your support, for which we are incredibly grateful.

With our best wishes to you all,

Peter Wenham (Chairman of Trustees)

