

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 30th May 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC

Ron will be leading and Jerry will be preaching from John 16: 5 -15
and John 14: 15f "The work of the Holy Spirit"

Diana is leading this Sunday's online service and Ron will be preaching from
Nehemiah 2: 11 -20 "Come on let's do this great thing"

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.



Ron's Reads

Ps 48:1-2, Ezra 4:1f Jn 3:30

For Your Prayers

Pray that the 92 poorest countries in the world will receive more than 49 million doses so that more than 20% of their populations can receive protection from the Covid virus. A further £25bn-£32bn is needed by the **COVAX** project over the course of next year to ensure most adults are immunised. COVAX state. "With a fast-moving pandemic, no one is safe, unless everyone is safe."

Please pray for Jane Skivington and the volunteers as they open up the Community Fridge in the next few weeks and that local businesses will donate food that often goes to waste.

Please continue to pray for those in the fellowship and wider community who are currently receiving hospital treatment and those waiting in the queue for operations. Pray for those who lost loved ones to the virus who are listening to and watching the allegations being made in parliament.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Hilary Hinton.**

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Lord, we worship you because you are the God of miracles. We give thanks for those amazing miracles that you perform every day and which we take for granted. We thank you for the miracle of each breath that we take; the miraculous beauty of the flowers and animals around us; and for the miracle of love and peace.

Lord, help us to open our lives more generously to your miraculous power. Help us to see you at work in all that we do, and help us to enable others to see how great you are. We thank you that your Holy Spirit will be at work in our lives today and pray that all that we do might bring glory to the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Loving Father, we thank you for the amazing story of Abraham. (**Hebrews 11: 8-10.**) Help us to be willing to step out in faith today. We confess that we have often played it safe, and have avoided doing things that might make us feel insecure and uncertain. Increase our faith in you so that we will be willing to live boldly for you this day. We worship your holy name, and pray that you will empower us by your Holy Spirit so that we will live in a way that brings honour to the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Source Rev Jonathan Edwards, former General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Writing for **Christian Aid**

We pray for people who are experiencing hunger, drought and disease: that we may open our eyes and our hearts to them and realise that we are responsible for our brothers and sisters.

Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those who are in war-torn countries across the world; those who have been killed; those with serious injuries; those whose homes have been destroyed, and particularly children who have lost their parents and families and are frightened and worried about their future: that they may know peace.

Lord, in your mercy...

Source **CAFOD**

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

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

For your Diary

Monday 31st May 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 2nd June 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

Thursday 3rd June 7.00pm

Deacons extra Zoom Meeting

Sunday 6th June Service

Flowers: Lorraine Stuart

Sunday 11th July 12 noon

Church Meeting

Wednesday July 14th

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

"Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus!"

Neal A. Maxwell



Church Open

The Church is now open on Sundays 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.

Community Fridge

Good news, all of Jane Skivington's hard work with the Community Fridge project has borne fruit, the fridge has finally been ordered and should be installed in the Stables in a week. Kate from North Norfolk District Council will be meeting with the volunteers on Wednesday 9th June in the Chapel at 10.00am when the practicalities will be sorted out. If you would like to be involved in this exciting community project, contact Jane on 01692-582091

Food Bank Can you Help

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.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at Hebrews 11. How strong is our faith and do we really believe in miracles?

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

Evangelism and Community

As a church, we are seeking to send teams of 2 around the homes in Stalham to share the love of Jesus and to see how folk have been over the last year regarding the pandemic. Please pray about this and if you feel led to be part of a team let Jan or Elspeth know. For more information phone Janet Nicholson on 01692 581529

EBA Prayer Focus 30th May 2021

Kings Lynn Baptist Church

This week our attention turns to the Norfolk market town of King's Lynn, home to Cornerstone King's Lynn Baptist Church.

Cornerstone sits in the heart of South Lynn, a centre of regeneration over the past 15 years, where it is the sole church among many new homes and businesses. These developments have opened the door to new opportunities to reach people with the gospel, and the church has played a key role in bringing the old community together with the new.

The Church has had a growing vision to be a safe meeting place for the local community, and in 2019 they opened a community café following some major renovation work on the existing church building.

This has enabled a greater outward focus of ministry, including the running of a Community Fridge, space for community groups and the provision of a community lunch for those struggling with isolation.

The Church has worked closely with Churches Together in King's Lynn to establish a Night shelter, a CAP Debt Centre and to support the local Foodbank.

The pandemic caused the inevitable challenges, but the opportunity was also taken to support local families with food parcels, collecting prescriptions and keeping connected with those facing isolation etc. Free children's meals were provided when the Café was permitted to open. Services resumed on Easter Sunday alongside a live stream.

There are big adjustments for the Church in the coming months. After 14 years, Pastor Kevan Crane will be stepping down at the end of July. There is a sense that God is leading the Church into a new season as they await God's guidance.

Prayer Points:

- For God's leading as restrictions are lifted. Wisdom to know what to leave behind and what to take up.
- For the Leadership team as they enter a pastoral vacancy and the Church as they look to the future.
- For the opening of the Community Café as restrictions are lifted and for the ministry through the Café.
- For a fresh outpouring of The Holy Spirit and for a fruitful season moving forward.
- For the Children's and youth work as they are able to safely meet back at Church.

Quotes of the Week

"To put it simply: the Holy Spirit bothers us. Because he moves us, he makes us walk, he pushes the Church to go forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: 'Ah, how wonderful it is to be here like this, all together!' ... But don't bother us. We want the Holy Spirit to doze off ... we want to domesticate the Holy Spirit. And that's no good. because he is God, he is that wind which comes and goes and you don't know where. He is the power of God, he is the one who gives us consolation and strength to move forward. But: to move forward! And this bothers us. It's so much nicer to be comfortable."

— **Pope Francis**, [Encountering Truth: Meeting God in the Everyday](#)

"The point is that there is a very old idea that the Holy Spirit is functioning in our lives not only to give us power as Christians but also to clean up our lives, lead us toward holiness. I will have to admit that certain kinds of holy Christians have always repelled me. I have never been able to tell whether it is because they make me uncomfortable, knowing that I am far from holy, or whether they are in fact making a serious error in supposing themselves to be holy when in fact all they are is sanctimonious. I will have to admit also, however, that I have met a few Christians who make no show of holiness yet whom I sense to be living on a different plane from my own. These people have a quality that strikes me as being at the heart of real holiness; they do not make me aware of their goodness so much as of their hope. They do not point up my shortcomings in contrast to their saintliness; they point up my potential.

I think Christ must have had this kind of holiness. He would never have attracted men like rough Peter and worldly Matthew otherwise. The secret ingredient in this kind of transforming holiness, I came to think, was love. When I came into contact with love as an overwhelming experience in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I found that I had been cleaned, built up, healed. I knew a kind of wholeness I'd never dreamed of; and the words whole, holy, and health are all derivatives of the same Anglo-Saxon word haml, meaning "complete." This is the type of sanctification that comes from contact with the Christ-love of the Holy Spirit."

— **John Sherrill**, [They Speak with Other Tongues: A Skeptic Investigates This Life-Changing Gift](#)

Has lockdown changed the way we serve?

As things open up and “ease down” begins, make a decision to step out, to choose to love and care for those others don’t see, writes Hugh McNeill

As things open up, we can’t forget what we have learnt through the pandemic.

The easing of lockdown restrictions could not have come sooner for many. The town centre in Coventry – where I live – was bustling with people yesterday, visiting shops, enjoying a meal indoors and hugging family for the first time in 2021! Yet, with our excitement to get back to normal – will we forget many things lockdown has taught us?

Since the pandemic hit the UK in March 2020 the community spirit in our towns, cities and villages was so present – did you feel that where you live? While people grabbed hold of their daily dose of exercise, suddenly eyes were opened to the needs of the community and complete strangers found themselves stopping on a walk to talk to one another.

There were small acts of kindness everywhere: notes written to neighbours offering help; newspapers and groceries delivered to those who were shielding; prescriptions picked up; training relatives on iPads on the doorsteps; rainbows put up in windows to honour the NHS and cheer up children; and many neighbours stood in solidarity out of their doorways as we clapped for the NHS each Thursday. At the Foodbank we saw a 20 per cent increase in the number of people attending foodbank in the past year, with hundreds of new volunteers stepping up to help this need.

We were a community of servants. A nation serving our communities. Surely, we don’t want to lose our togetherness now the world is opening up step by step? Serving others is core to who we are as Christians, and we should serve from a heart that earnestly seeks to love others as Christ loves us – but is it that easy?

Philippians 2:1-8 (NIV) says:

Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. 5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus

There are so many passages in the Bible that speak about serving others, this is just one. Yet, for me, it incapsulates the heart of the servant I want to be. When we recognise that we serve a loving Saviour, then our attitude and how we serve others needs to be in alignment with his. Now, don’t get me wrong I have not always got this right. I, like many, am looking forward to being able to hug friends and family again, to shop with ease, to go to the pub, yet if I put myself first and the welfare and needs of others second, I am not living the truth of that passage, nor am I living out the community I want to see around me.

We have a challenge before us all; are we going to be the communities we long to see? According to a report released earlier this year, over the course of lockdown, 71 per cent of churches have delivered new services, many in areas of the community they have never been active in before, and 5 million meals have been provided to those in need by the church every month since the beginning of the pandemic. Many with dwindling congregations have seen their numbers swell, churches have pulled together to provide for the needs of their communities and have done an amazing job of responding to the crisis.

If Christ is our example, we need to continue to show his compassion, tenderness, care and servant heart in our neighbourhoods?

At Coventry Foodbank, on a daily basis I meet single mums trying to hold a family together; single men with no family or friends to reach out to; those struggling to come to terms with a bereavement or loss of employment; those waiting for a benefit payment still four weeks away; broken relationships; mental health issues; physical ailments. And all of them carry hurt and pain and shame.

The need is still out there.

Serving our communities will take a challenge, it’s not going to be the ‘the new normal’. It’s down to us to decide to change, to step out and find the need that still remains. The action of serving, the decision to act in humility to treat others with a care and compassion most certainly is at the heart of a servant.

World Hunger Day this year, Friday 28 May, is focussing on the holistic care needed to end food hunger, and focussing solutions on community-led projects. Ending poverty is possible when people have the necessary tools and resources and when solutions are community-led — by and for the people living in conditions of chronic hunger.

God looks to us. This need is our responsibility, and it doesn’t have to be hard. Seeing volunteers at the foodbank just taking the time to listen to some – without patronising or judging their situation is so rare for many of those who come in. Foodbanks, soup kitchens, and night shelters could all use more volunteers, not just for practical help but to talk to people, to hear them, to be a friend.

Serving others has become one of the greatest privileges of my life. The people in my communities cannot just matter to God, they have to matter to me too. So, as things open up and “easedown” begins, make a decision to step out, to choose to love and care for those others don’t see.

If you're struggling to finalise your ideas of reaching your community, contact us and we can walk through some next steps with you.

Hugh McNeill is the Manager of Coventry Foodbank, one of the largest food banks in the UK. Coventry Foodbank, in partnership with Feed The Hungry, provides emergency food for people in crisis across the city of Coventry.

**Feed The Hungry, working with other Christian Charities, have import duties waived for Medical equipment to get equipment to where it is needed most. If you would like to talk to Feed The Hungry about sharing opportunities to help others through prayer, fundraising or volunteering visit <https://feedthehungry.org.uk/act/>
Source Baptist Times**



The Leprosy Mission

England and Wales



Caring for those caught up in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises

The Leprosy Mission is caring for those caught up in one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

National Director Peter Waddup says his colleagues in Mozambique are risking their lives each day to care for the country's most vulnerable as the insurgency intensifies.

Since 2017 the people of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique's most northerly province, have faced escalating violence from men with guns and machetes attacking communities.

More than 2,000 civilians have been killed and homes destroyed. The UN is reporting that more than 530,000 people have fled Cabo Delgado – a quarter of its population - as a result of the violence.

The recent hardship is compounded by climate change, hunger, homelessness, leprosy and, now, the widespread South African coronavirus variant.

Peter said: "We are in touch with our colleagues in Cabo Delgado daily and the situation is desperate.

I had the privilege of visiting our projects in Cabo Delgado three years ago. Hearing the current horrifying situation truly breaks my heart.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Leprosy Mission staff risking their lives each day to help those affected by leprosy. These are people who are all too often disabled as a result of not being cured of leprosy fast enough.

Mozambique is ranked among the world's poorest countries with two

thirds of the population living under the poverty line of US\$1.90 a day. People affected by leprosy are always among the poorest and are often shunned by society because of prejudice surrounding the disease.

Tragically it is typically people affected by leprosy that cannot flee a village under attack. This is either because they don't have the financial means or because their disabilities prevent them from escaping.

"It is utterly heart-breaking.

Our colleagues are working with churches in Cabo Delgado to support those left homeless and traumatised by the violence."

The people of Cabo Delgado mainly survive through subsistence farming. It is currently what is known as 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," Peter said.

Churches and individuals across the UK are supporting the [Unconditional Appeal](#), which will help build Community Hubs, or Hubs of Hope, from which to lead the fight against leprosy and provide a beating heart to communities.

Farmers are learning how to protect their crops from extreme weather at the Community Hubs as well as sell surplus produce to provide an income.

Peter said: "There has never been a more pressing need to welcome everyone in the community to a Hub of Hope. Together they can work together to create healthier and more prosperous communities..

Image by [Valéria Rodrigues Valéria](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Source [Leprosy Mission](#)

