

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 6th June 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC

Barbara will be leading and Ron will be preaching from Colossians 3:1-3, 9-17

"Real Change Won't Happen Until there is Real Change"

Barbara is also leading this Sunday's online service and Jerry will be preaching from Nehemiah 3: 1 - 32 "Building Together"

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

When serving the Lord together we need to remember that:

1. Everyone's Involvement in God's Work Matters.
2. Our Ownership of God's Work Matters.
3. Our Attitude for God's Work Matters.

Jerry's Reads

Romans 12, 1 Cor 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4:7-11

For Your Prayers

Please pray for Jerry & family as he has an assignment due for his Spurgeon's ministry training course as well as a residential weekend in Birmingham starting on the 17th June.

Please pray for those vulnerable people who are growing anxious about the increase of various covid mutations.

Pray that the government can find ways that will quickly and effectively help school children and students to catch up on the learning that has been damaged by the pandemic. Also pray that the new government in Israel will find ways to create a solution to the conflict between them and Palestine that will allow the two countries to live in peace and each country's populations can prosper.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Doreen and Josh Hollebon.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Sunday 30th Victoria posted "Prayers for Autumn please. Yesterday she fell from monkey bars and landed on her elbow. They have said that they don't think it is broken but this will not be confirmed for definite until the x-rays are checked at the N&N most likely on Tuesday (3 and half years ago Gracie broke her elbow but we were sent home saying it wasn't broken but 2 days later they rang back saying the x-rays had been checked at N&N and was broken so praying this isn't the case with Autumn) It is very painful. Please pray it isn't broken and that it stops hurting soon. She is desperate to play her first football tournament on Saturday. We are praying its better by then. Thank you everyone xx."

On Monday Victoria said "Update on Autumn - the hospital rang this morning to say her elbow is fractured. Which explains the fact she can't bend it and that is causing her so much pain if she tries to move it. Prayers for the pain to stop and for quick healing please. She is such a star and not complaining at all but is quite clearly very uncomfortable and is very limited to what she can do (its her right arm) Thank you xx."

On the same day Geoff posted "Please pray for the easing of discomfort and a reduction in swelling for Barbara. She fell on her knee while walking across the field to the playground with all the family."

On Thursday Maggie posted "Good morning please would you pray for my little granddaughter Ellie who is 2 years old she is very poorly an ambulance has taken her to hospital. She is shaking and has a very fast heartbeat. Thank you x."

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Dear Father, thank you for Sunday, the day when we Christian followers meet you in worship. Please look kindly today upon those who lead our church services – the priests, ministers, vicars, reverends, and all those who take responsibility for a service. Please grant them inspiration in their work, and may they enjoy the company and friendship of their congregations.

Please look kindly upon all those who help put a service together – it takes myriad workers to make it all run smoothly. Please bless those who serve tea and coffee, and those who serve communion; those who greet, and those who produce service sheets and newsletters; those who pray for others; those who play music and operate sound systems; those who transport others to and from the meeting-place. May they all enjoy the double fulfilment of serving both you and their fellows.

Please look kindly upon the congregations. May they come together in joyful fellowship, and depart refreshed, invigorated and encouraged, and may they have safe journeys back to happy homes.

Please look kindly upon those of us who are not regularly in church, and may not have been for some time. Thank you for the blessed assurance that our prayers are nonetheless heard.

In the name of our Lord Jesus – thank you. *Written by a member of SBC fellowship.*

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 online 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 7th June 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Wednesday 9th June 10.00am

Community Fridge Meeting
In the Chapel

Thursday 10th June 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer Meeting
Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 13th June Service

Flowers: Barbara Reynolds

Sunday 11th July 12 noon

Church Meeting

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@stalhbaptist.org.uk Whatsapp or telephone 07951949128.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at [1 Peter 5: 1-4](#). Do you recognise this in many of our leaders?

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

Watch Leprosy Mission Video a Race Against Time

Click on the link and watch the Leprosy Mission video "India a Race Against Time. [Video link](#). You can also find it on the SBC website Public Forum. [Video Link](#).

EBA Prayer Focus 6th June 2021 EBA Chaplains

This week our attention turns to those who work and minister outside of a church congregation, you may even have one as part of your church. EBA has a number of Chaplains who minister in a variety of contexts that include, Health care, Education, Prison, and the Workplace.

Over the last 15 months this ministry has had to adapt, just as "church" has needed to. One of our chaplains told me that their provision was covered by a small team of paid chaplains and over 40 volunteers who at the beginning of the pandemic had to be let go, this changes the provision immensely. Contact with individuals was restricted and limited but the need for a chaplain's presence was probably at its greatest.

I was told the move from mainly patient support to staff support in hospitals has also grown as staff have been left drained and tired after long shifts in difficult circumstances.

Our prison chaplains told me stories of total lockdown and isolation across the prison which made offering spiritual support challenging to those who needed it most.

Our Chaplains across EBA do a valuable job and are often forgotten as they are not in front of our church membership each week.

Prayer Points: Hospital Chaplains

- Please pray for staff within the NHS who are tired and weary and many of the issues that they have faced in their day to day lives in the last year have necessarily been put towards the back of their minds, but now because there is a sense of normality, these issues are beginning to come out.
- Please pray for hospitals as they deal with the backlog of non-covid matters. Please pray for wisdom for the management of the NHS.
- Please pray for all those whose loved ones died from coronavirus and all those who feel a sense of injustice and anger as they deal with bereavement issues.
- Please pray for the reappointment of volunteers as chaplaincy is beginning to be able to open up again across the hospitals.
- Please pray for all the new and unexpected connections made with staff over the last 15 months.

Prayer Points: Prison Chaplains

- Many of us are reopening services - for us this is the first time in over a year. Please pray that everything goes smoothly, and that prisoners and staff are blessed by the services.
- Please pray for health. COVID in prisons can mean very large numbers of people ill (outbreak) so please pray that Covid stays out of our prisons.
- For me, before we had to stop services, I had 8 people interested in baptism, and we've not been able to follow

these up until now. Please pray that many people choose to dedicate their lives to Jesus at this time.

- please pray for those churches that accept people into their congregations that have previously been in prison <https://www.welcomedirectory.org.uk/>
- Please pray for those who volunteer to pray for us, or who come into prison to help us <https://prisonfellowship.org.uk/>

For further information on prison chaplaincy please see:

<https://www.freechurches.org.uk/news/about-prison-chaplaincy>

Prayer Request for Salt Malawi

Salt Malawi is a UK registered charity working to relieve poverty and suffering, to enhance education and to advance the Christian faith, in Malawi and also in parts of Mozambique.

Geoff Reynolds writes. Hi everyone. We have a prayer request from John Seda and the team in Malawi. The CDJ trustees in Dedza are planning a 2-day campaign of preaching and village meetings, this coming Saturday and Sunday, to restart the church at the village of Biskit. Here CDJ once had a thriving church which went through many difficulties when the leader, Samwell was seriously ill for a long time. Subsequently Samwell passed away and the church failed to survive, due to its location and other leadership issues. The leaders of the 6 Dedza churches now plan to hold a series of meetings with the chiefs and the people of Biskit with this focus of re-establishing the church.

John has asked that we pray for the success of this campaign and that the Lord will use them mightily as they preach the Gospel and pray with people for healing and deliverance as God touches the hearts of the people. There has been a number of individual visits over recent weeks in preparation for this time and John asks that we 'pray hard' for this important 2-day visit.

For more information click <https://www.saltmalawi.org/>

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"We greatly err when we dream that only a preacher can minister to the Lord—for Jesus has work of all sorts for all sorts of followers. Paul speaks of women who helped him much, and, assuredly, as there is no idle angel there ought to be no idle Christian. We are not saved for our own sakes, but that we may be of service to the Lord and to his people; let us not miss our calling." —**Charles Spurgeon**

"When it comes to the work of the Lord, there is no place for spectators or self-appointed advisors and circs; but there is always room for workers."—**Warren W. Wiersbe, Be determined pg 37**

A great many people have got a false idea about the church. They have got an idea that the church is a place to rest in... to get into a nicely cushioned pew, and contribute to the charities, listen to the minister, and do their share to keep the church out of bankruptcy, is all they want. The idea of work for them—actual work in the church—never enters their minds."—

D. L. Moody

It is not by inventing clever new things that we take away the church's reproach, but by going back to the old truths that made the church great in the ages past. They lie like stones in the dust, waiting for some burdened Nehemiah to recover them and use them"—**Warren W. Wiersbe, Be determined pg 40-41**

"The pastor is late,

He's forgotten the date.

And what will the people do then,

Poor things!

They'll sit in the pew,

With nothing to do,

And sing a collection of hymns.

Poor things!" —**A little jingle to describe a church where**

members are not involved in God's Work.

Jesus is Lord

How often do we forget that Jesus, not us nor our ideas, is Lord? Each of us, whoever we are, whatever our calling, is to live in the light of this reality, writes Joe Haward for the Baptist Times.

Events over the last 18 months have taught us many things, brought to light hidden pain, and challenged us in ways none of us could have prepared for. But there is one thing I have learnt throughout this time, something I wish I had previously been more convinced of, but has been searing itself into my heart and soul. And it's this...

Jesus is Lord.

This may seem a strange thing to say, for surely in the waters of baptism, in the call to a life of discipleship, in the setting apart and call to ministry, the Lordship of Christ was affirmed, reaffirmed, and regarded to be vital, utterly non-negotiable?

Well of course, yes. But, in brutal honesty and openness, how often have I lived as one who declares the Lordship of Christ with my mouth and yet follows—as the book of Obadiah puts it—the pride of my own heart, the whims and fads of the world around me? The constant temptation within ministry and church life is to forget, to have amnesia about the call of the gospel. How much easier to chase quick-fix ideas, to pursue the path of marketing the church like another product in the world of consumerism, to view the people of our communities as targets to reach, and the people of God as resources to reach those targets. How often do we forget that Jesus, not us nor our ideas, is Lord?

The pages of history are splattered with the dogma and blood shed by rulers and dictators, Kings and Queens, Caesars and politicians, each demanding, through violence and the blind pursuit of ideology, that they be regarded as in control, as the one whom citizens must follow. But ideologues rise and fall as they each seek claim upon our wills and lives.

As these bloody pages of history are written, the Wind of the Spirit blows, carrying upon it a whisper first uttered behind locked doors, that turns into a joyful declaration on city streets, which in turn becomes a movement that transforms an Empire; that whisper? Jesus is Lord.

While many of the rulers throughout history have governed through drawn swords or loaded guns, this Lord commands forgiveness of enemies, prayer not violence, washes our feet, and sheds his own blood for the salvation of the cosmos. This Lord, this Prince of Peace, brings about his Kingdom through the revolution of love, the outrageousness of grace, the transforming power of hope. We now stand in the Sun-rays of resurrection morning, the vindication and validation of Jesus' Lordship, all of humanity beckoned in and invited into the very Life and dance of God.

The call to trust in God is a difficult one. Fear and panic can often set in. The feeling of needing to justify yourself. The desire to see results, of assessing your worth through such results, all of which lead us down paths that reflect our own narcissistic desires rather than obedience to the cruciform will and heart of God.

Irenaeus, writing in the second century, compared the way we can try and manipulate and change the gospel to suit our own opinions and desires, to that of a beautiful mosaic. This beautiful image is of a king constructed by some skilful artist out of precious jewels. It is as if we take this image of the king to pieces and rearrange the gems, fitting them together into a new and different image, and even then it is poorly executed. Yet we maintain that this is still the beautiful image of the king as we point to the various jewels that make up the mosaic. But it isn't the king any longer, but something else entirely.

This is our constant temptation, to forsake the difficult and treacherous road of following Christ, to take the beautiful mosaic and shape it according to our own wills and desires. So we are called to remember. The Spirit of God beckons us to turn with John and see the slain suckling Lamb and recognise this One as Lord. No power or ruler or authority will ever unseat Jesus from his place of Lordship.

Remember. Jesus is Lord.

Each of us, whoever we are, whatever our calling, is to live in the light of this reality. Trial and temptation will leave us thirsty in the desert of identity crisis. Desire to transform the beautiful mosaic of the Lordship of Christ into the whims, desires and fads of the day will come our way. Fear of failure will echo in our ears luring us in. Yet this day we declare the Yes and Amen of Christ is greater than the No of sin and death. We declare Jesus is Lord.

We are called to embody this truth, in word and action, naming the Powers that enslave, and living—in this beautiful yet broken world, with beautiful yet broken people just like us—the Good News of the Crucified God, who is the hope of the whole cosmos. The midnight of sin and death will one day give way to the resurrection dawn as it breaks forth with healing in its wings, the God of history ushering it in.

Amen.

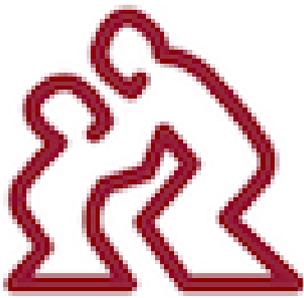
The Revd Joe Haward is a business chaplain, community minister, and writer.

Source [Baptist Times](#)

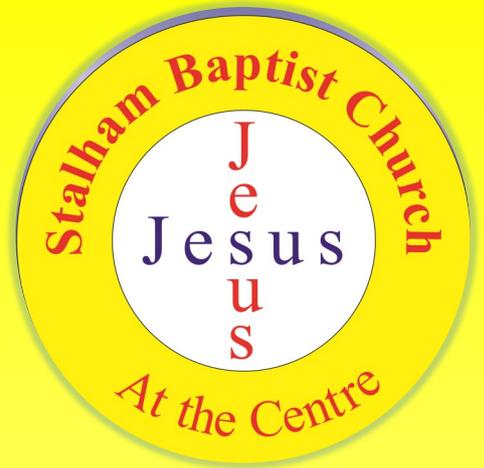
Image by [Island Born](#) from [Pixabay](#)



Jesus
IS
LORD



The Leprosy Mission
England and Wales



The 'race against time' in India

The Covid crisis in India has fast become the biggest challenge in The Leprosy Mission's 147-year history and a 'race against time'.

Peter Waddup, Chief Executive of The Leprosy Mission England and Wales, is appealing for prayer and [emergency medical supplies and vaccinations](#) as India's healthcare system collapses under the strain of the pandemic.

While scenes of people dying outside hospitals and makeshift funeral pyres burning through the night are beamed onto our screens, Leprosy Mission staff are working around the clock to save lives.

In a week when the official death toll peaked at more than 3,500 a day, the lives of Covid patients were saved at Leprosy Mission hospitals across India.

But much more needs to be done and quickly. While more than 150 million Covid vaccines have been given in India, this is just 11.5 per cent of its enormous population of 1.3 billion.

And, as ever, it is the most vulnerable, people living in communities affected by leprosy, that are left with little hope of receiving a vaccine.

Peter said, "We cannot watch and do nothing; we are in a real race against time here. A second wave of Covid is sweeping through India, causing untold damage.

"As Covid hits the desperately poor communities which we serve, often tucked away in rural India, people have little chance of survival.

"People affected by leprosy usually have compromised immune systems as well as lacking access to basic healthcare and sanitation.

"It is about saving lives now. We need to get oxygen and urgent medical supplies to our hospitals, as well as vaccinations to vulnerable people unable to afford transport. We pray that we will be able to do this in time."

Peter is in touch with his colleagues in India daily as the country struggles with what, we in the UK, feared could happen to the NHS in March 2020.

"It is truly their darkest hour," Peter said.



"Our supporters have been incredible supporting the people of India in prayer and through their giving. The need is just so great. India was the country in which The Leprosy Mission was founded way back in 1874. More than half of the world's leprosy cases are diagnosed in India alone each year. The Leprosy Mission has seen and overcome momentous challenges but nothing on this scale.

"So many Leprosy Mission staff have sacrificed their own health, and tragically lives, to Covid in the past year. Yet there is a steely determination to reach out and protect people living in communities affected by leprosy, the very poorest in India.

"It is such a strange paradox. As we in the UK feel the battle with Covid is almost won and are excited about our lives opening up once again, India has been plunged into the very situation we feared most. I am appealing to people to help if they possibly can. A little goes a long way in India and it is our responsibility, as humans, to save lives if we are privileged enough and have the opportunity to do so."

It costs just £11.50 to give 24 hours of lifesaving care to a Covid patient at a Leprosy Mission hospital in India. It costs £32.50 to provide Covid vaccinations and transport to five people living in remote and poor communities.

[Please consider giving a gift today that will help people in India during this time of greatest need.](#)

Source [Leprosy Mission](#)