

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 13th June 2021

Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC

Pat will be leading and David Osborne will be preaching.

Ron will be preaching from Nehemiah 4: 1-6 "Opposition begins in earnest"

In this Sunday's online service



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

Psalms 139:1-4, 2 Kings 18-19, Isaiah 37

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the government as they move towards relaxing the Covid restrictions. Also pray for the leaders taking part in the G7 meeting that God will bring them wisdom so they can come to agreements to deal with the problems throughout the world. Pray for those in the fellowship and wider community that are undergoing or recovering from operations and also for those in the queue awaiting operations. As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Angela Holman**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Thursday 3rd June, Victoria posted "Update on Autumn - on Monday the hospital rang to say her elbow was in fact actually broken, they said it was going to be treated with a sling. However, the orthopaedic consultant rang yesterday to say she had reviewed the x-ray and Autumn needed to come in asap to have a cast put on. So 4 days after breaking it she has a cast on. Thank you for your prayers xx"

Later that day Maggie posted "Hello everyone. Thank you very much for your prayers for Ellie. Just had message from Rupert to say they are home from hospital now and Ellie is well x. "On Monday Geoff posted "Afternoon, doctor has been to see Barbara, he fears she may have fractured her patella . As there is no way she can get to the car he has ordered an ambulance (non 999) to take her to A&E for x-rays and scans? Please keep her in your prayers."

On the same day Jan posted "Please pray for Elspeth and Gloria and Jan and Doreen who will be doing house calls in the morning and hopefully sharing Jesus with folk. Thank you." On Tuesday Geoff said "Barbara update. Has been at A&E since leaving here in ambulance at 9.20pm. After various visits to x-ray she is about to be moved to an orthopaedic ward. It is nil by mouth at the moment as an op has been mentioned. She is fine in herself but would value continued prayers. Thanks."

Later Geoff posted "Barbara update. She has ruptured things above both knees and is on standby for a theatre slot for an operation on both legs.

Please pray for a slot soon and good skills to get the repairs done. Thanks."

On Wednesday Geoff posted "Barbara sorted, back from op at 12.30am In a lot of pain though. Just spoke to her. They got the pain sorted enough for her to get some sleep. THANKS for the prayers."

Later Geoff posted "Just home from seeing B. Visit cut short a bit because the porter came to take her for plaster casts to go on. Has been in Velcro brace since op. She was B, now pain under control. Big time ahead but one day at a time."

Also on Wednesday Jerry posted a message from Jan "Please pray for Doreen, she is having a really bad reaction to new medication and is waiting for doctor." Later Doreen posted "Paramedics have been. Had an antihistamine injection appears, to be working. Thanks for prayers." Also on Wednesday Jenny posted "Please pray for our son-in-law, Paul, who has tested positive for covid-19 and has moderate symptoms. Charlie and the girls are currently negative and symptom free. Thanks."

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Lord, we know Your plans are to prosper and not to hurt, yet we see our brothers and sisters in India hurting today. We pray for Your blessings on them at this time.

We pray for those suffering from COVID and Black Fungus: may they know Your peace, and many may be healed.

We pray for the many in India grieving for lost loved ones: may they be surrounded by Your love and the care of those around them. We pray for our partners in mission, the GFA workers in India: please bless them with patience, skill, compassion, and bravery. Let them pour out Your love and healing everywhere they go.

We pray for practical solutions: for more oxygen, masks, and other medical necessities. Let there be enough for everyone. We raise our Indian brothers and sisters to you and ask that You hold them in Your love and grant them your joy.

You have the power over life and death – where we see so much death, Lord, bring forth life.

In fellowship with our church family across the world, and in the name of Your son, Jesus, we ask these things. Amen.

Supplied by Mark Booth on behalf of GFA World <https://www.gfauk.org/>

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 minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

For your Diary

Monday 14th June 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Monday 14th June 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Thursday 10th June 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 20th June Service

Flowers: Doreen Hollebon

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@stalhambaptist.org.uk WhatsApp or telephone 07951949128.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at **John 8: 1-11** How many times have you judge someone or cast the first stone?

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

Shrubsole's Visit

Our Missionaries Gareth & Bethan who have returned from Chad are to visit us on Wednesday 14th July. There will be a presentation at 7pm and prior to this (6pm) we will share a meal with them. Because of numbers for food preparation and Covid space restrictions you will need to book if you wish to attend the meal and/or the presentation by contacting Diana by email secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk WhatsApp or telephone 07951949128.

Cromer Food Bank

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

During June, the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Sponge Puddings and Custard, Jam, Squash, Instant Snacks – Mugshot, Pot Noodle, Cuppa Soup, Crisps, Sweets and Chocolate, Male and Female Deodorants, Shampoo and Conditioner, Household Cleaning Products – Sprays, Cloths, Kitchen Roll.

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.

In Plaster

As you will have read in the Virtual Prayer room two of SBC fellowship have ended up in plaster this week. Barbara



Reynolds with a cast on both legs from her thighs to her ankle to support knee injuries and Autumn who broke her elbow.

Please pray for them both. Autumn should heal within a few weeks but Barbara may take a little longer.

EBA Prayer Focus 13th June 2021

Gamlingay Baptist Church

Gamlingay Baptist Church is a small rural church, on the border of Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire. Originally a Bunyan church, it has a wealth of history to it and in recent years God has been adding to the historical accounts. The last year has been a challenging one (as it has for everyone, we know), but God has been speaking loudly and powerfully throughout this time.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been blessed to have maintained our Sunday services online via our website, YouTube and Facebook, and have seen growth in our Sunday fellowship as we have connected with many more, locally, nationally, and even internationally. As with many around the world, we felt God lead to asking the question, 'What is Church?' as it was clear, it was not perhaps what we had all been assuming it was. This lead to a series of Sunday interviews, with Christian leaders from across the spectrum, from Mike Pilavachi, to Guvna B, and many others in between.

God has led us through this question, to explore doing things differently as we move forward. We were enabled to

transition to live streaming our Sunday service, which has and will continue, even as we begin to gather in the flesh again; we are stepping into 'Third Sunday', a Sunday where a normal morning service doesn't happen, rather we encourage missional serving opportunities in our area; we are excited to restart our Backroom Cafe, and serve the community missionally there with quality treats, all for free, as well as preparing to join the Renew Wellbeing family; we are launching the Gamlingay Food Project (in part off the back of the response we were mobilised into due to the pandemic) in partnership with the local Anglican church; additionally, we have been led to create 'shorts' to share and engage with our communities online, which have garnered much response, and led to many conversations about faith, life, community, and more.

However, with all of these amazing God inspired and led ministry initiatives, there have also been many challenges, from physical and mental health, through to financial, human resource, and so on. We are continually keen to seek God in all aspects, and know that as He calls and mobilises us, He will provide everything we need to serve Him and our community faithfully.

For Prayer

- For continued wisdom and guidance for the fellowship as we transition out of lockdown.
- For the many different initiatives that God has clearly directed and led us into, that we would know guidance, wisdom, and be able to reach those in our community that He leads us to.
- For our ongoing build project, in attempts to improve our ageing Grade II listed buildings.
- For courage to not simply return to what we used to do, unless God is leading us back to that place, rather to step into whatever He calls to, now, and always.

Quotes of the Week

"It isn't as bad as you sometimes think it is. It all works out. Don't worry. I say that to myself every morning. It all works out in the end. Put your trust in God, and move forward with faith and confidence in the future. The Lord will not forsake us. He will not forsake us. If we will put our trust in Him, if we will pray to Him, if we will live worthy of His blessings, He will hear our prayers."

— Gordon B. Hinckley

"Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well."

— Theodore Roosevelt

"If our testimonies are strong on this point and if we feel the absolute assurance that God loves us, we will change our questions. We won't ask, 'Why did this happen?' or 'Why doesn't God care about me?' Instead, our questions will become, 'What can I learn from this experience?' or 'How does the Lord want me to handle this?'

— John Bytheway, When Times Are Tough: 5 Scriptures That Will Help You Get Through Almost Anything

The Anatomy of Conflict:

If there is no communication then there is no respect. If there is no respect then there is no caring. If there is no caring then there is no understanding. If there is no understanding then there is no compassion. If there is no compassion then there is no empathy. If there is no empathy then there is no forgiveness. If there is no forgiveness then there is no kindness.

If there is no kindness then there is no honesty. If there is no honesty then there is no love. If there is no love then God doesn't reside there. If God doesn't reside there then there is no peace. If there is no peace then there is no happiness. If there is no happiness ----then there IS CONFLICT BECAUSE THERE IS NO COMMUNICATION!"

— Shannon L. Alder



What does Boko Haram leader's death mean for Christians in Nigeria?

Following the death of Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau, Open Doors contacts comment on what this means for persecuted Christians in Nigeria.

The leader of Islamic extremist group Boko Haram, Abubakar Shekau, has been confirmed to have been killed. Initial reports of his death emerged a few weeks ago, but had not been confirmed until yesterday.

The Nigerian government have previously claimed to have killed Shekau on several occasions – his death is believed to be suicide, after a battle with Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). The [BBC reports](#) that ISWAP fighters ‘hunted down the warlord and offered him the chance to repent and join them’, and that Shekau ‘killed himself instantly by detonating an explosive’.

How are Christians in Nigeria responding to the news?

Boko Haram are responsible for the attack and murder of many Christians in northern Nigeria and neighbouring countries Cameroon and Chad – but the news of Shekau’s death is not being welcomed by Christians in the area.

“This is not good news,” says Illia Djadi, Open Doors’ senior analyst for work in sub-Saharan Africa. “More than 40,000 people have been killed and two million displaced in this insurgency that spans north east Nigeria, south west Chad and northern Cameroon. People have been expectantly waiting for him to be arrested and put on trial. There are many lamenting the loss of an opportunity for justice for the many thousands of victims.”

Will life get easier for Nigerian Christians?

Okoroafor demanding for the rescue of the 276 Chibok girls abducted by Boko Haram in 2014.



Sadly, the death of Shekau is not likely to change the terrible persecution faced by believers in these communities – nor should it be seen as the end of Boko Haram.

“Boko Haram is a dragon with many heads, so to speak,” continues Djadi. “Just like when the founder, Malam Yusuf, died the group did not disappear, someone else will take over from Shekau and seek to continue its activities.”

More concerning still is the fact that ISWAP are responsible for Shekau’s death. ISWAP is a breakaway, rival faction of Boko Haram, that split when Shekau became leader in 2016. It is also an affiliate of so-called Islamic State (IS). ISWAP now have access to a large number of fighters, weapons and territory – which is very dangerous for Christians in the area. “Shekau was seen by IS as causing division through his attacks on Muslims. ISWAP’s preferred target are Christians,” says Djadi.

More attacks on Nigerian church anticipated

“The Nigerian church is anticipating more pressures as a result of this,” adds Isaac M,* an Open Doors researcher for West Africa. “Most of the recent abductions in north west and central regions of Nigeria have been carried out by the ISWAP faction. There is an expectation that ISWAP may incorporate members of Shekau factions.

“The ISWAP have lots of trained members from North Africa whose presence in the country increases violent attacks and brutal killings of church leaders, church members and citizens in general in northern Nigeria.”

Attacks are even spreading into southern Nigeria, long considered a safer part of the country for Christians. “We have evidence that, in some cases in southern Nigeria, they have infiltrated and camouflaged as Fulani militants,” explains Isaac M.

A call for prayer

Amina knows more than most what Boko Haram are capable of – they murdered her husband and, in a subsequent attack, kidnapped Amina and held her captive for eight months. She has a simple request for Open Doors supporters: “I want believers to pray for Nigeria for an end to this menace that is happening in Nigeria. Not only Boko Haram, but other attackers – in every state in northern Nigeria, nowhere is safe. I pray for God to intervene.”

Please join with Amina by remaining in prayer for Nigeria and its neighbouring countries, which are all being affected by Islamic militant violence. Pray for the Lord’s

protection over His children and that He will continue to give them hope and strength. Pray for protection over the work of Open Doors partners in the region, and that they will be able to provide the presence and encouragement to our brothers and sisters that they desperately need. Pray for the government to act decisively and transparently in this fight against the radicals.

*Name changed for security reasons

Source [OpenDoors](#)

Image by [Suleiman.bako1982](#)

Hedge of hope

Having our doors closed has forced us to think outwards, writes Rashell Beya, minister of Broadway Baptist Church in Derby - and here's how we made a feature of a hedge we once wanted to cut down

As part of the major building project at Broadway Baptist Church in 2012-14, we really wanted to bring down the hedge that bordered our land. It wasn't high but it felt like a barrier and despite the size of our building it was easy to walk by and not really notice the church. However, we were told it was protected and there was nothing we could do.

During lockdown when people couldn't go far, suddenly we had visitors as families enjoyed using the carpark for skate and cycling practice, and occasionally people would enjoy the sun seated on the grass. Conversations started.

Christmas: another lockdown. A group got together with an idea: rather than the hedge being a blockage, let's make it a feature and so the 'hedge of hope' was born and nativity scene made of enormous lengths of chicken wire were shaped by individuals and families. At night it was lit up.

We wondered how it would go down. Word soon spread and families and friends would come out to look at the hedge and have their photo taken with the figures, while cars slowed down to look. On Christmas Eve we piped carols from underneath the hedge to add to the festive nature and were able to chat at a distance. There were many comments of appreciation of the joy it brought people on this particular Christmas.

So what next?

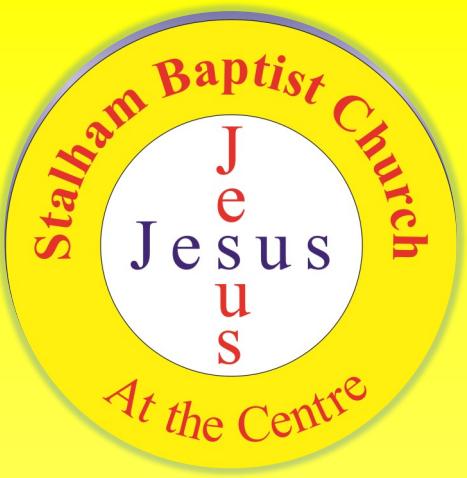
We planned for Valentine's Day: 'All you need is love' to go with an enormous heart with messages from the local primary school of what love meant to them and a banner 'Surprised by love'. An opportunity to tie a ribbon in the hedge to remember someone special. What did love mean for them?

It then morphed into a practical demonstration of love with a telling of the story of the Good Samaritan. Again people were talking about it and stopping us in the street to talk about it.

'Such Love' was our Easter theme, making use of an artistic piece of wrought iron that a member had made about 20 years ago and is on the wall inside the church. Jesus carried his cross on the hedge until Easter Sunday when a retelling of the Easter Story was again on the hedge. Again there have been many comments of how much people have enjoyed seeing the hedge displays, having the opportunity to participate in small acts of reflection and asking what next.

For now, the hedge is having a break, but it has helped the church up to

see the potential of all our space not just what happens inside. Inspired by the [Bible Society's Psalm 23 Garden](#), a group is working on making the front garden a welcome community space for rest and reflection. A couple of strategically placed benches quite near the boundary are making it an attractive stop for a socially distanced chat, and green-fingered neighbours are



enjoying making suggestions and offering plants as people are also preparing pebble prayer stations.

It is a small thing that we have done at one level, but by having our doors closed it has forced us to think outwards. We are in a residential area, opposite a retirement village, and have a number of people walking past, especially with dogs to the large parks at either end of Broadway. We have made more impact by a

light-hearted presence than when we are busy with activities inside.

We have also demonstrated ourselves to be a caring, connected, creative group of people who are interested in others in practical ways too: being a drop off point for the foodbank food, recycling drop off for baby pouches and part of the city's community support network for neighbours.

In all these ways we are making connections with our community as we pray how to develop them so that God's Kingdom may come and blossom in this part of Derby.

The Revd Rashell Beya is minister of Broadway Baptist Church,

[Source Baptist Times](#)

