

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 4th July 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC

Diana will be leading and Jerry preaching from 1 John 5:1-13

"The Assurance of Our Salvation"

Sunday's online service: Diana will be leading and Ron preaching from

Nehemiah 5: 14-19 "A Good Character to Imitate"

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



## Ron's Reads

1 Pet 5:2-4, Ps 15, 2 Sam 6 1F, Phil 2:1-16, 1 Cor 11:1

## For Your Prayers

Please continue to pray for Doreen, Elspeth Gloria and Jan as they take the word of Jesus to the local community.

Also continue to pray for those in the fellowship who understandably are still anxious to attend the Sunday service.

Please pray that the Community Fridge opening on Saturday 10th at 10am in the Stables will be a success.

Pray for those still relying on the furlough scheme for their income who are now at risk of being laid off as their employers have to shoulder a large percentage of the overall cost.

Please pray that more medication will become available to treat Black Fungus that has a 50% mortality rate currently 48,000 cases have been reported in India. Cases have been reported in Egypt, also countries in the Middle East and South America.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **David and Norma Huxter.**

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Thursday 24th Norma posted "David H had his appointment at the eye hospital this afternoon - the doctor said he has significant inflammation in the eye and has been given drops and ointment and told if the eye is no better in 6 weeks time to go back."

On Saturday Julia Maile posted "Hi. Cancelled (David's operation) halfway round A47! Will let you know when we have a update. Probably Monday. Jx"

Tuesday Julia posted "Hi. David has a new date, Monday 12th July. It's the surgeon's usual operating list so hopefully less likely to be cancelled. Thank you for all your prayers. Jx"

Also on Tuesday Jerry posted on behalf of Jan Nicholson "Thank you all for prayers. Doreen and I had long chats with 3 youngish people and left literature with them and prayed for 1 chap. Please pray for Mat and Ross that God would shine his light in their hearts and also a mum of 3 young girls. Continue praying for Elspeth and Gloria tomorrow as they visit homes that the fruit would come from their conversations thanks" Jan.

On Thursday Geoff posted "Please remember Barbara this morning. "We are waiting for the ambulance to take her to hospital for casts to be sorted. Thanks."

## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

### We cry out to you

God of all, we cry out to you for help. In your mercy, hear our prayer. Protect us, Lord, and be with us especially those of us most vulnerable during this coronavirus crisis.

Move us to reach out in love to our neighbours near and far.

So that the humble may be exalted, the hungry filled with good things.

Grant us the courage not to rush back to our old ways, but to rebuild our world together, creating foundations of justice, with equality and peace for all. Amen.

Prayer: Catherine Gorman/CAFOD

### At this time

Dear Lord. At this time of pandemic, let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are weak or poor. Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours. Let us take advantage of living together as a family. Let us attend to moments of prayer. Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope. Amen.

Prayer adapted from a radio message from Rodolfo Valenzuela Núñez, Bishop of La Verapaz, Guatemala Source CAFOD

[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](mailto: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 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](http://www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist)

## For your Diary

**Monday 5th July 7.00pm**  
Deacons Zoom Meeting

**Thursday 8th July 7.00pm**  
Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

**Saturday 10th July 10am to 12**

Official opening of the  
Community Fridge

Everyone welcome

**Sunday 11th July Service**

Flowers: Janet Nicholson

**Sunday 11th July 12 noon**

Church Meeting

**Wednesday 14th July 7.00pm**

Bethan and Gareth Shrubsole our link missionaries are home from Chad and will be visiting us and making a presentation in the church.

Contact Diana to book a place.

## 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](mailto:secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk) WhatsApp or telephone **07951949128**.

## Church Meeting Sunday July 11th

The Church meeting will start at 12 noon in the Sanctuary. All in the fellowship are welcome but only members can vote. We will begin with a special church meeting agenda item to update the church constitution. The Agenda and Minutes of last meeting are available on the [Fellowship Forum](#). You would only need to book if you were just intending to come to the Church Meeting.

## Amazon Smile

Stalham Baptist Church is now enrolled with the Amazon Smile Programme and can receive donations direct from your eligible purchases at no cost to you. All you need to do is ensure you order through Amazon Smile. You can access Amazon Smile through your regular Amazon Account and you will find Stalham Baptist Church on the drop down link of enrolled charities, or you can go direct through the following link:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1192914-0>

## Community Fridge Opening in the SBC Stables

After a lot of hard work by Jane Skivington the Community Fridge is opening at 10am on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July in the Stables. What is a Community Fridge you ask? Community Fridges are communal spaces where organisations and households can share perishable food that would have otherwise been waste. They are social spaces which help to reduce food waste, build trust locally and normalise the sharing of foods and other household items. Community Fridges are welcoming places open to anyone.

Hubbub, in conjunction with NNDC, are the driving force behind the project. On their website <https://www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge> they ask: Did you know that the average family of four wastes £800 of food a year? People and businesses are becoming more aware of food waste, and it can often be a hard thing to avoid. Enter the community fridge; an easy way to share good food and make it go further. A community fridge is a space where anyone who lives nearby, including businesses, can exchange surplus food. Hubbub coordinates the world's only and biggest Community Fridge Network with a whopping 100 community fridges running around the UK and plenty more setting up. We offer free support to groups to set up their community fridge and provide a comprehensive guide, design assets, health and safety templates and a free fridge! Jane Skivington said, "This is a really exciting community project, and I would like to thank Kate Haselton-Glee from NNDC for all her help."

## Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at [Romans 12](#). How easy is it to follow this advice particularly how difficult is it not to conform to the behaviours of those around you so you are accepted? If you would like to suggest a reading or take part in "Testimony Tuesday" contact Diana, Jerry or Ron.

## Testimony Tuesday

The fifth of our testimony videos this time by David and Norma Huxter can be found on the SBC YouTube Chanel click [here](#) to watch the video or go to the public forum on the SBC website.

## EBA Prayer Focus 4th July 2021 Garland Street Baptist Church

The historic Suffolk town of Bury St Edmunds is home to Garland Street Baptist Church, our feature for this week's Prayer Focus. The church is very much rooted within the local community, with a rich history going back to 1800. Its life and

history was the focus of a book written by one of its deacons. Today GSBC is engaged in a number of local partnerships, supporting the work of CAP, Town Pastors and Bury Drop-in, which provides help for local homeless people.

A host of activities was also run by the church pre-pandemic, including outreach groups for table tennis, cycling and indoor bowls, and youth work through the Boys Brigade and girls group 'Aspire'.

Like all churches, the pandemic has had a profound impact upon the life of the church, with the pulpit swapped for YouTube, home groups migrated to Zoom and much pastoral care and prayer conducted via telephone. The church is realising that it was easier to shut everything down than it has been to open up again, although worship services resumed on Easter Sunday.

This summer marks a significant season of change, with minister Revd Robert Green stepping down after fourteen years. His successor has already been appointed, and the church is excited to be welcoming Revd Gavin Walter in September.

As the church looks ahead there are several reasons to be optimistic about the future. A Renew-Wellbeing group is set to begin and the church and leadership team have established a clear vision to work towards. There is hope that additional people may be appointed to develop the church's online presence and community involvement, while the church building is also undergoing some significant redevelopment.

Please pray for:

- A smooth transition as minister as Gavin Walter takes up his position
- Planned building work and maintenance and the finances to accomplish it
- The sense of loss for those who have died during the pandemic and whose lives we have not been able to celebrate in the ways we would wish
- The rebuilding of church life as it finds its way into the new normal, appoints deacons and makes important decisions about the future life and ministry of the church

## Quotes of the Week

"A choir is made up of many voices, including yours and mine. If one by one all go silent then all that will be left are the soloists.

Don't let a loud few determine the nature of the sound. It makes for poor harmony and diminishes the song."

— Vera Nazarian,

"Strange is our situation here upon earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to a divine purpose. From the standpoint of daily life, however, there is one thing we do know: That we are here for the sake of other men - above all for those upon whose smile and well-being our own happiness depends, for the countless unknown souls with whose fate we are connected by a bond of sympathy. Many times a day, I realize how much my outer and inner life is built upon the labours of people, both living and dead, and how earnestly I must exert myself in order to give in return as much as I have received and am still receiving."

— Albert Einstein,

"There is immense power when a group of people with similar interests gets together to work toward the same goals."

— Idowu Koyenikan,

## Thought for the Week

**One basic human need is to be appreciated. We all think wonderful things about people but never tell them.**

**Praise only becomes valuable when you impart it.**

**Tell, text or email one church member today and express how much you appreciate them or how much you appreciate the work they do for God.**

**TRY IT THIS SUNDAY**

**Pastor Denias Polegate SDA Church**



# Open Doors

## Extreme persecution of Christians in India revealed in shocking new report

Today (1 July), Open Doors will present to Parliament a shocking new report (independently conducted by LSE) called *Destructive Lies*, which highlights the severe persecution facing Christians at the hands of Hindu extremists, including the troubling role social media plays in perpetuating lies and violence. Please pray that the briefing and report will lead to tangible change for religious minorities in India.

*Please pray that the 'Destructive Lies' report has a big impact on believers' lives*

Christians in India are facing 'imminent existential threat' under a systemic campaign of violent Hindu nationalist persecution. This is a finding from *Destructive Lies*, a shocking new report from the London School of Economics (LSE), commissioned by Open Doors, which will be presented to Parliament today (1 July). Thank you so much to everybody who invited their MP to attend this vital briefing, to find out more about the situation facing Indian believers. After the event, you will be able to see a list of all the MPs who attended at the bottom of this post.

The driving force behind this increasing persecution is Hindutva, an ideology that disregards Indian Christians and Muslims (and other religious minorities) as true Indians because they have allegiances that lie outside India, and asserts the country should be purified of their presence. This is leading to a systemic, and often carefully orchestrated, targeting of Christians and other religious minorities.

"Recently, the place of the Christians has become precarious," writes Dr David Landrum, Director of Advocacy and Public Affairs for Open Doors UK and Ireland. "With waves of persecution sweeping over religious minorities, Christians are experiencing intense and unprecedented pressure in India."

From the report – which features eight case studies – four headline findings have emerged:

### 1. Persecution pervades everyday life

The research found that 'an atmosphere of deep trauma, fear and anxiety pervades the Christian communities that we visited in rural areas, as well as many of the Christian and Muslim communities in medium-sized towns and villages and on the outskirts of larger cities'.

These fears are based on experiences of persecution, including exclusion, bullying and violence, where Christians have not hidden their faith. Other factors, such as gender and class status, have heightened the suffering.

Behind much of the hostility is personal ambition. Vigilante mobs or violent squads target Christian and Muslim communities, and cast them as the villains, as a way of currying favour with local and national politicians.

### 2. Covid-19 has made persecution even worse

Not only have Christians been deliberately overlooked in the distribution of Covid-19 government aid, they have also been the subject of disinformation relating to the pandemic. These lies have spread across mainstream and social media platforms and apps.

This includes images circulating showing people refusing blood transfusions from Muslim and Christians, whilst both faith communities have been blamed for the spread of Covid-19. Only a small number of such posts have been taken down.

And this is despite Christians and Muslims contributing to

community Covid-19 relief efforts, in some cases working alongside Hindus and Sikhs.

### 3. State officials are increasingly hostile

Some Indian states have anti-conversion laws. These are frequently

used to target Christians for 'forced conversions' and reflect how hard-line Hindu influences in the political sphere translates to regressive laws.

Meanwhile, at a local level, various state actors, such as district administrators, lower court judges and police officials, 'use loopholes and misuse procedural provisions to harass religious minority groups'.

### 4. Attacks are shared as warnings on social media

One of the first things extremists will do before attacking Christians and other religious minorities is snatch their phones. This is to prevent them documenting the incident. But the perpetrators themselves will record the attack and post it on social media.

Why? There are several reasons. To promote their own reputation amongst Hindutva groups and politicians. To warn religious minorities to stop practising their faith. And to let police know that they are unashamed of their violence.

Troublingly, the mainstream media cannot be relied upon to give an accurate version of events. Even if a local reporter captures the real story, the final edit will be dictated by 'an institutional hierarchy which is either risk averse or loyal to powerful Hindutva organisations and parties', reads the report. If a story cannot be spun against religious minorities, it almost invariably won't be covered at all.

### Recommendations call for urgent and widespread action

The report makes a series of urgent recommendations to the international community and international financial organisation, including an international fact-finding commission to record levels of violence and human rights violations against religious minorities.

Recommendations are also made to social media corporations and media outlets. This includes an increase in moderators to address local issues of discrimination, harassment, and violence, and the provision of religious literacy training.

"What is really shocking is how un-seriously this is being taken by [social media] platforms and companies who ... support human rights," adds one of the authors of *Destructive Lies*, who have published the report anonymously for security reasons.

"They should deal with it as seriously as if Christians were being persecuted like this in the U.S. or in the UK. I think they would have a different reaction to it then."

### Your vital role

Thank you again to all of you who contacted invited your MP to the launch today. In total, around 70 MPs and representatives have confirmed attendance. Your efforts to bring the needs of our persecuted family before MPs makes an enormous difference.

And you still have a vital role to play through your prayers. Please pray that the briefing and report will leave a lasting impression on all those present, and that every single recommendation will be followed through, resulting in significant change for Christians and other religious minorities in India.

### Please Pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for the opportunity to present the disturbing findings of this report to Parliament. Powerfully use its words to compel those in power to use their influence to make life better for Christians and other religious minorities in India. May every single recommendation be fulfilled, leading to a welcome change for people in India. Let this report and launch be a watershed moment. Amen.

### [Share the Truth](#)

For information about OpenDoors click [here](#).

# G7 leaders 'waste opportunity' to put world on track for recovery from pandemic at Cornwall summit state CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

**G7 leaders missed the opportunity to plan for a green recovery from the pandemic which leaves no one behind, according to CAFOD Director Christine Allen.**

The heads of the government at the summit, which took place in Cornwall between 11-13 June, "wasted a precious face-to-face meeting to encourage each other and deliver urgent and desperately-needed action on COVID and the climate crisis", Allen said.

G7 leaders announced the group of rich countries would provide one billion vaccines over the next year – although the World Health Organization has said 11 billion jobs will be required to bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control.

The heads of government also reiterated a previous pledge to provide \$100 billion in 'climate finance' – money to assist countries hit hardest by the impacts of global heating – rather than setting out how this goal would be achieved.

Christine Allen said:

"It is clear that the G7 leaders have not adequately heard the voices of the world's poor in relation to vaccines and climate finance.

"Will the actions of these G7 nations create necessary trust around the world as we move towards the next major summit in the UK – COP26? I'd say that's unlikely."

"If Boris Johnson believes that 'global Britain' is a force for good, then he needs to show by his actions the moral imperative to take urgent action for a fairer, greener and just world."

## **Vaccine commitments not enough to end the pandemic**

Campaign groups including CAFOD said a commitment by G7 countries to provide an additional one billion vaccines to poorer nations over the next year was insufficient, given the group's pledge to "vaccinate the world by getting as many safe vaccines to as many people as possible as fast as possible".

Aisha Dodwell, Head of Campaigns at CAFOD, said:

"Rich countries have secured more than enough vaccines to cover their own populations, but what they are offering the rest of the world will only help a fraction of those yet to be vaccinated.

"If G7 leaders are serious about securing vaccines for all, then they should all support proposals for a waiver to the COVID vaccine patent put forward by South Africa and India and backed by an increasing number of world leaders, including Joe Biden and Emmanuel Macron."

## **Lack of ambition on climate in run-up to COP26**

CAFOD campaigners had urged Boris Johnson to use the G7 summit to build momentum ahead of the COP26 (Conference of the Parties) climate talks the UK is hosting in November.



Leaders reiterated the importance of the 1.5C global warming target, promises to reach net zero by 2050 and commitments to improve financial support for low-income countries to deal with the climate crisis.

But the prime ministers and presidents in Cornwall failed to make more ambitious financial commitments.

Aisha Dodwell said:

"Before COP26, we need wealthy nations to significantly step up their spending on climate finance for the countries and communities struggling to deal with the effects of climate change.

"We also need all wealthy nations to immediately end support for new fossil fuels, both domestically and internationally."

## **G7 ignores calls to #CancelTheDebt**

The G7 leaders in Cornwall backed moves to allocate additional financial support to countries struggling to pay debts at the same time as fighting the pandemic through what are known as 'Special Drawing Rights'.

These are a mechanism for providing additional finance or 'assets' to countries, but the heads of government at the summit pushed for these to be made available through loans rather than grants, which risks adding to debt burdens for low - and middle-income countries.

The leaders at the summit failed to discuss the cancellation of debts, which is critical for helping countries facing debt crises to recover from the pandemic and which Pope Francis has urged governments to support.

**Source CAFOD**