

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 11th July 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC
Jerry will be leading and Ron is preaching from Psalm 84
"Do you envy the sparrow?"

Sunday's online service: Jerry will be preaching
Nehemiah 6: 1-14 Saying "No" to Ono-Resisting Satan's Dirty Tricks

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

The three Dirty tricks of the enemy are:

- 1) **Compromise. Neh.6:1-4**
- 2) **Blackmail. 6:5-9**
- 3) **Threats 6:10-14**

Jerry's Further Reading

Eph. 6:10-18, Mt. 4:1-11, Mark 15:27-32, James 4:7-10

For Your Prayers

Please pray for Eileen and her family. It was with great sadness we heard of the death of David Neill last Sunday.

Please also remember the families of Kaine Jerram and Terry Powles whose funerals are this week.

Pray for Ron as he prepares a number of funeral services in the next few weeks.

Please pray for Jerry, Ron and the Deacons as they reassess the changes in the Covid guidelines for live services.

Although we live in an area that has some of the lowest Covid rates in the UK please pray for the community and wider community as the current rules relating to Covid are relaxed pray that the vaccination program will protect people from serious ill health as the virus is predicted to flare up again.

Pray also for those in the fellowship and local community that are vulnerable and understandingly quite anxious about socialising or attending SBC.

Please continue to pray for the Christians in India who are struggling with the pandemic and are often not receiving food that other communities are being allocated.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Teresa Ince-Jones**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 2nd July Steve asked for prayers for his mom Jan Slade who was going to the Hickling House.

On the same day Cynthia posted "Please pray for our son-in-law Darren and grandson Josh who both have covid. Also for protection for our daughter Rachel and grand daughter Beth. Thank you Cynthia."

On Sunday Jerry posted for Maureen "Please pray for Paul, Emma and Abbie tomorrow as they are travelling to Great Ormond Street, where Abbie will stay for five days to be monitored for her epilepsy, Emma will stay with her. Thankyou for her prayers Maureen."

On Tuesday Jerry posted "Please pray for Doreen, Jan, Gloria and Elspeth as they share God's love in the community this morning thank you Jan."

Later in the day Jerry posted "Thank you for your prayers. We had a good chat with a young man Neil who was open and grateful. Also spent time indoors with Denis. Elspeth and Gloria will be going on Thursday morning be encouraged church, God is answering prayers, keep praying for all those we have talked to, thanks Jan x"

On Thursday Jerry posted on behalf of Maureen "Thankyou for your prayers, Abbie is home, please pray that the brain monitor and mini scan will reveal a way forward for treatment thanks once again. Maureen x"

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Prayer for Leaders

God, thank You for the men and women who serve our country in **leadership** roles and for their families. Please provide our **leaders** with reminders each day of why they decided to dedicate their lives to public service and use that commitment to encourage them not to lead the nation through love of power or private interests and focus on improving the country for all its citizens. Amen

Prayer for India

I will say of the Lord, 'You are my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'. God of power and might we lift our brothers and sisters in India to you. We pray for your protection,

We pray for your provision, We pray for the nations of earth to have compassion.

When people are in need, you are our refuge. When people are scared, you are our refuge. When people are mourning, you are our refuge.

Compassionate God, draw close to those who seek your refuge today. Amen

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

Community Fridge

Open In The Stables

Monday 2 to 4pm

Tuesday to Friday 10 to 12 noon

For your Diary

Monday 12th July 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer 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.

Sunday 18th July Service

Flowers: Julia Maile

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.

Shrubsole's Visit

Our Missionaries Gareth and Bethan who have returned from Chad are visiting us on Wednesday 14th July. There will be a interesting presentation at 7pm about their work at Guinebor 2 in Chad which is one of the poorest countries in the world. Book your place at the presentation by contacting Diana by email secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk WhatsApp or telephone 07951949128.

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>

Vintage Market Sunday 15th August

Fran will be organizing a stall for the Vintage Market in the High Street on Sunday 15th August which will run from 10am to 4pm. If you have anything vintage-ish that you would like to donate to the stall have a chat with Fran or text or WhatsApp her on 07523 924804 or email franlenehan@mail.com

Last time SBC had a vintage stall Fran raised over £600 for SBC and Rosina raised £160 with a tombola. When the Sunday service has finished teas and coffee etc will be available in the church which has raised money in the past

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at **Mark 6: 1-13**. SBC is blessed by a team of ladies who are currently knocking on doors in Stalham and bringing the word of the Lord to the community. When you have tried to talk to people about Jesus how did you deal with the rebuffs that at times you may have received? Did you stop trying because you felt rejected?

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

Service Recordings

Since May 16th the live sermons have been recorded and can be found on the SBC Website. To listen to the sermons click <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/sermons.php>

Cromer Foodbank

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

During July, the following would be much appreciated:

Tinned Fruit, Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Meat, Jam, Squash, Instant Snacks – Mugshot, Pot Noodle, Cuppa Soup, Crisps, Male and Female Deodorants, Washing Up Liquid, Shampoo and Conditioner, Baby Wipes, Household Cleaning Products – Sprays, Cloths, Bleach.

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

Financial donations are always welcome. Please see our website for details. <https://cromerdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>

EBA Prayer Focus 11th July 2021

Lighthouse Community Church

Sheringham is a seaside resort on the north Norfolk coast where you will find the Lighthouse Community Church located in modern, purpose-built premises in the town. The ministry team in this very active church is led by Revd Ian Savory. The church has strong youth and children's work and the building is a busy community hub. During lockdown there have been no Sunday services at the church but livestreaming has seen a growing number of followers including brand new

people joining in. In person gatherings will start again once restrictions are lifted but livestreaming will continue. There are three midweek devotional items produced which have over 200 views on Facebook for each time. A dedicated team of people help with everything going on, including the distribution of food parcels and fresh food, and packed lunches for vulnerable children.

The church is very engaged with the community in other ways. It supports Sam and Suzy Abramian who are working as missional listeners with Good Hope Communities in north Norfolk. One of the community projects is Hope in Action who have bought a house in Sheringham and have a family moving in September out of bedsit temporary accommodation. The church has bought the old St John's Ambulance Hall in the town and turned it into a community outreach project as a 'men's shed' and an adjacent area called 'The Patch' -- a large area to grow plants and produce.

Please pray:

- For the church to do what God wants and not what we want to do
- That the church will fulfil its mission to be a Hub church that blesses Norfolk and beyond
- For the family moving into the new Hope in Action house
- That the church will be led by the holy spirit to do what is right

Donations

If you would like to donate to SBC you can go on line at <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/donate.php> where you will find details of how to pay by BAC's, SMS or debit or credit card. You can also put cash or cheques through Henry Nicholson door at Three Windows

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Christians must take care that they cooperate with the right people at the right time for the right purpose: otherwise they may end up cooperating with the enemy. Satan is a master deceiver and has his servants ready to join hands with God's people so he can weaken their hands in the work (2 Cor. 11:13-15)...when you invite the devil to join your team, expect him to change the rules and the goals; and expect to be defeated." — Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Determined*

"When servants of God who find themselves in trouble humbly get on with the job God has given them to do, great grace is regularly given. One must commit one's cause to God and embrace the assurance that he will vindicate one in the end, whatever happens in the short term. Nehemiah found this to be so, and the work went on." — J. I Packer *A Passion For Faithfulness*.

"Falsehoods usually carry their own refutation somewhere about them, and sting themselves to death. Some lies especially have a peculiar smell, which betrays their rottenness to every honest nose.... Your blameless life will be your best defence, and those who have seen it will not allow you to be condemned so readily as your slanderers expect." — Charles Spurgeon *In his Lectures to My Students*, (p. 332),

Satan through his agents, devilish and human, assaults all Christians, and leaders, it seems, most fiercely; all Christians, therefore, and leaders supremely, must learn to pray with Nehemiah, "Now strengthen my hands" (6:9)—not only for constructive ministry, corresponding to the building of Jerusalem's wall, but also for mortal combat, corresponding to the sequence of defensive measures against Jerusalem's enemies ... When this is truly the prayer of our hearts, then the outcome of the conflict is assured, for leaders no less than for others caught in the fight. Those who seek God's strength will find it. The outcome will be salvation, not destruction: Satan will be thwarted and the church built up, and the God through whose help all the work is done will be glorified." — J. I Packer *A Passion For Faithfulness*.



Open Doors

Join the Indian church in July's month of prayer – week 2

Christians in India are urgently asking for our prayers as they find themselves caught between two crises: pandemic and persecution. So we have set aside July to pray with them. There is much to pray into, but also much to be grateful for. Thank you – your prayers make such a difference and mean so much to your persecuted family. This is the second week of prayer points. All names have been changed for security reasons.

*"Thank you so much for all your prayers, all your support, everything that you are doing for the persecuted church."
– Open Doors local partner in India*

Thursday 8 July

In 2014, a leader of a large Hindu extremist group said that there will be no Christians left in India by 2021. Despite a rise in persecution in recent years, believers continue to courageously follow Jesus.

Ravi was killed because he refused to stop telling others about Jesus. "If needed I will die for Jesus, but I will never leave Him," shares his wife, Sumi. "I will continue living here, and will continue the ministry of my husband."

Praise God for the witness of believers like Ravi and Sumi, and ask the Lord to thwart the plans of extremists.

Friday 9 July

Vinita and her husband have faced constant harassment from their community since becoming Christians.

One day, Vinita was praying with her pastor's family when Hindu extremists barged in. Vinita and the other believers were all seriously injured and were refused treatment at hospital by staff under pressure from the extremists. Thanks to you, they received treatment at a private hospital and are getting support as they file a case against their attackers.

Pray that the perpetrators will be brought to justice, and that Vinita, her pastor and their families will find strength in God's comfort.

Saturday 10 July

After refusing to stop sharing the gospel with others, despite threats, Gaurav was falsely accused of using fraudulent means to convert people to Christianity. He and two of his friends were imprisoned for four months.

It was a further three years before their innocence was proven, during which time they were ostracised by their community and deemed criminals. Open Doors local partners came alongside them to provide practical and legal aid.

Praise God that they have been cleared of

charges, and pray that God will use our brothers' persevering faith to help others.

Sunday 11 July

When Aditi (16) and her parents became Christians, their community mocked and rejected them, whilst relatives withdrew financial support. Aditi was about to abandon her studies when you stepped in to pay her school fees.

Despite ongoing challenges, the family trusts in God. "It's true that we need courage to trust in God. And that courage comes through prayer," Aditi's father shares.

Ask the Lord to build up Aditi through her studies, and pray that her relatives will receive Jesus as Lord.

Monday 12 July

Since starting a church a few years ago, which around 200 people now attend, Suraj has been closely watched by Hindu extremists. They are angry that people have left their traditional faith to go to his church. The hostility came to a head when they beat him for three hours, threatening further consequences unless he shuts the church.

Pray for protection of Suraj and his family, and that God will use the witness of the church to draw the extremists to the love of Jesus.

Tuesday 13 July

Praveen and his wife Shanti became Christians after God healed Shanti when a local pastor prayed for her. But their new faith led to hostility from the wider family, who refused to give Praveen land that he had inherited. The couple set up their own shop, but it didn't make a profit – and then the pandemic hit. Today the shop is running well after you provided goods to fill their shelves. "I am so grateful for the kind help," Shanti shares.

Wednesday 14 July

In the run up to local elections, Hindu extremists burned down the hut where a church led by Pastor Sameer gathered, accusing the Christians of embracing a 'foreign' religion and persuading people to vote against their Hindu political party.

With your help, the church has built a new place to meet. "It greatly encouraged our faith to know that there are others standing with us," Pastor Sameer shares. "Since the church hall is bigger, even more people come to our church."

Give thanks to God that He has made the church fruitful in the land of their suffering (Genesis 41:52).

For more information about OpenDoors click below

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/latest-news/>

People who are grieving need the Holy Spirit, not Spiritualism

People whose loved ones died during the pandemic are often suffering complicated, unresolved grief - but turning to Spiritualism isn't the answer. By Louise Morse

I'm very sad to read [the warning by the Baptist Deliverance Study Group](#) that people grieving the death of their loved ones during the pandemic are turning to spiritualism. It's been my experience that it is mainly older people who go to spiritualist churches, and there could be a link in the fact that 82 is the average age of people who died during Covid. Many have lost life-long spouses and relatives.

My parents were spiritualists and we children were sent every Sunday to the Spiritualist Sunday School. I am not surprised to read that the Deliverance Study Group have had people asking for deliverance 'from some horrific consequences of becoming involved in spiritualism.' They have no idea that they are dealing with demons. Most spiritualists are simply misguided individuals struggling to cope with unresolved grief, believing that they can once again speak with their loved ones. Jesus Christ is not presented as the Saviour, but as a perfect medium to 'the other side'. Darwin has a lot to answer for as many spiritualists believe that death is simply going to another place that is a part of the evolutionary process.

People whose loved ones died during the pandemic are often suffering complicated grief. They weren't able to say goodbye to their loved ones, which is the first step in a healing, grieving process. Now many are coping with anger, guilt and deep regret, and many PTSD.

Two years ago my 19 year old grandson was killed in a motorbike accident on a deserted country road, eight weeks after my youngest son, living with his family in South Carolina, lost his battle with Leukaemia. I couldn't get a flight in time to South Carolina, although his wife helped us speak over a phone speaker. In the following months I came to realise the importance of that final, 'goodbye, see you in the morning'.

When the pandemic struck, and the deaths began my prayers were for the families left behind. Self-isolation meant that the usual social support wasn't in place and they were thrown onto their own resources.

Throughout my grieving I'd been supported by my Christian friends,



my church, my colleagues and my family. I found the reality of the Scriptures that say, 'underneath are the everlasting arms,' and that the Holy Spirit is our comforter. And as a cognitive behavioural therapist I was aware of practical things we can do that help on this grief journey.

The Bible tells us to 'comfort others with the comfort that we ourselves were comforted' (2 Corinthians 1:4). So, after speaking with other Christians about how they were helped, to widen it from just my own experience, I wrote a booklet, 'Coping with Grief and Loss'. Many people have emailed to say how helpful they found it.

Recently I gave a copy to an 84-year-old whose 51 year old son had just died suddenly from a heart attack. She said, 'it could have been written exactly for me.'

If you know people who are struggling with unresolved grief, could I suggest that you give them a copy? We know that faith leaders have bought a supply so they can do this. It's available for just £3.00 from our Pilgrims' Friend Society website, [https://](https://www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/resources/coping-with-grief-and-loss)

www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/resources/coping-with-grief-and-loss.

Louise Morse is author of several books on old age, a cognitive behavioural therapist, a speaker and social commentator, and media and external relations manager with the 213 year old Christian charity supporting the elderly, the Pilgrims' Friend Society

Source **Baptist Times**

