

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 18th July 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC

Pat will be leading and Ron is preaching from Psalm 84

"I count all things as a loss in comparison to the excellence of God"

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

Nehemiah 6: 15 -19 "The wall is completed"

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

For online service: Mt 28: 19, 1 Sam 6, Rev 12:11, Dt 6:1-9

and live Sunday Service Phil 3: 7-9

For Your Prayers

Please pray for Jerry who is at Park Baptist Church in Great Yarmouth this Sunday.

Also pray for Jerry, Ron and the Deacons who meet on Monday to plan how to take the Church forward safely with the government's Covid changes.

Continue to pray for the Lighthouse Church Durban SA. On Monday Alan said things were getting ugly and on Tuesday it was like being in a war zone.

Please continue to pray for those vulnerable people in the fellowship and community who have been advised not to mix with people that have not been vaccinated and are understandably anxious on how to handle that.

Pray also for the Community Fridge that local businesses will support the project with surplus food items.

Remember those in the fellowship who are in the ever lengthening NHS queue for operations for serious and routine operations. Also remember those in the NHS who are continuously under pressure by the growing needs of the nation.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jenny Jackson**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Monday 12th Julia posted "Hi, David is due for surgery late morning, early afternoon. They are threatening him with high dependency afterwards because of his heart and diabetes so we shall see. Your prayers as always, greatly appreciated. Jx"

Later that day Julia updated "Hi, just to let you know David has reached recovery and is alright. He had asked the nurse to phone me so must be "with it"! He will be heading to Dilham ward once sorted. Thank you, Jx"

On Tuesday David posted "Please pray for the members of the Lighthouse Church Durban SA who share SBC's online services who are caught up in the current violence in their city and other cities in SA." The same day Jerry posted "Also pray for Doreen, Jan, Elspeth and Gloria this morning as they visit folk and share the gospel that God would open hearts."

Later he posted on behalf of Jan "Thank you for prayers, spent all time with a young man who had lots of issues and said he used to be a Christian. We prayed with him and feel he needs a loving church family around him for support. He may come to church, Jan."

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

Lord as we look back over the last week that has highlighted the simmering racism in our country and the response of the government, let us remember Eleanor Roosevelt's words "Pit race against race, religion against religion, prejudice against prejudice. Divide and conquer! We must not let that happen here." Please lord help us not to get drawn into that trap as a nation. Let us listen to the words of Martin Luther King Jnr who said, "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

Help us Lord as Christians to stand tall and speak out against racism and not be thought of in the way Martin Luther King described "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." Amen

Prayers From The Methodist Church

Loving Father,

It is the first day of the week; but in the story of creation, it is the day on which you rested. I, a small part of your creation, find it hard to rest, to take time out, to relax. Help me, Lord, to make time in my busy days for you. To remember that without you I am nothing, and that my sole purpose is to serve and worship you. Be with me now, at the start, and throughout the whole of the week ahead. In Jesus' name. Amen

Creator God,

Thank you for the opportunity of being together in prayer. As we look forward to the week to come, we pray for an awareness of your love and support in all we do. We are sorry that we only seem to turn to you in the down times of our lives, and forget to thank you for the good times. There is so much in your world for which we should be grateful and we offer our thanks now. Be with us, and all who need your loving touch at this time. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

Source the Methodist Church <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/>

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 19th July 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Thursday 22nd July 7.00pm

Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 25th July Service

Flowers: Anne West

Sunday 15th August

10am to 4pm

Stalham Vintage Market

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.

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

Shrubsole Visit

On Wednesday evening SBC was blessed by a visit from our link missionaries, Gareth and Bethan Shrubsole (pictured below,). They have been working at Guinebor 2 hospital in

Chad which is one of the poorest countries in the world and where they hope to return by the end of August.. They both talked passionately about their work Gareth as the hospital's administrator and Bethan with her music therapy for youngsters with disabilities and how they have helped people come to Jesus. Bethan delightfully sang and played songs she uses in her ministry, singing in French and Arabic. They also played videos of their three children who have integrated into the community



by learning new languages and their sons playing football for a local team.

The evening highlighted how the Baptist Missionary Society, supported by Baptist Churches throughout the UK, brings "Christianity in Action" to many countries throughout the world.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at [2 Corinthians 1](#). How easy is it to continue trusting God and relying on personal prayer and the power of the prayers of others when you are experiencing significant problems in your life?

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

EBA Prayer Focus 18th July 2021 Friars Baptist Church

Shoeburyness is tucked away in the south-east corner of Essex, where the Thames meets the sea. Once a garrison town, it still acts as host to MoD Shoeburyness.

Friars Baptist Church was planted from Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church in the late 1980s and the building went up in the late 1990s. The church is at the centre of a collection of housing estates, with a wide variety of people and housing making up the area around it.

Minister Duncan Keys and his wife Ruth have been serving there for two-and-a-half years with about half of it spent in lockdown. Like everyone else, they and the fellowship have had to adapt to the 'new normal'. Recorded and live-streamed services from the building have led to new people attending the resumed in-person services as a result of watching online.

There are good contacts with local families through Boys' and Girls' Brigade. Earlier this year the church began a partnership with One Love Southend to provide hot meals for people who are in need, as well as providing the chance to get groceries for a nominal charge. This has fitted well with the work done by the South Essex Community HUB who give practical help and

advice using the building.

Friars know that they need to add to their leadership team and particularly need to encourage a new generation of people to serve God in this way. They are also just beginning to consider the appointment of a worker to spearhead their work with the local community.

Prayer points:

- That we will discover the new things that God wants us to do in engaging with our community and the courage to make the changes needed so that we can do what God wants us to do
- For our Boys' and Girls' Brigade as they renew their contacts in the community
- For guidance in appointing new leaders and considering a worker for the community
- That God will have the glory due to His name as we serve him here in South Essex

Quotes of the Week on Racism

The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19: 34

"As a nation, we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.' We now practically read it 'all men are created equal, except negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equal, except negroes, and foreigners, and Catholics.' When it comes to this I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretence of loving liberty – to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy."

— **Abraham Lincoln, Lincoln Letters**

"On some positions, cowardice asks the question, is it expedient? And then expedience comes along and asks the question, is it politic? Vanity asks the question, is it popular? Conscience asks the question, is it right?"

There comes a time when one must take the position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but he must do it because conscience tells him it is right."

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"Until the philosophy which holds one race superior and another inferior is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, everywhere is war. And until there are no longer first-class and second-class citizens of any nation, until the colour of a man's skin is of no more significance than the colour of his eyes. And until the basic human rights are equally guaranteed to all without regard to race, there is war. And until that day, the dream of lasting peace, world citizenship, rule of international morality, will remain but a fleeting illusion to be pursued, but never attained... now everywhere is war."

- Popularized by Bob Marley in the song **War**"

— **Haile Selassie I, Selected Speeches**

"Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred darkens life; love illuminates it."

— **Martin Luther King, Jr., A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches**

"We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered."

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change."

— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

A prophetic moment? Developing a rhythm of resilience

Let us allow our devotional roots to grow deeper, to gain the strength of Christ, through His Spirit - and in taking His yoke upon us, become a pastoral presence within our communities and the gospel voice that our context so desperately needs to hear. By William Wade

As conversations around the subject of the easing of restrictions capture our national mood of hopefulness these days, we are also facing a sense of hope within our churches, with less restrictive services being planned and a looking forward to unmasked singing once again ringing out from our gatherings. These are days in which we are looking to 'live with the virus' and working out what that will look like within our own local contexts.

One of the stark realities of our coming out of a more restrictive lifestyle is that we will inevitably be rubbing shoulders with more people, both within our churches and within our communities. We will be seeing faces again and we will be easier in each other's spaces, looking to develop a physically closer culture again, rather than holding that two-metre gap between us. This will also allow us to face people that have struggled, wept, grieved and lost so much during the past 18 months. We are living in days when to be a minister in Christ's Church and in our communities has an unquestionably valid pastoral role to be embraced and a prophetic missional opportunity to be grasped.

So, how do we step into all that will be coming our way, and for many of us, has already been taking place over this past coronavirus season? One thing is for sure – we can't do it on our own. I come from a military background as a soldier, and as a missionary to British soldiers with the military missionary organisation SASRA. I am now the minister of Life Church in Cuffley, Hertfordshire, a part of the Central Baptist Association of churches.

My military training, both as a soldier and as a missionary to soldiers, included a significant amount of training in resilience: resilience as a soldier in preparation for battle and resilience as a missionary in preparation for spiritual battle. This training served me well and as a former boxer, I am aware of pushing through pain barriers, going the extra mile and realising that the body and mind can take more than what we sometimes imagine it can. However, this is not the kind of resilience I am suggesting here.

The Central Baptist Association recently had our online Assembly gathering, which had Geoff Colmer, team leader and new Baptist Union President, speaking to us about being attentive to rhythms of grace. It was inspirational and pastoral, but I sensed something else – that it had a prophetic edge to it as well. He was suggesting that when we place a high priority on our own devotional life, then we find that we have the strength to be the kind of ministers that flourish within the kingdom of God. In other words, that we are able to

minister from the overflow of hearts full of the Spirit of God, to our churches and on into our communities, rather than having to rely on our own limited physical and emotional resources.

At Life Church, where I am privileged to serve, we took our ministry leaders away for a day of prayer and seeking God about our future at the beginning of 2020. We had no idea what was about to engulf our world at that point. We sensed clearly that God was calling us to be a hub for our community – a hub for Him.

Out of that sense of leading came the decision to build a community café, which was then built over lockdown, and we are now having people from the community coming in with stories of loneliness, pain, anger and grief. We have been able to meet with these people in a relaxed way (over coffee and cake) and have been able to minister to them on a level that is appropriate.

As our church has reopened since Easter, we have grown weekly and are meeting pastoral needs as they arise. There is a sense that God is doing something in our midst and we are attempting to keep in step with His Spirit.

How do we do that? Well, we have a strong ethos in the church of leaning on His strength and not our own. We constantly remind ourselves that the only way we can continue to minister on this level is through the Spirit of God, trusting in the words of God and in releasing the people of God. Our resilience is one of surrender, not of trying harder.

As we are in the middle of a series on the fruit of the Holy Spirit right now, our mantra for this season is, 'Holy Spirit trees produce Holy Spirit fruit'. It's about being, as Geoff Colmer says, 'attentive to the rhythms of grace'; it's about ministering from the overflow of our devotional life with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 15: 58 encourages us, *'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.'*

In this holy moment where we are coming into a new season in our nation, where restrictions are easing and opportunities will come our way, let us march into this season recognising that our own strategies, plans and programmes will not be enough to meet the incoming needs of broken lives. Let us allow our devotional roots to grow deeper, to gain the strength of Christ, through His Spirit, and in taking His yoke upon us, become a pastoral presence within our communities and the gospel voice that our context so desperately needs to hear. This may very well be a prophetic moment for the Church – for your church – to take hold of.

Father, would you grant us the resilience of the Spirit to lead, empower and revive us as we go.

William Wade is minister at Life Church, Cuffley

Source Baptist Times for more information click below

https://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/287922/Baptist_Times.aspx

Christians In Parliament Prayers

Below are some general pointers to help you pray about Parliament, politics, government and the role of the church. [Join our mailing list to receive termly prayer letters.](#)

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

– 1 Timothy 2:1-4, NIV UK

Parliament

- Pray for your MP: that they will make wise decisions for the good of their constituents and that they will be able to cope with the stresses and strains of public office. Why not write to your MP to let them know that you are praying for them?
- Pray for the work of the House of Commons and the House of Lords: that good and just decisions will be made and that the tone of debate is measured and constructive.
- Pray for Christian MPs, Peers and staff: that their faith will grow and that they will seek to serve God, being salt and light in Parliament. Pray that all Christians working in Parliament will model disagreeing well and be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.
- Thank God for the freedoms we enjoy to pray and worship and to participate in public life.



Image by [David](#)



Politics

- Pray for politics of wisdom, integrity, self-sacrifice and policymaking for the good of all.
- Pray for effective and gracious Christian presence and influence in political debate.
- Pray for the wise explanation of God's truth in the public square.
- Pray that the wisdom of the Bible would be listened to in what it says about human flourishing across all policy areas.
- Pray that the Christian groups in each of the main parties would grow in influence and the positive contribution that they can make.

Government

- Pray for wisdom for the Queen, the Prime Minister and the cabinet
- Pray for integrity, truth and compassion throughout Government.
- Pray for the positive influence of God's people for the good of all throughout all Government departments.
- Pray that the UK Government would be a strong force for good in foreign policy and bringing relief to those suffering throughout the world.

Church

- Pray for greater Christian engagement in local and national politics and that churches will effectively support and encourage those who feel called to serve God in politics.
- Pray for good relationships between churches and their local MPs and that churches will seek ways in which they can support MPs in serving their communities

Source Christians in Parliament click below for more details

<https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/about/>