

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 25th July 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC
Diana will be leading and Jerry is preaching from Ephesians 1: 3-10
"Our Union with Christ"

Sunday's online service: Maggie will be leading and Ron is speaking from
Nehemiah 7:1-73 "After the walls the people needed rebuild"

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 and Jerry's Reads

For Ron's online service: : 2 Sam 5:6, Ezra 2, Ps 48
and Jerry's live Sunday Service: John 15, Rom 6:1-14, 1 Cor 1-5-15,
Gal 2:15-21, Colossians 2:6-23

For Your Prayers

Prayers please for Howard Hornagold and Wendy Gooch who are to marry at SBC on the 31st July. Also pray for the SBC football teams, the adult team and the under 14s who both play in a Christian League and also prayers for their helpers.

Please pray for all those in the fellowship and community that have received vaccines but are still understandingly anxious about the rise in Covid cases.

Please pray for SBC as we work to keep the church open and safe for our face to face services.

Also pray that world leaders will work together to provide vaccines for all of the countries in the world. Help them not to be short sighted and only protect their nationals because until all are vaccinated no country is safe from another variant.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Alan and Sheena Jarman.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Thursday 15th Steve posted "Dear friends, just to let you know that I have been to the James Paget Hospital to see my vascular surgeon and he has decided instead of taking off my leg off below the knee, he is going to take it off above the knee because I can't straighten my leg out. Sending all my love, DJ."

Also on Friday Victoria posted "Prayers for Poppy also please. We are going to see her consultant today for a check up. The specialist from Nottingham Children's Hospital is coming to discuss whether to stop her treatment or to arrange a biopsy and continue her treatment longer if safe to do so. Prayers for the right decision to be made please, thank you xx"

On Saturday Jerry posted on behalf of Cynthia "Thank you for praying for our family Darren, Josh and Beth. They have all now recovered from Covid. Rachel-who was double jabbed a while ago avoided it. Thanks Cynthia."

The same day Doreen asked "Please could you pray for Nick and Barbara, as Nick has tested positive for Covid and they both needed to isolate for 10 days. Nick has mild symptoms. Thank you Doreen."

On Sunday Victoria posted "Update on Poppy - On Friday Poppy had a check-up with her consultant. The specialist from Nottingham Children's Hospital also came to discuss stopping her treatment. They were pleased with how well she is at the moment. The specialist says there is no magic answer to what to do next (there is no cure for Nephrotic Syndrome just treatment options we can try so as always no one can say what will happen when treatments are stopped or changed) but said that his gut feeling is for her to stay on her treatment for another year. He said he thinks we shouldn't try and fix something that isn't broken...she is doing well on her treatment and stopping it will risk relapse.

Obviously, she will continue to have regular blood tests and check-ups to check it isn't starting to become toxic to her body again or suppressing her immune system at a dangerous level. Then this time next year we will discuss with him if to reduce her treatment down to half dosage for 6 months, and stop it, or go to Nottingham Children's Hospital for a biopsy to see if it's safe to carry on with her treatment even longer. I said I'm happy with this plan but we need to be aware that next summer she will only have a year of primary school left so need to not mess around with things too close to high school as the last thing she will want is to relapse/ be poorly/ on high dose steroids/ starting a new treatment, at the start of high school. Hoping and praying this is the right decision. She had to stop this treatment in October 2019 as it was becoming toxic to her body and managed 9 months treatment free before suffering 2 relapses last summer, hence being back on this immunosuppressant treatment again. Very grateful for how well she is at the moment! And thank you for all your prayers."

On Monday Geoff posted "Barbara home, casts gone, braces on! Thanks for your prayers."

On Tuesday Jerry posted "Please pray for Elspeth and Gloria this morning as they share God's love with folk as they visit and that God would soften hearts to Him thanks Jan."

On Wednesday Maria asked "Hi all, please pray for my brother Luke who has Covid. He is doing well and is fairly healthy but he has asthma so I am really worried about him."

The same day Doreen posted "Please will you continue to pray for Barbara and Nick xx"

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 26th July 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 28th July 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 1st August Service

Flowers: Sheena Jarman

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.

Thanksgiving for David Neil

'David's thanksgiving celebration will take place in the sanctuary on 5th August at 2.30pm and we know that many of you would want to attend this. As you are aware we are still taking steps to keep people safe from Covid and will for the time being be maintaining our booking system for all church events so we can ensure some social distancing. Therefore those wishing to attend who are not family members must book with Diana etc. Diana will need to have final numbers by 1st August'.

Vintage Market Sunday 15th August

Fran has decided not to organise and run a Vintage Market stall for SBC in August due to the rising number of Covid cases. But is looking forward to next year's market.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at **Mark 2 13-17**. How easy is it to go out of your way to talk to non believers and bring Jesus into the conversation or is it much easier to talk to those who share your faith?

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

Jerry Preaching Away from Home

Last week Jerry preached at Park Baptist Church Yarmouth his talk captured the fellowship and was well received. Jerry was filling in for the holidaying Rev Peter Timothy who plays football for our Church Football team with Jerry and has preached at SBC.

Pray for Revival

Prayer was a major priority in the life of Jesus and if he needed to pray so much how much more do we? Writes Jan Nicholson.

As various church activities have ceased, maybe temporarily due to the Pandemic, how much more do we need to pray both either individually and corporately. The Psalms speak of earnestly seeking and thirsting for God and crying out to him (Psalm 63,27,42,84) and Jeremiah says ^ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart^ Jer 29(v) 13. Previous revivals have all been initiated through prayer. The Hebridean Revival began because two old ladies who were sisters, one blind and the other arthritic prayed twice a week into the early hours seeking God's heart for the islands and God answered their prayers. If ever there was a time to cry out to God for our Nation and our Communities, it's now and it starts with us as we draw near to God asking him to cleanse and revive us and baptise us with his Holy Spirit. Let us make the following our persistent prayer before the Lord God, Father God, we come before your throne to humble ourselves and pray, to seek your face and turn from our wicked ways. We have sinned against you, o Lord. We have disobeyed your clear commands. We have not loved you with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Forgive us, O God. Heal our land. Send a Spirit of repentance. Let it sweep across this nation. Let the purging fire of revival begin in my heart and in your church. Let it spread through every community, every town, and every city in the UK and around the world.

Establish righteousness we pray. Let the bad roots that produce bad fruits be burned out of our lives. Further, we ask that Godly leaders would be raised up and elected to public office at every level and that ungodly leaders will be removed. May Satan's hold on government be broken and righteous rule be established. May Your kingdom come and Your will be

done on earth as it is in heaven.

This prayer we persistently pray in the name of Jesus and for the glory of God. Amen.

Prayer given by Thomas Trask, general superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, during a time of fasting and prayer conference in Orlando Florida in July 1994.

EBA Prayer Focus 25th July 2021 Girton Baptist Church

Located two miles to the northwest of Cambridge, near to the meeting point of the A14 and M11, is the village of Girton. Famous as the home of Girton College, it is also the home to the fellowship at Girton Baptist Church.

Revd Nick Lowe has been the Minister at Girton since 2015 and was joined by Christine Kimmitt (lay Pastor) in 2018. They are supported by three deacons.

Since March 2020, the fellowship began to meet on Zoom. This helped to retain their sense of community whilst in-person meetings were not possible. The flexibility of Zoom meant that people, who would not otherwise have been able to attend Church, were able to attend online. For Girton Baptist Church, this meant there was a slight increase in the numbers attending worship.

Since September 2020, the fellowship has been running Messy Church on Zoom. Called "Messy Zoom" it has provided an opportunity to reach out to the wider community using the technology that many are now becoming familiar with. The above photo shows some of the work produced by one family after Messy Zoom.

Aware that not everyone is comfortable with technology, the fellowship has been producing a magazine. With contributions from members of the congregation, it has brought encouragement to the fellowship. However, they have found that their magazine is reaching a wider audience. As further easing of restrictions take place, the fellowship has returned to their building and are continuing to offer services via Zoom.

For Prayer

- For people in the village of Girton struggling with mental health issues caused by the effects of lockdown
- Those in the congregation who are struggling with physical health issues due to the NHS backlog
- Those who may find transitioning back to in-person church very challenging
- Wisdom for the leadership in coming out of lockdown
- New forms of outreach in the village

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"You are in Christ Jesus" (1 Cor 1:30). We, the unclean, are not just washed; we are in the Holy One forever. We, the rebellious, are not just pardoned; we are in the King forever. We, the sad, are not just encouraged; we are in the Blessed One forever. We, the defeated, are not just empowered; we are in the Victor forever. We, the confused, are not just instructed; we are in the Sage forever.- **Ray Ortlund**

"Union with Christ -- this is the sum and substance of the Christian's status, the definition of his relationship to Jesus, the large reality in which all the nuances of his new being are embraced."—**Lewis B. Smedes, Union With Christ, page xi.**

We are not acceptable to God on the basis of our state of mind or heart at any given moment, not that that is unimportant. Since we are united to Christ, the Father regards us exactly as he does his Son and has done from eternity! That is why we can call on him as "Our Father . . ." —**Robert Letham**

"For this is the design of the gospel, that Christ may become ours, and that we may be ingrafted into his body."

- **John Calvin**

Thought for the Week

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush it's said, but as Christians would we be better talking more often to the two birds in the bush who don't know Jesus rather than the one in our hand who does.





Open Doors

From 'Chibok girl' to university graduate

Mary Katambi was one of the 'Chibok girls'. That's how the world knew her. Now she is ready to take on the world, having graduated with a degree in accounting – showing that she has hope and an amazing future, despite the terrible ordeal she faced at the hands of Islamic militants. Here is her extraordinary tale of courage and faith.

Mary has recently graduated with a degree in accounting, seven years after she was kidnapped by Boko Haram

Few kidnappings have captured the world's attention like the 2014 kidnapping of 276 girls from a secondary school in Chibok State, Nigeria. Abductions are sadly all too common in Nigeria, but there was something about this appalling act by the Islamic militant group Boko Haram that made the world take notice. Sadly, 112 of the girls – now young women – remain missing and in captivity. Those who have returned home often face discrimination and persecution from their own communities.

But for one 'Chibok girl', now is a time of celebration. Despite all she has been through, Mary Katambi (24) is now rejoicing that she has graduated from American University in Yola, Adamawa State, with a degree in accounting. (Because of the pandemic, her 'Class of 2020' graduation was delayed.)

A father's joy

"Honestly, I never thought that my daughter would come out of the hands of Boko Haram," says Katambi, Mary's father. "As I watched Mary collect her certificate, tears dropped from my eyes. All I could see was God's grace and favour. I never imagined that my children will ever study at American University because I am just a peasant farmer, trying to provide for my family. But God did it. He did the unthinkable and unbelievable."

"I am overjoyed today, and this joy is from the depth of my heart," adds Saratu, Mary's mother, who cried tears of happiness as she watched her daughter graduate. "Once, I never thought I would see Mary again. But the prayers of believers have brought her out of captivity and now she has graduated from university. *Yesu na gode* – thank you Jesus! Thank you to everyone who prayed for Mary. God bless you!"

Abducted in the middle of the night

It would be amazing for anybody from Mary's community to graduate from university – but it is particularly astonishing, given what Mary has survived. In the early hours of 15 April 2014, about 30 men burst into the school dormitory and rounded up the girls, telling them "We are Boko Haram."

"They set the school on fire," remembers Mary. "They told us to move. We didn't know where we were going. We just followed the instructions because we knew, if we tried to run, they would definitely kill us. We were so afraid."

An extraordinary escape

The girls were taken to a forest hide-out. As soon as they

arrived, Mary started planning her escape. When the men guarding them were distracted, arguing among themselves, Mary and a girl called Deborah escaped together – it was about 3pm on the same day

they were taken. They walked for hours, eventually finding a hut where a Fulani woman gave them water to drink and directed them. After many more hours of walking, they reached a village where the village leader received them, and they took a motorcycle taxi.

"We rode on a motorcycle for hours, but by around 9pm the motorcyclist got scared and abandoned us in the forest. He had already been given all the money we had, so he left us in the forest. We kept walking until we found another Fulani hut. Even though we did not speak the same language, they gave us a place to sleep and promised to direct us on the road home in the morning.

"They gave us masa for breakfast. Then they showed us the path and advised us to hide if we heard any strange noise. We walked past about three deserted villages that Boko Haram had destroyed. At the fourth village, someone offered to take us on his motorcycle to my uncle Ba-Lawan's house in Chibok," Mary says.

The news of the girls' return spread like wildfire. It was bittersweet, because so many others were still in captivity. When Mary's father took her home her mother, Saratu, broke down in tears of joy, thanking God for her safe return.

You are standing with the Chibok community

Though the world news sometimes seems like it has moved on, Open Doors partners continue to stand alongside the Chibok community as they wait for the return of their daughters – thanks to your prayers and support.

This is a time of rejoicing for Mary and all she has achieved – but Mary's father reminds us that we must keep praying for the 112 girls who remain in captivity: "Today, I am here to testify that God has answered the prayers of His children. Mary is a testimony. Please don't stop praying for the other girls and other children that are in the hands of the abductors, that God will bring them out and, one day, we will come and celebrate more graduations."

Please pray

Lord, we join with Katambi in praying for the safe return of Your daughters who are still held captive by Boko Haram. Please bring them home. Pour Your peace and love on all those who still suffer trauma from their ordeal, and show them their true worth in Your eyes. We also praise You for Mary's achievements – may she shine as a testimony to Your grace and love. Amen.

Among the Ashes

Explore *Among the Ashes*, a new film and prayer resource for churches from Open Doors. It looks at how the biblical principle of lament can bring us hope and comfort, even in the darkest situations.

To watch *Amongst the Ashes* click [here](https://www.opendoorsuk.org/churches/resources/among-the-ashes/)
<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/churches/resources/among-the-ashes/>

For more information about ot to support OpenDoors click [here](#)



Open Doors

Ephesians 6:10-13 says: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."

Adam in Saudi Arabia sends family abroad for their safety as he awaits decision on appeal

Thank you for your continued prayers and messages for Adam and his family in Saudi Arabia. Sadly, Adam has had to make the hugely difficult decision to send his wife and son abroad for their safety. Find out more in this latest update, which includes a moving letter of thanks to you from Hope, Adam's wife, for your messages of encouragement. All names have been changed for security reasons.

Since becoming a Christian and helping his sister-in-law flee the country, Adam has faced multiple challenges – and now he is separated from his family

Please keep our brother, Adam, from Saudi Arabia in your prayers. As he continues to face multiple charges – all of which have been levelled since leaving Islam to become a Christian – he has made the heartrending decision to send his wife and son abroad for their safety.

Family being cared for as Adam awaits decision on appeal

Last month, Adam was heavily fined under a fabricated charge of stealing that he had earlier been acquitted of. An appeal has been submitted. However, if this is rejected and the fine cannot be paid, Adam will likely face another prison sentence. He has already spent time in jail and is waiting to serve a three-month stint for telling others about Jesus. Meanwhile, a court date has yet to be set for his role in helping his sister-in-law, Eve, flee the country because of persecution.

[Find out more about Adam's story and the opposition he has encountered for his faith](#)

Adam has been specifically worried about his family's protection, particularly after Hope, his wife, was locked in by her family before being later released. To ease concerns, Adam has recognised that it's best for Hope and his son, Andrew, to leave Saudi Arabia. They are now in a safe country and being looked after. Adam's other son – who also helped Eve flee the country – is already safely in another country.

"I feel so much sadness that my heart is overwhelmed by the moments of farewell, which is the harshest experience that I have ever experienced. But life is always difficult. But we must remember the Apostle Paul who was harassed by the enemies of Jesus and how he moved from one city to another, sincerely preaching about Jesus Christ. He was subjected to the utmost torment for the name of Jesus.

"One of the hardest things in this life is to see your wife and children leaving without knowing how and when you will see them again. We do not like this separation, but sometimes we are forced to live this way to be close to the Lord and meet them in eternity."

Hope's moving message of thanks to you

The separation adds another cruel layer to Adam's ongoing suffering. It means your prayers and messages remain vital. In total, the family have received over 2,000 messages of encouragement from believers around the world. These have been an enormous source of support for the family, as reflected in this message from Hope:

Dear brothers and sisters in my heart,

This is a message of thanks and gratitude to you for always standing by me. How beautiful are your messages. You are a light that lightens my path, that comforts our soul and strengthens it. I am very happy because of you, and it is a great honour to be part of this family, the family of Christ.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your constant support. Words of praise and all expressions of thanks cannot describe how grateful I am to you. Yes, the separation of my children and husband is the most difficult experience that any human being goes through. I left this country in which I was born, and I do not know what awaits me and my children, but I trust God to intervene in the most difficult moments, even if it is the last.

I have faith in the Lord Jesus to help us. God has commanded us to put our trust in Him. It says in Psalm 46:1-2: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea."

Accept my best regards,

Your sister Hope and her children

Please Pray

That the judge deciding on Adam's appeal will clearly see his innocence and acquit him of the charge of theft

That God will continue to fill Adam and his family's hearts with His peace and surround them with His comfort

That the family will soon be reunited and able to live and serve Jesus safely and freely.

Message Adams Family

Because of the enormous blessing each message brings to Adam and his family during this challenging time, we've extended the letter-writing campaign by a further month. Feel free to write to Adam, Hope or Andrew specifically, or to the whole family

Click [here](#) for more information how to contact Adam's family.

