

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 15th August 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC
Pat is leading and Jerry is speaking on Ephesians 1:15-23
"Prayer for Understanding God's Blessings"
Sunday's online service: Diana will be leading and Ron speaking from
Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 "Terms of the covenant."

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

1Kings 11:1f, Mal 2:10f, Ezra 9:1f, 2 Cor 6:14f, Ex 30:11-16

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>

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the family of Doris Grimmer whose funeral will be at SBC on Thursday morning. Pray also for Ron who is preaching this Sunday at Park Baptist Church in Grt. Yarmouth. Please pray for Jerry, Ron and the deacons as the meet via Zoom on Monday evening.

Pray for those producing online and live services whose work load has doubled also pray for Greg who pulls all of it together every week.

30.4% of the world population of 7.9 billion has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and 15.8% is fully vaccinated. 4.54 billion doses have been administered globally, and 36.66 million are now administered each day.

Only 1.2% of people in low-income countries have received at least one dose. Please pray that the world can work together to vaccinate everyone until that point no one is safe.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Julia, Thomas and David Maile.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Monday 9th Doreen posted "Update from Esther thanking people for prayers. Have been in hospital for 26 days but hoping to be home soon."

Diana posted "We prayed for Esther this morning in the Deacons prayer meeting. Will continue to pray that the infection clears and she is soon home."

On Tuesday Jerry posted "Please pray for Elspeth and Jan this morning as they visit folk and share the good news of Jesus thank you"

Later in the day Jerry posted "From Jan and Elspeth, thank you for prayers. Spoke for some time with young man who was open and received a New Testament bible also had a chat with a Muslim and elderly lady."

To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the power of prayer and/or the Devotion WhatsApp site text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone.

Prayers for the Week

Prayer for the end of the virus

SECAM, the Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences in Africa and Madagascar, has suggested the following prayer for all those affected by the coronavirus:

Almighty and merciful Father, who shows your love to all your creation.

We come before you asking for a quick control of the Coronavirus currently ravaging our world. Hear graciously the prayers we make for those affected by the virus in various parts of the world. Grant healing to the sick, eternal life to the dead and consolation to the bereaved families.

We pray that an effective medicine to combat the sickness be speedily found.

We pray for the relevant governments and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people.

Look upon us in your mercy and forgive us our failings. Amen.

Prayer for uncertain times

Lord Jesus Christ, light of this world, thank you for the hope you have given us. Help us to give our worries to you and, above all, to trust in your unfailing love. For you have promised us "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."

Almighty God, our protector, let us trust in you to carry us through this time of uncertainty. Jesus, hear our cries as we mourn those who've left us.

Whatever tomorrow may bring, we will praise your name. Amen.

Prayer: Sasha Breakenridge, CAFOD volunteer

Source CAFOD

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 17th August 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Thursday 19th August 11.30am

Funeral of Doris Grimmer
at 7.00pm

Zoom prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 22nd August Service

Flowers: Sarah Peggdon

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

Thank you

Thank you to SBC Family, for cards, flowers, numerous phone calls, and the many expressions of love shown to us during our time of bereavement. For the help so willingly given at David's Thanksgiving Service and although tinged with sadness, there was also joy too, knowing that he is with our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

From Eileen and Family.

Prayer for Revival

We will be re starting our prayer for revival meetings fortnightly at Three Windows, Brumstead Road at 10.00 am on Friday mornings beginning on 27th August. If you would like to come and pray, please let Jan Nicholson know.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at [1 Timothy 6:11-16](#).

Eternal life is not simply some kind of magical afterlife once we die. This is not something we should be focusing on as the meaning of being a Christian. In this context I understand it to be the eternal life given by the continual process of dying to the corrupt world around us and being born to a new way of living.

As we all know, it is not a one-off event. Every day we stumble and struggle. Every day we need to start again, even if it is a step forward from yesterday. It really is an eternal process.

We are asked to make the good confession. This is about proclaiming who God is, but it is also about proclaiming what is right and true. To live as Jesus did and bear witness to injustice. To stand against corruption and violence.

We might have fallen short yesterday but we can try again today. We can indeed take hold of the eternal life to which we are called. Source [Christian Aid](#).

How easy as a Christian is it to fulfil the thoughts above?

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

EBA Prayer Focus 15th August 2021

Grays Baptist Church

Grays is the largest town in the unitary borough of Thurrock located on the north bank of the River Thames not far from the M25, and Grays Baptist Church is located in a prominent position on the busy main road through the town.

The church has been without a pastor for the past three and a half years. The church now feels it is financially able to afford a full-time minister once again, so since the beginning of 2021 has been actively seeking a new pastor.

Bob Sullivan was appointed as the Moderator and is helping the church and leadership team through the settlement process.

Since services started again after lockdown last September the church has been livestreaming its services each week on Youtube. Since in-person gatherings began again in April there have already been new people turning-up to the services on Sundays.

After the enforced lockdown cessation of many activities there are plans to re-start the weekday children's and youth activities from September, as well as Sunday School for the various age groups each week.

On Friday evenings a local charity -- the

Friends of Essex and London Homeless -- uses the space at the front of the church to provide a soup kitchen and food for the homeless in Thurrock.

Please pray for:

- The search for a new pastor and that God will lead the right person to this role.
- The church leadership team and a number of ongoing health issues.
- The children's and youth work as it starts up again in September.

Quotes of the Week

"One of the main reasons that we lose our enthusiasm in life is because we become ungrateful. We let what was once a miracle become common to us. We get so accustomed to His goodness it becomes a routine.."

— **Joel Osteen**,

"The blessing hands of Christ are like a roof that protects us. But at the same time, they are a gesture of opening up, tearing the world open so that heaven may enter in, may become "present" within it."

— **Pope Benedict XVI**,

"I have often been asked by young Christians "Why is it that I fail so? I did so solemnly vow with my whole heart and did desire to serve God; why have I failed?" You are trying to do in your own strength what Christ alone can do in you. You were trusting in yourself, or you would not have failed. If you had trusted Christ, He could not fail. We find the Christian life so difficult because we seek God's blessing while we live in our own will. We make our own plans and choose our own work, and then we ask Him to give us His blessing."

— **Andrew Murray**

"Home is the centre of my being where I can hear the voice that says: "You are my Beloved, on you my favour rests". A never-interrupted voice of love speaking from eternity and giving life and love whenever it is heard. When I hear that voice, I know that I am home with God and have nothing to fear. As the Beloved, I can be tortured and killed without ever having to doubt that the love that is given to me is stronger than death. As the Beloved, I am free to live and give life, free also to die while giving life. It is the voice of a nearly blind father who has cried much and died many deaths. It is a voice that can only be heard by those who allow themselves to be touched. Sensing the touch of God's blessing hands and hearing the voice calling me the Beloved are one and the same. This became clear to the prophet Elijah. In the tenderness of God, voice was touch and touch was voice."

— **Henri J.M. Nouwen**, [The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming](#)

"The moon reminds me that God made it just for us. And that back when Jesus lived on the earth, He went to sleep every night, just like me, and He, too, likely looked up at it---

at the same exact moon I see every night--- from wherever He laid His head. And where did he lay His head, compared to where we lay ours every night? On the dirt and grass of the earth. He took nothing for Himself, and now He provides me with a bed, and a roof, and all these friends, and meals...and this music class."

— **Dawn Crandall**, [The Bound Heart](#)

Thought for the Week

It's often said "There is no such thing as a free lunch,"

But when you let Jesus into your life is there any cost?

Images [Darkmoon Art](#) from [Pixabay](#) & Image by [Jeff Jacobs](#) from [Pixabay](#)





Open Doors

August 2021

Two churches. Two parts of Bangladesh. Two devastating attacks.

Two recent church attacks in Bangladesh show the escalating violence faced by Christians in the country – with militants from various religions being the perpetrators.

"I can't go home and sleep, in case I'm attacked. I hide every night, and sleep somewhere else. I still feel that someone is chasing after me."

Those are the words of a pastor in Bangladesh whose church was destroyed by local Buddhist extremists – twice in two weeks. It's the second recent story that Open Doors partners have heard of church buildings being attacked.

This violent incident took place one evening in a small community in the east of Bangladesh. The attackers – believed to be local villagers and politicians – were masked, carrying guns, machetes, and wooden sticks. They broke the doors and windows of the church building, cut the tin roof, and demolished the wall of the church.

Christians told to pull down their own church

After destroying the church, the attackers went looking for the pastor to continue the assault, but he and the other believers managed to escape and hide with neighbours. Before the Buddhist extremists left, they threatened to come back if the church wasn't fully pulled down within three days.

"How can we destroy our church? It is our worship place," says one of the believers who attends the church. "We love Jesus Christ; we cannot do it. We cannot destroy our Lord's house."

It's only a small church, with eight regular worshippers from the village. Throughout Bangladesh, Christians make up a tiny percentage of the population – only around 0.5%. Most Bangladeshi people are Muslim (89%), with Hinduism the next most followed faith (10%). Buddhists make up a small percentage of the population, but still carry out attacks against the Christian population – particularly, as in this case, if the Christians have converted from Buddhism.

The persecutors came back for a second attack

After a few days, the Christians came back and started trying to rebuild their damaged church. But when the attackers heard about this, they also returned – it was a week after their initial onslaught, and they again destroyed the church.

Desperate for help, the believers appealed to the village leader for help in protecting the church from attack. To their dismay, he advised them to return to their Buddhist background. Having

now found a relationship with Jesus, they refuse to do this. But they feel helpless and vulnerable. The small Christian community has endured years of being verbally attacked and socially excluded, and now that violence is escalating they don't know what to do. Local Open Doors partners are supporting with prayer, and are exploring other ways that they can help these believers.

A similar attack by Hindu extremists

In southwest Bangladesh, another church building has also been attacked recently: a local prayer house known as 'The Mission' was badly damaged by Hindu extremists, following an ongoing feud between the perpetrators and the people who own The Mission.

"This is not the first time we have faced persecution," says Pastor Swapan. "It happens quite often to Christians here."

The attackers were heavily armed with weapons, and had bribed other men to help them launch the ordeal on The Mission. As well as hosting church services and prayer meetings, The Mission also acts as an orphanage – the children and the staff were asleep when the attack began. They were jolted awake when rocks began pounding on the roof, and a staff member called Madan was so badly injured that he had to be hospitalised immediately.

Ignored by the authorities

And why were they attacked? The persecutors don't believe Christians should own an establishment like The Mission – even though the purchase was legal, and the believers are able to prove their right to be there. In the eyes of the attackers, Christians don't deserve this privilege. The local police didn't take the crime seriously – though they visited the site, the complaint by Pastor Swapan wasn't officially recorded. Pastor Swapan and his church have been threatened with further reprisals if they don't move out of The Mission.

"We cannot fight with these Hindus [the extremist attackers] for they are the majority religion in this village," says Pastor Swapan. "All the local political leaders and people in power hold the Hindu people at a higher priority. We have been enduring and praying for God to protect us."

God has answered the prayer with emergency support and fellowship from Open Doors local partners, but the believers and the orphans living at The Mission are still living in fear that they will be attacked again.

Bangladesh continues to rise on Open Doors' World Watch List – it is at number 31, up 17 places in the past couple of years. Persecution has worsened in both public and private life, and violent attacks are also increasing. As these recent stories show, Christians don't just face persecution from Islamic extremists, but also from militants belonging to other faiths.

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

We need Princess Diana's legacy of kindness and acceptance more than ever before

The legacy of Princess Diana, a woman known for challenging prejudice, is something to aspire to in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. So says Peter Waddup, Chief Executive of The Leprosy Mission ahead of what would have been Diana Princess of Wales's 60th birthday on 1 July. Leprosy is a disease that had a huge impact on Diana Princess of Wales and she visited a number of Leprosy Mission hospitals. Famously she made headlines by touching people affected by the disease against the advice of her Royal officials.

When Princess Diana reduced her patronage of almost 100 charities down to just six (Centrepunt, English National Ballet, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, National Aids Trust, The Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Trust and The Leprosy Mission) in 1996 she chose to continue in her role as Patron of The Leprosy Mission. By doing so she demonstrated a real heart for the cause and for reaching out to people on the fringes of society.

She spoke passionately at a global anti-leprosy conference in London in 1996 where she explained her actions. "It's always been my concern to touch people with leprosy, trying to show in a simple action that they are not reviled nor are we repulsed," she said.

Peter Waddup said it is exactly this public demonstration of kindness and acceptance that is needed in the countries where The Leprosy Mission works today.

He said: "Covid has had a completely devastating effect in the countries where we work. It is not only a case of health systems collapsing under the strain but lockdown measures imposed to curtail the spread of the virus causing widespread poverty.

There is desperate hunger and it is widely reported that millions of people globally have been plunged into extreme poverty as a direct result of the pandemic.

Leprosy is a leading cause of preventable disability and is a disease that thrives where people live in poverty.

We work closely with governments to find new cases of leprosy in the hope that people can be treated before they develop lifelong disabilities, including blindness.

But what we are facing now is a more extreme version of what happened in the UK with health systems having to prioritise Covid over other aspects of healthcare.

Health systems in the countries where we work across Asia and Africa have almost collapsed, with leprosy detection work falling way down the priority list.

So, while we expect the official World Health Organisation figures, when published, to show a decline in the number of new cases of leprosy found and treated in 2020 and 2021, we know tragically this is not an indication of a reduction in disease.

It is completely heartbreaking, because if leprosy is found and treated at its early stages then people are likely to live lives free from disability. Evidence already points to the fact that for every person treated with leprosy there are a further 19 'hidden cases' needing to be found and cured."

Peter said that a lack of access to healthcare and stigma are the two biggest challenges when it comes to ridding the world of leprosy. "Princess Diana was a superb Patron of The Leprosy Mission," said Peter. "She was the world's most photographed woman and made huge strides in quashing the age-old prejudice and myths surrounding leprosy which we know stop people coming forward for treatment. We need to remember the Princess's legacy of kindness and acceptance by raising awareness of the disease so that people will recognise its early symptoms and seek treatment without fear of rejection from their family, friends and communities.

This is even more paramount in the days of this terrible pandemic where government resources simply will not be there to find these people."

Dr Ruth Butlin, 69 (pictured above), met Princess Diana in 1993 when she visited The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal.



The Leprosy Mission

England and Wales

Ruth, who is now retired and living near Eastbourne, was Medical Superintendent at the time and witnessed Princess Diana's compassion in action. "She was a very active patron at the time and well informed about the impact that leprosy had on people's lives," she said.

"We'd scheduled a visit of an hour and a half and planned a meticulous programme so that she was able to speak to as many patients and staff members as possible.

She overstayed her allocated time because she spent so long chatting to everybody!

She was so friendly and gracious and when she spoke to someone, it felt to them as if they were the only person in the room.

I took her on the tour and what was so noticeable is how unafraid she was. Some people would've been afraid to come into a ward for leprosy patients but she showed no fear or revulsion when speaking to the patients. She held their hands and sat on their beds and asked questions.

The patients valued her visit so much. They couldn't believe that a foreign princess came to see them.

At the time of her visit, there was a highly respected monarchy in Nepal and we couldn't have imagined that any one of them would have made the same visit.

She came across as a very genuine person and she knew that she could help so many charities to get more attention by visiting them, because whatever she didn't attract attention.

Seeing Diana with the patients was inspirational, she modelled how to treat leprosy patients in a kind and accepting way.

She brought them out of the shadows and into the limelight with her, demonstrating kindness and acceptance. I was encouraged by her visit, as were all the staff."

For more information about Leprosy Mission click [here](#)

Picture <https://www.publicdomainpictures.net/>

