

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 22nd August 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC

Maggie Harpur is leading and Ron is speaking on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
"The Lord's Supper"

Sunday's online service: Jerry will be leading and preaching through
Nehemiah 11 and 12 "Dedicated to God"

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 people demonstrated their dedication to God through their;

1. Presence in the City-Nehemiah 11: 1-12:26
2. Praises to God-Nehemiah 12: 27-43
3. Possessions for God's Work-Nehemiah 12: 44-47

Further Readings

Neh 7:1-5, Ps 126:1-6, Phil 4, Rev. 21

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the people who are new to SBC on Sundays that they will feel comfortable with the fellowship and enjoy the worship.

Also pray that SBC can keep reaching out to the community inviting people to join us in Jesus's love.

Pray also for a speedy recovery for those in the fellowship and community who have recently had operations or are awaiting procedures.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Linda and Stewart Marsh.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Sunday 15th Jenny Payne posted "Please could I ask for prayer for tomorrow morning when I will be having surgery for breast cancer, (brought forward from Wednesday) that the surgeon will be able to remove it all and for a smooth recovery. Thanks. Jenny x"

Also on Sunday Steve sent an audio message saying "As you know I will be going into hospital for my big operation (leg amputation from above the knee) I just want to thank everyone for all their support and kind words, you are all my family and I love you all very much. Love DJ."

On Monday Jenny posted "Thanks so much for all your prayers, I'm now home and feeling a little sore but otherwise ok. So grateful to God and you all for your prayers support x"

Later on Monday Jane Skivington said Esther has just phoned to say thank you all for praying. It has made a huge difference and she really appreciated it. Please keep praying she has a scan on Wednesday. She has been very poorly and will take a while to get back to normal. Thanks,

On Thursday Jerry posted "Please pray for Elspeth and Jan this morning as they visit folk to share the love of Jesus thank you."

Prayers for Afghanistan

On Thursday **Kim Sengupta** reported for the **Independent** newspaper from Kabul airport. "The mothers were desperate, they were getting beaten by the Taliban. They shouted, 'save my baby' and threw the babies at us, some of the babies fell on the barbed wire. It was awful what happened. By the end of the night there wasn't one man among us who was not crying," said the Parachute Regiment officer quietly. Lord it is often said that "when all is said and done there is more said than done" the people of Afghanistan particularly many women are in a desperate situation their window of opportunity to escape the Taliban is expected possibly only to last a few days. Guide our government to put emergency measures into place that can be actioned now not a resettlement scheme allowing 20,000 people spread over a few years to come to the UK.

Lord, bring your wisdom to the Taliban leaders, soften their hearts, help them not to repeat their actions of the past. Many promises have been made during the chaos of the last few days by the Taliban leaders we pray Lord that they will not be empty words.

Lord guide the world leaders to find solutions to the plight of the Afghan citizens once there are no flights out of Kabul for refugees and the crossings into other countries closed. Lord some of the world leaders will try to exploit the situations for their countries gain, others will just walk away on the other side.

Please Lord don't allow these last few days to be forgotten and drift silently into the background as the next world news story hits the screens, leaving those in Afghanistan alone, bereft and in the darkness.

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 23rd August 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Wednesday 25th August 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 29th August Service

Flowers: Monica Payne

Church Open

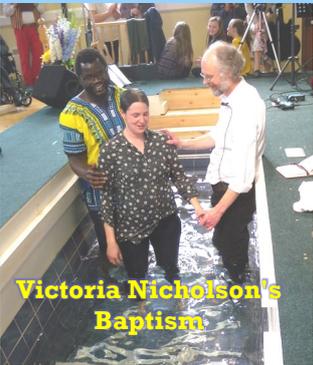
The Church is open on Sundays and a Covid secure system is in place requiring masks to be worn and a booking system requiring those attending to book each week by contacting Diana by email secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk WhatsApp or telephone **07951949128**

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.

Believers Baptism

Under the new guidelines SBC can restart Baptisms. Believer's baptism is a very special moment on the journey of faith. It is a moment when God's presence and blessing meets us, and when we make our personal commitment of faith in Jesus as Lord.



Victoria Nicholson's Baptism

It signifies the end of our old life and of being born again to new life in Christ. It speaks of repentance and cleansing, of being united with Christ in His death and resurrection, and of witnessing to the call of God upon our lives. Baptism is also about receiving God's Spirit for service in the church and in the world.

Please speak to Ron if you need more information.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at **Matthew 8: 5-13.** The centurion's military life had been so based on authority he just assumes that Jesus' power must operate in the same way. It's a strange kind of faith, but Jesus honours it. Indeed Jesus is 'amazed'. This man's faith in the system he has served has prepared him to believe in a higher power. To call, to follow, to obey... until today, these words have meant something very different to the centurion. But now he is in the presence of a very different kind of authority. As a Christian, should we be following Jesus in an unthinking and unquestioning way?

Source **Christian Aid Daily Readings**

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

Sunday School Help Needed

A few Sundays back Diana asked for volunteers to help with the children's Sunday School. This is an important part of SBC's mission working with young people allowing them to get to know Jesus and take that into adulthood. During August the Sunday school is being suspended and will restart in September. If you would like to be involved with this rewarding program contact Diana secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk WhatsApp or telephone **07951949128.**

Donations

Each Sunday there is a collection bag on the railings to the left of the stage as you leave by the side door and a collection plate at the rear of the church. You can donate to SBC on line at <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/donate.php> where you will find details of how to pay by BAC's,

Seasons & Times

There is a time for everything: different seasons will come - and they will go

If we recognise our season, we can respond appropriately

The Lord is our shepherd through all seasons - even the dark and difficult ones

In our dark days, we can lament before God

Our hope is not in our changing seasons, but in our unchanging, unfailing, compassionate God!

SMS or debit or credit card. You can also put cash or cheques through Henry Nicholson's door at Three Windows Brumstead Road.

EBA Prayer Focus 22nd August 2021 Mundesley Free Church

On the north Norfolk coast, near the busy town of Cromer, is the seaside village of Mundesley. The village is also the home of the fellowship at Mundesley Free Church.

Normally, the church is a bustling hive of activity reaching out to the

community of Mundesley. Since lockdown, the building may be quieter but that does not mean the church is not active. Initially running services on Zoom, the fellowship started to gather "in person" from Easter 2021.

The church is in a period of pastoral vacancy so is being led by their deacons -- David Broom, Clive Elgar, Brenda and Martin Gallant. They have been successful in holding the fellowship together, but are keen to see a new minister come to give the church a fresh momentum as things begin to re-open.

For Prayer

Please pray for Mundesley Free Church, especially

- As the church resumes its search for a new pastor
- For the groups, as they look to re-start
- For helpers to support the children and youth work

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Never underestimate the importance of simply being physically present in the place where God wants you. You may not be asked to perform some dramatic ministry, but simply being there is a ministry. The men, women, and children who helped to populate the city of Jerusalem were serving God, their nation, and future generations by their step of faith." — **Warren Wiersbe, Be Determined.**

"Whereas the house of God today is no longer material but spiritual, the material is still a very real symbol of the spiritual. When the church of God in any place in any locality is careless about the material place of assembly, the place of its worship and its work, it is a sign and evidence that its life is at a low ebb" — **G. Campbell Morgan, Westminster Pulpit.**

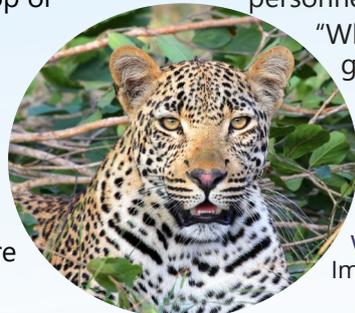
"Israel's overall commitment was thus something very much to admire. It was an expression of radical repentance, which meant a change of mind, heart, and life; a gesture of full consecration, which meant being separated from other peoples to be the people of God; and a gateway into the life of faith, in which God would be relied on for everything. It models the commitment that should mark the Christian church today—Christians marrying Christians and setting up Christian homes; Christians viewing their time, life, health, wealth, abilities, and influence as gifts from God of which they are stewards and on which God himself always has first claim; Christians being generous in the face of human need and responsible in giving (tithing? at least!—and when one can, doing more) to maintain the church's ministries and personnel." — **J. I. Packer**

"When God's work is done in God's way for God's glory, it will not lack God's support" — **J. Hudson Taylor**

Thought for the Week

It's often said "A Leopard can't change its spots," but when we are born again in Jesus do we stay the same as before?

Image by [Irma Bense](#) from [Pixabay](#)





Open Doors

16th August

5 urgent ways you can pray for Afghanistan

Afghanistan is now held by the Taliban. Your prayers are urgently needed for the people of Afghanistan, particularly the small number of Christians in the country.

Afghanistan is now held by the Taliban. This week, [Al Jazeera released exclusive videos](#) of Taliban fighters entering the capital city Kabul with ease, taking the reins in the Presidential Palace, and declaring an end to the 20-year war. President Ashraf Ghani fled the country over the weekend, reportedly to prevent further bloodshed.

"It's a heartbreaking day for the citizens of Afghanistan, and an even more dangerous time to be a Christian," says Brother Samuel, Open Doors Field Director for Asia (whose name has been changed for security reasons). "It's an uncertain situation for the whole country, not just for secret believers. Our hearts are broken. We knew this could happen. We are not surprised but this does not make the pain any less."

Afghan citizens are in a frenzy – lining up in banks in a last-ditch attempt to withdraw their savings and flocking the Kabul airport to flee the country. Many locals who have spent the last couple of years helping the US forces are now applying for visas to leave.

Though the Taliban promises a more modern and reformed approach to government, fears remain as to how they will impose Sharia (Islamic law) in the days to come.

Brother Samuel adds, "Secret believers in Afghanistan are especially vulnerable. Prior to Taliban rule, they already had a very difficult time living out their faith, as they had to keep it secret from their families for fear of being shunned, or worse, killed. Now that the Taliban is in power, their vulnerability increases tenfold. It would be almost

impossible to be a follower of Jesus in this country. We are monitoring the situation, but this is the time for us to ask God to have mercy not only on His people, but on this country as a whole."

Afghanistan is number two in [Open Doors' World Watch List](#).

Five ways to pray for Afghanistan today

Please pray for the small group of believers in the country.

They are walking on eggshells and are uncertain who to trust. Pray that they find strength, wisdom, and supernatural peace in God's promises.

Pray for the displaced.

A new wave of refugees is expected to come from Afghanistan to many parts of the Middle East and the rest of the world. Pray for God's protection and provision over them in their journeys.

Pray for the women.

Many women fear that the Taliban rule would mean they would be stripped of opportunities for education. Women involved in education during the past years could also be at risk – pray for their protection.

Pray for the sick.

Though underreported in international media, Covid-19 cases are spiking in the country and hospitals are limited in what they can offer. There is no certainty as to how the healthcare system will be able to sustain itself with the new Taliban government. Pray that the healthcare system will not collapse.

Pray that the country will not be a haven for extremists.

The Taliban government of 20 years ago are known enablers of extremist Islamic organisations. With their newfound control over Afghanistan, the country could be host to a new generation of terror groups.

What's it like to be a Christian in Afghanistan, number two on the Open Doors World Watch List?

You can read more on Afghanistan's [World Watch List country profile](#).

Image by [Amber Clay](#) from [Pixabay](#)





Open Doors

Pakistani Christian couple acquitted of blasphemy after seven years on death row

A Pakistani Christian couple have spent seven years on death row, accused of sending blasphemous texts. CNA have reported on their acquittal and subsequent fleeing from Pakistan.



Shagufta and Shafqat were on death row for seven years, but have now fled to Europe.

A Pakistani Christian couple, who were acquitted of blasphemy after seven years on death row, have fled the country, as [reported by CNA](#).

Last week, Shagufta Kausar and Shafqat Emmanuel received asylum in a European country that has not been named, to preserve the couple's safety.

"We are so relieved to finally be free," Shafqat told ADF, an organisation that advocates for religious freedom, as quoted by CNA. "The last eight years have been incredibly hard, but we are so happy to be reunited with our children," he said.

Death threats after death sentence overturned

In June, the Lahore High Court overturned the couple's death sentence. Since their release they have received death threats.

"Although we will miss our country, we are happy to finally be somewhere safe. Hopefully, the blasphemy laws in Pakistan will soon be abolished, so others won't suffer the same fate as Shagufta and me," he said.

In July 2013, Shagufta, who is illiterate and from a poor community in Punjab, was accused of having sent blasphemous text messages to a cleric. Shafqat, who is disabled, was forced into making a false confession after he was beaten and threatened by the accusers that they would

strip his wife of her clothes and make her walk naked through the streets.

In 2014 the couple were sentenced to death by hanging.

They spent the next seven years awaiting the outcome of an appeal filed by their lawyer, Saiful Malook, who also defended [Asia Bibi](#). Bibi was released in 2018 after nine years on death row for allegedly committing blasphemy in an argument with a Muslim woman. After her release, she also fled the country for fear of her life and moved with her family to Canada.

Blasphemy laws often abused in Pakistan

Pakistan's notorious blasphemy laws are used to target Christians, and Islamic extremist groups vehemently 'defend' these laws,

including attacking or killing those believed to have broken them. Often these are used to target Christians after a dispute relating to work or tenancy, rather than genuine cases.

Pakistan is number 5 on the [Open Doors World Watch List](#), and Christians make up less than two per cent of the population.

[Picture from World Watch Monitor](#)

For more information or to support OpenDoors click below

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

