

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 5th September 2021



Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC. Diana is leading and guest speaker David Osborne is preaching "God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform."

Sunday's online service: Pat Dabbs will be leading and Ron is preaching through Nehemiah 13: 10-22 "Tithes" and "Keep the Sabbath special."

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 Readings

Amos 8:5f, Jeremiah 17:19f

For Your Prayers

Please still pray for Afghanistan as it is faced with hunger and political turmoil. Pray also for all those left behind and at risk, that they can find safe passage out of the country.

Pray also for Josh who will be starting his internment.

Thank the Lord for the blessing of the guest speakers who have visited SBC over the last weeks and brought God's message to the fellowship in so many ways.

Also pray for those in the fellowship and wider community who are waiting in the queue for routine operations.

Pray for all the children returning to school in the next few days that they will avoid contracting covid.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Barbara and Ben Mixer.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday Jerry posted "Baby Anna Luo Otieno was born today at 13.17pm. Thank you very much for your prayers. Mummy and baby doing well."

On Saturday Robert Emerson posted "Ruth is in hospital with meningitis."

On Tuesday Jerry posted on behalf of Jan and Elspeth "Please would you pray for us this morning as we visit folk to share God's love and speak about Jesus."

Later that day Simone posted "Please may I ask for prayers for Anna and myself. We had been discharged from hospital on Sunday but the midwife had to re-admit us again yesterday as Anna has to be treated for jaundice. She has been under the blue lights since 3.30pm yesterday and is quite unsettled. I also got hardly any sleep, We are currently waiting for her bloods to come back so we know if we need to stay longer or can go home today."

Later Simone said "Thanks for your prayers. Anna's bilirubin levels are now good and she's been taken off the blue lights. She'll be monitored and then tested again in the night. If her levels are stable we'll then be allowed to leave tomorrow morning."

Also on Tuesday DJ Steve sent an audio message saying "missing you all very much and can't wait to get back to church."

On Wednesday Jerry posted "Thanks for all your prayers, we spoke to several folk about Jesus yesterday and left leaflets with them and leave the rest to God. Jan and Elspeth."

DJ Steve sent another audio message saying "I'm missing you all. I just wanted to let you know I've made a bit of progress this morning. I've been out in a wheel chair pushing myself along in the corridor and introduced myself to two other men so that was nice and then got wheeled over to see the gymnasium, so all in all I had a good morning and I hope you all have a good day speak to you soon DJ. Praise the Lord."

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

When doubts overcome me, Father,
And I feel uncertain,
Tossed around as if on the sea,
Send me the image of your son who calmed waves,
A reminder that I am never alone.
And, that in asking with faith
I am given,
All that I need.

Source Christian Aid

Lord lead, me to where I have not yet been, to the people I have not yet met and to love as you have always loved. 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 6th Sept. 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Stalham WI Exploratory Meeting at

10.30am in the Stables all welcome

Wednesday 8th Sept 7.00pm

Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 12th Sept Service

Flowers: Magda Nicholls

Tuesday 13th September

Coffee and Chat restarts

Wednesday 22nd September

Over 60s Table Tennis restarts

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

Big Thank You

A big thank you to John Leaf (pictured right), last Sunday's guest speaker, for his entertaining children's talk using a book that almost magically went from blank pages to coloured drawings which not only held the children's attention but the whole fellowship. The talk also had a strong message. He then followed up with a sermon that was again entertaining with an equally powerful message.



Harvest Service Help Needed

Can you help decorate the church for our Harvest Service which will be on Sunday 26th September? You could decorate a window using a Harvest theme or the stage area. We are also planning to put food donations on the stage that Sunday - all tins etc will go to the Food Bank and any fresh food will go to the Community Fridge.

This year's BMS Appeal is "I will Stand." In the Middle East, North Africa and Asia, courageous believers are stepping out in faith and standing for Christ, no matter the cost. If you would like to donate 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, please label donations BMS Appeal. You can also put cash or cheques through Henry Nicholson's door at Three Windows Brumstead Road. You could also put an envelope marked BMS Appeal in the collection bag at the left of the stage or the plate at the back of the church.

Coffee and Chat

Coffee and Chat is starting again on the 13th September from 9.am to 12 noon. Elaine has taken over from Monica and Frank who have retired and we thank them for all their hard work. Elaine will be assisted by Fran and Maggie.

The bric-a-brac table which has been so successful in raising money is going to continue and Elaine will be grateful for any donations to kick start the table.

Donations could be given to Elaine, left at the back of SBC or dropped off in the Stables when it is open for the Community Fridge.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at [James 1: 19-27](#).

As a Christian, how easy is it to not, at times, be angry and express your feelings without thinking? Does this reading stop you though from dealing with situations by speaking directly in a controlled manner?

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

The Alpha Zoom Course

The Alpha course is an internationally renowned course that encourages people from any background to discuss the big questions of life in a friendly and non-judgemental atmosphere. You can find out more about Alpha by searching: [alpha course](#)

Dan StJohn will be hosting SBC's first online Alpha Course running for 10 weeks from September 13th using zoom. Now you can join an Alpha course from the comfort of your own home!

There may be the opportunity to meet face to face for any who would like to, but the Alpha course sessions will be run virtually/online so you can take part from home.

Please use the email address below if you would like to sign up or would like further information. We look forward to hearing from you. alpha@stalhambaptist.org.uk

The Gathering Online 2021

This year's Gathering online is bringing together the

global community to pray, learn and worship together. Join them by booking your FREE ticket today!

Their conferences are a key moment in the 24-7 Prayer calendar, with thousands of people from hundreds of nations joining together with one passion to seek God in prayer, serve God through mission, and seek God's Kingdom of Justice for our world.

They're so excited that this year, LOCAL communities can join the GLOBAL family as we spend 3 incredible days ONLINE together.

Diana says "Many will know of Pete Grieg and the 24/7 prayer movement he established.

Their on line conference this year is 29-31st October and if you access the link below you can find out more about it. There is no cost but donations can be given.

<https://www.24-7prayer.com/events/GatheringOnline21>

Sue StJohn joined last year and I'm sure Sue will tell you more about her experience if you ask her. If you aren't able to attend on the days, as long as you are signed up, you can access the 5 major talks at your own convenience."

EBA Prayer Focus 5th September 2021 Neatishead Baptist Church

Neatishead Baptist Church stands in an isolated position on the edge of the village, in a rural part of North-East Norfolk, adjacent to the Norfolk Broads.

Revd Ian Bloomfield is the part-time minister and is supported by several members of the congregation who form a preaching team covering most Sunday services. Ian is also now serving the United Reformed Church in nearby Wroxham and Hoveton and is therefore only at Neatishead alternate weeks. Sunday services restarted at Easter 2021, with 15-20 attendees most weeks, almost all retirees. The fellowship are restarting a monthly Saturday morning café with crafts, and also plan to start a monthly midweek 'Fun and Fellowship' meeting from October, with a light lunch. There are also plans to restart a midweek Bible study, prayer and fellowship meeting in someone's home.

Prayer focus

- For the church leadership as they seek God's plans for the future
- For the midweek initiatives, that those outside or on the fringe of the fellowship would come along
- For the church meeting in September, to be led by our regional minister, Revd Beth Powney

Quotes of the Week

"Things happen in this world- sometimes accidents, sometimes a result of our own actions- but that doesn't mean God's abandoned us. It just means that we live in a messed-up world. It's when we trust Him completely that He begins to bring good out of bad situations."

— **Carla Laureano**,

"Have you ever thought that the battle you are in was never a lesson, but a test? Will you choose your comfort, ego and feelings or will you choose to prove your love of Christ by humbling your heart and seeing that the solution was always the one thing hardest for you to do --giving instead of receiving?" — **Shannon L. Alder**

"The Christian has been drawn unto Christ. Those who wish to boast in having something to do with their salvation, or who insist that the final decision lays with man, resist the clear meaning of Christ's words, "draw." But this is a wondrous term. It is beautiful to hear. Drawn in love. Drawn in mercy. Drawn unto the one who died in my place. It is sovereign action, undertaken by the one who holds the entire universe by His power. It is an irresistible drawing, most definitely, but is a drawing of grace. The one drawing loves the one who is being drawn. And those drawn can never be thankful enough to God who brought them out of darkness into the marvellous light of Christ." — **James R. White**



Open Doors

01 September 2021

Displaced Christian opens only restaurant in destroyed Syrian town

Many of the towns we live in or visit have dozens of restaurants. In Irbin in Syria, there wasn't even one – until you stepped in this year to help a local Christian open the town's first and only restaurant. Joseph Hakimeh's new café is one of over 1,700 income-generating projects you've helped set up as part of our Open Doors' *Hope for the Middle East* campaign, which is now in its sixth year.

"You are giving a dose of hope and optimism to broken and exhausted people," Joseph says of your support for his new business

Six years after Irbin was captured by rebels, Joseph Hakimeh returned to discover the town he once called home destroyed. "My heart was grieving," he says. "Yet I decided not to surrender and promised myself to come back."

It was then that he had a bold idea – one which you have helped him fulfil.

"The first time I returned to Irbin [a suburb of Damascus], the thought came to my mind that I should open a restaurant here," he shares. "There is no such place in the whole area." This year, with your help, Al Yousef Café opened.

"It is a place for the youth to gather, to play games, to watch football and for families to have a nice dinner together," Joseph, now 42, explains. "Our space is also used for conferences. We've already had a doctor doing an educational conference for women. It is the only spacious hall in the city."

Town held under rebel control for six years

This year marks ten years since Syria became engulfed in conflict. It was a year later, in 2012, when rebel groups forced Joseph, his wife and three children to flee Irbin to Damascus. They were among the thousands of Christians in Syria who were internally displaced because of conflict.

"That period was very hard, we didn't know what to do or where to go," Joseph remembers. "I have a family to look after. I studied electrical infrastructure, but I couldn't find a good job. We went through tough times."

"As soon as the road to Irbin was reopened I was on it," Joseph continues, reflecting on the moment when the Syrian government retook the town in 2018. Returning there he



witnessed desolation but, with the restaurant, also an opportunity. Three years on, the café is now open and Joseph hopes that all his family will

soon be able to return to Irbin to live.

It's similar for many Christians who lived in areas controlled by rebels. They don't feel comfortable returning yet or, if they do, they're unable to because their homes have been destroyed. Open Doors partners are helping vulnerable families rebuild their homes and communities – and, as with Joseph, restoring or finding new livelihoods so that families can have hope for the long-term.

For Joseph, the opening of the restaurant is the first step towards a bigger dream. "My dream is that Irbin will be restored to how it was before the war," he says. "I was born here, as were my wife and three children. I want to bring my family back and settle here. The community of Irbin is very family friendly. The church taught us loyalty and care and that we are one family. I was raised this way and I want my children to experience this as well. I am very hopeful for the future; my children are a source of my hope."

'You're bringing hope to many Syrians'

You are contributing to this hope. "The money you are donating is truly saving families from underneath the ashes," Joseph says. "You are giving a dose of hope and optimism to broken and exhausted people. May God strengthen you and bless you. You are a source of joy to me and many others who get help from you."

Amazingly, Joseph's story is not unusual – again, thanks to the incredible generosity of Open Doors supporters like you. Through Centres of Hope run by Open Doors partners in Syria (40 in total), 1,734 income-generation projects have been created, helping people like Joseph start a restaurant, shop, small factory, workshop or agricultural business. Five have been started in Irbin. As Open Doors' *Hope for the Middle East* campaign enters its sixth year, you're helping ensure that hope continues to shine in the darkest places.

"This gives them the opportunity to support their families and build a future again in their country," shares an Open Doors local partner. "It encourages brothers and sisters around them, when they see them succeed. You're bringing hope to many Syrians. Amidst the destruction in the country, these are the burning candles of hope, showing that the situation in the country isn't only one of deep sadness and despair. The war doesn't have the last word."

For more information about OpenDoors or to make a donation click on link below.

[OpenDoors](#)



In this desperate time of violence in Afghanistan, we can feel powerless. But we believe in the power of prayer.

Pray for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace,
We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan.
Be living bread to those who are hungry each day
Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic
Be their true home to all who have been displaced
Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views
Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow.
Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace,
Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care
Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and
Hold us all in your unfailing love.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness.

Amen

This prayer was written by Ramani Leathard, Christian Aid's Head of Region for South East Asia and Afghanistan.

Prayer Points

- Give thanks that our partners are still able to operate for now and that there is an indication that projects helping communities meet immediate and urgent needs will be allowed to continue.
- Pray for peace and protection for the Afghan people facing great uncertainty and the threat of serious human rights abuses.
- Pray in particular for women, girls and ethnic and religious minorities in Afghanistan, that hard-won advancements in rights will not be reversed.
- Pray for a coordinated and effective international response to the humanitarian crisis.
- Pray for support to reach all those in need of emergency

assistance in Afghanistan because of the compounded effects of conflict, climate change and Covid-19.

- Pray in particular for the thousands of Afghan Internally Displaced People who are facing famine and who Christian Aid have been assisting through the hunger appeal launched in July.
- Pray that the devastating cuts to the aid budget will be reviewed, and that increased funding is made available immediately and effectively to Afghanistan.
- Pray for safe and open borders for all those who wish to and are able to leave Afghanistan. Pray that they would be met with sanctuary and hospitality.
- Pray for all who remain, for courage and protection. Pray with all those who 'hope that the situation gets better and we can go back to a normal life with dignity, respect and peace.'
- Pray for the halting of attacks on civil society. For effective political negotiations. Pray for peace.

Source Christian Aid.

For more information from Christian Aid click on the link below.

[Christian Aid](#)

