

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 19th September 2021

Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC. Diana is leading and John Applegate is speaking from Philippians 4: 4-8 "Are you carrying too much baggage."

Sunday's online service: Maggie Harpur is leading and Ron is preaching through Nehemiah 13: 14, 22b, 29-31 "Nehemiah the man."



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 Read's

Ps 127:1, Dan 7:10f, Mal 3:16f, Ps 139:1f

For Your Prayers

Please pray for Lorraine Stuart & family as Donald's funeral is being held on Tuesday and for the family of Shirley Bargewell whose funeral takes place here on Wednesday at 10.00am. Also please pray that we will be able to find volunteers to decorate the church for the Harvest Service.

Pray for Ron who is preaching at Gunton Baptist Church Lowestoft this Sunday. Also pray that our government will find solutions to the lack of workers to harvest crops and that delivery drivers can be found.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jean Mollett.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 10th Naomi posted "Guys we're home now!!! (with baby Meshak) And God's given us a major confirmation so I'm totally at peace about leaving the hospital today. Thank you Jesus." Also on Friday Jenny posted "Hi, asking for more prayers please. Just seen the consultant and I have to have more surgery on 20/09. The cancer had spread to the lymph node that was removed and so they now want to remove all the nodes in the right armpit. Not quite what we were expecting. Also, this may mean chemotherapy as well as radiotherapy afterwards. This has thrown us both a bit, please pray for Bob especially at this time. Thanks. Jx"

On Saturday Doreen asked "Do remember and pray for Josh as he starts his internship today."

On Tuesday Jerry posted "Would you please pray for Jan and Doreen, Elspeth and Susie as they visit folk this morning to share Jesus love and the gospel, weather permitting thank you. Jan" Later Jerry posted "From Jan and Doreen, thanks for praying. Not many doors opened to us this morning but popped in to see a couple who have started to come to church x"

On Wednesday David posted "Please pray for Magda who has been suffering for 11 weeks with Labyrinthitis an infection of the inner ear that affects the balance leading to dizziness, spinning sessions and sickness."

Prayer For the Week

Prayer for Healing and Recovery

By the light and truth of Jesus I lift my loved one to you.

By the hope of the Redeemer, I pray for your healing power to break through.

By the peace and the grace of the Living One, I place them safely in your care.

By the death and resurrection of the King of Kings May your restoration now flow through my prayers.

By the greatest gift of love ever known. Help me care for them as you would do.

By the hope and strength of the living God, I place my trust and faith in you.

(prayer from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

Read more at: <https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/topics/prayer-for-healing.html>

Thoughts for the Week

"The church is not a museum for saints but a hospital for sinners." - *Morton Kelsey*

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. But since our greatest need was forgiveness, God sent us a Saviour." - *Max Lucado*

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

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole
Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 20th Sept. 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

W1 2nd Exploratory Meeting

10.30am in the Stables

Wednesday 22nd Sept

Over 60s Table Tennis restarts

Zoom Bible Study

7.00pm Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 26th Sept 10.45am

10.45am Harvest Festival Service

Monday 27th Sept 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Wednesday 30th Sept 7.00pm

Prayer Zoom Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

Community Fridge

Open In The Stables

Monday 2 to 4pm

Tuesday to Friday 10 to 12 noon

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 minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Harvest Service Help Urgently Needed!!

Harvest is a special time in SBC's calendar celebrating, as people have for many years, God's gifts of the Harvest home. It also represents God's harvest of people bringing them to salvation.

In previous years we would hold a harvest supper and auction but due to covid that has been postponed to next year. As in other years food donations will decorate the stage - all tins etc. will go to the Food Bank and any fresh food will go to the Community Fridge. Please bring some fresh or tinned produce to the service if you can.

Magda urgently needs volunteers to decorate the window sills and the stage, currently she has only three offers. Can you help decorate the church for our Harvest Service celebrating God's bounty on Sunday 26th September? If you can help talk to Magda or call her on 07794581875.

Table Tennis Wednesday 22nd

Table Tennis in the Schoolroom is restarting on Wednesday September 22nd 9.30am to 12 noon.

Coffee and tea are provided and the break for these allows time for socialising.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at **James 2:17-26**.

As Christians how easy is it to occasionally sit back and think I've done my bit for Jesus?

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

The Gathering Online 2021

An opportunity to listen to the voices which we don't usually hear in church, both during our EBA Gathering and Week of Prayer - will you join us?

Over the week of **20th-24th September** we will be listening to five of the voices which aren't often heard in church life. We would love for you to listen, respond and pray with us as we think about racial diversity, creation care, women in ministry, disabled people and children & young people.

You can access the **free resources** for the **week of prayer** on our website <https://www.easternbaptist.org.uk/news/eba-week-of-prayer-20-24-september/>

Why not join us for the **EBA Gathering on 25th September from 1.30pm-5pm?** Through the wonders of technology, we will be meeting together at Bishops Stortford Baptist and Norwich Central Baptist church. Jeniya Gwendu will be speaking on: 'I just can't get it' John 13:34-35

Then we will continue to reflect on these five important areas raised during our Week of Prayer - Racial diversity, Creation Care, Women in Ministry, Disabled people & Children and Young people,. How can we respond?

Book your free place by emailing secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk.



Listening to the Voices

Racial Diversity
Creation Care
Women in Ministry
Disabled People
Children & Young People

Growing healthy churches in relationship for God's mission in the East of England

EBA Prayer Focus 9th September 2021 Eastern Baptist Association

This week we focus on the Eastern Baptist Association. On Saturday 25 September it is the EBA Annual Gathering. On

Monday 20 September it is the EBA AGM. And during the week we have the EBA Week of Prayer. The theme for the Gathering and the Week of Prayer is "Listening to the Voices". Each day we will bring to you a recorded interview from a voice that sometimes is not heard and reflect on how as church communities we can be a place of welcome and sanctuary for everyone. You can access the recorded interviews on the [EBA You Tube channel](#). On the [EBA website](#) you will also find a reflection for each day with Bible references and reflection questions if you wish to discuss these further with your church or in small groups.

We also invite you to join us each day at 9.30am, and Wednesday at 7pm as together we pray into each theme.

Topic: EBA Prayer Zoom Meeting

Time: 9.30am (and Wednesday evening 7pm)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88201290903>

Meeting ID: 882 0129 0903

Passcode: 794152

Understandably this isn't always possible so we would encourage you in your prayer times this week to reflect on these five themes:

Monday - Welcoming racial diversity

What does it look like, where I live, to reach across the ethnic lines and care for those who are ethnically different from myself?

Tuesday - Creation Care

What does it look like to thirst for justice for our earth?

Wednesday- Welcoming women in ministry

Pray for women leaders that you know, both ordained and non-ordained. And pray for young women to be raised up as leaders in your church.

Thursday - Welcoming disabled people in our churches

Pray for the full diversity of humanity to be embraced in our churches.

Friday - Welcoming children and young people

Shoe Box Appeal

Can you fill an empty shoebox with small items for the Christmas Shoebox Appeal in conjunction with St Mary's?

A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out is eternal. Be part of changing children's lives all over the world. You will find some leaflets at the back of the church with more information. Collection of the shoe boxes is the week 15th - 22nd of November.

For more information: Contact Magda Nicholls on 01692 580002 or 07794581875.

Go to www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/ for more information.

Donations

Pre covid we passed around a collection bag, but as we are still trying to implement some covid protection protocols we have put a bag on the balustrades on the stage close to the exit door and a plate at the back of the church. Your contributions are always appreciated as we grow SBC.

If you would like to donate to SBC 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. You can also put cash or cheques through Henry Nicholson's door at Three Windows Brumstead Road.

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**

Quote of the Week

"Loving people are compassionate towards others. However, if that compassion doesn't start at home and doesn't include self-forgiveness, it is incomplete and lopsided."

Annette Vaillancourt,

Coffee and Chat is Back

Coffee and Chat got off to a great restart on Tuesday with many of the regulars pre-Covid returning after 18 months.

Elaine, Maggie, Fran and Susanna did a brilliant job following in the footsteps of Monica and Frank in setting up and collecting bric-a-brac and producing cakes. Many other people donated cakes.



Lots of chat and Susanna and Maggie supplying the cakes and Coffee in the background

The Community Fridge is open at the same time and was awash with donated fresh produced that would have gone to waste.

It was great to see people back socialising on a Tuesday again and enjoying cakes, scones, biscuits, coffee and a chat in the stables including Monica and Frank whose vision and hard work over the years created this successful event that everyone was enjoying.



Maggie, Elaine, Diana who had just delivered the very lovely cake in foreground and Fran



Fresh produce donated by Ashmanhaugh Church St Swithins Harvest Festival and bread supplied by Tesco's

Operation Christmas Child's Mission and History

Mission

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to provide God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

History

Operation Christmas Child began in the UK in 1990, after Dave Cooke, a local businessman in Wrexham and his wife Jill felt called to do something in response to the plight of Romanian orphans at the end of the Cold War. Dave's sister Jan, came up with the concept of the shoebox gift as a form of easily transportable 'Christmas stocking' wrapped and packed with love. A tangible message of hope for children in the toughest of circumstances.

Dave decided to put out a local radio appeal for blankets, toys, medical supplies and transportation. The community responded generously to this volunteer-led initiative filling seven lorries for Romania. This initial load included just under 3,000 shoebox gifts. The precious cargo was gratefully received by a local pastor named Liviu who, together with local volunteers, shared God's love through distributing these simple gifts.

In the summer of 1993, Dave called Samaritan's Purse President Franklin Graham asking if he'd be willing to fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in war-torn Bosnia. Franklin agreed, but figured Christmas was months away. He forgot about the promise until Dave called back around Thanksgiving asking about the gifts.



Franklin asked his friend the late Pastor Ross Rhoads of Calvary Church of Charlotte to see if he could help with the need. A Sunday shortly afterward, Pastor Rhoads demonstrated for his congregation how to fill a shoebox with simple gifts and encouraged them to include a letter to the child as well. Within weeks, the church had 11,000 shoeboxes lining their hallways.

Due to their generosity and additional gifts from Canada, Samaritan's Purse sent 28,000 shoebox gifts to children in the Balkans that Christmas.

In the UK in December 1993 the BBC organised a live Songs of Praise link-up between St Giles Church, Wrexham and Second Baptist Church in Oradea, Romania focusing on Operation Christmas Child. The programme made a significant impact and elevated the campaign from a North Wales and Northern England project and launched it nationwide. Over the next several years, Operations Christmas Child caught the imagination of churches, schools and workplaces throughout the UK.

After actively partnering with Samaritan's Purse for two years, the Wales-based shoebox gift project became an official project of Samaritan's Purse in 1995.

Every year since, Samaritan's Purse has collected shoebox gifts filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items for children around the world. Since 1990, more than 178 million children in more than 150 countries have received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The project delivers not only the joy of what, for many kids, is their first gift ever, but also gives them a tangible expression of God's love.



Tens of thousands of volunteers from local churches around the world partner with us to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ at festive outreach events where children are surprised with these shoebox gifts.

"Every box is an opportunity to reach a child with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

—Franklin Graham

President, Samaritan's Purse

The Greatest Journey

In addition, we have trained over 1.1 million volunteers from these congregations to teach The Greatest Journey, our dynamic follow-up discipleship course for

shoebox recipients. Since 2009, 23.3 million children have enrolled in this 12-lesson program to learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. More than 11.2 million of these boys and girls have made a decision to accept Jesus as their Saviour during the course. Many are now praying for and sharing their faith with family and friends. As a result of this ever-expanding witness, new churches are starting and communities are being transformed!

Behind the Scenes

This whole process is made possible by caring individuals who pack shoeboxes full of quality gifts for children in need.

More than 100 year-round volunteers get the word out about the Samaritan's Purse project across the UK. In addition, thousands of short-term volunteers serve in around 1,000 drop-off locations open every year during National Collection Week, in November. Each shoebox collected then travels to one of 20 processing centres to be inspected and prepared for international shipment by thousands more volunteers. All of this is also supported by volunteers in our prayer network.



In 2019 alone, more than 10.5 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts were collected throughout Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The brilliantly simple idea that caught the imagination of so many schools and churches in the UK from Wrexham and beyond, has now blessed over

178 million children with a shoebox gift, as part of global family.

For more information go click here <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

If you would like to donate a Shoebox details are on page 2 of this newsletter.

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Material sent to publicity@stalhambaptist.org.uk or telephoned to David Child on 07561603586 may be used in any of the church's print or electronic media.

Deadline for the Bulletin is Wednesday 7:00pm. Church Website: www.stalhambaptist.org.uk www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist
Contact Stalham Baptist Church on 01692 582731 <https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch> <https://www.instagram.com/stalhambaptistchurch>
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