

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 26th September 2021

Harvest Service

Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC. Pat is leading and Ron is speaking from Leviticus 19: 9-10 & Deuteronomy 24: 19-22

Sunday's online service: Diana is leading and celebrating the Lord's Supper
Ron is preaching from Luke 18: 18-23 & John 9: 13-25.



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.



For Your Prayers

Please pray for the children in local schools as the number of covid cases rise in the classrooms.

Pray for the ten people that are currently taking part in the Zoom Alpha Course being organised by Dan StJohn. Pray they will be enriched by the course and they will grow in their understanding of the Lord.

Pray also for those vulnerable people who are still understandingly anxious about the covid situation.

Pray for our government that God can give them wisdom to bring solutions to the current problems, as Brexit and covid start to unravel, and that will protect all sectors of our society.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Eileen Neill.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 17th Jenny posted "Hi all, today I seem to have a small infected area at one end of the scar in my axilla. This is due to be reopened next Wednesday. I have been advised to see the GP for antibiotics. Please could you pray that these will work well and the area will be infection free by Wednesday. Thanks. J"

Also on Friday David posted "Please pray for Ava who is on a children's ward at JP with a high temperature after suffering from Covid three weeks ago."

On Saturday David asked "Please pray for Alan Wagner and his family whose Mom passed away on Thursday."

Alan is the pastor at the Lighthouse Church Durban SA who SBC share online services, YouTube talks and prayers with."

On Tuesday Jerry and Simone posted "Please continue praying for our baby Anna as we had to take her to hospital last night because we were concerned about her breathing. She most likely has Bronchitis and is currently on oxygen for the next few hours to help her breathing.

We also wanted to inform you that Anna was diagnosed with Down's Syndrome and has a heart condition called Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD). She's got a heart scan this afternoon and hopefully that will provide much clarity for us moving forward. Many thanks."

Robert posted, also on Tuesday, "Please pray for a customer of mine called Jenny whose husband died on Saturday after a long and difficult multiple set of illnesses."

On Wednesday Jenny requested "Would value your prayers today as I have a second operation." Later she posted "I'm on the morning list but don't know when. Just arriving at the hospital now." Followed by "Thank you so much for your prayers. Now back in the day unit and feeling fine, just a bit sore. Hope to be home by 1pm. God is so good, I really felt his peace - quite incomprehensible but wonderful. Thank you again for your prayers, it makes such a difference."

In the afternoon Jenny posted "Thank you all for your prayers. We got home at 1.30pm and I'm feeling remarkably well have been for a very short walk, the sunshine was too good to miss. God is amazing! Thank you again, it makes such a difference knowing God's people have my back. Jx"

Prayers For the Week

May we live gently on the face of your beautiful earth. Help us never to lose sight of the web of creation nor to let acquisition harden our hearts towards our brothers and sisters.

Join us in changing the story around refugees: challenge any negative headlines by writing to the relevant newspaper and tell them that refugees deserve to be treated with dignity and compassion.

Source Christian Aid

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 27th Sept 7.00pm

Deacons Zoom Meeting

Thursday 30th Sept 7.00pm

Prayer Zoom Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 3rd Oct.

Flowers: Doreen Hollebbon

Monday 4th Oct. 9.00am

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 6th Oct.

Zoom Bible Study

7.00pm Contact Diana for a link.

Monday 18th October

WI Start Up Meeting

10.30am in the Stables

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 BMS Appeal

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.

Harvest Service Food Collection

Please bring food donations on Sunday and decorate the stage with them - all tins etc will go to the Food Bank and any fresh food will go to the Community Fridge.



SBC Football Team

Stalham Baptist Church FC, managed by Josh Hollebon, won the Fellowship Trophy for the season 2020-21. (Pictured)

A great effort by the team that has been representing SBC in the right way for many seasons.

Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at **Matthew 6.**

How easy is it to fall into the trap of wanting to make sure everybody knows how much you are doing for Jesus when all that's important is He knows?

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

Stalham Trustees

The **Stalham Trustees** will be making a distribution this Christmastime and applications are invited from those 70 years of age or over as at Friday 5th November 2021 and who have resided in Stalham for a continuous and uninterrupted period of 10 years or more.

Applications - only one per household please - must be made in writing to Miss E. M. Grimes, 2 Teresa Road, Stalham NR12 9EB by Friday 5th November 2021.

Please note that previous years' applications are not automatically considered - a fresh application must be made each year. Unfortunately late applications cannot be accepted whatever the reason.

EBA Prayer Focus 26th September 2021 Halstead Baptist Church

The town of Halstead is located in the Braintree District of Essex. Due to new housing developments, the town is growing and expanding rapidly and this presents new opportunities for the fellowship at Halstead Baptist Church. The minister at Halstead Baptist Church, Revd Sean Carter, arrived in 2014. He is supported by two Deacons and an assistant. As the church emerges from lockdown, they are praying that God will guide them in the appointment of a Treasurer and further Deacons to support the leadership. Halstead Baptist Church describes itself as "not a large fellowship". It faces many of the similar struggles that all smaller churches face.

A great joy for the fellowship at Halstead was shortly after lockdown ended, the church celebrated a baptism. Two new people have come into membership and the online service has brought a new face into the regular congregation.

In recent years, the church has ventured onto the High Street with the opening of the Rivers of Life shop. With one paid member of staff and a group of enthusiastic volunteers, the shop sells charitable items at low prices! In a very real sense, the Church is where the people are. Having sold a redundant building, prior to lockdown, the fellowship bought a house. Working alongside a local

Christian charity, they are looking to house people in need. As the fellowship seeks to follow in the footsteps of Christ, they are slowly making a difference in the town.

As the church looks to the future, discussions are beginning about forming an LEP with the local United Reformed Church. This could present some exciting opportunities.

For Prayer

- That those fearful of change may find peace in the process
- That the fellowship may discern God's leading for the future
- For the house purchased, that it may bring hope to those in need
- For more labourers! Particularly for a new Treasurer and Deacons

Thankyou From Jenny

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully prayed for me over the last few weeks and also for all the many cards, messages, flowers and gifts I have received, it means so much. It's wonderful to be a part of such a loving and caring fellowship. As I face the next stage in my treatment I am confident that our loving and faithful God will be with me every step of the way. Thank you to you all and I'm looking forward to being back at Sunday services soon. Jenny.

North Norfolk Foodbank

During August SBC contributed 243.85kg of food which helped towards a monthly total of 3083.98kg. The Foodbank totally rely on donations, both food and financial, to operate and we are extremely grateful when people choose to support us. Tim the Project Manager says "Thank you for thinking of us and enabling us to serve the people in crisis across our district and thank you for your support and generosity without which the foodbank work would not be possible."

During September, the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Jam, Squash, Biscuits, Crisps, Male and Female Deodorants, Washing Up Liquid, Shampoo and Conditioner, Laundry Liquid/Powder, Household Cleaning Products.

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol."

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**

Quotes of the Week

"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant."

— **Robert Louis Stevenson**

"In life, we plant seeds everywhere we go. Some fall on fertile ground needing very little to grow. Some fall on rocky soil requiring a tad bit more loving care. While others fall in seemingly barren land and no matter what you do; it appears the seed is dead.

Nevertheless, every seed planted will have a ripple effect. You could see it in the present or a time not seen yet.

So be wise about where you plant your seeds.

Be very mindful of your actions & deeds.

Negativity grows just as fast, if not faster, than positivity.

Plant seeds of kindness, love and peace

And your harvest will be abundant living."

— **Sanjo Jendayi**

"A leader who sows confidence will reap excellency and legacy. A leader who sows fear will reap stagnancy or complacency."

— **Israelmore Ayivor,**

Table Tennis is Back

Wednesday saw the restart of the over 60s Table Tennis in the schoolroom.

The Over 60's Table Tennis, which started on 17th September 2008 after a request by non- members of the Church as an experiment, has now become very much part of our recognised Church activities. Although our title provides a minimum age limit, we do have a good proportion of



players actually over 80. The approach was that this would be a 'Blue Moon' event, open to all, encouraging non-Church members to attend the Church and to join in. As before the lockdowns they met normally on a Wednesday morning each week in the School Room, starting at 09.30 hours and finishing at 12.00 hours. Coffee and tea are provided and the break for these allows them time for socialising.

If you want to join just turn up - communal bats are available - or contact Stewart Marsh on 07421129812 for more details.



The Feast of the Tabernacles

This feast comes on the 15th of Tishri according to the bible calendar and usually coincides with the end of Sept or early Oct (22nd Sept on our calendar) and lasts 7 days (Levit 23v33-44). Writes Janet Nicholson.

The feast is primarily agricultural in its character and is a joyous occasion for all the family with praise and thanksgiving for God's bounties as the harvest has been brought in from the fields, the groves and the orchards.

The Feast of Tabernacles also commemorates God's mighty deliverance of His people from Egypt and their 40 years of wilderness wandering dwelling in tents and tabernacles. Jews observe Sukkot, or the Feast of Booths, by building little tabernacles or booths with walls of plaited branches and thatched roofs which give shade by day but permit the stars to gaze down upon them by night, faithfully fulfilling the ancient command "Ye shall dwell in booths for 7 days." The Sukkah is meant not only to hold one family but to host guests and all who wish to join in the celebration. Its about sharing what is yours with others.

The Feast of Tabernacles, like other feasts of Israel focuses the attention of God's people, both on the past, on what God has done, and in the future, on what God will do. The prophetic message of the feast is that there is shelter in the Tabernacle of God under the wings of the Shekinah glory for the Jew first and also the Gentile nations. Writes Janet Nicholson.

Two outstanding features of the feast were the pouring of water in the Temple lasting 6 days and the brilliant illumination of the Temple. The pouring of water was a visual interpretation of God's grace in sending rain and also prophetic and Messianic in its hope, looking towards the outpouring of the Holy Spirit not only upon Israel but also the believers of all the nations under the reign of Messiah King. On the last day of the feast, the Lord Jesus stood in the Temple crying "If any man thirst, let him come into me and drink. He that believes in me, the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (John7v38). Jesus was implying that He was the answer to their prayers.

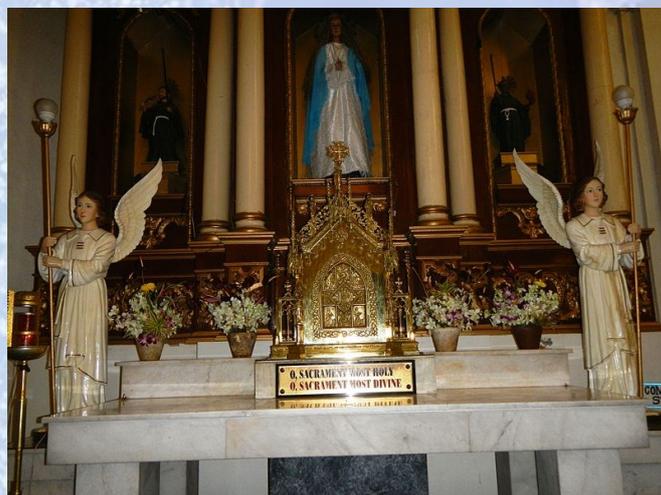
The second central feature of the feast was the illumination of the Temple in Jerusalem. Pilgrims came to the Temple with lights and torches, while in the Temple itself the golden candlesticks were lighted, this illuminated most of Jerusalem and surroundings. Amidst all this Jesus stood and proclaimed am the light of the world." Thus the 3 aspects of the feast which stand out boldly are a harvest of Thanksgiving, a national commemoration of redemption and Faith's leap into the future, when Jehovah shall gather the nations in the Messianic Kingdom of His blessed Son, the Lord Jesus, (Zech14v16,17).

Today, the Feast of Booths, or Tabernacles or Sukkot, is celebrated by a growing number of groups, including Messianic Jews, Church of God groups, and Apollo Quiboloy's Kingdom of Jesus Christ church in the Philippines, as well as the International Christian Embassy Jerusalem (ICEJ).



Tabernacle at the Santa Cruz Catholic Church, Ilocos Sur Philippines

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Tabernacle at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Sariaya, Quezon Spain

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Reflecting on the power of prayer

A testimony of answered prayer and the goodness of our God, by Vicki Miller, Scheme Manager at independent housing scheme Royd Court, West Yorkshire.

I knew on first entering Royd Court, run by Christian charity Pilgrims' Friend Society, that it was a place rooted in prayer and full of the Spirit. It was just before Christmas over a decade ago and the residents had gathered in the lounge cheerily singing carols. As we hold our annual [Pilgrims' Friend Society Prayer Week](#) (12-18 September), I think back over my time at Royd Court, particularly the storm of the last year and a half. I am encouraged that we continue to stand firm on a foundation of faithful prayer, but as the Church we need to continue praying for older people and the issues that face them, especially as so many of them are diligent in their prayers for the wider world.

Prayer has been our rock through the pandemic. When Covid struck, Abi, the care manager, and I went for a prayer walk around the building. Bibles in hand we set off. When we got to each of the corners we stopped and prayed. By the time we got to the first corner we were crying so much we had to run back for tissues. It was incredibly emotional, but as we prayed through the tears a verse from Psalm 91:10 came to me, *"no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your home"*. We prayed that Covid would not enter our home.

And the Lord has answered our prayers. We have not had a single symptomatic case of coronavirus in Royd Court. Not one. We continue to ask for protection every day but, in the midst of the devastation the virus has caused, we rejoice in the incredible blessing of the Lord's continued protection.

During lockdown we sent prayer letters to each of our residents to highlight specific times and issues we would all pray for. There was a real sense that even though we couldn't be together physically, we were united in community as we prayed.

Since before the first brick was laid, prayer has been a foundation of Royd Court. When Pilgrims' Friend Society first set out to build the Housing Scheme, they struggled to find a suitable location. They finally found a site and, after the rigmarole of negotiations, had an offer accepted. But the team's relief was short lived when only a short while later the offer was retracted. The seller had received a significantly higher offer from a supermarket chain. The management team were devastated and asked for prayer. Together with the volunteers and staff, they prayed and waited. A couple of days passed and they were beginning to consider other options, when they received a phone call from the seller. Since deciding to sell to the supermarket chain, he had been unable to sleep as Royd Court and Pilgrims' Friend Society wouldn't leave his mind. He was ringing to say that he was returning to the lower offer to sell the property to Pilgrims' Friend Society. The power of our prayers to the Lord Jesus — as we seek an almighty and loving God who

can make a way when the situation seems impossible — cannot be underestimated!

But it isn't the building that gives Royd Court its foundation in prayer, it is the people that live here. Whether it is John, one of our residents, getting up at 5am every morning for 365 days of the year to pray through the Psalms. Or the elderly husband and wife who, throughout the pandemic, took lists of the male and female residents respectively and rang each one every single day to pray with them.

The assumption that working with older, frailer people means you have more impact on them as a carer than they have on you, could not be further from the truth. Our residents may sometimes be physically frail, but they are prayer warriors. I often feel they keep our team going, not the other way around. Just the other week, a member of staff had a serious operation. The depth of the residents' prayers was palpable, and the operation was an incredible success — there are so many other examples I could share.

We have recently started gathering together again to pray in limited group gatherings and my, how we have all missed it! The residents come together every morning from Monday to Friday as a community. During one of the first meetings, I was working in the top floor lounge, but ended up not getting much done that half hour! The sound of their singing was absolutely unbelievable. It was so loud, so heartfelt, that I got my phone out to record it. And I was two floors up!

I feel the peace and power of knowing the residents are upholding us and each other in prayer every day and I have so much to learn from them. In the wisdom of their years and the crises they have lived through, they have learnt the importance of having prayer as a foundation of their living and active faith.

I hope this testimony of answered prayer and the goodness of our God will encourage you to join with Pilgrims' Friend Society in praying for older people and the issues facing them in the coming week. Go to pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/get-involved/pray/prayerweek to find out more or follow @PilgrimsFS on social media.

Having previously worked in the gas industry, Vicki Miller has been the Scheme Manager at independent housing scheme Royd Court based in Mirfield, West Yorkshire and run by Pilgrims' Friend Society, since 2010.

Vicki is married to Nigel and they have two daughters. They attend Mount Tabor Community Church, Shaw Cross, Dewsbury as a family.

Source Baptist Times

Image by [Sabine van Erp](#) from [Pixabay](#)

