

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 3rd October 2021

Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC. Maggie is leading and Ron is Preaching from 2 Kings 6: 8-23 "Do you hear what I hear?"

Sunday's online service: Jerry is leading and preaching from Luke 17: 1-10 "Forgive others"



You can watch the online service on the SBC website from Sunday morning, go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) Then click on the icon pictured .

Structure of Jerry's talk:

1. **The Need to Forgive. V1-2**
2. **How to Forgive. V 3-4**
3. **The Faith to Forgive. V 5-6**
4. **The Duty to Forgive. V 7-10**

**Verses for further consideration:**

*Matthew 5:23-24 Matthew 6:14, Matthew 18:15-35 James 5:16 Luke 11:2-4 Colossians 3:12-13,*

## For Your Prayers

Please pray for Marian, Steve and the family of Jan Slade whose funeral is at SBC at 10.45 on October 14th.

Please pray for Ben Mixer who has been in the JPH for the past week after having his appendix out.

Pray also that people will recognise selfishness is self-defeating and that sharing and caring is the way to deal with shortages and difficult times, thus holding communities together.

Please Lord help our government inform the nation with honesty and clarity enabling people to have a clear picture of where our country is heading.

Lord enable charities like Christian Aid to support families in Afghanistan who are experiencing severe hunger.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Magda Nicholls.**

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Sunday 26th Jenny posted "I'm struggling with chronic fatigue and so much pain today. Please pray. Thanks."

Also on Sunday DJ Steve sent an audio message saying "In case you haven't heard mum (Jan Slade) passed away in the week she was 79 years old."

On Monday Jenny posted "Once again, thank you all for your prayers. After seeing an out of hours GP and being given more medication, I've had a much better night's sleep and I am feeling more rested today. I thank God for all of you who prayed for me when I felt unable to, for our NHS, which I never thought I'd come to rely on so much and for Bob, who is baring the burden of my incapacity. Jx"

On Tuesday Jerry asked "Please pray for Jan, Doreen, Elspeth and Susie as they visit folks this morning. Thank you." Later Jan and Doreen reported "Thanks again for prayers. Had nice chats with folks, prayed for 1 lady and left leaflets and Good News Papers with some."

On Tuesday evening Geoff posted "Please could we ask you to remember Pam a friend from our old church in London. She was always the go to person for work with youngsters. Brown Owl for brownies, leader of 7-11 SS, holiday club you name it! Pam has had a series of illnesses over the last few years or so that no one has got to the bottom of until now. She has been diagnosed with a myeloma a bone cancer. A non stop lady in recent months reduced to life in a wheelchair. Please remember Pam in your prayer time. Thanks Barbara & Geoff."

On Thursday Simone posted "Thank you all for all your continuous prayers for Anna and our whole family. It is so encouraging and makes a big difference. It's been a week of ups and downs for Anna and we are still in hospital.

She has now been put on a special high calorie milk to help her grow as she was losing quite a bit of weight. She has responded well to that and is gaining weight again! Anna is doing well but struggles to get rid of her chest infection. That's why she has been prescribed Antibiotics yesterday and she will be seen by a respiratory specialist today."

## Prayer For the Cold Days

There are days when my heart is cold; non-receptive I lack empathy I no longer see, I'm blind. I get through I have learnt the right things to say I wear the mask play the stage no one knows but me and of course you Jesus, you see through the charade I can't hide anything from you. Today; Lord I pray, warm my heart open my eyes let me feel again, let me radiate Your warmth and Your love. Amen



**Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington**  
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**Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno**  
07733837687

**Secretary: Diana Gordon**  
07951949128

**Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship**

## For your Diary

**Monday 4th Oct 9.00am**

Deacons Zoom Prayer Meeting

**Wednesday 6th Oct.**

Zoom Bible Study

7.00pm Contact Diana for a link

**Sunday 10th Oct.**

Church Meeting 12noon

Flowers: Jane Dalton

**Monday 11th Oct. 7.00pm**

Deacons Zoom Meeting

**Thursday 14th Sept 7.00pm**

Prayer Zoom Meeting

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](mailto:minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk)

**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](http://www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist)**

## Church Meeting

After next week's service, starting at 12noon, we will be holding a Church Meeting. All are welcome but only members can vote.

## Donations

We will use the box at the front door marked freewill offerings instead of a plate at the back of SBC. The offering bag on the balustrades on the stage close to the exit door will still be in use. Your contributions are always appreciated as we grow SBC.

## Church Reading Plan

This week we are looking at [Luke 21](#)

As Christians how do we feel about the picture Jesus paints: the rich glorifying in their status, the poverty of the many who do everything to support their church, the adornment of churches in the hope of buying salvation and the prophecy of the end to come?

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

## New Home Group

Would you like to join a new HOME GROUP which will be starting towards the end of October. We plan to meet fortnightly for CAKE and CHAT, WORSHIP and PRAYER, BIBLE READING and DISCUSSION.

Quite a few folk from St Mary's are planning to join and it would be really good to have people from other church traditions [or none] to add different views and opinions to the discussions. We will be meeting at Keith and Jim's home, 'Peregrines', Lower Staithe Road, Stalham. With sufficient interest there would be both afternoon and evening groups. Please give Keith a call on

07891 365232 if you may be interested. HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU!

## 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](mailto:secretary@stalhambaptist)

## Community Fridge

The Community Fridge is a big success with regular donations from Tesco's and other retailers in the Stalham area. Lots of produce has been supplied by the green fingered gardeners in Stalham. If you have stuff in your fridge you are likely not to use, why not bring it to the Community Fridge and swap it for something else? If you're going away on holiday, why not donate the food in your fridge or freezer to the Community Fridge rather than bin it when you return?

The Community Fridge is open In the Stables  
Monday 2 to 4pm Tuesday to Friday 10 to 12 noon.

## EBA Prayer Focus 3rd October 2021

## Norwich Central Baptist Church

Norwich Central Baptist Church is now fully open again after the restrictions of the last eighteen months. We are currently without a Minister and are actively pursuing the processes to find a minister.

In opening up we have seen many of our congregation engage and return but there are still many who feel vulnerable or are not yet ready to come back and several people have left. We are also finding that many people have reviewed what they do over the lockdowns and we do not have the volunteers that we used to. We are very grateful however to have been able to re-establish contact with many of the groups that used to come into our buildings and have

welcomed them back. We operate over two sites at St Mary's and Mousehold Hub and also have a Portuguese Speaking Church as part of our community.

Request for Prayer:

- Specifically in our search for a Minister that God would lead us to the right person.
- For the church leaders establishing the church community again after lockdown.
- The new Stay & Play group at Mousehold Hub.

Prayers for Praise:

- That the buildings are now open again for Twelve Step Groups, Foodbank, Café Tots, Saturday Café, Stay & Play and organisations providing training and advice to help people into work.
- New contacts being established through Stay & Play.

## North Norfolk Foodbank

During October, 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.**

SBC is open for donations 10.00am to 12 noon Monday to Friday.

## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"We are sinners that deserve eternal damnation. But God has forgiven us because of the blood and righteousness of Christ. And the fact that God forgave us when we repented of our sins obligates us to forgive our brother who repents of his sin against us. **We are most like beasts when we kill. We are most like humans when we judge. But we are most like God when we forgive.**"—H.B. Charles Jr.

"We often buy the lie that holding a grudge will make us feel better. But this is not true. Holding a grudge will only suffocate us, and never liberate us. Choosing to hold a grudge is tremendously powerful, controlling others and you. Forgiving is even more powerful, liberating others and you."—Erik Raymond

When you are having a hard time forgiving someone, take time to note how God may be using that offence for good. Is this an unusual opportunity to glorify God? How can you serve others and help them grow in their faith? What sins and weaknesses of yours are being exposed? What character qualities are you being challenged to exercise? When you perceive that the person who has wronged you is being used as an instrument in God's hand to help you mature, serve others, and glorify him, it may be easier for you to move ahead with forgiveness."—Ken Sande.

**"Can we forgive a person who doesn't think he's done wrong and we think he has, or if he doesn't ask for any forgiveness?** The answer is we can and we must. We must do our part in the forgiveness. This is what Jesus meant, I think, when he said, "Love your enemies . . . bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you" (Luke 6:27–28). They are still our enemies when we do that. They have not asked for any forgiveness, and they don't think they need any, making life miserable for us — and they think they ought to. We are to bless them, and that blessing means that our part of the inward forgiveness has happened. The opposite of forgiveness is holding a grudge, but blessing is the opposite of holding a grudge, and so blessing is a kind of forgiving."— John Piper

## Thought for the Week

It's often said "If you want a rainbow you're going to have to put up with the rain."

As Christians how much discomfort are you willing to put up with, to bring colour to people's lives by introducing them to the love of Jesus.

Image by [Martin Eklund](#) from [Pixabay](#)



# 10 life-changing habits from our Covid world

**Habits we latched onto over the last 18 months, which we should perhaps not let go. By Chris Goswami.**

If these past 18 months have taught us anything, surely it is that life is uncertain. One thing we have all lost this past year is a sense of future planning. We used to say, "next month we'll go there", "let's plan where to go on holiday", blah blah blah.

Not any more. Covid stripped all that away with its exponential curves and soaring death rates. Suddenly we have discovered we are not in control. In fact, the truth is we were never in control, but we managed to kid ourselves we were.

And yet, Philip Yancey once wrote, "vulnerability is the landing strip for grace". Nobody enjoys feeling vulnerable or weak, but it is primarily through our weaknesses that God teaches us. Now, as we look forward to continued re-opening, here are 10 habits we latched onto in our weakness, which we should perhaps not let go.

## **1 Appreciate their vulnerability**

Realising the uncertainty of our world can give us a glimpse into the lives of millions all over the developing world. Uncertain living is new for many of us but not for them. For them daily living was always uncertain. Many simply don't know if the work they do have will last the week, and if they are unable to work, there are no hand-outs.

Bizarrely, this loss of control can actually be harder for people living in developed countries to deal with. We're not used to such uncertainty. May it make us more compassionate towards those who are.

## **2 Love where you live**

My family has discovered half a dozen new walks near our house in the past year. We had to because we were told to stay local, and anyway, all the shops were closed. But it was great! Beautiful, and for us, completely new — different to the places we would usually drive to. Ironically, when the Government allowed us out only once a day, I made SURE I went out every day. Now that I am allowed out as often as I like, some days I don't go out at all! Still, this discovery of local beauty is something we can continue to enjoy.

## **3 Wash your hands!**

Obviously, everybody washed their hands before right? ... The simple acts of washing our hands and staying home when we feel ill saves lives. It's shockingly simple. I am told that the number of deaths from flu this past year has plummeted. *How about if we never go back to the days of coughing and sneezing in the office?*

And then, the hot topic of wearing a mask. A mask, as we know, protects others more than it protects you. That makes it an act of generosity. It says to others, "I care about your well-being. I care about your peace of mind". Let's continue to care.

## **4 Know who lives down your street**

Maybe your street like mine now has a neighbours' WhatsApp group or something similar to help neighbours stay in touch. Looking after each other reached an all-time high during COVID with neighbourhood foodbanks and support circles springing up all over. Lots of us simply became more aware of people around us. Can we keep offering to do the shopping and pick up prescriptions? This may well have



declined, but the simple fact that you offered to help is what people need to hear.

## **5 Work from home (but do it intelligently)**

I applaud flexible, hybrid working for those fortunate enough to be able to choose it. Removing the commute, saving money, work-life balance, it's all good.

But it comes with a warning. People who are not seen in the office are promoted less and paid less (there are credible studies to verify this). Moreover, if your company is okay with you working from home, why wouldn't they outsource your job to someone in the Far East who also works remotely but for a quarter of your salary? It already happens in industries like mine (software technology).

So, yes, flexibility is great, but if your organisation has a central office, consider the price you might pay for not being there; make sure it's worth it.

## **6 Say NO to non-essential travel**

This is pretty much the opposite of the last point but life is complicated and requires us to hold opposing ideas in tension.

The 2020 decrease in national and international travel led to reports of cleaner air in many countries. So don't get into cars, planes and trains if you don't need to. It will save you time and money, and it might just help save the planet.

## **7 Value the people who keep the wheels turning**

This was the big discovery of summer 2020. We, rightly, began giving credit to the folks who keep society going. That included health workers, but also many other workers, often low-paid, who kept our lives on the road. Is that something we can remember, one, two or three years from now? Let's try not to go back to simply looking past the people who serve us.

## **8 Keep church online and accessible**

My church, like many, is suddenly all over YouTube, and we have multiple WhatsApp groups including one for our Watercolour Art Group where I think the youngest person is about 70. Indeed, I have been astonished at folks in their 80s who have regularly shown up at zoom prayer meetings. They had never heard of Zoom or WhatsApp before. "It's bricks and mortar alongside clicks and coding", as [Peter Phillips](#) of Premier Christianity said. From now on, can we try to make everything we do both physical AND online?

## **9 Keep church face to face and real**

And yet, there is now a generation of children who think "church" is something you watch on YouTube. If that's

the case, it won't be long before they work out you get better entertainment from Disney+ and Netflix. Much has been written on this "spectator mentality" of online church, and many of us are finding that encouraging our congregations back into our buildings isn't easy. But, whereas some people cannot return to physical gatherings, most of us can and should. Although hybrid models of church are innovative and reach new audiences, church remains essentially an embodied, face-to-face, encounter.

### 10 Lean in to joy not fear

I have often been a glass-half-empty person. I find it very easy to darkly contemplate all the things that are not great about my life (maybe you too). But we have to choose the story we tell ourselves, day by day, and sometimes moment by moment. We can choose to tell ourselves, that it's not fair, we can't go abroad on holiday, we miss seeing our family, we're not allowed into some venue or other. These things are true, and we can choose to view our life through this weariness and loss.

Or, we can choose to see our life through the eyes of a God who uses every experience to form us, to shape us with courage, perseverance, empathy and new habits. We can choose to remind ourselves that lots of things in life are not broken, that we have a new appreciation for the things around us, a new concern for people around us, new ways of working, new ways of being church. And we can choose to consider that, in a world filled with uncertainty and change, we can know a certain and unchanging God. It's a choice!

Chris Goswami is Director of Communications at Openwave Mobility and Associate Minister at Lymm Baptist Church. He is the author of [www.7minutes.net](http://www.7minutes.net), where this reflection appeared. It is republished with permission. Source [Baptist Times](http://www.baptisttimes.org)

## Christian Aid The chain of divine love.

**Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.**

### Something to read

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them: 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

- Mark 9:36-37 .

### Something to think about

We are so familiar with this passage, sometimes using it with more sentimentality than discernment, that we may be in danger of overlooking its paradoxical and conditional nature. This choosing of the small and weak who are understood to have little agency and therefore depend upon responsible care from the larger, stronger and more capable, subverts the preconceptions of divine relation and power. It does not seem unreasonable to wonder if Jesus' listeners may have missed its meaning. We are not told. What oversets our unexamined assumptions can be hard to hear and, as so often, his radical inversions may still escape us today. Christian Aid's work among some of the world's poorest and least powerful people is framed in the unspoken



opposite to Jesus' example: 'if you don't welcome such as these...' How easily we might fail in hospitality towards Godself.

## Something to do COP 26 Climate Prayer Chain: make a prayer boat

2021 is crucial in the struggle for climate justice. To rise to the moment, we must underpin it with prayer and action. We're joining the Young Christian Climate Network (YCCN) in a pilgrimage to Glasgow - where the COP26 conference is being held this November - for climate justice.

You can amplify their calls for change by creating a prayer boat. Find out how to add yours to the growing fleet.

### Something to pray

Light of the world and of our own hearts, teach us to be

[Click to Find out More](#)

still and to learn from others so we may never, through superiority or condescension, become weak links in the chain of divine love.

The Christian Aid contributor is Jill Segger. Quaker, writer, journalist and associate director of the thinktank Ekklesia, at the time of writing.

For more information about Christian Aid click [here](#).

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Poverty In India

