

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 24th October 2021

Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC. Jerry is leading, and is preaching from Matthew 6: 19-24 "Treasure Hunt" and we will celebrate the Lord's Supper

Sunday's online service: Maggie is leading and Ron is preaching from 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12 "Paul's Style of Ministry"



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.



Ron's Reads

Acts 16, 1 Cor 4:15, Phil 1:6

For Your Prayers

Pray for those in the fellowship and community still waiting for routine operations. Also pray for those volunteering to operate the Food Bank, Community Fridge, Coffee and Chat and Table Tennis that have such an impact on the community.

Pray too that we are able to find leaders for the Sunday School and for the ladies who knock on doors in Stalham to bring Jesus to people.

Pray that the prayers of the group meeting on Mondays at 10.30am in the church will be answered according to God's plan.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. (source caritas.org.nz)

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Becky and Matthew Owen.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 15th Jenny posted "So much to praise God for! Just on our way home from hospital, no more cancer was found in the lymph nodes and the biopsy result showed chemotherapy not indicated, So next treatment is just 5 days of radiotherapy but not for 1 -2 months, then regular follow-ups and hormone medication. So, thank you again for your prayers, love and many messages, but mostly, just praise our God for His love and faithfulness. J xx"

On Saturday DJ Steve posted an audio message saying "Hi, its DJ. I would just like to thank everybody who came to mum's funeral and made it a special day and we gave her a brilliant send off I thank you all and I want to thank Ron for doing a lovely service he is a great guy and I want to thank Janet and Jane for their readings. I am so pleased that so many people from church are part of my life you are my family and love you all to bits. Love DJ."

On Tuesday Jerry posted "Please pray for Doreen, Jan, Elspeth and Susie as they call on people this morning to share the Gospel that God would soften hearts." Later Jan posted "Thank you for prayers. We had long chats this morning and folks were very grateful for the visit. Some had faith, some were not interested and one was an agnostic, we left leaflets with a few J and D x"

Church Reading Plan

False Teaching and True Riches 1 Timothy 6:3-10 Easy-to-Read Version

³ Some people will teach what is false and will not agree with the true teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ. They will not accept the teaching that produces a life of devotion to God. ⁴ They are proud of what they know, but they understand nothing. They are sick with a love for arguing and fighting about words. And that brings jealousy, quarrels, insults, and evil mistrust. ⁵ They are always making trouble, because they are people whose thinking has been confused. They have lost their understanding of the truth. They think that devotion to God is a way to get rich.

⁶ Devotion to God is, in fact, a way for people to be very rich, but only if it makes them satisfied with what they have. ⁷ When we came into the world, we brought nothing. And when we die, we can take nothing out. ⁸ So, if we have food and clothes, we will be satisfied with that. ⁹ People who want to be rich bring temptations to themselves. They are caught in a trap. They begin to want many foolish things that will hurt them. These things ruin and destroy people. ¹⁰ The love of money causes all kinds of evil. Some people have turned away from what we believe because they want to get more and more money. But they have caused themselves a lot of pain and sorrow.

As Christians how easy is it to slip into ways that lead us into conflict with our Lord by seeking material gain and for Churches not to have Jesus at the centre but money?

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 25th Oct

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

7.00pm Deacons Zoom Meeting

7.00pm Alpha Zoom Meeting

Thursday 28th Oct.

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link

Sunday 31st Oct.

Flowers: Julia Maile

Monday 1st Nov.

9.00pm Deacons Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 3rd November

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

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

Tesco Community Grant Vote For Community Fridge



If you're shopping in Tesco's don't forget to take or ask for the blue tokens for the Community Grant and vote for the Community Fridge. All three of the organisation will receive cash but the one with the most tokens gets more.

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

A Thank You From Marion and Steve

The family of Jan Slade would love to thank everyone for all their kind thoughts and offers of help during what has been a tough time. "The church flowers looked so beautiful on Thursday, and she was surrounded by her family and friends all singing followed by the sharing of lunch with a glass or two which sums up our mum xx"
Love Steve and Marion

Shoe Box Appeal

Christmas Shoebox Appeal Can you fill an empty shoebox with small items for the Christmas Shoebox Service? 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 in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift. Operation Christmas Child is part of the mission of Samaritans Purse established in 1970, which is an international development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Gospel. So let's not pass by on the other side. Leaflets, which detail items to be put in the boxes, are at the back of the Church. For more information: Contact Magda Nicholls on 01692 580002.

Date of combined service at St Mary's to be advised.

Amazon Smile

You can donate to SBC every time you purchase something from Amazon, 0.5% of your purchase will go to SBC at no cost to yourself just click on the link to Amazon smile every time you make a purchase.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1192914-0>

Barbara and Ben

Barbara and Ben would like to thank all the folk who have sent messages, cards and for prayers following Ben's recent surgery, they are much appreciated.

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.

EBA Prayer Focus 24th October 2021 Harlow Baptist Church

Old Harlow is the historic part of the new town and district of Harlow, Essex and it is home to the fellowship that meets at Harlow Baptist Church. Whilst the fellowship may be able to trace their history back to 1662, they are seeking to serve God in this present time. The current Minister is Rev Tony Mayes who joined the fellowship, with his wife Nicola, in 2011. During the pandemic, Harlow Baptist Church moved its worship and social interaction online. For those unable to access, there were pastoral letters, phone calls, emails and socially-distanced visits to keep the church in touch and together.

Harlow Baptist Church saw the opportunity, in the early part of the pandemic to refresh the tech. Not only were they able to serve the current need, but they looked to the future.

The fellowship is nearly all back in the church building whilst following some restrictions to keep folk safe. The toddler group and our coffee mornings are well-attended as is the youth club. During August they were able to run their annual Kidz Klub outside, which was a blessing to the community and fellowship alike. With new families and individuals coming to the fellowship, Harlow Baptist Church is becoming quite busy! As thoughts begin to turn toward Christmas, the work with the local traders to get Christmas lights up again in the High Street has been successful. With events planned in a local café, a pub and in the high street as well as Christingles for the school, Christmas this year will look very different to last year.

Please pray for

- God's direction as Harlow Baptist Church looks forward
- The youth and children's teams as the number of children attending increases
- The fellowship as they seek to make the Christmas season a blessing for the community this year

Leprosy Mission

The **Leprosy Mission Autumn/Winter [Christmas!] 2021 catalogues** are now available at the back of the church. They include the Fairtrade chocolate Advent Calendars.

Orders sent via Barbara Reynolds (Stalham Baptist's "trading partner") will save you postage, make a donation towards church funds (in many cases 20% of your order) and enable the leprosy mission to assist folk with this awful disease. You pay the same prices seen in the catalogue and can also order anything you see on their website www.tlmtrading.com Please either give your order to Barbara along with payment by cash or cheque to me [Leprosy Mission request this] or pop it in the box at the back of the church.

Happy Shopping!

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, Laundry Liquid/Powder, Household Cleaning Products.

Energy Bank

The Food Bank is also operating, from 1st November, an energy bank. The Fuel Banks will help households already receiving support by giving them funds to pay for gas and electricity alongside emergency food aid.

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

Quotes of the Week

"Nothing teaches us about the preciousness of the Creator as much as when we learn the emptiness of everything else."

— Charles Spurgeon

"Money is a great servant but a bad master."

— Francis Bacon

"Constantly exposing yourself to popular culture and the mass media will ultimately shape your reality tunnel in ways that are not necessarily conducive to achieving your Soul Purpose and Life Calling. Modern society has generally 'lost the plot'. Slavishly following its false gods and idols makes no sense in a spiritually aware life."

— Anthon St. Maarten

"The Master said, "If your conduct is determined solely by considerations of profit you will arouse great resentment."

— Confucius

"Are the things you are living for worth Christ dying for?"

— Leonard Ravenhill

"The modern materialists are not permitted to doubt; they are forbidden to believe."

— G.K. Chesterton

COP 26 - what can Christians and churches do?

We could make a game-changing contribution by acting together, writes Andy Atkins, CEO of Christian nature conservation organisation A Rocha UK

The UK is about to host and chair one of the most important international conferences ever held: COP26. It has been described as the last best chance to avoid global climate catastrophe. With scientists now saying that the world needs to cut its carbon emissions by 45 per cent by 2030 to have a fighting chance of avoiding runaway climate change. Is there anything churches can do to increase the chances of a good result?

Yes, absolutely, is the answer. More Christians than ever are recognising that caring for creation or stewarding the environment - whatever language we want to use - is an integral part of the mission. Thank God. Because the next decade is critical for restoring nature, cutting carbon and stabilising our climate if we are to head off environmental catastrophe on an apocalyptic scale. Governments and society need to act urgently and boldly and Christians and churches could make a game-changing contribution to that by acting together.

Before a small A Rocha UK team heads off to COP26 in Glasgow, I wanted to fill you in on what we hope to achieve - and to ask for your prayers for us and the whole conference.

Our mission at A Rocha

UK is to equip Christians and Churches to protect and restore the environment - for God, nature and all people. And what we know is that human induced climate change is a threat to all of God's creation - people and the rest of nature - wildlife, habitats etc.

In the light of that, this year's round of international climate negotiations (COP26) is especially important for us for several reasons:

First, it's a critical opportunity for the world to take stock of global progress in cutting carbon emissions in order to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Second, for the first time ever, the climate summit will be looking at the contribution nature can make to helping us address climate change - what's known as '**Nature based Solutions**'. That's of particular interest to A Rocha UK as a nature conservation organisation.

Thirdly, the summit is in the UK: so there's a unique opportunity and responsibility for the UK public - including Christians and churches - to call for much more effective government action on climate and nature - on behalf of the whole world.

In response to these unique circumstances, we're sending a small team to Glasgow for COP26. We'll be focusing our efforts on three aims.

First, to secure governments' agreement to **much bolder greenhouse gas emissions targets and to finally deliver on past promises of aid to help developing countries go green.**

Secondly, we'll be advancing '**Nature based solutions**' to climate change.

We want governments to agree to stop the destruction of



habitats like forests, wetlands, grasslands - which act as 'carbon sinks', absorbing greenhouse gases back into the soil - and agree bold targets for their restoration. A big day for governments' decisions on nature will be Saturday 6 November. So do especially pray for that.

Thirdly, we want to **encourage you in what you are already doing and help you get ready for what we need to do next**, whatever the outcome of COP26.

So we have an A Rocha UK Exhibition at the summit on Monday, 8 November. There we'll be showcasing what you are already doing through programmes like Eco Church, Wild Christian, Partners in Action.

And each day we'll update you on progress at COP, and on what you can pray about and do. We'll do this [via our website](#) and by reporting back in the nightly service led by friends in Resound Worship. **We are deeply grateful to Resound**, who are putting on a tour of the country during COP, playing their wonderful *Doxecology* album, to help us worship and pray together during this critical fortnight.

You can find details of that on the website too; so do join us for some wonderful musical worship and prayer, and bring a friend, if there is a service within reach of you.

Thank you for what you already do in your home, church and wider community to address the climate and nature crises. **Thank you for your support and prayer for A Rocha UK's work.** I and the team will especially value your prayers as we build up to COP26 and engage in it. It is critical that churches' action does not end at COP26.

Like so many other sectors of society, if churches accelerate their efforts fast, it could make a critical difference to the UK cutting its carbon emissions steeply by 2030. By joining one of the church greening schemes, such as Eco Church, you can draw on free resources, and mutual support - critical for going further faster.

Now in its sixth year, there are now 4,000 Eco Churches in England and Wales - 10 percent of churches. A Rocha UK, which runs the scheme, is aiming to engage at least 15 percent of churches in on-going action to protect nature by 2025, bringing about a step change in local Churches' action on the environment.

The Baptist Church has participated in the scheme from the start. There are now more than 200 Baptist churches that have signed up to Eco Church, with one Gold Award winner, [High Street Baptist Church in Tring](#). We are encouraging other Baptist churches who have not yet joined Eco Church to do so; and those that have registered to commit to getting to the next award level - Bronze or Silver say - within a year or so. You can register your church for the scheme here [ecochurch.arocha.org.uk](#).

International negotiations like COP26 can sound very complicated and even abstract. But the effects of climate change are now very tangible. We need to do all we can to put pressure on governments to achieve a strong agreement. This autumn provides a unique opportunity for UK churches to act together on the environment, for maximum collective impact.

Andy Atkins is CEO of Christian nature conservation organisation, A Rocha UK

Source Baptist Times Image by [Picography](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Why rural women like Joaquina are growing a better future for their communities



Today is the International Day of Rural Women and this year, the UN has chosen the theme of 'Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All' to highlight the vital role they play in agriculture, food production, fighting poverty and improving food security.

The effects of poverty, inequality, climate change and environmental crises mean that too many people worldwide don't have enough food to eat. In 2020, approximately 2.37 billion people did not have access to enough food. And often, it's women living in rural areas who struggle the most.

Among many of the communities we work with in Africa and Asia, we meet people affected by leprosy who don't always have enough to eat. Sometimes this is because the effects of the disease make it hard for them to work and earn enough money. Sometimes, they're finding it difficult to get the most out of their land and produce good crops. But thanks to your support, projects in several different countries are equipping people affected by leprosy with the knowledge and materials they need to grow a more secure future.

Joaquina, from Mozambique, has transformed her life after getting involved with a farming group in her village in Mozambique. Now in her 60s, she contracted leprosy when her children were young. She didn't know anything about the disease but noticed the pale patches of skin on her body and the ulcers developing on her feet. Eventually, her fingers became damaged, her hands permanently disabled.

The stigma of leprosy meant that Joaquina's neighbours rejected her. They told her that she was not wanted in the village and forced her family to live on its very edge, away from other people. Fortunately Joaquina was diagnosed and given Multidrug therapy one day when health workers visited the village looking for new cases of leprosy. She was finally free of the disease - but not from its effects. It was also around this time that her husband died, leaving her a widow with a large family to provide for.

Many farmers in Mozambique struggle to grow good crops due to the extremes of climate there. It's even harder for disabled farmers to work in the fields, and Joaquina must have been so worried about how she was going to make ends meet. But thankfully, the chance to get involved with her local farming group gave



Joaquina the chance to thrive.

After learning about sustainable farming methods to produce better crops, Joaquina could grow enough maize and beans to feed her family and still have some left to sell. As a member of the village savings group, she began to save money for the first time in her life and was thrilled to have saved enough to buy another field just outside the village last year, producing even more crops to sell.

Once shunned by those around her, Joaquina's tenacity and perseverance shines through. Recently she has been able to start hiring workers to help on her farm. She has even bigger plans to purchase more land and hire more help, assuring a comfortable retirement, provision for her family and jobs for others in the community.

Thank you for partnering with people like Joaquina as she builds a more prosperous future for herself, her family and her village. Women affected by leprosy like her are leading the way in lifting their communities out of poverty - and your support is helping them cultivate good food for all.

Photos: Ricardo Franco

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