

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 7th November 2021

Today we will be meeting "LIVE" at SBC.

Pat is leading and Ron preaching from 2 Corinthians 9: 15

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

Sunday's online service: Jerry is leading and is preaching from

1 Thessalonians 2: 17 - 3:5 "Genuine care for other believers."



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.



## Jerry's Readings

Acts 17:1-9, Hebrews 3:12-14, Hebrews 10:19-25, Gal 6:1-10, Ephesians 4:29, 1 Peter 5:7.

## For Your Prayers

Please continue to pray for all those in the fellowship and community who are waiting for NHS routine procedures. Over the last few weeks SBC has been blessed by new people joining the services, please pray they will feel welcomed and comfortable in our fellowship. Loving God, We praise your name with all you have created. You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures. We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation. May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

Source **CAFOD**

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Frank and Monica Payne.**

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 29th October Jerry posted "Thank you all for praying for Anna. She was discharged yesterday and is doing much better than last week. Many thanks." That day Geoff posted "Thanks for praying for our friend Pam from our old church at Barkingside. Bless her she has continued to go downhill and has now been placed on end of life care. Pray her last days will be peaceful and that her family may know peace and comfort from the Lord." Later Geoff said "Just heard that Pam went to glory earlier this evening. Please keep her daughter Kate, Marc and little Charlie in your prayers."

On Monday Susie posted "Please can you pray for healing for me from cancer on my tongue which I found out about today. Please pray it is a much smaller operation this time which my surgeon thinks so far is the case. He is great, which I thank God for, God is still God and still good. Thank you Susie."

On Tuesday Geoff posted "Please remember Bethan Shrubsole today. I have just sent a happy birthday message to her WhatsApp from the fellowship at SBC." Jerry asked "Also remember Doreen and Jan this morning as they visit folk with the Good News of the gospel."

Also on Tuesday David posted "Mary who lives at Robert Smith Court Stalham has requested prayers for her great grandson who lives in Germany. Kjell is 8 and has been found to have a goose egg size tumour on his brain and is awaiting treatment." Later he posted Mary said "Please continue to pray for Kjell and his parents, he is seeing a neurosurgeon this afternoon please pray a solution can be found."

Jerry posted from Jan "Thanks for the prayers, spent some time talking to 3 ladies who were happy to chat and gave them leaflets and 1 had a New Testament." Jerry also posted "Just received request for prayers for Rosina who is in a lot of pain in her spine and has requested more PA help from social services."

Update on Kjell he is having an operation on Friday. His parents have been told he probably will not be able to walk or talk after the operation but maybe able to relearn. Susie also asked "Thank you, please can you pray for the MRI I'm having (probably Tuesday), that I won't be traumatised like last time, and that the results are ready for the treatment plan meeting on Wednesday."

## Church Reading Plan

**Jesus Appears to His Followers Luke 24: 36-40 full version Luke 24: 36-49 (ER)**

<sup>36</sup> While the two men were saying these things to the other followers, Jesus himself came and stood among them. He said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup> This surprised the followers. They were afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said, "Why are you troubled? Why do you doubt what you see? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me. Touch me. You can see that I have a living body; a ghost does not have a body like this."

<sup>40</sup> After Jesus told them this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **As Christians do we sometimes start to lose faith, doubt and become sceptical?**

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)

**Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington**  
01692 582731  
**Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno**  
07733837687  
**Secretary: Diana Gordon**  
07951949128  
**Ministry Team:**  
The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

**Monday 8th November**

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

10.15am in the Stables

WI Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

7.00pm Alpha Zoom Meeting

**Thursday 11th November**

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

**Sunday 14th November**

Flowers: Remembrance Sunday

**Monday 15th November**

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

**Wednesday 17th November**

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

**Sunday 21st November**

St Mary's Church Stalham

3.00pm Shoebox Services

## 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)

## 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)

## Thank You

A big thank you to all the ladies who provide and display all the lovely flowers that decorate our services.

## Another Thank You

Another big thank you to all those volunteers who are running the Community Fridge, Coffee and Chat and Table Tennis all of which are growing every week. Also a special thank you to Sara who organises the Community Fridge, Elaine who organises Coffee & Chat and Stewart who is organising Table Tennis.

## Prayer Request from Beth Powney

Dear Friends,

As you will know both Gale and Claire commenced as our new Reginal Ministers on Monday this week, this is such an exciting time for us as a team and we spent a good day together yesterday.

However we would value your prayers for Gale who is having a procedure on her ankle under general anaesthetic on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> Nov. This is planned surgery which has come up quicker than she expected, which is of course a good thing.

The consequence of this is that she will be off work for 7 days and then following that she will be on crutches for 6 weeks and unable to drive. Therefore while I am sure Gale will begin to make contact with her churches, this will probably not be in person, but more likely via phone calls, emails or Zoom.

Please pray for Gale's swift healing and peace for her as she transitions into this new role as well as dealing with these circumstances.

Many thanks for your faithful prayers for us all.

Every blessing

**Rev Beth Powney**

**Regional Minister, Team Leader**

## Pumpkin Story

A 10-year little girl was asked by another classmate "What is it like to be a Christian?" The girl replied, "It's like being a pumpkin, God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you. Then he cuts open the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see." Thanks to Norma Huxter for finding this story

## EBA Prayer Focus 7th November 2021

### Great Shelford Free Church

Great Shelford Free Church is a church community on the outskirts of Cambridge, close to Addenbrooke's Hospital. Its Minister is the Revd Martin Cockerill.

It is a generous church, seeking to give what God has given back into the community. The church do the "normal" activities that everyone else does: the toddler groups, the baby groups, the coffee mornings and lunches, but has also gone digital over the last two years providing hybrid services and learning what it means to stay connected, whether or not everyone is able to gather together in the same room.

The church partnered with Romsey Mill to establish Cara Coffee as a community social enterprise in a building the church owns. The church refurbished the building and gifted it to Romsey Mill to run their cafe business, but have also partnered with them to make Cara Coffee work for the community. Part of this is the ability to use the building out of hours, for example in the recent All Saint's festival where over 100 gathered for food, fun and riding a rodeo horse!

Cara in Gaelic means friends and in Latin means beloved and is the church's opportunity to show love and friendship to those who would not often come into a church building as

part of its commitment for people to see God's love and God's grace as well.

The church has produced a video and this is on the EBA YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/MoSnxUXShu>

## Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the partnership with Romsey Mill which has opened opportunities for Cara Coffee to build bridges with the local community.
- Pray that the church may learn how to grow in an environment where they stay connected even though they may not be in the same room.
- Pray that the church will have wide doors to welcome all into the fellowship.
- Pray that as a church they would grow deep wells into God's love and God's grace.

## Leprosy Mission

**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](http://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!

## Donations

We are now using 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.

## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Here is one of the great values of the local church: we stand together in times of difficulty and encourage one another. It was when Elijah isolated himself from the other faithful Israelites that he became discouraged and wanted to quit. One reason Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica was to encourage the believers. A lonely saint is very vulnerable to the attacks of Satan. We need each other in the battles of life."—**Warren Wiersbe**

"What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like."—**Augustine**

"A good character is the best tombstone. Those who loved you and were helped by you will remember you when forget-me-nots have withered. Carve your name on hearts, not on marble."—**Charles Spurgeon**

"Competition has no place in the community of believers; rather, we are to honour one another above ourselves. Serving one another within the body is a very practical and concrete way to honour one another. By serving, I simply mean doing helpful deeds for one another". —**Jerry Bridges**.

"The invisible God, who once made himself visible in Christ, now makes himself visible in Christians, if we Love one another.....We cannot proclaim the gospel of God's Love with any degree of integrity if we do not exhibit it in our love for others. Perhaps nothing is so damaging to the cause of Christ as a Church which is either torn apart by jealousy, rivalry, slander and malice, or preoccupied with its own selfish concerns. Such churches urgently need to be radically renewed in love. It is only if we love one another that the world will believe that Jesus is Christ and that we are his disciples." —**John Stott**.

From Christian Aid

## Show love by hearing the needs of others.

Something to read - Romans 13:8-10 .

'Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.'

### Something to think about

'Love does no wrong to a neighbour'. Surely loving our neighbour is

something we would all aspire to. I would like to think that, but maybe we can love too much. I think that too much love, perversely, becomes just the opposite - with the recipient becoming lost in the waves of caring which do more to bolster the giver.

We laugh at the jokes about some over-zealous, caring citizen rushing up to an elderly person and escorting them safely across the road. The joke? They were not planning to cross in the first place.

How can you avoid becoming that caricature? There is something to do with listening to the other, rather than just assuming you know what they need and want, and something about keeping your eyes and ears open to the context of what you are observing.

This reminds me of an illustration I saw recently in Ekklesia's *Feast or Famine* published by DLT. The gist was that we are all actively involved in rescuing people from a fast-flowing river... so much so that we don't look upstream to find out who is throwing the people into the river in the first place.

### Something to do

Spend some time today browsing Christian Aid's website and notice how often we are reminded that all work is in partnership with local people and churches, listening to the voices of the most experienced – those who have a lived experience of the challenges.

Take a moment to wonder how you can be involved in sharing just one of those stories more widely.

### Something to pray

Loving God, teach me to see not just with my eyes but with my ears too.

Not just to observe, but to hear the needs of the other.

Teach me to act wisely, prompted not just by my own assumptions

but in response to the priorities that people set for themselves.

Amen

Pray for justice to be done for all of creation at the climate talks in Glasgow from 31st October - 12th November.

Written by Rev Helen M Mee, who at the time of writing is the temporary transition minister in the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church.

For more information about Christian Aid Click [Here](#)

## Faith Always Works: the death of a believer

Baptist minister David Meseg has terminal cancer. He has written a book exploring faith.

On 5 November 2021, I will have completed 61 years of life in which I have done and been many things. In 2016, while lying in a hospital bed as an inpatient at the Royal Marsden in Chelsea, London, I felt compelled to begin writing about my journey of faith in Christ. I was not at all sure of how much time and opportunity I had left to do so. I began to reflect on what faith is and how it is shaped and tested by a life that is lived out in the unpredictability of a world that can be so harsh and cruel. Those reflections have turned out to be a book which I have dedicated to my family: Krissie, Lucy and James. I hope it will serve as a lasting legacy that will continue to speak into their lives long after I have gone. I have written this book as I come to the end of my life's journey, examining how my faith has been birthed, tested and strengthened. It reveals where I have come from, where I am now and where I am heading. The context of my writing comes from within the messiness and pain of life that allows me to examine whether faith is real and does something, or whether it holds no meaningful purpose.

My starting point is to examine what sin is and what it does, paving the way for me to explain the necessity of salvation and what it does. I have made this my starting point because this is where faith begins.

The fundamental message of the book is to acknowledge that, as a Christian, life can be filled with extreme pain, confusion and disillusionment and begs for meaningful answers to some very serious and legitimate questions, for example: Does God always rescue? Why does God refuse to heal me? What about all those scriptures that suggest it's always God's will to heal? Does God really care? If God is so loving, why does He allow His children to suffer? Does prayer really work? What is the deeper point of prayer? Is God in control? What does the sovereignty of God mean?

With these big questions in mind, the book takes an honest look at faith under the examination of someone who has experienced the safety of Christianity from childhood, yet along the way became one of the biggest sceptics of the Christianity that I saw around me. It was a scepticism that led me to the point of considering abandoning whatever faith I thought I had. This is a dilemma that I know a lot of Christians today are tempted by.

In light of these things, I attempt to examine what genuine faith is and what it is not, what it will do and what it will not do. I seek to highlight that the person with genuine faith must expect and be prepared for their faith to be tried and tested by God Himself and what His purpose in doing so is.

The conclusion that the book alludes to, is that, while there are times when faith does not seem to work, the faithfulness of what God has accomplished through Jesus Christ determines that faith always works.

I have learnt there is only one way to approach life and that is to take it one precious day at a time. That is how we should all be living. No matter how healthy or wealthy we may be, none of us has the right to tomorrow which may never come. This approach provides me with a sense of urgency, together with an appreciation for each new day. Taking just one day at a time prevents me

from living with a dangerous, casual approach to both life and death. I have decided to make the book available to a wider audience. I hope that it will challenge, encourage and establish a confident determination to press on in faith to all who read it.

**David Meseg served as the pastor of Woodmansterne Baptist Church between 2010 and 2020. He had to eventually step down due to terminal cancer in the body and brain that was diagnosed in 2016. He wrote *Faith Always Works - The Death of a Believer*, in the wake of his diagnosis. *Faith Always Works* is available at Waterstones and Amazon (Kindle or hardback)**

Source [Baptist Times](#)



**The Leprosy Mission**

*Leprosy defeated, lives transformed*

## Leprosy Mission Pioneering research

To defeat leprosy in our lifetime, we invest in research into how to manage the disease and its complications. We have a proven track record. The Leprosy Mission has been involved in research for more than 50 years, from testing anti-leprosy drugs, such as clofazimine, in the 1960s and 70s to the innovative surgical procedures pioneered by Dr Paul Brand. We are proud to have contributed to modern advances in leprosy prevention and treatment.

In addition to carrying out field-based primary research, our research facilities in Bangladesh, India and Nepal work with 17 hospitals in clinical research.

Currently, our researchers are:

- Developing a more effective and cheaper test for leprosy, so healthcare professionals can diagnose the disease early
- Providing clear guidance for healthcare providers on managing the risks of relapse and drug resistance
- Producing guidelines for administering post-exposure prophylaxis for people at risk of infection
- Managing the complications of diabetes caused by long-term steroid use to treat leprosy reactions
- Developing better training for health providers on recognising and screening leprosy reactions, reducing complications
- Adapting proven techniques from other fields of science to solve leprosy complications

If you would like more information about the Leprosy Mission click below

<https://www.leprosymission.org.uk/>



## Open Doors

### Update: Christians in Sudan face struggle for survival, one week after military coup

Your urgent prayers continue to be needed for Sudan, one week after the military seized power of the country. The ongoing instability is leaving Christians facing a struggle for survival, whilst the military are taking steps that 'clearly reveals the political cover of the coup and its true ideological orientations'. Here we have the latest on the unfolding situation.

*Tens of thousands of people in Sudan have taken to the streets in protest against the coup*

Many Christians in Sudan are facing a struggle for survival, one week on from the military's seizure of power. "The general life of most Christians has been greatly affected by the events," a source told Open Doors. "As no normal activities have resumed, the situation is becoming desperate for Christians who mostly depend upon daily hard work to earn an income for their families." "The church in Sudan needs prayer from the global body of Christ.

We started praying on a daily basis for Sudan, believing that God controls the hearts of kings as streams of water. He will make a way where there is seen to be no way. He will bring a breakthrough."

*Heavenly Father, provide for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of all our brothers and sisters in Sudan. Bring peace and stability to this nation. May Your favour be on attempts to mediate with the military. Soften the hearts of those who have seized power. Shift their perspectives to show them a better way. Protect, strengthen and encourage Your people, and may they shine brightly for You during this deeply unsettling time. Amen.*

For more information about OpenDoor click below

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

The Leprosy Mission England and Wales

@leprosytalk

leprosyvoice

[leprosymission.org.uk](https://www.leprosymission.org.uk)