

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 14th November 2021



Remembrance Services

"When you go home tell them of us and say, for your tomorrow we gave our today."

Ron is leading and preaching from Isaiah 2: 1 - 5

Sunday's online service: Diana is leading and Ron is preaching from

Acts 17: 16 - 31

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

Ro 8:19f, Micah 6:8, Dan 4:32

For Your Prayers

Please pray for our government using the House of Commons prayer. "Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen."

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jenny Payne**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Monday 8th Jerry posted for Susie "Thank you Lord for answering prayer. The nurse said today that my MRI machine that freaked me out in 2012 was renowned to be super loud. They tracked it down! Tomorrow the machine will be half as loud and I'll have music this time. So I'm peaceful now about it. Please continue to pray my big meeting will be this Wednesday and not next, which is Joe's birthday and we might not see him till late on. Thank you Susie."

The same day Maggie posted "I have just got a message from my son. My little granddaughter Ellie is very poorly with sickness bug and cannot keep anything down even sips of water. Their GP is contacting the Paediatrician at the hospital. Please would you pray for Ellie she has been like this from 1.00am. Maggie." Later Maggie said "Ellie is in hospital having fluids so hopefully she will soon be better. She is 2 years old and has been in hospital before for short stays so is familiar with the surroundings. Thank you so very much for your prayers x"

On Wednesday David posted "Mary would like to thank everyone for their prayers. Kjell underwent a 6.5 hour operation yesterday. The surgeons think they have removed all of the tumour. Kjell has woken up and could speak and has eaten. The surgeons are happy with his progress. Praise the Lord."

Also on Wednesday Jerry posted for Susie "Hi, everyone. I had a great meeting at hospital today. Not only did they manage it for today (they said 99% it couldn't be today and therefore would be on Joe's birthday) but will only need a small overnight op in next 4 weeks. They just will take some biopsies of other sore areas in my mouth during the op but there should be nothing. I already feel like I'm healed and don't have any cancer anymore! Thank you Lord and thank you all x"

Church Reading Plan

The Parable of the Persistent Widow. Luke 18: 1- 8 (ERV)

Then Jesus taught the followers that they should always pray and never lose hope. He used this story to teach them: ²"Once there was a judge in a town. He did not care about God. He also did not care what people thought about him. ³In that same town there was a woman whose husband had died. She came many times to this judge and said, 'There is a man who is doing bad things to me. Give me my rights!' ⁴But the judge did not want to help the woman. After a long time, the judge thought to himself, 'I don't care about God. And I don't care about what people think. ⁵But this woman is bothering me. If I give her what she wants, then she will leave me alone. But if I don't give her what she wants, she will bother me until I am sick.'" ⁶The Lord said, "Listen, there is meaning in what the bad judge said. ⁷God's people shout to him night and day, and he will always give them what is right. He will not be slow to answer them. ⁸I tell you, God will help his people quickly. But when the Son of Man comes again, will he find people on earth who believe in him?" *As Christians how easy can it be to give up when prayers don't appear to be answered and persist in attempting to change what is wrong in our world when there is no apparent change?*

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 15th November

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

7.00pm Alpha Zoom Meeting

Wednesday 17th November

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

Sunday 21st November

Flowers: Anne West

St Mary's Church Stalham

3.00pm Shoebox Service

Monday 22nd November

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

Thursday 25th November

7.00pm Zoom Prayer 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

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

Thank You from the Foodbank

During October you contributed 297.2kg including 104.85kg of Harvest donation which helped towards a total of 5535.34kg. We totally rely on donations, both food and financial, to operate and we are extremely grateful when people choose to support us. Thank you for thinking of us and enabling us to serve the people in crisis across our district. Thank you for your support and generosity without which the foodbank work would not be possible. During November, the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Squash/Fruit Juice, Rice Pudding, Biscuits, Male and Female Deodorants, Laundry Liquid/Powder, Household Cleaning Products, any Christmas Treats.

See front page for details if you need help, or know someone in difficulty.

Energy Bank

The Food Bank is also operating, from 1st November, an energy bank. The Fuel Bank will help households already receiving support by giving them funds to pay for gas and electricity alongside their emergency food aid. Contact North Norfolk Food Bank on 07826376343,

BMS Harvest Appeal

SBC raised £568.00. for the BMS Harvest Appeal.

EBA Prayer Focus 14th November 2021 Harston Baptist Church

Harston Baptist Church is located in the village of Harston, five miles south of Cambridge.

A small but committed fellowship have taken full advantage of their large building throughout the pandemic, both to continue meeting when permitted and to serve their community.

This included responding to a request to accommodate a Food Hub. It has been wonderful to see God providing all that was needed to get the Food Hub up and running in such a short period of time. It now opens twice weekly, and is supported by volunteers from the community and the church. The Food Hub recently celebrated its 1st Anniversary and has been a great support to families in the surrounding area.

The church has enjoyed welcoming visitors from city centre churches who were unable to meet in their buildings because of space restraints, and having embraced Zoom for online prayer meetings throughout the pandemic, were delighted in September to begin meeting twice a month for prayer and communion.

November is set to be a busy and blessed month for the church, with two baptisms lined up, building on another baptism last year. Then, on November 21st the church celebrates 235 years of God's faithfulness to the community of believers living in and around Harston. It has been a challenge for a small fellowship to support the enlarged vision of the church, but there is a clear sense of God's strength being made perfect in weakness, and this is very much the church's testimony over this last year. There is confidence that God will continue to enable Harston Baptist Church to be a light in Harston as they keep in step with him and put him first in their lives.

Please pray for:

- * We would see God at work in people's lives during Advent.
- * For God to enlarge and strengthen our fellowship.
- * For God's direction in relation to some building needs.

Shoe box

The combined Shoe Box service is at 3.00pm at St Mary's Church on Sunday 21st. There is still time to fill and donate a shoe box that can change children's lives. 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

A Thank You From Durban SA

Ros, a member of the Lighthouse Church in Durban, would like to thank all those who have been praying for Kjell her great nephew in Germany.

Quote of the Week

Don Mclean The Grave

The grave that they dug him had flowers
Gathered from the hillsides in bright summer colours
And the brown earth bleached white
At the edge of his gravestone
He's gone

When the wars of our nation did beckon
The man, barely twenty, did answer the calling
Proud of the trust
That he placed in our nation
He's gone

But eternity knows him
And it knows what we've done
And the rain fell like pearls
On the leaves of the flowers
Leaving brown, muddy clay
Where the earth had been dry
And deep in the trench
He waited for hours
As he held to his rifle
And prayed not to die
But the silence of night
Was shattered by fire
As the guns and grenades
Blasted sharp through the air
One after another
His comrades were slaughtered
In the morgue of marines
Alone, standing there

He crouched ever lower
Ever lower, with fear
They can't let me die
They can't let me die here!
I'll cover myself
With the mud and the earth
I'll cover myself
I know I'm not brave!
The earth, the earth
The earth is my grave.

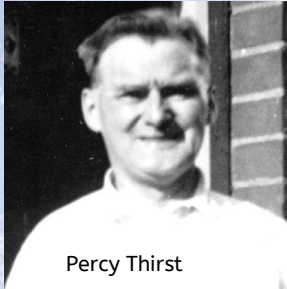
The grave that they dug him had flowers
Gathered from the hillsides in bright summer colours
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At the edge of his gravestone
He's gone

Click [here](#) to Listen to the Grave on YouTube.

And We Shall Remember Them

Wednesday October 30th 1940 the penultimate day of the Battle of Britain.

The German Luftwaffe was focusing their bombing raids on British cities at night, to reduce Luftwaffe casualties, but coastal towns, airfields and other military targets were attacked during the day.



Percy Thirst

It was late in the afternoon in Stalham, Beryl Allcock took her young sister Liz's hand and walked, the few yards from her dad's butcher's shop to chat to her good friend 20 year old Jean Thirst, in the bakers. Jean was clearing up from the day's trading. Liz Austrin said "Beryl often took me to the bakers;

Jean always made a fuss of me. I would sit on the counter and I would often be treated with a "doughbun" and a bottle of pop, Beryl spent a lot of time with Jean and they went out with a group of girls quite regularly. Jean sang in the church choir and was engaged to be married."

Jean's dad Percy came through from the bakery and told Jean to close the blackout blinds and lock up. Beryl and Liz walked back the few yards to the Allcock's butchers and family home. Their dad Edward and mum Mary had already cleared the counters and asked Beryl to drop the pin on the shop's front door locking it for the night.



Jean Thirst

Liz said "We all went through to the parlour ready for tea. Then there was a

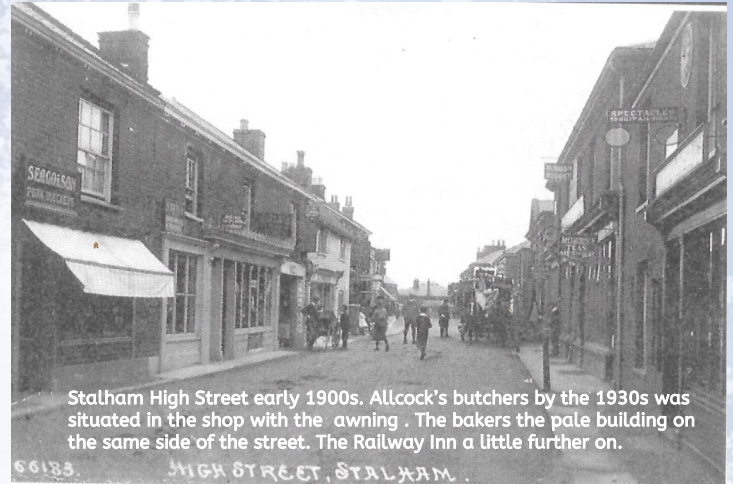


Stalham High Street in the 1930s. Allcock's butchers to the right. The windows were all shattered by the blast.

huge explosion and the sound of glass shattering. The shop front window was blown in and all the upstairs bedroom windows. I wasn't that old but I will never forget that sound and the look of horror on mum, dad and Beryl's faces." A lone German bomber had dropped a high explosive bomb into the middle of Stalham High Street.

Edward who was part of the Home Guard rushed outside and was confronted by a scene of total devastation, the bakery, the Railway Inn and part of the bank were a smouldering pile of rubble. People were frantically clawing through the wreckage to find Jean and Percy Thirst. Jean's brother Murray who worked in the local ironmongers found his dad's body but Jean was never found.

The Battle of Britain finished the following day and Winston



Stalham High Street early 1900s. Allcock's butchers by the 1930s was situated in the shop with the awning. The bakers the pale building on the same side of the street. The Railway Inn a little further on.

Churchill said of the RAF;

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The bank was repaired, the Railway Inn was replaced by a temporary structure then the Grebe was built on the site and other shops over the years have sprung up, life in Stalham carried on ...



The search for survivors

Each year the names of Percy and Jean Thirst, as are the names of Stalham people lost in the wars of our nation since 1914, are read out at St. Mary's and SBC on Remembrance Day.

"And we shall remember them."

Wilfred Drake

Wilfred Drake was born in 1883 and lived in a house close to the Maids Head in Stalham High Street with his parents William and Louisa and his two sisters Ellen and Jessy. It is likely that the Drake family regularly attended Stalham Baptist Church which had opened in 1884 after relocating from Lessingham.

Wilfred became an assistant master in the council school in Stalham, where it was said he took, "A leading part in all sports and games." He was a member of Stalham Baptist Church and a teacher in the Sunday School.

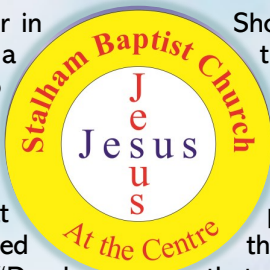
By 1915 Wilfred had moved to Reading and was a master at Oxford Road Council School. He married Gladys Baseden that year.

He joined the 2nd Devonshire regiment and was a Lieutenant in the newly formed 23rd Trench Mortar Battalion seeing action at the Somme.

On the 16th August 2017 the battalion took part in the Battle of Langemarck which was part of the carnage of the Third Battle of Ypres. Heavy down pours of rain had turned the ground into a morass which was worse for the British and French, who occupied lower-lying ground and attacked areas which had been frequently and severely bombarded. Mud and flooded shell holes severely reduced the mobility of the infantry and poor visibility hampered artillery observers and artillery-observation aircraft.

Wilfred Drake died of wounds on the opening day of the

battle, aged 34. At his memorial service held in September in Stalham a report stated, "On Sunday, at the Baptist Church, a service was held in the memory of Lieut W.W. Drake who was killed in action on 16th August. The service was conducted by Rev. B.E. Payne, who paid a glowing tribute to the memory of the deceased officer. Letters were read from his friends and fellow officers expressing their regret at his end, and admiration for his character. Buglers attended and sounded the "Last Post". The service closed with the "Dead March" from "Saul" Private Jagger presided at the organ."



Richard Dunkerley

Richard Dunkerley lived in Stalham. He went to Stalham Junior School and then on to Stalham High School. He used to visit Sea Palling beach with his family - the start of what was to become a love affair with the sea.

"He was not an outstanding student academically - he was your typical average student and he didn't have one of those personalities that make you stand out to school.

He just went to school and quietly got on with it." Said Rev. Richard Jackson at a memorial service in 2005.

After school he joined the Royal Navy undertaking training at HMS Ganges the shore-based training establishment on the Shotley Peninsula near Ipswich.

He served on HMS Ardent as a Cook Petty Officer First Class. The Ardent was sent to the Falkland Islands at the outbreak of the Falklands war.

At midnight on the 21st May 1982 the Ardent, under cover of darkness, led an amphibious task force into Falkland sound and headed on to the Grantham sound, their task was to shell the airfield at Goose Green as a deception exercise to lead the Argentinian troops to think that the invasion was happening elsewhere and not at the San Carlos inlet. But the Frigate acting as a lone ranger was soon spotted by Argentinian aircraft. The first attack saw two 1000lb bombs miss the ship. With two hours to dusk the crew were hoping to survive till darkness came. With an hour to go Ardent had endured 16 attacks. Attack no. 17 saw an Argentinian jet break through the defences and drop two 500lb bombs onto Ardent. The stern lifted, and the boat shuddered. The force of the explosions tore through the ship scattering the crew.

With many of the systems down the crew had difficulty in defending the ship as fire ripped through the Ardent. Eventually the order was given to abandon ship, the Frigate HMS Yarmouth picking up the surviving crew members. Ardent continued to burn and sank the next day.

Richard Dunkerley was killed on board the Ardent on the 21st May 1982 . He was 23 years old.

At the memorial service, Rev Richard Jackson said. "He left a mum and dad, four sisters and one brother. He'd never got around to getting married but in time his sisters did and they themselves had children. He was never to know his nephews and nieces and they were never to have the pleasure of knowing their uncle Richard."

The Ardent Captain later said that losing 22 men weighed hard on him, but it was the parents who suffered the most at the loss of the young men – with the average age of those on board being between 22 and 24. Those mothers and fathers were never going to get another son.

Edith Cavell

Edith Cavell (1865-1915) was a British nurse, working in German-occupied Belgium during the First World War. She helped hundreds of British, French and Belgian soldiers escape the Germans and was arrested, tried and executed in 1915.

Edith was born in the village of Swardeston, four miles south of Norwich. She was the daughter of a rector and worked as a governess in Belgium, before training to be a nurse in London. She worked in hospitals in

Shoreditch, Kings Cross and Manchester and then accepted a position in Brussels as Matron in Belgium's first training hospital and school for nurses. There was no established nursing profession in Belgium at the time of Edith's appointment, and her pioneering work led her to be considered the founder of modern nursing education in that country. She was in Norfolk visiting her mother when the First World War broke out in 1914. On hearing of the threat to Belgium, from the advancing German troops, she felt it was her duty to return to Brussels immediately.

By 20th August, Brussels was occupied by the Germans. The nursing school became a Red

Cross hospital, treating casualties from both sides, as well as continuing to treat civilians. In September 1914, Edith was asked to help two wounded British soldiers trapped behind German lines following the Battle of Mons. She treated the men in her hospital and then arranged to have them smuggled out of Belgium into the neutral

Netherlands. She became part of a network of people who sheltered Allied

soldiers and Belgians eligible for military service, arranging their escape. Over the next 11 months she helped around 200 British, French and Belgian soldiers, sheltering them in the hospital and arranging for guides to take them to the border. On 5 August 1915, she was arrested for this activity and placed in solitary confinement in St Gilles Prison in Brussels.

Edith was tried at court martial on 7 October 1915, along with 34 other people involved in or connected to the network. She was found guilty and sentenced to death. She was shot by a firing squad at the Tir National, the Brussels firing range, on 12 October 1915.

The night before her execution she said "Standing as I do in view of God and eternity. I realise that patriotism is not enough I must have no hatred or bitterness towards anyone."

Edith understood that Jesus's greater love commands us to love our enemies as well as our neighbours and friends. As she took communion for the last time, the Chaplain with her said, "We shall remember you as a heroine and a martyr." She replied "Think of me as a nurse who tried to do her duty."

Although her execution was legal under international law, it caused outrage in Britain and

in many neutral countries, such as the United States. She became a symbol of the Allied cause, and her memory was invoked in recruitment posters and messages in Britain and around the world. After the war, her body was exhumed and escorted to Britain. A memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey, and she was reburied in Norwich Cathedral.

