

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 21st November 2021

Sundays "Live" Service

Maggie is leading and Jerry preaching from 1 Peter 5: 5 - 9

"Submit to God and Resist the Devil"

Sunday's online service: Barbara is leading and Ron is preaching from  
1 Thessalonians 3: 6 - 13f "Paul's Prayer"



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.



## Ron's Reads

Lk 15:1f, Jn 13:35, Mt15:18f, Ps 119:11

## For Your Prayers

Please pray for the children around the world who will receive a shoebox gift at Christmas. They are being donated at the service at St Mary's church at 3.00pm, Ron and Jerry will be taking part. Donations are being made by other Churches and organisations around the country. Also pray for the children throughout the world who will not receive any gifts this Christmas. Also pray for all those in the fellowship and community that are awaiting standard medical procedures, who are in a queue of several millions, in pain and with their quality of life being diminished. Pray for our Sunday school leaders and helpers that they can sow the seeds of Jesus's love in the youngsters that will blossom as they grow older.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Alex and Elspeth Pelling.**

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 12th Fran posted "Thank you for your prayers my grandson Keaton's operation went ahead and all is well x" The same day Doreen posted "Message from Steve asking for prayers that he gets settled soon as he is no longer able to go to All Hallows."

On Saturday Diana posted "A request for prayer from Norma & David. Both have procedures soon. David on the 16th and Norma on the 22nd. They are having to self-isolate at the moment." The same day Geoff messaged "Please could you remember in your prayers my nephew Paul and his wife Liz. They have both tested positive for covid in the last couple of days so are now self-isolating."

On Sunday David posted "Mary asked if we will continue to pray for her great grandson Kjell. He is jumping in and out of bed but the doctors have told his parents that they haven't removed all the tumour and the cancer is particularly aggressive. They may have to operate again or use chemotherapy. Please pray for his parents who are very worried." On Monday David forwarded a message from Ros, Mary's daughter and Kjell's great aunt who lives in Durban SA. "Please pray for Kjell (who lives in Germany) we need a miracle. The doctors only managed to remove 25% of the brain tumour. They will be planning further treatment chemotherapy and a possibility of surgery again. Thank you for all your prayers the family really appreciate it. God Bless. Ros." Also on Monday DJ Steve posted an audio message saying "Love you all."

## Church Reading Plan

Matthew 7: 1-6 full reading [Matthew 7](#)

## Be Careful About Criticizing Others

7 "Don't judge others, and God will not judge you. <sup>2</sup> If you judge others, you will be judged the same way you judge them. God will treat you the same way you treat others.

<sup>3</sup> "Why do you notice the small piece of dust that is in your friend's eye, but you don't notice the big piece of wood that is in your own? <sup>4</sup> Why do you say to your friend, 'Let me take that piece of dust out of your eye'? Look at yourself first! You still have that big piece of wood in your own eye. <sup>5</sup> You are a hypocrite! First, take the wood out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly to get the dust out of your friend's eye.

*As Christians how easy can it be to judge and criticize others when we know we have so many failings ourselves?*

*But does that leave us with the difficulty of deciding what is judgement?*

*Rick Warren says "Our culture has accepted two huge lies. The first is that if you disagree with someone's lifestyle, you must fear or hate them. The second is that to love someone means you agree with everything they believe or do. Both are nonsense. You don't have to compromise convictions to be compassionate."*

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 22nd November**

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

7.00pm Alpha Zoom Meeting

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

**Tuesday 23rd November**

9.30 - 12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

**Wednesday 24th November**

9.30 - 12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

**Thursday 25th November**

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

**Sunday 28th November**

Flowers: Sheena Jarman

**Monday 29th November**

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

7.00pm Alpha Zoom Meeting

**Wednesday 1st December**

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study 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

## Christmas Services

To book a place for the Christmas services please contact Diana Gordon on - 07951949128 you can also text or WhatsApp the same number or email [secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk)

### Candlelight Services

Sunday 12th and 19th December  
All welcome for traditional Carols  
Starting at 4.00pm

These services will be played to the car park so we can therefore offer a "drive in option"

When booking your place you will need to tell Diana which option you are booking

### Celebrate Christmas Day Morning

Starting at 10am youngsters can bring their presents and the fellowship can be festively dressed.

### Boxing Day Service

Will be online and available from 1.00am

### Sunday 2nd January

The New Year's - Family Service 10.45am

## 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)

## North Norfolk Foodbank

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.

## EBA Prayer Focus 21st November 2021 Hadleigh Baptist Church

Hadleigh is a town in South East Essex known for its ruined castle which has extensive views overlooking the Thames Estuary. Hadleigh Baptist Church was built in 1928 and at present the fellowship has a good range of young and old, together with a number of families. For the past fifteen years Revd Paul Stow has been the Minister. He is currently supported by the Minister in Training Michael Collins who completes his time at Spurgeon's College in 2022.

During the COVID pandemic the church went online and only felt confident to reopen in July. Sunday services have seen a mixed attendance and getting back to normal is taking time because there is still a fear of coming out by some of the more vulnerable within the congregation.

Many of the weekday activities started again in September, with meetings for babies and toddlers, the ladies fellowship group, needlework and craft group, and community indoor bowls happening regularly. Bible study and prayer meetings have also recommenced and are continuing to be streamed on Zoom.

The church has been impacted significantly by Covid and is now planning on how to adapt to the new environment and the implications this has for their fellowship and outreach programmes. They are currently working towards Christmas and looking at ways to get back to normal with seasonal events that reach the wider community.

For Prayer:

- For staying safe. For those in the fellowship who are vulnerable, and especially for those who are continuing to stay away, that they will take steps of faith and return to the Fellowship.
- For wisdom on outreach to the community, and how

traditional events for Christmas will happen post-lockdown.

- For the leadership team, that there may be unity in planning, and as they continue to seek God's will for the future.

## T-Loop

If you have a T-loop facility on your hearing aid, and wish to use this, you will get the best reception in the church if you sit close to the walls as the 'loop' is transmitted from the conduit around the edge. We hope this will enable you to enjoy our services more.

## 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](http://www.tlmtrading.com) Please either give your order to Barbara along with payment by cash or cheque payable to me [the Leprosy Mission request this] or pop it in the box at the back.

## Quotes of the Week

"If becoming "religious" has made you more judgmental, rude, harsh, a backbiter, you need to check if you are worshiping God or your ego." *Moosa Rahat*

"Even when walking in the company of two other men, I am bound to be able to learn from them. The good points of the one I copy, the bad points of the other I correct in myself."

*Confucius 孔子,*

"The emphasis and the reason for a pure humility is to result in love for others; not always necessarily the belittlement of self. When there is pride and self-righteousness and being pretentiously too far above, generally, one has a difficult time reaching the compassionate side of love for others, the side that understands (or at least attempts to understand): 'I am aware that I am not so far from falling in the same way.' Humility seeks to understand, and sometimes even relate; and in result, the love lovingly, properly, effectively wills the removal of the destructive sins of another as from oneself."

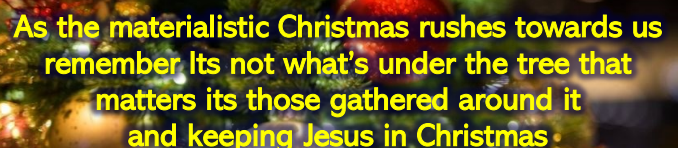
*Criss Jami, Killosophy*

"The Vicar's talk was not always inspiring: he had escaped being a Pharisee, but he had not escaped that low estimate of possibilities which we rather hastily arrive at as an inference from our own failure." *George Eliot, Middlemarch*

Humanhood isn't him, her or them,  
Humanhood requires realization beyond sex.  
Pronouns may be a step in the right direction,  
But they are not passport for arrogance and disrespect.

The purpose is to erase hate from society,  
And we ain't gonna do that by passing judgment.  
If we want there to be equity and acceptance,  
We must learn to trample first our own arrogance.  
Rebelling for the sake of rebelling achieves nothing,  
Arrogance only produces just another bitter creature.  
In trying to fight against prejudice and oppression,  
Be cautious that you don't end up as the new oppressor.  
Revolution is the foundation of civilization's evolution,  
But it must be rooted in gentleness, not cancellation."

*Abhijit Naskar, Giants in Jeans: 100 Sonnets of United Earth*



**As the materialistic Christmas rushes towards us  
remember its not what's under the tree that  
matters its those gathered around it  
and keeping Jesus in Christmas**



# The Difference Between Noise and influence is Relationship

We can refine our message until it's perfect, then pump it out with every piece of technology we can find - but if we don't connect with any real people who are willing to listen, it may not bear the fruit it could.

Andy Flanagan introduces the Influence Course from Christians in Politics for the Baptist Times.

How much do you know about Obadiah? If you're anything like me, not very much. That's because he worked behind the scenes - you could say he was the sound guy to Elijah's worship leader.

King Ahab has been leading Israel astray, dabbling with other gods and Elijah is told to challenge him. But Elijah doesn't just rant about this dysfunctional political leadership from the desert, screaming into the ether on social media and drumming up signatures for his "Down with Baal" petition. Instead he seeks a connection with an actual human being.

Obadiah managed Ahab's palace and affairs and it couldn't have been easy for this God-fearing civil servant to be present at the heart of a regime that was doing such damage to God's honour. But he stayed. He was faithful. Then at the right moment he meets Elijah and is perfectly placed to broker a very unlikely meeting. The distant is brought close.

So the rap battle to end all rap battles takes place on Mount Carmel. The prophets of Baal suffer total humiliation and an impossible bonfire that even Bear Grylls couldn't have managed leaves a lasting impact on the consciousness of the people of Israel. But it wouldn't have happened without the event management skills of Obadiah. It's as important to be holding the clipboard as it is to be holding the microphone.

Elijah constantly confronted King Ahab from outside the court. We need brave people like him. But fewer of us are working on the inside like Obadiah. We need more brave people like HIM. Let's face it - it's much more exciting to see dry altars burst into flames, than to be forwarding emails around a government department. Elijah gets to be the hero of Sunday School stories. Obadiah - not so much.

We can refine our message until it's perfect, then pump it out with every piece of technology we can find, but if we don't connect with any real people who are willing to listen, it may not bear the fruit it could.

The difference between noise and influence is relationship.

If the very nature of God is a set of relationships, could it be true that the kingdom of God never moves faster than the speed of relationships?

We live in a noisy world. There is so much information, but not much wisdom. How do we filter it? How do we work out which words to believe? We believe what's said by people we know and trust. So wouldn't it be better if people were hearing our message from people they know and trust?

Making noise helps us feel better, but may not be so great for the rest of the world.

Noise makes you move away from some-thing. Relationship draws you closer to some-one.

Christians know how to make noise. It's in our DNA. Whether it's trumpets at Jericho, cymbals in the Psalms, or worship bands with intolerably huge PAs. We can mobilise huge numbers of people to march to make poverty history, send emails about climate change, or write letters about abortion. But can we make the journey from disconnected commentators to wired-in participants who are being salt and light in the midst, rather than at the edge of society?

Do we just want to feel like we've done our duty or do we want to have real influence? If so, we need to do the hard yards of relationship-building. It may not be fast and it may not be pretty, but we will learn and be transformed in the process, and it may just lead to moments when like with Elijah, impossible and beautiful things cause everyone to stop and stare and say, "The LORD - he is God".

But if you're wondering how on earth to even start taking those sort of steps into public life then there is a solution. The INFLUENCE COURSE is designed by Christians in Politics to give participants a biblical understanding of God's call for every one of us to be involved in the public square. It's not all about being a candidate - as the course says, it's as important to be holding the clipboard as it is to be holding the microphone.

It's a six week course that your church small groups can do in person or online. The online course is the first course from the ground-breaking ChurchRooms interface, which is on a mission to erase the pain of the Zoom gatherings we have all experienced. All your content is pre-loaded, so there's no more "Sharon, can you share that powerpoint?" conversations, and the discussion tools and whiteboards allow extraverts and introverts to contribute!

Most important to note is that this is a course that ALL of your church can do. It's specifically designed to take people on a journey from zero. It's not just a course for the 'politically interested' or 'politically active'. It could be a brilliant way for you and your church to journey together. It's a far cry from dry intellectual, political point-scoring and theorising. There are genuinely fun activities and weekly challenges, alongside some ground-breaking animated video material. You don't even need to feel like an expert to run the course - the course guide gives you everything you could need. Some new local councillors and a campaign group have already emerged from the churches who piloted the course, not to mention a question written by one of the groups being asked at Prime Minister's Questions! So who knows what this might be the start of for your groups. There may be a future Prime Minister in your midst.

Head over to [www.influencecourse.co.uk](http://www.influencecourse.co.uk) to find out more, or order the course materials from your local Christian bookshop or online stockist.

Andy Flanagan is Executive Director, Christians in Politics. He is member of Park Church in Luton, a missional community sent by Stopsley Baptist Church [Source Baptist Times](http://www.sourcebaptisttimes.co.uk)



## 'London's history shows just what is possible globally today'

Leprosy is no longer a problem in London today and can be defeated globally. 'Ending leprosy together' was at the very heart of the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday (13th November).

The City of London has elected Alderman Vincent Keaveny as the next Lord Mayor. Alderman Keaveny is a senior member of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem and a long-time supporter of The Leprosy Mission.

To mark Alderman Keaveny becoming the 693rd Lord Mayor of the City of London, the two organisations have teamed up for the Lord Mayor's parade.

Under the banner of 'ending leprosy together', representatives rode on a green open top vintage bus. The bus formed part of the 11am parade from Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice. On board were Dan and Babs Izzett, a couple who have lived with the effects of leprosy for 50 years. A service of thanksgiving followed at 11.30am on Sunday (14 November) at St Pancras Old Church where Dan Izzett shared his life story.

Speaking at Mansion House ahead of the Show, Norman Hunter Rose of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem said: "I am delighted that The Leprosy Mission is taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show in partnership with the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem. I have admired the work of The Leprosy Mission in supporting those affected by leprosy and their families and communities around the world for many years.

It is wonderful to see that work showcased and celebrated in the Lord Mayor's Show."

The Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem was founded over 900 years ago. It began with the construction of a leprosy hospital outside the walls of Jerusalem in the early 12th Century.

This was at a time when leprosy was a regular feature of life in London and across England. There were more than 320 religious houses and hospitals for the care of leprosy patients established from the end of the 11th Century and 1350. (The road running off the A149 called Chapel Field Road is believed to have been the site of a Stalham Leper Chapel in medieval times.)

Until the 1980s there was no cure for leprosy. If left untreated leprosy can cause serious and irreversible disabilities, including blindness. As a result, it has always been a feared disease which sees people pushed to the fringes of society.

Leprosy was once a huge problem in the City of London. Those with leprosy were pushed out of the city to a hospice on the site of St Giles in the Fields, near to Centre Point. It was assigned to the Order of St Lazarus in 1299.

Head of Fundraising at The Leprosy Mission, Louise Timmins, explained that leprosy is largely a disease of poverty. It thrives where there is poor housing, overcrowding, a lack of sanitation and malnutrition. This weakens immune systems, making people more susceptible to leprosy.

Louise said it is the emotional impact of leprosy that makes it such a devastating disease.

She said: "There are so many myths about leprosy in the countries where we work. Tragically this means that people with the disease often face extreme discrimination. Because of this people often hide the early signs of leprosy for fear of being rejected by their families, communities and society as a whole. It is completely heartbreaking as, without treatment, they then go on to develop irreversible disabilities. All too often they find



themselves living the life they feared most.

Having spent time in communities affected by leprosy across Africa and Asia, it has been fascinating for me to look into London's leprosy past.

We have a Carol service at St Giles in the Fields Church every year to mark the link between London's leprosy history and our vision of defeating leprosy globally today.

It is quite hard to believe that St Giles was literally 'in the fields' between the City of London and Westminster when it is at the heart of bustling city life today. Similarly, St James's Palace is built on the site of a leprosy hospital. At the time it was still part of the farmland and countryside outside London with Green Park a swampy burial ground for its patients."

Louise said a decline in the number of leprosy cases in England coincided with major improvements to public health. Disease thrived in medieval cities like London where there were no sewage systems or fresh water supplies. The last indigenous leprosy case in England was recorded in 1798 following major improvements to public health.

Louise said: "A lot of our work today is improving living conditions in vulnerable communities where leprosy hides. This could be providing families with homes and a clean water supply. Or it could mean advocating to government to install electricity to a leprosy colony. It is a mammoth task, but we are steadily improving living conditions within some of the most marginalised communities affected by leprosy across Asia and Africa.

It is encouraging to know improvements to public health made such a difference in London. In the UK today leprosy is largely a forgotten disease.

It seems fitting that the City of London can remember this part of its history at the Lord Mayor's Show which took place last Saturday.

It is our hope that it prompted individuals to take up the call to finally rid the world of leprosy and the pain and suffering it causes."

The Leprosy Mission's Carol Concert takes place at 12.50pm on Friday 10 December at St Giles in the Fields church, featuring Christmas music by the Tredici Choir.

Everyone is welcome but, for seating purposes, please RSVP by 1 December by calling 01733 370505, or email [post@tlmew.org.uk](mailto:post@tlmew.org.uk).

For more information about the Leprosy Mission click [here](#)