

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 9th January 2022

Sunday's "Live" Service

Maggie is leading and Ron is preaching from Exodus 17: 8-16

"Hold your hands up"

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

1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8 "A call to holiness"

The Church meeting will commence at 12noon



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.



Structure of Jerry's Talk

We should pursue holiness because of:

(1). God's Will v1-4. (2). God's Judgement v5-6 and (3). God's Call v 7-8.

Jerry's Reads

Lev 20:24-26, Rom 13:13-14, 1 Cor 6:9-11, Gal 5:16-25, Eph 5:15-21, Heb 13:4 1 Pet 2:9,15.

For Your Prayers

Please pray for today's Church meeting and the Deacons meeting on the 17th that we can be guided by the Lord and find ways of financing and completing the Schoolroom project that is so important in our quest to engage with the community and demonstrating "Christianity in Motion"

Also pray for all those in the fellowship who are anxious about the new variant.

Please also pray that we can recruit a few more folk who can occasionally step it to operate the sound and media systems on Sundays.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Terry and Geraldine Smith.**

Virtual Prayer Room

On Monday 20th December Jenny posted "Please could I ask for prayer for this week as I have radiotherapy every day up to Christmas Eve. Thanks Jenny."

On Wednesday Jerry posted for Susie "Thank you every one for praying for me. I saw my surgeon last week and my tongue biopsies are all clear. Even the part they operated on and said was cancer was not in the end. Just that it could have become, so it needed to be sorted. Thank you Jesus. Susie xxx"

On Christmas Eve Jenny posted "Just on our way home from my last RT treatment. Feeling so thankful to God for his love and presence through everything. So, thankful to our SBC family, for all your prayers and support. Jenny x"

On Christmas Day DJ Steve posted an audio saying "Merry Christmas everybody and praise the Lord."

Later Jerry Posted for Annie "Can you send prayers for John Applegate. Just had a fall and off to hospital as he hit his head. Thank you." On boxing day Jerry posted just got a message from John "I'm ok just a lump on my head didn't get back home till gone 2.30am so have had a long lay in."

On Monday Jerry posted "Please pray for Sandra's son Paul who has covid. He is not fully vaxed and is quite poorly. Sandy and Mike."

Wednesday Simone posted "Could I ask for prayers for Anna please. We had to take her to hospital last night she has a very nasty cough and she vomited her feeds. Her oxygen levels are unstable. She is being monitored closely here. Could you please pray for her to stabilise so she doesn't need oxygen. Thanks." On the same day Simone posted "Update on Anna. She had to be put on oxygen as her coughing episodes didn't improve. At least now she is much more settled. Let's pray that with this support she can get better." Thursday Simone said "Thanks everyone for your prayers God is faithful! Anna is doing much better. The doctor said he wants her to be slowly weaned off the oxygen from now on and if she is doing well we'll be allowed home tomorrow morning. Please continue praying as she still has to fully recover to have her surgery on 7th January."

Friday Simone posted "She has been weaned off the oxygen over the course of the night. She had a few coughing episodes in the morning and was given a little bit of oxygen to calm her. We have gone back to 2 hour feeds since then and she has been much better. Only a little bit of coughing once in awhile but she is able to calm herself without support. We are going to see the doctor again this evening to see what the plan is from here. Thanks for your support in prayer." Sunday Simone said "Thanks for all your prayers. Anna is doing better and we were allowed back home in the afternoon. She is keeping us busy as she has to be fed every 2 hours but we are all happy to have her home."

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
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Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 10th January

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.00am WI Meeting in the Stables

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

Tuesday 11th January

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 12th January

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study Meeting

Contact Diana for a link.

Friday 14th January

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 16th January

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Monica

Monday 17th January

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

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

SBC Needs You

As last Sunday highlighted SBC needs a few more people who could operate either the sound or media systems. Both are straight forward to operate with a little bit of coaching and practise. Example David's 15 minute phone call from Geoff at 9.00am who did a brilliant job in explaining how the system worked. If you think you could help have a chat with Geoff or John.

Donations from Candlelight Carols

Donations from the services for Leeway (refuge for Women) and Norwich Homeless Support came to £420.35

Coffee & Chat and Carols



The last Coffee & Chat before Christmas was a great success with carols and Christmas songs played by a brilliant organist Elwyn Bowler from Happisburgh St. Mary's Church. His wife Joyce entertained with stories with a

Christian theme and all the regulars listened and sang along.

Elaine and all the volunteers have done a brilliant job in restarting C&C since September and have raised £300 for Médecins San Frontier, £100 for Leeway (refuge for women) and £100 for Norwich Homeless Support.

Leprosy Mission Christmas Catalogue

Thanks to everyone who ordered from this catalogue, supporting the Leprosy Mission's work and also donating £84.45 to the funds at SBC at no extra cost. Happy New Year! Barbara.

EBA Prayer Focus 9th January 2022 Histon Baptist Church

Histon Baptist Church (HBC), like many churches, has been on quite a journey over the last few years. We said farewell to our previous pastor, Ron Day, who retired in 2020, having been with us for 19 years and seeing the church grow in this time. We were then hit by the pandemic and a period without a minister.

Thankfully God had a plan, and in September 2021 we welcomed Chris Farmer as our new pastor. Chris was known to many in the church and village as he had been the youth worker at HBC from 2009-16 before moving to Braintree to lead the church there whilst training at Spurgeon's. The arrival of Chris and Kate and their three children has brought a much-welcomed boost and direction to the church. Although the use of the premises was interrupted by the pandemic, the church buildings are now being used each day by church groups and many other groups within the village. During the pandemic services were online, but we are now back worshipping in the building and online and have been delighted to welcome a number of new people. We also have an active youth work, led by our youth pastor Rilla and her team.

Most recently we have engaged in various mission events that have proved successful. One of these was creating a poppy field for Remembrance on the front lawn of our church.

This encouraged children and community groups to make poppies and add them to the field. This became a focal point of remembrance and enabled much conversation with members of the community.

Please pray for:

- Chris Farmer and his family as they continue to settle into the church, schools and community.
- Continued growth as a church and wisdom for the leaders as we navigate all that comes with this whilst still dealing with the effects of Covid.
- Seeds of faith to grow and flourish through the ongoing conversations and outreach events happening.
- A sense of unity as we seek God's vision for us as a church moving forward into this new season.
- That in all we do our eyes would continue to be fixed on Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Did You Know?

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

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.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"A high view of God leads to high worship and holy living, but a low view of God leads to trivial worship and low living." - Steven J Lawson

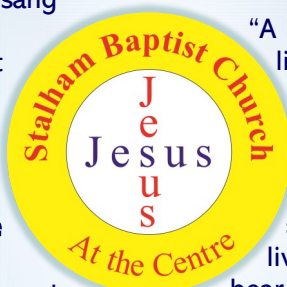
"We want to bear in mind just as a footnote that the Gospel of Jesus Christ encompasses far more than telling us what we need to believe to be saved. It also tells us how we are to conduct our lives so that what we do is pleasing to God. Now, bear in mind we don't obey to earn our salvation, we obey to enjoy our salvation. And we don't live to please God, he's already pleased with us. He is already pleased with us because we have been hidden in his beloved Son, but we strive to please God because we love him, because we have a zeal for his glory, because we want to see men and woman come to a saving knowledge of Christ, and because we are learning by the power of the Spirit and by his illuminating work that there is no life anywhere else apart from Christ." — Dr. David Harrell

A true and faithful Christian does not make holy living an accidental thing. It is his great concern. As the business of the soldier is to fight, so the business of the Christian is to be like Christ. - Jonathan Edwards

Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God, according as we find His mind described in Scripture. It is the habit of agreeing in God's judgment, hating what He hates, loving what He loves, and measuring everything in this world by the standard of His Word. " — J.C. Ryle

"I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him." — Charles Spurgeon.

"Pornography is satanic discipleship. It trains us to see people and situations in perverted ways and become calloused to the way it grieves God. But by continually beholding Jesus, God transforms us to think and love like Jesus by serving people rather than using them for sinful satisfaction." — Garrett Kell, *Pure in Heart: Sexual Sin and the Promises of God*.



Reaching a neglected demographic

I am extremely grateful to have been used by God to reach white, working-class people, writes Baptist minister William Wade. Here are some observations about interacting with this often disaffected group

I am a Baptist minister in Hertfordshire. However, I often get told that I do not look like the clergy-type. That may be because I have a shaved head, tattoos and a Belfast accent. It may be because my face shows the marks of having been a boxer and having had one too many scraps outside the ring, too.

Whatever the case, my own background allows me to have a desire to see a particular demographic within the UK reached with the gospel. This demographic is white, working-class and sitting somewhere between the ages of 18 and 50. It has been termed as reaching chavs for Jesus, but there is an inherent value within this demographic that refuses to allow me to use that term. I am extremely grateful to have been used by God to reach this sub-culture within housing estate ministry and within my role as an evangelist to British Forces, where there is no end of young men from working class backgrounds. In my 20 years of ministry, I have noticed a few 'helps' in trying to reach this often disaffected group, and these may help anyone currently trying to do the same. Let me share them...

Having your own story helps.

Before I was converted, I was a glue-sniffing skinhead, used to getting drunk, high and in trouble with the police. In sharing my own story with those I have tried to reach, this has immediately broken down walls of class and of privilege – two suspicions of the white, working-class male. In whatever way possible, try to tell your own story of brokenness in your background. We all have something we can share that can reach the brokenness of the person you are talking to.

An understanding of their culture helps.

It is worth accepting the fact that this demographic has its very own culture. This culture includes loyalty, aggression, ruthless banter, fronting, honour and deceit. If you are already street smart, this will come as second nature, but if not, getting to know and to understand this culture will help to understand motives, behavioural patterns and how to engage sensibly.

Following sports helps.

Better still, following their sports helps. Their sports are football, combat sports, darts and horse racing. Their sports are not equestrian, hockey, swimming and ice skating. Follow the Premier League; find out who is fighting in the octagon; be able to hold a conversation on these subjects. Sport is the small talk of the working class male.

Straight talking helps.

When it comes to issues of faith, shoot from the hip. Courage is key in engaging with this demographic. Vagueness will be shouted down; fear will be sniffed out



immediately. Be bold in declaring that Jesus Christ is your Saviour and that He has changed the lives of sinful, broken people for generations. Don't step back – white, working-class men live off stories of heroism – give them the greatest story of the greatest hero ever told. Pull no punches and make it personal. Incorporate testimony and Scripture as a pincer attack, and stand your ground. It works.

Involvement helps.

If you are not involved, you do not have access. Choose how you can break into groups of white, working-class men. Join their gym; support the local team they support; take your dog walking where they take their dogs walking. I have boxed with them, played football with them, done cage fighting with them, all in order to make the in-road that means involvement. Speaking from within is much more effective than speaking from without.

Speaking of Jesus as the transformer of lives helps.

Presenting Jesus as a social justice champion or as a subversive in the religious landscape of Judea will not get an audience with this sub-culture. Jesus as the redeemer of Mary Magdalene, or the transformer of the thief Zacchaeus, or the saviour of the Gadarene madman will hold sway with this group of men, as they are painfully aware that they need a life transformer – not someone to spruce up their lives and make them better, but someone who will give them a whole new life to begin with. Give them Jesus, the only one that can transform their lives completely.

Close discipleship helps.

As I have seen many of these men give their lives to Jesus, they need close discipleship in order to help make the break from their often extremely broken lives. They need you to walk with them, not just to teach them a couple of memory verses. They need to see what living for Jesus actually looks like, more than seeing Christian culture within the walls of a church every Sunday morning. You are their spiritual father or mother, not just their evangelist, so walk with them and have the kind of relationship in the beginning that Jesus had with his disciples, and certainly that Paul had with Timothy.

Encouraging immediate evangelism helps.

When I gave my life to Jesus, the very next week, I was challenged to give my testimony at an open air service in front of the park where my friends would be hanging out. I did it, and it was an extremely wise move from my pastor to have me do that. It was a public declaration of nailing my colours to the mast. It helped me to make a clean break from my old life.

I have encouraged others to do the same – perhaps not in an open air meeting, but as soon as possible, to make the statement that they have become a Christian. It is always met with banter, but always, in the end, respected for the courage it demands. Get them to share their faith immediately, it also helps their own faith become 'theirs'.

An interesting observation I have made in ministering to men from this background for two decades is that when men from this demographic do commit their lives to Jesus, they often make for dynamic witnesses and evangelists. When I think of men like Alan Mortlock, the Tough Talk team, Andy Flute and Gram Seed, these men are outstanding at reaching men just like they used to be. They can connect with those they are trying to reach because they have been there, and they have also been saved from there. I believe we need some more of us that know the life changing power of the gospel to reach out and engage with these men. Who knows what may come of our efforts under God?

I was converted after two 15-year-old girls gate-crashed a party I was having in greater Belfast. They walked into the house, turned the music off and told us all that we needed to get right with God, using terms like 'born-again' and 'saved'. Three weeks later, four of us were born-again and I am so grateful for the gospel courage of those girls.

If two 15-year-old girls can walk into a house full of drunk young men and preach the gospel to them, what could you do? The truth is, that with the word of God in your mouth and the Spirit of God as your strength, you really can reach this neglected demographic. It might take a deep breath and a prayer for courage, and be met with immediate and colourful banter, but for their sake, it is absolutely worth that risk.

William Wade is minister at Life Church, Cuffley

Source Baptist Times

Top image | Zach Rowlandson | Unsplash

Prayers for the New Year

A Prayer to Keep God First This New Year

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new. Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on your presence filling us every single day.

We pray for your Spirit to lead us each step of this New Year. We ask that you will guide our decisions and turn our hearts to deeply desire you above all else. We ask that you will open doors needing to be opened and

close the ones needing to be shut tight. We ask that you would help us release our grip on the things to which you've said "no," "not yet," or "wait." We ask for help to pursue you first, above every dream and desire you've put within our hearts.

We ask for your wisdom, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honoured by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. We pray that you'd keep us far from the snares and traps of temptations. That you would whisper in our ear when we need to run and whisper in our heart when we need to stand our ground.

We pray for your protection over our families and friends. We ask for your hand to cover us and keep us distanced from the evil intent of the enemy; that you would be a barrier to surround us, that we'd be safe in your hands. We pray that you would give us discernment and insight beyond our years, to understand your will, hear your voice, and know your ways. Amen. - Debbie McDaniel

Source Christianity.Com

Woman's Day Prayer

Dear God,

On this day I ask You to grant this request?

May I know who I am and what I am, every moment of every day.

May I be a catalyst for light and love, and bring inspiration to those whose eyes I meet.

May I have the strength to stand tall in the face of conflict, and the courage to speak my voice, even when I'm scared.

May I have the humility to follow my heart, and the passion to live my soul's desires.

May I seek to know the highest truth, and dismiss the gravitational pull of my lower self.

May I embrace and love the totality of myself? My darkness as well as my light.

May I be brave enough to hear my heart? To let it soften so that I may gracefully choose faith over fear.

Today is my day to surrender anything that stands between the sacredness of my humanity and my divinity. May I be drenched in my Holiness and engulfed by Your love.

May all else melt away.

And so it is.

Debbie Ford

Source Woman's Day

