

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 16th January 2022

## Sunday's "Live" Service

Ron is leading and is preaching from 2 Chronicles 20: 1-30

"Praise is good for us"

Sunday's online service: Diana is leading and Ron is preaching from  
1 Thessalonians 4: 1-2, 9-12 "Pleasing God"



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

2 Cor 5:9, Col 1:10, Jn 13:34, Phil 4:7, Isa 26:3

### For Your Prayers

Please pray for our deacons as they meet together Monday 17th 7.00pm in the Stables to discuss the refurbishment project.

Pray that the foodbank will continue to receive donations for the growing number of people in need and that they will also be able to finance the Fuel Bank that helps those struggling to keep warm through the winter.

Please pray for Esther and Paul Curson. Pray for the new people joining SBC for Sunday services.

Also pray for our government that it will regroup and focus on serving the electorate and solving the problems that many in the country are experiencing.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Dan and Sue St John.**

### Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 7th Jerry posted "Thank you for all your prayers. Anna has now been transferred to ICU. The surgery went well but they are keeping a close eye on her for the next 24hrs because her heart rate dropped a little bit. We are waiting to see her soon. We can't wait to see her." On Saturday Jerry updated "Anna is keeping well. She is stable but still on a lot of support (ventilator and medicines to help with her heart functions and lungs) They'll probably leave it like that until tomorrow morning."

Sunday update from Jerry "Morning all. Anna is stable and currently improving. They decided to take her off the ventilator last night and she is now breathing independently, on low dose of oxygen. The doctors are happy with her progress, and they are talking about transferring her to a ward. Thanks for your prayers. The Lord is surely answering them and we are very encouraged."

Also on Sunday Julia posted "Hi, David and Thomas have dates in January. David should have the procedure on his back on Monday 17th. He also has an emergency telephone appointment tomorrow with the cardiology department as the GP isn't very happy with him. Thomas is due to have a hernia repair done on Friday 28th January.

Please pray the procedures go ahead in the face of rising pressure on the NHS and that all goes well. Thank you Julia x"

On Monday Simone sent an update on Anna. "She has been transferred to the ward yesterday evening. She is doing well and is currently weaned off her last intravenous medication. Her feeds are being established well. She had another really positive day. Thanks for your continued prayers."

On Tuesday David posted an update from Ros from the Lighthouse Church in Durban SA. "Thank you all who have been praying for Kjell. We appreciate all your prayers Kjell is still having laser therapy daily until the end of this week. The chemo has stopped. The tumour has grown a bit. The family are looking for alternative treatments. Please keep praying for a miracle. God bless Ros."

On Wednesday David sent "Please pray for Mark Booth (who has recently been attending services at SBC) and family whose father Terry passed away recently and his funeral is on January 19th at Barmby Crematorium Retford Nottingham."

### Question

In last week's newsletter we printed an article from the Baptist Times. The following is a quote from that article.

*"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?"* William Wade minister at Life Church, Cuffley.

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon  
07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

### For your Diary

**Monday 17th January**

10.30am in the Church  
Prayers for young people

7.00pm Deacons Meeting in the Stables

**Tuesday 18th January**

9.30am -12 in the Stables  
Coffee and Chat

**Wednesday 19th January**

9.30am -12 in the School Room  
Table Tennis

**Thursday 20th January**

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Contact Diana for a link.

**Friday 21st January**

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

**Sunday 23rd January**

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Jane Skivington

### Food Bank & Personal Prayer

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and for 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

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)

## 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)

## SBC Needs You

As the last two Sunday's have 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. If you could help occasionally have a chat with Geoff or John.

## A Big Thank You

A big thank you from John Applegate for all your prayers over Christmas after he ended up in hospital on Christmas Day after a fall.

## EBA Prayer Focus 16th January 2022 Stalham Baptist Church

Stalham is a small Norfolk market town, situated 15 miles from Norwich and is surrounded by a number of villages. It is part of the Norfolk Broads.

The fellowship at Stalham Baptist Church is served by two pastors. Rev Ron Skivington has led the Church for over thirty years and Rev Jerry Otieno who joined in 2016. Sunday's services are regularly led by the pastors or one of a group of worship leaders, supported by various musicians. They are also blessed by a number of guest speakers.

The churches logo states, "Jesus at the Centre" and their work always has that in mind.

Whilst many programs had to be put on hold during lockdown, the Foodbank continued to operate. In September, a Community Fridge was opened in the Stables [one of the ancillary rooms]. Food that would otherwise go to waste is available for anyone to take. Tesco, other retailers, local farmers, and people who grow crops in their gardens and allotments that often end up on the compost heap, have also donated to the Community Fridge,

As activities resume, the fellowship are working towards reinstating after school clubs, youth pop up café and the lunch club.

The fellowship has gained planning permission to refurbish the schoolroom, a large building alongside the chapel. Whilst some generous donations have been received, further grants are needed to complete the project.

For your prayers:

- Please pray that the fellowship will listen and be guided by the Lord in their endeavours.
- That the church can introduce more people in their community to Jesus.
- That they can continue to grow as a hub of help to the community by displaying "Christianity in Action."
- Finance for the Schoolroom refurbishment.
- For more volunteers to add to the brilliant teams working in various areas in the church and community.

## 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.

## Church Reading 1 John 1: 5-10

### Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the

darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all <sup>(b)</sup> sin..

<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup><sup>10</sup>If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

*As Christians how easy is it to get lost in the darkness?*

## Take Your Pick

Some Christians are like wheelbarrows: no good unless pushed.

Some are like rugby balls: you can't tell which way they will bounce next.

Some are like: balloons full of air and waiting to blow up.

Some are like trailers: they have to be pulled.

Some are like neon lights: they keep going on and off.

Some are "custard" Christians: upset over trifles.

Some are like a good watch: open face, pure gold, quietly busy, full of good works.

Taken from a Church Magazine and contributed by Monica and Frank.

## Quotes of the Week

"What is sin?"

It is the glory of God not honoured.

The holiness of God not revered.

The greatness of God not admired.

The power of God not praised.

The truth of God not sought.

The wisdom of God not esteemed.

The beauty of God not treasured.

The goodness of God not savoured.

The faithfulness of God not trusted.

The commandments of God not obeyed.

The justice of God not respected.

The wrath of God not feared.

The grace of God not cherished.

The presence of God not prized.

The person of God not loved.

That is sin."

— John Piper

"If the gospel isn't good news for everybody, then it isn't good news for anybody. And this is because the most powerful things happen when the church surrenders its desire to convert people and convince them to join. It is when the church gives itself away in radical acts of service and compassion, expecting nothing in return, that's the way of Jesus and is most vividly put on display. To do this, the church must stop thinking about everybody primarily in categories of in or out, saved or not, believer or nonbeliever. Besides the fact that these terms are offensive to those who are the "un" and "non", they work against Jesus' teachings about how we are to treat each other. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbour, and our neighbour can be anybody. We are all created in the image of God, and we are all sacred, valuable creations of God. Everybody matters. To treat people differently based on who believes what is to fail to respect the image of God in everyone. As the book of James says, "God shows no favouritism." So we don't either."

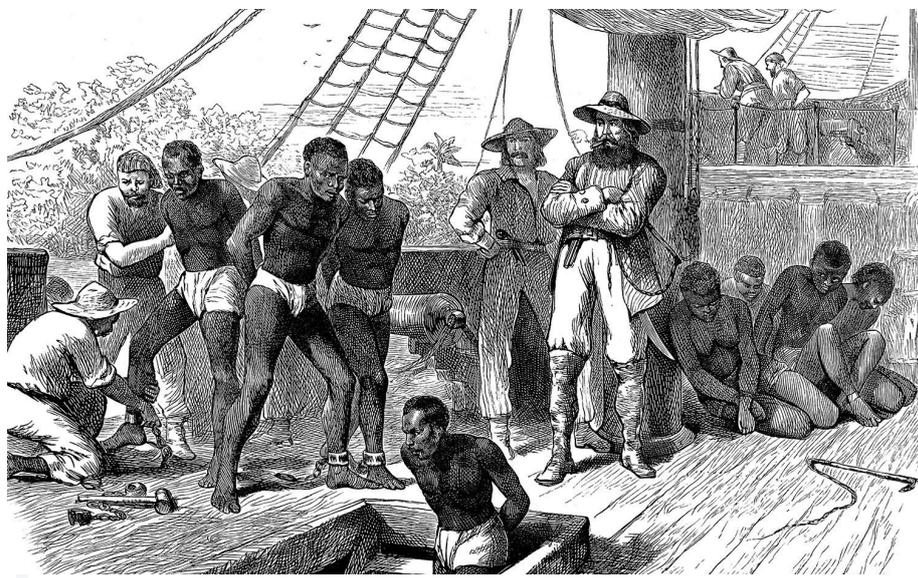
— Rob Bell

## Thought of the Week

"Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tyre?"

— Corrie Ten Boom





supporting the campaign, 'Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade', which was very influential. It graphically described the horrors of the Slave Trade and his role in it.

Newton was ordained into the Anglican priesthood in 1764 and served in the Buckinghamshire parish of Olney. So popular was his preaching that the church could not accommodate all those wishing to hear. He wrote the hymn Amazing Grace as an illustration for a sermon on God's grace.

Many will be familiar with the words:

*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
was blind but now I see.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

"The hymn Amazing Grace is performed around the world over 10 million times annually and appears on over 11,000 albums. It has been the anthem of the American slaves, was on Top of the Pops in 1969/70 when sung by Judy Collins also by Rod Stewart on his album "Every Picture Tells a Story" in 1971 and even popularised the bagpipes when played by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards." Writes Ron Skivington.

### DO YOU KNOW its history?

John Newton, the hymn's writer, lost his mum when he was 7 years old and was taken to sea by his dad at 11 years, pressed into the Royal navy where he received 8 dozen lashes for trying to abscond. Later he sailed on slave ships and was abandoned by one crew off the West Coast of Africa where he became a slave himself until rescued.

In 1748 he was caught in a dreadful storm off Ireland for over a week and it was when lashed to the wheel, trying to hold a steady course, Newton began to recall scripture verses his mum had taught him that he prayed, cargo shifted filling a hole that was leaking in water, and the ship drifted to safety. He saw this as God accepting him and his prayer and over time his life began to change, largely due to his reading of the Bible. Formerly he was known as the Great Blasphemer due to his foul language, denial of God and general debauched lifestyle but gradually even though he continued to sail on, captain and own slave ships for several years he felt God calling him. A cruel and ruthless trader of human beings, Newton began to regret his involvement in the slave trade and was instrumental in encouraging William Wilberforce to pursue his quest to have slavery abolished which was passed by Parliament in 1807.

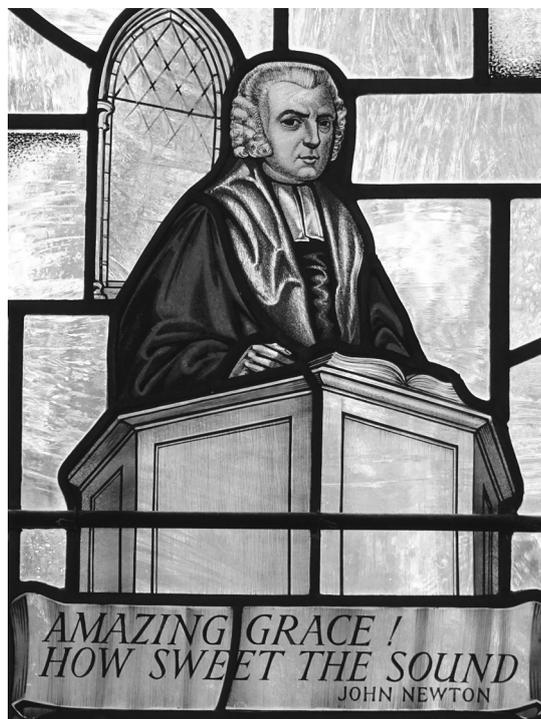
Newton wrote a pamphlet

Newton was seeking to express the wonder, the joy that became his as he understood God forgave him despite the life he had led for so many years and that if God could do it for him He can do it for anyone who asks.

That simply put is the message and hope, God loves YOU so much that He became a man, lived on our earth what was a perfect life and yet was executed, unjustly in every human sense and died hanging on a cross. But 3 days later Jerusalem was alive with stories of Jesus's resurrection, over 500 people were able to testify that in the next few weeks they had seen, spoken to, shared meals with Jesus who was even more full of life, if that was possible, than He had been prior to his death.

Christians believe Jesus died to pay the price of our wrongdoing, we all know we do wrong, and in so doing Jesus has taken away all barriers between us and God allowing us to experience an open phone line to heaven.

It is not a relationship we instigate by any worth of our own it is all about God's gift to us, it's His Amazing Grace.



That's why Newton wrote what he did, it has become the hope and experience of countless millions worldwide and it can be yours just ask God "show me your Amazing Grace" and he will answer.

I think John Newton would have said "if Jesus can change me He can change anyone's life".

This could be the best New Year resolution you have ever known by finding God's gift of life.

Ron wrote this article for the Community Scene in 2019

The Engraving is circa 1835  
Source Swain, Public domain, via  
Wikimedia Commons



## People are starving in Afghanistan, with more than 8 million on the brink of famine.

Drought, conflict and the Covid-19 pandemic are causing a catastrophic rise in hunger. Children are dying today, and a million more under the age of five are at risk of dying over the next three months. We need to act now to save lives.

Decades of conflict, poverty, and the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic were already taking their toll on the people of Afghanistan.

The recent conflict and change of government, coupled with the worst drought in 27 years, have tipped the country over the edge. Economic collapse has sent food prices soaring. Afghanistan's health care system has reached the brink of collapse.

**If we don't act now**, many lives could be lost. More than 22 million people face going hungry as the freezing winter sets in, with children amongst those most vulnerable.

### How your support will help

Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) charities are already on the ground scaling up their operations, and are able to reach the people most in need. With your support, they and their local partners can:

- provide emergency food and nutrition support for children
- support healthcare facilities
- provide winter kits to help displaced families stay warm
- supply clean drinking water
- protect women and girls

People need help **now**.

For more information click below.



### Christian Aid

## North Korea: "You strived to help the weakest part of the body of Christ"

Brother Simon\* is an Open Doors partner working with North Korean believers through networks in China. In an update to an article in Open Doors January 2021 magazine he shares how your prayers and support are enabling this vital work to continue – despite the challenges of Covid restrictions God provided a new opportunity for our workers to contact these North Koreans who were stuck outside of North Korea and to provide them with shelter in our safe houses, practical support and biblical training. Even during such difficult times, God continues to show us His faithfulness.

"All the devotion, sacrifice and faith of the numerous supporters will be answered by God thirty times, sixty times and a hundred times over, with fruit that will be ripe in the North Korean mission field. As all of you strived to help the weakest part of the body of Christ during the most difficult time, I believe all you brothers and sisters of the world will be

blessed. As Jesus says, 'Well done, my good and trustworthy servant!'

## Change for persecuted women: "Thank you, beloved ones, for helping in our suffering"

Sarata\* from Cameroon was widowed after her husband died from a stress-related illness, owing to the constant distress and unrest of Boko Haram attacks in the area. She became the sole breadwinner for her six children and struggled on, tilling a small plot of farmland. Tragically, a few years after her husband's death, Sarata lost her 16-year-old daughter Lydia in a Boko Haram attack.

But Sarata is not alone. Thanks to your prayers and support, and her local church, she is receiving spiritual care and financial support. She says, "We are suffering, and you thought of us, thank you so much! Thank you, beloved ones, for helping in our suffering... Thank you very much Open Doors!

"With the money I received, I paid for the children's schooling and the farm work. I bought food and I also saved some for if someone gets sick. It really helps me. I thank you because you came to help us. Thank you, thank you! All I can really say to you is thank you."



## Hope for the Middle East: "We see the youth flourishing thanks to your help"

In Syria and Iraq, after over a decade of conflict and persecution, Centres of Hope – supported by Open Doors – are helping Christians, churches and communities to rebuild and restore.

Sister Manal manages one of these centres – she describes the effect of the conflict on people's lives: "Buildings were destroyed, and properties were stolen. The church also suffered the loss of the people; how many Christians were killed? Kidnapped? Kids lost their fathers and women lost their husbands. The war drove the youth to leave the country; they see no future here; they see a dead end. This puts the future of the church and the country in jeopardy."

Thanks to you, there is hope for our persecuted church family in the Middle East through these centres – which continually point to Jesus as the ultimate hope. Sister Manal focuses on training young people and giving them vocations, as well as spiritual support. "We work with the youth in order to help them see a future here... We want them to think of the church as a refuge for them. We pray that this generation will turn out healthy, strong, well-trained and capable of carrying our ministry to future generations."

Sister Manal adds, "Please continue helping us and the church in Syria. Your support is like the widow's pennies. We need it so much in Syria and it means a lot to us to have you thinking of us and praying for us. When we see the youth flourishing and growing thanks to your help, we glorify the name of God, and we thank you."

For more information click below.

[Open Doors](#)

