

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 23rd January 2022

Sunday's "Live" Service

Diana is leading and Jerry is preaching from Luke 10: 25-37

"The Good Neighbour"

Sunday's online service: Ron is leading and is preaching from
1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 "Jesus is Coming"

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.



Extra Reads

Lk 12:40, Phil 1: 21f, Mt 24:15f, Ex 19:16f

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the family and friends of Neville Blake whose funeral is at SBC on Thursday at 12 noon.

Also pray for those in the fellowship and community who have worried understandably about the prevalent Covid virus and whose anxiety may grow with the total relaxation of the current measures.

Pray that God will bring wisdom to our government that they can deal quickly with the PM's situation and turn their focus onto dealing with the growing problems of many people in the UK. Speaking with honesty and clarity to those they should serve.

Pray for the population of Tonga, that help will be provided as the devastation caused by the volcano and tsunami has been described by Tonga's government as "an unprecedented disaster" and the volcanic dust is hampering relief planes from landing and delivering much-needed food and drinking water.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember Gloria Turner.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 14th Simone posted "We are discharged today and safely arrived back home. Praise the Lord."

Jerry posted on behalf of Julia on Monday "Hi all, David has just has his back procedure cancelled today due to broken equipment."

The same day Lorraine posted "Just returned from visiting my school friend Hilary who lives in Reading. She is having an echocardiogram on Wednesday. Her prayer request is that this will show a positive result so she can have a lung transplant. Thank you Lx"

On Wednesday Julia posted "Hi. Thank you all for your prayers and good wishes. David has a new date of 14th February for his back. He is also having a 24 hour ECG next Friday for the cardiology department. Jx"

Church Reading 2 Timothy 4: 1-5

4 Before God and Jesus Christ, I give you a command. Christ Jesus is the one who will judge all people—those who are living and those who have died. He is coming again to rule in his kingdom. So I give you this command: ²Tell everyone God's message. Be ready at all times to do whatever is needed. Tell people what they need to do, tell them

when they are doing wrong, and encourage them. Do this with great patience and careful teaching.

³The time will come when people will not listen to the true teaching. But people will find more and more teachers who please them. They will find teachers who say what they want to hear. ⁴People will stop listening to the truth. They will begin to follow the teaching in false stories. ⁵But you should control yourself at all times. When troubles come, accept them. Do the work of telling the Good News. Do all the duties of a servant of God.

As Christians is it our job or just the pastor's job to bring salvation to those we meet?

Thought of the Week

"Truth is to power what fire is to wax, that's why power and truth are mortal enemies"

— Bangambiki Habyarimana

THE CHURCH IS NOT SIMPLY A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION. IT IS NOT A RELIGIOUS THEATER WHERE PERFORMERS ARE PAID TO AMUSE THOSE WHO ATTEND. IT IS AN ASSEMBLY OF REDEEMED SINNERS—MEN AND WOMEN CALLED UNTO CHRIST AND COMMISSIONED TO SPREAD HIS GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.

A.W. TOZER
WWW.REVIVAL-LIBRARY.COM



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 24th January

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

Tuesday 25th January

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 26th January

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for a link.

Thursday 27th January

12 noon in the Church

Funeral of Neville Blake

Friday 21st January

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 30th January

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Barbara Reynolds

Sunday 6th February

12.00 noon Special Church 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 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

Community Fridge in the Stables

Open Mondays 10am to 12 noon

Tuesday to Friday 2 am - 4am

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

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

High Sheriff of Norfolk at SBC

Michael Gurney the High Sheriff of Norfolk visited SBC on



Tuesday morning as part of a look round Stalham as a guest of Stalham Town Council, spending a long time talking with Ron, Jerry and Diana and looking round the Chapel and Schoolroom before meeting people in the Stables using the Community Fridge and

the regulars at Coffee and Chat.

Special Church Meeting

There will be a Special Meeting on Sunday 6th February at 12noon to agree the way forward of the refurbishment of the Schoolroom. You can find the information on SBC's Forum.

Innocence Lost by Else Burt (Peter's Mum)

A chronicle of carefree childhood days and bitter years of a German War.

Two copies are still available. Please speak to Monica (01692 580947) if you would like a copy. Donations for the building fund appreciated.

Sponsored Walk

In aid of the SBC building fund Ben & Barbara Mixer will be undertaking an approx. 6 miles walk on a pleasant day within the next few weeks as weather permits. We will be collecting sponsorship from those who wish to support this.

Thank you and we will update in due course the funds raised. There will be a sponsor form at the back of the church.

Help Needed

Vince our SBC cleaner is undergoing surgery sometime in March and will be out of action for up to six weeks. Monica is putting together a rota of volunteers who could fill in during that period.

If you can help speak to Monica (01692 580947).

A Big Thankyou

A big thankyou to Anne West who is retiring from helping with the Sunday flower arrangements. Anne has been a great volunteer at SBC over the years and her work has been much appreciated.

EBA Prayer Focus 23rd January 2022 Shenfield Union Church

For some, this is just another prayer focus. But for our feature church this week, it comes as a confirmation of where God is focusing their attentions in 2022.

Hutton and Shenfield Union Church is a Baptist/URC local ecumenical partnership situated on a private estate in a popular south Essex commuter hub. The church recently held an away day (that was neither 'away' nor lasted a whole day!) During their time together they examined their strengths and weaknesses, recognising the positives in the way they practice fellowship and eating together, but felt there was not enough prayer together, so decided to make prayer the church's focus for the new year. There is a sense of excitement and encouragement that the EBA will be helping them kick-off this new season by joining the church in prayer. One of the ways they have been able to

engage with their community has been via the self-contained Prayer Chapel at the foot of the church spire, and it was much appreciated that this remained open every day throughout the pandemic lockdowns.

Worship has continued in person every Sunday since it was permitted, and the services are currently being live-streamed through YouTube and shared via the church website. Minister Rev Paul Ellis also sends out weekly updates with pastoral news and prayer pointers.

Another prayer initiative is a prayer tree, seen by the hundreds of people who use our premises each week. The prayer tree was also the deacons' slightly unusual contribution to our biennial Christmas Tree Festival, a major weekend event with over 30 trees decorated by different groups within and beyond the Church. The theme this year was *Our Natural World*, and the prayer tree attracted many prayers for a more ecologically sound use of God's beautifully created World. The Festival also raised £1,000 for the local hospice.

At the carol service which concluded the Christmas Tree Festival, the Church also received its EcoChurch Bronze Award, achieved through the work of its Climate Action Team, despite it only being established in October 2021. The bar has been set to progress to the Silver Award this year!

As we ourselves commit to more prayer together, we should value your prayers for:

- The whole fellowship (slightly over 100 members) taking on board the call to prayer;
- Our Alpha Course in February and March, shared for the first time with Hutton Parish Church;
- Someone to be called to succeed our current Church Secretary, who now comes to the end of her term of office.

Food Bank

Thank you for your support and generosity without which the foodbank work would not be possible.

During January, the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Tea, Squash/Fruit Juice, Rice Pudding, Sponge Puddings and Custard, Crisps, Instant Snacks – cuppa soup, pot noodle etc, Male and Female Deodorants, Laundry Liquid/Powder.

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.

Financial donations are always welcome. Please see our website for details. [Food Bank](#)

Quotes of the Week

"Life goals and changing the world...You've got to start small. You cannot change the world unless you start with your neighbour! It's about supporting someone and just telling somebody that you care about them. You can't save the world if you can't save yourself. You can't save the world if you can't save your neighbour."

— Angie Karan

"Being a witness of His love, by loving my neighbour, by being one with my family, by helping my colleagues at work, is a way of living which I know draws me closer to God."

— George Calleja, [My Little Book Of Daily Prayer](#)

"We instinctively tend to limit for whom we exert ourselves. We do it for people like us, and for people whom we like. Jesus will have none of that. By depicting a Samaritan helping a Jew, Jesus could not have found a more forceful way to say that anyone at all in need - regardless of race, politics, class, and religion - is your neighbour. Not everyone is your brother or sister in faith, but everyone is your neighbour, and you must love your neighbour."

— Timothy Keller, [Generous Justice: How God's Grace Makes Us Just](#)



Made in God's image?

Let's mark Martin Luther King Day held on 17th January in the USA by asking how we can better value other people in 2022 - and seek an end to the practices and systems that dehumanise so many, writes Nick Megoran for the Baptist Times.

How much have you felt valued this year?

2022 started in a very upsetting way for Kashmiri journalist Quratulain Rehbar. She woke up on New Year's Day to find herself [listed](#) on an online auction website "for sale" as a maid. She was not alone - around 100 prominent South Asian Muslim women, including activists, journalists, actors and politicians, were listed on the fake app. Although it was quickly taken down, Rehbar said that she found the experience, "shocking and humiliating."

This case of harassment was another unpleasant reminder of how the abuse of women and followers of religious faiths can so easily take place online. But I think it is also disturbing because it implies that human beings have monetary value.

We recoil at that. But in an age where so much of our activity and our lives can be costed precisely - when we can bid for practically anything on eBay - why is it that we find putting a price tag on people so disconcerting?

In theory it should be easy to work out what people are worth, because we are made of chemicals each of which has cash value. The average adult has

enough iron in their bodies to make one nail, enough fat to make seven bars of soap, enough sugar for seven cups of tea, enough phosphorous to tip 2200 matches, enough water to fill six buckets, and enough sulphur to rid one dog of fleas. Add that all up and it comes to about £30.

If that seems a bit low, here's another way to calculate it. We all know the expression that someone is "worth their weight in gold." What are



we worth if we take that literally? I weigh 83kgs, and as 24 carat gold currently sells for around £42 per gram that would set a price tag on me of about £3.5million. More flattering than 30 quid, but still less than our national debt grows in 12 minutes.

The USA's Financial Accounting Standards Board prohibits companies putting financial value on individual staff for formal accounting purposes. However, a few years ago an article appeared in the *Journal of Management* arguing precisely that companies *should* work out each of their

employee's cash values, or what they euphemistically called the "financial valuation of the human capital resource." They reasoned that this would help them inform "HR interventions." This of course is another ugly euphemism for sacking, demoting or pressurising people if they don't hit the right numbers in the CEO's master spreadsheet.

From slavery to Human Resource Management, powerful people have long found ways to monetarise others so that they can exploit them. It reduces us to mere objects, to line items in someone's accounting book. This easily leads to dehumanising behaviour - from the physical abuse



