

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 13th February 2022

## Sunday's "Live" Service

Jerry is leading and preaching from 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-22

"Duties and responsibilities of the congregation part 2"

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

2 Thessalonians 1: 1-12 "You are an encouragement"

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.



### The Three Duties to God v 16-22.

1. Do God's will-rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and be thankful. v 16-18
2. Do not quench the Holy Spirit v 19 3. Be discerning v 20-22

### Ron's Reads

1 Thess 3:10-12, 2 Cor 8:1f, Heb 12:2

### For Your Prayers

Please continue to pray that we find favour with contractors, funders and our local community as we move forward with the Schoolroom Project.

Pray also for those in the fellowship and community who are waiting for routine NHS procedures and now know they may have to wait in discomfort for possibly over a year. Also please pray for those in our fellowship and community who are vulnerable and understandably anxious about the ending of covid restrictions.

Pray that there is substance to the announcements that there is progress over the tensions on the border of Russia and Ukraine and that Europe will not witness a war. Remember also the people of Afghanistan. The World Health Organisation says there is a "dire" health and humanitarian crisis in the country.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Shirley Westgate.**

### Virtual Prayer Room

On Saturday 5th Simone posted "Can I please ask for prayers for Anna. She has been blue lighted to N&N yesterday as her oxygen levels were very low when her community nurse came around. She's been poorly all night on a little oxygen support. Since this morning we are now at HDU on high flow oxygen. She's probably caught a virus and will need a few days here. Please pray for a quick recovery and also for Elsa, Kalos and Jerry who have to juggle things at home. Thanks as always for your precious support in prayer."

On Monday Simone posted "Thank you everyone for your support in prayer. God answered them and Anna is improving steadily. She has been taken off the oxygen support this morning and is now on high flow air. Please continue to pray that she will tolerate the changes. Thank you very much as always.

Also on Monday Doreen posted "Please could we have prayers for Edward Lord (grandson of Joyce Neale) He is suffering from cancer and seriously ill in N&N. The family were called in yesterday and would welcome your prayers x" She later asked "Edward got married recently to Katherine and I am sure she would welcome your prayers at this very difficult time xx"

The following day Doreen posted "Update on Edward. The family have been told that the next 48 hours are crucial. Please could you continue to pray for Edward and Katherine and all the family. Thank you x"

On Wednesday Simone posted "Update on Anna: She's improved a lot. She's been taken off the oxygen yesterday and has since maintained her levels well. She had some episodes of getting upset and crying a lot so she's been given some paracetamol. We are now waiting for the doctors to do their round and let us know what the further plan is." Later Simone posted "Praise God for hearing our prayers! Anna is allowed back home today. The doctors said she has bounced back very quickly. Our God is healer indeed! "

### Church Reading 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when I came to you, I told you the secret truth of God. But I did not use fancy words or great wisdom. <sup>2</sup> I decided that while I was with you I would forget about everything except Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. <sup>3</sup> When I came to you, I was weak and shook with fear <sup>4</sup> My teaching and my speaking were not with wise words that persuade people. But the proof of my teaching was the power that the Spirit gives. <sup>5</sup> I did this so that your faith would be in God's power, not in human wisdom.

*As Christians how easy is it when we talk to people about Jesus to just rely on some comfortable well used script instead of opening our hearts showing our vulnerability, talking about what Jesus has done for "me" and demonstrating Christianity in Action?*



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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
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Secretary: Diana Gordon  
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Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

### For your Diary

**Monday 14th February**

7.00pm Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

**Tuesday 15th February**

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

**Wednesday 16th February**

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

**Thursday 17th February**

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Contact Diana for link

**Friday 18th February**

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

**Sunday 20th February**

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Jane Dalton

### 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](mailto:@stalhambaptist.org.uk)

### Community Fridge in the Stables

Open Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm  
Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

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)



## Sunday's Special Meeting

At the special church meeting held on the 6th February it was agreed by the members that the church goes ahead with the total refurbishment of the schoolroom and that we approach the Baptist building Fund for a loan of £50,000.

We previously agreed to a loan of £25,000 from a church member, in total this will bring available funds in hand to £211,000 of the £513,000 tender price. We hope to secure grant funding for a substantial part of the difference but need to be able to assure the B U that we can meet the loan repayments. To this end we are asking people to prayerfully consider whether they could pledge financially for this purpose. Forms are available on the table at the back of the church or please talk to Stewart

## Henry's Walking

In aid of the SBC building fund Ben & Barbara Mixer and now Henry 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. And could do with a few more sponsors (including the editor)

## Energy Needs

If you are, or know someone who is, struggling with their energy bills North Norfolk Food Bank offers a scheme called Energybank that can help. Contact the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk Citizens Advice Bureau can also give advice and possible assistance. Click [here](#) for a link.

## 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)

## Passionate Speech

At last Sunday's special Meeting, Stewart made a passionate speech about his vision of SBC going into the future, how it needed to be a vibrant hub to the community with a growing fellowship served by the Chapel and the refurbished schoolroom.

The next article is a good reminder of how things can change.

## EBA Prayer Focus 13th February 2022 Hutton Free Church

Hutton is on the outskirts of Brentwood in south Essex with excellent links to Central London including the new Crossrail service at Shenfield one mile away. Hutton Free Church is an independent fellowship with a Congregational background led by part-time pastor Rev Eric Fenwick.

The church has had a glorious past but has been in decline for the last twenty five years and although the folk are now fewer and older it is a really lovely fellowship. It is a small church where new people are always welcome and it is possible to feel a sense of belonging amongst real friends. The church has continued to meet throughout the pandemic, either in person when allowed or online at other times and has done well in staying together.

The church premises are used by others on weekdays including Immanuel Church – a local independent church -- and by the Brentwood Foodbank twice a week. Hutton was going to merge with Breakthru Church, an AOG Pentecostal fellowship, but that unfortunately came to an end last summer, not helped by the pandemic. This has been a great disappointment as they thought it would bring new life

and purpose to the church.

New for 2022 is a monthly Parlour Afternoon with refreshments where people share readings, testimonies, a song, etc together.

Our prayers are:

- That God will guide us in discerning His will for the church in this place.
- That we will be open to whatever new things God has in store.
- That new people will join and start to regenerate the fellowship.

## Gunton Baptist Church Visit

On Saturday 2nd April friends from Gunton Baptist are going to join us for a time of worship and fellowship around a meal. We will begin gathering around 10.30 for an 11.00 start. Please pray for our time together as churches and let Ron know if you wish to come.

## Leprosy Mission Easter Catalogues

The **Leprosy Mission Easter catalogues** will soon be available at the back of the church. They include Easter cards and the Fairtrade chocolate Easter eggs.

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 to me [Leprosy Mission request this] or pop it in the box at the back of the church.

Happy Shopping!

## Quotes of the Week Leadership

The word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord GOD: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. ... Ezekiel 34:1-8

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: <sup>2</sup> "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. <sup>3</sup> So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them. Matthew 23: 1-4

<sup>42</sup> Jesus called all the followers together. He said, "The non-Jewish people have men they call rulers. You know that those rulers love to show their power over the people. And their important leaders love to use all their authority over the people. <sup>43</sup> But it should not be that way with you. Whoever wants to be your leader must be your servant. <sup>44</sup> Whoever wants to be first must serve the rest of you like a slave. <sup>45</sup> Follow my example: Even the Son of Man did not come for people to serve him. He came to serve others and to give his life to save many people." Mark 10:42-45





# Dancing on Ice star talks about faith and helping others with disabilities live their dreams



The Leprosy Mission

*Leprosy defeated, lives transformed*

GB Paralympian and Dancing on Ice 2022 competitor Stef Reid is campaigning for opportunities for people with disabilities living in some of the world's most disadvantaged communities.

The Paralympic long jump world record holder and sprinter took to the ice for the first time on 23 January, wowing audiences with her debut routine with professional partner Andy Buchanan.

Stef said: "This is the most fun I've ever had and yet probably the hardest thing I've ever done.

Dancing or doing anything on ice is the last thing you'd expect an amputee to do. But as a long jumper I am gifted at falling. The coaches are always concerned about me landing and I keep having to tell them I'm not made of glass!

"I have a special prosthetic for skating but it was really hard at the beginning as I've never skated before so I didn't know what I needed or wanted from my new leg.

"It was a little disheartening initially because I didn't have any confidence putting weight on my artificial side and the thing with skating is that you have to be able to balance evenly.

"Ice dancing requires fine motor control over your feet and ankles and I only have one. So the balance aspect has been challenging.

"There's also the aesthetic element. I'm not a dancer and am not used to performing. When you long jump no one cares what you look like, it's just the distance. So it really is a whole new world but I'm loving it!"

Stef is no stranger to pushing herself onwards and upwards to realise her dreams. As a sport loving teenager, it was her dream to play professional rugby. But a boating accident aged 15 changed the course of her life, both physically and spiritually.

Stef said: "I remember lying in the ambulance after the accident and feeling scared because I knew in my heart that I wasn't going to heaven.

I did not know God. I remember praying for a second

chance and I committed my life to God in the ambulance.

It was a complete miracle that I survived the accident but I was devastated at the prospect of not being able to do sport. I said 'God why would you give me an ability and then take it away and let it be a waste?'. But he revealed to me that he put my drive for competition in me for a reason and I just needed to apply it in a different way.

One of the things that got me through was daring myself to go to greater heights.

For me this meant aiming for the Paralympics and going to university to study biochemistry.

"It was a trip to Nepal that made me incredibly thankful for the amazing opportunities I've had that helped me achieve my goals.

Back in 2006, before the Paralympics came into most people's consciousness, becoming a sprinter with one foot seemed an impossible dream. But thanks to having amazing running blades and access to fantastic training, it became a reality."

Stef became Vice-President of The Leprosy Mission after a trip to The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. It was there that she spent time with people affected by leprosy, many of which, like her, have a lifelong disability. In her new capacity as Vice-President, she is spearheading The Leprosy

Mission's [Greater Heights campaign](#).

Greater Heights seeks to end leprosy in our lifetime by rebuilding a crumbling lab at Anandaban where a team of researchers are making scientific breakthroughs that have a global impact.

While there has been an antibiotic cure for leprosy since 1982, there are many challenges when it comes to diagnosing and treating people before they develop terrible disabilities.

Leprosy is a disease of poverty and thrives in remote



communities where there is little or no healthcare.

Scientific breakthroughs are needed in diagnostics and disability prevention so that people affected by leprosy can have the healthcare and opportunities that they deserve in life.

But the problem is that the lab is at risk of closing. It's too small, not fit for purpose and was severely damaged in the terrible earthquakes of 2015. It won't pass the upcoming Nepali Government inspection.

Without this lab, the chance to end leprosy in our lifetime will be lost forever.

Greater Heights seeks to build a new world-class Research Centre at Anandaban from which scientific breakthroughs and new treatments can be found to help end leprosy and lift people affected by this disease to the heights they deserve.

Stef says: "Because of my life experience I am passionate both about scientific research and the need to speed up medical discoveries at Anandaban.

"Visiting Anandaban Hospital in Nepal was an amazing and unforgettable experience for me. Many of the patients I met were amputees because their leprosy was treated too late. When they saw that I too was an amputee, there was an instant connection. Overriding any language barrier was an understanding that we had experienced similar pain.

"I have been blessed with opportunity and this is what I want for each and every person affected by leprosy and disability."

Stef met her husband Brent Lakatos, a Paralympic wheelchair racer, through Paraspport. Like Stef, Brent suffered a serious accident as a youngster that left him paralysed. In Brent's case it was an ice skating accident. But despite ice skating changing the course of Brent's life, he was at the rink side last night proudly cheering on Stef.

She reflected: "Everything in life can be dangerous and I would never want to live constantly worried about the worst thing that can happen. When I told Brent I was doing Dancing with Ice he said 'Stefanie, you are nuts'. But that has nothing to do with Dancing on Ice, he just thinks I'm nuts in general!"

## Leprosy defeated, lives transformed

We are a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy.

Following Jesus Christ, we seek to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy and



empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

No one should suffer because of a preventable and treatable disease.

We work with people of all faiths and none to defeat leprosy and transform the lives of people affected.

The Leprosy Mission's Global Fellowship works in 28 countries.

Our focus is on ten countries in Africa and Asia - Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Sudan. These places have high rates of leprosy or lack the services or opportunities needed by people affected.

As well as supporting people living with leprosy today, we serve future generations by working to end the transmission of the disease. So they may be born into a world free from leprosy.

We partner with governments, churches and other organisations. Most importantly, we work with people affected by leprosy to achieve our vision - leprosy defeated, lives transformed.

## We fight leprosy transmission, disability and discrimination.

Through this integrated approach, we offer a springboard to better health, self-sufficiency and new hope.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise that the dignity of the individual is fundamental and no one should be left behind. People affected by leprosy, especially those disabled by the disease, are often most marginalised. So our mission is as urgent and relevant as ever. We stand with the people many would rather forget.

In 1874, our founders Wellesley and Alice Bailey saw the suffering of people living with leprosy and were determined to do something about it. Like them, we are committed to defeating leprosy and showing the love of Christ to those it affects.

For more information on the Leprosy Mission click [here](https://www.leprosymission.org.uk)