

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 6th March 2022

Sunday's "Live" Service

Barbara is leading and Jerry is preaching from Philippians 4: 13

"Can I do all things?"

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

2 Thessalonians 2: 13-17 "Hold on tight"

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.



Ron's Reads

Jn 15:16, Eph1:4f, Ro 10:14f.

For Your Prayers

Lord, the Ukraine civilians that are trapped in their towns and cities are now dying as rockets, shells and bombs rain down on them. We pray that the Russian invasion will be halted and a ceasefire called. Bring wisdom to President Putin Lord, open his eyes and his heart, help him to see there is no win for him. Help his heart to feel the catastrophe of death and destruction of this invasion not just for the Ukrainians but also his own soldiers, many of whom are young conscripts with little understanding of why they are in Ukraine, and the people in his land as the sanctions bite.

We pray that You can help that the truth of the confrontation can be seen and heard by more of the Russian people. We pray for those challenging the leadership who are arrested for protesting. We also pray that as the situation in Russia deteriorates those around the president will restrain him from any rash decision making.

Lord we pray for those who are growing anxious as the talk of a nuclear war grows, that You Lord will raise Your hand and bring an end to the possibility that Your children would perish in large numbers throughout the world by influencing and controlling those who have that power.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jean Wunderlicht**.

Virtual Prayer Room



On Thursday 24th Maggie posted "Am praying for the ordinary everyday people of Russia too they do not have the freedoms that we enjoy."

On Tuesday Dan StJohn posted a photo (left) entitled Sunrise after night battle Kyiv 27th February and saying "beautiful looks like an angel, prayers for the people of this nation." He went on "to encourage our prayers remember Reece Howells (see quotes of the week) in WW1 and WW2 and how Daniel set himself to pray and Michael came to their aid."

On Wednesday David posted "Please pray for John and Pauline White whose 60th wedding anniversary is on Thursday. When they married in 1962 it was snowing."

Also pray for John as on the same day he has an appointment at Cromer Hospital for a brain scan.

Church Reading Ephesians 6: 10-18 (NIV)

The Armour of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

As Christians when 1360 miles away a human tragedy is taking place and threats of an Armageddon are talked about, how easy is it to put our faith totally in the Lord and also counter those who challenge us "Why doesn't your God do something?"



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 7th March

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

Tuesday 8th March

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 9th March

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for link

Friday 11th March

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 13th March

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Julie Maile

Saturday 2nd April

11am Gunton BC Visit

Sunday 10th April

12 noon AGM

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 2.00 pm - 4.00pm

Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

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.

Ukraine Donations

In light of the crisis that is developing in the Ukraine due to the invasion people have asked how they can give to the Baptist Missionary Society appeal. If you would like to make a donation, please put it in an envelope marked Ukraine and either put it in the offering bag or hand to Stewart or Henry. We will also make a donation from church funds.

SBC Pledges

Baptist Building Charitable Incorporated Organization have agreed that Stalham Baptist Church can apply for a loan and if our application is successful the loan will be available for us when we have raised the rest of the funding to start the refurbishment project writes Stewart Marsh.

As this is the case all we need at present is your completed Pledge form with the start date omitted, at the point of us receiving the loan we would then need the donations agreed on the Pledge forms to start.

If you have setup a standing order I suggest that you cancel it for the time being.

Please be aware I need the Pledge forms back before applying for the loan as the Baptist Building CIO need to see that we are able to make the repayments on the loan before they will agree to make it available.

Please pray about these Pledge forms, we have voted as a church to apply for a loan, but we are unable to apply without sufficient money pledged to cover the loan, every little helps. Pledge forms can be given to me directly, scanned and emailed to treasurer@stalhambaptist.org.uk or placed in an envelope then handed to Henry at the door on a Sunday or in the offering bag.

Big Thank You To Gracie

A big thank you to Gracie who raised £133 for the Building Fund over the last two Sundays with her hama-bead crosses.

Selling like hot cakes says Henry

Since Wednesday February 23rd £144 of daffodils have been sold, the money going to the Building Fund. You can pick up bunches at 50p each at Edna's or the Community Fridge. A big thank you to the pickers and Edna who bunches the spring flowers up.

Gunton joint service and Meal

Ron has organised a joint service and light meal at SBC on Saturday 2nd April starting at 11.00am. Ron has built up a strong relationship between the two churches and this will be a great opportunity to meet up and socialise with people from another Baptist Church. Please book with Elaine on 07796 875785 so the catering can be planned.

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.

EBA Prayer Focus 6th February 2022 Holly Lodge Baptist Church

Our prayer focus this week turns its attention to Holly Lodge Baptist Church in Ipswich. This well-established church is ideally placed in a residential spot just five minutes' drive from the bustling town centre.

Much of the local demographic is made up of short-term renters, creating a rather transient community which can be hard to reach and build relationships with. However, the church enjoys a thriving youth and children's ministry, with a weekly youth club, Sunday school and toddler group, plus quarterly Messy Church and youth-led services.

As the church emerges from Covid, one of the big challenges facing them is the reality of an ageing congregation and a need

for younger individuals to take on some of the responsibilities of leadership. They are in the process of discerning what God is calling them to do and the kind of church God is calling them to be in light of this.

One of the key questions they are seeking to answer is whether to carry on as things are, or to stop and consider whether God is calling them to something new. Helping them with this process is minister-in-training, Shane Hughes, who joined the church last year and is combining his ministry with study at Spurgeon's College. A recent vision morning with leaders led to the conclusion that every activity the church engages with should clearly have a specific link to three pillars: Prayer, Discipleship and Evangelism.

Plans are currently being made for some joint Easter events with other churches before a redecoration project in the summer, aimed at creating a more family-oriented, outward-focused building. Please pray for:

- Clarity in our ongoing discussions around what type of church has God called us to be.
- Courage and faithfulness to act on the answer to the above and step out in faith.
- The upcoming joint Easter events; that Christian unity would be a powerful and effective witness in our town.

Church Open

We would like to maintain a covid secure environment in the church so although we no longer require people to book for services we still recommend masks be worn for the time being.

AGM

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 10th April this year at 12.00.

As usual it will begin with the election of deacons. This year Josh Hollebon, Stewart Marsh and Elaine Smith are the 3 deacons whose terms come to an end.

Please be prayerful about who should be nominated to serve us as deacons as we continue to go through interesting times. All nominations, in writing and seconded, should be given to Diana no later than Wednesday March 30th

Quotes of the Week by Rees Howells

Justice House of Prayer DC, an evangelical missions organization, serves Washington, DC and the nation through ongoing prayer, worship and strategic activism. They say "We are committed to pray for national leaders as we seek spiritual transformation and cultural reformation to be established from the governmental gate of our nation's capital. In faith, we declare, *here is a holy hill above Capitol Hill.*"

Matt Lockett writes for Justice House. "The following quotes, taken from the journals of Rees Howells during World War II, captures an uncommon faith, prayer life and vision that the church desperately needs to rediscover today. Howells said:

"The world became our parish and we were led to be responsible to intercede for countries and nations."

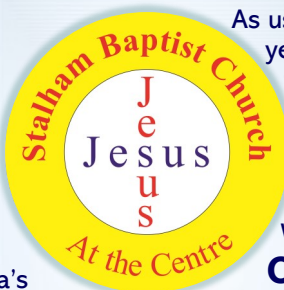
God used Rees Howells and the young people with him at the Bible College of Wales in a mighty way to shape international events and the destiny of nations through their prayers in WW2. The world was in crisis, and this company of faith-filled believers became intercessors fully committed to be part of the solution."

"Now is the best time to test the Bible in wars, because we are in one ourselves."

"The Holy Spirit does not know doubt, misery or worry, these are of self...Unless we believe in a test we have never believed...If I only take a thought that the devil is stronger than the Holy Spirit I can close this book (the Bible) once and for all."

"I want to know that the Holy Spirit is stronger than the devil in the Nazi system. This is the battle of the ages, and victory here means victory for millions of people." –Rees Howells

For more information click [here](#).



UKRAINE: HOW TO PRAY AND GIVE

The Baptist Times says. Join us in prayer for Ukraine as Russian troops advance and widespread violence is reported across the country.

Page last updated: 11.00 am (GMT), 1 March 2022

Reports of violence and news of desperate people fleeing Ukraine have become both more frequent and more worrying since Russian troops launched a full-scale attack on the country. As Russian President Vladimir Putin continues his invasion of Ukraine, please pray for those affected, and for the work of peace, aid, relief and refuge being carried out across the nation.

We remain in contact with our partners at the European Baptist Federation (EBF) and with Ukrainian church leaders on the ground as we closely monitor the escalating situation. We will be keeping this page up to date with any further news we receive.

G, a Ukrainian national who asked us to protect his identity, described driving in his car for 14 hours to bring his sons and their wives to safety. The traumatic rescue brought him very close to where missile attacks were taking place. One Ukrainian pastor, Pastor Igor, thanked all those praying for peace, adding: "Almost from the very beginning we have received prayers and notes of solidarity from the very beginning of this terrible day of our life."

The following requests for prayer come from our partners on the ground:

Pray for the people of Ukraine – for those in shock at this sudden and violent violation of their country – that they will be able to seek safety and know the comfort of God's presence at night.

Pray for Baptists in the region, as they prepare to use their churches as safe havens and emergency supply distribution points for those fleeing. Please pray that God gives them wisdom in an ever-changing situation.

Pray for the coming days, that there will be enough food, money, fuel and resources in the country for ordinary citizens.

Pray for those who are fleeing across the country, that their paths will be clear and they have places to rest. Pray also for neighbouring countries, some of whom have already begun preparing to receive refugees – that they will welcome and care for those who choose to flee across borders.

Pray for those who cannot, or will not, leave. Pray that they are not discouraged by those who do and do not feel that the international community has given up hope for the possibility of peace.

Pastor Igor requests that we pray for his fellow

pastors to "keep believing that God will be glorified."

Thank you for standing alongside all those affected by the conflict who pray and long for peace. Please join us in prayer by downloading the PowerPoint using the button below and sharing it with your church. As we learnt from Elijah Brown, the General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), Baptist leaders have long been preparing for Baptist churches across Ukraine to welcome displaced people, even as thousands of Ukrainians are already leaving their homes for the safety of underground railway stations or other places of refuge. They have been encouraging churches in the area to stock up on food, petrol and other essentials.

As the chaos and feeling of fear escalates, we pray that, in the words of Elijah Brown, "Baptist churches could be lighthouses in their communities."

Through our long-standing partnership with EBF and with your prayerful and financial support, BMS World Mission has been helping at-risk communities in Ukraine since 2014. As recently as December 2021, your support enabled Baptist churches to distribute essentials like blankets, heaters and thermal underwear to the people living within the fragility of Donetsk and Luhansk to help them get through the winter.

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER?

In the words of Elijah Brown, "the path to peace is possible as we look at the model of the Baptists in Ukraine who, in the midst of challenging circumstances, have served with a holistic witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. The path to peace is possible when we remind all of our leaders that millions of individuals here in this region long for peace."

With those words on your hearts, please join us in prayer as the shadow of war darkens over the nation and please give. The situation right now is still evolving. Besides conversations with our local partners, we are also in touch with partners in neighbouring countries to help those who seek refuge outside of Ukraine. For now, direct help in Ukraine is needed and you can step in. Therefore, we are asking for your support.

If we receive more gifts than needed, this will be used to support those who have been displaced in other regions of the world.

If you would like to give, you can do so by using the giving form on this page (click [here](#)) (look at information on page 2 of this SBC newsletter) or by calling the donation line on 01235 517641, Monday to Friday, between 10 am and 4 pm.

Thank you for standing together in prayer and for any gifts you can give to help those who suffer because of conflict or disaster.

FOR MORE INFORMATION FROM BAPTIST TIMES CLICK [HERE](#)

Protestant church members in pro-Russian eastern Ukraine face a fine or arrest if they meet together – even in their own homes – human rights campaigners have warned.

Taken from Christian News 2018

Laws recently introduced in the rebel-held Luhansk region effectively outlaw Protestant Christianity, the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group has warned.

The organisation alleges that officials in the territory, which has been controlled by pro-Russian separatists since 2014, have imposed a re-registration process for churches.

Ukraine's Institute for Religious Freedom reports that evangelical Christian communities have been barred from re-registration, meaning they are breaking the law if they do not cease to operate.

The Christian ministry Ellet Ministries, which trains church leaders across eastern Europe said it was monitoring the situation and liaising with colleagues in the country.

Staff member, Richard Jones (whose real name has been protected for security reasons), told Premier the legislation forms part of a pro-Russian agenda endorsed by Moscow. Mr Jones said: "Russia is encouraging this kind of thing to happen, to make sure that there is a completely pro-Russian area surrounding the Russian Federation."

"They make it impossible for any churches to re-register which means, of course, the churches can no longer operate even in their own buildings."

Human rights advocates claim all non-Russian Orthodox churches are facing persecution in Luhansk and neighbouring Donetsk, which is also in the hands of separatists.

Mr Jones, who has travelled extensively in Russia and Ukraine, added: "We pray for our fellow believers there because they are going through a very strongly oppressed time, just as believers are in China, for example."

<https://premierchristian.news/>

The Ukrainian Needed Prayer. The Russian Volunteered.

The following dialogue is a retelling of an emergency global prayer meeting held by Lausanne Europe on Thursday:

Angela Tkachenko:

My mother entered my room in the middle of the night. "The war has started."

I live in Sumy, a Ukrainian city of about 250,000 people that sits near the Russian border. One week ago, my husband insisted that I take our kids and my mother and evacuate. While we made it to the United States, he stayed behind.

I immediately began panicking on Thursday. *What was happening in Sumy? Where was my husband? Was he safe?* When I finally got a hold of him, he told me he had woken up to the sound of bombs. He was now snarled in traffic as he tried to drive out of the city. I scrolled through

pictures on my phone of long gas station lines and people sleeping in metro stations, and read the government announcement banning men between the ages of 18 and 60 from leaving the country. *Will I see my husband again? When? My 93-year-old grandma is alone... my team... my friends... our house....*

I struggled to make it through the day. In the afternoon I joined an international prayer call organized by the Lausanne Movement in light of the invasion.

When the host asked how I was doing, I cried. I was angry. I felt betrayed, broken, and stepped on by Russia.

I told everyone I was scared for my husband and for my friends in Kyiv praying at that moment about whether they should evacuate.

Then the host asked if someone could pray for me.

My friend Alexey volunteered. My Russian friend, Alexey.

Alexey S:

I woke up Thursday morning startled to learn that my country had invaded Ukraine. I was in Moscow for a ministry trip, more than 2,000 miles away from my family in Novosibirsk, Siberia. It was a cold morning and I watched the news in silence as I struggled to eat breakfast. Shame that my country was starting a war against another—a country I'd visited no less than four or five times—began to come over me. I felt afraid for the future of the world and I grieved for my Ukrainian brothers and sisters who would live or die in the aftermath of this decision.

I was born and raised in the Soviet Union in Siberia. After the USSR collapsed, I became a Christian at the age of 23 after hearing the gospel preached at my mother's rehab centre. For me, finding faith in Christ was more than accepting that I was God's child—it was realizing that I had brothers and sisters around the world. One of those was my Ukrainian friend Angela.

I met Angela seven years ago, at the Lausanne Conference in Jakarta. I was struck by her boldness when sharing the gospel. One of her initiatives involved mobilizing teams to enter nightclubs in various Ukrainian cities to initiate conversations with people who would never enter a church! Since then we became good friends and have supported each other in our ministries. In 2018, Angela brought a team to Moscow during the World Cup to share the gospel in the streets. These memories kept coming back as I watched the news.

Later that day, I joined Lausanne's prayer call and felt grateful to see Angela was also there. It was heart-breaking to hear what she and other Ukrainians on the call were going through. It felt awful that my country was causing her so much personal distress. When the facilitator asked who would volunteer to pray for her, I said yes and began talking to God as I wept.

Source Christianity Today

[https://
www.christianitytoday.com/](https://www.christianitytoday.com/)

