

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 13th March 2022



Sunday's "Live" Service

Diana is leading and Ron is preaching from Hebrews 13: 20-21

"Another Blessing"

Sunday's online service: Maggie is leading and Jerry is preaching from
2 Thessalonians 3: 1-5 "Praying for God's work"

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

The passage teaches three spiritual priorities that should consume our prayers for God's Work, namely; Prayers for: 1.) God's Message and Messengers v 1-2.

2.) God's Faithfulness v 3-4 and 3.) God's Direction v 5

Jerry's Reads

Isaiah 55:8-11, Lamentations 3:22-23, Acts 17:1-4, Acts 18:1-17,

Romans 8:35-39;15:30-33, 2 Corinthians 1:8-11, Ephesians 6:18-20, Hebrews 12:1-2.

For Your Prayers

Lord on Sunday February 27th Boris Johnson spoke to the Churchgoers at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Mayfair – formerly known, as the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family in Exile.

He spoke from the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) and stated that the UK would not walk past on the other side. Lord, the people in the UK are following the example of the Good Samaritan with generous donations. Lord, guide and empower our government to

fulfil Boris Johnson's statement and follow the "parables" creed. Lord, we pray, our government ministers will focus on their first and foremost duty to make sure that people get to safety and not on their internal differences. In Poland refugees including children and elderly folk are queuing for hours in the cold. Lord, when arriving at Calais refugees are told to go to Paris or Brussels but they will need to make an appointment. A drop-in centre is being established at Lille 75 miles away.

Lord, we pray that Your wisdom and Jesus's words in Luke 10: 25-37 will resonate and our Government, as the PM has promised, will not walk past on the other side and those refugees who have suffered so much at the hands of the Russian invasion will very soon find peace and safety in the UK.

Pray also using [Psalm 31](#)

Source ITV news and Independent.

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

Virtual Prayer Room

On Sunday 6th Jenny Payne posted "Please could I ask for prayers for my mum, Jean aged 90, she has fallen this afternoon and is being taken to Barnsley hospital with a suspected fractured hip. Thank you." Later she posted "Update on mum, she has fractured her right femur and will wait until tomorrow for a decision from consultant as to what the treatment will be. Thank you for your prayers."

On Monday Jenny posted "Mum is due to have surgery this afternoon. Please pray for a successful op and for her recovery and rehabilitation. Thank you all." On Tuesday Jenny posted "Many thanks for your prayers. Mum is doing well, she has had a pin placed in her femur and the physio will be seeing her today. No-one is allowed to visit at Barnsley Hospital, so it's going to be difficult for her, but hopefully, she won't have to stay too long. Jx"

Luke 10: 25-37 (MSG) The Good Samaritan

³⁰⁻³² Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man. ³³⁻³⁵ "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.' ³⁶ "What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbour to the man attacked by robbers?" ³⁷ "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded. Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

This parable is understood throughout the Christian and non-Christian world, how easy is for any of us to pay lip service though, to its powerful message?

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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 March

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

Tuesday 15th March

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 16th March

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

Thursday 17th March

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Contact Diana for link

Friday 18th March

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 20th March

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Anne West

Saturday 26th March

Coffee Morning to raise

Money for Ukraine

Saturday 2nd April

10.30 am 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

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.

Ukraine Coffee Morning

Jane Skivington is organising a Coffee morning in the Stables on Saturday 26th from 10.00am to 12 noon. All the money raised will be used to support the Ukrainian refugees.

Selling like even hotter cakes says Henry

This time last week £144 of daffodils had been sold, on Thursday this week an amazing £395.50 had 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 Barbara & Ben Mixer and Henry who have been picking the daffs and Edna and Eileen who have been bunching them up.

Barbara, Ben and Henry are Walking

In aid of the SBC building fund Ben & Barbara Mixer and Henry will be undertaking an approx. 6 miles walk, once the daff picking is finished they are going to pick a good day weather wise for the walk. There is a sponsor form at the back of the church which could do with a few more sponsors (including the editor)

Gunton joint service and Meal Pudding Needed

Ron has organised a joint service and light meal at SBC on Saturday 2nd April starting meeting at 10.30 - 11.00am for coffee. Ron asks "Can anyone help by supplying a pudding?"

Please book with Elaine on 07796 875785 so the catering can be planned.

Coffee Morning Success

Last Saturday's Coffee morning was a great success with over £300 raised for the Building Fund.

A big thank you to Elaine, Maggie P (particularly for the bacon roles, very nice), Evelyn, Jane and Fran. The morning was a great social event supported by people from the fellowship and the community.

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

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 13th February 2022

Homelands Free Church

The idea of a church being included in the plans to build the Frinton Homelands estate was first mooted in the mid-1960s, but it was ten years

later before a congregation began to meet in a building. Homelands Free Church became an independent church in 1982, so this year we give thanks for 40 years of ministry and mission in our part of Walton-on-the-Naze and Frinton-on-Sea. As for so many churches, the last two years of the pandemic have brought many challenges but also many opportunities. We give thanks that we were able to play our part in a local church and community initiative to provide a helpline offering emergency food shopping and prescription delivery.

We are also extremely grateful to God that numbers involved on a Sunday (in person and on-line) and mid-week have remained strong, even growing over the last few months, so we are excited and confident about what God is calling us to do in the future.

We closed all of our mid-week programme during lockdown and we would value prayer as we seek God's vision for us and the Homelands estate in this next season. We believe God is doing a new thing in us and through us and we pray that we might continue to have the confidence to be stretched and change rather than simply fall back into old, familiar and comfortable ways of being and doing.

Please pray

- For our new "Friendship Friday" initiative, including both a monthly Community Lunch and Repair Café.
- That God's purposes may blossom at Homelands.

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.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Too much Christian work is attempted today by human plans and promotion with far too much dependence on the methods employed and in the dynamic personalities of people rather than on a prayerful dependence on the Lord."—J. Hampton Keathley III,

"Sixteen times in the Bible God says, 'I am with you.'

Twelve times in the Bible He says, 'I will not leave you.'

Eight times He says, 'I will not forsake you.' So please, tell me, what's got you so worried? So often we forget God's promises that He is with us, that He will not leave us, and that He will not forsake us and Paul's trying to remind us of that right here [2 Thes 3:3]. He's saying, "The Lord will protect you and strengthen you; He will guard you and establish you. Don't forget that Christian! Don't forget that!" — Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III.

"No matter the state of the restless sea of humanity, be it the muted ebb and flow of indifference, or the violent swell of fierce opposition, the Lord controls the waves, and he is faithful in every circumstance."—T.W. Smith

"Often I have heard people say, 'How good God is! We prayed that it would not rain for our church picnic and look at the lovely weather!' Yes, God is good when He sends good weather. But God was also good when He allowed my sister, Betsie, to starve to death before my eyes in a German concentration camp. I remember one occasion when I was very discouraged there.

Everything around us was dark, and there was darkness in my heart. I remember telling Betsie that I thought God had forgotten us. 'No, Corrie,' said Betsie, 'He has not forgotten us. Remember His Word: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him." ' Corrie concludes, "There is an ocean of God's love available—there is plenty for everyone. May God grant you never to doubt that victorious love—whatever the circumstances." — Corrie Ten Boom, *The Hiding Place*

Putting the "super" in your "natural"

God works supernaturally in our natural activities, making ordinary times extraordinary!

He is always at work, not waiting for what we think is the "proper time and place"

We should always be on the lookout for "ministry moments" in our ordinary activities

If we surrender our ordinary lives to Jesus, he will make them extraordinary!

Prayers and Christianity in Action

BMS

A prayer for Ukraine

God of all,
with alarm and concern we bring before you
the military intervention in Ukraine.
In a world you made for peace and flourishing,
we lament the use of armed force.
We mourn every casualty of this conflict,
every precious life extinguished by war.
We pray comfort for those who grieve
and those who are fearful.
Hear our longing that leaders and nations
will honour the worth of all people
by having the courage to resolve conflict through dialogue.
May all our human failings be transformed
by your wonderful grace and goodness.
We ask this in the name of Christ,
the author of peace and sustainer of Creation.
Amen.

Joint Public Issues Team

BMS World Mission has been gathering prayer requests from partners on the ground in Ukraine and Poland. Here are the latest (4 March):

From Marek Glodek, President of the Baptist Union of Poland:
Please pray for wisdom from above. Please pray for strength for those who open their houses, churches and centres
Please pray for us Polish people that we would show our love for Ukrainians and that God would bless the nation of Ukraine
Please pray for our centres, that they will be provided with items which are needed to take care of children, women and anyone who is in need

Please pray for us as leaders of the Polish Baptist Union so we can have wisdom and a chance to get the right contacts and people who will help us and deal with us in this great ministry

From Alan Donaldson, EBF General Secretary following a visit to Poland:

Please pray for those people who are arriving in Poland
Please pray through the difficulties that are happening right now in Ukraine

Please pray for all the Baptist work that is happening there to bring relief and aid to the folks in that nation

From Pastor Igor, Ukrainian Baptist

Pray for those who cannot, or will not, leave Ukraine.

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"

Prayer From The Methodist Church

Loving God, your Son Jesus Christ, wept over Jerusalem.

Today, we weep over Ukraine.

We weep for those uprooted from their homes and lives.

We weep for those cowering in basements.

We weep for those who have witnessed death and destruction on their streets.

We weep for those separated from parents, from children, from spouses and siblings.

We are amazed at the resilience of people seeking to comfort those in need and so we pray for Governments opening up borders so that Ukrainians can have safe passage.

We pray for churches and individuals providing food, clothing and shelter.

We pray for medical workers ensuring that shattered bodies are put back together again.

We pray for ordinary Russians demonstrating and voicing their disapproval of the military actions in Ukraine.

May the Holy Spirit give us the willpower to turn our tears into action also.

May we, through our words, prayers and example pursue the things that make for a just peace in the world today and especially in Ukraine.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

Christian Aid

Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country.

2.1 million people have fled their homes to escape conflict in Ukraine. At least 474 civilians have been killed and 1,335 injured.

Our response

We're working with 2 partner organisations in the ACT Alliance (a global faith-based coalition), to offer assistance to Ukraine's refugees fleeing deadly violence: Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

So far, HIA has distributed 28 tonnes of food supplies and other lifesaving essentials to people on the Ukrainian borders. It has also established a refugee help point.

Christian Aid was founded in 1945 by British and Irish churches to help refugees after the Second World War. Back then, we worked with partner churches to alleviate suffering by raising the equivalent of £3 million plus in today's money.

We supported, equipped and enabled partner churches in mainland Europe to provide what people needed. Nearly 80 years later, we are doing the same.

God please protect peace.

Sanctions, security measured in minutes and it's scary...

When safety scatters, God please protect peace.

War dresses up in peace-keeper's clothes,

Troops amass, the ground trembles and so do people...

When the future feels fragile, God please protect peace.

The littlest, the least likely to have a say,

Those whose lives are sanctioned and bargained over –

Violence always finds them first.

And the 'oh-so-important' political manoeuvres mean nothing to them. They just want to live.

When the winners want to wipe them out of the way,

God please protect peace.

We will not turn away. We will stand together –

God give us the strength to protect peace.

Amen

Ukraine Christian Ministries

Pastor Dima writes...

I spent the whole day in the hospital today. I was concerned with a woman, Tatyana, who came from Boryspil (*near Kyiv*) with her sick (disabled) mother, Nadia, and asked for help. They had no housing and asked for help. No one could accept them because her mother needed medical attention. I took them to the hospital and bought them food and medicine. They couldn't believe that some-one would help them in this way for free. She thanked God for everything. Now they are in the hospital and are looking for an opportunity to go to Truskavets to a specialist hospital. I told them "God loves you and gave his life for you and will always help you". They were happy and wept with happiness. They said this: "Look what a gift God gave us on March 8."

Ella Perseedoss Director says "Throughout my teenage years and into my university career, I continued serving with UCM in Ukraine, and came to realise that God had placed Ukraine deep in my heart, for reasons that I cannot explain except to know that it is from Him."

<https://www.ucm.org.uk/about-us>

Stewardship

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. (2 Corinthians 4:8-9 NIV)

As we watch the daily news unfold, it is difficult to get our heads around what is happening to a democratic country on our

European shores. The full-scale invasion of Russia into Ukraine has already caused devastating chaos to thousands of people who have lost their homes, their livelihoods and are now fleeing to the western edges and moving across international borders. Stewardship has been working hard to help and support our Christian partners who are working on the ground in Ukraine, many with local churches and field workers who are reaching out to those fleeing war and conflict. In times of huge uncertainty and turmoil, the Church offers Jesus' love and peace through practical help and a safe place of refuge.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea. (Psalm 46:1-2 NIV)

Here are some of Stewardship's Christian partners working in Ukraine:

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/stories/christian-charities-working-ukraine>

SAMARITAN'S PURSE HAS TEAMS ON THE GROUND TO HELP FLEEING UKRAINIANS.

UPDATE (6th March): The DC-8 landed safely in Poland and materials for the Emergency Field Hospital have been transported to Ukraine. The Samaritan's Purse team is now in the process of setting up the facility. Based on recent assessments, it has been decided to increase the capacity of our Ukraine field hospital. We are planning for two operating rooms, with capacity for 14 major surgeries or 30 minor surgeries per day. There will be four wards, with 50 inpatient beds, and an emergency room that handle 100 patients per day. Also included are four intensive care unit beds and four step-down beds. Additional equipment is scheduled to be flown to Poland and taken into Ukraine later this week. Click [here](#) for more information

Crisis in Ukraine

In the light of current events in Ukraine, David Kerrigan, author of *Prince of Peace in a World of Wars*, reflects on how Christians might respond to such shocking and alarming events...

What shall we do?

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' 1 Timothy 2:1–2

Last week the 44 million people of Ukraine saw their nation invaded by Russia. We need to let that sink in for a moment. This is close to home, in Europe, our own backyard, and the future is uncertain at best, appalling at worst.

Meanwhile, Christian people near and far pick up their Bible to read God's word as they often do. Some are Ukrainian. Some are Russian. Some are us.

This is the kind of moment the Swiss theologian Karl Barth had in mind when he famously said, 'We must hold the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. But interpret the newspaper through the Bible.'

So how do we begin that task of using the Bible to understand and complement the news from Ukraine, such that the proverbial newspaper, with its necessary but shocking descriptions of what is happening, is not the final word.

Perhaps we begin by refocusing.

When I open my Bible, I see much that teaches me how I should live my life. It encourages me to live with Jesus as my example, to love my neighbour, help the poor and to enable others to experience that same all-inclusive, grace-filled love of Christ that, many years ago, won my heart. Without this personal dimension to scripture, my life and the life of a billion others would be so much poorer.

But today, the news from Ukraine reminds me of a different way of seeing the same story. These same pages paint a broader canvas describing how the story of creation, fall, redemption and future hope also has implications for our communities and nations and those who lead them.

Today I encourage you to dust off this 'big-picture Bible' and think about the question 'What shall we then do?' in the light of this invasion.

Of course, that desire 'to do something' betrays my hubris and pride. After all, the truth is that I don't see a solution to the invasion of Ukraine, and that threatens to weaken my resolve even before I get started. I don't see the might of a powerful army being defeated. I can't see how the loss of life will be prevented. As a child of the 1950s, I wonder if the threat of war will spread. I feel helpless and hope-less, and I imagine many in Ukraine feel the same. A proud people brought to their knees.

Brought to their knees

Of course! Here is our place to begin. It's a hard place, for sure, and rarely a welcome place. But sometimes it's only when we hit rock bottom, with our human endeavours exhausted, that we place everything symbolically in God's hands.

And so, we must pray for Ukraine, not as a last resort but as a first one, with a Bible in our hand or our heart or our mind, for there we will see how God has met with us in such circumstances below.

We accept that we pray from a place of weakness but as a sign of our strong faith in God (2 Cor 12:9). And pray we will, for the protection of the Ukrainian people and for their well-being, that they will find the strength to stand as a people with hope in their hearts.

We'll pray that the Ukrainian church will be bold in its witness, calling the nation to find that hope – and comfort too – in the company of Jesus who said, '*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid*' (John 14:27).

And as well as praying for the 44 million, we will pray for the handful whose decisions can, under God's hand, find a way out of this crisis. Pray for them by name – the leaders of NATO, the 'kings and all those in authority' and their trusted advisors (1 Timothy 2:1–2).

And we won't skip this: we will pray for the enemies of the Ukrainian people as an act of love that Jesus commanded (Matthew 5:44).

Of course, our prayers will be peppered with the word peace, but enlarge that word too to embrace the richness of biblical peace – captured in the word shalom. A peace that, yes, will stop the violence, see invading armies withdraw and leaders sitting down to find diplomatic solutions.

But that's only the beginning. Whether its Ukraine or our own land or any other nation on the face of the earth, may we not stop praying when the crisis passes, but instead rediscover the wondrous height and depth and breadth of God's vision for a humanity experiencing true shalom:

'If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit. Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land. I will grant peace in the land, and you will lie down and no one will make you afraid. I will remove wild beasts from the land, and the sword will not pass through your country.'

Leviticus 26:3–6

Then and only then will we stop praying. Then and only then, Christ will return in glory!



Material sent to publicity@stalhambaptist.org.uk or telephoned to David Child on 07561603586 may be used in any of the church's print or electronic media.

Deadline for the Bulletin is Wednesday 7:00pm. Church Website: www.stalhambaptist.org.uk www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist

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