

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 10th April 2022

Palm Sunday

Sunday's "Live" Service:

Jerry is leading and is preaching from John 12: 12-19

"Behold your King!"

Sunday's online service: Pat is leading and Ron is preaching from Mark 10: 32-34, 11: 1-11 "Jerusalem here I come"

AGM 12 noon

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

1 Kings 11:29f, Zec 9:9, Ps 118:25f

For Your Prayers

Lord Jesus You were a refugee. Your family taking you to Egypt escaping death at the hands of Herod's soldiers. Currently in the UK 150,000 people have offered to house Ukrainian refugees but by Wednesday of last week only 2,700 refugees have been housed. Currently our government is contemplating flying all migrants landing in our country to Rwanda where they will have to applying for UK visas. We pray Lord You whose life was at risk and saved will give our government the wisdom to break through their political discussions, Lord give them the insight to learn from the 1930's when barriers were put in place for Jewish people fleeing the Nazi regime, as is reported in the Guardian in an article entitled "We have been here before" that only 70,000 made it to the safety of the UK but records show 500,000 were left behind in Europe.

We thank you in prayer Lord for our fellowship with Gunton Baptist Church on Saturday when Your spirit was with us, refreshing and uplifting all attending in a very special day.

Please pray that Easter Edition of Community Scene, now being delivered round the town, will be well received.

Please pray also for those waiting for routine operations and those who can wait hours for an ambulance and then have long delays at A&E on arrival.

Lord thankyou for your blessings of new people and holiday visitors coming to SBC regularly on Sundays.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Eiddwen Brace**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Sunday 3rd Julia posted "Hi. All. We are back from holiday. Now isolating for David's back procedure tomorrow. He is also due an endoscopy on Thursday as part of investigations for anaemia. Please pray all goes well this week. David has also been put on the waiting list for a pacemaker. For those of you who remember Steven and family, he is due to fly home from Cyprus tomorrow. Thank you all for your support and prayers. Julia x" Monday "Hi. Update, David has just phoned and he is all done! No hanging around today Jx" On Tuesday Jerry posted for Henry "Please pray for my oldest sister Doreen who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is having tests today to decide on treatment, thanks." On Wednesday Diana posted "Some of you will know Bao, the lady from Vietnam who attends SBC when she is visiting family here. She has obviously not been since the pandemic but often posts messages on SBC's Facebook and receives each week the news letter. She is requesting prayer for her younger sister, Mrs Chau, 67 years old who has a brain tumour. She was scheduled for surgery today but instead is having 5 days intensive treatment. Bao says to save her life. Thank you."

1 Timothy 6: 17-19 (MSG)

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.

As a Christian how do we challenge those who squirrel away their wealth in tax havens? Half of the world's net wealth belongs to the top 1%. We should challenge them as not only does this starve the poorest in our world but also starves the rich from eternal life.



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 11th April

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

10.30am in the Church

Prayers for young people

Tuesday 12th April

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 13th April

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

Thursday 14th April

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Details in online Diary

Friday 15th April

10.15am Prayers for Revival

Three Windows Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

7.00pm Good Friday Service

ALL WELCOME

Sunday 17th April

6.30am Sunrise Service

How Hill

7.30am Breakfast in the Stables

10.45am Easter Worship

Flowers: Easter

Friday 22nd April

6.30pm St Georges Meal and Quiz
in the Stables

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 are always in attendance.

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

AGM

Our AGM will be held on this Sunday at 12.00. As usual it will begin with the election of deacons. This year Elaine and Stewart have been nominated..

Sonrise Service

Everyone is welcome to the Sonrise service at How Hill on Easter Sunday at 6.30am.

The service is always very special with Christians from local churches coming to celebrate and worship the risen Christ. Currently the weather forecast is sunny intervals and a gentle breeze with a temperature around 8 degrees.

A breakfast is being prepared at the Stables for 7.30am.

To book a breakfast text Elaine on 07796875785 or email elainemsmith364@btinternet.com

Best Daff Season for SBC ever

This time last week (Thursday) £1051 of daffodils had been sold. On Thursday this week an amazing £1146 had been sold. (for Building Fund) Henry expects that next week will bring the daff season to a close. You can pick up the last few bunches at 50p each at Edna's or the Community Fridge.

A Big Thankyou

A big thankyou to all of the fellowship who attended the joint service on Saturday with Gunton BC.

A remarkable time sharing testimonies, socialising and eating together. We are all looking forward to a trip to Gunton later in the year.

Window Paintings

The paintings in church around the windows are a Lenten collection ... many inspired by God ... as a picture comes into my head in the middle of the night or as I wake in the morning ... God has pushed me out of my comfort zone and I have enjoyed the experience ... If for any reason one or more of the pictures speaks to you feel free to put your name on the back and after Lent is over, you can take it home. Please put a small donation into the church building fund ... Many thanks Lorraine.

Crowdfunding

Diana has set up a brilliant Crowdfunding site for the refurbishment of the Schoolroom. Crowdfunding makes it easy for people to help fund projects. Click [here](#) to see the website called "Our Space" Stalham Community. The Crowdfunding will hopefully work alongside our other activities and grant applications to complete the refurbishment of the schoolroom.

Birthday Scheme

A recent letter received from BMS showed that the Birthday Scheme raised a phenomenal £249,000 in 2021. A thank you card from Guinebor 11 hospital in Chad has been pinned to the noticeboard at the back of church containing handwritten notes and signatures from patients and staff for the life-saving work which they have been enabled to do. BMS have a new video resource. Their "Birthday Scheme Thank You" video transports you to the heart of Guinebor II hospital where you will meet its wonderful staff and patients and see the faces behind the signatures in the card. The video is free to download at www.bmsworldmission.org/birthdaythanks

If anyone would like to join the scheme please have a word with Jan Nicholson who will send you a lovely colourful card from BMS on your birthday with a donation envelope. Money raised through the scheme helps towards medical expenses in poorer countries around the world where BMS is involved.

6 mile Walk

The date for Barbara & Bennie and Henry's six mile walk to raise money for the refurbishment project will be announced soon as the daff season is coming to an end.

You can sponsor them by signing up on the list at the back of the church.

Empanda

If anyone would like to donate Easter goodies for the young people living temporarily in the flats at Empanda, please give to Jan Nicholson.

Prayers For Revival

Weekly prayer meeting held at Three Windows, Brumstead Road from 10.15am every Friday.

EBA Prayer Focus 10th April 2022 Trinity Free Church

Trinity Free church sits on the edge of the Oxmoor estate in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The minister is Rev Elaine Blundell, who leads a congregation of about 40 people. She says: 'We have been pleased to welcome several new folk to our number over the last few months.

'Throughout the Covid lockdowns we have been Zooming for services and other meetings, but now we are back to using our building and starting up midweek activities. During the period when the church was closed, we began to decorate the glass doors at the front of the church to remind people we were still here. This now seems to be an established pattern, our current decoration being sunflowers and flags to remember Ukraine.

'We are looking forward to continuing our Mission Consultancy with Rivertree (Rev Simon Goddard) and to begin to make more contacts with those who live in our immediate community. Our regular weekly Drop-in has got off to a wonderful start, with many new faces as well as those we

know from pre-covid times. We are soon to open up a Renew Wellbeing space – where it is ok to be not ok.

'We are also thrilled to be having two baptisms on Easter Sunday – even more cause for a joyful celebration!

'We are seeking God as we pray for our community, so that we see where He is already at work and be willing to follow.'

Please pray for:

- Our contact with our surrounding community.
- The setting up of the Renew Wellbeing space.
- The deepening of our discipleship and our walk with God.

Quotes of the Week

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." – *George Santayana, The Life of Reason, 1905.*

"The world has a ridiculously short attention span. It cannot stick to any one cause for more than a few days. They forgot about Palestine, they forgot about Afghanistan, they forgot about Jallianwala Bagh, and they'll soon forget about Ukraine as well. The world forgets, but the suffering of the people continues. Don't be that world my friend, be a better world, a civilized and responsible world, only then we'll be able to prevent another Palestine crisis, another Afghanistan crisis, another Ukraine crisis, otherwise these events will keep recurring until everybody is six feet under."

Abhijit Naskar,

As refugees we picked our way through the smouldering rubble of compassion, care and empathy the remnants of society's meltdown. The man asked "What's the time?" It seemed a strange question at that moment, as all around laid emotional chaos.

I enquired, "Why do you need to know?" Panicking, he replied, "My smart watch isn't working, and I don't know how far I have walked, and when my favourite reality TV show will be on." "Welcome to reality" I said and went on, "Keep walking your time is coming." *Franky Dilch*





Fear and uncertainty continue to reign in Afghanistan, six months after the Taliban takeover

It's now more than six months since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. Here is an insight into what daily life looks like in the country, and the latest ways you can pray for the country and its Christians.

While tens of thousands have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban took control of the country in August 2021, those who remain continue to watch, wait and suffer. The United Nations recently released a report which stated that 400 civilians have lost their lives since the Taliban takeover, and more than 80% of these have been killed from attacks linked to so-called Islamic State.

Disease, water shortages and job losses

"These days, there is relative peace, but uncertainty reigns in the hearts of people as the days unfold," shares Open Doors frontline partner Hana Nasri*.

"The economy is debt-ridden and completely dependent on foreign aid. Thousands have lost their jobs in the political upheaval.

"There's a huge humanitarian problem. A water problem. Large numbers of families are living together in hiding – when the electricity goes, when something is broken, families in hiding can't ask anyone to help with the repairs.

"The weather is also changing rapidly. We didn't have spring – it just went straight into summer. In this heat, there will be more cholera, dysentery, amoebas. There's a lot of disease, and now, it's not just Covid-related only. Things are expected to get worse when the heat escalates."

While some women in healthcare and essential services have been allowed to join the workforce, the majority are not allowed to work. The Taliban publicly shared that Afghan girls will be back to school by 21 March. Girls in grades one to six are indeed allowed to attend school under severe restrictions but, out on the ground, people know that this is religious education – a trusted contact calls it 'brainwashing to create informants for the future', saying 'a whole new system of indoctrination is now being used, and that girls in higher grades do not have the freedom to study'.

"We've been told a lot about women being stopped and abducted, not just believers," adds Hana Nasri. "It's happening to everyone. The door-to-door search is continuing. Intimidation is going on – any kind of religion in the country won't be tolerated."

How to keep praying for Afghanistan

"Please pray for those who have no access to jobs, that God will make a way for them to have an income to sustain their families. Pray that education will be freely available to all.

"Please especially pray for the women and marginalised communities. Please pray for people from ethnic minorities, that they can prosper and live freely in the nation. Many live in hiding for fear of being found out and killed. Please pray for those in positions of leadership, that God will open their eyes to see the truth and lead the nation with righteousness."

With their lives on hold, Afghan refugees ask, "Please don't forget us!"

Heavenly Father, provide food, water and jobs for those in need in Afghanistan. Bring peace to fearful hearts, and heal all those who are suffering from physical, emotional or spiritual wounds. We

especially lift to You those who are being marginalised – encourage them and provide opportunities for them to flourish in their God-given identities and callings. For all Afghans – be that in the country or elsewhere – may there be moments of joy and laughter amid the suffering and challenges. Amen.

**name changed for security reasons*



Secret believers in North Korea discovered and killed

North Korea is one of the most dangerous places in the world to follow Jesus. An Open Doors contact has now heard the tragic news that an underground church has been discovered, and all its members killed. Please keep praying for courageous believers following Jesus no matter the cost.

When Christians in North Korea meet to pray, they know it comes with enormous risk. Any gathering must be done in total secrecy. If it is discovered that they are Christians, they'll be killed or face indefinite periods in appalling labour camps. After many years as number one on the Open Doors World Watch List, North Korea is now number two – though persecution is worse than ever before.

Recently, Open Doors contacts heard from a reliable source the tragic news that several dozen North Korean believers in an underground church have been discovered, and have been executed. They have paid the ultimate cost for following Jesus – knowing that 'to live is Christ, and to die is gain' (Philippians 1:21).

A major sweep against the underground church

This persecution is part of a major sweep against underground Christians in an area of North Korea that we can't identify, as it wouldn't be safe to do so. These secret believers were gathered for a meeting and, once they began worshipping, security guards broke in and arrested everybody. Not only were these Christians executed, it is believed that over 100 members of their families have been rounded up and sent to political camps. It is a common fear tactic in North Korea to extend a punishment not just to the supposed culprit, but also their loved ones.

The source who spoke to Open Doors contacts believes that the information about the time and place of the underground meeting was deliberately leaked to the authorities.

In North Korea, where worshipping any god who isn't Kim Jong-Un is strictly forbidden, Christianity is considered a threat to the government and the Kim family. This has intensified recently, possibly to quell any rebellion caused by the Covid-19 crisis. The 'anti-reactionary thought law' was enacted in late 2020, and has tightened controls over external information (such as videos and radio broadcasts) and increased punishments for any perceived infringements. The law has made it even more difficult for underground church leaders and members to worship and pray together.

[Why is North Korea number two on the World Watch List?](#)

"He pours out His peace and joy"

Despite everything, our courageous church family in

North Korea continue to proclaim the eternal victory of the Lord Almighty. This is an excerpt from a secret letter, smuggled out of the country by an underground church leader:

"Just like the scripture, John 14:27, '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,' how worthy of thanks it is that God knows when we walk in the shadow of death and tribulation. That when we fall into fear, anxiety, worry and despair, He pours out His peace and joy, so that we can keep our body, hearts and spirits filled with peace and joy from the Kingdom of God."

Pray for our brave North Korean family

It's really hard to read stories like this. We can feel helpless, in the face of such extreme persecution. Open Doors secret networks in China are keeping tens of thousands of North Korea believers alive with aid, and other North Korean believers are supported at safe houses in China. The scale of the persecution facing North Korean Christians is hard to fathom, though. One of the most important things we can do is keep praying.

Please pray for persecuted Christians in North Korea, who are constantly at great risk of death. Please pray for underground believers when they try to live out the Word of God, pray in secret, read from scriptures, sing hymns, meet as small groups, or do anything in the name of Jesus – ask that God will carefully heed their voices, protect them from any outside attacks, and bless them, their families, their homes and their villages.

Please pray that God will strengthen their hearts, mend their souls, and provide everything they need so that they will experience overflowing joy and peace from God that the world cannot give. Please pray for North Korea as a whole – that the Lord will restore the country, the people 'will follow His degrees and be careful to keep His laws', and that 'they will be His people and He will be their God' (Ezekiel 11:20).

Dear Lord,

It is hard to conceive of the threat facing Your faithful children in North Korean – but thank You that You know and love them, and promise 'a gift the world cannot give' (John 14:27 NLT). Please pour out your peace and joy on the persecuted church in North Korea, strengthen and encourage those in labour and political camps, and bring justice to this nation. Amen

For more information about OpenDoors click [here](#)



St George's Meal and Quiz

Friday 22nd April

6.30pm at Stalham Baptist Church Stables

Ploughman's and Puds

Fun Quiz

**With picture quiz-multiple choice questions-
music intro round**

Prize for winning team

Book by emailing Elaine

elainesmith364@btinternet.com or

Text 07796875785

**Come and enjoy a fun
evening and help raise
money for refurbishment
of the schoolroom
project.**

**Donations
will be
appreciated
on the night**



Sonrise Service

Easter Sunday

Sunday 17th April 6.30am

Park in the How Hill Car park NR29 5PG

All welcome

Breakfast at SBC Stables at 7.30am

Book a breakfast

By emailing Elaine at

elainemsmith364@btinternet.com

or text Elaine on 07796875785



**“He Has Risen
Service”**

**at Stalham Baptist
Church at 10.45am**

**Followed by tea and
coffee in the Stables**