

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 24th April 2022

## Sunday's "Live" Service:

Barbara is leading and Jerry is preaching from Matthew 28: 16-20 "Go"

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

Ruth 1: 1-5 "How will we treat the stranger?"

This Sunday Ron is at Park Baptist Church Great Yarmouth



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.



### Ron's Reads

Ron's reads: Gn 12:3, Gn 6:1f, Jud 6:7f, Lk 2:1f, Gn 19:30f, Heb 13:2, Deut 10:19, Mt 25:35f

### For Your Prayers

During May please pray for the residents of Teresa Court Flats and Portafield.

Pray for all those who are growing anxious about their ability to survive in the coming months as the cost-of-leaving grows beyond their incomes.

Pray also that as SBC expands its work within the community volunteers will come forward so the projects enabling us to reach out demonstrating "Christianity in Action" can be grown.

Please pray that now we have come through the lockdowns we at SBC will see people coming forward in faith and being baptised.

Lord, give us the courage to stand up as Peter and John did when being interrogated by the Sanhedrin and as Christians challenge without fear leaders when they are working against what You want and often for their own political gain. Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered them, "What do you think is right? What would God want? Should we obey you or God?"

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Elinor Burdett**.

### Virtual Prayer Room

On Saturday 16th David posted Please pray for those at the Lighthouse Church in Durban that share sermons and have contributed to the Community Scene. Lynn Mathews emailed from Durban "The floods have been devastating for us in KwaZulu-Natal. We were flooded out in our rooms here at Taf ta, but after a sleepless night of mopping up, we are back to normal praise God. So sad, how many have lost their lives and homes and everything that they own, precious lives were lost. A grandmother, together with three young grandchildren died, as her car was swept off a bridge, incredibly sad, hundreds without electricity or food, cold and destitute. My heart is so aching for many. I ministered an easter message to the staff at Durban Spa this morning, the cleaning staff were hurting as their homes had been washed away, one lady was weeping. Thank you for your prayers David so many are needing help. God bless love and appreciate you and our SBC family in UK."

Also on Saturday Jerry posted "Please pray for Anna. She's got an infection that is causing her problems with breathing. She's on oxygen and has a feeding tube as she's been struggling to feed. She has tested negative for Covid."

### John 20: 24-29 (ERV) Jesus Appears to Thomas

<sup>24</sup> Thomas (called Didymus the twin) was one of the twelve, but he was not with the other followers when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> They told him, "We saw the Lord." Thomas said, "That's hard to believe. I will have to see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe it."

<sup>26</sup> A week later the followers were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop doubting and believe."

<sup>28</sup> Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

<sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "You believe because you see me. Great blessings belong to the people who believe without seeing me!"

*If one of the disciples doubted the Resurrection of Jesus until he had physically touched the Lord, how as Christians do we go about convincing those we meet that doubt or tell us that Jesus is only a myth that faith in Jesus will bring them salvation or do we just change subject?*

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon  
07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

### For your Diary

#### Monday 25th April

7.00pm Deacons Zoom Meeting

#### Tuesday 26th April

9.30am -12 in the Stables  
Coffee and Chat

#### Wednesday 27th April

9.30am -12 in the School Room  
Table Tennis

#### Thursday 28th April

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Details in online Diary

#### Friday 29th April

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

#### Sunday 1st May

10.45am Sunday Service  
Flowers: Eileen Neill

**David is away week beginning 25th April. Please send any articles for the Newsletter to Diana secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk**

### 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

### 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.**



## Has baptism been on your mind?

Believer's baptism is a very special moment on the journey of faith. It is a moment when God's presence and blessing meets us, and when we make our personal commitment of faith in Jesus as Lord.

It signifies the end of our old life and of being born again to new life in Christ. It speaks of repentance and cleansing, of being united with Christ in his death and resurrection, and of witnessing to the call of God upon our lives. Baptism is also about receiving God's

Spirit for service in the church and in the world. Please speak to Ron if baptism is on your mind.

### Tea & Coffee

Elaine will be restarting teas and coffee after the Sunday service shortly this was always an important social part of Sundays pre lockdown. If you could help every now and then have a chat with Elaine or email her at [elainemsmith364@btinternet.com](mailto:elainemsmith364@btinternet.com) or call her on 07796875785

### Donations

You will find a bag on the balustrades on the stage close to the exit door and a plate at the back of the church. Your contributions are always appreciated as we grow SBC.

If you would like to donate to SBC you can go online at <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/donate.php> where you will find details of how to pay by BAC's, SMS or debit or credit card. You can also put cash or cheques through Henry Nicholson's door at Three Windows Brumstead Road.

### Food Bank

During April, the following would be much appreciated: **Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Squash/Fruit Juice, Rice Pudding, Custard, Crisps, Instant Snacks – cuppa soup, pot noodle etc, Shampoo, Shower Gel, Laundry Liquid/Powder.**

### 6 mile Walk

The date for Barbara & Bennie and Henry's six mile walk will be the week beginning 24th April. There is still time if you wanted to sponsor them the money going to Building project. The sponsor form is at the back of the church.

### Prayers For Revival

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

## EBA Prayer Focus 24th April 2022 Maidstone Road Baptist Church

Maidstone Road Baptist Church are welcoming, friendly and generous hearted fellowship in the Walton area of Felixstowe. The town is home to Britain's largest container port, and is currently experiencing the start of an housing expansion, much of it within walking distance of the church.

The church is home to a strong Parish Nursing ministry, run in conjunction with two other neighbouring churches. The ministry has a Parish Nurse, a Parish Mental Health Nurse and a team of enthusiastic volunteers. Apart from individual help for clients with health issues, it has a chair-based exercise class, a "No Labels" group for those with mental health issues, and 'Fizzability' for disabled working age people. Walton is an

area of significant social as well as spiritual need, and since Covid regulations have eased, the church has begun a process of prayer and reflection as to how to address these challenges in new ways.

Additionally, the church's Pastor, Revd Mark Reid retires next year, so the church has begun the process of exploring its next steps. As part of this process the church recently committed to ten days of prayer.

Please pray for the following:

- For the church's existing ministry, especially Parish Nursing and its associated ministries, as well as the many clients that are being helped by the nursing staff and volunteers.
- For the challenge of reaching our new neighbours who will be moving into the new houses soon.
- For a clear vision as to the direction of the church's ministry, particularly as the church looks towards a new pastorate. What sort of church is God calling MRBC to be in the coming years and that it will be led to call a pastor that will fulfil the Lord's purposes for the church in the coming years.

### Messy Church

Next Messy Church planning meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2pm.

For more information ask Barbara or email her at [barbarageoff@gmail.com](mailto:barbarageoff@gmail.com)

### Quotes of the Week

"Nobody wants to leave their homeland illegally out of their heart's desire, they are compelled to do so as the last resort due to utter degradation of life there."

— Abhijit Naskar,

"An Immigrant's Plight (The Sonnet)

With hopes and dreams brimming in my heart,  
I have travelled across miles and miles.

A single desire for a flame of acceptance,  
Still burns bright in my heart's aisle.

You say home is where the heart is,  
But my heart is accused of difference.

Sometimes I'm accused of faith or race,

Other times they question my allegiance.

Amidst the illusive fog of colour and geography,

When did humanity cease mattering most!

Sentiments and dreams have no borders,

Character isn't exclusive to any single coast.

We've wasted enough time on labels and covers,

It's time to be family filling the world with colours."

— Abhijit Naskar, No Foreigner Only Family

"Before you hate refugees, remember that ideally, most people wish to live peacefully and with their dignity intact. Remember that many of these refugees would rather come to you as 'tourists' with cameras in their hands under much better circumstances rather than as people with no options but to put up with the hate and humiliation awaiting them in the often not so hospitable 'host' counties. Before you protest refugees, protest your governments that are either intervening militarily in their countries or arming different groups and factions in their territories to kill each other. The refugee crisis is a deeply political crisis for all actors involved. Before you go in the streets demanding 'no more refugees,' rest assured, that these people would never have chosen to come all the way here to take your menial job offers while see you protest their very human existence. Likewise, before you extend your benevolence to these refugees by 'tolerating' them, as if doing them a favor, remember, that you actually can really love them because there is so much you can learn from their stories. There is so much work that can be accomplished when you hold hands with these refugees towards mutual human goals." — Louis Yako



# DID YOU KNOW?

"The hymn Amazing Grace is performed around the world over 10 million times annually and appears on over 11,000 albums. It has been the anthem of the American slaves, was on Top of the Pops in 1969/70 when sung by Judy Collins and even popularised the bagpipes when played by the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards." Writes Ron Skivington.

## DO YOU KNOW its history?

John Newton, the hymn's writer, lost his mum when he was 7 years old and was taken to sea by his dad at 11 years, pressed into the Royal navy where he received 8 dozen lashes for trying to abscond. Later he sailed on slave ships and was abandoned by one crew off the West Coast of Africa where he became a slave himself until rescued.

In 1748 he was caught in a dreadful storm off Ireland for over a week and it was when lashed to the wheel, trying to hold a steady course, Newton began to recall scripture verses his mum had taught him, that he prayed, cargo shifted filling a hole that was leaking in water, and the ship drifted to safety. He saw this as God accepting him and his prayer and over time his life began to change, largely due to his reading of the Bible.

Formerly he was known as the Great Blasphemer due to his foul language, denial of God and general debauched lifestyle but gradually even though he continued to sail on, captain and own slave ships for several years he felt God calling him. A cruel and ruthless trader of human beings, Newton began to regret his involvement in the slave trade and was instrumental in encouraging William Wilberforce to pursue his quest to have slavery abolished which was passed by Parliament in 1807.

Newton wrote a pamphlet supporting the campaign, 'Thoughts upon the African Slave Trade', which was very influential. It graphically described the horrors of the Slave Trade and his role in it.

Newton was ordained into the Anglican priesthood in 1764 and served in the Buckinghamshire parish of Olney. So popular was his preaching that the church could not accommodate all those wishing to hear. He wrote the hymn Amazing Grace as an illustration for a sermon on God's grace.

Many will be familiar with the words:

***Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
was blind but now I see.***

Newton was seeking to express the wonder, the joy that became his as he understood God forgave him despite the life he had led for so many years and that if God could do it for him He can do it for anyone who asks. That simply put is the message and hope of Easter, God loves YOU so much that He became a man, lived on our earth what was a perfect life and yet was executed, unjustly in every human sense and died hanging on a cross. But 3 days later Jerusalem was alive with stories of Jesus's resurrection, over 500 people were able to testify that in the next few weeks they had seen, spoken to, shared meals with Jesus who was even more full of life, if that was possible, than He had been prior to his death.

Christians believe Jesus died to pay the price of our

wrongdoing, we all know we do wrong, and in so doing Jesus has taken away all barriers between us and God allowing us to experience an open phone line to heaven. It is not a relationship we instigate by any worth of our own it is all about God's gift to us, it's His Amazing Grace.

That's why Newton wrote what he did, it has become the hope and experience of countless millions worldwide and it can be yours this Easter too, just ask God "show me your Amazing Grace" and he will answer.

I think John Newton would have said "if Jesus can change me He can change anyone's life".

May this be the best Easter you have ever known by finding God's gift of life.

Source Community Scene Easter 2019

# A WILL THAT GAVE THEM THE HUMP

**Jesus often told stories or parables to teach people about how they should behave towards each other or toward God. Writes Jenny Payne.**

This story comes from the Middle East and is a sort of parable. I think it illustrates how Jesus wants us to be peacemakers.

Once upon a time there was a rich man who lived in the deserts of the Middle East. You could tell how rich he was because of the number of camels he owned. He was so rich that he owned not 2, not 4, not 8, not even 16 camels but 17 camels!

He led a peaceful and prosperous life and so when he was very old and near to death, he wrote his will, explaining how he intended to leave his wealth to his only son, his grandson and to his one nephew. In the will he stated that one half of his riches should go to his son, one third should go to his grandchild and one ninth of his wealth should go to his nephew.

This seemed very fair.

Soon after this, the rich man died. Now, when it came time to divide up the camels according to the will, the three relatives ran into a problem:

- \* If half the camels were given to the son, he should get eight and half , which would mean killing a camel!
- \* The grandson should get five and two thirds of the camels, which meant killing another camel!
- When it came to the nephew, another would have to be killed for him to get his share!

The three men became frustrated and soon got incredibly angry with one another. They shouted and quarreled and argued and even threatened to go to war over the camels for they all knew that camels were far too precious to kill. Secretly, they began stockpiling their weapons and plotting their battle campaigns. Now, nearby there lived a very poor man, you could tell he was poor because he only owned one camel. Although he was so poor and seemed to have no influence, he still felt he should do something to help. He wanted to stop war breaking out. He wanted to be a peacemaker, but what could he do?



He decided to offer his one and only camel, all that he owned, into the rich man's inheritance to help sort out the problem. It was a huge sacrifice.

So, the inheritance now consisted of 18 camels.

The three men sat down and did the sums again:

- Half of the 18 camels would go to the son, so he took 9 camels.
- One third of the 18 camels would go to the grandson, so he took 6 camels.
- And one ninth of the 18 would go to the nephew, so he got 2 camels.

To their great surprise, there was one camel left over, so the poor man received his camel back.

He had made peace between the men by his willingness to give up all he had and it made all the difference.

This story reminds me of what Jesus did for all mankind when He died on the cross so that our sins can be forgiven. Jesus became the peacemaker between us and God, enabling us to come to Him, receive forgiveness for our sins and to live in peace with Him.

Source Community Scene Easter 2021



dress like this, had the wrong body shape. I was forever being told I was a failure because I didn't subscribe to their product or just couldn't afford it.

In a way we end up with a materialistic faith that satisfaction comes solely from what we own, what we have harvested through want. But that faith can never be satisfied, it's designed not to. **There is no profit in "I have got all I need."** We need to be encouraged to keep wanting.

Still why worry, we are all in the same boat, it's the way of the world. There is no other path is there? I don't want to be judged by people who have better tech, clothes, house, and holidays etc. Social media can be a very judgmental format. I've got to keep striving to stay in the materialistic harvest.

When asked "Tell me about yourself" people will tell you about their job, what they own, where they live. But that's not the question. The question is telling me about you, what really matters to you. What satisfaction does your life give you?

Perhaps there is another path.

Franky Dilch wrote in The Long journey to Here. "Burdened with debt, racked by anxiety from another day striving to maintain my materialistic life style I spent the evening relaxing with a bottle of quality red wine, worshipping the TV celebrity idols and those of sport on my state of the art Samsung QE55Q9FN a snip at £2499. At the same time I used social media – checking for likes and to amaze my friends and family how great my life was and how happy I am. In truth often I'm not happy in fact more often than not. I'm always searching for something there's no satisfaction. That evening after a few more glasses of wine I wrote on the wall with a black marker pen, in anguish, **I must be worth more than this**, and in the calm soft quiet of that night a voice whispered to me, it was Jesus and I simply asked him to be part of my life. Now I am on a new voyage. Strange really, this journey I thought should have been more difficult. But it's not. Every march however long starts with one single step, they say, this was a big step for me, but easy. I always have a companion, sometimes as we walk I lag behind, He never complains. Other times I rush off in sheer excitement of some new challenge but He doesn't have me on a lead. He doesn't call or whistle to bring me back to follow passively at His heels, although I am never out of His sight. In a way I haven't changed that much as a person, except before I was often lonely, lost, bereft of spirit and crushed by servitude to want and desire. Now I am constantly loved and free. I never could get the writing off the wall so I covered it with a big sign that said Jesus is welcome here. "Total satisfaction."

**I have a lot to thank my mum and dad for, but mum would say to me quite often "Can't you take no for an answer?" I couldn't most of the time.** Nor will

Jesus. He will be there for you waiting for you to say yes. He won't turn away and forget you, so just say "Yes" to Jesus and no longer feel

**"I can't get no satisfaction."**

Source Community Scene 2018

## Can't Get No Satisfaction

**As a kid I liked the Rolling Stones. Why? Because my mum and dad were forever telling me how bad they were, scruffy, loud and worst of all, you can't hear the words. Obviously the more they disliked the Stones the more I liked them.**

This led to me feeling I had a deprived fatherhood. My sons, born in the 70s and 80s, liked the Beatles and Oasis, nice songs and you could hear all the words. I never had that fatherly experience my dad had of banging on their bedroom door yelling "Turn that down," of course interspersed with some descriptive language about the artists' quality. In fact I relived my teenage years when my boys and wife insisted I turned down Jimi Hendrix and Maria Callas. OK I have an eclectic taste in music though jazz is not my thing.

Getting back to my mum and dad it always seemed to be a problem when I played quite quietly, from my point of view, the Stones "I can't get no satisfaction" released in 1965 when I was 14. For them, not being able to hear the words or not wanting to, left them at a disadvantage. They had judged the message of the words from the title, and so they never listened. And they were very fond of telling me "You can't judge a book by its cover." Their thinking was it reflected the frustrations of my teenage years and they were right, but wrong.

**So why no satisfaction?**

Verse 1

When I'm driving in my car  
And that man comes on the radio  
And he's telling me more and more  
About some useless information  
Supposed to fire my imagination

Verse 2

When I'm watching my TV  
And that man comes on to tell me  
How white my shirts can be  
Well he can't be a man cause he doesn't smoke  
The same cigarettes as me

That's life according to advertising. I could never be a success if I didn't possess this, wasn't doing that, didn't

