

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 8th May 2022

Sunday's "Live" Service:

Diana is leading and Jerry is preaching from Matthew 16: 24 -26

"Deny Yourself, Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus"

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

Ruth 2: 1-12 "Be Kind to Strangers"



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

Deut 24:19-22, Jud 6:12, Ex 2, Esther 6, Ro 8:28

For Your Prayers

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

Please pray for those in our fellowship and community who are starting to feel the pressures of the cost-of-living crisis.

Pray for our leaders that they will focus on helping those who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis across the age spectrum.

Please pray also for those understandingly growing anxious about the rhetoric coming from Russia regarding nuclear war.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Greg Chapman**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday 3rd May Geoff posted "Morning all, Matt just phoned having dropped Emma at the hospital. Her op will be this afternoon and will include lymph node removal. Please keep Em, Matt and the girls in your prayers. Thank you."

Later that day Victoria posted "Thank you for your prayers. Just to let you know baby Ezra, Henry, David Nicholson (pictured right) was born yesterday (May 2nd) at 4.48pm weighing 7 pounds 8 oz. We are doing well and the girls are so in love with him."

Also on Tuesday Geoff updated Emma's situation "Thank you for your prayers, have just heard Emma is back into the ward. Sore but okay. Don't know more than that. Thanks again."



Acts 9: 10-19 (MSG) Saul is Baptised

¹⁰ There was a disciple in Damascus by the name of Ananias. The Master spoke to him in a vision: "Ananias."

"Yes, Master?" he answered.

¹¹⁻¹² "Get up and go over to Straight Avenue. Ask at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus. His name is Saul. He's there praying. He has just had a dream in which he saw a man named Ananias enter the house and lay hands on him so he could see again."

¹³⁻¹⁴ Ananias protested, "Master, you can't be serious. Everybody's talking about this man and the terrible things he's been doing, his reign of terror against your people in Jerusalem! And now he's shown up here with papers from the Chief Priest that give him license to do the same to us."

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ But the Master said, "Don't argue. Go! I have picked him as my personal representative to non-Jews and kings and Jews. And now I'm about to show him what he's in for—the hard suffering that goes with this job."

¹⁷⁻¹⁹ So Ananias went and found the house, placed his hands on blind Saul, and said, "Brother Saul, the Master sent me, the same Jesus you saw on your way here. He sent me so you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." No sooner were the words out of his mouth than something like scales fell from Saul's eyes—he could see again! He got to his feet, was baptised, and sat down with them to a hearty meal.

As a Christian how easy is it to accept without being judgemental people into a fellowship that have had difficult times and have been involved in wrong doing?

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.

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team:
The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 9th May

7.00pm Deacons Zoom Meeting

Tuesday 10th May

9.30am -12 in the Stables
Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 11th May

9.30am -12 in the School Room
Table Tennis

Thursday 12th May

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting
Details in online Diary

Friday 13th May

10.15 Prayer for Revival
Three Windows, Brumstead Road
1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 15th May

10.45am Sunday Service
12 noon short Church Meeting
Flowers: Monica Payne

Sunday 5th June

1.00pm in the Church
Jubilee Stalham Fringe

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

Special Church Meeting

We will be holding a brief special church meeting at 12.00pm on Sunday 15th May. A letter explaining reasons why will follow shortly.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As part of the Stalham Fringe Festival celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5th June starting at 1.00pm SBC will be hosting various singers and music groups including the Pan Afro Band and Drumming group and will holding a 30 minute service of thanksgiving for the life and reign of our Queen at 2.00pm. Refreshments will be available.

Jubilee Lunch

Elaine is organising a Jubilee Lunch on Thursday 2nd June at 12.30 pm. There will be an auction to raise money for the building fund including a quick quiz and a fun picture quiz. If you have anything that could be donated to the auction have a chat with Elaine or email her at

elainessmith364@btinternet.com or call her on 07796875785

Sponsored walk

Barbara and Ben Mixer did their sponsored walk last Saturday to raise money for the Building Fund. Thank you to all the folk that have sponsored them, could they hand the money to Barbara as soon as possible please so the money can be passed on to Stewart for the Building Found.

A Big Thank You

A big thank you to Diana who produced last week's newsletter.

Treasurers Report (Fund raising)

Please find below SBC's recent fund-raising events and donations

BMS Ukraine Appeal £1200.00 including a donation from church funds.

Gracie's crosses £130.00 (Building Fund).

Daffodil Sales £1173.70 (Building Fund).

Coffee morning £304.00 (Building Fund).

St Georges Quiz and Meal £231.50 (Building Fund).

Building Fund Total Raised £1839.20.

Well done and thank you to all who organised or took part.

EBA Prayer Focus 8th May 2022

Leigh Road Baptist Church

Leigh Road Baptist Church is based in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex and led by Minister and Team Leader Revd Andrew Cowley. Like most churches we are continuing to adapt as we seek to engage with members and our local community.

- We thank God for many new attendees at most of our gatherings and activities.
- Our 9am Sunday Gathering has given some the opportunity to gather in a smaller more contemplative context.
- Our 10.30am Sunday Gathering is also streamed and has proved to be a helpful gateway into church life and also a real support for those who are housebound, anxious or vulnerable.
- Our Easter children and families events have proved very popular.
- Our new activities in our community hub called "The Living Room" are being well received by all.
- Our partnership with "The Phabulous Cafe" continues to be fruitful.
- A highly dedicated staff team

Please pray for:

- Those who continue to be anxious about returning to church activities.
- Those who have become increasingly less mobile.

- The introduction of a wellness group in "The Living Room" after the Easter break.
- Those who are bereaved.
- Insight from the Holy Spirit especially for our leadership team.

Moving Forward After Covid

Teas & Coffees after the Sunday service: We re-started this on Easter Sunday and would like to continue, but we do need a few more willing hands to be able to do it every week. If you could help every now and then have a chat with Elaine or email her at elainessmith364@btinternet.com or call her on 07796875785

Sunday Service Offerings: From the 8th May we will restart taking up an offering during the service rather than using the donation bags and boxes. You can of course also 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.

Volunteers

SBC is shaking off the shackles of Covid and re-establishing many of the things we did pre Covid plus some new ideas but we need more volunteers to build all the new projects. If you can help occasionally have a chat with Ron, Barbara R or Elaine.

Quotes of the Week

"Please do not look only at the dark side

All the newspapers in the free world explain why you return, their readers understand how you feel

You have the sympathy of millions.

As a tribute to your sorrow we resolve to spend more money on nuclear weapons there is always a bright side.

If this were only a movie a boat would be available have you ever seen our movies they end happily.

You would lean at the rail with 'him' the sun would set on China kiss and fade.

You would marry one of the kind authorities

In our movies there is no law higher than love in real life duty is higher.

You would not want the authorities to neglect duty.

How do you like the image of the free world sorry you cannot stay.

This is the first and last time we will see you in our papers, When you are back home remember us we will be having a good time."

Thomas Merton, Selected Poems of Thomas Merton

No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark.

you only run for the border when you see the whole city running as well.

your neighbours running faster than you, the boy you went to school with who kissed you dizzy behind the old tin factory is holding a gun bigger than his body, you only leave home when home won't let you stay.

Home, by Warsan Shire (British-Somali poet)

"We hear so many promising headlines from our leaders regarding the numbers of refugees who are being helped to come to the UK from Ukraine, Afghanistan and those from Hong Kong who have British passports and can come here anyway unfortunately when the small print is scrutinised, we find "When all's said and done there is more said than done."

Franky Dilch



Challenging the patriarchy

Patriarchy is on the rise again and the church needs to resist this, writes Michael Shaw - we need to be on the forefront of instigating a Kingdom of God that is not based on gender, race, or physical ability

This is a tweet posted recently by Owen Strachan, an American “anti-woke” theologian.

Should women wear tight leggings in public? In my new podcast, I argue that godliness calls for women to pursue modesty, and men to kill their lusts.

Then we have the recent Sunday Mail story featuring Angela Rayner. (Accused of crossing and uncrossing her legs to distract Boris Johnson when he was speaking)

They both appeared recently, and they are connected. They are connected by patriarchy, patriarchy that has been rooted in our society and in all our institutions and especially in our churches.

Patriarchy is the oldest form of injustice, stretching back thousands of years. Just when you think it has been defeated, it rears its ugly head.

The story of creation in the Bible is often used to defend patriarchy, women are created from men, and even a few months ago an ex-church attendee said to me that God was male, because Adam was created in his image, he left the church when I corrected him (Adam doesn’t mean man but mankind), never to return!

Throughout the history of the church, women have often been in leadership positions, only to be forced back into their place. This cycle began within a few hundred years of Jesus’ death. Women took on key roles in the early church, which we see in Romans 16, with Phoebe, Junia and Priscilla, but within a few years, men reasserted their “roles”!

One of the key passages has always been Matthew 5:28-29, where Jesus says “*anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart*”. While the very early church saw this passage as placing the burden on men not to look lustfully, this was soon superseded by the onus on women to not dress seductively. The early church fathers, like Augustine, were quick to make this switch, mainly because, “they” could not be the problem. So in the early years of Christendom the image of Eve as the temptress was made popular, with Mary, virginal and therefore good, contrasted with the sexuality of Eve.

I live in Plymouth where last year an openly misogynistic man took to the streets, firstly shooting his mother, then shooting anyone who was near, in an act of terrorism not based on religious fundamentalism but based around misogyny. We are in dangerous times, where a

culture war is beginning, and many in the church, like Owen Strachan, are key players.

In America there is a growing rise in TheoBros on social media. These are men, often young men, sometimes pastors who are making more and more extreme content, especially podcasts, that are creating an image of Biblical Manhood and Biblical Womanhood at odds with the story or scripture and the words of Jesus. The church still mistrusts ideas of feminism, even though the core aims of feminism is equality, and weaponise a few verses in scripture to justify this position.

While this is happening in the USA, social media means that many of those ideas are crossing the channel, and the danger is that men will try to re-assert that power. The church needs to resist this: we need to be on the forefront of instigating a Kingdom of God, that is not based on gender, race or physical ability. The history of the church is that rather than offering a radical way of being human, we have fallen back into behaviours that look just like every other part of society. Rather than leading, the church has followed, but only through digging its heels in.

We need to be the ones who take Jesus seriously when he turns the world on its head, when he said, if you look at a woman lustfully, it is your problem not theirs! It is time to take Jesus’s words seriously on this issue!

Michael Shaw is the minister of Devonport Community Baptist Church, Plymouth
Source Baptist Times

Evil May Day

May 1st, 1517, saw a riot breakout in London the xenophobic rioters attacked Flemish refugees. Locals blamed them for taking their jobs and distorting their culture. The mob attacked the migrants with bricks, stones, boiling water, bats, and boots and looted their homes. Thomas More, then the city’s deputy sheriff, tried to reason with the crowd. William Shakespeare wrote a play in 1601 about the event including More’s speech to the rioters but it was banned as at the time French, Belgium and Netherland Huguenots asylum seekers were fleeing from their countries as they were being attacked and at times massacred by Catholics for their protestant beliefs and the situation was becoming inflamed, and the play may have incited riots in the UK.

US ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power used More’s speech as a part of a talk to the Lincoln Centre Global Exchange to champion refugees saying “The Thomas More speech to the crowd is relevant today “The ‘wretched strangers’ have changed of course, from the Lombards targeted in 1517 in those riots to the Huguenot refugees in Shakespeare’s time and to the Syrians, Iraqis, South Sudanese, Eritreans and others fleeing repressive governments of our time.”

The Book of Sir Thomas More, Act 2, Scene 4

*Grant them removed, and grant that this your noise
Hath chid (chide) down all the majesty of England;
Imagine that you see the wretched strangers,
Their babies at their backs and their poor luggage,
Plodding to the ports and coasts for transportation,
And that you sit as kings in your desires,
Authority quite silent by your brawl,
And you in ruff of your opinions clothed;
What had you got? I'll tell you: you had taught
How insolence and strong hand should prevail,
How order should be quelled; and by this pattern
Not one of you should live an aged man,
For other ruffians, as their fancies wrought,
With self same hand, self reasons, and self right,
Would shark on you, and men like ravenous fishes
Would feed on one another.
Say now the king
Should so much come too short of your great
trespass
As but to banish you, whither would you go?
What country, by the nature of your error,
Should give you harbour? go you to France or
Flanders,
To any German province, to Spain or Portugal,
Nay, any where that not adheres to England,
Why, you must needs be strangers: would you be
pleased
To find a nation of such barbarous temper,
That, breaking out in hideous violence,
Would not afford you an abode on earth,
Whet their detested knives against your throats,
Spurn you like dogs, and like as if that God
Owed not nor made not you, nor that the claimants
Were not all appropriate to your comforts,
But chartered unto them, what would you think
To be thus used? this is the strangers case;
And this your mountainish inhumanity.*

JJ Bola

JJ Bola was born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He migrated to London with his parents at the age of six.

Bola spent many years as a youth worker, working with young people with behavioural and mental health problems. He currently works for several projects to raise awareness about the human rights situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Poem Refuge

imagine how it feels to be chased out of home. to have your grip ripped. loosened from your fingertips something you so dearly held on to. like a lovers hand that slips when pulled away you are always reaching.

my father would speak of home. reaching. speaking of familiar faces. girl next door who would eventually grow up to be my mother. the fruit seller at the market. the lonely man at the top of the road who nobody spoke to. and our house at the bottom of the street lit up by a single flickering lamp where beyond was only darkness. there

they would sit and tell stories of monsters that lurked and came only at night to catch the children who sat and listened to stories of monsters that lurked. this is how they lived. each memory buried. an artefact left to be discovered by archaeologists. the last words on a dying family member's lips. this was sacred. not even monsters could taint it. but there were monsters that came during the day. monsters that tore families apart with their giant hands. and fingers that slept on triggers. the sound of gunshots ripping through the sky became familiar like the tapping of rain fall on a window sill. monster that would kill and hide behind speeches, suits and ties. monsters that would chase families away forcing them to leave everything behind. i remember when we first stepped off the plane. everything was foreign. unfamiliar. uninviting. even the air in my lungs left me short of breath. we came here to find refuge. they called us refugees so we hid ourselves in their language until we sounded just like them. changed the way we dressed to look just like them. made this our home until we lived just like them and began to speak of familiar faces. girl next door who would grow up to be a mother. the fruit seller at the market. the lonely man at the top of the road who nobody spoke to. and our house at the bottom of the street lit up by a single flickering lamp to keep away the darkness. there we would sit and watch police that lurked and came only at night to arrest the youths who sat and watched police that lurked and came only at night. this is how we lived. i remember one day i heard them say to me *they come here to take our jobs they need to go back to where they came from* not knowing that i was one of the ones who came. i told them that a refugee is simply someone who is trying to make a home. so next time when you go home, tuck your children in and kiss your families goodnight be glad that the monsters never came for you. in their suits and ties. never came for you. in the newspapers with the media lies. never came for you. that you are not despised. and know that deep inside the hearts of each and every one of us we are all always reaching for a place that we can call *home*.

Watch JJ Bola perform his poem <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3dgPtyQ3PI>
Source: JJ Bola, published in his collection of poems 'Word'.

