

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 29th May 2022

Sunday's "Live" Service:

Ron is leading and is preaching from Luke 24: 50 - 1, Acts 1: 1-3, 9-11

"An important story"

Sunday's online service: Diana is leading and Jerry is preaching from

Ruth 3:6-14 "Sheltering under God's wing"

Tea & Coffee will be available in the Stables after the service

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.



Structure of Jerry's talk: From verses 6-14, and in this passage, we notice three things:

1) Ruth's Resolve (v 6-7), 2) Ruth's Request (v 8-9), 3) Boaz's Response (v 10-14).

## Jerry's Reads

Deut 25:5-10, Psalms 17:8; 36:7; 57:1; 61:4; 63:7; 91:4, Ezekiel 16:8, Philippians 1:6, Hebrews 13:6.

## For Your Prayers

During June please pray for the residents of St Mary's Road and Brecklands. Pray that the celebrations for Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee will be successful in Stalham and blessed with good weather, also pray for Di Cornell who has organised the Fringe Festival in Stalham High Street this Sunday with great enthusiasm and drive. Pray for our Government that they will be able to focus on helping those struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Also pray that SBC can continue to support those in the community struggling with the current situation and those who are anxious with the difficulties they can see coming towards them.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Esther and Paul Curston.**

## Virtual Prayer Room

**On Saturday 21st May** Lorraine posted "Please can you pray for my mum, she has hyperactive delirium and this causes her great agitation and results in constant falls, her body is very bruised. Thank you." **On Sunday 22nd** David posted "Please pray for those of the Lighthouse Church Durban SA who have been hit by another horrendous rain storm resulting in 18 areas in KwaZulu-Natal given level 10 weather warnings and people being evacuated. They have cancelled today's service as people are told to stay indoors as travelling is dangerous because of flood water."

Also on Sunday Geoff posted "Update on Emma. Not expecting to see the surgeon for another month for a report, meanwhile this past week she has had a wound dressing with nurses, physio session + new exercises to do and meeting to make appointments for more precautionary bone and blood tests + a CT scan in the coming week. Thanks for your support, please keep her in your prayers that nothing else is found." **On Tuesday 24th** Julia posted "Thank you for your prayers. We got home about an hour ago. David is tired and sore, but all went well today. Jx"

**To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the power of prayer text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone.**

## Luke 14: 15-24 (MSG) Story of the Dinner Party

<sup>11-13</sup> Scripture reassures us, "No one who trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it." It's exactly the same no matter what a person's religious background may be: the same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. "Everyone who calls, 'Help, God!' gets help."

<sup>14-17</sup> But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That's why Scripture exclaims,

A sight to take your breath away! Grand processions of people telling all the good things of God!

But not everybody is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: "Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?" The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to.

*As Christians how easy is it to talk about Christ's Words? How easy is it to demonstrate Christianity in action? How easy is it to bask in God's love and only share your joy with the Christians around you?*

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 30th May

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

### Tuesday 31st May

9.30am -12 in the Stables  
Coffee and Chat

### Wednesday 1st June

9.30am -12 in the School Room  
Table Tennis

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Details in online Diary

### Thursday 2nd June

12.30pm in the Stables  
Jubilee Lunch

### Friday 3rd June

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

### Sunday 5th June

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Susannah Peg

1.00pm in the Church

Jubilee Stalham Fringe

2.00pm Thanksgiving Service

### Wednesday June 15th

1.00pm Funeral service for Geoff Gales

## 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 is 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](mailto:@stalhambaptist.org.uk)

## Community Fridge in the Stables

Open Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm  
Tuesday & Wed 10.00am to 12 noon

## Big Thank You

A big thank you to Tesco's who continue to donate large amounts of food to the Community Fridge and the Foodbank. Also a big thank you to Boots who recently donated nappies and sanitary products to the Foodbank and to Trisha of the Cambridge Community Service who donated to SBC sanitisers and masks.

## Messy Church

Our first Messy Church "Lost...and found" will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 3.15 to 5pm. Its free with fun activities and celebration in the church for all ages from tinies upwards – all children will need an accompanying adult - finishing with a barbeque in the car park.

Everyone welcome – for more information or to offer to help, contact Barbara: [barbarageoff@gmail.com](mailto:barbarageoff@gmail.com) or 01692672120

## Another Big Thank You

A big thank you to Elaine and Maggie who raised £250 for the Building Found last Saturday with a Table Top Sale in SBC's car park.

## The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Service

Ron will be holding a service at 2.00pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her service to the UK. During the afternoon SBC will be supporting the Jubilee Stalham Fringe event brilliantly organised by Di Cornell for the Stalham Business Forum by hosting at 1.00pm Gary Williams singer and guitarist at 2.45 the Pan Afro Band and at 3.45 the Walcott Warblers. Refreshments will be available.

## SBC Car Park

Elaine and her team are providing refreshments in the SBC car park for the Queen's Jubilee 5th June. It would be helpful if those using the car park on that Sunday would move their cars by 12.30pm so Elaine could set up the tables and chairs before 1.00pm.

## SBC Update

Going forward: Refreshments after the service will again become a regular event after the service in the Stables.

The deacons also have made the decision that wearing of masks in church will become a matter for personal discretion.

## Car Treasure Hunt

Fundraising for the refurbishment. £5.00 per person (or more if you feel generous) Cars gather at SBC car park 12.30pm Saturday 11th June where clue sheets will be given out. Finish at Ruston House for afternoon tea. Please book your place with Diana.

## Community Fridge & Foodbank

The Foodbank will be open on Friday 3rd June, but the Community Fridge will be closed on Thursday June 2nd and Friday 3rd

## EBA Prayer Focus 29th May 2022 Disability Justice Issues

As part of an occasional series the EBA Justice Transformation Group have asked that the prayer focus this week looks at the subject of disability and how we relate to disabled people within our churches. Disability covers a wide range of issues that affect different people. Some are visible and others are invisible. They include mental health issues as well as physical problems such as hearing loss, visual impairment and mobility issues. Some concerns are hereditary, and others often come with advancing years.

Within our own church communities and fellowships there are many people who have their own disability concerns. It is so important that we don't stereotype anyone but need to treat them as valued individuals. We may need to take extra time to understand their

specific needs and requirements and be patient with them, trying to communicate in a relaxed and empathetic way. And we should value the talents and inspiration that many people with disabilities bring to the life of our churches.

Ben Plant, Church Leader at Framlingham Community Baptist Church and member of the EBA Justice Transformation Group who himself has cerebral palsy says "I think it is so important that the church embraces and values those with disabilities and recognises their talents and fully uses them to help grow the kingdom of God".

### • Please pray

For a better understanding of people coming into church who have disability issues and greater empathy for their situation, needs and requirements.

- That we will actively look for opportunities to assist those people who need extra help.
- That people with disabilities are encouraged to take part in services and other activities and invited to step-up to active roles and involvement in our churches.
- That people would be encouraged to overcome pre-conceived ideas and recognise the gifts and talents of those with disabilities and illnesses.

## Foodbank

During May, the following would be much appreciated: Cereal, Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Fruit, Pasta Sauce, Squash/Fruit Juice, Rice Pudding, Custard, Tea, Laundry Liquid/Powder.

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

## Volunteers Thankyou

SBC is blessed with many volunteers and a big thankyou to all of them they have done so much to take the Church forward but as SBC is shaking off the shackles of Covid and re-establishing many of the things we did pre Covid plus some new ideas we need more volunteers to build all the new projects and show Christianity in action. If you can help occasionally have a chat with Ron, Barbara R or Elaine.

## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"The will of God is not a Cafeteria where we can pick and choose what we want. God expects us to accept all his plans for us and obey him completely. Coming to God with hidden agendas and reservations in our hearts will only lead to grieving the spirit and missing God's best."--Warren Wiersbe.

"God is not an employer looking for employees. He is an Eagle looking for people who will take refuge under his wings. He is looking for people who will leave father and mother and homeland or anything else that may hold us back from a life of love under the wings of Jesus."-- John Piper

There are no 'ifs' in God's Kingdom. His timing is perfect. His will is our hiding place. Lord Jesus, keep me in Your will! Don't let me go mad by poking about outside it."— Corrie ten Boom

"The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."--Timothy Keller

"There is something you can't fix, can't heal, or can't escape, and all you can do is trust God. Finding ultimate refuge in God means you become so immersed in his presence, so convinced of his goodness, so devoted to his lordship that you find even the cave is a perfectly safe place to be because he is there with you."— John Ortberg



## Thought For The Week

One basic human need is to be appreciated. We all think wonderful things about people but not always tell them. Praise only becomes valuable when you impart it.

Tell, text or email one church member today and express how much you appreciate them or how much you appreciate the work they do for God.

TRY IT THIS SUNDAY

# (When) Thou shalt be angry

20 MAY 2022

*Jonathan Romain explores the part played by fury in faith*

WE ARE living in a very angry society. Anger fuels many of the posts on social media, while fear of the anger that any responses might provoke inhibits many from replying, or even initiating their own posts.

Ask most people which are the sayings that they most associate with religion, and they will probably reply “Love your neighbour as yourself,” or “Turn the other cheek.” For them, Christianity is about selflessness, while the ideal person is meek and mild. It will come as a shock to them – though not to those more familiar with biblical texts – that alongside the love is a large amount of anger. Some of it is, unfortunately, part of human nature when people fall out, as in the example of Cain and Abel. But, whereas this and other instances can easily be condemned as the result of pettiness, greed, or miscommunication, much more challenging is the righteous anger that often blazes forth.

This is particularly the case in the prophetic literature, where there is a constant cry that moral values are being ignored. Isaiah and Jeremiah lead the Angry Brigade, lambasting those who oppress weaker members of society. The incandescent rant in Isaiah 1.11-13 is strikingly relevant to today’s ills. To translate it colloquially: “I am sick of your false piety. . . I am fed up with your public displays. . . Don’t bother keeping up the pretence. . . I am blocking my ears to your so-called prayers.” Jeremiah’s fury can be equally excoriating (7.33, 30.23-4).

ISAIAH’s tirade concludes by urging his listeners, then and now, to make positive action the key measure of how religious they are: “Learn to do well, pursue justice, support the oppressed.”

**This also provides an answer to the age-old question whether religion and politics should mix. Whereas some, both lay and ordained, are adamant that they should not, biblical precedent suggests that they can – and, indeed, should – mix.**

Faith cannot be limited to talking about flower arrangements or the Sunday fete. Isaiah (1.23), Amos (5.7, 10-11, 8.4-6), and others all thundered against the social injustices of their time. They exposed the shortcomings of the political hierarchy, criticised the corruption of the business community, and castigated those who trampled on the rights of others. Similarly, Jeremiah berated those who “sell the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of shoes” (2.7). In this light, the command to “let justice roll down like water and righteous as an everlasting stream” (Amos 5.24) is a direct prescription for political and social activity.

A BAN on politics would mean that the clergy did not speak out on current issues that affect the way we live, such as climate change, racism, homelessness, and fair trade. Clergy do not have a monopoly on ethical sensitivities, but nor do politicians, and, while neither should dominate the debate, neither should be silenced. The only caveat is that the clergy should not go in for *party* politics and push the manifesto of one particular party. It means that, whether or not you agree with what the Archbishop of Canterbury said over Easter about plans to send illegal immigrants to Rwanda, he surely had the right to say it (and others had equal right to answer back).

**Turning the other cheek is fine for hurts against oneself, but not for those against others. To quote the once popular car-bumper sticker, “If you aren’t angry, you aren’t paying attention.” The ills and fault-lines around us cry out for a religious response.**

Caution is necessary, however. There is a danger that holy fury can be self-indulgent, a personal bleat rather than a justified concern. In addition, it is all too easy to ascribe one’s own agenda to God, and harm others in the process. We need the capacity to distinguish between righteous anger and narcissistic rage: only the former is in line with the prophetic voices of old. It is the difference between cold anger – the type of anger, born of moral imperatives, that propels us to fight for social justice – and hot anger, a self-centred response that can paralyse us and consume us from the inside.

The most intriguing question is whether God gets angry. In the Bible, the answer is Yes – often! Sometimes, it is with individuals; at others, from the days of Noah onwards, it is with the people as a whole. In fact, if Psalm 7.12 is to be believed, “God is angry every day” (given the many evils in the world, that is not surprising). The references are plentiful and back the claim of the Psalmist: Moses warns the people to behave well “lest the anger of the Lord be kindled against you” (Deuteronomy 17.11), which God then echoes (31.17), and Joshua later reinforces (23.16).

It is clear that these cautions were not heeded in the time of the Judges (2.13, 20, 3.8, 10.7); Isaiah provides graphic details of the divine rage (5.25), as do Amos (8.9-10) and Micah (5.14). Eventually, severe misdemeanours provoke God’s wrath to the point of using the Babylonians to destroy Jerusalem, and Lamentations bewails “how the Lord in his anger has set the daughters under a cloud” (2.1, 4).

This holds a practical question for you and me: if we are created in the image of God and aspire to *imitatio Dei*, what implications does that have for us? Is it good to be angry on a daily basis?

What distinguishes divine anger is its cause: grief for those being hurt. That should be the litmus test for us: is our anger the result of compassion for others and how they have been treated, or is it a selfish

anger arising from what has been done to us, and how we feel slighted? But there can be no doubt that today's faithful should regularly be lifting up their voices in anger and railing against contemporary evils, whether online abuse, social exclusion, or international conflict – and whatever else they are sure makes God angry, too.

*Dr Jonathan Romain is Rabbi of Maidenhead Synagogue, a writer, and the editor of What Makes Me Angry, published by Reform Judaism at £9.99. Copies are available from Marcia Singer at [msinger@rjuk.org](mailto:msinger@rjuk.org).*

**Source Church times**

## Crazy About Horses Finding courage to overcome bullying

*'Isabel stands in the place of all young people as she comes face to face with wounds from her past, deep rejection issues and fears for her future. It is a great book for teenagers and has a "rooted in reality" message of hope that is so desperately needed today.'*

**Tracy Williamson, Author and Speaker, MBM Trust** Research from the Anti-Bullying Alliance reveals that one in four children report being bullied 'a lot or always'. Such trauma can cause long-term damage to a child's confidence and well-being. But one source of therapy that has been found to make a difference is working with horses.

In Patrick Coghlan's new YA novel, *Crazy About Horses*, we meet eighteen-year-old Isabel, a young woman who has experienced significant bullying in her past but found comfort and healing working at a local equestrian centre and stud farm. As we see Isabella interact with the horses, we learn about the animals and how they can be powerful therapeutic aids, giving her growing confidence to face up to bullies in the past and present.

An experienced riding instructor and one-time riding school owner, Patrick Coghlan's love of horses is infectious, and his rich knowledge of them lends authenticity and depth to the story. Working as a minister and counsellor, with more than forty books to his name, he is also well placed to address the challenges and questions that the themes of *Crazy About Horses* – bullying, bereavement and family separation – present. As he says, 'My hope is that *Crazy About Horses* will encourage readers to discover for themselves the joy of horses, but also the strength, healing and hope of being in a relationship with God.'

Isabel has always been crazy about horses, and now, with her friend and boss Karen, she is fulfilling her dream of working with them. But when an unexpected death threatens their North Norfolk stud centre, it seems her dream may become a nightmare. Intimidated by a ruthless developer and

his sinister agents, Isabel must find the courage to confront bullies in the present and overcome fears of them from her past. Karen's estranged and eccentric aunt could offer hope, but how can Isabel help heal their family rift when her

own parents no longer speak to her? As the plot progresses, Isabel grows in confidence and, determined not to give up, finds increasing strength in her nascent faith.

Young people face many challenges today, not least bullying of them or those they know. *Crazy About Horses* is a book to educate about the impact of such behaviour, and a delight for anyone interested in all things equine!

### Bio

Patrick Coghlan is passionate about horses and once ran his own riding school. Based in North Norfolk, he now works as a minister and counsellor, and has published forty titles, ranging from children's fiction to books dealing with depression, trauma, living with dementia and more. He is married to June and has two adult children.

*Crazy About Horses* by Patrick Coghlan (ISBN: 9781912726561) is published by Instant Apostle and is available on 20th May 2022 from bookshops and online retailers. YA Fiction, paperback, 208pp, £8.99. For more information email Patrick at

[patrick@acsmail.net](mailto:patrick@acsmail.net)

Patrick Coghlan pictured above is a Pastor at Worstead Baptist Church and has contributed to the Community Scene with an article in the Harvest edition 2021 about anxiety and depression entitled

### THEY CALL ME THE 'MOTORCYCLING REVEREND'

Click [here](#) to find that edition

For more information about bullying click on the website below.

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/all-about-bullying/>

Equine Pathways UK is a Leeds based equine therapy organisation, offering sessions to children and adults suffering with mental disorders and impairments. They state "Our centre users range from children struggling with bullying, autism and learning difficulties; to adults battling depression and overcoming other stressful illnesses."

For further information click on website below.

<http://equinepathways.co.uk/#findingyourway>

