

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 19th June 2022

Sunday's "Live" Service:

Ron is leading and is preaching from Galatians 3: 26 - 4: 7

"We are heirs"

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

Ruth 4:1-12 "The Engagement"

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 25:5-10, Mt 3:11, Lev 25:15, Gn 38,

For Your Prayers

During June please pray for the residents of St Mary's Road and Brecklands.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Tanya Diggins**.

Pray for Christians in Parliament

Pray for politics of wisdom, integrity, self-sacrifice and policymaking for the good of all.

Pray for effective and gracious Christian presence and influence in political debate.

Pray for the wise explanation of God's truth in the public square.

Pray that the wisdom of the Bible would be listened to in what it says about human flourishing across all policy areas.

Pray that the Christian groups in each of the main parties would grow in influence and the positive contribution that they can make.

Pray for wisdom for the Queen, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.

Pray for integrity, truth and compassion throughout Government.

Pray for the positive influence of God's people for the good of all throughout all Government departments.

Pray that the UK Government would be a strong force for good in foreign policy and bringing relief to those suffering throughout the world.

Pray for greater Christian engagement in local and national politics and that churches will effectively support and encourage those who feel called to serve God in politics.

Pray for good relationships between churches and their local MPs and those churches will seek ways in which they can support MPs in serving their communities.

Source Pray - Christians in Parliament <https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/>

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 10th June Doreen posted "Please could you pray that the surgeons are able to do my operation by key hole as they are concerned they may have to convert to open surgery. They are going to attempt key hole first." Later that day Doreen posted "They managed key hole, now to recover." Also on Friday David posted "Please pray for Flicka Henwood who had a fall today and is in N&N hospital and is undergoing tests."

On Saturday 11th Geoff posted "Update on Emma... She is doing okay with the healing and physio she has do daily. She had blood tests, bone scan & CT scan last week.

They have been told blood and bone scan look good but there is something to check on the CT so an MRI scan will be done soon to check. Thank you for your prayers, please keep praying that the MRI will happen soon and that that will clear any possible issues on CT. Thanks again, bless you all for your support. Love B&G and family."

On Thursday 16th David posted "Please continue to pray for Flicka Henwood she has been moved to Norfolk Community Health Care. Flicka is in her 90s and has been a long time servant of St Mary's Church in Stalham and of the Stalham community." Later that day Magdalena posted "And let's pray for today's Messy Church, may God bless it."

1 Corinthians 2: 6-16 (MSG) God's Wisdom Revealed by the Spirit

⁶⁻¹⁰ We, of course, have plenty of wisdom to pass on to you once you get your feet on firm spiritual ground, but it's not popular wisdom, the fashionable wisdom of high-priced experts that will be out-of-date in a year or so. God's wisdom is something mysterious that goes deep into the interior of his purposes. You don't find it lying around on the surface. It's not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us, long before we ever arrived on the scene. The experts of our day haven't a clue about what this eternal plan is. If they had, they wouldn't have killed the Master of the God-designed life on a cross.

As Christians we are blessed with the wisdom of the Spirit but at times how easy is it for us to get sucked into almost worshiping celebrities, sports stars or our favourite member of the royal family? How easy is it also to be swept along on the tide of judgemental condemnation of people in our country and around the world?



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 20th June

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday 21st June

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 22nd June

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

Thursday 23rd June

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Details in online Diary

Friday 24th June

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 26th June

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Janet Nicholson

Saturday 12th July

11.00 to 4.00pm Table Top Sale

At Edna's house and garden

"Eureka" St Johns Road Stalham.

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

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.

Bowls Players Needed For Fund Raising

SBC is playing against Stalham Bowls Club on Wednesday 29th June at 2.00pm to raise money for the Building Fund. If you have ever played bowls or like to give it a go to raise money for the schoolroom project contact David on 07561 603586 or email childdfc@outlook.com.

There will be a raffle and refreshments for supporters. You will find the bowls club behind the Grebe in Stalham High Street in Bank Street NR12 9BB.

There is a sheet at the back of the church if you would like to sponsor the team from SBC playing SBC.

Edna's Table Top Sale

On Saturday July 12th, 11am to 4pm Edna is hosting a Table Top Yard Sale in her house and garden "Eureka" St Johns Road Stalham to support SBC Building fund.

Lots of fun with General Stalls, Cake Stall, Plant Stall, many more and Refreshments. You book a table for £5 by phoning Edna on 01692-582633.

Big Thank You

A big thank you to all those who took part in the Car Treasure Hunt and Afternoon Tea brilliantly organised by Diana and Greg. The event raised £235 for the Building Fund.

EBA Prayer Focus 19th June 2022

North Springfield Baptist Church

NSBC is a small church at the top of Chelmsford serving an established estate of 5,000 homes and over 2,000 more built in the last few years.

During lockdowns they immediately moved their two Sunday services and weekly midweek Draw Near To God prayer meeting on to Zoom. These have now resumed in person in the church building but are all "fully hybrid" with remote participants appearing on the screen as they take part over Zoom from their homes. Toddler Group, Kraft Klub, Drop In and Home Groups are now all meeting in person too.

For prayer:

- For wisdom in developing the "virtual" aspects of the fellowship and ministry as livestreamed services and sermon recordings continue to prove popular on Facebook and YouTube.
- After seven years of planning and fundraising, building work is finally under way for a small extension adding improved
- toilets and a meeting room. Prayers that this will be completed on budget by the summer.
- The minister, Rev Peter Thomas, will be retiring towards the end of the year so prayers for the Pastoral Vacancy and guidance for the future.

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.

Messy Church 16th June

Today 20 families [59 people in total] came to SBC for our first Messy Church. Badges, Lego models and sheep collages were made, games were played, pictures coloured, puzzles completed and biscuits iced ...it was a busy afternoon, including a video story about the good shepherd searching for the lost sheep and a song that reminded us "Jesus gives us hope for each new day" ...after which we ate the delicious food from the barbeque.

It was good to get to know new folks from our local area and to work as an SBC/St. Mary's team- well done to all the helpers - I daren't pick out anyone on their own, but the sausages were superb!

Please:

- Thank God with us for a successful start to Messy Church and the connections we made.
- Pray for the preparations for our next Messy Church [probably 21st July]
- Think about joining us if you like chatting and meeting new folks.

Amazon Smile

Stalham Baptist Church is enrolled with the Amazon Smile Programme and can receive donations of 0.5% of any of your eligible purchases at no cost to you.

All you need to do is ensure you order through Amazon Smile. You can access Amazon Smile through your regular Amazon Account and you will find Stalham Baptist Church on the drop down link of enrolled charities, or you can go direct through the following link: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1192914-0>

For more information have a chat with Diana or Greg.

Quotes of the Week

"We must not offer people a system of redemption, a set of insights and principles. We offer people a Redeemer."

— Paul David Tripp, Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands:

"By this time a lot of men and women of doubtful reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled, 'He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.'" I love that translation. He wasn't just tolerating the people of doubtful reputation; He was treating them like old friends!"

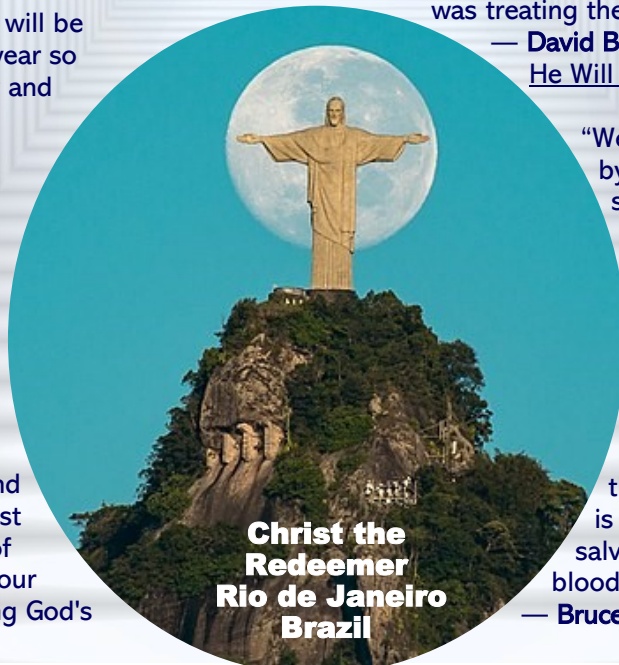
— David Butler, Redeemer: Who He Is and Who He Will Always Be

"We are all sinners who have been saved by Grace. We have not been saved from sinning, but we have been redeemed despite it". ~ R. Alan Woods [2012]"

— R. Alan Woods

"I am one of his witnesses, and in a coming day I shall feel the nail marks in his hands and in his feet and shall wet his feet with my tears. But I shall not know any better than I know now that He is God's Almighty Son, that he is our Saviour and Redeemer, and that salvation comes in and through his atoning blood and in no other way."

— Bruce R. McConkie



Christ the Redeemer
Rio de Janeiro
Brazil

Why I do not support the Rwanda asylum plan

The policy to send asylum seekers to Rwanda really is 'the opposite of the nature of God', writes Wale Hudson-Roberts for the Baptist Times.

Why on earth would the British government unveil a controversial plan to send asylum seekers on a one-way ticket to Rwanda (3,700 miles away)?

Boris Johnson recently declared that anyone who has entered the United Kingdom since the start of the year 'may' be relocated to the country in central-east Africa. The facts are the British government will screen asylum seekers after arriving at the UK, provide their personal information to the Rwandan officials ahead of their departure to Kigali, and the Rwandan government will settle the successful applicants in Rwanda. Asylum seekers unsuccessful with their claims will be forced to return to their country of origin or another country where they have the right to reside.

The British government's commitment to pro-Brexit voters to curb unprecedented levels of asylum claims is a factor behind this partnership. In 2020, a total of 8,417 people crossed the Channel in boats. Figures compiled by the BBC reveal that at least 28,431 migrants made the perilous journey in 2021, despite extraordinary investment in France by the UK government to prevent the journeys. It is no wonder Boris is keen to stand by his promise to the voters and get the migration figures down, come what may.

However, these figures, which do not include 2022, tell a heart-breaking story.

Asylum seekers from Syria, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan are desperate to flee their homeland because of the intersect between war, famine, and persecution. Exodus is at the very heart of this story as push and pull factors force people to abandon their communities and their loved ones for unfamiliar terrain. These figures reiterate the pain of exclusion and the human cry for inclusion and safety.

It is for this reason that I stand with the chorus of people calling for an equitable and justice-orientated solution to the migration challenge. Like others, I am not able to understand the reasons why the government has engaged in a partnership with Rwanda, a country with a highly problematic human rights record.

The UK is signatory to two key international treaties, both guaranteeing the rights of all refugees: the UN Refugee Convention protects people from being sent to a country where they face serious threats to life or freedom.

The European Convention on Human Rights is the

second. This states that no one person shall be subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, or punishment. Why, if honouring the letter and spirit of these conventions is important, have the UK government selected Rwanda as their migration partners?

Not long before this policy was signed, the UK expressed deep concerns about alleged human rights abuses and the protection and support of victims of trafficking. [Rita French, the UK's international ambassador for human rights, expressed 'regret'](#) that Rwanda was failing to conduct 'transparent, credible and independent investigations into allegations of human rights violations including deaths in custody and torture.' Knowing this, why would the UK government plan to send asylum seekers to Rwanda?

The Archbishop of Canterbury was right to say that 'this plan is the opposite of the nature of God'. The idea that God is love challenges the idea of sending asylum seekers to a country whose human rights may be questionable. The Trinitarian discourse – God as three in one – is centred around the God of love. The one God as Trinity traditionally labelled as Father, Son and Holy Spirit exists in a single loving, non-hierarchical, power sharing communion. This love takes its narrative form in the account of the Father sending the Son, forever present in the world on a quest to enable all those reflecting His image to find love with God and in loving and safe communities.

This includes asylum seekers and refugees who are among the most vulnerable communities in the world. The word that became flesh inhabited more than just the world as we understand it. His humanity means he can fully participate in the sufferings of those fleeing for their lives. Jesus gets it



even if our government does not. The actions of Jesus – his love and commitment to the vulnerable – is what He expects from the church. The church is invited to do far more than grapple theologically with this set of complex issues. Rather, Jesus invites His church to be courageous, engage in uncomfortable discourses and speak truth to power with boldness and conviction. Our government's approach to how it cares for those that have been othered speaks volumes about the government's priorities. The church must set an example and cultivate a compassionate posture by digging deeper into its prophetic imagination.

The scriptures have much to say about a prophetic community. The Psalmist articulates, at some length, the essential character of God. He is totally committed to upholding the cause of the oppressed. He defends the fatherless, the widow and of course the refugees. God's concern for the vulnerable is woven through the Psalms, it marks the overarching message of the Hebrew prophets. The prophets did not speak into a vacuum. They spoke God's truth into an unjust context, exercising advocacy on behalf of the vulnerable, and they provided a template for the church to emulate.

The Archbishop of Canterbury exercised his prophetic imagination by warning the government that their plan to deport refugees to Rwanda [could not 'stand the judgement of God'](#).

As the head of the Anglican Communion, a representative figure set aside to exercise prophetic imagination on behalf of the Church of England, his must not be the only voice that challenges a heinous policy which is clearly 'the opposite of the nature of God'.

Image Wikipedia Commons

Wale Hudson-Roberts is Justice Enabler at the Baptist Union of Great Britain and the pastor of John Bunyan Baptist Church in Cowley, Oxford

This article originally appeared on [Christian Today](#) and is republished with permission

<https://baptisttimes.co.uk/>

Who Needs a Locksmith?

It was Christmas Eve and Charles Dickens character in "Christmas Carol," Scrooge, was on his way home from his office when he was asked by a gentleman as it was Christmas would he like to donate some money to the poor and destitute, to which Scrooge enquired "Are there no prisons, what about the Union workhouses, treadmills and the poor law?" The gentleman confirmed all still existed but said many people cannot access them or would rather

die than end up in those places. Scrooge responded it would be a good thing if they did die as it would decrease the surplus population. "Christmas is humbug," he repeated. Writes David Child.

Scrooge settled down for the evening in his shivering, bitter cold, poorly lit bedroom, "Darkness was cheap" he often said. After eating a bowl of gruel, he double locked all the doors as usual. Huddled by his measly fire Scrooge's evening was interrupted by the clanking of chains coming up the stairs until the ghost of his partner Jacob Marley, who had died seven years before on Christmas Eve, passed through the door.

The ghost had a chain round his waist like a massive charm bracelet with cash boxes, keys, padlocks, ledgers, deeds and heavy purses all made of steel dragging behind him. When asked why he was chained, Marley informed his old business partner of many years that he had created every link day by day, yard by yard as he worked together with Scrooge, then informed Scrooge that his own chain was much longer.

I spent much of my life like Marley and Scrooge building my chain, dragging around my guilt, forging the weights of the damage I had done to those who loved me, turning my back on those who needed my help, letting down people who relied on me, judging people, focusing on my needs above everything else - all clanking behind me.

Things started to get difficult and the chain was getting longer. I was lucky though I met a man that picked the lock on the chain "Now my chains have gone I've been set free" (Amazing Grace) I had met Him several times before but I was always too busy to really think about it, I often promised to stay in contact but eventually walked away, but He didn't forget me He loved me.

If you would like your chains unlocked just ask Jesus into your life and the lock smith will change your life forever.

I have not forgotten the things I got majorly wrong and at times I start to build a chain again when I lose focus on the road I want to follow and wander off lost on another route that leads nowhere, but like a good shepherd He comes and finds me, gets his lock pick out and encourages me back to the pathway of salvation.

JRR Tolkien in the Fellowship of the Ring wrote: "Not all those who wander are lost"

Source Community Scene.

You can find an archive of Community Scenes at

<https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/communityscene.php>

