

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 26th June 2022

Sunday's "Live" Service: Maggie is leading and Ron is preaching
from Romans 8: 18 - 30 "The Holy Spirit Groans"

Sunday's online service: Barbara & Geoff are leading and Jerry is preaching
from Ruth 4:13-22 "Happy Ending or just the Beginning" Jerry is also preaching
at Park Baptist Church Great Yarmouth this Sunday



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.



Structure of Jerry's talk, Ruth 4:13-22 is about God's Redeeming Grace to;
(1) Ruth v13 (2) Naomi v14-16 (3) All People v17-22.

Jerry's Reads

Gen 49:8-10, 2 Sam 7, Matthew 1:5-6, 16, Rom 8:28 and Eph 2:11-22,

For Your Prayers

During July please pray for the residents of Allen Meale Way and Granville Close.
Pray that as our country tumbles into multiple crises that the Lord will bless our
leaders with wisdom beyond the self-centred human wisdom that is apparent leading
us into the darkness of disaster.

Please pray for those still waiting for appointments to see doctors and specialists and
those on the long waiting list for operations. Also pray for those who are suffering
from mental illness exasperated by the current cost-of-living-crisis and are waiting for
help.

Pray for the Afghan people, currently, 1 in 3 people are hungry and 2 million children
are malnourished. With drought, pandemic, and conflict, the food security situation will
continue to worsen; and hunger will rise and now they have to deal with an
earthquake.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Evelyn Eagling**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Thursday 16th June Geoff posted "Re Emma: shadow on the liver was only a non-
malignant cyst so everything clear with no further intervention necessary. There is a
follow up appointment with the plastic surgery team on 29th June. Nothing else
scheduled! Praise the Lord! Thank you for your prayers!!"

On Friday 17th David posted "Please pray for Flicka Henwood she has had a stroke
not a major event but she will need our prayers"

On Saturday 18th David posted "Please pray for Flicka the stroke has resulted in her
not being able to speak or swallow and being paralysed down one side."

On Wednesday 22nd David posted "Please pray for Flicka who has been moved into a
side ward. Please pray for her family and particularly for her daughter Sarah." On the
same day Maria Marsh posted "Could you please pray for my friend Jess and her
family as she is having surgery today."

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

No one's ever seen or heard anything like this - Never so much as imagined anything
quite like it—What God has arranged for those who love him.

But *you've* seen and heard it because God by his Spirit has brought it all out into the
open before you.

¹⁰⁻¹³ The Spirit, not content to flit around on the surface, dives into the depths of God,
and brings out what God planned all along. Whoever knows what you're thinking and
planning except you yourself? The same with God—except that he not only knows
what he's thinking, but he lets *us* in on it. God offers a full report on the gifts of life
and salvation that he is giving us. We don't have to rely on the world's guesses and
opinions. We didn't learn this by reading books or going to school; we learned it from
God, who taught us person-to-person through Jesus, and we're passing it on to you in
the same first-hand, personal way. ¹⁴⁻¹⁶ The unspiritual self, just as it is by nature, can't
receive the gifts of God's Spirit. There's no capacity for them. They seem like so much
silliness. Spirit can be known only by spirit—God's Spirit and our spirits in open
communion. Spiritually alive, we have access to everything God's Spirit is doing, and
can't be judged by unspiritual critics. Isaiah's question:

"IS THERE ANYONE AROUND WHO KNOWS GOD'S SPIRIT, ANYONE WHO KNOWS WHAT HE IS DOING?"
HAS BEEN ANSWERED: CHRIST KNOWS, AND WE HAVE CHRIST'S SPIRIT."

*How easy as Christians is it to be side tracked by those who express opinions that
resonate with us somehow making sense as there is certain truth in what they say , so
we wander off pushing Christ's spirit into the background as we slip into the darkness
of the unspiritual world?*

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington

01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon

07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 27th June

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 28th June

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 29th June

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

2.00pm Bowls Competition

At Stalham Bowls Club

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Details in online Diary

Friday 1st July

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 3rd July

10.45am Sunday Service

Flowers: Janet Nicholson

Sunday 10th July

Church Meeting and

Beth Powney Reginal Minister will
be with us.

Saturday 16th 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 Open

Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm Tuesday to
Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

Church Meeting

Following the service on Sunday July 10th we will be holding a Church Meeting. Beth Powney Reginal Minister will be joining us and will be preaching at our morning service.

Supporters Needed

SBC is playing against Stalham Bowls Club on Wednesday 29th June at 2.00pm to raise money for the Building Fund and will need supporters to cheer them on. John Nicholson is going to donate all the money the Bowls Club takes to the SBC Building Fund which will be added to the money raised by SBC team. There will be a raffle and refreshments for supporters and a spider bowls competition that everyone one can take part in. 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. (Stalham Bowls Club)

Edna's Table Top Sale Help

On Saturday July 16th, 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 and many more. Refreshments and light lunches available You can book a table for £5 by contacting Edna on 01692-582633.

Raising Awareness of the Foodbank

The Foodbank are hoping to raise awareness by handing out leaflets outside Tesco's Stalham on Thursday 30th June and Friday 1st July. Seating outside in three hour blocks 10am to 5pm. If you would like to help contact Sarah on 07786704155

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.

Crowdfunding Good News

Money raised for the building fund from the Crowdfunding set up by Diana was £465.00 plus estimated £91.25 in gift aid.

EBA Prayer Focus 26th June 2022

Maylands Baptist Church

This week's prayer focus takes us to Essex and to The Maylands Baptist Church. The congregation covers Maylandsea, near the river Chelmer, and the inland village of Mayland. Together the two parts are collectively known as 'The Maylands'.

A small but faithful congregation meets in the village community centre each week and are joined by guest preachers and musicians. There is a real focus on having fun whilst worshipping, and this has created a welcoming environment for visitors, who often come - particularly those mooring their boats at nearby Maldon.

Special events are held for the likes of Mother's Day and Easter, and the seven regular members are known for their enthusiastic fundraising efforts to support several causes, including the local foodbank.

At the height of the pandemic the church struggled, as the majority do not have email, so phone calls and a printed newsletter were posted through letterboxes. Outdoor meetings were held when weather and restrictions allowed, but it was a great relief for the congregation to be able to resume gathering indoors once again.

Prayer Points

- Join us in giving thanks for God's continuing provision, particularly in providing preachers and musicians each week.
- We want to pray that God's will is done in our church, both in the short-term, but also surrounding the longer-term future of the church.
- Pray for those who visit us on Sundays; that they may encounter God and be encouraged

Change To Online Service

Sunday 26th June will be the last of our completely separate Live and Online services. From the 3rd July we will replicate the Live service Online by using YouTube music for the songs we will sing in the church and pre-recording the sermon and prayers etc as we have been doing.

As some want something as well as one sermon a week we will use the weekly bible readings that appear in the bulletin and Jerry on Ron will do a 5 minute talk around it which Greg will put on the website for people to access.

Bible Art Come and Join Us

Bible Art starting on Thursday 14th July from 10am to 12pm in the school room.

Would you like to get creative - no matter how much of an artist you see yourself as? Are you interested in taking time to reflect on a few verses of the Bible and to think about their relevance for your own life?

We want to have a look at a few Bible verses together and get inspired to put a word or a theme into a piece of art.

Everyone can decide by themselves which creative method

he or she wants to use or try out - a few examples could be hand lettering, Bible Art Journaling, making a collage or a card as well as drawing or painting with different kinds of materials such as oil crayons, felt pens or aquarelle paint. We have bibles and a few materials available. If you have your own journaling Bible or craft materials we are happy for you to bring them along. The next Bible Art morning will be on the 28th July.

Any questions? Feel free to contact: Simone Otieno (07436837210)

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Ruth was written to help us see the signposts of the grace of God in our lives, and to help us trust his grace even when the clouds are so thick that we can't see the road let alone the signs on the side. ... it was God who acted to turn each setback into a stepping stone to joy, and that it is God in all of our bitter providences who is plotting for our good."--**John Piper.**

"The cost of redemption cannot be overstated. The wonders of grace cannot be overemphasized. Christ took the hell He didn't deserve so we could have the heaven we don't deserve."--**Randy Alcorn**

"The only thing of my very own which I contribute to my redemption is the sin from which I need to be redeemed."--**Sinclair B. Ferguson**

"If man had his way, the plan of redemption would be an endless and bloody conflict. In reality, salvation was bought not by Jesus' fist, but by His nail-pierced hands; not by muscle but by love; not by vengeance but by forgiveness; not by force but by sacrifice. **Jesus Christ our Lord surrendered in order that He might win; He destroyed His enemies by dying for them and conquered death by allowing death to conquer Him.**"--**A.W. Tozer**

"God is the ultimate musician. His music transforms your life. The notes of redemption rearrange your heart and restore your life. His songs of forgiveness, grace, reconciliation, truth, hope, sovereignty, and love give you back your humanity and restore your identity."--**Paul David Tripp**





Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

How many Christians are there in Afghanistan?

It's very hard to know precisely how many Christians there are in Afghanistan, because they must keep their faith completely secret – but only a small number from a population of about 39 million.

How are Christians persecuted in Afghanistan?

Afghanistan is number one on the Open Doors World Watch List for the first time – persecution has increased since the Taliban took control in August 2021. Even before this year, it was impossible to live openly as a Christian in Afghanistan. Leaving Islam is considered shameful, and Christian converts face dire and violent consequences if their new faith is discovered. Either they have to flee the country or they will be killed. This was true before the Taliban takeover of the country: the situation has become even more dangerous for believers this year. The Taliban will make sure that Islamic rules and customs are implemented and kept. Christian converts do not have any option but to obey them. If a Christian's new faith is discovered, their family, clan or tribe has to save its 'honour' by disowning the believer, or even killing them. This is widely considered to be a just reaction. Alternatively, since leaving Islam is considered a sign of insanity, a Christian who has converted from Islam may be forcibly sectioned in a psychiatric hospital. If a woman converts from Islam to Christianity and her family do not, she is likely to face house arrest, sexual abuse and rape, violence, forced marriage to a Muslim or even an 'honour' killing. There is very little chance of legal justice for any woman, and women in Afghanistan have very little social or financial autonomy. Since the Taliban takeover in 2021 position of women has become even more dangerous, and any progress that has been made in women's freedoms has been swiftly undone.

What's life like for Christians in Afghanistan?

"Everything beautiful is considered 'infidel'," says Sharifullah*. He is a traditional craftsman in Afghanistan whose business came to a standstill when the Taliban invaded. "The Taliban want their ideology reflected everywhere, and so all signs of colour, life and hope have been removed. They've been replaced with Taliban slogans, which are a far cry from hope."

Sharifullah is one of the small number of Christians

in Afghanistan – and he has decided to stay in the country, despite worsening persecution. Like all Christians who live there, he has to keep his faith secret. But he does shepherd a small group of secret believers whom God has entrusted to

his care. For many years, they have reached out to their community with the gospel and their craft intertwined.

Living out their faith behind a veil of secrecy, Sharifullah and his fellow believers knew that the Taliban could return. Despite the dangers, they continued their secret ministry, training women and men how to make beautiful and colourful crafts in a bid to share the gospel.

"The Taliban are killing our souls and spirits," says Sharifullah. "They are killing the souls of our children by taking all that is beautiful away from them."

But Sharifullah is staying strong. "We will never let that hope be silenced," he adds. "We will make sure the world hears the gospel through every breath we take. And we know you will help us by living the gospel, using your freedom and sharing Jesus. Please continue to stand with us."

**Name changed for security reasons*

Is it getting harder to be a Christian in Afghanistan?

It was already almost impossible to be a Christian in Afghanistan – and somehow it got even worse. Many Afghans fled the country after the Taliban took over, and there was wide expectation that freedoms in the country would be swiftly curtailed. For Christians, though, there were basically no freedoms to lose: Afghanistan had been number two on the Open Doors World Watch List for several years, and Christian persecution remains extreme in all spheres of public and private life. The risk of discovery has now further increased, since the Taliban now controls every aspect of government. This extends to owning documentation – including paperwork from international troops – that may help identify Christians.

How can I help Christians in Afghanistan?

Please keep praying for your brothers and sisters in Afghanistan. Your prayers make an enormous difference to those following Jesus no matter the cost.

Open Doors raises prayer for persecuted believers in Afghanistan and provides practical support to Afghan Christians forced to flee to neighbouring countries.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord God, we know that You weep when You see Your children weeping. We know that You care more than we can express for the nation of Afghanistan. Please, Lord, work miracles in this country. Protect Your children and all others who face terrible human rights abuses in Afghanistan. May this nation turn from one of despair and cruelty to one that resounds with praises of Your name. Amen.

23 June 2022

Christians in Sudan plead for prayer as Islamist grip tightens in country

In 2021, Sudan was one of the good news stories to emerge from the World Watch List report. Eighteen months on, there are fears that the Islamist grip on the country is tightening. This follows the military coup last October. Please pray that the positive steps made towards religious freedom in the country will be built upon rather than undone.

There have been positive steps towards religious freedom in Sudan, but the coup last year threatens to undo this

There are grave concerns over the Islamist direction Sudan seems to be taking following the military's seizure of power more than eight months ago.

The coup took place in October 2021 and occurred following an escalation in hostilities between conservative Islamists who want a military government and those who toppled Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.

The overthrow of al-Bashir resulted in a fragile transitional government, with power shared between the military and civilian leaders. During this time, significant steps were made towards religious freedom, including abolishing the death penalty for leaving Islam. At the time, there were fears these steps would be undone – and latest developments have done little to dampen these concerns.

Questionable figures promoted to key positions

Since the coup, more than 100 civilians have been killed in protests. The military has also turned to the National Congress Party (NCP) of former dictator Omar al-Bashir and its sympathisers to consolidate its grip on power, while failing to follow up on pledges to restore civilian rule.

Furthermore, General Abdel-Fattah Burhan – who led the coup – has allowed hundreds of sacked employees to return to work in the central bank, the judiciary, prosecution service, state broadcaster and government ministries. Hundreds of bank accounts belonging to NCP members have also been unfrozen, and some of its leading members have been released from detention.

Burhan has also started assigning influential government positions to former members of the NCP. According to the BBC, this includes former East

Darfur governor, Anas Omar, who is accused of human rights violations, and Muhammad Ali Al-Jizouli, who once supported the so-called Islamic State (IS).

Although al Bashir remains a prisoner of the junta and has been on trial since July 2020 for the coup which first brought him to power in 1989 (because that was what the pro-democracy forces had called for), there are concerns that he might eventually be released.

A call to urgent prayer

The international community is putting pressure on the military to loosen its grip. During a visit to Khartoum earlier this month, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Molly Phee pressed its leaders to restore the civilian-led government, adding that it was crucial for the resumption of economic aid. The US Treasury also imposed sanctions on the Central Reserve Forces (a police unit) for its excessively violent repression of peaceful pro-democracy protests.

“These developments are extremely concerning,” explains Jo Newhouse*, Open Doors’ spokesperson for work in sub-Saharan Africa. “Sudan’s transitional government made great progress towards official recognition of people’s human rights, including the right to freedom of religion or belief.

“Although there was yet some way to go in ensuring respect for these rights in society, we are very concerned over the reinstatement and growing influence of Islamist elements in government, and the regression in the respect for human rights this has led to.

“The international community must remain diligent in holding the military junta accountable for their unlawful grabbing of power and for the human rights abuses they have allowed to take place since the coup.

“We call on the international Christian community to remain in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Sudan.”

- That international pressure will result in the military softening their rule and returning the country to democratic rule
- That the Holy Spirit will comfort, strengthen and encourage Sudanese Christians who are fearful and anxious
- That God will use this uncertain time to strengthen and grow His church.

**name changed for security reasons*

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

