

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 17th July 2022 Service

This Sunday Barbara is leading and Jerry continues the sermon series on **9 Flavours 1 Fruit**. This week's topic is "The Fruit of the Spirit is...Joy"

Galatians 5:22.

The online service will also be available from Sunday. Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

Structure of Jerry's talk on Joy:

1. What is Joy? 2. Why do we need Joy? 3. Who is our example of Joy?

Jerry's Reads

Ps 16:11, Zephaniah 3:17, Habakkuk 3:17-19, John 15:9-12,
1 Peter 1:8-9; 4:12-13, 1 John 1:3-4.

For Your Prayers

During July please pray for the residents of Allen Meale Way and Granville Close. Holy One, so much seems irreconcilable in our families, homes and our nations. Let us turn over to you whatever feels insurmountable or impossible in our lives. Continue to remind us that Your love and grace have no end. We pray for all those living amid turmoil, division and dispute during this turbulent political time. Bring a sense of humility and compassion to our leaders. As they go through a voting procedure to elect a new PM, we pray that the successor to Boris Johnson will look beyond self-interests and better serve the nation, especially the oppressed and vulnerable. Lord, give us the courage to claim the spaces where we are leaders and to name our responsibilities in caring for one another. Christ, keep expanding our capacity to love one another, so we may recognise you everywhere we go and in everyone we meet. Help us to love the world as fiercely and tenderly as you do. As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Dorothy Fairweather**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 8th July Jerry posted Please pray for Angela Cookson's nephew Lance Corporal Lee Crudington, who was severely injured in an Army parachute jump in France. Please pray for God's guidance for the team of surgeons planning to operate on him on Monday. Also pray for Katy to stay strong. They are still in France.

1 Corinthians 13 (ERV) Let Love Be Your Guide

I may speak in different languages, whether human or even of angels. But if I don't have love, I am only a noisy bell or a ringing cymbal. ²I may have the gift of prophecy, I may understand all secrets and know everything there is to know, and I may have faith so great that I can move mountains. But even with all this, if I don't have love, I am nothing. ³I may give away everything I have to help others, and I may even give my body as an offering to be burned. But I gain nothing by doing all this if I don't have love.

⁴Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. ⁵Love is not rude, it is not selfish, and it cannot be made angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. ⁶Love is never happy when others do wrong, but it is always happy with the truth. ⁷Love never gives up on people. It never stops trusting, never loses hope, and never quits.

⁸Love will never end. But all those gifts will come to an end—even the gift of prophecy, the gift of speaking in different kinds of languages, and the gift of knowledge. ⁹These will all end because this knowledge and these prophecies we have are not complete. ¹⁰But when perfection comes, the things that are not complete will end.

¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, and I made plans like a child. When I became a man, I stopped those childish ways. ¹²It is the same with us. Now we see God as if we are looking at a reflection in a mirror. But then, in the future, we will see him right before our eyes. Now I know only a part, but at that time I will know fully, as God has known me. ¹³So these three things continue: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love.

As a Christian how easy is it to love in all the ways Paul suggests through the turmoil's that life casts in your direction?

To help you engage with the passage you can listen to Ron's short audio recording (less than 5 minutes) by visiting our [Scripture Reading Plan](#)

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.



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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

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Secretary: Diana Gordon

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Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 18th July

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday 19th July

9.30am -12 in the Stables
Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 20th July

9.30am -12 in the School Room
Table Tennis

7.30pm in the Church

Visit from Dave & Michele Mahon our
link missionaries in Peru

Thursday 21st July

3.15 to 5pm

Messy Church 2 – The Big Picnic

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Details in online Diary

Friday 22nd July

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 24th July

10.45 Sunday Service

Flowers: Anne West

Saturday 30th July

6.30pm in the Church

Two's Company'

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

Meet our Link Missionaries from Peru

On Wednesday 20th July at 7.30pm Dave and Michel Mahon our link missionaries are visiting SBC. The Mahon family are serving in Peru (pictured). Based in Iquitos, they are working alongside the Loreto Association of Baptist Churches as they look to implement a sustainability plan over the coming years. They are involved in teaching and curriculum development at the Nauta Integral Mission Training Centre, and also support the running of the centre. Dave and Michele are both Baptist ministers, and have served at Brockley Baptist Church in south-east London for four years. They have three children: Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe. Please come and support the Mahons who, like our other link missionaries, do an amazing job.



Food for Messy Church 2 - The Big Picnic

Would you be able to provide a loaf of cheese or ham sandwiches or a cake for Messy Church 2 which takes place on Thursday 21st July? If so please sign the list on the board at the back of the church and bring your food to the church sometime between 10 and 12 on the morning of the 21st. Thank you if you can – and thank you [even if you can't] for all your prayers. Barbara R

It's the Community Fridge's Birthday

In the first year the Community Fridge has saved 5293.7 TONNES of food from being wasted! What a phenomenal amount! A big thank you to Sara, all the volunteers and all those who have supported the project.

North Norfolk Foodbank

During June SBC contributed 271.25kg of food which helped towards a total of 4399.94kg. We totally rely on donations, both food and financial, to operate and we are extremely grateful when people choose to support us. So, thank you for thinking of us and enabling us to serve the people in crisis across our district.

Thank you for your support and generosity without which the foodbank work would not be possible.

During July, the following would be much appreciated:

Cereal, Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Vegetables, Rice Pudding, Squash/Fruit Juice, Laundry Liquid, Shampoo & Conditioner, Deodorant, Baby Wipes

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.

Music: Music: Music:

3 great music evening events coming up to raise money for the refurbishment. We have an evening with Two's Company who will give a concert of Celtic and traditional folk songs. They will be with us on Saturday 30th July. 'Out of Egypt' will be getting together for the first time in over 2 years to do an evening of Gospel songs, chat and testimonies. This will be September. The final event is planned for October and is Greg's band 'Bar Room Blues'. So make sure you don't miss out and watch this space for more information!

EBA Prayer Focus 17th July 2022 Willingham Baptist Church

Willingham is a large village around twelve miles northwest of Cambridge. The Baptist Church has a fairly small but active congregation, serving the community with a variety of activities. These activities include a weekly baby and toddler group, weekly coffee morning, hosting a fortnightly community luncheon club run by the Salvation Army, fortnightly men's and women's groups and monthly men's

breakfast. There are also two homegroups which meet fortnightly and weekly Sunday morning and evening services. The church continued to meet weekly online over the Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns and came back together in person in September 2021. Over the past few months, the church has been holding services in the building on a Sunday morning, and a small team have been leading Café Church on Zoom, with some in-person sessions too. The café church ministry is reaching families who connected with the men's and women's groups over the pandemic and who haven't been to church before. It's an exciting time as they see God blessing both Sunday morning ministries. The church is currently in pastoral

vacancy.

Prayer Points:

- For this time of pastoral vacancy, that we would be in tune with the direction that God is leading us as we move forward
- For the next few months as we continue to explore what leading two different expressions of 'church' on a Sunday morning looks like

A Big Thankyou from the Bane's

Dorothy and Peter Bane wish to say a big thankyou to all who came to their joint celebration of their first wedding anniversary and Peter's 90th birthday. WE give thanks to God for friends and family and we raised £200 for the Leprosy

Mission plus £30 Peter donated himself. Anyone who would like to donate for those suffering from

Leprosy, please put the money in an envelope marked TLM and give it to Henry. Thank you so much for our Happy day meeting all our friends. Special thanks to all concerned. Dorothy.

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>

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"To see some people today, you would think that the essential of Christianity is to have a face so long you could eat oatmeal out of the end of a gas pipe."--Billy Sunday

"A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms, and nothing in all religious history has done Christianity more harm than its connection with black clothes and long faces."

--William Barclay.

"It is not so much the joy of the Lord we are seeking as the Lord of joy Himself."--C.S. Lewis.

"Believers are not dependent upon circumstances. Their joy comes not from what they have, but from what they are; not from where they are, but from whose they are; not from what they enjoy, but from that which was suffered for them by their Lord." --Charles Spurgeon

"The secret of Christian joy is to believe what God says in his word and act upon it. Faith that isn't based on the word is not faith at all; it is presumption or superstition. Joy that isn't the result of faith is not joy at all; it is only a "good feeling" that will soon disappear. Faith based on the Word will produce joy that will weather the storm of life."--Warren Wiersbe





The Leprosy Mission

Leprosy defeated, lives transformed

Bangladesh's most vulnerable plunged further into poverty by frequent climate disasters

The Leprosy Mission will support vulnerable people rebuild their lives after flash flooding has devastated the Sylhet district of Bangladesh.

The worst floods to hit the North of Bangladesh in more than a century are the latest in a string of climate exacerbated disasters. At least 68 people have died and millions are having to rebuild their lives after flash flooding submerged 72 per cent of Sylhet division, as well as other northern communities.

Among those left in the most desperate situations are people living below the poverty line and communities affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases, which includes leprosy.

Two hundred people affected by leprosy in the Sylhet division that The Leprosy Mission is supporting through self-help groups have been impacted by this week's devastating floods.

James Pender is Environmental Advisor for The Leprosy Mission and previously lived in Bangladesh, working for the Church of Bangladesh. His job included the setting up of disaster management committees.

He said: "In terms of the impact of climate change, very few places in the world will experience the severity of changes that will occur in Bangladesh. This includes rising temperatures, flash flooding, more powerful cyclones and rising sea levels displacing communities.

"The impact is intensified by Bangladesh being one of the most populated and one of the poorest nations on earth.

"Our project leaders across Bangladesh are working in communities where climate change is contributing to death and widespread destruction. As a result, people are plunged deeper into poverty and food insecurity.

"It is a cruel truth that communities affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases, which include leprosy, are among the worst affected by climate exacerbated extreme weather events. It is also a cruel irony that while they have made a minimal contribution to climate change they are impacted the most."



Increasing problems caused by climate change

James returned last month from the outskirts of the Sundarbans region in Southern Bangladesh where he visited a community that can no longer grow rice, vegetables and fruit trees as a result of saline intrusion.

He explained: "In the south they used to farm freshwater fish in ponds but they have now become too salty. A rise in sea level, increasing cyclones and reduced winter riverwater flows, as a result of climate change, has resulted in salt water intrusion and farmers are having to diversify.

"There's a concern that the number of leprosy cases will rise due to people migrating to the big cities like Dhaka as they no longer can work the land.

"They move to overcrowded and poor conditions in the city slums. As a result, they are more susceptible to diseases like leprosy as their immune systems become weakened."

James said that it was through leprosy outreach camps in Dhaka that revealed people migrating to the city from the south, because of coastal erosion, were being treated for leprosy. This led to Leprosy Mission teams undertaking new outreach work in the south to find and cure people of leprosy. Dozens of new cases have been found and treated as a result.

James said: "It was in Satkhira in the south of Bangladesh where I met Bisawit (pictured above), a man who was cured of leprosy last year.

"Bisawit told me that he bought his land 25 years ago. But following Cyclone Aila in 2009, the land became too salty and his crops failed and lemon tree died.

"He's had to diversify to shrimp and crab farming instead in order to feed himself. It is either a case of diversifying or to migrate to distant districts to work for on others' farms as a day labourer.

"Because of the late treatment of leprosy, he is no longer able to walk properly and needs to use a stick to get around.

"He was visited by his nearest disaster management committee which includes in preparations; plans on how to evacuate people with disabilities to cyclone

shelters in an emergency.

"It is not easy though as Bisawit's nearest cyclone shelter is 5km away. So the plan is for him to be picked up by a rickshaw to take him to the shelter. But beforehand he must cross a river. He is unable to do this easily, as there is only a very narrow bamboo bridge which he can't use because of his disability. So his only option is to swim across the river with help from a family member in rising waters and stormy weather which is an immense challenge.

"Responding to climate change impacts is much harder for Bisawit and many other people affected by leprosy compared to their neighbours. As leprosy related disability, stigma and marginalisation may add another layer onto the already almost insurmountable challenges they face from a changing climate and disaster events."

For more information about the Leprosy Mission click [here](#).

Baptist Times Article Following the zeitgeist

We need to broaden our definition of what it means to be counter cultural, writes Michael Shaw

When I was a younger Christian (in my teens) our worship leader, an amazing guy from a very conservative Evangelical perspective, encouraged us to get rid of all that harmed us. There is always a danger in this as often it involves completely stopping listening to that band, or watching that film or TV programme.

I remember my mate Barrie getting rid of his pornography collection, and while this was very commendable of him (and the right thing to do) his decision to flog it to a mate and get some money back was probably not!

I am a big fan of the [Lectio 365 app](#) that 24/7 prayer launched a couple of years back. For those who don't know it, it is an app you can download on your phone that gives the user a 7-10 min devotion each day and a shorter one in the evening. I have encouraged my tech savvy folk in my church to use it. So I am a big fan.

One of the contributors is writer, prayer warrior and pastor Peter Greig, one of the founders of 24/7. He posted on his Facebook page about a recent message.

"Today's #Lectio365 might just be the most

challenging devotional I've ever done..."



This caught my attention!
The devotion was great, and I really enjoyed it, but I felt it missed something.

The devotion was looking at Acts 17:16 and asking questions on how we engage and are influenced by culture. Sadly, he fell into the trap that the youth pastor fell into:

What aspects of my culture 'greatly distress' me?

Am I in danger of confusing the spirit of the age with the Spirit of God?

Do I switch off the gift of "discernment of spirits" when I go to the cinema ... or when I attend a lecture, or when I shop at the mall?

When did I last abandon a box set because of its darkness or depravity?

Have I ever withdrawn from an acquaintance whose influence was consistently detrimental to my holiness?

There is nothing wrong with this, indeed and there is much merit here. However, I just feel that the Spirit of the Age (the German word is Zeitgeist) is far broader:

- Consumerism
- Individualism
- 24/7 busyness
- Idolatry of comfort
- Upward mobility
- Veneration of celebrities
- Polarisation
- Tribalism

I have recently been reflecting on James 1:27 where James talks about true religion. As someone passionate about social justice, I have always found the "widows and orphans" bit, but struggled with the "being polluted by the world" part. Mainly because it is easy to fall into the trap of simply avoiding that movie, band, TV series. It's far broader. The more I have looked at the way our culture behaves, and the way I see how that culture has impacted the culture of our church, the more I am realising that it is far more entrenched than I was taught as a young man.

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

For more information about Baptist Times click [here](#).

