

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 7th August 2022 Service

This Sunday Jerry is leading and continues the sermon series on  
**9 Flavours 1 Fruit. Considering the 4th flavour "Patience"**  
and reading from James 5: 7-11

The online service will also be available from Sunday. Go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/)  
Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

## Jerry's Reads

12:12, Col 3: 12-17, James 1:2-4, 2 Peter 3: Psalm 40: 13,  
Matt 18:21-35, Rom 8-13.

## For Your Prayers

During August please pray for the residents of Teresa Road and Campingfield Lane.

Please pray for those in the Fellowship and wider community who are awaiting routine operations and whose quality of life is being severely affected.

Lord of light, we pray SBC will spread Your word into our community. Help us to be an instrument of Your love and promise of salvation. Help us be a hub of support for those who are struggling with the current cost-of-living situation, acting as a signpost for those in need. Help us to listen to the communities needs and respond showing "Christianity in Action."

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

## Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday 2nd August Jerry posted "Please remember Crystal in your prayers. She is very ill and hasn't been eating very well. Her daughter Eloise is concerned about her and asked for our prayers." On the same day Maggie posted "Hello a prayer request please from Anne West who has got to phone the hospital at 5am Thursday morning to see if a bed will be available for her at 6am. She will be having an operation." Also on Tuesday Jerry posted "Update. Lee is now in the Royal London Hospital." Jerry also posted a message from the Paras. "We are delighted to report that LCpl Lee Crudginton (pictured) is now safely back in the UK and being looked after by a specialist trauma team in London. He has a long road ahead of him, including having his pelvis reset and a number of procedures on his legs before he can start his rehabilitation, but we are very pleased that this can all be done back home in the UK.

Katy, Lee's wife, said, "Thanks to Support our Paras we can now be back together with our children to begin the lengthy process with the support and love from family and friends." A huge thank you to everyone who has donated towards the Aeromed and medical bills so far. Support our Paras was fully committed from the start to supporting Lee's needs, but we have warmly welcomed the humbling outpouring of generosity and empathy towards one of our own which has since been shown. We will continue to be there to look after Lee and his family as he begins this next chapter of his recovery and beyond, no matter where that road might lead."

## John 5: 39-47 (ERV) Testimonies About Jesus

<sup>39</sup> You carefully study the Scriptures. You think that they give you eternal life. These same Scriptures tell about me! <sup>40</sup> But you refuse to come to me to have that life.

<sup>41</sup> "I don't want praise from you or any other human. <sup>42</sup> But I know you—I know that you have no love for God. <sup>43</sup> I have come from my Father and speak for him, but you don't accept me. But when other people come speaking only for themselves, you accept them. <sup>44</sup> You like to have praise from each other. But you never try to get the praise that comes from the only God. So how can you believe?

*How easy is it as Christians to get locked into bible verses but miss the real message that Jesus see's us as disciples challenged to go out with His lamp to light up the world and bring people to His love?*

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



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington

01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon

07951949128

Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 8th August

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church

Morning Prayers with Janet Nicholson

### Tuesday 9th August

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Coffee and Chat

### Wednesday 10th August

9.30am -12 in the School Room

Table Tennis

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Details in online Diary

### Friday 12th August

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

### Sunday 14th August

10.45 Sunday Service

Flowers: Lorraine Stuart

## 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 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.



## Stalham Vintage Market



Fran is again organising tables of items for the Vintage and Collectors Market on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 10am to 4pm. The road will be closed and around 70 stalls to look at. She has collected lots of lovely items. All the proceeds

will be going to the Building Fund and whatever is left she is going to take it to an auction.

Her tables will be outside the Factory shop. Perhaps after the service you can give her tables a look and have a chat.

## Barbara Mixer Yard Sale

On 29th August (Bank holiday ) Hickling are having a Yard Sale. Barbara Mixer is going to enter, and the money raised will go towards Stalham Baptist Church Building fund. If anyone has anything they would like to donate for the Sale, please contact Barbara on 01692 598502.

## Music: Music: Dates

'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 on Saturday September 17th doors open at 6.30pm. Entry will be free and donations for the Schoolroom Refurbishment gladly received.

On Saturday November 5th Greg's band 'Bar Room Blues' will be performing, doors open at 6.30pm, again entry will be free .

## EBA Prayer Focus 7th August 2022

### Norton Baptist Church

The picturesque village of Norton, Suffolk, lies midway between the towns of Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket and is notable for several listed buildings as well as a collaborative spirit between the local churches.

It is home to Norton Baptist Church, whose congregation marked its 188th anniversary during June. The celebration service and lunch represented a highlight of the year, but with a vibrant feel to all the church's activities, under the leadership of lay minister Caroline Vallance, it was definitely not an isolated occasion.

Speaking about the unity among the churches, Caroline says: 'We jointly run Lighthouse Club in the local primary school alongside the local Anglican Church, and we regularly run events with them and Salvation Army under the banner of "Norton Churches together". It's great to combine like this to serve our community.'

Norton Baptist Church also hosts Messy Church and Café Church on a monthly basis, plus The Den, which provides inspiring activities for young people. The Den recently featured a science night, which proved popular.

### Prayer focus

- The dedicated people who ensure services and associated activities are a constant reminder of God's love and provision

- Continued growth and harmony through the joint-churches' activities

## Two's Company

The evening with 'Two's Company' on Saturday 30th of Celtic and traditional folk songs. Was a very lovely evening. The Event raised £185 for the Building Fund.

## 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



## North Norfolk Foodbank

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*

## Quotes of the Week

"What then are we to do about our problems? We must learn to live with them until such time as God delivers us from them. We must pray for grace to endure them without murmuring. Problems patiently endured will work for our spiritual perfecting. They harm us only when we resist them or endure them unwillingly"--A. W. Tozer

"The Bible says the fruit of the spirit is longsuffering. I'll tell you one thing about fruit: you will never see a fruit factory. Isn't that right? You see a shirt factory, but you see a fruit orchard. You see, there is no fruit without life. You cannot manufacture patience. The fruit of the Spirit is patience."--Adrian Rogers

"I think Christians fail so often to get answers to their prayers because they do not wait long enough on God. They just drop down and say a few words, and then jump up and forget it and expect God to answer them. Such praying always reminds me of the small boy ringing his neighbour's door-bell, and then running away as fast as he can go." --E.M. Bounds

"A Christian without patience is like a soldier without arms." --Thomas Watson

"One of the great disadvantages of hurry is that it takes such a long time."--G.K. Chesterton

**Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.**

*St Francis*







Daily reading: 3 August

## **Complacency**

### **Something to read**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

- Psalm 51:10, from full reading Psalm 51: 1-12 .

### **Something to think about**

Even the holiest among us can fall; and indeed some say that those who are closest to God are subjected to the greatest temptations.

This psalm is attributed to King David, after he was confronted by the prophet Nathan regarding his adultery with Bathsheba and sending her husband to his death in battle. His sentiments, and his heartfelt prayer for cleansing and forgiveness, are widely shared by all who become suddenly aware of serious sin in their lives.

Complacency can be as serious a sin as adultery and we all need to examine ourselves regularly let we fall into habitual and unnoticed sin which will blight our spiritual lives and our witness to Christ.

Are we greedy? Reluctant to share what we have? Are we stuck in our way of thinking and afraid to explore the full challenge of the gospel? Are we still really committed disciples of Jesus or have we grown lazy and self-serving? Do we tend to judge others rather than accept them?

All such faults will mar our witness and stand in the way of God's kingdom.

### **Something to do**

Every now and then, we'd do well to take a hint from the handbook of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Succeeding steps of their Twelve Step recovery programme are as follows: "Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

Activism in the cause of the Gospel, as exemplified by Christian Aid, is good; sometimes self-examination, repentance and renewal are necessary too.

It was for King David; it is for us. It can only bring joy into our lives and make our witness more effective. That's something to start on today and complete over the coming week.

### **Something to pray**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

*Today's contributor is Canon Ginnie Kennerley, editor of SEARCH – A Church of Ireland Journal, and former rector of Narraghmore and Castledermot in Glendalough diocese.*

## **Hungry and drunk.**

### **Something to read**

When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. 21 For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk.

1 Corinthians 11:20-21,

from full reading 1 Corinthians 11: 17-22.

### **Something to think about**

Clearly the celebrations of Holy Communion in the early days of the church in Corinth were very different to what we experience in church today, whatever our denomination.

What's all too familiar, though, is Paul's perception that 'there are divisions among you'. Differences of upbringing, church tradition, temperament and preferred style of worship can all tend to make us 'clannish'.

Unless we're on the alert, we can find ourselves only relating to those in our church who are like us and ignoring, or even rejecting, everyone else.

The extreme caricature of this is described by Paul in today's reading; a more likely expression of such self-absorption can be seen at the church door after the service, or at The Peace, if we share only with our friends the gesture of mutual blessing designed to reconcile those who are estranged.

But to be effective Christians, we need to know ourselves as co-members of the Body of Christ, working together to bring His love and blessing to one another and to the world.

### **Something to do**

Is there someone in your church, or on your road, whom you tend to avoid?

Make a point of making contact with them – at The Peace, in the street, in the supermarket.

Exchange a greeting; ask how they're doing; offer help if it's needed.

### **Something to pray**

Holy God,  
in your Son Jesus Christ you have drawn us together to further your reign of justice, mercy and peace;  
pour your love into our hearts that we may honour one another as ourselves,  
being servants of those in need and co-workers in your vineyard.  
Amen.

*Today's contributor is Canon Ginnie Kennerley, editor of SEARCH – A Church of Ireland Journal, and former rector of Narraghmore and Castledermot in Glendalough diocese.*

*For more information about Christian Aid Click [Here](#)*

## Helped by you, Sarah courageously shares the gospel and leads flourishing house church

29 July 2022

Despite persecution, first from her family and then from her community, Sarah from East Africa is standing firm in her faith and courageously sharing the gospel with others. This is her story – and your role in it.

The headaches Sarah\* was suffering from were debilitating, but nothing worked. Whether it was concoctions, incantations, goats and chickens being slaughtered for her benefit or imams chanting Islamic scriptures over her, the only impact was exhaustion and expenditure.

Sarah is from East Africa and grew up in a staunchly Muslim household. But while she studied the Quran, attended mosque and followed the customs required of her, Sarah's commitment was only ever nominal. "I was just following what my peers expected of me," she confesses. The failed attempts to heal her only entrenched this.

But healing did come – as did persecution.

### Salvation follows persecution

It began when Sarah was invited to church to do some childminding during a service. She was prayed for and, although she initially felt sceptical about the whole experience, a seed of curiosity had been planted. "I went home and continued using the medicines," she recalls. "But they were harming me, so I thought, maybe it would be better to receive Christ. Muslims do not know that Christ is God, but I started questioning that."

The questioning eventually led to a life-changing decision, as she gave her life to Jesus. "And since I believed Christ, I have been healed," she says.

But her choice caused uproar among her family. They rejected her and withdrew financial support, meaning Sarah had to drop out of school.



Thankfully, Open Doors local partners were able to enrol her in a Bible study group as well as trauma healing and persecution survival seminars. The support has helped her to stand strong in her faith and

courageously share the gospel with her family – and many of them have since given their lives to Jesus!

### Sarah starts flourishing house church

But the persecution continued, this time from Sarah's local community. "Our Muslim neighbours started hating us," she says. "They would throw stones on our house when we sang. No one would talk to us. When we went to church, they would come and damage our mango tree. They would tear our clothes and talk badly about us."

What hurts Sarah most is the impact this has on her family. "Nowadays I do not feel anything about my own hardships," she says. "I do not care, because I have been healed. But when they talk ill about my family, I feel bad."

The opposition faced by Sarah has made other girls her age afraid of engaging with conversations about Jesus. "A person like me, a girl my age, cannot easily convert to Christianity," she says.

But she has started a house church that is growing – so much so that they've had to move to a larger home! "We are in a small church made up of a few families," Sarah continues. "Sometimes we can invite someone to come and teach us. The Muslims around complain about us. But the same people who would talk about us would call us again to pray for their sick children."

### "You gave us everything"

"You gave us counsel, you prayed for us, you were close to us, you gave us advice, you gave us everything," Sarah says of the help provided by Open Doors supporters like you. "Initially we would be silent about our stress and not talk about it, but now we share about it. We have learned how to deal with what we are facing. I received assistance from the training which I have passed to my group, and it has helped them."

"Those who come from Islam will face challenges," Sarah continues. "I advise people to express themselves to other people so that they can be helped, like Job. He had a problem, but he was patient to trust in the Lord. I learnt many lessons to wait upon the Lord. Hannah waited upon the Lord to get a child. I have learnt about all these from reading the Bible. Even if there is a problem at the beginning, there will be healing, after the problem there will be a blessing after persevering."

"I ask you to remember us in prayer. That is the most important thing. We pray that God strengthens us. I pray that God will give us peace in our region that we can move to teach the gospel to others."

*\*name changed for security reasons*

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