

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 21st August 2022 Service

This Sunday Maggie is leading and guest speaker John Leaf will be preaching.

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"

## For Your Prayers

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

The funeral service for Crystal Rutter, will take place at St Margaret's Church Sea Palling on

Wednesday August 31st at 2.00pm.

Crystal was a much loved, gifted and valuable member of SBC. Please continue to pray for her family.

Please also pray for the family and friends of Gloria Bullock whose funeral is at 1.00pm Wednesday August 24th at SBC.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Ruth Hayward**.

*Gracious God,*

*We know that your love is infinite and that you care about all areas of our life. In this time of economic insecurity, help us to trust that all of our security is in you. Keep us mindful that you always have and always will provide for our needs. Apart from you we can do nothing.*

*Merciful God,*

*We ask that you give our leaders the wisdom to guide our nation and the world out of the current economic crisis.*

*Help us to protect the poor and all those who are struggling during this difficult time.*

*Provide for their needs and give them hope.*

*Open new opportunities for them and furnish the resources they need to live with dignity. Encourage those who have enough to share essential resources with those who lack the necessities of life, and to do so with humble, grateful and loving hearts.*

*We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

Source [The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)

*Dear God, forgive me that I just go along with the way life is and accept the ways that society is divided. Grant me grace to cross the boundaries that keep rich people rich, and poor people poor. Help me to serve those who no longer believe you are willing to help them. Amen.*

Source [Christian Aid](#)

God of abundance, you entrust to our care your gift of creation, our common home. Open our ears to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

God of justice, you show us how-to live-in gratitude and solidarity. Open our mouths to speak out, challenging greed and inequality, and standing up for all among us in desperate need of food.

God of hope, you share with us your vision of a world renewed. Open our hearts to compassion. As we hold before you the people of East Africa, may we reach out in love. Amen.

Source [CAFOD](#)

## Matthew 26: 31-35 (MSG) Denial

<sup>31-32</sup> Then Jesus told them, "Before the night's over, you're going to fall to pieces because of what happens to me. There is a Scripture that says, I'll strike the shepherd;

dazed and confused, the sheep will be scattered.

But after I am raised up, I, your Shepherd, will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee."

<sup>33</sup> Peter broke in, "Even if everyone else falls to pieces on account of you, I won't."

<sup>34</sup> "Don't be so sure," Jesus said. "This very night, before the rooster crows up the dawn, you will deny me three times."

<sup>35</sup> Peter protested, "Even if I had to die with you, I would never deny you." All the others said the same thing.

*As Christians how many times have we denied Jesus by not speaking up when non-believers scoff at the Lord, or deny the faith we proclaim, when in our comfort bubble?*

Listen to Ron's take on the passage with a short audio recording (less than 5 minutes) by visiting our [Scripture Reading Plan](#)



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01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
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Secretary: Diana Gordon  
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Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 22nd August

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting  
10.30 to 11.30am in the Church

Morning Prayers with Janet Nicholson

### Tuesday 23rd August

9.30am -12 in the Stables  
Coffee and Chat

### Wednesday 24th August

9.30am -12 in the School Room  
Table Tennis

1.00pm funeral of Gloria Bullock  
In the Church

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Details in online Diary

### Friday 26th August

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road  
1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

### Sunday 28th August

10.45 Sunday Service  
Flowers: Magda Nicholls

## 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.

## Harvest Festival

### Can you decorate a window?

Harvest Festival is on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> September with the Harvest Supper on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup>. If you could help by decorating a window, please sign the list on the noticeboard at the back of the church. It would be good to have as much variety as possible. Again, this year all the tins and fresh produced decorating the stage will be donated to the Foodbank and the fresh flowers and produce will be auctioned at Tuesday's supper.

### Harvest Supper, Quiz and Auction

Starting at 6.30 pm the cost will be £6.00 please let Elaine know if you are joining us on 0779687578 or [elain smith364@btinternet.com](mailto:elain smith364@btinternet.com). Elaine could do with a helping hand and also with some desserts. We will again be supporting the BMS appeal which this year is called "Good land" helping transform the village of Ghusel in Nepal. More details on page 4.

### Gunton Baptist Church Invitation

After hosting friends from Gunton recently at SBC they have reciprocated by inviting us to share lunch and fellowship with them on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of September from 12.30 for a 1.00pm lunch. If you would like to go please let either Diana or Ron know by the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

### Barbara Mixer Yard Sale

On 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Leprosy Mission Donation

Peter and Dorothy Bane have recently forwarded £300 to the Leprosy Mission and wish to thank all those who donated to this worthy cause and to remember the plight of those who suffer from this disease in our prayers. Thank you.

### National Day of Prayer on 16th September

Please put this date in your diary and remember to join with others in praying for our Nation. The church will be open between 10am to 4pm for folk to come in and pray, more details later. 2 Chronicles 7: v14 says "If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Jan Nicholson.

### Stalham Vintage Market

The Vintage Market was a great success. Fran stood in the sun from 7.30am to 4.30pm taking £430 of which £410 will go to the building fund and £20 was the cost of the stall.

There were 42 sales made and many people didn't take their change saying they would like to donate it to the building fund. There were a number of people saying what a good job SBC does for the community.

Anyone who purchased something was given a pen or key ring light that has SBC's



website and "Jesus Loves You" on it as a thank you for their support.

Fran has 4 boxes of products some of which will go to Barbara Mixer's Yard Sale while the rest will go to the auction at Acle by the end of the month. All proceeds will go to building fund.

### Teacher Needed

Do You Know anyone who would like to take a short term teaching position in Peru? Dave and Michele Mahon, one of our link missionaries working in Peru, asks "please could you pass this along to anyone who might be interested? We would really appreciate some help with a short term teacher in Peru."

Click [HERE](#) for further details.

### Jenny Payne Raising funds this Sunday

Following the recent visit from the Shrubsoles (also link missionaries supported by SBC, this time in Chad), Jenny Payne will have some of the products made by the ladies from the Acacia Project, which Bethan supports, on sale this Sunday morning. There are coasters, place mats, bags, storage boxes, key rings, purses, pencil cases and bottle holders. Prices range from £1.40 to £7.50. ALL the money taken will be split between the Shrubsoles work for BMS and the SBC Building Fund.

### Quotes of the Week

"There is always more misery among the lower classes than there is humanity in the higher."

— Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*

"Of all the preposterous assumptions of humanity over humanity, nothing exceeds most of the criticisms made on the habits of the poor by the well-housed, well-warmed, and well-fed."

"Poverty is the parent of revolution and crime." Aristotle

"It was possible, no doubt, to imagine a society in which wealth, in the sense of personal possessions and luxuries, should be evenly distributed, while power remained in the hands of a small privileged caste.

But in practice such a society could not long remain stable. For if leisure and security were enjoyed by all alike, the great mass of human beings who are normally stupefied by poverty would become literate and would learn to think for themselves; and when once they had done this, they would sooner or later realise that the privileged minority had no function, and they would sweep it away. In the long run, a hierarchical society was only possible on a basis of poverty and ignorance." — George Orwell, 1984

10-11 Give freely and spontaneously. Don't have a stingy heart. The way you handle matters like this triggers GOD, your God's, blessing in everything you do, all your work and ventures.

There are always going to be poor and needy people among you. So I command you: Always be generous, open purse and hands, give to your neighbours in trouble, your poor and hurting neighbours.

Deuteronomy 15:10-11 The Message

## EBA Prayer Focus 21st August 2022 Wisbech Baptist Church

Nestled in the heart of The Fens in Cambridgeshire lies Wisbech Baptist Church.

While the fellowship consists of around 40 regulars on a Sunday, their community impact is far greater, as active partnerships with the local food bank and Christians Against Poverty help them to reach the needs of their community and bring the hope of the gospel to those who might not otherwise step foot inside a church.

The church is host to the food bank, and complements this with a weekly drop-in centre called Open Doors. Here they offer hot drinks, a listening ear and encouragement, as well as providing sign posting to other local service providers. It is hoped that in the future a new kitchen area can be installed, so that the work of Open Doors can be extended to offering free light meals to those in need.

The pandemic has inevitably taken its toll upon the church, with numbers decreasing slightly at services, but the vast majority have returned, despite the congregation mostly consisting of people who are older in years.

There is excitement around plans to start an afternoon café-style service on the second Sunday of each month, starting in September. The aim is open up the Christian faith to those who would not necessarily feel comfortable attending a traditional Sunday service.

Prayer points:

- Please pray for our Minister Revd Kevin Newton and the Deacons as they seek God's guidance in the months ahead.
- Please pray for the continued success of Open Doors. Pray for our plans with regard to the new kitchen area, that it will happen in God's perfect timing and in line with His will.
- Please pray for the Food Bank and for the many volunteers who make this service possible in Wisbech. Pray also that those who need to use this service would not only be blessed through the receiving of food – but also experience the love of Jesus.
- Please pray for the launch of our Café-style service in September.
- And finally, please pray for our weekly services, that as we come together as the Body of Christ we

would see more new people attending so that we can have the opportunity to do even more in our local community as we bring glory to God.



# You can help to change the world.

### Something to read

When Jesus had come down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and there was a leper who came to him and knelt before him, saying, 'Lord, if you choose, you can make me clean.' He stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, 'I do choose. Be made clean!'. Immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Then Jesus said to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.'

- Matthew 8:1-4.

### Something to think about

It's surely no accident that the person who expresses doubt about Jesus' willingness to heal him is a leper. Here is someone who is used to being excluded and on the margins of society. He just accepts it.

Everyone just accepts it. It's the way life is, the way life has to be.

We all need the world to be the way it is, for our part of it to carry on as normal. But once we accept this way of dealing with chronic problems in the world – like leprosy, or poverty – then all the urgency goes out of finding solutions. And those who live in poverty come to doubt whether the rest of humanity really is willing to find the solutions – while knowing (like this leper knew) that if only we were willing, we could change their situation. Jesus did not heal every leper in his day, or invent a cure for leprosy. But he helped this one. And in the process he changed attitudes – which in turn changed the world.

### Something to do

Identify someone you come across frequently in your life, who others consider an 'outcast' like the leper in this passage. Try to have a conversation with them today. Don't be put off by the fact that they may not trust you. Try to establish a relationship and break down the barriers.

### Something to pray

Dear God, forgive me that I just go along with the way life is and accept the ways that society is divided. Grant me grace to cross the boundaries that keep rich people rich, and poor people poor. Help me to serve those who no longer believe you are willing to help them. Amen.

Today's contributor is Andy Parnham, Pastor of Brockley Community Church, London at the time of writing. Source [Christian Aid](#)



**The Leprosy Mission**  
England and Wales

## Thresia suffered from self-stigma, which held her back

Thresia's mother died when she was young and she was diagnosed with leprosy when she was eight. Due to slow treatment of leprosy, Thresia also developed an ulcer on her foot, which made it difficult to walk.

Many persons affected by leprosy experience shame because of the stigma surrounding the disease. Unfortunately, Thresia was no different.

Because of my leprosy I felt shy around my friends at school. When I found out I had leprosy I completely stopped going to school.

My friends stopped asking about me. When I saw my classmates in my community, I tried to hide from them. I was haunted by how they would tease me, so I avoided them altogether."

Thankfully, Thresia started to regain her confidence and return to her studies

When The Leprosy Mission began supporting me, my confidence began to grow. The Leprosy Mission Community Facilitator encouraged me to continue with my education.

Through the help of The Leprosy Mission, I felt confident enough to go back to school. When I returned to school having been cured of leprosy, my friends stopped teasing me.

It makes me happy to be back at school. Now I spend lots of time with my friends outside of class.

"Before I heard about The Leprosy Mission, I had given up on going to school. But now I am continuing my education."

Now Thresia has an important message for other girls

"I want to tell other girls affected by leprosy that 'I was like you.' I would encourage them to continue with their studies in spite of their leprosy and the discrimination they may receive.

"I now know that leprosy cannot stop me from pursuing my dreams."



## BMS Appeal

The BMS' appeal which this year is called "Good Land" helping transform the village of Ghusel in Nepal.

### What is Good Land?

Good Land is BMS' 2022 Harvest



appeal. It's a video appeal resource. But more importantly, it's an opportunity for your church to support vital development in a remote community in the mountains of Nepal.

The people of Ghusel face many challenges – from poor education opportunities for their children, to precarious livelihoods and dangerous drinking water.

The leaders of Ghusel heard about the work BMS World Mission partners had done in other parts of Nepal, and they asked us to come and help them, too. We listened to their request and have been working with the community to discover their hopes and dreams for a better future.

Now, they need your help to make these dreams a reality.

As BMS' 2022 Harvest appeal, *Good Land* comes with an array of resources to encourage your church to pray for and support education, health and livelihoods work in Ghusel and beyond.

For more information and a video click [HERE](#)

## 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 .

