

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 4th September 2022 Service

This Sunday Diana is leading and Ron continues the sermon series on **9 Flavours 1 Fruit. Considering the 7th flavour "Faithfulness"** and readings from Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 1: 4-9, 4: 1-4

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



Ron's Reads

2 Thess 2:11-12, Dan 6, Acts 20:4, Eph 6:21f, Col :7f,
Prov 20:6,2 Tim 2:2, Titus 3:1,4-8 & James 1:14-18. Lk 16:10

For Your Prayers

During September please pray for the residents of St Benets Road, St Benets Close and Robert Smith Court.

As we await our new PM and a new cabinet we pray they will serve the nation with the intention of improving the conditions for all of its people.

We pray that the Lord will guide the government to find solutions to keep people warm through the winter months avoiding the projected deaths of the young and old. We also pray they will find solutions for the NHS that is currently struggling during the summer with the pressures of the winter months to come.

We pray for those 6.7 million people on the NHS waiting list many of whose quality of life is worsening weekly

Lord amongst the opposition parties in the Commons is much talent that would bring solutions to many problems, guide the new PM to reach out to the opposition recognising that the current crisis should not be a political battle but an opportunity to work together for the sake of the whole nation.

Please pray for Pakistan that has suffered catastrophic flooding which has covered a third of the country (102,458 square miles).

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Doreen and Josh Hollebon**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Saturday 27th August DJ Steve messaged "Hi everybody its DJ, I've some great news for you allon Tuesday I'm meeting my new social worker hopefully they will get things moving and I will be seeing you all soon, hopefully. If you could pray that I have a really good meeting on Tuesday. Lots of love DJ and I love you all.

Also on Saturday Geoff posted "Hello a couple of updates. Ella is home and her injuries are being checked out and reviewed at N&N. Emma started her radiotherapy treatment on Thursday (will be 3 weeks of treatment on week days) she is just feeling a little lethargic. Please keep both in your prayers."

On Wednesday 1st September Jerry posted for Maureen "Please pray for Abbie; she is very poorly with Covid, her temperature is high and she has a very bad throat, thank you, Maureen."

On Thursday 1st September Diana posted "Could you please pray for my daughter Hannah who is in hospital waiting to be seen by the doctor having gone to A&E in the early hours of the morning with kidney pain. She has tested positive for Covid even though she has no symptoms. Please pray that its nothing too serious to keep her in as she is a single mum. Thank you."

Bible Reading Isaiah 40: 27-31 (MSG)

27-31 Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying, "GOD has lost track of me. He doesn't care what happens to me"?

Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening?

GOD doesn't come and go. God *lasts*. He's Creator of all you can see or imagine.

He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath. And he

knows *everything*, inside and out. He energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts.

For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall.

But those who wait upon GOD get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.

How easy is it as Christians to take God's blessings for granted and then, when dark clouds of difficult times fill the sky in despair, we grumble, thinking God has forgotten us?

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

Then click on [Public Area](#) then [Scripture Reading Plan](#).

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
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Ministry Team:

The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary 5th September

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting
10.30 to 11.30am in the Church
Prayers for SBC and young people

Tuesday 6th September

9.30am -12 in the Stables
Coffee and Chat

Wednesday 7th September

9.30am -12 in the School Room
Table Tennis

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

Details in online Diary

Friday 9th September

10.15 Prayer for Revival
Three Windows, Brumstead Road
1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Saturday 10th September

Gunton Baptist Church
12.30pm Lunch

Sunday 11th September

10.45 Sunday Service

Flowers: Jane Nicholson

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

**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.**

Gunton Baptist Church Lunch **HELP**

If you are traveling to Gunton Baptist Church for the Lunch on 10th of September would you be able to take some people with you.

Let Ron know if you could help.

Tea and Coffee after the Service **HELP**

Could you help with teas and coffee etc. after the Sunday service? At the moment there are just a small number helping and it would be good to have a few more. If you can, have a chat with Maggie H.

Barbara Mixer Yard Sale

A big thank you to Barbara and Ben Mixer who raised £170 for the building fund with their Yard Sale on Bank Holiday Monday.

A Big Thank You

Dorothy Bane wishes to say thank you for praying that her eye could be operated on, on the 24th August. Dorothy says "Jesus was right in the centre as He always is, He's never let me down. Thank you Jesus.

Harvest Festival **A big thank you**

Yes a big thank you to all those who offered to decorate the windows for the Harvest Festival on Sunday 25th September Elaine still needs a volunteer for the stage if you can help. Again, this year all the tins and fresh produce 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 07796875785 or elainemsmith364@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.

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."

Please put your name on the chart on the table at the back of the church if you can man the church for a 1 hour slot between 10am to 4pm. Jan Nicholson.

EBA Prayer Focus 4th September 2022 Worsted Baptist Church

Meeting Hill is a very small hamlet, just outside the town of North Walsham, Norfolk. The church (Meeting House) is not only geographically central to the hamlet, it also initiated the original housing to be built – hence the name. Numbers have fluctuated over recent years, sometimes less than ten people on a Sunday morning. Just before the pandemic, the tenants in the old school – which belongs to the church – notified the church that they were vacating the premises. The minister Rev Patrick Coghlan shared a vision with the church, to use the old school for café worship. It has a large double glazed hall, with a wood burner and central heating, an adjoining industrial kitchen and a car park! Lots of open space to set out tables and chairs. Also, an electronic piano was donated by the previous tenants for use in the hall. After much thought and prayer, and long delays caused by covid, Worstead Baptist Church's – Café Church in Meeting Hill - was born in the summer of 2021. The old school was renamed – the

Genesis Hall – 'a place of new beginnings'.

Amongst tea, coffee, cake and biscuits, numbers are now growing - including the attendance of children once again. There is a real feeling of the Spirit at work in this new venture. This in turn has led to the formation of the mid-week Bible study/support group called 'Come, just as you are'. The church celebrated the publication of Patrick's 41st published paperback recently – 'Crazy about horses' – Christian fiction for teens. It is a story about faith and prayer in difficult life situations, dealing with the bullies, relationships, and doing the right thing; but oozing all things horsey! It is hoped that this could provide more evangelistic opportunities for the church.

Please Pray

- Prayer would be appreciated as Worsted Baptist Church endeavours to pursue all these different ventures, as they seek to serve Jesus, in what is for them, a new chapter of kingdom building.

Bible Study restarting

- previously the "Potter Heigham" group lead by Alan and Sheena. Jenny Payne, Geoff and I plan to start a Bible Study group on alternate Tuesdays, starting with 20th September, from 7 to 8.30pm. It will alternate between our house in Potter and Jenny's in Ashmanhaugh – we can sort out a lift if you need one. Whether you were a member of the "old Potter" group or not you'll be welcome and we're aiming to begin by using a video by Andrew Ollerton – Wild Bible – origins – discovering God's story in the great outdoors. Let's learn more about God's story together- do come and try – doesn't matter if you can't come to each session – we can't make the second one! See us for a chat or ring if you'd like more details – 01692672120
Barbara R.

Monday Prayers

Please join those on a Monday at SBC from 10.30 to 11.30am praying for SBC and young people.

Quotes of the Week

"The ragamuffin who sees his life as a voyage of discovery and runs the risk of failure has a better feel for faithfulness than the timid man who hides behind the law and never finds out who he is at all."

— Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out*

"What makes authentic disciples is not visions, ecstasies, biblical mastery of chapter and verse, or spectacular success in the ministry, but a capacity for faithfulness. Buffeted by the fickle winds of failure, battered by their own unruly emotions, and bruised by rejection and ridicule, authentic disciples may have stumbled and frequently fallen, endured lapses and relapses, gotten handcuffed to the fleshpots and wandered into a far county. Yet, they kept coming back to Jesus."

— Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt Out*

"There have been times of late when I have had to hold on to one text with all my might: "It is required in stewards that a man may be found faithful." Praise God, it does not say "successful."

— Amy Wilson-Carmichael *Things as they Are*

22-24 GOD's loyal love couldn't have run out,
his merciful love couldn't have dried up.

They're created new every morning.

How great your faithfulness!

I'm sticking with GOD (I say it over and over).

He's all I've got left.

Lamentations 3:22-24 (MSG)



CAMEL THROUGH AN EYE OF A NEEDLE YOU'RE HAVING A LAUGH!

The Bible tells us that Jesus told his followers "Yes, I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God's kingdom."

Taken at face value this means that we would all be struggling to enter God's kingdom. But like many



Small gate set in large gate

communicators in the modern world Jesus used analogies and humour to make a point taking everyday examples to explain His teaching.

John Cleese has made many videos that are used extensively in training business sector employees that are informative but very entertaining and memorable.

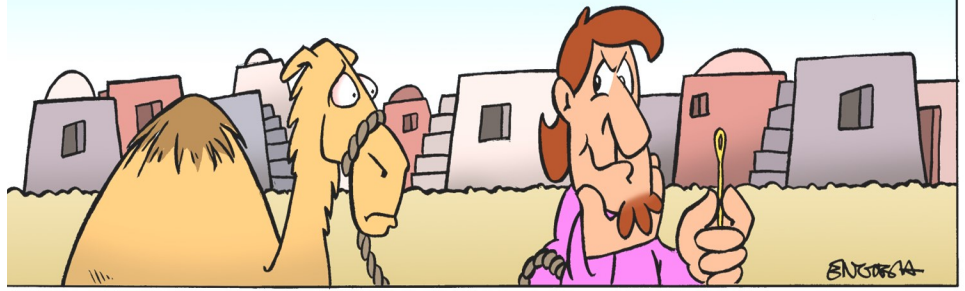
So where is the humour and analogy in an impossible happening?

The eye of the needle mentioned in the book of Matthew was possibly one of several gates that provided passage through the city of Jerusalem's massive walls. Walled cities throughout the eastern world would have had needle gates.

A Needle Gate was used when the city's main gates were closed at night and used for people entering the city "after hours."

It was designed for security reasons so that enemies could not simply ride into the city on their camels and attack. The gate was so small that a man

Camel wished the rich young man would just give away his money rather than prove a point..

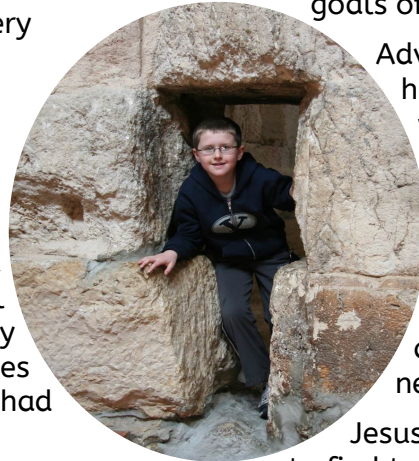


would have to unload his camel of all that it was carrying and then carefully lead his camel through this small gate almost on its knees.

It was a slow and quite difficult task and a little amusing for onlookers but not for the camel.

So what does the parable speak of in the 21st century? A dictionary definition of rich is "having abundant possessions and especially material wealth."

We live in a world where material wealth is the driving force. Not wanting to be left behind in the race matching friends, colleagues and even family. New tech and gathering "likes" on social media the goals of happiness.



Advertising regularly tells us if you haven't got "this" you are a failure, worst still if you can't buy it for your kids.

But are we truly happy in this struggle to keep up, are there any winners in the faith of materialism? Is it a system designed to keep us wanting and never fulfilled?

Jesus is still saying to us in 2019 that to find true happiness we need to look beyond material wealth and lay down whatever baggage we may be holding onto.

Look to His love and sacrifice on the cross for us and our salvation.

Source Community Scene Easter 2019



Open Doors

Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

displacement. A lot can happen in six years – see how your prayers and gifts have helped to rebuild and transform their town!

"One day, all of us will return to Karamles," said Father Thabet in 2016. He was speaking from a refugee camp

Before and after in Iraq: you are helping make Karamles a home after six years

It's been six years since Christians from Karamles, Iraq started to return home after years of

in Erbil, Iraq, where he was living with his church after so-called Islamic State (IS) invaded their homes. Father Thabet and the Christians from Karamles eventually returned home – but they have been able to stay and rebuild their lives thanks to your faithful prayers and support.

Estephan used his carpentry skills to rebuild his hometown



Estephan started by fixing all the doors and locks in Karamles that had been broken by IS

One of the Christians who returned was carpenter Estephan Matti. He reopened his workshop and got to work right away, fixing up local houses and businesses. “The first thing I did was to close and lock all the doors of the houses, for they were broken into by IS fighters,” he remembers.

Estephan recalls some of the hardships he, his wife and two children have gone through. “Some of the most frightening days had been right before we had to flee. We lived in a miserable situation and there was no electricity or running water.”

But he continued to hold onto God’s promises – in particular, Jesus’s words in Matthew 6:26: “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Estephan is also grateful for your prayers – he knows they have made a huge difference to the restoration of homes and lives in Karamles: “When I pass through difficulties, I pray the Lord’s Prayer. Then I feel the power that is empowering Christians. I feel united and I feel all the Christians around the world pray with me.”

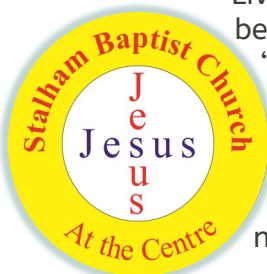
In 2016, Tereze was just 18 months old. Her parents married only two weeks before IS militants invaded Karamles. Fleeing to Erbil was not quite the honeymoon Thomas and Nariman had hoped for. The newlyweds found a place to stay in ‘Karamles Camp’, a building complex with several apartments and a central courtyard. Families shared houses, kitchens and sanitation.

Not long afterwards, Tereze was born during displacement in 2015.

Tereze is now seven years old and lives with her parents in Karamles. The family moved back to the town sometime after the liberation – but their return has not without sorrow. Thomas, Tereze’s father and a farmer, explains that he finds it very difficult to know which choices are the best for his family and the future of his children.

“Living in Erbil is very expensive because of the high rents,” he says.

“This left us with not much choice but to return [to Karamles]. When we ran from Daesh [IS], we lost all the crops and income from it, but I’m cultivating the land again now, trying to gain some income.”



Although IS has been subdued, Thomas’s fears for the future are not gone – but he knows that, through prayer, a better future is possible: “Please pray for us. The situation here is unstable and I am afraid about the future of my children. I am praying that they can have a future better than ours.”

Ikram kept her house keys for six years, hoping to use them again

Ikram couldn't wait to return home again - and you helped to make her dream a reality!

Ikram Qasha was displaced



overnight in August 2014. As IS approached Karamles, Ikram and her family left immediately, leaving most of their things behind. During displacement they lived in a simple room in an unfinished mall in Erbil – but Ikram never lost hope that she would one day return home.

Now, thanks to your prayers and support, Ikram has been able to put her keys into the lock of her front door and enter once again!

“The first period of time after our return has been very difficult, but with the help of God and the church we can return and rebuild our village,” she says. “It is much better living here than in the unfinished mall. I often walk to the old part of our village to remember our relatives and friends. Many have left the country and we miss them. We returned to our beloved village, but it is different from before.”

The difference you’re making is huge – please keep going!

Thank you so much for your continued support for our persecuted church family in Iraq. The difference you’re making in their lives is becoming more and more tangible and visible. Please continue to stand with believers in Karamles as they carry on the transforming work and hope for a brighter future.

Please Pray

- For Estephan, Tereze, Ikram and their families as they readjust to life in Karamles
- That God would continue to meet the needs of His people, and comfort them as they recover from displacement
- That the church in Karamles would be a beacon of hope for all people in the region.

One Million Prayers of Hope

Join in raising one million prayers of hope for Christians in the Middle East. Add your light to an interactive map to show how believers all over the world are uniting in prayer for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

Click [HERE](#) to add Your Prayer

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