

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 2nd October 2022 Service

This Sunday Ron is leading and preaching,
reading from John 5: 39-40 and 12: 37-40 "Beholding"

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

Ex 3:1f, 32:, Ps 106:19-21, 115:3f. Ro 1:25 Isa 6:1f, 53:1

For Your Prayers

During October please pray for the residents of **Broadbeach Gardens**.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **David and Norma Huxter**.

Rita R is booked in at the NNUH for major surgery on Wednesday 2nd November. She asks for your prayer support for God's peace during the next 5 weeks prior to the operation.

As the war in Ukraine reaches its 221st day this Sunday please continue to pray for those in Ukraine and also for those in Russia who will be forced into the war zone. Lord, we pray that those around Putin will speak out and convince him that this carnage should be brought to an end peacefully.

Lord our government seems to be dragging the country into more and more financial chaos. Please Lord bring your wisdom to the PM and Chancellor so decisions will be made to protect the average working people from dire financial difficulties.

Lord we know that in You we have a God we can trust but in times of trouble we can sometimes only see the darkness created by people like Vladimir Putin and the situations we are experiencing financially in our land. Help us Lord, to hang on to our faith and trust in You during these crises, focusing on Your light and not the darkness of the circumstances.

Loving God of all the world, we hold before you the nations. To the God who reigns over governments, bring justice where injustice rules. To the God who carries a weary world without growing weak. Give strength to the struggling and hope to the hopeless. To the creative God who dreamt up our world grant vision and insight to those with a heart to change things for the better. To the compassionate God heal what is hurting and restore what has been broken. With grateful hearts we thank our loving God, whose compassion never ceases, whose love for us never runs dry, whose fight against injustice never relents. Amen. *Source Methodist Relief and Development.*

Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday 27th September Jerry posted "Please pray for Mel and her family, especially today, as they say their final goodbye to Harry." The same day Ruth Hayward posted "Myself Sam and mum have all got Covid not fun." **On Wednesday 28th** Jerry posted. Here is an update Norma received from Angela about Lee: "Just a quick update on Lee: Surgeons decided the best thing for Lee on Sunday was to take him for surgery to have a colostomy bag fitted Reports so far is that he is medically improving but mentally not coping, but it is early days." **On Thursday 29th** Jerry posted "Please continue praying for Anna's surgery. They have rescheduled it to 10th October. It's not the news we expected, but at least we've got a new date. Thanks." The same day Jerry posted "Nigel, who lives next door to the Stables, is asking for prayers for his son Mark Hobbs who is currently intensive care at N&N with Pneumonia."

Reading Romans 8:31-39 (MSG) More than Conquerors

³¹⁻³⁹ So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture: They kill us in cold blood because they hate you. We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely *nothing* can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

As Christians what do we think, when all around us the darkness is closing in, do we think absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love? 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

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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon

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Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 3rd October

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 4th October

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

7.00pm Bible Study at Jenny Payne's

Wednesday 5th October

Table Tennis

9.30am -12 in the School Room

7.00pm Zoom Bible Reading

Details in online Diary

Friday 7th October

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 9th October

10.45 Sunday Service

Gracie's Baptism

12 noon Church Meeting

Flowers: Doreen Hollebon

Welcome: Fran & David

Friday 14th October

6.00pm 24 hour Snooker building

fund raiser at Edna's home

Saturday 15th October

8.30am Men's Breakfast

in the Stables

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 07826

376343, 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.

Monday Club *Let's Restart It*

The Monday after school club was a huge success before Covid, brought many children into the Church and was an important part of our outreach to the community. We hope to restart our Monday after-school Club for primary school children, but to ensure we can run it properly, we need more volunteers to help. Please speak to Jerry for more details.

Can You Help with "Warm Church"

We hope to open the stables over the winter months as a warm space so people can come and have a cuppa, enjoy a chat, make new friends, play board games even.

It will be open to all who wish to come but we need volunteers to help make drinks and be a friendly face. We will open alongside the Community Fridge on Monday afternoons and Wednesday & Thursday mornings. On Thursday we will extend the open time as we will serve soup between 12.00-2.00pm.

If you can help staff it or occasionally provide soup, please speak to Ron or Diana.

Men's Breakfast with John Leaf

There will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday 15th October in The Stables at 8-30am. John Leaf will be the guest speaker there will be no fixed charge, donations appreciated, all profits to BMS to benefit our 24/7 Partners at Guinebor2 in Chad.

Cereal & fruit juice will be followed by a cooked breakfast, similar to the one pictured, with plenty of tea/coffee and toast available too.

To book your place(s) email geoffreynolds51@gmail.com, phone 01692 672120 or speak to Geoff. (It helps catering to have at least an idea how many folk are coming, thanks!)

Church Meeting

The next church meeting will take place on Sunday 9th October at 12.00pm following the morning service.

24 Hour Snooker Marathon

Would you like to take part in a 24 hour snooker marathon at Edna's to raise money for the building fund? Snooker will start at 6.00pm Friday 14th and finish at 6.00pm Saturday 15th. The 24 hours will be broken up into 6 hour blocks. Refreshments will be available.

If you would like to take part have a chat with Edna or Henry on 01692-581529.

EBA Prayer Focus 2nd October 2022 Orchard Baptist Church

Orchard Baptist Church, Colchester is a friendly church in the outskirts of Colchester with people from a diverse range of life experience and ages. At present, we have people from Ghana, Ukraine, Nigeria, USA in fellowship with us, which brings us great delight and rich blessings. We are a church which likes to laugh (and sometimes cry) as we share life together as we worship God. We have a relaxed style of modern worship and a lively Sunday School. In our older group, we use art to discuss faith and pray about the things that challenge us, while our younger group does a mixture of games, storytelling and crafts to help memorise important stories or teachings from the Bible.

In the past year, we have been listening to God and asking his wisdom for our future. We have completed the process of becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Hooray!) and watched as the Lord has added to our numbers naturally through calling a good number of new people into the church. These arrive with a variety of needs which require careful prayer and thinking. Some are from our local area and others not: for

example, our Ukrainian families.

We believe that God is also challenging us to widen our vision to include provision of a community outreach room at the front of our church. This has involved negotiating the removal/repositioning of stored materials and furniture out of the building from our longer-term letting clients, an ongoing tidying of our own resources, and relocating our older Sunday School group. This has gone amazingly smoothly and we are thankful to God for answered prayer. We still have decoration and some minor building work to do, but we are hopeful that this will happen in the next few months.

Our weekly activities include a lively Toddler group, Table Tennis, Crafting, homegroups and our Discovers groups. Our hall lettings are additional to this and very busy and we need to think through how we balance our own building use with the needs of the organisations that use our building. We have a CAP Lifeskills course beginning late September and we pray that God will bring joy and mutual support to those attending during our cost of living crisis.

PRAYER NEEDS

1. That we grow closer as a fellowship to God and to each other, mindful of life's joys and challenges.
2. That our decorations and minor building work are done within an appropriate timeframe, mindful of the challenges this brings.
3. We would like our homegroups to be places which attract new people and that we become more able to disciple our newcomers as well as our established members.
4. That we do not take on more than we can manage with the number of volunteers available.
5. That we are able to be a church which is able to display the rich diversity of talents and giftings that the Lord has given to us across the whole fellowship.

Food Bank

During September, any of the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Tinned Fish, Tinned Vegetables, Pasta Sauce, Rice Pudding, Pot Noodles/ Mugshots, Squash/Fruit Juice, Laundry Liquid, Washing Up Liquid, Shampoo, Deodorant, Toilet Rolls

Quotes of the Week

"If you BELIEVE, you can BEHOLD."

— Lailah Gifty Akita

"To that end, we are ALL worshippers.. "Human beings by their very nature are worshipers. Worship is not something we do; it defines who we are. You cannot divide human beings into those who worship and those who don't.

Everybody worships; it's just a matter of what, or whom, we serve." (Paul David Tripp).

Our jobs, relationship, reputations, and treasure- these are just a few things that compete for our worship. We were made for one worship and one satisfaction, but our taste buds are skewed until our appetites are formed in and for Him.

The question isn't whether we will use our everyday moments to worship because we will in the midst of ordinary places, people, sights, sounds, joys, and pains. How we direct our eyes, minds, hearts, and hands in the everyday will determine whom we ultimately worship, and what we ultimately become. We were made to behold Him and be transformed in Him.

The art of everyday worship is the journey from canvas to masterpiece. We all have an invitation to be transformed, one everyday moment at a time."

— Ruth Chou Simons, *Beholding and Becoming: The Art of Everyday Worship*

"Those who walk with God sees and behold his promises"

— Sunday Adelaja



“Service in life; hope in death”: Welby’s counter-cultural message

Amid the pomp and precision, Archbishop Justin Welby’s sermon was so vital, writes Jon Kuhrt

I can understand the feelings of those who struggled with aspects of the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. However much respect and gratitude there is towards the Queen, the fusion of militarism, opulence and imperial power alongside Christian worship should create dissonance and provoke questions. The medium cannot be separated from the message.

It’s a struggle I have every time I am in Westminster Abbey. It is a church dedicated to the glory of God, yet it also feels like a [temple to British imperialism](#).

For those who live in countries saturated in wealth, power and Christian religion, it’s a dissonance we cannot avoid. We should always be asking ‘What would the man in the sandals make of it?’

Conviction

This is why, amid the pomp and precision, [Justin Welby’s sermon](#) was so vital. In under 6 minutes, he shared a counter-cultural message about the value and priority of life with clarity and conviction.

Welby had some job on his hands. He was speaking to over 5 billion people – over 60 per cent of the world’s population. Never has a sermon had this kind of profile and reach.

And he went for it. He did not couch his message in bland platitudes about Christian values. He avoided what he has described as the [‘moral claptrap’](#) which so often warps public discussions about faith.

Also, his brevity created clarity: a great example to those who preach. In a lifetime of church-going, I have never felt a sermon was too short.

Counter-cultural

But best of all, Welby shared a radical and deeply counter-cultural message about true value.

The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten after death. The pattern for all who serve God – famous or obscure, respected or ignored – is that death is the door to glory.

Service and humility before God is not just a nice way to live; it is the route to true greatness:

People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten.

This truth is ultimately embodied by the life and death of the person at the heart of the Christian faith:

Jesus – who does not tell his disciples how to follow, but who to follow – said: “I am the way, the truth and the

life”.

Ultimate sacrifice

I will always feel ambivalent about many of the statues and monuments which cover Westminster Abbey.

But there is a [row of statues](#) above the Great West door which remember 20th century martyrs who died because of their faith in Christ. They include [Martin Luther King](#), [Oscar Romero](#), [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#) and seven others from across the world.

All of these people made the ultimate sacrifice because, even in the face of threats and oppression, they truly believed what Welby summarised so succinctly on Monday:

Service in life, hope in death.

Jon Kuhrt works as a Rough Sleeping Adviser to the government specialising in how faith and community groups respond to homelessness, and is a member of Streatham Baptist Church.

This reflection first appeared on his blog [Grace and Truth](#), and is republished with permission. Image | [Jacqui J. Sze](#)



The Show That Goes Wrong

Written by Ron Skivington for the Easter Community Scene.

Over the Easter holidays one of the things I am looking forward to is a trip to the theatre to see “The show that goes wrong”. You may have seen one of their previous shows live or on the TV.

They take the style of an old fashioned farce and, as it says in the title, whatever the production, something, actually many things, go wrong be it forgotten lines, wrong costumes, falling scenery and the like so much so it becomes a slapstick comedy.

To some on the original of what we call Good Friday, everything was going wrong. only there was nothing slapstick or farcical about it.

The disciples of Jesus, late at night, had gone with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked them to watch as He went a little further into the gloom to pray, only they fell asleep to be woken by the sound of feet, voices, dozens of torches and one of their own number kissing Jesus on the cheek saying “this is the One you are to arrest,” which the soldiers duly did. Jesus then faced various trials during the night, was whipped and beaten, mocked and eventually led off to be crucified, dying on His cross in agony between two criminals.

It wasn’t meant to be like that, it had all gone wrong – at least it had for all those who had hoped Jesus was the One to save Israel.” [Luke 24:21] They had hoped He was the One they called Messiah, the One who would come and change everything and right all

wrongs and yet it had all gone so badly wrong, Jesus was dead and their hopes were crushed.

It was as though the wrong people had got in on the story, the lines and scenes had been changed and the scenery was falling down as Jesus should have been given a crown and not a cross. The ending was messed up too, death and not glorious life. No-one was laughing because it wasn't funny - except for those Jewish religious leaders who had felt threatened, challenged and intimidated by Jesus and who thought they had triumphed by getting rid of their problem.

The thing about "the show that goes wrong" whatever the plot or the episode, is that it looks to the audience as though it's all going wrong because it is meant to be going in one direction and yet, because of all the things that appear out of place, it seems to be going in another - but actually it finishes exactly where the script writer intended it to and that's the same with the Easter story - God the Father always knew exactly where it was going.

The intention always was Jesus would die as He did because His death represented ours, He died that we need not die, well, yes, we will all physically die unless Jesus has returned before that happens but He taught that through His death the way has been opened for us to have eternal life.

Jesus knew He was soon to die and told His disciples what that would mean only they didn't understand Him when He said "I am going to the Father to prepare a place for you for I am the Way, the Truth and the Life and because I live you will live also" [John 14:1-6, 18-19] Neither had they understood when earlier He had told them "I am the Resurrection and the life if anyone believes in me even though they [physically] die they shall live [for ever] through faith in Me [John 11:25-26]

There may be much in life at present that seems to you to be going wrong, is out of control and not heading anywhere near the direction you thought it would, please then consider those words of Jesus because He knows exactly where life is heading and He won't let your life go wrong if you put Him in charge of it.

Delivery of hope: Bibles arrive in war-torn Ukraine

Some 168,000 Bibles and other scripture-based books have been delivered to communities under fire in Ukraine. The Bibles have been provided by the British and Foreign Bible Society, in the UK, and distributed by the Ukrainian Bible Society

Lorry drivers travelled to printers in Finland, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia to collect Bibles for the war-torn country returning under what has been described as 'extremely difficult' conditions.

Bibles have been in increasing demand since the war broke out five months ago. Living surrounded by death has caused people to ask questions about life, said Anatoliy Raychynets, deputy general secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society.

'I have personally delivered several thousands of Bibles from hand to hand,' said Anatoliy. 'It is light in the

darkness.'

Amongst the recent delivery were 34,000 compact Bibles in Ukrainian, 7,000 New Testaments and 57,000 booklets entitled Beyond Disaster which enable people to look at the trauma they've experienced through the light of the Bible. *

'These are excellent for people on the move, who can't take much with them,' said Anatoliy. Being able to give away small copies of the Bible is important when 14 million Ukrainians are internally displaced by the war.

Since the war began, the Bible Society of Ukraine has been delivering bread, first aid and copies of the Bible, but stocks soon ran low as demand outstripped supply.

Anatoliy explained how the Bible speaks into daily life.

'Daily life is heavy,' he said. 'You feel so tired. I haven't slept the whole night through for five months. There are funerals every day. As the weeks go by we are getting used to bad news like this, but we don't realise how much it is changing us, how much harm it is doing us.'

'Together with churches, we're doing our best to bring light to the darkness. The darkness is very deep. I want to express gratefulness for all the support.'

The move comes as Bible Society's appeal for Bibles for Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees topped 1 million.

This has meant that since the war began, some 655,700 Bibles and other scriptures such as New Testaments in Ukrainian and Russian, have been delivered to people fleeing the conflict.

They have so far been delivered to Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, as well as to Ukrainian refugees here in the UK.

Bible Society's Oldi Morava said, 'We are incredibly touched by the generosity of our supporters and the unwavering commitment of our colleagues in Ukraine, who have made this delivery of Bibles to the people of Ukraine possible, and in so doing, bring words of hope to people living in unbelievable circumstances.'

Among those to receive Bibles were Andriy and Yana (pictured). The couple have fled the war twice, first from their home in the Donetsk region in 2014, and this year, from their new home in Mariupol, when it came under sustained Russian attack.

Formerly, the family did not have a personal faith. But, their journey of faith began under fire in Mariupol as they queued for food outside a shop. Russian bombs fell just 30 ft. away. 'Faith started at that point, when God spared all of us,' says Andriy.

The couple, who have found refuge in Lviv, in western Ukraine, were recently given Bibles by a local church.

'We try to get busy with work and studying the Bible,' says Andriy. 'So, everything that happened to us before, it slowly departs. And the wound in your soul becomes smaller because - and this is how we understand the Bible - we don't focus on losing our home, we focus on retaining our lives.'

'This is exactly what we are coming to now, that the most important is not the fact that you lost your house, your material belongings, everything. The most important is that we found God and we found good people.'

Source Baptist Times

