

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 16th October 2022 Service

This Sunday Barbara is leading and Ron preaching,

The Theme is "Becoming"

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

Acts 4:1f, Gen 1:26, Num 21:1f, Ro 8:29, Col1:15, 3:9-10, Eph 4:21-4 Col 3:12f

For Your Prayers

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

Please pray for the "Warm Spaces" project that starts on Monday in the Stables that SBC will be able to support the community in the challenges of the winter to come and show Christianity in action.

Lord Jesus Christ, In these dark and difficult days we turn our hearts to you. In ages past you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again we pray. Give Wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders. Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers. Jesus Christ. In these dark and difficult days, turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us, and heal our land we pray.

Amen Source Church of England

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jenny Jackson**.

Virtual Prayer Room

Updates on Anna from Jerry and Simone

On Monday 10th October "Anna is being prepared for surgery and should be ready soon. They hope to have her in by 9am, and the op may last 4 hours. Thanks a lot for your prayers." Later that day. She came out of surgery around 4pm. She is doing well. We could only see her for 5 mins as they have a procedure going on at the C.I.C.U. and all parents had to leave. We are currently waiting to be allowed back in. The surgery went well, there are a few things they need to keep an eye on, but Anna is doing well. She will be kept asleep until at least tomorrow morning so she can recover better. Thanks for your prayers. Jerry"

Tuesday "Thank you all for praying for Anna. She is doing very well so far. They are reducing the sedation and she's breathing without the breathing tubes. Hopefully they'll start tube feeding her milk this evening. We are now allowed cuddles feels so good. Simone."

Wednesday. "Anna is continuing to recover very well. She has been taken off her iv medication and is now only on oral medication. They have taken all the drains out and she has already been moved to HDU. She's much more active now and starts being more herself again. Thanks for your continued prayers. Simone."

Reading Isaiah 41:21-24 (MSG) Sham Gods

²¹⁻²⁴ "Set out your case for your gods," says GOD.

"Bring your evidence," says the King of Jacob.

"Take the stand on behalf of your idols, offer arguments, assemble reasons.

Spread out the facts before us

so that we can assess them ourselves.

Ask them, 'If you are gods, explain what the past means—
or, failing that, tell us what will happen in the future.

Can't do that?

How about doing something—anything!

Good or bad—whatever.

Can you hurt us or help us? Do we need to be afraid?'

They say nothing, because they *are* nothing—
sham gods, no-gods, fool-making gods."

As Christians do we still get drawn into almost worshipping those claiming to be the great and the good, when often they are neither, but do they sometimes push Jesus into the background of our lives?

Listen to Jerry'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

07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 17th October

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church

Prayers for SBC and young people

2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Tuesday 18th October

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

7.00pm Bible Study at Barbara & Geoff's

Wednesday 19th October

Table Tennis

9.30am -12 in the School Room

10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Details in online Diary

Thursday 20th October

9.30am Infant School Harvest Service

Rehearsal

10am Bible Art in Schoolroom

3.15pm Messy Church in the Chapel

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Friday 21st October

9.30am Infant School Harvest Service

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 23rd October

10.45 Sunday Service

Flowers: Cynthia Meale

Welcome: Eileen and Magda

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.

“Warm Church” Starts Monday 17th

The stables will be open 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.

It will be open to all who wish to come.

Volunteers are still needed. If you can help staff it or occasionally provide soup, please speak to Diana.

Opening times:

Monday 2.00 to 4.00pm alongside Community Fridge

Wednesday 10.00 to 12.00pm alongside Community Fridge

Thursday 10.00am to 2.00pm alongside Community Fridge to 12.00noon. Soup will be served from 12.00 to 2.00pm.

Urgent Request

Volunteers needed to clean and tidy church premises for a temporary period. Please speak to Monica 01692-580947 if you can help.

A Big Thankyou

Last Sunday we were blessed with the Baptism of Gracie Nicholson. Gracie spoke clearly and maturely about her faith. Gracie would like to give a big thankyou to all the folk who gave her gifts and cards.

Believers Baptism

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 you need more information.

Do You Wear a Hearing aid?

An induction loop is fitted in the chapel. To receive sound from this loop switch hearing aid to "T" position and you should enjoy clearer reception.

Thank you from Peter and Dorothy Bane.

Thank you for your prayers after Peter's fall on the 20th Sept which saw him badly cutting his face and being taken to the James Paget for treatment. The improvement since then has been truly remarkable. Please keep praying for us. Anything is possible with God.

Bible Art

Don't miss the Bible Art morning in the Schoolroom on Thursday 20th 10.00am to 12 it has been a great success.

Shoe Box Appeal

SBC will be working together for the Shoe Box Appeal with St Mary's Church. Leaflets are to be found at the back of the church. For more information have a chat with Magda.

North Norfolk Food Bank

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

EBA Prayer Focus 16th October 2022

Modern Slavery

This week we take a break from our usual focus upon a local church, to look at a wider issue facing our Association with help from the EBA Justice Transformation Group.

In May we prayed into the issue of disability justice, and this week it is the turn of modern slavery to take the spotlight.

Every year thousands of referrals are made to authorities concerning modern slavery, with incidents of trafficked children being reported in every local area of the UK. Victims can be exploited in a number of ways, including: forced labour or criminality, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, and even organ harvesting.

One of the greatest challenges to combating modern slavery is the fact it is usually a hidden crime and is therefore hard to spot. Anti-slavery day takes place on 18th October, and is an opportunity for churches to reflect upon the words of Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners

What can churches actually do in response to modern slavery? The first thing would be educating ourselves to spot the signs. This can be done by viewing the resources at togetherfree.org.uk.

Secondly, churches can identify areas where they are engaging with vulnerable people in the community, such as night shelters and food banks, as these are areas where there is a higher risk of victims of modern slavery.

Thirdly, consider whether your church might adopt a modern slavery policy and explore whether it might help establish a local antislavery partnership with other faith groups in your community.

Prayer Points

- Pray for those who are working to end modern slavery - that they might expose the crimes being committed behind closed doors and bring justice to the oppressed.
- Pray for the victims - for courage to speak out and seek help, for healing and for ongoing protection.
- Pray for traffickers and exploiters - that the love of God might break into their lives and transform their thinking and actions.

Quotes of the Week

“Do we settle for the world as it is, or do we work for the world as it should be?”

— Michelle Obama, [Becoming](#)

“For every door that's been opened to me, I've tried to open my door to others. And here is what I have to say, finally: Let's invite one another in. Maybe then we can begin to fear less, to make fewer wrong assumptions, to let go of the biases and stereotypes that unnecessarily divide us. Maybe we can better embrace the ways we are the same. It's not about being perfect. It's not about where you get yourself in the end. There's power in allowing yourself to be known and heard, in owning your unique story, in using your authentic voice. And there's grace in being willing to know and hear others. This, for me, is how we become.”

— Michelle Obama, [Becoming](#)

I really came into being
The day I no longer cared about
What the world thought of me,
Only on my thoughts for
Changing the world.”

— Suzy Kassem,

“The practice of reflection has taught me to consistently consider my progress in being and becoming who I was created to be and become, and to acknowledge with gratefulness the opportunities I have had and will have to make a difference in the lives of others.”

— Sandra C. Bibb



'The war has become a powerful catalyst for creativity and sacrifice'

Baptists in Ukraine continue to serve across every region caring for the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of their communities - something mirrored in neighbouring countries

The following was shared in the latest (September) update from the European Baptist Federation

The situation has stayed similar in Ukraine toward the end of the summer. The highest concentration of fighting and the most desperate need are in the east and south. Limited access to food, water, electricity, and transit out of occupied regions continues to press the region into a humanitarian crisis. Many fear the consequences of the harsh winter approaching.

Though fighting is concentrated in the east, cities in the west still experience sporadic missile strikes and air raids in Russia's efforts to destabilise the country. Despite this, many who were internally displaced from the north and central regions have risked returning to rebuild their lives. Baptists continue to serve across every region caring for the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of their neighbours.

Numerous pastor retreats were held around the country during the summer to refresh and restore those wearily serving others. Youth camps provided spaces of relief for children who remain and youth leaders were able to hold a conference to re-energise and encourage those ministering to young people.

In Kyiv, one church was able to still host an annual day camp for those with special needs. A women's prayer breakfast in one church focused on praying for those fighting and for those who are displaced. The Nikolaev Baptist Church in an area with heavy shelling recently held a packed church Sunday church service. Despite explosions and the difficult situation in the city, these people came to God's house looking for support, stability, and peace.

In Bilhorod-Dnistrovs'kyi a new church was consecrated, after less than two years of building. Leaders at the opening service commented, "The consecration of a new house of prayer during war means that God always has a view of tomorrow. God started something yesterday and is developing it today for tomorrow,"



Humanitarian aid projects continue across the country. Churches in the central and eastern regions continue to provide aid, electricity, and water to those on the front lines and, when possible, in occupied areas as well. As people continue to move across the country, Baptists provide transportation for those seeking safety.

Remarkably, even after months of war, Ukrainian Baptists continue to embrace their opportunity to meet the physical and social needs of their communities and delight in the chance to share Christ in the midst of suffering. The war has become a powerful catalyst for creativity and sacrifice. They continue to sow seeds of hope to those in need.

Outside of Ukraine, Baptists continue on in similar work of sowing seeds of hope. In Romania, All4Aid partners have been asked numerous times by locals, "why are you doing this? Why are you still helping?" Their answer mirrors that of countless churches, leaders, and volunteers around the EBF region: We serve because Christ first loved us.

In fact, numerous reports from Germany, Romania, Moldova, Poland, Hungary, and of course Ukraine have all highlighted the professional, quality care and aid Baptists have been able to provide across the region. Local authorities, international NGOs, and aid organisations have all praised the quality work of Baptists. Our brothers and sisters are shining the light of Christ brightly in this dark

time.

Ongoing prayer needs:

Pray God's protection for those ministering to the destitute left behind in conflict areas and occupied areas.

Pray for the ministries of Ukrainian Baptists, where even normal church activities have become responses to the war as they care for the physical and spiritual needs of their communities.

Pray for continued sacrificial giving and service as those in Ukraine and the neighbouring countries prepare for a difficult winter.

Pray that peace will come soon and Ukraine can continue to rebuild.

Pray for the families who are separated and having to make difficult decisions about where and how to resettle outside of Ukraine.

This update was shared by the [European Baptist Federation](#). Sign up for their regular Ukraine updates [here](#).

Photo Wikimedia Commons

Increase benefits with inflation — or children will suffer, charities tell Chancellor

by [Hattie Williams](#) for the **Church Times**

13 October 2022

CHILDREN's charities across the UK have implored the Government to increase **benefits** in line with inflation for the sake of the 200,000 children on the brink of **poverty**.

In an open letter to the Chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, on Tuesday, the leaders of 27 charities, including the **Children's Society** and Save the Children UK, write: "Now is not the time to leave families with less. From any standpoint, it is evident that growth will take time and its benefits will also take time to reach ordinary families.

"Consequently, in the immediate term, children must be urgently protected. There are no second chances at childhood. It is precious, and our future's foundation. If we cast aside a generation of children, the impact on them – and wider society – will be felt for generations."

On Wednesday, the Office for National Statistics reported that the UK economy shrank unexpectedly by 0.3 per cent in August. Also on Wednesday, the Bank of England warned investors that its emergency bond-buying intervention – which was designed to stabilise the economy after the mini-Budget caused market turmoil last month – would end on Friday.

Inflation has risen by almost ten per cent since last October.

The letter warns that "hardworking families" face an average monthly loss of £1061 if benefits are increased in line with earnings instead of inflation.

"We hear from our frontline professionals that many simply will not cope – and we know that it is children that will pay the price. Ordinary families frankly need more support not less."

Reducing child poverty is "morally right" and good for government finances, the letter says. "Child poverty costs the UK £38 billion a year, through reduced revenues for the exchequer and increased need for support services. We know from our work with children that they feel their parents' stress acutely."

The letter refers to the Children's Society's latest *Good Childhood* report, which suggested that 85 per cent of



parents were concerned about the effects of the cost-of-living crisis on their family over the next 12 months ([News, 23 September](#)). "Please do the right thing and protect children during this crisis. Benefits must rise in line with inflation, or we will leave our next generation with less than we had," the letter says.

CAFOD
Just one world

O Lord,
in the goodness of your constant love,
be with the people of Pakistan
as they face devastating floods.

At this time of great loss –
loss of lives, homes and crops –
may we be filled with your compassion
and moved to reach out in love.

As we stand alongside our sisters and brothers, we
pray that
they may find consolation in their sorrow,
strength as they seek shelter and safety
and courage to carry on.

Forgive us, O Lord,
for our part in the climate crisis,
and inspire us all to play our part
in protecting the earth, our common home.

So that together we may build a world
that reflects your glory,
where hope drives out despair
and all things are made new.

Source [CAFOD](#)

