

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 23rd October 2022 Service

This Sunday Pat is leading and Jerry is beginning a mini-series sermon through the book of Haggai, entitled "Priority, Perspective and Purity".

Today's theme is "Priority" (Haggai 1:1-15)

The online service will also be available from Sunday. Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"



Structure of Jerry's talk.

4 Practical steps about putting first things first:

- (1) Stop making Excuses v 2.
- (2) Stop being Selfish v 4
- (3) Take time to Evaluate v 5-11
- (4) Respond Obediently v 12-15.

Jerry's Reads

Ezra 1-5 for the background of Haggai, Matthew 6:31-33; Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Cor 3: 16-17; 6:19-20, Phil 4:6-8, Jude 1:20.

For Your Prayers

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

Foodbanks are facing their hardest winter yet as soaring demand fuelled by the rising cost of living outstrips donations.

Leading charity The Trussell Trust, which supports a network of 1,300 food bank centres, today launches an emergency appeal, warning that "the soaring cost of living is driving a tsunami of need to food banks".

The demand has been particularly acute over the past few months, with the charity distributing 46 per cent more emergency food parcels to banks in August and September compared to the same months in 2021. North Norfolk Foodbank in the year end March 2021 feed 4,300 or so this year to date over 3,000 have been fed.

Lord we pray that the SBC Foodbank will be able to support those in need in our community through the winter.

Lord we pray that our government can sort out its internal problems quickly and focus on the needs of our nation. Lord we also pray for those in our fellowship and community whose quality of life is deteriorating as they wait for NHS operations.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Cyril and Maureen Kerrison**.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Friday 14th October Simone posted "Anna had another good day. She was playing and started eating solids and was breastfeeding. She didn't need any tube feeds today and also has opened her bowels. Hopefully tomorrow she'll agree to drink water as well. Then we should be close to coming back home." **Sunday 16th** Simone posted "Anna has been discharged today. A few things we have to keep an eye on but she'll be seen by her nurse on a weekly basis for some time so that's good. She also has a follow up appointment at the N&N with local Cardiologist in one week's time. Thanks so much for your prayers. God has done a very good thing in her and we trust He will continue to do so."

Monday 17th June posted "Please pray for our daughter Francesca who will be having an operation to remove the appendix tomorrow thanks June."

Tuesday 18th Jane posted "Good news about Corporal Lee. He's now in Stanmore hospital. They are hoping to save his leg and reverse the colostomy bag. Please keep praying for him, Kate, his wife and family. He is hoping soon to have a home visit accompanied by medics for 2-3 hours."

Wednesday 19th Dan posted "Hi everyone, our daughter Ruth is having her baby today" Also on Wednesday June posted "Thanks for your prayers yes all good Op midnight then sent home pm today. Went really well. Amazing what a great thing we can pray for everyone thanks all June." Later that day Dan posted "Ruth has had a baby boy! All went well. Thanks for your prayers."

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

This week Ron gives his take on the verses

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 worshiping 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 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
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Secretary: Diana Gordon
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Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 24th October

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church
Prayers for SBC and young people
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
7.00pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday 25th October

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Wednesday 26th October

Table Tennis

9.30am -12 in the School Room

10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Thursday 27th October

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Details in online Diary

Friday 28th October

10 .15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 30th October

10.45 Sunday Service

Flowers: Janet Nicholson

Welcome: Jill & Elinor

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 Space” Christianity in Action

Our community is facing a catastrophic perfect storm as inflation, energy costs, rising mortgages, rising rents and a government contemplating the reduction of benefits, coalesce. SBC has a foodbank, community fridge, coffee & chat and spiritual comfort in place. Added to that the Warm Space started on Monday 17th. But as time goes by we may have to find further ways of supporting our community.

What are other people saying?

“This crisis goes far beyond politics; this is a moral issue - our responsibilities to our neighbours and in particular to those who have the least and whose needs are the greatest.”

Gordon Brown - GordonAndSarahBrown.com

“The impact of the cost of living crisis is being disproportionately felt by those on the lowest incomes. Already stretched, families are being crushed by soaring household bills and struggling to afford basic essentials like food and heating. It's time to respond, in our churches and communities, to provide warmth to those who need it this winter.”

Paula Stringer - CEO of Christians Against Poverty

“The warm welcome campaign demonstrates the innovation and willingness of churches and different community organisations across the UK to partner, and most importantly, to come alongside and serve those most in need this winter and beyond.”

Alicia Edmund, Evangelical Alliance - Evangelical Alliance

The stables is 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.

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. A big thank you to Stuart at Tesco for the donations of tea and coffee etc.

“Warm Space” Stalham Library

Stalham Library is offering free bags of essential items this winter, for both adults and children. Tea, coffee, instant soup, hot chocolate and biscuits will also be available during staffed hours.

Harvest Supper and Auction

The Auction made £181.00 and the meal £110.00 which will be donated to the BMS appeal which this year is called "Good land" helping transform the village of Ghusel in Nepal. A big thank you to the ladies who cooked a brilliant supper.

Men's Breakfast

Last Saturday's Men's Breakfast saw 21 men gathered to enjoy a meal together, John Leaf shared some thoughts with us and £90-56 was raised which will go to Guinebor 2 hospital in Chad to support the work of our BMS prayer partners, the Shrubsole family, and their work there.

Craft Fayre

Edna, Barbara Mixer and Henry are planning a craft fayre for December 8th-9th in the Schoolroom to raise money for the building fund.

Edna is looking for any craft items that could be sold. If you can help give Edna a call on 01692 582633

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 23rd October 2022

Parsons Heath Baptist Church

Parsons Heath is a suburb on the northeast edge of Colchester. Since 2016, the fellowship have been seeking new ways to be God's church within their community, streets, homes and families. For Parsons Heath, this meant a stepping back from building-based activities and stepping out as witnesses and servants from their homes and workplaces. COVID may have forced the fellowship at Parsons Heath to move from their ageing and restrictive building, but they took the bold decision to remain out of the building for the foreseeable future. The fellowship now meets via Zoom on Sundays and uses conventional and more interactive ways to worship God and support one another.

Twice weekly they gather for prayer. The fellowship sees this as a significant part of their calling. These times have an outward and missional focus, as they seek to live out God's heart for others. Once a month the fellowship meets face-to-face at the manse. This encourages and builds community. Alongside and supporting these goals is a 'Link' magazine. Initiated during lockdown, it is distributed to all church contacts. This helps keeping in touch with the housebound and a wider pre-COVID congregation.

The fellowship are also using innovative means to prayerfully serve those around them. A stand offering free apples from church members' apple trees led to remarkable conversations, new contacts, and the sharing of faith.

Through deepening spiritual relationships, and a growing awareness of community needs, the fellowship at Parsons Heath are learning to bring God into their individual situations.

For prayer:

- Give thanks for deepening faith, new opportunities, and godly encounters.
- Pray for courage for the congregation as they look beyond the familiarity of the building.
- Pray for increased awareness of opportunities to serve and witness in the everyday.
- Pray for wisdom concerning the future of the building and the challenge of finance.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

“If you have not chosen the Kingdom of God first, it will in the end make no difference what you have chosen instead.” -- **William Law**.

“Your priorities must be God first, God second, and God third, until your life is continually face to face with God.”-- **Oswald Chambers**.

You'll never come second by putting God first.”

--**Brian Houston**.

“When we come to Christ, we're no longer the most important person in the world to us; Christ is. Instead of living only for ourselves, we have a higher goal: to live for Jesus.”

-- **Billy Graham**.

“When we put God first, all other things fall into their proper place or drop out of our lives. Our love of the Lord will govern the claims for our affection, the demands on our time, the interests we pursue, and the order of our priorities.”

--**Ezra Taft Benson**.

“Jesus taught that your highest priority must be your relationship with Him. If anything detracts you from that relationship, that activity is not from God. God will not ask you to do something that hinders your relationship with Christ.” -- **Henry Blackaby**.



'Preaching in BSL at St Paul's was a marked difference from my usual venues'

Baptist minister Sue Whalley delivered the first ever known sermon in British Sign Language (BSL) at St Paul's Cathedral on 25 September. She explains how this momentous occasion came about:

When I commenced my Baptist Ministry training at Northern Baptist College in Manchester in 2019, preaching at this place of worship was not what I expected to be doing on completion.

The Deaf Church in the Diocese of London had been led and nurtured by the Chaplain for the Deaf, Catherine Carlyon, who has since relocated to a hearing parish in the West Country in 2020. I was offered a placement under the Church of England when I was unable to find work with Deaf people in the Baptist Church in London.

Last May, a conference took place at St Katharine's in Limehouse between Deaf Church Leaders and Church of England Clergy to seek the way forward. As a result, it was felt that markers were needed in the London Calendar to focus on Deaf ministry.

Building on the momentum of [the BSL Act last April](#) (when British Sign Language was accepted as an official language in England and Wales) and recognising the International Week of Deaf people and International Day of Sign Languages in September; it was suggested that [a Deaf person preach at St Paul's Cathedral](#). This would raise the profile, attract Diocesan attention, identifying with Deaf culture as well as marking my contribution to the Deaf ministry for the three-year duration of my placement. I recognised that this was an honour, but it was with some trepidation that I accepted this commission, accompanied by prayers of request for strength and wisdom.

Hence, I found myself at the Cathedral on the said morning feeling overwhelmed by the building and the occasion, but recognising this was an opportunity to get the Deaf Church under the wider radar. It was also a blessing for Deaf people to have a sermon delivered in BSL instead of via a Sign Language Interpreter which takes place at St Paul's occasionally.

Deaf churches are far and few between nationally but an essential part of ministry as we seek to reach the marginalised and excluded with Deaf people



travelling distances to take part in accessible services and have fellowship. The event at St Paul's was no different as people attended from Leeds, Derby and Bristol as well as in and around London.

For Deaf people, a sermon in BSL means receiving information first hand and not as an after-thought or delivered via a culture which they have struggled to understand and embrace. This topic was included in the sermon content from Luke 16, covering the role reversal of the rich man and Lazarus as well as the distance between different people groups.

Preaching at St Paul's was a marked difference from my usual venue of halls, both secular and church, with a music stand, with a more informal and relaxed format and smaller congregation. A maximum of 30 Deaf people were expected to attend alongside the hearing visitors to the cathedral, and we were blown away that approximately between 60- 70 Deaf people turned up, highlighting the importance and significance of the event.

Many people have asked where I go from here, in truth, I do not know. I am delighted that my fellow students have been ordained, but jobs for disabled Baptist ministers or work with specialist groups are rarely advertised.

I seek to find a hub where Deaf people can worship, learn, grow, not just spiritually, but mentally and physically. This would take place in the form of Deaf church, bible-studies, Messy Church, mother and toddler groups for both deaf babies and their Deaf parents, among other activities. Through these, Deaf people can learn that the all-encompassing love of Jesus is not just about spiritual salvation but about the whole person, at a place where they are truly welcome and communication is not a barrier. Where people are identified as Joe, Beulah and Assaf, without labels belonging to specific groups. This is my vision of a new heaven and earth where all are recognised equally as people of God.

The Revd Sue Whalley is a Baptist minister who trained at Northern Baptist College.

If you have an interest in Sue's ministry or ideas about how to create a hub where Deaf people can worship, learn and grow, not just spiritually, but mentally and physically, contact her [here](#).

On Sunday 25 September Sue made history when she preached in BSL in St Paul's Cathedral. Recording wasn't allowed in the Cathedral, so Sue kindly recorded her sermon at home for [BSL Church Worship](#).





'Lord, we want to be honest with you..!'

one thing that you can do today that will help one other person, and then pray for the courage to do something about it.

Something to read

Still others had trial of mocking's and scourging's, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented, of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth.

- Hebrews 11:36-38.

Something to think about

Later in the letter to the Hebrews, the writer explains that he has written to them because he wants to encourage them.

Forgive me, but I think that I might have excluded some of these lines from a letter of encouragement! This is very strong stuff. The reminder that the heroes of the faith were brutally tortured at times and even murdered for their faith isn't the normal way in which I go about encouraging people!

However, the writer to the Hebrews writes in this way precisely because he wants the people in his congregation to be full of courage as they face the challenges of their day.

He wanted literally to en-courage them.

He doesn't want them to have any illusions. It is clear that in the church at the time there was persecution and some people had wandered away from the faith. They needed to be reminded of those who had gone before them and of the extraordinary courage that they had shown.

By ourselves most of us are timid and weak. We lack courage, even to face the most mundane challenges. But if we are to be effective for God today we will need courage and we need the inspiration of those who have gone before us.



Something to do

The problems of our society and our world are immense. Totally overwhelming. Reflect on

Something to pray

Lord we want to be honest with you. We are often timid and fearful, and we would much rather avoid challenges and problems than face them. Grant to us your wisdom so that we will face every challenge with courage and with grace.

Help us to support others who are facing big problems in their lives. Help us to be true encouragers to them.

Thank you for the way in which you have given courage to people through thousands of years, and please grant us your courage today.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's contributor is the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, former General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

For more information about Christian Aid click <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Prayers for Our Government

"Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our King and his government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but, laying aside all private interests and prejudices, keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen."

- Pray for your MP: that they will make wise decisions for the good of their constituents and that they will be able to cope with the stresses and strains of public office. Why not write to your MP to let them know that you are praying for them?
- Pray for the work of the House of Commons and the House of Lords: that good and just decisions will be made and that the tone of debate is measured and constructive.
- Pray for Christian MPs, Peers and staff: that their faith will grow and that they will seek to serve God, being salt and light in Parliament. Pray that all Christians working in Parliament will model disagreeing well and be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry.
- Thank God for the freedoms we enjoy to pray and worship and to participate in public life.

Source [Christians in Parliament](#)