

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 6th November 2022 Service



This Sunday Diana is leading and guest speaker Norma Huxter will be preaching from Matthew 22:34-46

She will be speaking about the two great commandments that Jesus gave us  
**Love God and Love Others.**

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 November please pray for the residents of **Dunkerley Court, Kingfisher Close, Lawns Loke and Railway Mews.**

**Lord John 1: 6-7 (MSG) says** If we claim that we experience a shared life with him and continue to stumble around in the dark, we're obviously lying through our teeth—we're not *living* what we claim. But if we walk in the light, God himself being the light, we also experience a shared life with one another, as the sacrificed blood of Jesus, God's Son, purges all our sin. **Please pray** that as a fellowship we can stay in the Light and bring more of our community into the Light.

**Lord our God, rule over us in strength, and grant us your light.** Let your Spirit be with us to confirm what has already taken place in our hearts, so that we have joy and trust even under all the strain and stress of this life. Shine into the darkness of the world. Shine for all people. *Prayer from Plough.*

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **David, Julia and David Maile.**

## A Morning Prayer for God's Presence

Lord, may nothing separate me from You today. Teach me how to choose only Your way today so each step will lead me closer to You. Help me walk by the Word and not my feelings. Help me to keep my heart pure and undivided. Protect me from my own careless thoughts, words, and actions. And keep me from being distracted by MY wants, MY desires, MY thoughts on how things should be. Help me to embrace what comes my way as an opportunity... rather than a personal inconvenience. And finally, help me to rest in the truth of Psalm 86:13, 'Great is your love toward me.' You already see the ways I will fall short and mess up. But right now, I consciously tuck Your whisper of absolute love for me into the deepest part of my heart. I recognize Your love for me is not based on my performance. You love me warts and all. That's amazing. But what's most amazing is that the Saviour of the world would desire a few minutes with me this morning. Lord, help me to forever remember what a gift it is to sit with You like this. Amen. - Lysa Terkeurst *Crosswalk*

## Virtual Prayer Room

**On Friday 28th October** Jerry posted "Please pray for our friends Serana and Robert and their two and half year old daughter Isla, who is currently undergoing heart surgery at GOSH." **On Sunday** Jerry posted "Please continue praying for Isla. Her op went well, but her heart rhythm is not very stable. They are currently trying new drug to stabilise her."

**On Tuesday** Maggie H posted "Prayer request from Rita R. Rita is undergoing major surgery at NNUH preps started at 7.15am. **On Wednesday** Jane Skivington posted "Just heard from Rita's son. The operation has gone well."

## Mark 12: 28-34 (MSG) The Most Important Commandment

<sup>28</sup> One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?"

<sup>29-31</sup> Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

<sup>32-33</sup> The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So clear-cut and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!" <sup>34</sup> When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom." After that, no one else dared ask a question.

**As a Christian do we find it easy to love our neighbour but at times struggle to love ourselves?** Listen to Ron's blog on the passage with a short blog (less than 5 minutes) by visiting our [Scripture Reading Plan](#) Then click on [Public Area](#) then [Scripture Reading Plan](#).

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.

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

### Monday 7th November

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 8th November

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

### Wednesday 9th November

Table Tennis

9.30am -12 in the School Room  
10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

### Thursday 10th November

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables  
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting  
Details in online Diary

### Friday 11th November

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

### Sunday 13th November

10.45 Sunday Service  
Remembrance Sunday  
Welcome: Jenny and Jane

### Monday 14th November

11am Thanks giving service for  
Anna Luo Otieno

### Monday 21st November

10am Funeral for Kenneth Bargewell  
**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



## Bible Reading Blog

Every week Jerry and Ron do a blog based on the reading on the front page of the newsletter. This week it is Mark 12: 28-34 and links to Norma's talk.

They are often thought provoking and challenge us as a fellowship. But the numbers of people listening are quite low. However, last week's incredibly powerful blog by Jerry's based on Romans 8: 31-39 has had 35 listens to date.

These blogs take time to produce and last around 5 minutes and are well worth listening to each week.

## 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 flowers, Christmas decorations and old artificial Christmas trees that can be cut up to make Christmas wreaths. If you can help give Edna a call on 01692 582633

## Diana has been Vinted

I have just given SBC bank account £200 for the building fund through what I have sold on **'Vinted'**. Writes Diana. 'Vinted' is a downloadable app for your phone where you can sell unwanted items of clothing, jewellery or indeed anything you might normally give to a charity shop. So if you are thinking of clearing out some unwanted stuff then think about 'Vinted'. Its easy to use and there is no cost to the seller. The buyer pays for the postage method of their choice up front and Vinted hold the money until buyer receives the item. They then transfer it to your balance. You can instruct the money Vinted are holding in your balance to be paid into your bank account at any time. If you want any further information as to how it works then speak to Diana who has just raised £200 for the building fund selling off clothes and other things she no longer has any use for.

## SBC and St Mary's House Group

You would be very welcome to join the group for our **"ADVENT"** Studies. The dates of the 3 sessions will be 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> December – if you can't come to every session that's no problem. We meet at "Peregrines", Lower Staithe Road, Stalham, starting at around 7.00pm with refreshments, and we aim to finish by 9.00pm or very soon after.

If you plan to come along please would you phone Keith – 01692 583292 beforehand. It would be really good to have your company.

## EBA Prayer Focus 6th November 2022 Pier Avenue Baptist Church

Pier Avenue Baptist Church is prominently located in the main street of the Essex coastal resort of Clacton-on-Sea. The church has been without a minister for a few months and is about to enter the search for a new pastor. The church profile has been written and will be signed-off by the church this month so the search process then can begin. During this pastoral vacancy there is a refurbishment project needed for the manse.

On Sundays there are around 60 attending morning service. The congregation is at the older end of the age-spectrum which reflects the local seaside population, but there are a few families too. During this time of pastoral vacancy the church has a number of people in-house who lead services, including Moderator Rev Tony Crawford, in addition to visiting speakers who bring blessings with their really challenging messages.

The church services are livestreamed and widely watched. DVD's of services are still sent to a number of people who

are not online, and during covid this was a key way of keeping in touch with the wider fellowship.

During the week there are house groups and prayer meetings, a Toddler group and a very thriving Girls' Brigade. On Thursdays the Enfold Project – now in its twelfth year – provides a hot breakfast, a safe place, companionship and other services for the homeless and vulnerably-housed. The church employs a Parish Nurse who is able to minister to the needs of many of those who attend Enfold.

For Prayer

- For the search for a new minister and wisdom, patience and guidance in this process.
- For making the joint prayer life of the church better and creating new opportunities to come together to pray that will involve more people participating.
- For new families to join the church and become involved in activities.
- For the continued blessings and challenges that weekly speakers are bringing.

For effectively reaching out into the local community in these challenging times.

## Shoe Box Appeal

The Shoe Box Service is on 20th November at 3.00pm at St Mary's Church Stalham. You still have time to contribute to the appeal there are leaflets at the back of the church or 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**

## Energy Needs

If you are, or know someone who is, struggling with their energy bills Cromer Food Bank offers a scheme called Energybank that can help. Contact the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk Citizens Advice Bureau can also give advice and possible assistance. Click [here](#) for a link.

## Quotes of the Week

"Accept yourself, love yourself, and keep moving forward. If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down."

**Roy T. Bennett,**

"Jesus loves you and you love Him. So how can you not love yourself you have to love yourself because it's the only way you can fully fill with His love and except totally His gift of cleansing of all those guilt-ridden moments you still carry and are haunted by."

**Franky Dilch**

"Love thy neighbour as thyself," Christ said. Neither more than nor less than, but as thyself. It seems that to love thy neighbour whole-heartedly, one must love thyself whole-heartedly. Without selflove, it is a tricky task to try and love others."

**Richelle E. Goodrich,**

"The main takeaway of this parable is not love your neighbour by trying hard to be like the good Samaritan but rather love your neighbour by realising you are the traveller and Jesus, the good Samaritan, has loved you first."

**Christopher Yuan,**





# Where do you find God in a place like this?

## The reflections of a teenager whose parents served on an Urban Expression team

I grew up in a town shunned by the news, neglected by politics, rejected by the local area, underfunded by the council, blessed by God. I grew up in the sort of town you try to drive through as quickly as possible as you pass by. You would have heard of its name, but only through negative news reports of violence and young people losing lives to knife violence.

This description can lead Christians to ask questions like: *Where do you find God in a place like this? How can people find God in a place like this?*

I can imagine my parents felt planting a church in this place was like planting a seed in a drought. I was too young to remember and understand the task my parents set themselves up for when we moved to HH. Growing up here was all I can remember and it was the complete norm for me.

The church was tailored to the needs of the people of the community we were based in. We would meet on a weekday in the evening, eating a large meal buffet style. Everyone brought a dish to add to the feast. We also shared communion, Jesus's body being represented by crisps, poppadoms, or the usual bread. The blood of Jesus was represented by juice, water and occasionally very strong squash when my dad used double-strength squash without realising it, surprising church members with the bitter taste.

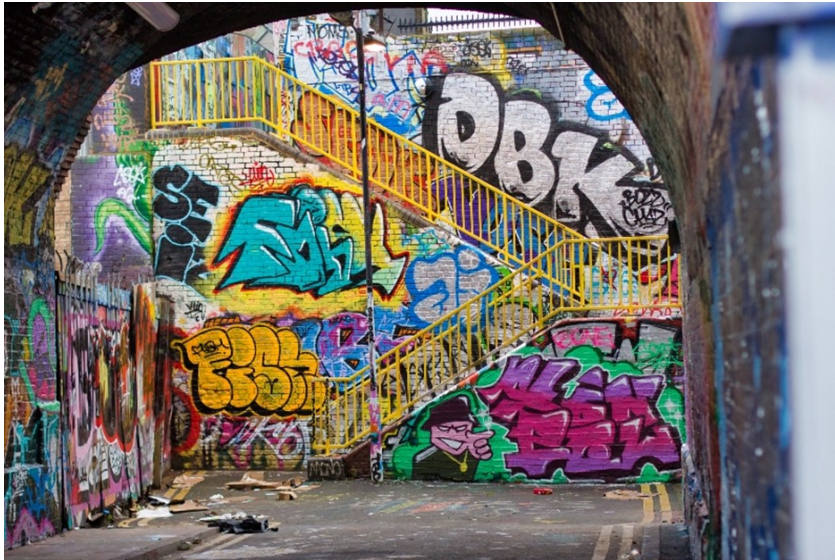
Now we have moved church I understand how non-conventional this church was. We very rarely sang. If we tried to lead worship, it would often feel like a performance without much participation. My parents worked very hard in the community to find ways to bring people to Jesus. Many struggled with prayer so my parents made guides which made it much easier.

Not all people who attended our church believed in God. However, my parents still provided the space and community for these people to feel accepted, to

give them friends and something to look forward to in the week. God was moving in people even though they did not know it and they still may not know it. People brought joy to each other, and God blessed the church with opportunities to open deep discussions.

Being a child I was never a part of these discussions. However, I did get reports back from dad about what the adults were discussing while they were washing up. This time of washing up turned into regular deep discussions often focused around the Lord Jesus. While the church was cleaning and washing up, in a way HH was becoming cleaner. God used this as a tool to spread his Word.

It's important to note I do not have a negative view of HH, and I do not share the opinions presented by the news or the local area. However, without this need for a new church, a new type of church, it can't be a perfect area. My parents have often felt a calling to work with the working class which can often be neglected by the church.



There were other churches we partnered with, and we had many join the team working with us. This helped the dynamic of the church and we are very grateful for all the people who served here. While the goal was to go and set up a church in HH, I think personally my parents and the various members of the team's biggest achievement was the simplicity of being a great Christian witness

to the local area. People who would not always necessarily believe in God or attend church would ask for prayer or ask for ethical guidance. God managed to use the people in this Urban Expression team to have great outreach and spread his Word.

As I entered my teenage years, I really started to understand how my parents' relationships really benefited others. I saw lots of families quite dependent on them. At the time this was frustrating, but now as I look back, I see a great beauty in it.

My mum was a great carer for the community. I remember one time being at rugby training calling her and asking why had she not picked me up yet. Something that day had happened with one of the families at church, and she just dropped what she was doing to care for them. At the time you can imagine I was cold and pretty annoyed my mum wasn't there to take me home to a warm bath. However, God used her to shelter and look after a

family so broken and with who the police were involved.

She has given hugs to broken mums, made warm coffee for elderly people in society and done the shopping for people too unwell to go themselves. All through this God used her as a witness to HH. It is impossible for people to not notice this amazing discipleship, and it's something I look up to her about. Her being this backbone to these families would probably not have happened if my dad had decided to be a normal Baptist minister in a conventional church.

As for my dad, I would come home from school after a long day and wonder where he was. He was often doing very similar work to my mother. Many lads in the church had no father figure around, and often the father was in and out of the picture. My dad was my dad, but looking back I can also name a few others for whom he was also their father figure, teaching them skills their mothers could not. This is really special for me. I can't imagine not having my dad, and I am so grateful for just being a good example to me.

My parents offered such a unique service to the people of HH. They were like a 24hr response team, and often put themselves last, as do many members of Urban Expression. It says in Matthew's gospel that 'whoever wants to be first must be your slave.' This is talking about leadership, and my parents nailed this in my opinion. To show people God they had first to show people how God will lead them to serve the community, to be slaves to the church and to be slaves to HH.

Growing up as a part of an Urban Expression church is something I am so grateful for. When I speak so highly of my parents it is really easy to digest how they helped the community. I am in awe of their devotion to Jesus. How they can put themselves last in so many situations. They have been great Christian witnesses in my life, and this is why I recognise why they are so amazing and what they have done is so amazing.

And let this be a testament to all the members of Urban Expression and all the different teams who work so hard to provide for often rejected societies. The set-up of a church is amazing, and God will work in that church. But often, areas like HH just need strong Christian witnesses to help others. This

will lead people to God. If people see slaves of God working for the community, then they will ask questions like what can be so beautiful, so wonderful and so great that people can live their lives for this cause: the cause of Jesus.

Growing up in an Urban Expression



church, I often questioned why would my parents disappear for the evening. Why would we go to a church and not sing like all the other churches we go to do? Why do we eat in the middle of our church? Obviously, as I grow older, I understand why and there is such a great beauty in it.

To finish, I think it is really good to look at any Urban Expression church like this. The question my dad will often ask is: "who would Jesus look after?" Jesus looked for the outcast in society and healed them. He ate with them, slept under their roofs and he died on the cross with them next to him. Urban Expression takes this outlook on Christianity and nails it.

I often questioned what my parents did and their work in the community. Now I understand the great effect God's work through them had on the community.

I was asked to write this reflection on what it is like to grow up in a Urban Expression church. It has been tough at times, but it has given me such a great outlook on life, completely different outlook from some of my friends who I am at school with now. I am really lucky to have grown up here. I have met so many lovely people, had so many lovely conversations and have been cared for by so many people society will teach shouldn't be around children. Growing up in HH has been a great foundation for my faith which I look forward to building on many more adventures with God.

**Urban Expression is a mission agency and a mutually supportive network of mission partners who choose to live in some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised communities in the UK, motivated by their belief in the all-encompassing love of God and their desire to follow the words and ways of Jesus.**

**In 2022 Urban Expression celebrates 25 years of mission in the margins. From our first team who moved into Shadwell in London we now have people living, as teams, families and individuals, across the UK.**

**All are immersed in communities on the margins where people face challenges for economic, social and health reasons. From Cornwall to Glasgow and Belfast to Hull we are a dispersed community of people wanting to join in with God's love in action where we live.**

**For more on Urban Expression, visit [urbanexpression.org.uk](http://urbanexpression.org.uk)**

**Image | Adrian Raudaschl | Unsplash**

**These are the reflections of a teenager whose parents served on an Urban Expression team. He has asked to remain anonymous.**

**Source Baptist Times**