

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 20th November 2022 Service

This Sunday Pat is leading and Ron is preaching from 1 Samuel 16:1-13

“Advent is coming”

This Sunday we will be celebrating the Lord’s Supper

The online service will also be available from Sunday. Go to 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.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember Gillian Meale. Please pray for the family and friends of Kenneth Bargewell whose funeral is at SBC on Monday 21st at 10.00am.

Lord the Chancellor stated in Parliament “The British people are tough, inventive and resourceful. We have risen to bigger challenges before.” Lord we pray for those across the age range whose situations are very difficult at the moment. Many have been tough in their younger lives but age has weakened them. Those with disabilities are struggling. Many families and working people have already exhausted their resources and others can see there is little left. Many have been inventive taking on a second job, working long hours reducing family time together to increase their income but are unsuccessfully chasing inflation, dealing with higher mortgages and other costs.

Lord we pray that as our leaders encourage the nation to rise up to deal with these challenges in a Churchillian way, that You Lord will comfort all those struggling to survive and inspire Churches throughout the nation to show “Christianity in Action” and be inventive in ways to help their communities to endure these desperate times.

Prayer for Strength

Lord, I am weary and don’t know when this “race” will end in my life. I feel like I’ve been running forever, trying to outrun this trial. Help me to stop trying to outrun my pain but rather run with endurance the race you have set before me. I know that because of you I am ultimately a victor over the trials in my life. I know that nothing in this world can separate me from your steadfast love. Please give me a measure of your love today; give me the strength to endure this trial. Thank you for your love for me that never ends! And thank you for the crown of joy that awaits me forever in your Kingdom! - [Crosswalk](#)

Virtual Prayer Room

On Tuesday 8th November Jane posted “I’ve just seen Angela who said Corporal Lee has stood up for a few seconds, such an answer to prayer. He managed to have time with his family over the weekend.”

Mark 10: 35-45 (MSG) The Highest Place of Honour

³⁵ James and John, Zebedee’s sons, came up to him. “Teacher, we have something we want you to do for us.” ³⁶ “What is it? I’ll see what I can do.” ³⁷ “Arrange it,” they said, “so that we will be awarded the highest places of honour in your glory—one of us at your right, the other at your left.” ³⁸ Jesus said, “You have no idea what you’re asking. Are you capable of drinking the cup I drink, of being baptized in the baptism I’m about to be plunged into?” ³⁹⁻⁴⁰ “Sure,” they said. “Why not?” Jesus said, “Come to think of it, you will drink the cup I drink, and be baptized in my baptism. But as to awarding places of honour, that’s not my business. There are other arrangements for that.” ⁴¹⁻⁴⁵ When the other ten heard of this conversation, they lost their tempers with James and John. Jesus got them together to settle things down. “You’ve observed how godless rulers throw their weight around,” he said, “and when people get a little power how quickly it goes to their heads. It’s not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave. That is what the Son of Man has done: He came to serve, not to be served—and then to give away his life in exchange for many who are held hostage.”

As Christians how easy is to think with all that we do we should be seen similar to the quote in Animal Farm “All Christians are equal, but some are more equal than others?”

Listen to Jerry’s talk 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.



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 21st November

10am Funeral for Kenneth Bargewell
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
7.00pm Deacons Meeting

Tuesday 22nd November

Coffee and Chat
9.30am -12 in the Stables

Wednesday 23rd November

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

Thursday 24th November

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

Friday 25th November

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

Saturday 26th November

6.30pm Bar Room Blues
in the Chapel

Sunday 27th November

10.45 Sunday Service
Flowers: Susana Pegg
Welcome: Maggie & Barbara W
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.

Big Thankyou from Jerry & Simone

Jerry and Simone would like to say a big thankyou to everyone who attended Anna's funeral and helped make the service and wake a success.

Bar Room Blues

The new date for the Bar Room Blues is 26th November Doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start Bar Room Blues (pictured right) are a musical trio who have been playing and performing since April 2018, having a regular monthly gig at The Wheatsheaf, West Beckham and playing occasionally at other venues. They play a laid back virtually

acoustic set of numbers that will be remembered by fans of the British blues boom of the 1960's, doing covers of such artists as Eric Clapton, The Animals, The Rolling Stones and Nashville Teens as well as artists like Robert Johnson, Jesse Fuller and Muddy Waters. You can learn more about them and their repertoire on their Website:

<https://www.barroomblues.co.uk>

Candlelight Service Can you help?

The music group are looking to perform a song at the candlelight service and would love it if any of you could join us in forming a small choir. If you think this is something just up your street and you would love to make a joyful noise unto the Lord then have a word with Barbara or Diana.

Shoe Box Appeal

The Shoe Box Service is on this Sunday afternoon at 3.00pm at St Mary's Church Stalham. All welcome.

Men's Breakfast

There will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday 26th November in The Stables at 8-30am. No fixed charge, donations appreciated, all profits to BMS to benefit our 24/7 Partners at Iquitos in Peru. Cereal & fruit juice will be followed by a cooked breakfast, similar to the one pictured above, with plenty of tea/coffee and toast available too.

This is a new opportunity for the menfolk of SBC to gather together in fellowship with one another and also to invite a friend or neighbour to come along with you. Jesus was often seen sharing in hospitality.

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!)

Christmas Toys for Foodbank

We are collecting toys or "shoebox" style gifts for the children of Stalham Foodbank. We can only accept new gifts and if you do a shoebox style, please label age and gender. We realise there are lot of these appeals this year so totally understand if you are not able to help. WE are receiving these from 21st November. Please drop into Stalham Community Fridge. For more info contact Sara on 07786704155

EBA Prayer Focus 20th November 2022 Attleborough Baptist Church

Attleborough Baptist Church is located in a fast-growing town between Norwich and Thetford in southwest Norfolk which is set to double in size within the next few years. The church has a small ageing fellowship, but despite this it is forward looking and prayerfully seeking ways in which it can reach out to the growing community around it.

The church is without a Pastor and is led by a leadership team consisting of three deacons. The work is supplemented by outside speakers who bring God's Word every Sunday.

Following the pandemic, the church was one of the first to open again with government guidelines strictly adhered to and all the fellowship, (except those who had to isolate because of medical reasons) attended regularly and were thrilled to be back worshipping together. This year has seen a weekly church maintenance work morning, originally for a 4-6 week period, but enthusiasm meant it carried on for around four months, mainly due to the fellowship being

enjoyed as they worked!

Recently, a new weekly Prayer & Bible Study has started with retired ministers invited to come in to take a series, which has been well received. A new programme of Fellowship Meals on a monthly basis has also started which seeks to minister to not only those within the fellowship, especially those living on their own, but hopefully to the community too. So far, an Afternoon Tea and two hot lunches have taken place and the fellowship time has been tremendous and much appreciated by those who attended.

The Church is prayerfully seeking to start up other outreach events in the coming months with a Coffee & Cake morning, Short Mat Bowls and hopefully re-start a 'Gentle Exercise Class' which was well attended by people outside the church before the pandemic.

Prayer Points:

- Praise God for the wonderful sense of His Spirit and Love working within the fellowship.
- Please pray for Outreach programs mentioned above, that God will bless each event and many people within the community will be reached for the Lord.
- Please pray for younger Christians to join the church to help take God's work forward.
- That God will provide a man or woman of His calling to serve as Pastor at the Church.

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 and also cakes.** If you can help give Edna a call on 01692 582633

Quotes of the Week

"In the church, this is the season of Advent. It's superficially understood as a time to get ready for Christmas, but in truth it's the season for contemplating the judgment of God. Advent is the season that, when properly understood, does not flinch from the darkness that stalks us all in this world. Advent begins in the dark and moves toward the light—but the season should not move too quickly or too glibly, lest we fail to acknowledge the depth of the darkness. As our Lord Jesus tells us, unless we see the light of God clearly, what we call light is actually darkness: "how great is that darkness!" (**Matt. 6:23**). Advent bids us take a fearless inventory of the darkness: the darkness without and the darkness within." **Fleming Rutledge, Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ**



Beauty, colourful... Sad, fearful... Angry, determined

Dave Gregory is listening to children's voices of wonder and lament over climate change - and wonders if we are letting their painful words shape both us, and our community's response.

Coningsby. A small town in the flat countryside of southern Lincolnshire. Lying next to an RAF base. Fast fighter jets roaring into the sky through the day, powered by monstrous, fossil fuel devouring engines. No one at the school seemed to notice. I guess that you learn to drown out the noise.

I was visiting the junior school for a science-faith festival led by a team from "God and the Big Bang". [The ///What3words](#) location of the school entrance is "epic.recently.enlighten". Epic. Enlighten. Not bad words for a school, perhaps capturing something of what we hope for these days too. I was exploring climate change with children from years 4 and 5. I began with an image that still causes a wow from me after 50 years. [Earth Rise taken by the Apollo 8 explorers](#), the first human beings to travel to the moon. An image that captures God's declaration of seeing all that was made was good (Gen 1). Locating our exploring, I asked these 8, 9 and 10 years olds to look at the image and think [///What3Words](#) it brought to their mind.

Beauty. Colourful. Bright. Vibrant. Full. Life. Glorious. Special. Big. Small. Wonderful.

Children are naturally attuned to wonder and the questions it raises. Traits that Frank Keil in his recent book [Wonder](#) suggests fade away as children progress through the education system. And perhaps churches too? But not on this day. Not these children. Words that were a moment of unrecognised worship, capturing what the writer of Psalm 8 says – "From the mouths of children and babies come songs of praise to you."

As the session continues, I explain the science of the wondrous gift of the Green House Effect, which helps sustain life on the Earth, but how its fragile goodness is being broken as we add more Green Houses gases to our air, leading to rapid warming. 1.1 degrees Centigrade so far. Seemingly not much. But have they noticed? Recently?

Recently – the third of the [///What3Words](#) tagged to the school. A good word to describe people's experience of climate change in Coningsby. Its impact is not known from stories of far away lands where people's homes are washed away by epic floods, or where livelihoods die out due to the drying out of the soil, but by changes closer to home. For back in the last week of the previous school year, in the middle of July, [Coningsby was the hottest place in the UK](#), with a new record temperature of 40.3 degree Centigrade.

There was a poem on the wall. "One Hot Day in July". A day of empty desks as children stayed home. Of wet paper towels around necks and feet in ice trays, trying to keep cool. Of sitting in the shade of trees rather than the usual playground games. For them, climate change had become a lived experience.

Looking to the future, to a world 3 degrees warmer, when such days will not be record breaking any more, I asked [///What3Words](#) described how they felt?

Worried. Sad. Anxious. Fearful. Scared. Afraid.

An expression of climate anxiety that further erodes the well-being of young lives. Words of lament replacing earlier ones of praise before the wonder of creation. Less than God's desire.

In our churches, do we allow the pain of our children's voices to be heard? Are we aware of their feelings faced with a present and a future shaped by climate change? Do we let their painful words shape us and our community's response? For among their lament, there were words of hope.

Angry. Determined.

Passionate words from young lips that can lead us if we will let them. If we will listen.

I bring our time together towards an end with my own [///What3Words](#) of lament and hope.

Alone. Hopeless. Small.

We are not alone. Sharing our lament with one another can bring new hope. We are not alone for God too laments over his creation that he cares for. We are not hopeless, for each of us can do practical things that can make a difference. And the more of us that do so, the bigger the difference. For small matters.

I end sharing with them the most important [///What3Words](#) I learnt as a meteorologist.

Butterfly. Flap. Tornado.

That the smallness of the flap of a butterfly's wings may in time produce a powerful tornado. A reminder from creation of how God works in the world and for his kingdom.

While the small voices of the children in Coningsby are constantly drowned out by the roar of those jet engines, they don't have to have the final word. And in our churches, with everything that shouts out for our attention, will we hear our children's words? Leading us to lament. Releasing words of praise and lives shaped by God's hope, responding to creation and creator's wonder. Calling us towards a deeper sharing in God's mission to the whole of creation as generations together.

Dave Gregory is a Baptist Missioner for science and environment. He convenes [BUEN – the Baptist Union Environment Network \(BUEnvNet@outlook.com\)](#) BUEN shared [a series of prayer points ahead of COP27](#), and has been releasing prayers each day of the gathering on its [social media feeds](#). Source Baptist Times



Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

the latest World Watch List.

What's it like to be a Christian in Yemen?

A Christian who goes by the pseudonym Naser not long ago said, "We, the believers, carry

hope that helps us with the certainty that tomorrow will be better and that by the will of our Lord, we will pass through this and all the anxieties and fears surrounding us."

Please use these words to inspire your prayers for our brothers and sisters affected by this recent spate of arrests.

Please Pray

- For God's comfort, healing and hope to engulf the victims and families of this recent crackdown
- That those held will be released and that there will be a complete end to all arrests and torture
- That Christians in Yemen will not be paralysed by fear but be strengthened by God's power at work in them (Ephesians 3:20).

Source [Opendoors](#)

The Eyes Have It

Matthew 6: 23 (MSG)

²²⁻²³ "Your eyes are windows into your body. If you open your eyes wide in wonder and belief, your body fills up with light. If you live squinty eyed in greed and distrust, your body is a musty cellar. If you pull the blinds on your windows, what a dark life you will have!

Father God,
Help rid us of the lies we tell ourselves. "I am too young to speak effectively", "I am too inexperienced to lead", "I am too small to make a difference."
Help us to see our usefulness through the eyes of the Kingdom, not the expectations of the world, recognising that you do not call the qualified, but qualify the called.

Help us not only with the presumptions that hold us back in our own journey with you, but open our eyes to the biases and presumptions we possess that hold back the potential of others.

When, consciously or unconsciously, we don't recognise the skills, capabilities, and dignity of other people. When we place limits on what we think you can achieve through others.

Prevent us from idolising the kinds of people we have traditionally given responsibility to.

Do away with the assumption that people in global poverty need the solutions of westerners like me. Discourage us from thinking that someone's appearance or background disqualifies them from any role in your Kingdom. Amen.

Prayer source [Methodist Relief and Development](#)

08 November 2022

Your prayers needed for Christians in Yemen shaken by arrest and torture

Your prayers are urgently needed for our brothers and sisters in Yemen. There has been a sharp increase in arrests, with torture being used to draw information from believers. "Their faith is shaken," Open Doors has been told.

Yemen is number five on the World Watch List, making it one of the most dangerous countries in the world to live as a Christian

Christians in Yemen are experiencing a sharp rise in arrests and torture, resulting in a traumatising impact on affected believers and their families.

The spike has come in recent months. These are not linked to one specific church network, but several different ones.

"We are specifically concerned because torture is used to force the Christians to give information about the activities of believers or names of other believers," says an Open Doors spokesperson.

Some of the arrested Christians have been released, but they are struggling with the aftermath of the torture they suffered.

"We see that their arrest and the torture had, and still has, a deep impact on their families, too," the spokesperson adds. "They are shocked and are struggling with their faith, as they were counting that God would spare them, that God would intervene. Their faith is shaken."

Pray for believers shaken by persecution

"Pray that they will see God as a loving and caring God," they continue. "Pray for the Christian community in Yemen, that the Christians won't be paralysed by fear and stop visiting and encouraging each other out of fear that, for example, their mobile phones would be traced."

The persecution of Christians in Yemen – which is number five on the World Watch List – has been extreme for many years. Believers are mostly converts from Islam, but because conversion from Islam to Christianity is forbidden in Islam and Yemeni law, they must keep their faith hidden, with pressure coming from both the government and local communities. A rise in reported incidents of violence meant the country rose two places in

