

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 27th November 2022 Service

This Sunday Barbara is leading and Ron is preaching from Isaiah 51: 1-11

“Can you hear what I hear”

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

Jn 10:1f Jer 31:33, Ps 121

For Your Prayers

Please pray for Alan and Pat who have moved to Essex to be near their family, they are staying in a house belonging to their friends until the house they are buying is available. Pray that the Lord will help them settle into their interim home, that their chosen house will be ready for them soon and also pray He will be with them as they join a new church.

Lord we thank You that You blessed SBC with Alan and Pat, Your servants who have brilliantly served SBC over the years and will be greatly missed.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Barbara and Ben Mixer**.

During December please pray for the residents and businesses of the **High Street and those living in Rosedale Court**.

Please pray for those in our community and fellowship who are waiting to be assessed for their medical needs and those awaiting operations.

Please pray that the foodbank will receive donations as we approach Christmas. The number of people needing help is growing all the time and over the festive period many people and families will be struggling to have any sort of Christmas.

Please continue to pray that SBC will find ways of supporting those in the community who will be struggling to keep warm.

Thank you, Lord, for being there for us and allowing us to cry out to you in these times of need. There are things going on in our country and around the world we don't always understand. Many of these things leave us feeling weak, helpless and afraid.

We ask you Lord to bring to our government and leaders around the world wisdom to see the world through Your eyes and that You would give us the strength in our faith in You to endure these situations.

Prayer for Strength Matthew 6: 7-13 (MSG) Prayer

⁷⁻¹³ “The world is full of so-called prayer warriors who are prayer ignorant. They're full of formulas and programs and advice, peddling techniques for getting what you want from God. Don't fall for that nonsense.

This is your Father you are dealing with, and he knows better than you what you need. With a God like this loving you, you can pray very simply. Like this:

Our Father in heaven,

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what's best— as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.

Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.

You're in charge!

You can do anything you want!

You're ablaze in beauty!

Yes. Yes. Yes.

As Christians how easy is it to feel we aren't that good at praying and turn to using templates instead of seeing Jesus as our friend who we can have a chat with at any time?

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](#).

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

07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 28th November

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Tuesday 29th November

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

1.30pm Stables School Christmas
Production Rehearsal in the Church
Bible Study

7pm Barbara & Geoffs

Wednesday 30th November

Table Tennis

9.30am -12 in the School Room
10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
7.00pm Zoom Bible Meeting

Details in online Diary

Thursday 1st December

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Friday 2nd December

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 4th December

10.45 Sunday Service

Flowers: Anne West

Welcome: Jean and Tom

Wednesday 7th December

2.30 - 4.30pm Christmas afternoon
tea and Beetle Drive 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

Craft Sale Help Needed

Please can you supply cakes and biscuits etc. as refreshments for the Craft Sale. Also needed is help on Thursday 8th and Friday 9th, 10am to 3.30pm. If you could spare some time on either day give Edna a call on 01692 582633 or Barbara Mixer on 01692-598502.

Gracie Nicholson's Cakes

Gracie has been very busy baking as she will be selling cakes and chocolate oaties, after church on Sunday, to raise money for the food bank. Please come along and support her.

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. First practise Sunday morning after the service – grab a cuppa then come in to sing or listen and see if you'd like to join us.

Shoe Box Appeal

A big thankyou everyone who gave boxes of items or money and everyone who came to the service to send them on their way at St Mary's last Sunday. 70 boxes were sent and £65 in donations.

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

Stalham Yuletide Market

The Yuletide Market is next Sunday 1.00 – 5.00pm. SBC itself will have musical entertainment from The Walcott Warblers, and from Papajam, a father and daughter duo who will be singing for us during the afternoon. Papajam will be performing at 1pm and again at 3pm with the Walcott Warblers singing carols and festive songs at about 2pm. Also in the schoolroom there will be stalls of Christmas goodies and Edna will have two stalls to raise money for the Building Fund. As well as Father Christmas making a magical appearance at about 2.30pm in the Stables and giving out presents, we are hoping to have Facepainting for children. Teas, coffee and cakes will be available in the Stables as well as "Good as new and new clothes" to raise money for the Building Fund. Local author Peter Tye will be reading stories from his "Little Red Tractor" books Peter will also be selling copies of his Books for children. Peter has been visiting events for some years but this will be his last public appearance.

Foodbank Donations from Robert Smith Court

A big thank you to the residents of Robert Smith Court who donated 4 large boxes of food and toys for the



Foodbank (pictured) to help families this Christmas.

EBA Prayer Focus 27th November 2022 Beacon Community Church

Beacon Community Church is situated between the villages of Bacton and Walcott on the North East Norfolk Coast. Planted in 2009, the fellowship meets in the premises of the former Bacton Baptist Church. Their pastor, Rev Johnathan Squirrel, was called away to develop a new ministry approximately eighteen months ago. This November, they will also bid farewell to their worship leader.

The leadership team are encouraging the fellowship at Beacon Community Church to be prayerful in seeking God's direction for the future. They believe that the future of this community of believers is going to be

incredible. They are holding on to a verse from the book of Joshua, which gives them real hope at this time: *Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled. (Joshua 21 vs. 45)* Please pray for:

- A new pastor to work with the leadership team
- Revival and increase for God's Church in Bacton
- A new worship leader
- That God will provide a man or woman of His calling to serve as Pastor at the Church.

Foodbank

This month any of the following would be much appreciated: Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Fish, Tinned Vegetables, Pasta Sauce, Rice Pudding, Pot Noodles/ Mugshots, Squash/Fruit Juice, Laundry Detergent, Deodorant, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Sprays. Plus any Christmas treats.

Quotes of the Week

"For a seed to achieve its greatest expression, it must come completely undone. The shell cracks, its insides come out and everything changes. To someone who doesn't understand growth, it would look like complete destruction." **Cynthia Ocelli**

"Awakening is not a thing. It is not a goal, not a concept. It is not something to be attained. It is a metamorphosis. If the caterpillar thinks about the butterfly it is to become, saying 'And then I shall have wings and antennae,' there will never be a butterfly. The caterpillar must accept its own disappearance in its transformation. When the marvellous butterfly takes wing, nothing of the caterpillar remains." **Alejandro Jodorowsky**

"I have been finding treasures in places I did not want to search. I have been hearing wisdom from tongues I did not want to listen to. I have been finding beauty where I did not want to look. And I have learned so much from journeys I did not want to take. Forgive me, O Gracious One; for I have been closing my ears and eyes for too long. I have learned that miracles are only called miracles because they are often witnessed by only those who can see through all of life's illusions. I am ready to see what really exists on other side, what exists behind the blinds, and taste all the ugly fruit instead of all that looks right, plump and ripe."

Suzy Kassem,



Are we, as local churches, having an 'IMPACT'?

We may ask the question, 'What about evangelism in our Union?' But are we willing to step out of the boat and become the answer to that question? Source [Baptist Times](#)

A hopeful response to the recent query on evangelism and mission. By William Wade

Are we, as local churches, having an 'IMPACT'?

I: Are we *intentional* in our Christian living in maintaining a witness in the places where we spend most of our time – work, friends, family, school, sport, etc.? If we are not intentional about being a witness, then it simply will not automatically translate into our social circles.

M: Are we *meeting* regularly with other people outside of the church? If not, are we willing to take up a new hobby/sport/pastime in order to do so? Evangelism is best carried out close up, and not from the fortress of a church building.

P: Are we *praying* in a specific manner for those that we are engaging with on a regular basis? Rather than praying generally for 'our town', it's better to pray for 'John, who I go to the gym with and is struggling with a cancer diagnosis' for example.

A: Are we willing to join in an *activity* with those we are attempting to reach (preferable an activity of their choice)? If they like walking, go walking with them. If they like good coffee, buy them a coffee at their choice of location. If they like board games, join them in one. This helps to further break down barriers to real conversations in a setting that is 'home turf' for them.

C: Are we willing to take them to *church*? Not just to ask them to go to church, but to come with you, with you picking them up if necessary. This needs a bit of thought, as it's best to choose a service that you know will have the greatest impact on them – maybe a testimony service or a special event that you know will have the least amount of cringe factor for a guest.

T: Are we willing to *talk* about our faith and our own journey with Jesus? Ultimately, the greatest evangelist in this process is you... it's your friend,



your family member, your contact. It would be fantastic if you could get to the stage where you share the good news of Jesus in a way that will be both winsome and gracious.

I wonder how many of us are willing to see an IMPACT on those around us regarding our faith? This means not 'putting it all on those in leadership in our Union', but us – all of us – being intentional about our faith; meeting with the unchurched; praying specifically for those outside of the kingdom; breaking barriers by joining in an activity of their choice; inviting them to an appropriate church service; being courageous enough to talk to them about our own story of following Jesus.

We may ask the question, 'What about evangelism in our Union?' But are we willing to step out of the boat and become the answer to that question? Let's grasp the nettle, take a deep breath, ask the Holy Spirit for help and go and impact our communities for Jesus.

Image Aleksandr Slobodanyk
William Wade is a Baptist minister, leader of Life Church in Cuffley, Hertfordshire. He has previously served as an evangelist with the Soldiers' and Airmen's Scripture Reading

Association (SASRA) and as minister of the International Baptist Church of Dusseldorf. The most upvoted question on the Slido app at the 2022 Baptist Assembly was:

'It is becoming sad that our union does not value evangelism as an equal priority. Can my voice be heard please?'



Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

Chinese Christians handed more fines for 'unauthorised' Christian activities

A Christian man in China has been fined the equivalent of £17,000 for organising religious training that authorities deemed 'unauthorised'. As more and more Chinese believers experience heavy fines for faith-related activities, please pray that they will stand strong in their faith. "Christians [in China] are more likely to be seen as a threat to security than an asset," says Thomas Muller, an Open Doors research analyst. Source [OpenDoors](#)

A 41-year-old Christian has been fined the equivalent of £17,000 (150,000 Chinese yuan) for hosting what was described as an unauthorised religious training event. The heavy fine is the latest in a series of punishments being handed out for Christian activity considered 'unauthorised' by the authorities.

The event took place in June, in Dali city in China's

southwestern Yunnan Province. The Yunnan Province Dali Municipal Bureau of Ethnic and Religious Affairs ordered him to pay the 150,000 yuan fine after it reviewed evidence of the gathering, including photos, confiscated documents and a list of attendees.

“Heavy penalties are one of the ways in which the authorities hinder Christian leaders and their activities which are then also used as a warning to others,” said an Open Doors field researcher. “We recently learned of another case where someone else who ran Christian training faced a heavy fine from authorities.”

[What's it like to be a Christian in China?](#)

Believer imprisoned for selling Christian books

This is the latest fine in a series of court rulings against Christians. In December 2021, a court in China's Zhejiang province upheld a verdict by another court against a Christian online bookseller in which [he was sentenced to seven years in prison](#) and a fine of 200,000 yuan (approximately £23,000). Chen Yu was arrested in and charged with 'selling illegal overseas religious publications online' for importing and selling books from Taiwan. The police confiscated more than 800 of the sold books through contacting his customers in China.

In August this year, a pastor of a house church was detained for purchasing Christian literature online and faces charges of fraud.

And another believer, Chen Lijun, has been held at the Lu'an County Detention Centre in western Anhui

province since 13 August while more than 100 members of his church also face persecution, [as reported by ChinaAid](#). Lijun also received a fine of 100,000 yuan (approx. US\$ 13,600) because of his faith, said his wife.

Christians encouraged to 'focus on sovereignty of God'

The outcomes of last month's 20th Congress of China's Communist Party do not bode well for the future of Christians and other minority groups in the country, says Thomas Muller, persecution analyst with Open Doors World Watch Research.

“The Party Congress showed that authorities want to increase their push for control and, judging from experience, Christians are more likely to be seen as a threat to security than an asset.”

As for the Christians themselves, their response varies depending on the location and the church leaders. The Open Doors field researcher explains: “Some pastors are afraid of the potential of persecution that is coming, while others encourage their congregation to focus on the sovereignty of God and not to worry on the outcome of the event.”

Our brothers and sisters in China really value your prayers – they can see the power of God at work through them. Please keep praying for them to stand strong in the face of this rising opposition.



CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA AND BEETLE DRIVE

Wednesday 7th December 2022

2.30 till 4.30pm

In the SBC Stables

All Welcome

Please book with Elaine

077968735

or elainemsmith@btinternet.com

**All donations to Stalham Baptist Church
Building Fund**

