

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 11th December 2022 Service

*Jerry was ill last week so he will be delivering his sermon this Sunday.*

This Sunday Diana is leading and Jerry is preaching from 2 Samuel 7 considering "God's promise to David" in two parts.

This week part one: David's Plan for God. 1-3, God's Perspective. 4-7, God's Promises. 8-11

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"

## Jerry's Reads

1 Chronicles 17:11-15, Psalm 89:3-4&34-37, Luke 1:30-33, Revelation 22:16, 2 Samuel 23:5 and Isaiah 55:3.

## For Your Prayers

Elsa Burt's funeral will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm at Gorleston Crematorium. Please pray for Peter and Geci and the wider family.

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jean Mollett**. During December please pray for the residents and businesses of the **High Street and those living in Rosedale Court**.

Lord, during a speech JF Kennedy said "The Chinese use two brush strokes to write the word 'crisis.' One brush stroke stands for danger; the other for opportunity. In a crisis, be aware of the danger -- but recognize the opportunity." Lord, guide us to understand the danger that our community is facing but with Your Grace we can turn this crisis into an opportunity to demonstrate Christianity in action.

Lord, help us be alert, help us be in the present, understanding that you can do something brand-new. It will be bursting out, and we can see that.

Lord strengthen us so we never believe the description by the American Ted Turner who stated "**Christianity is a religion for losers**". We aren't losers we don't need to hide. This crisis is an opportunity when we can stand up and be seen in action. *Based on Isaiah 43: 16-19 (MSG) to read this verse click [here](#).*

## Virtual Prayer Room

**On Sunday 4th December** Jan Skivington posted "Esther Curzon asked us to please pray for a 5 year old girl called Alya who has fluid on the brain and is unable to walk or talk. She's not responding to the medication. Thank you." Also on Sunday DJ Steve posted an audio message saying "Hi everybody it's DJ just to let you know I am home from hospital and doing OK lots of love DJ."

**On Wednesday 7th December** Jenny Payne posted "Please pray for our granddaughter, Jessica she saw her GP today who was worried about her strawberry tongue, praying it's not Scarlet fever or worse. Thanks J." Later she posted "Thanks for your prayers, Jess now on antibiotics and is resting at home with mum, who is being watchful for any more symptoms." Soon after Jenny posted "Seems the GP swabbed for Strep A and if it comes back positive Jess will have to have antibiotics for two weeks. (We should know by Friday.) Very grateful for a GP who took Emily's phone call seriously and followed the protocol to the letter. Emily says she's very quiet and still - not our normal Jess at all!! Thanks again for all your prayers."

Also on Wednesday Diana posted "Can you please pray for Jerry and Simone who have a flight booked for 20th December to go to Germany. Visa is needed and the Visa Office has cancelled all appointments unless it is an emergency. Jerry phoned them yesterday to explain and they offered an appointment this morning so the application is in but it could take between 10-14 days. Please pray for a quick response time otherwise he might not be able to take the flight on the 20th." The same day Jill posted "Please pray for Holly the daughter of my friend Rachel. She's on a gap year and has been taken ill in Thailand. Being taken by boat ambulance to hospital."

## 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



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 12th December

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

### Tuesday 13th December

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

9.30am Academy year 3 Christmas Performance Rehearsal in the Chapel

Bible Study

7pm at Jenny Payne's

### Wednesday 14th December

Table Tennis

9.30am -12 in the School Room

9.30am Academy year 3 Christmas Performance in the Chapel

10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom Bible Meeting

Details in online Diary

### Thursday 15th December

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

3.15pm Messy Church in the Chapel

### Friday 16th December

10.15 Prayer for Revival

Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

### Sunday 18th December

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Magdalena & Dan

4.00pm Candlelight Carols

### Monday 19th December

7.00pm Carols in the Swan Inn

### Tuesday 20th December

2.30 pm Funeral Betty Roskillly

### Wednesday 21st December

Carols at Sydney House 2.30pm

### Thursday 22nd December

10.00am Funeral of Mike Hurren

### Sunday 25th December

10.00am Christmas morning service

Welcome: Eileen & Magda

### Sunday 8th January

12.00noon Church Meeting



## Bible Reading John 6 : 60-69 (MSG) Too Tough to Swallow

<sup>60</sup> Many among his disciples heard this and said, "This is tough teaching, too tough to swallow."

<sup>61-65</sup> Jesus sensed that his disciples were having a hard time with this and said, "Does this rattle you completely? What would happen if you saw the Son of Man ascending to where he came from? The Spirit can make life. Sheer muscle and willpower don't make anything happen. Every word I've spoken to you is a Spirit-word, and so it is life-making. But some of you are resisting, refusing to have any part in this." (Jesus knew from the start that some weren't going to risk themselves with him. He knew also who would betray him.) He went on to say, "This is why I told you earlier that no one is capable of coming to me on his own. You get to me only as a gift from the Father."

<sup>66-67</sup> After this, many of his disciples left. They no longer wanted to be associated with him. Then Jesus gave the Twelve their chance: "Do you also want to leave?"

<sup>68-69</sup> Peter replied, "Master, to whom would we go? You have the words of real life, eternal life. We've already committed ourselves, confident that you are the Holy One of God."

*As Christians how easy is it to listen to someone preaching that metaphorically "can be too tough to swallow" as the words challenge your thinking and your behaviour leaving you squirming in your seat?*

Listen to Ron'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](#).

### Carols at Sydney House

SBC will be holding a Carol service for the residents at Sydney House on Wednesday 21st December at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to take part have a chat with Diana or Ron.

### A Big Thank You

Big thankyou to all the people who supported all the activities at SBC last Sunday. The schoolroom was packed with stalls including two being run by Edna, Barbara M and Henry. The chapel had the Walcott Warblers, and Papajam, a father and daughter duo singing Christmas songs. In the Stables Elaine, Maggie and Fran supplied teas, coffee and cakes, Father Christmas arrived at 2.00pm and the Stables was packed with families as the children received wrapped presents. Also a big thankyou to Trett Phillips Estate Agents.

### EBA Prayer Focus 11th December 2022

#### Bethel Baptist Church

Swavesey is a pretty village about nine miles north west of Cambridge. The Prime Greenwich Meridian passes through the village. In fact it goes right through the middle of the church hall at Bethel Baptist Church which is known as the Meridian Hall.

This lively and community-driven church is led by Rev Bob Adams who has been in post since May. The Sunday congregation numbers about 60 a lot of children and teenagers. There was rejoicing last month when two of the young people were baptised. The worship music team now meets weekly to practice and for others to learn and get involved. Once a month there is café style church, and in the summer there was an outdoor woodland farm service. There is lots of imagination and creativity amongst the church fellowship so there is always lots of lively variety. The church is located in the centre of the village and the extensive buildings are very well used for church and community activities. On Wednesdays there is

'Club Vintage' for older people with afternoon tea provided by outside caterers. On Thursdays there is the Compass Café, a community café run by different groups in the village including a church team. There are frequently cyclists who call in for a break on their rides out. And there is a successful Mums and Toddler group, and various house groups too. There is no free day in the church weekly calendar but they are currently looking at the potential start-up of a youth club.

The church employs a part-time youth worker who is embedded into the local community and is also involved in leading assemblies in local schools. The church also works together with the local Anglican church on joint activities such as harvest, remembrance and Christmas carols in the village square.

For prayer:

- For wisdom in dealing with spiritual warfare and the challenges this brings.
- Giving thanks for all that God is doing in the life of the church.
- For the extensive range of church and community activities and all who lead them.
- That the church will become embedded within the community and bring the good news of Jesus to the village.

### Another Big Thank You

THANKS to all those who bought items from the Leprosy Mission Catalogue this year. As well as supporting the work against leprosy and the stigma it can bring, £52.75 profit was made for SBC funds.

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2023, Barbara R.

### 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

"With the arrival of Advent, Christians everywhere turn again towards the Saviour. Advent marks the beginning of the celebration of His birth and His long-foretold ministry, atonement, death, resurrection and second coming. If Advent is an occasion when I re-turn my eyes to the Saviour, then it is also an invitation to consider where my eyes—and my heart—have been in the meantime. Advent is the gentle nudge that invites me to remember that the truth most worth knowing is that Jesus Christ is the only way Home. It is also a gentle reminder that I ought to keep my eyes upon Him all year long."

**Jean-Michel Hansen**

"With its transition from darkness into increasing light, Advent symbolically shows me my journey from the weaknesses I acquire because I live in a fallen world, to the enabling grace offered to me in Christ's life, ministry, atonement, crucifixion, and resurrection. His ministry to me is individual, tailored to my specific needs. He saves me by changing me, transforming me, and making me into something I am not now. He can convert me—if I will let Him—into a fit traveller, able to walk the covenant path that leads through the temple and back to my Heavenly Father. Jesus willingly walks with me, inviting me to take on His yoke (which is easy) and to exchange my burden for His (which is light). Advent reminds me to invite the Light of the World to illuminate my life. O come, o come, Emanuel!" **Jean-Michel Hansen**



# Chibok girls: 11 more find freedom

There is good news from Nigeria, with the release of 11 more women who were taken from Chibok in April 2014. There are now believed to be 96 still unaccounted for.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the women and their families.

Many of you continue to faithfully pray for the girls – now young women – still held captive after being taken from their school in Chibok in April 2014. We have good news to report, after the Nigerian government announced the release of 11 more women, together with at least 21 children who are among them.

It's now more than eight years since 275 girls had gathered for exams at Chibok Girls State Secondary School when Boko Haram militants arrived, pretending to be government security officials who had come to protect them. They coaxed the girls from their dorms onto trucks and headed for the Sambisa Forest. Before, during and shortly after the attack, 47 of the girls managed to escape.

Since then, the students have been released in batches, with a further 11 finding freedom since June. This includes Hauwa Joseph and her child, as well as Mary Dauda and her child, whose freedom [we reported on in June](#). According to the Nigeria government, 96 women remain missing. The names of the other women released are: Ruth Bitrus (with one child), Kauna Luka (with three children), Hanatu Musa (with two children), Aisha Grema (with two children), Falmata Lawal (with one child), Asabe Ali (with one child), Jinkai Yama (with three children), Yana (Iyagana) Pogu (with four children), Rejoice Senki (with two children).

Thank you so much for your committed prayers for these women. The international media coverage of this story has waned, but many Open Doors supporters have continued to pray for these women and their families. It is so much appreciated.

The women and their children are being taken care of at the Bulunkutu Interim Care Centre in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State in north east Nigeria. Your prayers are needed as they begin their recovery and heal from their awful ordeals. It can also be hard for children fathered by militants to be accepted by their communities. Please pray that the children and their mothers will be welcomed, and that there would be no stigmatisation.

One of those recently released, Rejoice Senki, told a [newspaper](#) that she was violated constantly while in captivity, forcefully married to a Boko Haram fighter and pushed into converting to Islam. "If you don't obey whatever they tell you, they will do whatever they like to you," she said.

## Back to school

Encouragingly, some of those released are looking ahead to the future. In an interview with [Vanguard](#),

Mary Dauda – together with Ruth Ngalada and Hassana Adamu, who both escaped earlier this year – stressed their wish to return to education. "We are in communication with our parents," they said. "We are allowed to go and visit our parents and family members. We thank the government for what they have done for us, but we would like to move to our homes, to live with our families. If we are in our houses, we will feel better."

"We want the government to send us back to school," they continued. "We heard that some of us who were taken away like us have gone back to school abroad. We want to go back and complete our education. This brings back our respect."

## More than 20 parents die due to protracted wait

Despite the government's involvement in the release of the Chibok women, the parents of those still missing believe they are not doing enough to rescue their daughters. They allege that several attempts to get both the state and federal governments to talk to them about their daughters have failed, because the government apparently was not willing to discuss the matter with them.

"If the government had told us that our daughters were dead, we will feel it for a while and forget about the pains, but in a situation where we are not sure that our daughters are dead, it becomes difficult to conclude that they have died and their memories kept coming. We are, however, hopeful that one day, they will return," said one of the parents.

In the meantime, the agonising pain and uncertainty persists, with Dr Allen Manasseh of the BringBackOurGirls Movement (BBOG) saying that more than 20 parents of the women have died from health complications induced by the protracted wait for the return of their children.

"The level of engagement with the parents should change," Dr Manasseh continues. "We have over 20 parents that died already from blood pressure-related complications; renal failure as a result of blood pressure."

Open Doors continues to urge Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari to continue his efforts to liberate those held by Boko Haram militants, including young Christian women such as [Leah Sharibu](#) and those from Chibok who are still held captive, and create a family liaison position in government for the parents of those held.

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the release of these 11 women and their children
- That they will heal of their trauma, and that they will be equipped and empowered to pursue their dreams
- For the release of the remaining women, and Leah Sharibu, and that God will strengthen their parents as they wait for news.

For more information about Opendoor click [here](#)



# **Celebrate Christmas At Stalham Baptist Church**

## **Candlelight Service**

**Sunday 18th December**

**All welcome for traditional Carols**

**Starting at 4.00pm**

## **Christmas Carols**

**at the Swan Inn**

**High Street Stalham**

**Monday 19th December 7.00pm**

**Celebrate Christmas Day Morning**

**With SBC at 10 am**

**Celebrate the New Year**

**Sunday 1st January**