

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 29th January 2023 Service

This Sunday Elaine Smith & Maggie Patterson are leading and Jerry is continuing to preach from Haggai 2:10-19 (Purity)

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"

## Structure of Jerry's talk:

Haggai's message about Purity aimed to:

(1) Reveal v 10-13 (2) Rebuke v14-17 (3) Reassure v18-19

## Jerry's Reads

Lev. 22:4-6; Num. 19:11-16, 1 Samuel 15:22, Psalm 51:16-17, Psalm 66:18-19, Isaiah 1:11-17, Jeremiah 7:21-22, Micah 6:6-8, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 23:23-24, 2Cor 7:1, 1 Thes 4:3-7, 1 Peter 1:13-16.

## For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jerry, Simone, Elsa and Kalos.**

During February please pray for the residents of Baker Street, Baker Court and Sutton Terrace.

Please pray that the generous support of the Foodbank will continue as the need is growing each month.

Please pray for all the volunteers supporting SBC. We are blessed that so many people work in the background to create the success of so many things that are recognised by the community and show "Christianity in Action."

Pray also for those in the fellowship and community who are waiting for hip replacements and have no knowledge of when they can be helped. Their quality of life is rapidly deteriorating for some to the point they cannot leave home or continue to work.

Lord bring your wisdom to our Government so a speedy resolution of the strikes in the NHS can be found. During the pandemic over 200 NHS workers died of covid most of them young and healthy people. Polling shows the public is supporting the nurses in their quest for better pay and not backing the government's stance and would want a reversal of the deterioration of the NHS over the years.

## Prayer for Today's Gang Culture

We regularly hear of gang culture shootings and stabbings in our country resulting in deaths and for those perpetrating the violence as young people, they will be imprisoned into their old age. Many of us would have watched the news with a beautiful white coach drawn by three white horses carrying the coffin of Elle Edwards an innocent victim of a shooting in the Wirral minutes before Christmas day.

Please pray: Source [Faith & Worship](#)

Be known Lord, in the hearts of those for whom street gangs are family, and acts of violence rites of passage; young people immune to the consequences of their actions on another's life.

Be there Lord, in their midst, speaking both to heart and mind, and flush hatred from their lives, sowing seeds of love and grace that may, in your good time, flower.

## Virtual Prayer Room

**Friday 20th January** Jane posted "Can you please continue to pray for Kevin. He's still in critical care but off the ventilator he is making slow progress."

**Monday 23rd** Jane posted "Update from Angel, Lee has managed to move his paralysed leg about 6 inches. Brilliant achievement." The same day Jane posted "Can you please pray for Michelle who has come to church a few times. She's meant to be moving to a rented house in Yarmouth as she has to be out of her chalet by the 29th January, but is having problems renting it now. Can you please pray that everything will be resolved as she really needs to move. Thank you"



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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 30th January**

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church

Prayers for SBC and young people

2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

**Tuesday 31st January**

Coffee and Chat

9.30am - 12 in the Stables

**Wednesday 1st February**

Table Tennis

9.30am - 12 in the School Room

10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

**Thursday 2nd February**

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

Details in online Diary

**Friday 3rd February**

10.15 - 11.30am

Prayer for Revival and Israel at Three Windows, Brumsted Road

1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

**Sunday 5th February**

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Elinor & Jill

Flowers: Susannah Peg

## Food Bank & Personal Prayer

SBC is normally open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and for personal prayer.

The **Food Bank** is open on Friday 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](mailto: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 or online you can click on the red highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.

On Thursday 26th David posted "Please pray for Ester's sister's 5 year old granddaughter Ayla. She is very ill and rapidly losing weight."

## Jerry & Ron's Blogs

Each week Jerry and Ron produce a blog that takes a challenging look at various bible verses as a five minute talk, often bringing the verse into the times we live in as Ron has brilliantly achieved in this week's "Walk in the Light"

They are always around 5 minutes to listen to. TV adverts between programmes are often longer than that. Greg has done a great job so you can link into the blog quickly. All you need to do is click on [Ron's Blog](#) if you are looking at a PDF if not go to <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/> then click on our Weekly Bible Commentary. Go on, spend 5 minutes listen to Jerry or Ron during the week.

## 1 John 1: 5-10 (MSG) Walk in the Light

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

*As Christians how easy is it to get lost in the darkness and be absorbed by the false flashing lights of the materialistic and celebrity culture to the point where we believe we are faultless and only play lip service to the light and love of Jesus?*

Listen to Ron's short blog based on this passage click [Ron's Blog](#).

## EBA Prayer Focus 29th January 2023 Shotgate Baptist Church

Shotgate is located in Wickford, Essex and is a community of about 2,830 homes. It is the home of Shotgate Baptist Church.

SBC's minister is Pholani Ncube who joined the fellowship in 2019 as a Minister in Training and was ordained in 2021, when he also became the full-time minister.

It was a difficult beginning for Pholani, as he was only in ministry for six months before the pandemic hit and lockdown was enforced. Pholani conducted the services on-line and met with the church leaders on zoom which were completely new to the church. SBC continues to live-stream all its services on-line and several people have joined the church having

'discovered SBC' on YouTube which is exciting.

Each month they hold an Over 50's lunch, which is open to anyone from the local community. The people who attend receive a two-course meal and refreshments with a short devotional at the end. Several people from the lunch now attend the church and others support services such as Harvest, Easter and Christmas and a café-style church service which is held bi-monthly.

### Prayer points

- Please pray for Shotgate Baptist Church as they seek God's guidance for 2023 and for ways to reach out to the local community.
- For growth in SBC both spiritually and in number. For more people from the Over 50's lunch to give their lives to Jesus.

### Foodbank

Any of the following would be much appreciated:

*Tinned Tomatoes, Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Vegetables, Pasta Sauce, Rice Pudding, Pot Noodles/ Mugshots, Squash/Fruit Juice, Laundry Detergent, Deodorant, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Sprays.*

### Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Do nothing that you would not like God to see. Say nothing you would not like God to hear. Write nothing you would not like God to read. Go no place where you would not like God to find you. Read no book of which you would not like God to say, "Show it to Me." Never spend your time in such a way that you would not like to have God say, "What are you doing?" J.C. Ryle.

"Too often, we say we are defeated by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated. We are simply disobedient. It might be good if we stop using the terms victory and defeat to describe our progress in holiness. Rather, we should use the terms obedience and disobedience. When I say I am defeated by some sin, I am unconsciously slipping out from under my responsibility. I am saying something outside of me has defeated me.

But when I say I am disobedient, that places the responsibility for my sin squarely on me. We may in fact be defeated, but the reason we are defeated is because we have chosen to disobey." -- Jerry Bridges in *The Pursuit of Holiness*.

Holiness, as taught in the Scriptures, is not based upon knowledge on our part. Rather, it is based upon the resurrected Christ in-dwelling us and changing us into His likeness." A.W. Tozer.

"I believe the holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over the unholiness which remains in him." Charles Spurgeon



**Valentines Supper and Quiz Night**  
**Friday 17th February**

**In the SBC Stables Starts 6.30pm**  
**Jacket potato with a choice of fillings,**  
**selection of puds tea/coffee**

**£7.50**

**Contact Elaine on 07796875785 or**  
**elainesmth364@btinternet.com**  
**To book**



## 11 reasons to have hope in 2023

These days, we're inundated with news of famine looming in dozens of countries, a war in Europe that drags on, inflation and rising costs all around the world, political division, and more. Is it even possible to find good news or reasons to hope on our screens anymore?

As God's people, we know that our hope isn't contingent on worldly progress or situations. But we also hold this in tension with the belief that God does transform seemingly hopeless circumstances. And we keep praying that He'll use His people, as He always has, to accomplish His purposes in the world. That's why we who follow Jesus can be the most hopeful – and determined to right the wrongs we see around us.

Let these 11 reasons to have hope in 2023 build your faith in God's work throughout the world. And praise God with us for this progress empowering kids and families out of poverty!

*A life-giving word of encouragement can do wonders to restore joy to the heart. –Proverbs 12:25 (TPT)*

### 1. Over 80% of women worldwide are delivering their babies with skilled assistance.

According to [UNICEF](#), 8 in 10 women ages 15 to 49 globally deliver their babies with the help of a doctor, nurse, or midwife, which substantially increases their chances of staying safe and healthy. This progress represents millions of babies' and moms' lives saved each year – and the opportunity for kids to grow up strong and flourishing.

### 2. More health clinics in Niger have clean water.

In Niger, many health clinics have no electricity, no running water, and few staff. Boulounguey health clinic in Dosso Region was one of those. Pregnant women had to carry their own water and cleaning supplies with them when they came to give birth. Staff like Nurse Roukaya (above) couldn't even wash their hands before treating patients, unless they happened to find water in the shallow, unreliable well near the health center.

But other clinics that have water, like Kargui Bangou, see a massive difference. "Now that there is water in the delivery room, we do deliveries with no problem," says Doctor Djamina Idrissa (below). "Some [patients] came with jerrycans from far away. Now deliveries are no problem. We clean everything in a few minutes." And now, construction is underway at Boulounguey clinic on a water tower and amenities like bathrooms and sinks that will serve thousands of patients and residents.

Doctor Djamina Idrissa washes her hands in a sanitary sink before seeing patients at the Kargui Bangou health clinic, which World Vision helped retrofit with clean water, plumbing, bathrooms, electricity, and more. (©2022 World Vision/photo by Jon Warren)

### 3. A new grant will allow World Vision to reach 700 facilities and communities with clean water in

### Ethiopia.

The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) has granted World Vision \$79 million to reach 700 schools, healthcare facilities, and neighboring communities in [Ethiopia with clean water](#) over five years. CIFF is the world's largest independent philanthropic institution focusing on improving children's lives. We celebrate that this effort will promote transformation across Ethiopia, gather evidence and learnings for future work in schools and healthcare facilities – and play a role in solving the global water

crisis. More than 1.6 million people are expected to be positively impacted by this collaboration!

Women carefully measure and weigh sorghum and pulses at a World Vision food distribution in Nakorio, Kenya. World Vision is the World Food Programme's largest implementing partner worldwide.

### 4. Millions of tons of grain have shipped to reach people in hunger hotspots.

Amid a global hunger crisis exacerbated by conflict, extreme weather, rising costs, and other challenges, the international development community celebrated the United Nations' [work to ship tons of grain](#) from Ukraine to hunger hotspots. Many countries in Africa that are suffering from prolonged drought and instability rely on Ukrainian wheat for food, so the war's impact on those regions was severe. "Grain export cannot solve all the hunger problems ... but it will hopefully de-escalate the crisis and contribute to more affordable prices for those worst affected," [said Jennifer Neelsen](#), World Vision's Ukraine crisis response director.

Fortunately, global leaders have facilitated the shipment of grain and foodstuffs from Ukrainian ports. About a third of the shipments are going to lower income countries – where residents in desperate need are starting to feel the relief.

*From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. –John 1:16 (NLT)*

When a food crisis hit southern Zambia over a decade ago, World Vision jumped into action with a special nutrition project. That project saved the lives of kids like Swangirai.

### 5. Malnourished children are receiving life-saving treatment – and making full recoveries.

When young kids are diagnosed with acute malnutrition of any kind, the road to recovery can be long and slow, if they survive. But over the last 10 years, 89% of the severely malnourished children we treated made a full recovery. Out of that statistic come [stories like Swangirai's](#): In 2010, the nearly 1-year-old was diagnosed with moderate acute malnutrition amid a widespread food crisis in southern Zambia. At the health center where his mother brought him, he was treated with ready-to-use therapeutic food, which is packed with nutrients that malnourished kids need to regain strength. Now, 11 years later, Swangirai is strong and thriving. And one of his dreams for the future? To never allow anyone in his home to go to bed hungry like he once had to.

### 6. The Kenya Big Dream project is empowering girls with brighter futures.

In many cultures, female genital mutilation (FGM) symbolizes the transition from girlhood to womanhood and is a valued traditional practice done on girls as young as 10 (in some places, on girls even younger). In areas of Kenya, it's traditionally seen as a precursor to child marriage. Both FGM and child marriage can have devastating physical and psychological effects for girls.

But World Vision's [Kenya Big Dream project](#) is opening the door to brighter futures for girls: Through our holistic approach, harmful social norms are changing; households are becoming more economically resilient, reducing financial incentives for child marriage; and girls are being empowered with education and life-skills training. *Walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. –Ephesians 5:2 (NIV)*

### 7. Syrian refugee children are being empowered through education.

Thanks to a partnership between 10 organizations, about 20,000 Syrian children living in Jordan as refugees are being [reached with education](#). In fact, many of these Syrian children, like Zaid\* (above), were born in the refugee camp, and their parents know the opportunities for kids to flourish are limited. An education is one of the most important factors in people's ability to lift themselves out of poverty. At World Vision's Early Childhood Education Center alone, nearly 5,500 students get to pursue their education and develop their personalities in a social classroom setting. It's allowed kids like Zaid to learn and grow. Although he was shy when he first came to the education center, according to one of his teachers Zaid is now "one of the brightest students here." In August, Zaid and 300 other children graduated from the center to the next phase of their education, where they can keep building bright futures for themselves.

*\*Name changed to protect identity*

### 8. In just one year, over 15,000 pastors and youth leaders were equipped for ministry through our programs.

Our work to empower people to end poverty in their own lives is built on the belief that an impoverished spiritual condition needs healing just like an impoverished physical one. In countries where the gospel is welcomed, we equip pastors and youth leaders in theology and children's ministry, helping them effectively address both the spiritual and physical needs of their congregations. In 2022, this work reached more than 15,000 pastors, who are now ministering to their communities with more knowledge about how to keep children safe from harm, help change mindsets of dependency, bring biblical applications into family struggles, and more. Jordy, left, and Pastor Raul David, right, walk through the streets of San Pedro Sula, where they show God's love and hope through their ministry. (©2022 World Vision/ photo by Jon Warren)

### 9. Despite gang violence, the gospel is reaching people in Honduras.

Through [Pastor Raul David's church](#) in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, youth like Jordy have not only found opportunities for a flourishing life apart from gangs – they've also met Jesus. Supported by World Vision, Pastor Raul David leads his congregation in ministering to the gang-controlled neighborhoods and offering a greater hope. He says the World Vision training "has revolutionized my thoughts." And youth like Jordy are empowered to dream of more than a life in a gang.

*All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom. –Psalm 145:10–12 (NIV)*

Children with disabilities drop their crutches to dance in Burundi after receiving new uniforms from World Vision.

### 10. Our disability inclusion work is reaching more kids each year.

Globally, the vast majority of people with disabilities live in developing countries, where social and civic systems often aren't set up to support their flourishing. Without resources like money for a wheelchair or specialized treatment, families often resort to leaving their children with disabilities home. Our work seeks to [include people with disabilities](#) in all we do – not only to meet their physical needs, but also to ensure that they're a part of the solution to poverty in their own communities. We currently serve 15,000 children with disabilities, with the goal of tripling that number in coming years.

### 11. Students at Christian schools are being equipped to lead their generation.

Sixth-grader Michael\*, who attends a Christian school in Pennsylvania, had a reputation for getting into trouble. Michael's mom was used to hearing negative reports during parent-teacher conferences. But something changed after Michael learned about the power of advocacy through the [World Vision Ignite program](#). Ignite,

a partnership with Christian schools across the U.S., teaches young people about Jesus' heart for people impacted by poverty and injustice. Through curriculum, experiences, and relationships with sponsored children, Ignite helps kids learn to put their faith in action, right where they are.

During the Ignite lessons, Michael paid attention and began contributing to class discussions. His teacher noticed the change and praised him for sharing his unique perspective. As time went on, Michael began taking on a leadership role in class. And at the next parent-teacher conference, Michael's mom heard the good news about her son's burgeoning leadership skills that are being cultivated through Ignite.

*\*Name changed for privacy*

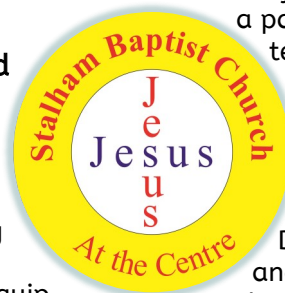
Join us in thanksgiving and prayer for these signs of progress and hope in 2023. May God's people never forget that His kingdom is alive and lived out in each of us. How will you find reasons to hope in 2023?

*Our good Father, we praise You for the many evidences of Your power at work in the world. Amid the world's brokenness, we see Your Spirit moving – restoring relationships, empowering kids and families, and influencing leaders. Give Your people eyes to see glimpses of Your hope everywhere we look. We pray with Jesus,*

*"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10, NIV). Amen.*

For more information about World Vision click [here](#)

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