

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 5th February 2023 Service

This Sunday Ron will be leading and preaching from Psalm 24

“How do we worship the God, who lives amongst us?”

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”

## Ron's Reads

Ps 15, 139:23, Ro 3:22, 2 Sam 5:6f Mt 21:10, Rev 3:20

## For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Becky Owen**. During February please pray for the residents of Baker's Street, Baker's Court and Sutton Terrace.

Please pray for the family and friends of Christine Emerson's mum whose funeral is on Wednesday 8th.

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

Also pray for all new folk who have joined the fellowship on Sundays over the last few weeks SBC is blessed by all those new people.

Pray for the people who are finding it almost impossible to find an NHS dentist.

## A Prayer of Intercession based on [Jeremiah 1:4-10](#)

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.

## Virtual Prayer Room

**Friday 27th January** Jane posted “Please continue to pray for Kevin. He has to have another big operation on his aorta and bigger than the one before. Thank you.”

**Wednesday 1st February** Jerry posted “Please pray for Sandra as she waits for test results before decisions can be made. Thank you.”

## Mark2: 13-17 (MSG) The Tax Collector

<sup>13-14</sup> Then Jesus went again to walk alongside the lake. Again a crowd came to him, and he taught them. Strolling along, he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, at his work collecting taxes. Jesus said, “Come along with me.” He came.

<sup>15-16</sup> Later Jesus and his disciples were at home having supper with a collection of disreputable guests. Unlikely as it seems, more than a few of them had become followers. The religion scholars and Pharisees saw him keeping this kind of company and lit into his disciples: “What kind of example is this, acting cosy with the misfits?”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus, overhearing, shot back, “Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick? I'm here inviting the sin-sick, not the spiritually fit.”

As Christians how easy is it to go out of your way to talk to non-believers and bring Jesus into the conversation or is it much easier to talk to those who share your faith?

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



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon  
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship  
**For your Diary**

### Monday 6th February

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting  
10.30 to 11.30am in the Church  
Prayers for SBC and young people  
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

### Tuesday 7th February

Coffee and Chat  
9.30am - 12 in the Stables

### Wednesday 8th February

Table Tennis  
9.30am - 12 in the School Room  
10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables  
7.00pm Zoom Bible Study  
All Welcome  
Details in online Diary

### Thursday 9th February

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

### Friday 10th February

10.15 - 11.30am  
Prayer for Revival and Israel at Three  
Windows, Brumsted Road  
1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

### Sunday 12th February

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Magda & Henry  
Flowers: Doreen Hollebon

## 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.

## Can You Help?

Doreen Hollebon writes. I wondered if some of our Church family would consider writing to Steve Slade (DJ) occasionally. He is feeling isolated and quite low and it would cheer him up to hear from friends at SBC. His address is All Hallows Care Home with Nursing, 26 St Johns Road, Bungay NR35 1DL.

## EBA Prayer Focus 5th February 2023

### South Woodham Ferrers Evangelical Church

South Woodham Ferrers is located on the banks of the River Crouch in Essex. Originally planted ninety years ago as a 'mission' to the plotland dwellers, the church has seen the town grow rapidly around it into a thriving community of 17,000 people.

Adrian Ward moved to serve as minister here in December 2020 and has enjoyed getting to know the church and town. He says:

"As a church we are seeking to share the good news of Jesus with those around us. We are thankful for the well-established groups in our church life such as Girl's Brigade, Boy's Brigade, Open Door Baby & Toddlers, Ladies Afternoon Fellowship and Men's Breakfast. Six Connect groups meet during the week in various locations. These are an opportunity to share fellowship, prayer and Bible study in small groups. We are starting the year by following the 'Talking Jesus' course from Hope Together.

We have also been encouraged by the number of friends coming along to our outreach events. These have included Food and Crafts at Christmas and Easter and a Family Film Afternoon.

Food plays an important part in church life! And the delicious homemade soup has been much appreciated at the weekly Warm Welcome Drop-In that began in November. (pictured)

We have a good working relationship with the other churches in the town. There are various shared initiatives such as a Foodbank, Open the Book school assemblies and a team of School Pastors who go into the local secondary school each week. It is a joy to see people from different church traditions serving together in this way."

Our church verse for 2023 reminds us that we are called to be ready to give the reason for the hope that we have (1 Peter 3:15).

Please pray that during this year we will know more of, and will be ready to share, more of this wonderful hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

### It's Daffodil Time

If you are reading this in the UK it may well be snowing, raining, blowing a gale or a beautiful winter blue sky and sun or all those things in the same day.

However, we may well be picking daffodils in a few weeks.

Last year Edna, Barbara M and Henry organised the harvesting of the lovely spring flowers to raise money for



SBC which raised the amazing £1173. If you could spare an hour or two and as Wordsworth wrote "I wandered lonely as a cloud. That floats on high o'er vales and hills, when all at once I saw a crowd, a host, of golden daffodils." Once you have spied them you can pick them. If you can help contact Henry on 01692-581529

## Bible Art

Don't miss the next Bible Art session on 16th February 10am to 12. as its Half Term children and adults are welcome.

For more information contact Simone on 07436837210

## Learn to use a Defib Free

Broadland First Responders are very happy to train groups of local people in resuscitation and the use of the defib for free and that can be bowls clubs, the Church, Rotarians, WI etc.

The sessions last no more than 90 minutes and they are designed to be friendly and relaxed and we can accommodate those who can't get on their knees to do the chest compressions !!

Contact George Cooper on [george@vistatraining.co.uk](mailto:george@vistatraining.co.uk)

## 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.*

## Quotes of the Week

"I like your Christ, I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ."

**Mahatma Gandhi**

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you;

He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."  
**Pope John Paul II**

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home."  
**G.K. Chesterton**

**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**  
**elainemsmith364@btinternet.com**  
**To book**

# Retirement doesn't mean that God is finished with you



For many, retirement can bring mixed feelings, and a sense of dread. However, it can mean new life - and God's call can come at any time, writes Dr Natalie Henley for [Baptist Times](#)

I always used to say the NHS was like the family business. My father was a GP, both my brothers are doctors, and my earliest memories involved being around hospitals, including joining in Christmas staff social events as a family and meeting Father Christmas on the ward. Hospital culture was ingrained in me and I felt called to become a doctor and serve the physical needs of people as part of the NHS.

I've worked in the NHS for just over 30 years and have served as a GP in the same practice for nearly 24 years. GPs have unparalleled access to the heart of a community, especially in poorer neighbourhoods where the needs are very great and people struggle to travel to the local hospital. I have cared for four generations of the same family and as a GP, we're there at the very significant times in a family's life. The birth of a child, serious illness, death, bereavement, depression. We share life's journey with people.

It's chaotic, often stressful, but also an incredible privilege to be part of people's lives as 'extended family'.

Medicine is at the core of who I am, but since becoming a Christian as a student I had a growing inner conviction that something was still missing. I knew that the Lord had more in store for me, but it wasn't until recently that I realised what this was. God had set my heart on becoming involved in work overseas. Not to drop everything I knew and become a missionary, but to use my skills and experience as a GP to help serve those in need, especially in Asia.

After meeting GFA World (GFA) - a Christian overseas missional charity - at the Keswick Convention my eyes were opened and my life was transformed. I immediately began supporting overseas workers and

then went overseas myself. The depth of poverty I saw was overwhelming and made me question whether I felt able to return, and whether I wanted to give up my professional medical career and 'extended family' at home. I thought I had seen deprivation in parts of the UK, but it is incomparable. However, the call of God is difficult to ignore, and I found myself increasingly drawn to Asia and keen to return. And I did.

A few years ago I visited a hospital that GFA has connections with in Asia, to share about chronic disease management. Upon arriving, I was staggered by the impact the hospital had on patients. Patients received prayer ministry before surgeries. A chaplain prayed over the intercom three times a day, reaching every room in the hospital and also blessed people with songs and Psalms. Bibles were given away every day. A chapel was right in the centre of the hospital inviting all for worship, visible and audible from every floor of the hospital.

Then the pandemic happened. Suddenly I, and every other able-bodied doctor, was needed by the NHS. After the pandemic, I made the decision to speed up my retirement and move from my professional medical career to accept GFA's invitation to take on the role of Medical Missions Coordinator.

GFA has recently had a door open up in Rwanda, supported by the Rwandan government and church leaders, and one of the main things they will be doing is starting medical ministry initiatives, including reaching out to rural areas, ultimately bringing hope and the love of Jesus to all who are in need. I'm thrilled that I will be tasked with raising awareness for this new venture and helping to birth a new chapter of ministry!

For many, retirement can bring mixed feelings, and often it can bring a sense of dread. Work makes up a huge part of our identities and its loss can result in a lack of purpose and sense of self. Even my father felt a sense of loss and that his value and worth were

diminished when he retired from medicine.

But for me, retirement from my professional career meant new life. It was my deep conviction of the Lord's calling and passion for the vision He has given me that was leading me forward in this new and exciting phase of my life. This was not retirement, but rather finding my true purpose; one that He has been leading me to all along and one that I can dedicate the rest of my life to.

So no longer do I head to the practice as a professional doctor. Both I and my patients had tears in our eyes when I broke the news. But we had known each other for years and they understood why I was leaving. It is exciting yet terrifying, but I know I'm walking in God's plan for my life. I'm professionally retired, but a new chapter of my life is just beginning.

I've learned that God's call can come at any time. It can never come too late. It's been an amazing privilege to serve as a doctor, but I believe my best years are still ahead of me. If you're sensing a stir to do more for the kingdom of God, perhaps it's the Holy Spirit nudging you to make a leap too. I encourage you to pray, keep seeking God and always be ready to say 'yes'. Your greatest adventure could be just round the corner.

**Dr Natalie Henley has worked in the NHS for just over 30 yrs, with nearly 24 of those years as a GP in a deprived area of great need.**

**In 2021, she was approached by GFA World to formally join their staff as medical missions coordinator to support their work in Africa, Asia and other countries throughout the world – sharing the love of Jesus through provision of healthcare.**

Image | GFA

## GFA World Who we are

Our mission in life is to be devout followers of Christ and to live lives fully pleasing to Him. Therefore, since 1979, we have been committed to serving the "least of these" in Asia and Africa, often in places where no one else is serving, so they can experience the love of God for the first time.

What does this mean for us? We have an extraordinary challenge in front of us to collaborate with indigenous missionaries around the world and make an impact now and for generations to come.

**To find out more about GFA World, visit: [gfauk.org](http://gfauk.org)**

Kids in developing nations, such as those in Asia and Africa, face many challenges. And COVID-19 hasn't made their lives any easier. Now, more than ever, children need support and protection so they don't

fall prey to dangers. These can include abuse, child labour, child marriage, trafficking or other forms of exploitation.

***But we see God doing wonderful things in children's lives. And we believe that prayer will continue to make a difference.***

## Pray for Homes for Street Children

Tragically, millions of children in Asia and Africa live on the streets. This is often because they were abandoned by their families or ran away from an abusive home. In rare cases, children simply got lost and couldn't get home. These kids desperately need to be reunited with their families or taken into a loving home where they will be cared for. We are thrilled to be able to help some of these children in our two Street Children's Homes. There, children are cared for in Jesus' Name. And some have even been reunited with their families!

*Please pray God will give wisdom and resources to children protection agencies, to help each street child. Also ask Him to help us and other Christian ministries provide care to these precious children. Pray for God's help and blessing on our Street Children's Homes.*

## Pray for Education

Education can change lives. School helps kids learn about life, develop their skills and unlock future opportunities. For some children, school is one of the only safe places they can go. We are so excited that our children's centres are a lifeline for many children. At a Children's Centre, children find love, encouragement, a daily healthy meal, help with schooling and medical care. Most of all, they have a chance to experience God's love. Struggling children begin to thrive as a whole new world opens up to them!

*Pray for God's blessing for our Child Sponsorship Programme. Pray for wisdom for the staff who care for the children. Pray that we can sponsor many more children and help them find hope for now and eternity.*

## Pray Against Exploitation

Sadly, children can face many dangers. Children, especially from broken homes, often face trafficking and abuse. This could look like child labour, sexual exploitation, child marriage or forced begging. These kinds of exploitation steal children's freedom, damage their health and shadow their lives with trauma.

*Pray that families will be able to keep their children safe. Pray that law enforcement workers will find and rescue children in need. Pray that God will help our missionaries and workers to keep the children in their communities safe.*

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Click [here](#) to read the report.

