

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 26th February 2023 Service

This Sunday Jerry is leading and preaching from the second part of the first "Servant Song" in Isaiah 42:5-9.

The title is "The Mission of The Lord's Servant"

Ron is at Park Baptist Church this Sunday

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"

## The Structure of Jerry's Preach

- 1) The Source of the Mission. v 5-6a, (2) The Aims of the Mission v 6b-7, (3) The Outcome of the Mission v 8-9

## Jerry's Reads

Isaiah 61:1-3; Jer 31:31-34, Luke 4:16-21, Heb 8:6.

## For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember Alex and Elspeth Pelling.

During March please pray for the residents of Bank Street, Dace Terrace and Market Row.

Please pray for those in the fellowship and community who are waiting for hospital appointments and those whose quality of life is declining as they wait for hip replacements.

Lord, we thank You for your blessings on SBC. Last Sunday we had over hundred people in the Church. 32 men attended the Men's Breakfast on the Saturday to listen to Shaun Cushion talking about how he became a Methodist Preacher and on the Thursday over 70 people including 39 children had a great time at Messy Church. We pray that SBC will continue to engage and reach out to the community and bring more people into SBC.

## Prayer For Peace

Lord, the BBC news reported: A 37-year-old actress is attending the funeral of Vanya, a Russian soldier killed on the front line in Ukraine. "They said he died a hero," says Uliana his sister of the 23-year-old Vanya. "I thought, 'What does it mean, like a hero?' It's absurd. I don't want a dead hero for a brother."

But her father Boris, though also stricken with grief, is proud that his son Vanya died fighting for his country.

His view is that the conflict is a battle against "a government that preaches fascism". This claim echoes the words of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who says he is helping to de-Nazify Ukraine and that its government has carried out genocide - a claim for which there is no evidence.

Lord, we pray that You will reach into the hearts of the Russian people so the truth of this war will be seen and heard and their voices will break through Putin's dystopian 1984 world, peace can be established and those in Russia and Ukraine will no longer have to grieve.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Lord, we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done.

Lord God, we ask for you to be with all - especially children who are suffering as the crisis in Ukraine deteriorates. Lord for those who are anxious and fearful. For those who are bereaved, injured or who have lost their lives. And for those who have lost loved ones. Lord hear our prayers. Source World Vision

## Virtual Prayer Room

Friday 17th February Geoff posted "Hello Norma has been in contact with Michele Mahon in Peru and asked that we keep her in our prayers."

Tuesday 21st David posted "Please pray for Mike a resident at Robert Smith Court who is having to go to hospital for regular blood transfusions."

Wednesday 22nd Jerry posted "Please remember Abbey St John in your prayers as she prepares to attend a job interview today."

## Bible Reading James 1: 2-12 (MSG) Faith Under Pressure

<sup>2-4</sup> Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon  
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 27th February

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church  
Prayers for SBC and young people  
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables  
7.00pm Deacons Meeting

### Tuesday 28th February

Coffee and Chat  
9.30am - 12 in the Stables

### Wednesday 1st March

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

### Thursday 2nd March

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables  
10 to 12pm Bible Art in the Schoolroom  
2pm Messy Church planning meeting  
in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study  
All Welcome to join in  
Contact Diana for details

### Friday 3rd March

10.15 to 11.30am  
Prayer for Revival at Three Windows,  
Brumsted Road

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables

### Sunday 5th March

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Jean & Tom

Flowers: Janet Nicholson

## 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



and shows its true colours. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

<sup>5-8</sup> If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.

<sup>9-11</sup> When down-and-outers get a break, cheer! And when the arrogant rich are brought down to size, cheer! Prosperity is as short-lived as a wildflower, so don't ever count on it. You know that as soon as the sun rises, pouring down its scorching heat, the flower withers. Its petals wilt and, before you know it, that beautiful face is a barren stem. Well, that's a picture of the "prosperous life." At the very moment everyone is looking on in admiration, it fades away to nothing.

<sup>12</sup> Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life.

**As Christians how easy is it to stay strong in faith when we are being pressured by the darkness of the world?**

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

Or go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"

## Community Scene Help Required

We will start distributing the Easter Community Scene from March 17th. Help required to deliver the magazine. If you can stand in for those away on holiday or unwell please contact Monica 01692-580947. Thank you.

## Spring is on Us?

Spring has sprung maybe short lived but the daffodils are flowering and being harvested.

You can buy bunches of dafs' for 50p outside Edna's house in St. Johns Road and also at the Community Fridge.

## Warm Space Continues

Diana says "Firstly, thank you to all the folks helping with warm space. We couldn't do it without you! But we could do with a few more helpers if anyone else could spare a couple of hours?"

As you know it was planned to run this through the winter months with the primary function of helping those in our community having difficulties with the cost of running their heating. But we realise it's not only about physical warmth but offering a space that is friendly, a nice place to be, meeting others and having your emotional needs met.

We have had variable numbers, depending on days, but overall, the deacons feel it is a valuable resource and have decided that we should continue offering the Monday 2-4 slot and 10-12 Wednesday and Thursday slots for teas/coffee/ socialising etc. We are also looking

to utilise one of the slots for a dementia cafe. So that's work in progress. We have plans to paint the Stable walls, to have a mural done, and generally make the room feel like you are getting a warm hug!

Please can you let me know if you could help in anyway. email [dianagordon9@googlemail.com](mailto:dianagordon9@googlemail.com) or phone 07951 949128

## AGM and Deacons' Elections

This year's AGM will take place on 16th April following the church service. This is the time that we consider the Deacons' elections. There are 3 deacons standing for re-election - Diana Gordon, David Child and Henry Nicholson. The leadership team also encourage nominations to the Diaconate from others in the church. Requirements are that you are a member of the church and have been baptised as a believer. If you think this could be you or if you would like to nominate another please speak to Diana. Please also pray for the elections and the continuing strengthening of the leadership team.

## EBA Prayer Focus 26th February 2023

### Southgate Church

Southgate Church in Suffolk serves the Nowton Neighbourhood of Bury St Edmunds, an area of mixed housing, local shops and amenities to the south of the town. It is a single congregation Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Church of England, The United Reformed Church and the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Since the church last featured in EBA Prayer Focus, minister Mike Simm has been appointed.

He is delighted to report that through the prayer, hard work and persistence of dedicated people, the church has seen community involvement flourish.

Mike pays tribute to the church's Family and Community worker, Alison Burgess, describing her as hard-working and visionary. Alison combines with youth workers from other churches to organise children's and young people's events, including Rock Solid, Open The Book, and a midweek lunch schools group. Assemblies are also an important element of the ministry for young people.

The church also runs well-supported midweek groups, including one specifically for ladies, as well as a coffee stop and a friendship club, open to everyone. All of these attract people from outside the church congregation and it is a prayerful aim to see these ministries bear fruit.

Messy Church takes place quarterly.

The church's current sermon series is focussing on prayer as a priority.

### • PRAYER FOCUS

- Give thanks for the centre refurbishment and its continued use as a hub for many activities.
- Please pray for more fruit from the various community events, so that more people may come to accept the gospel message.
- Please pray for the Alpha course which began in the second week of February. Give thanks for regular financial giving, but also prayers for an increase, to prevent the church from draining its reserves.



**Fire Evacuation** In the event of a fire everyone should make their way to the fire assembly point which is outside Trett Phillips Residential in the High Street. For more information speak to Daniel.

## Prayer Corner Help Needed

We will be re-instating the prayer corner/tent to provide opportunity for anyone to receive prayer after the service. The Children's table has returned to the front of the church from the tent where it was pre-covid when we had to make arrangements for the children to stay in the sanctuary. To allow the prayer time to take place we would also graciously request that people don't hover around the prayer corner to chat.

***This means that we will also need some volunteers to stay behind in the Sanctuary after the service for 15 or so minutes to pray with anyone who comes to the tent. Anyone willing to be on the prayer rota please see Diana.***

## Media, Sound and IT/Website:

From time to time we put out a request for volunteers to assist Geoff, John and Greg in these very important roles. Without these 3 individuals you wouldn't have the smooth running of the live service, the on line service and all the other behind the scenes tasks associated with these roles. If you are reading this and thinking 'That's me' please approach Geoff, John or Greg or speak to Diana.

## The Leprosy Mission Easter/Spring 2023 catalogues

are now available at the back of the church. They include the Fairtrade chocolate Easter eggs.

Orders sent via Barbara Reynolds (Stalham Baptist's "trading partner") will save you postage, make a donation towards church funds (in many cases 20% of your order) and enable the leprosy mission to assist folk with this awful disease. You pay the same prices seen in the catalogue and can also order anything you see on their website [www.tlmtrading.com](http://www.tlmtrading.com)

Please give your order to Barbara along with payment by cash or cheque to me [Leprosy Mission request this.] Happy Shopping!

## North Norfolk Foodbank

During February any of the following would be much appreciated:

**Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Meat, Rice Pudding, Biscuits, Pot Noodles/ Mugshots, Cuppa Soup, Squash, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Sprays.**

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.

## Importance of identity

**Source Christian Aid**

**Something to read**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white.... suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.'

- **Matthew 17:1-2, 5-7.**

## Something to think about

It's understandable that a fictional teacher named Madame Gazelle, is terrified when she takes her class on a school trip to the zoo and is met at the gates by an apparently escaped lion. But Mr Lion quickly introduces himself as the zookeeper, ready to take Peppa Pig and the

class on their tour of the tortoises, penguins and butterflies, and the startled teacher can breathe a sigh of relief.

The image of Jesus on top of a mountain – the place of God's tremendous glory descending in Old Testament narratives – blazing and dazzling with light, is alarming; it's out of the ordinary, and not what we expect to happen to any old carpenter's son from Nazareth. But the voice from the cloud confirms that this is certainly no ordinary man. The true identity of the fearsome being makes all the difference to the way we onlookers respond.

In Jesus, the perfection of God and the fragility of humanity are at last brought together. At last we need not shield ourselves behind protective limits from the glory of God, finding in the radiance of Jesus the God who says 'Do not be afraid'.

## Something to do

Read through this passage again, engaging your imagination. Picture yourself in the scene, witnessing the extraordinary events. What stands out to you? Speak with Jesus as you meet him on the mountaintop.

## Something to pray

Jesus, beloved Son of God, thank you that you draw together humanity and divinity so that we can truly share in the life of God. Help me to find myself in you, and know myself beloved too. Amen.

Today's contributor is Rev Claire Jones

## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"If I am not a servant to others, by process of elimination, I am then a servant to myself. And that serves no one."  
— **Craig D. Loins rough.**

"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."  
— **Martin Luther King Jr.**

"God ultimately raises up leaders for one primary reason: His glory. He shows His power in our weakness. He demonstrates His wisdom in our folly. We are all like a turtle on a fence post. If you walk by a fence post and see a turtle on top of it, then you know someone came by and put it there. In the same way, God gives leadership according to His good pleasure." — **Matt Chandler.**

"Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God." — **William Carey.**

"The goal of our mission is that people from all the nations worship the true God. But worship means cherishing the preciousness of God above all else, including life itself." — **John Piper.**

"The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us." — **Billy Graham**

**Short Morning Prayer:** Lord, thank you that you satisfy me in the morning with your unfailing love. No matter what the day brings, fill my heart with joy and gladness as I remember how good and faithful you have been to me and my family. Amen.

**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.**





# LENT TALKS

You are invited to

Five talks relating to Jesus' life and death in 'Holy Week'.

Each session will include tea/coffee and 'cake',  
worship in song and prayers, a talk and discussion.

## Session 1

2nd March 7.00pm Sutton Village Hall

### "TEMPTATION"

Speaker: Rev. David Osborne, Hickling Methodist Church

## Session 2

9th March 7.00pm The Stables, Stalham Baptist Church

### "BETRAYAL"

Speaker: Rev Edward Carter, St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich

## Session 3

16th March 7.00pm The Stables, Stalham Baptist Church

### "FOREGIVENESS"

Speaker: Rev. Jeannette Craifer, St. Mary's, Stalham

## Session 4

23rd March 7.00pm The Stables, Stalham Baptist Church

### 'RIDICULE'

Speaker: Rev. Ron. Skivington, Stalham Baptist Church

## Session 5

30th March 7.00pm The Stables, Stalham Baptist Church

### "SACRIFICE"

Speaker: Rev. Helen Lynch, St. Mary's Church

**All Welcome**

For enquiries call Keith 07891 365 232 or 01692 583292