

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 5th March 2023 Service

This Sunday Elaine & Maggie are leading and Ron is preaching from
Isaiah 49:1-6. "The Light of the World is Coming"

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

Mt 28:18, Jer 1:5, Gal 1:15, Mt 22:46, Acts 13:47, Jn 10:16, Ro 11:11-24

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Barbara and Geoff Reynolds**.

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, after long waits, have appointments or have recently had operations for hip replacements. Also, pray for those who are waiting for hospital appointments and whose quality of life is declining rapidly. .

Lord, thank you for SBC – we pray that it will continue to be the catalyst and sustainer of discipleship and worship, and a powerful driver of change and transformation. Thank you for the unique role that churches can play in communities. Help us to harness the potential of our church to be an even greater agent of change.

Also pray that Monica can find a few more deliverers for the Community Scene.

Virtual Prayer Room

Tuesday 28th February David Posted "Please pray for Paul a resident at Robert Smith Court who is soon to be taken to Addenbrookes from James Paget for an operation. Also pray for Minnie his wife" Later that day he posted "Please pray for the lovely couple who have been at SBC for a long time Cyril and Maureen Kerrison who are in need of our prayers."

Later Jane posted "Good news about Ayla. She has put on a little bit of weight and there is a slight improvement in her speech and mobility. Please keep praying."

Wednesday 1st March Lorraine posted "My Dear spiritual Mother Mavis is having surgery today ... Her condition is inflammation of her arteries and veins in her head ... She has been struggling since November with her balance ... Please pray for a successful operation ... Thank you church ..."

Later Jenny posted "Please can we pray for Sara who volunteers at the Community Fridge and does all the publicity for the Fridge as well as Messy Church. She has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is waiting for the result of a PET scan and still has to have an MRI before her treatment plan is worked out. Thanks"

Lorraine updated "Mavis op was postponed till tomorrow ... She met her surgeon called Abraham today ... Born again Christian so she is very pleased she will be in good hands ... Thanks for praying can you pray for her again tomorrow ... xxx..."

Bible Reading Psalm 123 (MSG) A Song of Ascents

I look to you, heaven-dwelling God,
look up to you for help.

Like servants, alert to their master's commands,
like a maiden attending her lady,
We're watching and waiting, holding our breath,
awaiting your word of mercy.

Mercy, GOD, mercy!

We've been kicked around long enough,
Kicked in the teeth by complacent rich men,
kicked when we're down by arrogant brutes.

As Christians how easy is it to stay strong in faith when everything seems to be turning against us and there seems no way out?

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

Or go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"



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 March

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 March

Coffee and Chat
9.30am - 12 in the Stables

Wednesday 8th March

Table Tennis
9.30am to 12 in the School Room
10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
7.00pm Zoom Bible Study
All Welcome to join in
Contact Diana for details

Thursday 9th March

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Friday 10th March

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

Sunday 12th March

10.45 Sunday Service
Welcome: Jenny & Jane
Flowers: Julia Maile

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

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."

Teas and Coffee in the Schoolroom

This Sunday and the next, teas and coffee will be in the Schoolroom as the Stables are being repainted during the weekends.

Donations to Turkey and Syria

Gifts for the above appeal can be made straight into the SBC bank account with the ref. Syria/Turkey. These will be transferred to the BMS World Mission, also if you are registered for gift aid that would go to the appeal. Sort Code:20-99-21 Account Number: 00821705 Don't't forget the reference Syria/Turkey.

Community Scene Help Required Please

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.

Daffs Galore?

Threats of "the beast from the East" were heard, even if the wind was from the north on the chart, but spring has sprung, and the daffodils are flowering and being harvested. Edna is bunching them up and Henry said that £340 has been raised already in the first week.

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

Prayer Tent

We will be restarting the prayer tent on Sunday 12th March where folk can come for prayer after the service To allow this to take place we would 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.

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

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.

SBC Refurbishment Funding Update by Stewart Marsh

Please find below additional information to Maggie's exciting report on Sunday 26th February 2023

Source	Funds Raised		Expenditure
Building Fund	£175,611	Construction costs	£617,871
Contingency Fund	£11,000	Management costs	£22,626
From General Fund	£8,500		
BBCIO Loan	£75,000		
Grants	£320,000		
Pledge	£3,000		
Funds Raised	£593,111		
Funds to Raise	£47,386		
Totals	£640,497		£640,497

The above figures are based on the best information we have at present, tenders have gone out to contractors for a refresh and when we receive them back by the end of March we will know exactly how much there is left to raise. On January 8th Ron spoke from Numbers 13 Great Expectations, the Children of Israel were nearly over the finishing line, but they did not trust God and they missed out big time, Ron spoke about clinging to God who is able, then great and mighty things can happen, I think we are seeing that now at SBC.

Please continue with fund raising events and prayers. You have all done so well and we are nearly over the finishing line. Every little raised takes us that little bit closer to our goal. When we cross the finishing line we will be able to enjoy watching the transformation of the Schoolroom area (SBC Community Rooms) and enjoy having such a marvellous facility for our community to be used in diverse ways to the Glory of God. .

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.

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.

Doreen's New Phone Number

Doreen Hollebon's new mobile number is changed to 07841387429

EBA Prayer Focus 5th March 2023

Burwell Baptist Church

Burwell is a village tucked just inside the Cambridgeshire-Suffolk border to the north-west of Newmarket.

The minister at Burwell Baptist Church is Revd Chris Johnson, supported by a leadership team of elders and deacons. The church continues to offer live-streamed services via Youtube. Small groups meet in person and online during the week.

The fellowship is committed to living out their church mission statement – *building a loving, worshipping, learning, evangelistic, and Spirit-filled fellowship* – and is responding to God's call to go out into the community. Their year text is "Let your Light Shine". A visit from Rev Chris Duffett led to engaging in Spirit-led evangelism.

Last year they appointed a children's worker who, with the help of Newmarket and District Youth for Christ, has launched a group for 11-13 year olds. Volunteers also run a group for 7-11 year olds.

The church runs Cooking Together@Home which is a food-help scheme for families in the village. This provides a recipe and the ingredients once a month. Alongside this additional food is offered from donations, grants and foodbanks. At Christmas, they worked with other food support groups in the village to provide Christmas meals to families.

The church runs popular family crafts events and, in the darker months, Film Fridays. Volunteers serve refreshments at the monthly Farmers' Market. They also work closely with the Churches Together group to provide a presence at the village Family Fun Day and the Carnival; produce radio programmes for the local radio station; and jointly lead services for the residents in local sheltered housing.

The Church is active in its support for mission and ministry both locally and overseas.

Prayer points

- * Thank God for His blessing on Cooking Together@Home.
- * Thank God for the new midweek children's group for 11-13 year olds.
- * Thank God for a strong pastoral visiting network.
- * Pray for God's Holy Spirit to fill the fellowship and release His gifts among them.
- * Pray that they would let their light shine.
- * Pray for more children and young families to engage as they seek to rebuild Sunday children's work and other groups.

North Norfolk Foodbank

During March 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.

If you are, or know someone who is, struggling with their energy bills Cromer Food Bank offers a scheme called Energybank that can help.

Contact the Food Bank on 07826376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhbaptist.org.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau can also give advice and possible assistance. Click [here](#) for a link.

Quotes of the Week

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8: 12

"Christmas is God lighting a candle; and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are."

N.T. Wright, For All God's Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church

"You are the light of the world, when your compassion radiates and pervades the world. When your mind is in higher consciousness and heart is full with compassion, your deeds will glorify the humanity and the Father in the heaven."

Amit Ray, Walking the Path of Compassion

"Be the light and source of inspiration that others see"

Sunday Adelaja

"Light, no matter how little, is enough to kick out the darkness."

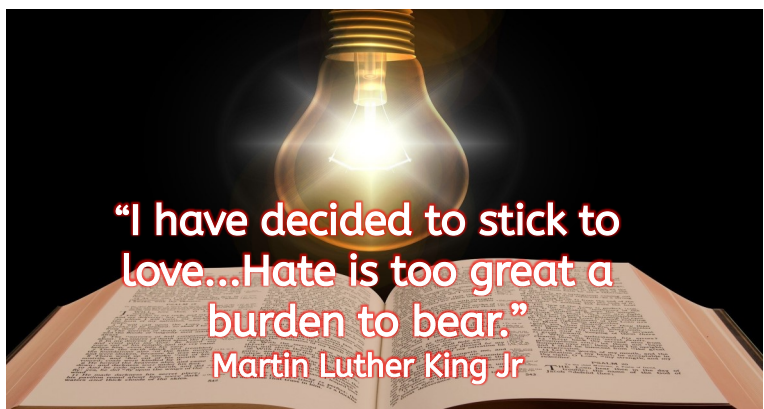
Michael Bassey Johnson,

"We are either part of the problem, or part of the solution...what are we doing each day to try and solve the most troubling human problems?"

Tim Spiess, The Light of the World: The Life and Teachings of Jesus of Nazareth

"Jesus says, "You are the light of the world." I like even more what Jesus doesn't say. He does not say, "One day, if you are more perfect and try really hard, you'll be light." He doesn't say, "If you play by the rules, cross your T's and dot your I's, then maybe you'll become light." No. He says, straight out, "You are light." It is the truth of who you are, waiting only for you to discover it. So, for God's sake, don't move. No need to contort yourself to be anything other than who you are."

Greg Boyle, Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion



Pray for Turkey and Syria



Please pray for the nations of Türkiye (formerly Turkey) and Syria as they deal with the devastating aftermath of two high-magnitude earthquakes which struck on Monday 6 February. BMS World Mission is in the process of coordinating with our partners on the ground to find out how we can support them prayerfully and financially. As part of this response, we are accepting gifts to our disaster relief fund, which you can find at the link below.

Please lift up the victims of the Türkiye-Syria earthquake in prayer. Please pray for:

The leadership of the Turkish Baptist Alliance

The leadership of the Baptist Convention of Syria

Our partners in Lebanon working with Syrian refugees, that they might support people from Syria who are suffering from afar

A team from our partner the Baptist Forum for Aid and Development, working on the ground The rescue operations, that they might still yet find survivors under the rubble

The families who have lost loved ones or whose loved ones are currently missing

Wisdom for those making decisions about the disaster response in both Türkiye and Syria

The compounded pain of the millions of displaced persons in Syria and Lebanon

Visit www.bmsworldmission.org/earthquakeresponse to be kept updated with any further news we receive from our partners.

When disasters happen, your gifts to the BMS disaster recovery fund mean we're able to respond quickly and effectively through our partners on the ground. When you give to support BMS disaster relief, you're helping people affected by disasters in Türkiye and Syria today, and wherever it is needed in the future.

DISASTER RECOVERY



When disasters happen, your gifts to the BMS disaster recovery fund mean we're able to respond quickly and effectively through our partners on the ground. When you give to support BMS disaster relief, you're helping people affected by disasters in Türkiye and Syria today, and wherever it is needed in the future.

A CAFOD prayer for Poverty

Unlimited generosity.

You asked for my hands that you might use them for your purposes.
I gave them for a moment then withdrew them for the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.
I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.
I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life that you might work through me .

I gave you a small part that I might not get "too involved".

Lord, forgive me for calculated efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so, and only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.

Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I may take seriously the meaning of your cross.

Joe Seramane, South Africa, from Lifelines, Christian Aid