

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 12th March 2023 Service

This Sunday Barbara & Geoff are leading and Jerry will consider the third Servant Song in Isaiah 50:4-11, titled "Trust The Obedient Servant."

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

Structure of Jerry's talk.

We should trust God's Servant because of the following:

- (1) The Servant's Obedience vv 4-5,
- (2) The Servant's Sufferings v 6
- (3) The Servant's Confidence vv 7-9

Jerry's Reads

Matt 11:28, John 8:28, Rom 8:31-38, 1 Peter 2:20-23

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember Rita Rudrum.

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

Please pray for the Allard family as Bridget's funeral takes place this Monday. Pray for those in our fellowship and community trying to access a NHS dentist. It is estimated that 11 million people in the UK cannot gain appointments. Nine in 10 NHS dental practices across the UK are not accepting new adult patients for treatment. The inaccessibility of NHS dentistry has even driven some patients to resort to DIY dentistry, pulling out their own teeth in desperation.

A prayer to reflect on for International Women's Day.

Lord, make me an instrument of peace:

Bless all women who daily strive to bring peace to their communities, their homes and their hearts. Give them strength to continue to turn swords into ploughshares.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love:

We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities. Help us to see and to face the discrimination against women in all the many forms it may take.

Where there is injury, pardon:

Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, and abuse. Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and peace.

Where there is division, unity:

Forgive all women and men who let differences breed hate and discrimination. Let your example of valuing all of creation help us to see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your world.

Where there is darkness, light; where there is untruth, truth:

Comfort all women who struggle in the darkness of abuse, poverty, and loneliness. May we stand with them in light to acknowledge their suffering and strive to remove the burdens of shame or embarrassment.

Where there is doubt, true faith:

We pray for all women who live in fear of their husbands, fathers, and forces that control their lives. Help them to be empowered to be their true selves through your everlasting love and faith.

Where there is despair, hope:

We pray for all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery, and abuse. May the light of your love bring them hope.

Where there is sadness, new joy:

Help us to see the strength and goodness in all women and men. Transform our hearts to celebrate the love and grace of all people. Amen

Source Tearfund Australia

Virtual Prayer Room

Sunday 5th March Maggie posted "Rita is having her long-awaited hip replacement scheduled 4pm today. She has been waiting 3 years. She could have had it early last year but was investigated for something else all now sorted Maureen K had her hip replacement yesterday both in Spire Hospital together. Thank you"

"Good news about Rita her son has just phoned. Her op has been successful, and she is back on the ward."



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 13th March

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 14th March

Coffee and Chat
9.30am - 12 in the Stables

Wednesday 15th March

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

Thursday 16th March

10am to 12pm Bible Art in the Schoolroom
10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
3.15pm Messy Church in Church
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

All Welcome to join in
Contact Diana for details

7.00pm Lent Talks in the Church

Friday 17th March

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

Sunday 19th March

10.45 Sunday Service
Welcome: Julia & David/Maggie
Flowers: Mothering Sunday

Sunday 16th April

12 Noon SBC AGM

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

Wednesday 8th March Jerry posted "From Maureen: I would like to say thank you, everyone, for your prayers. I really knew the presence of the Lord's love and peace. I'm home now. Please continue to pray for healing and strength and for Cyril, who's looking after me well. Love Maureen." Also, on Wednesday Maggie posted "More good news. Just come off the phone with Rita's son. He saw her last night and, in his words, said mum looks super and his sister is bringing her home now. Thankfully did not have to have anaesthetic surgery carried out by epidural." Jane asks "Please pray for Steve Slade he is asking after everyone at the chapel"



drinking—champion boozers who collect trophies from drinking bouts and then line your pockets with bribes from the guilty while you violate the rights of the innocent. **As Christians how do we challenge so much that is wrong at times in our country when our leadership is exposed as believing "don't do as I do, do as I say," and how do we bring truth to people around the world that are governed by totally corrupt self-serving leaders in their dystopian 1984 world?**

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

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

Bible Reading Isaiah 5: 8-23 (MSG)

You who call Evil Good and Good Evil

8-10 Doom to you who buy up all the houses and grab all the land for yourselves – Evicting the old owners, posting NO TRESPASSING signs,

Taking over the country, leaving everyone homeless and landless.

I overheard GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies say:

"Those mighty houses will end up empty.

Those extravagant estates will be deserted. A ten-acre vineyard will produce a pint of wine, a fifty-pound sack of seed, a quart of grain."

Doom to you who use lies to sell evil, who haul sin to market by the truckload, Who say, "What's God waiting for? Let him get a move on so we can see it.

Whatever The Holy of Israel has cooked up, we'd like to check it out." **20** Doom to you who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness in place of light and light in place of darkness, who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

21-23 Doom to you who think you're so smart, who hold such a high opinion of yourselves! All you're good at is



Tesco Community Grants

Tesco Community Grants support thousands of local community projects and good causes across the UK. The scheme is open to all registered charities and not-for-profit organisations.

SBC's refurbishment of the Schoolroom has been accepted. **From the first week in April** when you're shopping in Tesco Stalham ask for, or collect, a blue token when you pay. Place the tokens in the cabinet pictured to the left. Three charities compete for grants, the charity with the most tokens will be awarded £1500, the others a smaller amount.

All your counters will count to help SBC to raise more money for the refurbishment of

the schoolroom.

Amazon Smile

Amazon Smile has closed down their Amazon Smile program to concentrate on bigger charities. Diana received an email saying "writing to inform you that, **Stalham Baptist Church** received a donation of **£13.36.**"

Daffs even more Galore?

Threats of Artic snow were heard, but that hasn't stopped Barbara, Ben and Henry collecting around 700

LENT TALKS

You are invited to 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.

**Thursday 16th March 7.00pm Stalham Baptist Church
"FORGIVENESS"**

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

**Thursday 23rd March 7.00pm Stalham Baptist Church
"RIDICULE"**

Speaker: Rev. Ron. Skivington, Stalham Baptist Church

**Thursday 30th March 7.00pm Stalham Baptist Church
"SACRIFICE"**

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

For enquiries call Keith 07891 365 232 or 01692 583292

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.

daffs on Thursday which Edna bunched up. Henry says “We now have raised £600 so far in two weeks.” You can buy bunches of daffs for 50p outside Edna’s house in St. Johns Road and also at the Community Fridge

Teas and Coffee in the Schoolroom

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

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.

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.

Weekly Prayer Focus: 12th March Social Justice & Poverty

The cost of living crisis is now common currency in our society. Perhaps less well understood are the deep seated ‘structural problems’ that have pushed many into poverty, or held others in poverty, in the last fifteen years or more. CAP, Foodbanks, Pantries, Community Fridges and many other schemes have helped people practically, but have also shed a spotlight on where the ‘system’ is broken and outrageous injustices against individuals or families have been left unchallenged.

Into this Christians across our region have taken the initiative: either as churches, or forming bespoke charities, or partnering with others to simply ‘love their neighbours’. Simple grace and compassion have been shown, giving windows for people onto Jesus who ‘saw the crowd and had compassion’. A Kingdom

mindset, open to God, operating in unexpected places (or people, or organisations) have allowed Christian organisations to lead the way, catalyse the support of the general public, and form extensive partnerships with incredible results. For example several Foodbanks have partnered with Citizen’s Advice, turning each £1,000 of grant money into £5,000 of help directly into bank accounts of those in need!

All this is encouraging ... but (we must be honest) exhausting! Sustaining through the pandemic and now ramping up with the current crisis (e.g. 60% increase in demand for some Foodbanks) leaves the faithful servants and volunteers depleted in their reserves. At the same time culture is shifting to ‘accept’ having organisations such as Foodbanks embedded into how society works – steps in the wrong direction. We want to show grace and compassion to those in need, and at the same time change society so that people can flourish in their own right – God’s Kingdom, here on earth!

Please pray for:

- * Christian-led initiatives across our region.
- * The spiritual and emotional energy for local organisations (eg Foodbanks) to simply keep going.
- * Conversations about Jesus to happen amidst the practical helping of people in need.
- * Change in the ‘principalities and powers’ that affect our government policies and structural systems

Written by Rev Karl Relton who is a member of the EBA Justice Group

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

Jerry’s Quotes of the Week

“We must cease striving and trust God to provide what He thinks is best and in whatever time He chooses to make it available. But this kind of trust doesn't come naturally. It's a spiritual crisis of the will in which we must choose to exercise faith.” — Swindoll Charles R.

“I am a spiritual being... After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced



Stalham Baptist Church Stables



**Bacon Rolls - Cakes
Toasties and much more
All Proceeds to E.A.C.H
East Anglia's Children's Hospices**

only by God. I will be taught only by Christ." —
Max Lucado

"Don't worry if you are already in the middle of a personal storm; it is never too late to put your trust in Jesus." —
Adam Cumpston

"The will of God for your life is simply that you submit yourself to Him each day and say, "Father, Your will for today is mine. Your pleasure for today is mine. Your work for today is mine. I trust You to be God. You lead me today, and I will follow." — Kay Arthur

"Abide in Me says Jesus. Cling to Me. Stick fast to Me. Live the life of close and intimate communion with Me. Get nearer to Me. Roll every burden on Me. Cast your whole weight on Me. Never let go of your hold on Me for a moment. Be, as it were, rooted and planted in Me. Do this, and I will never fail you. I will ever abide in you." —
J. C. Ryle

Christian Aid Daily reading: 9th March Walking in love.

Something to read

And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. - 2 John 5-6.

Something to think about

Last year I was due to go to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory (loPt) with the World Council of Churches' Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme came about at the request of Palestinian church leaders to the World Council of Churches for an international presence in loPt.

Ecumenical Accompaniers provide protective presence to vulnerable Palestinian communities, monitoring and reporting human rights abuses. As I think about my role as an Ecumenical Accompanier, the line, 'his command is that you walk in love', in today's lectionary reading seems particularly apt.

As Ecumenical Accompaniers, we are not there to solve the Middle East conflict, but to walk alongside the Israeli and Palestinian peacemakers, supporting their work.

The word accompaniment derives from the Latin words 'com' and 'panis,' meaning 'with bread.' The literal meaning implies sharing bread with someone.

Perhaps accompaniment is best demonstrated by the man who walked alongside two distraught and defeated travellers heading from Jerusalem to Emmaus and showed them that, despite Jesus' crucifixion, hope was alive.

It was not until the man had accepted their hospitality and broke bread with them that they realised it was Jesus, at which point he disappeared from sight. Three key elements of accompaniment are prominent in this narrative: preaching a word of hope, sharing the basics of life and departing at the right moment to carry on the work elsewhere.

Today, please have a think about who it is that you can walk beside or break bread with – either figuratively or literally. In every town and city in Ireland, we have homeless people, asylum seekers and refugees, people grieving lost loved ones or the breakdown of relationships and others struggling with mental health or addiction; every one of whom was made in the image of God.

Something to pray

God of justice, bless those who work for peace through justice. Strengthen their resolve in the face of seemingly endless violence. Guide the leaders of the people of the Middle East to know your will and to support a just peace for all of your children.

God of mercy, even as we long to understand that which is often beyond our comprehension, we lay before you the hearts, minds and bodies of all those suffering from conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and from the ongoing occupation. Shower upon all the people there the spirit of justice and reconciliation.

God of the nations, give to all people the blessings of well-being, freedom, and harmony, and, above all things, give us faith in you that we may be strengthened to care for all those in need until the coming of your son, our Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

(Adapted from the Church of Scotland's Prayer for Peace in the Middle East)

Today's contributor is Sara Stephens. Sara was about to go to loPt with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel when she wrote this reflection. Previously she worked with refugees in County Offaly. She attends Dublin Central Mission Methodist Church.

For more information about Christian Aid click [here](#)

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.

