

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News



Sunday 2nd April 2023

This Sunday Ron is leading and preaching
from Zechariah 9:9, Ephesians 3:14-21
"What do we see?"



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

Dt 17:16, Lk 19:41f, Jas 4:2

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember Elaine and Steve Smith. During April please pray for the residents of Recreation Road and Brumstead Road including Sydney House.

We thank you Lord for your blessings for those in the fellowship who have received operations that will improve the quality of their lives. We pray that those still waiting will soon be able to share those blessings.

Lord in March we celebrated International Women's Day and Mothering Sunday. At SBC we are blessed with so many women who share their talents and creativity to the success of our church. Lord, we pray for the women in Afghanistan who have little opportunity to express their talents and we also pray for the girls who are banned from attending any form of education. Lord break into the stoney hearts of the Taliban leaders, the only government in the world that bans female education.

O Lord, who on this day entered the rebellious city that later rejected you: we confess that our wills are as rebellious as Jerusalem's, that our faith is often more show than substance, that our hearts are in need of cleansing. Have mercy on us, Son of David, Saviour of our lives. Help us to lay at your feet all that we have and all that we are, trusting you to forgive what is sinful, to heal what is broken, to welcome our praises, and to receive us as your own.

—written by John Paarlberg, retired minister of Word and sacrament

Virtual Prayer Room

Monday 27th March Jerry posted "Please continue to pray for Sara who has her operation today." Later Jerry posted "Sarah is in recovery. They expect to bring her to the ward at about 7pm."

Tuesday 28th March Jane posted "Please pray for Ruth Hayward who is having treatment for a clot on the lung. Thank you. (she is now recovering and the clot has dispersed)" Also on Tuesday Jerry posted "Sara has not been able to come home she is still feeling poorly. They are hoping that she should be able to come home tomorrow."

Wednesday 29th March Jerry posted an update from Sara's mum "Morning, Sara had a better night but they are still concerned about her slow recovery, more blood tests this morning, but she won't be home today."

Thursday 30th March Jerry posted "Sara is feeling brighter today. It looks like she may be coming home today."

Bible Reading Hebrews 10: 1-10 (MSG)

The Sacrifice of Jesus

10¹⁻¹⁰ The old plan was only a hint of the good things in the new plan. Since that old "law plan" wasn't complete in itself, it couldn't complete those who followed it. No matter how many sacrifices were offered year after year, they never added up to a complete solution. If they had, the worshipers would have gone blissfully on their way, no longer dragged down by their sins. But instead of removing awareness of sin, when those animal sacrifices were repeated over and over they actually heightened awareness and guilt. The plain fact is that bull and goat blood can't get rid of sin. That is what is meant by this prophecy, put in the mouth of Christ:

You don't want sacrifices and offerings year after year;
you've prepared a body for me for a sacrifice.

It's not fragrance and smoke from the altar
that whet your appetite.

So I said, "I'm here to do it your way, O God,
the way it's described in your Book."

Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship
For your Diary

Monday 3rd April

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 4th April

Coffee and Chat
9.30am - 12 in the Stables

Wednesday 5th April

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 6th April

10am - 12pm Bible Art in School-room
holiday children & adults welcome
10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
3.15pm Messy Church

Friday 7th April

10.15 to 11.30am
Prayer for Revival at Three Windows,
Brumstead Road
1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables
7.00pm Good Friday reflective service
in the Church

Sunday 9th April

6.30am How Hill sunrise service
Followed by breakfast in Stables
10.45 Easter Sunday Service
Welcome: Fran & David
Flowers: Easter Sunday

Sunday 16th April

12 Noon SBC AGM & Special Meeting
**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

When he said, "You don't want sacrifices and offerings," he was referring to practices according to the old plan. When he added, "I'm here to do it your way," he set aside the first in order to enact the new plan—God's way—by which we are made fit for God by the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus.

As Christians do we sometimes keep going back to God and apologising, asking forgiveness for the same thing? Do we metaphorically offer a sacrifice, or do we pray sincerely and desperately try to live God's way? Listen to Jerry's short blog based on this passage that answers those questions. Click [Jerry's Blog](#).

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

Daffs have passed the magic number

The Daffs have passed the £1000 mark by Thursday £1152 has been raised and Henry is confident that the brilliant harvesters can continue to Easter. You can buy bunches of daffs for 50p outside Edna's house in St. Johns Road and also at the Community Fridge.

A Thank You From Maureen K

I would like to say thank you for your prayers, cards and cakes, following and prior to my recent operation, they have meant so much, a lot. All being well I hope to be with you all for the Easter morning service. God bless. Love Maureen X.

A Big Thank You

A big thank you to all who came to the Clocks Go Forward Coffee Morning on Saturday at the Stables and those coming to Coffee & Chat that raised a £1000 for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. Also to the ladies who do such a great job.

Weekly Prayer Focus: 2nd April Carleton Road Baptist Church

Carleton Rode is a small, historical village in south Norfolk, but the Baptist church there has a modern outlook which sees them drawing people from across all age ranges.

Rev'd David Humphries came to the church 18 months ago and is enthusiastic about the new parents and toddlers group which has recently been launched. 'It's going really, really well,' he says, 'supporting parents who could easily find themselves isolated in such an out-of-the-way place. We're working closely with Norfolk County Council to provide that service.'

There is also a healthy youth group which draws 25-30 young people every other week, and there are many other occasional events which give the church's activities a high profile.

It's particularly pleasing that during renovations people visiting the building – such as buildings inspectors, builders and other tradespeople – have all commented that there is a real sense of peace there, and have remarked that they feel they're in a special place.

As is often the case with renovations, one job begins and



this uncovers other necessary work, so extra funds have needed to be found, so the congregation is grateful for loan support from the Baptist Building Trust.

'We have a very loving congregation who reflect God's love, so that atmosphere is a tribute to all of them. As with most other churches, though, we are always looking to welcome others to add to our gracious team

of servants.'

Prayer focus

- For the building work to be completed soon, so we can enjoy the building in all its beauty again. At the moment it's a bit unsightly.
- A Prayer Focus regular – for more people to help us bring in the harvest.

AGM and Special Meeting

This year's AGM will take place on 16th April. There will also be a Special Meeting to update the fellowship on the refurbishment project following the church service.

Can those responsible for the many groups that take place in the church please give Diana a copy of their report so they can be filed ready to be read

North Norfolk Foodbank

During April 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.

Quotes of the Week

Corrie ten Boom (a Dutch

watchmaker and later a Christian writer and public speaker) was once asked if it were difficult for her to remain humble. Her reply was simple. "When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road, and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" She continued, "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honour."

Mark Schaeufele in **A Messiah Who Serves**.

"The Donkey
When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood

Then surely I was born,
With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;

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.

Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.”

G.K. Chesterton

The Christian church was born in the very city where Jesus was publicly killed and buried. The belief in a resurrected Jesus had to be authentic to take root in Jerusalem and grow to encompass the whole world. The Christian church is now the largest institution that exists or has ever existed in the history of humanity. Clearly, this would have been impossible if the resurrection was a story. Don Hawks in **Who Is Jesus? -- A Palm Sunday Lesson.**

A Palm Sunday reflection by Archbishop Justin Welby 05/04/2020

For Christians this will be a Palm Sunday unique in almost the last 800 years. Normally, we would be in our churches singing praises to Jesus the King, perhaps waving palm crosses or taking part in processions to remember Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem. Some adventurous and optimistic vicars who have managed to arrange a donkey and have lots of children in church would be worrying about children sticking palms in each other's' eyes, or the donkey misbehaving. (Donkeys always misbehave.) -

This year, we are all celebrating separately in our homes. The celebration is tinged with real sadness for the loss of contact with our physical communities and the constraints of this present time. For some, particularly in large urban areas, it will be a day of emotional clouds loaded with worry over someone who is ill, or even with grief over the death of a loved one.

Palm Sunday is a strange festival anyway. It's a celebration of Jesus as King, but even as we celebrate, we are conscious that the next part of the story gives us some extra perspective. The crowds cheered and lauded Jesus as he entered Jerusalem; the same crowds seemed to turn on him when he was not the military conqueror they expected.

There is a bigger story going on at Palm Sunday than most people at the time could see. We have the benefit of the bible telling us the rest - we can see the journey of Jesus to the cross. But the clues were all there at the time: the King arriving into Jerusalem was on a donkey, not a war horse. As the crowd waved their palm branches and shouted "Hosanna", many were expecting a leader who would fight their battles and liberate them from the Roman Empire. What they got was a different kind of king - infinitely more powerful, yet vastly more humble. The week took a very different turn: in just a matter of days, Jesus would be executed as a criminal, silent before his abusers, humiliated and tortured.

Lent is a good time to be asking, what is our mental or emotional picture of God? It is a time to think about what we are expecting from Him. And crises are an especially good time to be asking that question.

We might not be anticipating a warrior king, but right now we may want God to make the coronavirus disappear, to make everything go back to normal again. If we are honest with ourselves, we can want God to be like a fairy-godmother, to wave a magic wand and take away all the pain and suffering.

These are very human responses. We find them in the Psalms. They are not sinful, even if they are the wrong picture. The Psalmist in Psalm 44 gets quite personal with God. He tells God that God is a rubbish businessman - he has sold his people, and not even done a good deal. He suggests God is asleep, and tells him to wake up.

Prayer should always be honest - but it also goes far beyond just honesty. It's a meeting with God himself, whom Jesus says we can address as father, as Lord, as healer and redeemer, life and truth, creator, and many more ways.

Palm Sunday confronts us with God being disruptively different. God the revolutionary. We see God who takes on the pain, who walks the journey of Holy Week, deeper and deeper into a darkness we cannot enter. God in Jesus lets his friends deny and betray him. God, in Jesus, suffers rejection and abuse, and the ultimate desolation of a lonely yet innocent death. All the worst of human experience is heaped on Jesus.

So, this Palm Sunday let us ask ourselves: what are we praying for? What are we expecting of God? The thing is, God is so infinitely loving and generous that he comes to meet us wherever we are at, because he knows and understands our sufferings. On that first Palm Sunday, Jesus criticised those who would seek to silence the cries of the crowd. Bring all you are - your hopes, fears, sadness, uncertainty - to Jesus. He never turns anyone away.

And because of the life and death of Jesus, we can trust in the forgiveness of God and his victory over death. But here is the challenge of Palm Sunday: in trusting in Jesus, the Servant King, we are set on a path of following his life and pattern, right to the cross, so we too might experience the glorious resurrection.

Resurrection requires that we carry a cross. And that means turning away from what is wrong and putting our selves, our self-obsession and our selfishness on the cross. Putting self on the cross leads straight to resurrection.

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.



Thought For The Day

Have you experienced in life when people are all around you like shadows in your brightest moments, but they flee and are nowhere to be found in your darkest hours? Jesus is always your light.



Sonrise Service

Easter Sunday

Sunday 9th April 6.30am

Park in the How Hill Car park NR29 5PG

All welcome

**Breakfast at SBC Stables at
7.30am**

Book a breakfast

By emailing Elaine at

elainemith364@btinternet.com

or text Elaine on 07796875785



**“He Has Risen
Service”**

**at Stalham Baptist
Church at 10.45am**

**Followed by tea and
coffee in the Stables**