

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday April 30th

This Sunday Barbra & Geoff are leading and Ron is preaching from

Deuteronomy 17: 14-20 "God's King"

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

1 Sam 8: 4f, 1 Sam 15:1f, 1 Kin 15:3, 2 Kin 18: 3,2 Sam 7:1f

Mic 6:6, Mt 22:34

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Gloria Turner**. During May please pray for the residents of **Staithe Gardens and Homestead Place**.

Lord, encourage people to take part in the zoom Bible Study on Wednesday. People may feel uneasy about joining in case they have to answer questions or be put on the spot. Lord please help all to feel welcome and comfortable enough to just listen and add an occasional thought if they wish. Keep those in your prayers in the fellowship who are undergoing tests and regular treatments in the NHS.

Please pray for those in the community who have cancer, dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, advanced lung, heart, kidney and liver disease, stroke and other neurological diseases, including motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis and other serious illnesses. Pray they can be treated in a way that will support them, have as much independence as possible, be respected for what they have contributed in the past and not feel that they are a burden but they are still valued.

Also pray that the refurbishment will be a smooth development and that there will be no unexpected problems.

Prayer for the children of persecuted Christians.

Oh Lord, we bring before You all persecuted Christians in so many parts of the world, and we particularly lift up their children, knowing that children can be so abused and ill-treated and used as pawns to cause their parents to falter in their faith.

Guard and protect all these little ones. Keep each one from any long-term psychological harm, emotional pain or feelings of bitter revenge that can result from the atrocities that they have had to go through and witness.

Protect every single life we pray, and we ask that You would intervene in any attempts to abduct the children of Christians and expose them to forced "corrective teaching" or "child labour" camps.

Lord, You were the one that said, "let the little children come to Me and forbid them not." I pray that each and every child that experiences some form of persecution against their faith, will be kept and protected by You, and brought at last into Your everlasting kingdom, where every tear and all pain will be wiped away, forever. Amen.

Source: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/Prayers-for-the-Persecuted>

Virtual Prayer Room

Friday 21st April Simone posted "Could I ask for your prayers please. This morning there is a big meeting scheduled to discuss Anna's care from her surgery at GOSH until her last admission at the N&N. It will be attended by a wider team from both GOSH and N&N. There are lots of questions that need addressing and we are praying that we will get some honest answers. Thanks."

Tuesday 25th Jenny posted "Please pray for our 11 year old grandson, Oscar. He fell badly while at Scouts last evening. After a trip to A&E, he has stitches in his knee and is having to use crutches. They live in a 3 storey house, so moving around is going to be a challenge for him. Thank you."

The same day Hazel posted "Our bathroom is being done at the moment. It's all stripped out and there are a few complicated things to sort out. Please pray for swift smooth progress so we have a proper bathroom ASAP. (No hot water and no hand basin are surprisingly stressful!)"

Wednesday 16th Jenny posted "Please pray for my mum Jean, she was taken to



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 1st May

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

Tuesday 2nd May

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Wednesday 3rd May

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12 in the Church

10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

All Welcome to join in

Contact Diana for details

Thursday 4th May

10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

10am to 12pm Bible Art in the Church

2pm Messy Church planning meeting in the Stables

Friday 5th May

10.15 to 11.30am

Prayer for Revival at Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables

Saturday 6th May

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Stables

Sunday 7th May

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Jill & Elinor

Flowers: Monica Payne

Monday 8th May

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

Food Bank & Personal Prayer

SBC will be open Tuesday 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

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.

hospital at 5am this morning with COVID and very low oxygen sats. Thanks”

Later that day Jenny posted “Thank you all for your prayers. Mum is now back on her Care Home having been given oxygen for several hours. She is very weak but happy to be home.”

To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the power of prayer text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone.

Bible Reading Blog Hebrews 3: 12-19

¹²⁻¹⁴ So watch your step, friends. Make sure there’s no evil unbelief lying around that will trip you up and throw you off course, diverting you from the living God. For as long as God’s still calling it Today, keep each other on your toes so sin doesn’t slow down your reflexes. If we can only keep our grip on the sure thing we started out with, we’re in this with Christ for the long haul.

These words keep ringing in our ears:

Today, please listen;

don’t turn a deaf ear as in the bitter uprising.

¹⁵⁻¹⁹ For who were the people who turned a deaf ear? Weren’t they the very ones Moses led out of Egypt? And who was God provoked with for forty years? Wasn’t it those who turned a deaf ear and ended up corpses in the wilderness? And when he swore that they’d never get where they were going, wasn’t he talking to the ones who turned a deaf ear? They never got there because they never listened, never believed.

As Christians how easy to be as my mum would say “there is none so deaf as those who don’t wish to hear” and stumble away from the Lord?

Listen to Jerry’s short blog based on this verse [click Jerry’s Blog](#). if you are reading this on a computer or phone. Or go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ and click on “Our Weekly Bible Commentary”

Men’s Breakfast May 6th

The next Men’s Breakfast is this coming Saturday May 6th starting at 8.30am. There is no set charge, but donations are welcome.

Our speaker is Tim Manley who will tell us a bit about himself, and the profits will go to a Christian project ReVive establishing foster care in Brazil that Tim has a link with.

ReVive’s fostering co-ordinator, Tony Lewry, said: “There are so many vulnerable children in our city who desperately need a safe place to live. Our service will not only offer a safe place, but a family environment which will create the atmosphere each child needs to overcome the challenges life has thrown at them.” I can forward by email a document with information about the project if you contact me. Email geoffreynolds51@gmail.com

Urgent Help Needed

The refurbishment is starting on 15th May and we need volunteers to move the articles in the schoolroom store, kitchen, vestry, and shed a start was made on Saturday but if you could help at any other time have a chat with Ron.

DJ Steve Give Him a Call

Doreen Hollebon requests that people contact DJ. He is still waiting to get back to Stalham. He is currently at All

Hallows Care Home Bungay and would really appreciate some communications, he is a long way from home. Steve was a regular at SBC before his problems, he regularly watches the online services and would be lifted by some communications from SBC. Contact him on Facebook Stephen Slade (DJ Steve) or phone 01986-807280 and ask to talk to DJ Steve Slade.

Just a Reminder

If you shop in Tesco’s the slot for SBC’s refurbishment is open on the Tesco’s Community Grant collection point. SBC could be granted up to £1500 if we receive the largest amount of the blue tokens you can collect as you pay at the till area.

Bible Art

Don’t miss the next Bible Art session on Thursday 4th May 10am to 12. For more information contact Simone on 07436837210

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus: 30th April Sudbury Baptist Church

Many routes pass through the market town of Sudbury in Suffolk. Surrounded by countryside, and half an hour from any other town in each direction, Sudbury has its own identity. Rev Mark Ulanowski serves as the Minister of Sudbury Baptist Church, alongside an incredible group of Deacons.

Sudbury Baptist Church is an established family of Christians, with long relationships. These relationships spread a net throughout the town and the local area. It is a family church, feeling a strong sense of identity when it represents all ages. The Church has a strong sense of responsibility to witness to the community.

The fellowship is blessed to have two Ukrainian families join them. The Church has supported and encouraged them as they have settled in Sudbury, and helped one family find a home. They are now part of the congregation and worship with them regularly, as well as living day-to-day during the week with different members.

Recently, times of testimony have featured in worship. People have been invited to talk about their experience of God in their working week. So far, they have heard from a Teacher and Police Officer, both members of the church. The fellowship hears the testimony, and then prays for them. In this way, all are encouraged in their discipleship, to live for Christ every day of the week.

Sudbury Baptist Church is a very busy fellowship. There is a drop-in that runs during the week and, they are seeking other ways in which they can expand this safe place for people in the community. There are two parent and toddler groups that have become very busy again lately.

Please Pray for

- New ways to outreach as Town Pastors comes to an end.
- For a growth in intentional discipleship where God has placed members of the fellowship.
- That the Church would be open to God’s prompting in conversations with those who attend parent and toddlers.



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.

Bank Holidays

There will be no Community Fridge or Warm Space on Monday May 1st and Monday May 8th

North Norfolk Foodbank

During May any of the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed - Tinned Fruit - Tinned Meat - Tinned Vegetables - Tinned Tomatoes - Pasta Sauce - Rice Pudding - Biscuits - Pot Noodles/Mugshots – Squash – Cereal – Coffee - Plus any toiletries or household cleaning items

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

Quotes of the Week

“HOW TO CHOOSE A GREAT LEADER

Choose a leader who will invest in

Building bridges, not walls.

Books, not weapons.

Morality, not corruption.

Intellectualism and wisdom, not ignorance.

Stability, not fear and terror.

Peace, not chaos.

Love, not hate.

Convergence, not segregation.

Tolerance, not discrimination.

Fairness, not hypocrisy.

Substance, not superficiality.

Character, not immaturity.

Transparency, not secrecy.

Justice, not lawlessness.

Environmental improvement and preservation, not destruction.

Truth, not lies.”

Suzy Kassem,

“Pick a leader who will make their citizens proud. One who will stir the hearts of the people, so that the sons and daughters of a given nation strive to emulate their leader's greatness. Only then will a nation be truly great, when a leader inspires and produces citizens worthy of becoming future leaders, honourable decision makers and peacemakers. And in these times, a great leader must be extremely brave. Their leadership must be steered only by their conscience, not a bribe.”

Suzy Kassem,

“The Anatomy of Conflict:

If there is no communication then there is no respect. If there is no respect then there is no caring. If there is no caring then there is no understanding. If there is no understanding then there is no compassion. If there is no compassion then there is no empathy. If there is no empathy then there is no forgiveness. If there is no forgiveness then there is no kindness. If there is no kindness then there is no honesty. If there is no honesty then there is no love. If there is no love then God doesn't reside there. If God doesn't reside there then there is no peace. If there is no peace then there is no happiness. If there is no happiness ----then there IS CONFLICT BECAUSE THERE IS NO COMMUNICATION!” **Shannon L. Alder**



'The Union has always been evolving' Andy Goodliff shares a recent history of structural changes in the Baptist Union



Reading the most recent [Baptist Union Council report](#), it appears the Union is once again having to think about its structures due in part to financial restraints. We might be about to experience another set of changes to the Union in terms of how the national resource and associations are staffed, operate and relate.

I say once again, because the Union has been in this position now a number of times, that is, the Union has always been evolving. This time, the results could be more far reaching, because they might impact congregations and ministers more directly.

Here's some recent history:

In 1970, the national resource – as it began to be termed in the 2000s – underwent change as it created three new main departments – ministry, mission and administration.

Before then it was a series of smaller more ad hoc departments. Prior to 2002, the Union operated through Areas overseen by a General Superintendent. Each area included at least one or more County Associations. There were originally ten Areas and ten Superintendents; this was increased to 11 in 1981 and 12 in 1986.

In the 1990s there was a desire for change. Some of that was because of financial constraints (in 1992 the Union had to make several national staff redundant), but more generally it was from a desire for renewal. These changes were introduced in 2002 following a long consultation. The changes saw the end of Superintendents and County Associations, and the creation of 13 Regional Associations, each employing one or more Regional Minister.

What was not properly resolved – in fact arguably it has never been – was the relationship between the Union and the Associations. The County Associations, as they were, have a much longer history than the Union, some going back several centuries. The Union didn't emerge in importance until the early 20th Century.

Attempts were made in the 2000s to better clarify the

relationship between Union and Association, especially around funding, but agreement was never reached.

In 2012 under new financial pressures, the Union (ten years on from the last restructuring) underwent a new process. **The result** this time was a reduction in size of the National Resource. This had grown in the early 2000s, partly under better economic conditions and partly from a sense of missional purpose created by the 2002 changes.

In addition to this reduction of staff, new attempts at cost saving in administration were initiated between Associations (what have been called Associational Partnerships).*

We are now just over ten years further down the line and once again the finances are forcing the Union to look at its structures.

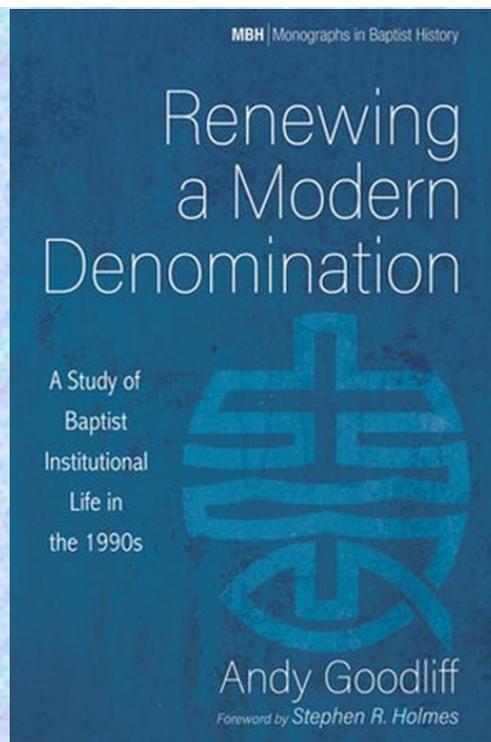
Alongside that are the questions of relationship between Associations and Union which I suggest have been bubbling away for decades, although since 2002, Associations carry a more equal weight to the national resource.

This time round the changes to the Union might be more dramatic – a movement of more responsibility from National Resource to the Associations (which would take the Union back to a similar place it was in the mid-1900s, when the Union as a national body was more token) or a movement of more responsibility back to the National Resource from the Associations.

The former might raise questions of ministerial accreditation and a sense of wider belonging. The latter might make our broader Baptist life feel more distant and removed (although some have felt that when the move was made from County to Regional Associations.)

Baptist structures beyond the local church have never been fixed. There has been lots of change through its 200 year old history, and issues of finance have often played a contributing role.

Restructuring has also been undertaken to help increase a wider sense of belonging to the Union and/or to an Association. Identifying with Union or Association has never been something you can take for granted with Baptists, arising from an independent streak in Baptist churchmanship, and from theological tensions that appear between churches. It is probably a constellation of all these things – finance, independence, theology – which



bring us to this moment.

In 2002, Darrell Jackson, in an article in the *Baptist Ministers' Journal* asked, 'Does the Future Have a Denomination?' He gave a qualified yes.

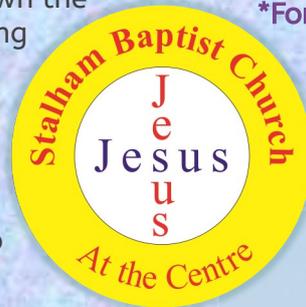
Asking the question today, if we choose to be honest, we might give the answer No.

Some might not be bothered by that, although I think if this did happen, it wouldn't take too long to feel the loss. Many of us would be and are bothered by that possibility, and this should drive us to prayer, soul-searching and seeking a renewed sense of our being Baptists, locally, regionally and nationally.

Andy Goodliff is the minister of Belle Vue Baptist Church, Southend.

*For those interested in a more detailed history, see Andy's account in *Renewing a Modern Denomination* (Pickwick, 2021).

For more information from Baptist Times click [here](#)



Prayer With Confidence

Lord, You know my heart in and out, and you know that my heart is tired, but it is not fully resting in you. My patience wears thin with the weight of the world. For this Sunday morning, please free me of any burden of impatience I may have for what is going on in life around me. Help me to have patience like you Lord, and help me to replace any impatience with empathy like Jesus. Amen.