

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday May 14th

This Sunday Elaine And Maggie are leading and Ron is preaching from Matthew 6: 9-13 & John 18: 33-37 "Nature of Christ's Kingdom"

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 9:33, Mt 5:20F, JN 1:14, 17, 14: 4, Isa 11:10, Eph 2:19, Rev 19:12

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Anne West**.

During May please pray for the residents of **Staithe Gardens and Homestead Place**.

Please pray for the workmen who start in the Schoolroom on Monday 15th.

Remember in your prayers Daisy Robinson & Vin Damasceno who are marrying on Friday 26th May at SBC.

Loving God, we pray for the sick and troubled, for the fearful and alone, for those in pain at home, at work, in the streets, in our fellowship and community. We pray that all who suffer, may feel Your healing Spirit's presence. We pray for Esther who is still in James Paget Hospital, especially as her daughter is getting married next week. We also pray for all those on waiting lists for operations and consultations.

God of heaven and earth, companion in life, Spirit of truth, to You alone we turn our eyes and lift our hearts. Help us as we go out into the coming week we would to feel Your spirit in us and love one another as you love us.

Virtual Prayer room

Monday May 8th David posted "Please pray for Esther who is still in James Paget Hospital undergoing tests

Esther asked that we pray she can get home soon"

Thursday May 11th David posted "Please continue to pray for Esther as she is still in James Paget Hospital as her oxygen levels are low especially as her daughter is getting married next week."

Later on Thursday Esther texted saying "Thank you all so much. I believe in the power of prayer. Just been told I need ct and mri scans and ultrasound. They want me here to Monday. Please thank everyone.

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 John 12: 1-11

Jesus Anointed at Bethany

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honour. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint^[q] of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages.^[q]" ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you,^[q] but you will not always have me."

As Christians could we have understood Judas's logic, this was expensive perfume, and poverty was a daily reality in the town of Bethany. Surely the perfume could be put to better use?

Listen to Jerry's short blog based on this verse [click JerysBlog](#). if you are reading this on a computer or phone. 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 15th May

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 16th May

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Wednesday 17th 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 18th May

10am -12pm Bible Art in the Chapel
10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
3.15pm Messy Church in the Church

Friday 19th May

10.15 to 11.30am

Prayer for Revival at Three Windows,
Brumstead Road

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 21st May

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Henry & David

Flowers: Jane Skivington

Tuesday 23rd May

Potter Plus Bible Study Group

7.00pm details page 2

Friday 26th May

12.00pm The Wedding of

Daisy Robinson & Vin Damasceno
in the Chapel

Food Bank & Personal Prayer

SBC will be 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

Access to Toilets

The door from the church to the schoolroom is now sealed off as the work starts on Monday the Schoolroom so access to the toilets will be through the Stables or side gate.

Potter plus Bible Study group.

We're starting the fortnightly meeting again on Tuesday 23rd May at 7pm in our house [Cameo Cottage, Church Lane, Potter Heigham, NR29 5LR.] Our first session will begin with a cuppa, then we'll look at "The Bible Course" by Andrew Ollerton which includes a video and some time to chat and pray, finishing by 9pm. EVERYONE is welcome [you don't have to live in Potter Heigham or even anywhere nearby] – I'm leading the first one but Jenny will also lead and we may have some meetings at her house in Ashmanough.

3 cars can park in our driveway and there's also a car park round the corner at the Methodist Chapel in Green Lane.

If you'd like any more information grab me for a chat, drop me an email or give me a ring, Barbara Reynolds

barbarageoff@gmail.com 01692672120

Wonderful News

Maggie Harpur says "Wonderful news from Benefact Trust one of the UK's largest Christian Trusts. In a letter dated 4 May 2023 the Trustees approved Grant Aid from their newly released Community Impact Fund of £46,466 for our refurbishment project "SBC Community Rooms". This will enable us to realise our vision of providing much more Inclusive Space for everyone. A Tender Refresh had been carried out by our Project Manager since the application was submitted earlier in March with the total project costs now £593,222.

Benefact were delighted that the grant would be used to reduce the loan facility which was standing at £59,979 to £13,513."

Colossians 3 v 17 "and whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him".

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.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus: 14th May Upminster Baptist Church

Upminster is a suburban town located just inside the M25 and at the end of the London Underground District Line. It has been home to Upminster Baptist Church since 1934.

The church is currently led by senior minister Rev Mark

When evil darkens our world,
give us light. When despair
numbs our souls, give us
hope. When we stumble and
fall, lift us up.

When doubts assail us, give
us faith. When nothing seems
sure, give us trust. When
ideals fade, give us vision.

When we lose our way, be
our guide! That we may find
serenity in Your presence,
and purpose in doing Your
will. –

John D. Rayner womansday.com



Davison and Families, Youth and Children's pastor Rev Rich Shorter. It is a lively, active and growing fellowship which is involved with the community in various ways.

The church has recently seen an increase in families attending and has seen real growth in the numbers attending Sunday services, with more children in Sunday School too. There is a popular weekly Toddler group and a pre-school, which meets every morning in the church premises. A Well-being group meets on Wednesdays with a focus on mental health issues. There are a range of other community groups that meet at the church.

There is a very successful Men's Shed that meets three times a week in a fully equipped workshop in outbuildings on the church site. About thirty men attend each week to use practical tasks

to bring men together and develop

friendships. They work together to carry out projects to make equipment to benefit the wider community. This has now spawned a weekly 'Café with a Purpose' which is focused on those physically less able. Overall, these projects reach out to many who have no other involvement with the church.

Rich Shorter joined UBC in January 2022 to lead the families, youth and children's work and is also involved in outreach to local schools.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom in how to engage with new people and to disciple them and grow their faith.
- Wisdom for the leaders to prioritise their time and resources in developing the kingdom.
- To know the direction to develop and update the church premises.
- To know the Lord's guidance in developing a vision for the church and making it part of the community.

Stalham Fringe

Di Cornell is organising another Stalham Fringe on Sunday 21st May. SBC will be hosting performers in the church from 1.00pm to around 4.00pm.

This free music and dance festival will be hosting local dancers and singers, choirs, bands etc and take place along the High Street, also in St Mary's Church, the Town Hall, along with SBC.

The street will be closed from 11.00am when the other fringe activities start.

Fringe Help

When there are events in the street that SBC supports we provide teas, coffee and cake and ask for donations. We need some volunteers to organise that from 1 to 4pm. If you can help have a chat with David.

North Norfolk Foodbank

During May any of the following would be much appreciated:

Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed – Tinned

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.

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

“The most miserable people in the world are the people who are selfish and self-centred and who won’t do anything for the good of others but only for themselves. These are the ones who are the furthest from the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is God’s all out answer to man’s total needs. The Kingdom of God is something we live. We know and experience the Kingdom of God only to the extent that we practice it.”

“When we tell people about salvation but say nothing about the Kingdom we are not preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. If we present Christ without His Kingdom then we are sharing only half of the gospel. Likewise if we present the Kingdom without Christ then again we are only sharing half of the gospel. Jesus and His Kingdom are inseparable”

“The theme of His preaching was the Kingdom of God. There are nearly 100 references to the Kingdom throughout the four Gospels. Furthermore, most of Jesus’ parables were about the Kingdom. In fact, Jesus said that the reason He was sent to the earth was to preach about the Kingdom.”
David W. Bercot, Kingdom of God

“In the midst of winter, I find within me the invisible summer” **Leo Tolstoy, The Kingdom of God Is Within You**

“We do not build the kingdom of God on earth by our own efforts (however assisted by grace); the most we can do through genuine prayer, is to make as much room as possible, in ourselves and in the world, for the kingdom of God, so that its energies can go to work. All that we can show our contemporaries of the reality of God springs from contemplation: Jesus Christ, the Church, our own selves.” **Hans Urs von Balthasar**

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

Trauma, tears, prayer, admiration

Dnipro Hope Mission co-founder and trustee Joshua T. Searle shares reflections following his first trip to Ukraine since the Russian invasion, where he met Baptist ministry partners serving on the frontlines

I recently returned from Ukraine, where I led a small team on a trip to visit ministry partners linked to our UK-based charity, [Dnipro Hope Mission](#). Although I have visited Ukraine dozens of times, this was the first time I had been since the full-scale Russian invasion in February 2022. The few days that we spent in Ukraine made a huge impact on all of us. It was a phenomenal and life-changing experience and a deeply moving time of fellowship. It was the first time all our ministry partners came together to meet, share, reflect and to give each

other comfort and encouragement.

Given that the UK government advises against all travel to Ukraine, we took a calculated risk with our decision to meet our friends in-person. We were able to meet in a location that was relatively unscathed by the war. After a long train journey, we crossed the border and were warmly greeted by our gracious host, Pastor Valeriy. We had booked a hotel that had enough rooms for all 23 ministry partners, as well as the six of us on the DHM team. We were treated to a sumptuous meal and finished the evening together in prayer and worship.

It was a very emotional reunion with our Ukrainian friends for whom we’d been praying constantly, but whom we had not been able to meet for over a year.

One such friend was Pastor Oleksiy, who was a Mennonite pastor, but who now works as a military chaplain on the frontline, offering prayer and pastoral care to hundreds of Ukrainian troops. Oleksiy was in grave danger when his town was occupied by the Russian army.

Thankfully, he managed to escape. We were very glad to see him safe and well.

Among our ministry partners are several Baptist ministers from Dnipro and Donetsk regions who are serving as chaplains to the Ukrainian military. We gave our Ukrainian friends an opportunity to share about how they had experienced the past year since the Russian invasion and we discussed how we could best support their work in Eastern Ukraine.

We wanted to give our ministry partners a safe space to share their trauma. Many of the pastors we met were clearly traumatised by their experience of the past year.

What struck me was just how much the war dominated every conversation and every prayer. It was heart-breaking to hear the tearful testimonies of Baptist pastors on “line zero” (the point of direct contact with the Russian invaders).

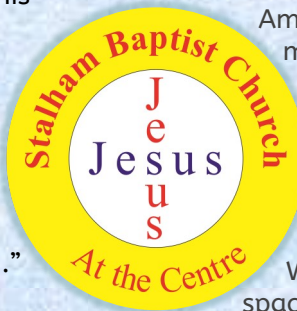
One Baptist pastor shared how he had comforted a mortally-wounded young soldier, praying the last rites for him as the young man, screaming out for his mother, bled to death in his arms.

One of our partners, Pastor Serhii Sizonenko, from a Baptist church in Dnipro, shared with deep emotions about his young son, who was serving in the Ukrainian army and who had recently suffered a serious concussion when a Russian shell exploded nearby, killing another soldier who was standing just yards away from him.

Another of our ministry partners, Pastor Sasha, shared about his recent experience of serving as a military chaplain on the frontline in the town of Bakhmut. He had helped to extract critically injured Ukrainian soldiers to a field hospital, located just behind the main frontline in the town.

In the hospital, he had seen young men in the prime of their lives arriving into the hospital with the most horrific injuries. Sasha’s role was to be on stand-by in the hospital operating theatre, waiting in case the surgeons called him over to say that, unfortunately, they could not do anything more to help, and asking Sasha to pray for the dying soldier.

As Sasha was sharing, I made a note in my journal: “*Sasha and our friends on the frontline in Eastern Ukraine are experiencing a form of living hell on an almost daily basis.*”



They need our support and solidarity.”

Amid the poignant times of sharing and reflecting on the war, we endeavoured to punctuate our time of fellowship with moments of fun and enjoyment. On the Saturday afternoon, we made an excursion to a local Ukrainian restaurant, which had a collection of fancy-dress costumes in the style of traditional Ukrainian village life. One of the most poignant moments of the trip for me was stepping back from the group and observing our ministry partners trying on the costumes, laughing and sharing jokes as they had their photos taken in the fancy dress. It occurred to me that these friends had probably not had much to laugh about over the past year or so.

On that Saturday evening, we presented our Ukrainian partners with certificates that honoured their courage and heroic efforts to save countless lives and to ease the suffering of thousands of people whose lives have been blighted by the barbaric Russian invasion. The certificates were professionally designed and they each bore the signatures of the President and the General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain.

The DHM team was pleasantly surprised when our Ukrainian hosts presented us with a large Ukrainian flag upon which were written short notes of thanks and greetings from soldiers, medics and chaplains who were serving in a unit from the city of Dnipro. The unit had recently been involved in the defence of Bakhmut.

Misha and his wife, Tanya, presented the DHM team with a



flag that had been signed by medical staff, chaplains and troops of a Ukrainian army unit from Dnipro

I can't remember ever having spent such a moving and encouraging time of Spirit-filled Christian fellowship as that which we enjoyed with our Ukrainian friends that Saturday evening.

On the Sunday morning when we were in Ukraine, our hosts invited us to participate in a service at a local Pentecostal church. It was powerful to stand alongside Ukrainian brothers and sisters in the faith, and to worship God together – praising the Lord in the beautiful Ukrainian language!

One of the members of our group, Ian Stackhouse (senior pastor of Millmead, Guildford Baptist Church), preached a very moving and powerful sermon on Psalm 23 – “The Lord is my shepherd”

Ian spoke a timely word of encouragement to our



Ukrainian friends, reminding them of God's protection and saving power and the sufficiency of His grace when times get tough. Even when God's people in Ukraine were walking through a cold and dark valley of shadows, God had not abandoned his people, but was carrying them through the pain and leading them towards the light.

As we prepared to leave Ukraine that Sunday afternoon, I was struck by the testimonies of our Ukrainian friends, who had said that the meeting had been like “balm to the soul.” For most of our partners, this was their first opportunity since the start of the war to take a step back from attending to the needs of others, and to devote a few days to reflecting on themselves.

They had an opportunity to share not only their traumas, but also their hopes and dreams for the future of Ukraine. One pastor shared how despite the horrors of the war, more and more Ukrainian people were turning to God. Several of our Ukrainian friends also said how much it meant to them to know that people from outside Ukraine (in the UK and the USA and other countries) were standing in solidarity with them and praying for them every day.

The trip left me with several impressions. I was grateful for the remarkable DHM team that had been willing to take a calculated risk in travelling to Ukraine. Each person played their part magnificently and responded to our Ukrainian partners with a depth of wisdom and compassion that only comes from the Holy Spirit. Yet these outcomes would not have been possible without the prayerful support of the whole DHM team, including our many friends and supporters who were praying for us while we were in Ukraine.

Above all, I was grateful to God for each of the friends that we met in Ukraine. My admiration for the people of Ukraine had always been enormous, but after the trip it had become boundless. I pledged myself again to do everything I could by God's grace to love and serve His people in the beautiful country of Ukraine, which has become my spiritual home.

Although Ukraine no longer features in the news as often as at the start of the war, the needs today are just as massive and as urgent as at any time since the Russian invasion. I pray that Baptists in the UK and throughout the world will have the courage to stand with our friends in their costly struggle for justice and peace.

Joshua T. Searle is DHM co-founder and trustee. For more on the work of the charity, visit: dniprohopemission.org.

A short video of the recent trip which includes photos and footage of DHM's ministry partners can be found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WREXz5lhNP8>

Click on the above for a 5 minute video that is quite emotional in part but well worth a watch as it gives a small insight of the destruction in Ukraine and the courage of the nation.

And Share Trauma, tears, prayer, admiration

[Source Baptist Times](#)