

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday June 4th

This Sunday Diana is leading, and Jerry will be preaching on the second part of the Lord's Prayer.

The topic is: A Prayer to the King Part 2 and the reading is Matthew 6:5-13 but he will be specifically considering vv11-13.

Jerry will explore

Matthew's verse 6:11-13 encouraging us to pray

for three things;

God's (1) Provision and Gifts v11, (2) Pardon and Grace v12, and

(3) Protection and Guidance v13.

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/)

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

## Jerry's Reads

Exodus 16, Deuteronomy 8:2-4, 18, John 6, James 1.

## For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jean Wunderlich**. During June please pray for the residents of **Rivermead and Strawberry Fields**.

Dear Lord Jesus, we give you praise for this Sunday. A special day to focus on you in meaningful ways, to rest from our work, our problems that haunt us and to spend time with our friends and family in our fellowship. May we receive all the blessings of this Sunday and embrace your love and grace. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

Lord, the Archbishop of Canterbury recently said "Prayer is simple, accessible to all and yet indispensable. Absolutely anyone can pray. It doesn't take a saint or even an archbishop to pray. In prayer, we learn to see God at work in our world and open our lives to God's transforming love." Lord help us to feel confident to pray to You as we would to talk to our friends and family.

We pray Lord for local churches and those throughout the UK they can sustain their Sunday services, being creative to spreading Your message at a time when so many people are in need of Your love and support. The Church of Scotland has recently stated they are going to make hard choices on closures, amid falling attendance. Saying "The reforms we embark on together are to reconfigure and reshape the Church for mission and service around fewer buildings and fewer charges."

## Virtual Prayer room

Friday 26th May Diana posted "Just an update from me. Had my bone marrow biopsy and scan. My clinic appointment to discuss results/ treatment is 7th June. Thank you for praying"

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.

## Access to Toilets

The door from the church to the schoolroom is now sealed off as the work has started in the schoolroom so access to the toilets will be through the Stables or side gate.

## Bible Reading Blog 1 Timothy 3: 1-13 (MSG) Leadership in the Church

3<sup>1-7</sup> If anyone wants to provide leadership (overseer) in the church, good! But there are preconditions: A leader must be well-thought-of, committed to his wife, cool and collected, accessible, and hospitable. He must know what he's talking about, not be overfond of wine, not pushy but gentle, not thin-skinned, not money-hungry. He must handle his own affairs well, attentive to his own children and having their respect. For if someone is unable to handle his own affairs, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a new believer, lest the position go to his head and the Devil trip him up. Outsiders must think



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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon

07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 5th June

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 6th June

Coffee and Chat  
9.30am -12 in the Stables

### Wednesday 7th June

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

### Thursday 8th June

7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting  
All Welcome to join in  
Contact Diana for details  
10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

### Friday 9th June

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

### Saturday 10th June

8.30 Mens Breakfast in the Stables

### Sunday 11th June

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Jill & Elinor  
Flowers: Jane Dalton

### Thursday 8th June

3.15pm Messy Church in the Chapple

## Food Bank, Citizens Advice Service & 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**: if you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Food Bank on 07826 376343, or contact Ron Skivington at [minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk)

The **Citizens Advice Service** is open on Friday in the Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm. Contact Food Bank on 07826 376343.

well of him, or else the Devil will figure out a way to lure him into his trap.

<sup>8-13</sup> The same goes for those who want to be servants in the church: serious, not deceitful, not too free with the bottle, not in it for what they can get out of it. They must be reverent before the mystery of the faith, not using their position to try to run things. Let them prove themselves first. If they show they can do it, take them on. No exceptions are to be made for women—same qualifications: serious, dependable, not sharp-tongued, not overfond of wine. Servants in the church are to be committed to their spouses, attentive to their own children, and diligent in looking after their own affairs. Those who do this servant work will come to be highly respected, a real credit to this Jesus-faith.

**As a Christian how easy is it to try and tick all those boxes and not feel you are failing somewhere?**

Listen to Ron's short blog based on this verse [click Ron's Blog](#), if you are reading this on a computer or phone. Or go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"

### Lost Bangle

Last Sunday Esther lost her bangle while watching the Pan African performers as part of the Stalham Fringe.

If you can help speak to David.

### Mens Breakfast

There will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June in The Stables at 8-30am.

No fixed charge, donations appreciated. Cereal & fruit juice will be followed by a cooked breakfast. The breakfast is an opportunity for the menfolk of SBC to gather in fellowship with one another and also to invite a friend or neighbour to come along with you.

Jesus was often seen sharing in hospitality. Stewart Marsh will be the guest speaker. To book your place(s) email [geoffreynolds51@gmail.com](mailto:geoffreynolds51@gmail.com), phone 01692 672120 or speak to Geoff. (It helps catering to have at least an idea how many folk are coming, thanks!)

### Monthly Prayer Meeting

As you know we hold a regular prayer meeting for the fellowship every other Thursday via Zoom. This has been a blessed time of prayer for those who participate. We recognize that there are some who don't have the facilities to engage with this digital medium or prefer meeting face to face and so we are planning, in addition to the 2 weekly Zoom, to have a monthly prayer meeting in the Sanctuary. The first one will be Thursday 29th June at 7pm. Prayer is the life blood of the church and we encourage you to join us either in the Sanctuary or on Zoom, or even both!

### Shared Lunch

We are so excited to see our church grow week by week and thought it would a really good idea to have a 'shared lunch' one Sunday after the church service to give us an opportunity to get to know each other better. We

are planning to do this on 2nd July, which is the day Bethan & Gareth Shrubsole are our visiting speakers and will also join us for lunch. Diana will be coordinating the food arrangements so those of you able to contribute a food item please speak to her. Also Please let Diana know **07951949128** if you would like to join us so we can get an idea of numbers for the catering. Thank you, Dan StJohn, for this excellent suggestion!

### Citizens Advice Service in the Stables

The Citizens Advise Service is back in the Stables every Friday 1.15 to 3.00pm. To make an appointment contact Food Bank on 07826 376343.

### EBA Weekly Prayer Focus: 4th June

### Thaxted Baptist Church

Thaxted is a town in north-west Essex, with several claims to fame, including a blue plaque to honour Gustav Holst – the British composer of The Planets – who lived in The Manse in the High Street. Also, Dick Turpin, in his pre-Highwayman days, is reputed to have had a butcher's shop in the town.

Thaxted Baptist Church, in Park Street, occupies a Georgian building dating from 1832 and the new Fabric team is exploring ways to make the church building more attractive to outsiders. Although currently small numerically, the people have a deep love of God and people along with a vision for growth. Outsiders comment on how loved and welcome they are made to feel.

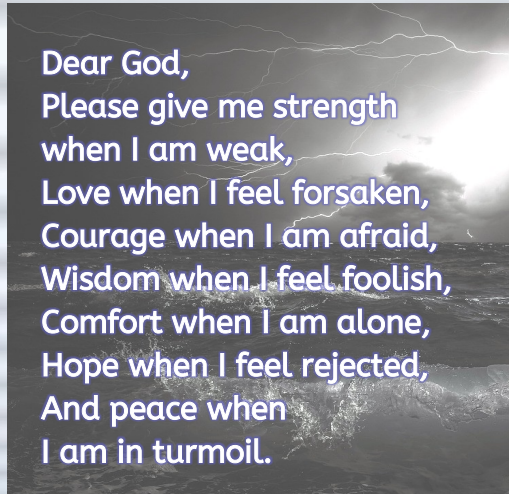
One of the church's current leadership team, Jim Ford, is in the process of National Recognition and is acting as their minister, and with the dedication of the members and congregation, there is regular contact with the community, in addition to the church's services. A wonderful example of this is the church's provision for people who have been bereaved. There is an opportunity to meet with others and to share support and experiences at a monthly coffee and cake morning. The church also shows its support for the residents of Thaxted's old people's home, where they lead a monthly Songs Of Praise service.

Other activities also include a monthly men's breakfast, which features a short talk followed by a Q&A session, a weekly coffee morning which attracts a number of regular outsiders and the provision of quarterly craft mornings to the pupils of the local primary school. The School is looking to deepen its relationship with the Church.

Thaxted BC is also active in the town's Churches Together group in association with the Anglican Parish Church and the United Reformed Church.

#### Prayer focus

- For Jim Ford's progress towards National Recognition.
- For the growth of the Church's various outreach ministries.
- For the development of the relationship with the primary school.



Dear God,  
Please give me strength  
when I am weak,  
Love when I feel forsaken,  
Courage when I am afraid,  
Wisdom when I feel foolish,  
Comfort when I am alone,  
Hope when I feel rejected,  
And peace when  
I am in turmoil.



**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.

## 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.

## 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.

## Community Fridge Open

Monday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

The following quotes are from Timothy Keller's book, *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. (Rev Timothy James Keller (September 23, 1950 – May 19, 2023)

"To fail to pray, then, is not to merely break some religious rule—it is a failure to treat God as God. It is a sin against his glory. "Far be it from me," said the prophet Samuel to his people, "that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you" (1 Sam 12:23)"

"Prayer brings you into God's presence, where our shortcomings are exposed. Then the new awareness of insufficiency drives us to seek God even more intensely for forgiveness and help."

"If the Father always hears the Son, then he always hears those who, in Christ, are his sons."

"To lose our grip on the costliness of forgiveness will result in a superficial, perfunctory confession that does not lead to any real change of heart. There will be no life change. To lose our grip on the freeness of forgiveness, however, will lead to continued guilt, shame, and self-loathing. There will be no relief. Only when we see both the freeness and the cost of forgiveness will we get relief from the guilt as well as liberation from the power of sin in our lives."

"We know God will answer us when we call because one terrible day he did not answer Jesus when he called. . . . Jesus' prayers were given the rejection that we sinners merit so that our prayers could have the reception that he merits."

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.



overcome poverty and experience fullness of life. Together, with supporters like you, we've helped millions of children and families out of poverty and are often among the first to help when a crisis strikes.

## Matthew 25: 31– 46

## Prayers for economic empowerment

### Share

Parents everywhere are driven by a dream for their children's lives to be better than their own. [Economic empowerment](#) is not an end in itself but a tangible expression of God's love that radically improves the lives of children and families. Yet millions of people in the most impoverished parts of the world lack access to the knowledge, capital, markets, technology, and information they need to build thriving businesses. Join us in prayer for people to be economically empowered to lift their families out of poverty.

World Vision has learned the best way to help people is to empower them to unleash their own drive and talents.

That's why we work alongside some of the world's most vulnerable people to equip them with the tools they need to start or build small businesses, save money, take responsibility, care for their communities – and break the [cycle of poverty](#) in their families for good.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.—*Matthew 25:35 (NIV)*

Inside a small one-room shop in a suburb of Kampala, Uganda, a young mother of one, Esther, leans over her sewing machine.

She's part of a group of nearly 5,000 young people from low-income Kampala neighborhoods who have received skills training and entrepreneurial know-how through a World Vision livelihoods project. The trainings prepare them for formal employment or become successful businesspeople.

Esther, 21, says World Vision has helped her gain a sense of confidence to dream about building her own career and future.

"The biggest change in our lives is how we can now provide for our own and our families," she says. "We now have our own personal savings □ and enjoy earning through engaging in work we truly enjoy."

Esther is one of thousands of young people who can now support her family and has discovered the power of her own ideas and voice.

Join us in prayer for hardworking families like Esther's to break the cycle of poverty for good with the help of economic empowerment.

## Pray for increased family livelihoods and economic empowerment.

When families' livelihoods improve, they can break the cycle of poverty and sustainably pursue their family's education, health, food security and nutrition, and shelter.

*Great Counselor, bless families taking the risk of starting a business. Grant them wisdom in their decision-making. May their successes benefit their children and family and then overflow to the community.*

"From the fruit of their lips people are filled with good things, and the work of their hands brings them reward." —Proverbs 12:14 (NIV)



# World Vision

World Vision has a long history of taking action that transforms the world. Our focus is on helping the most vulnerable children, in the most difficult places,

## Pray for families to manage their finances in a way that reflects the love of God.

It's important for people to understand that they're created in the image of God, have inherent value, and have the power to move from poverty to prosperity.

*Loving Father, let Your presence shine in and through families' finances. May learn to be good stewards of what You provide for them more and more every day.*

"That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither – whatever they do prospers." – Psalm 1:3 (NIV)

## Pray for good weather so farmers can have healthy crops and animals.

[The World Bank reports](#) that globally, about 1 billion people work in the agricultural sector, which was about 28% of the population employed in 2018. Dry spells and floods destroy families' crops, but poor weather conditions can also kill animals, another valuable source of food and income. Because the weather is unpredictable, World Vision teaches improved farming and livestock management techniques that help families be more resilient when hard times come.

*Holy God, we see Your powerful control of the weather throughout the Word. Please provide the right amount of rain and sun for farmers' crops and animals. Use World Vision staff and local leaders to help teach even more families how to overcome farm and livestock challenges so they can better provide for their families. Let each person in the family experience the joy of Your provision through a bountiful harvest.*

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness." – 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NIV)

## Pray that hardworking farmers will become resilient, so they have plenty of food during lean seasons.

[COVID-19](#) has not only had an impact on people's physical health but also their economic situation.

[About 97 million more people are living on less than \\$1.90 a day because of the pandemic, increasing the global poverty rate from 7.8% to 9.1%.](#) Globally, three to four years of progress toward ending extreme poverty are estimated to have been lost.

World Vision's community-led [THRIVE model](#) – Transforming Household Resilience in Vulnerable Environments – addresses underlying causes of vulnerability for farmers, since the journey upward from extreme poverty to one of improved well-being is not without interruptions. Resilient families can withstand or recover quickly from droughts and other emergencies, adapting to a changing environment.

*Merciful Provider, watch over farmers and their crops, especially during times of vulnerability. We pray for You to help farmers become economically empowered by learning and practicing effective farming and selling techniques, so they don't experience loss or waste.*

Know also that wisdom is like honey for you: If you find it, there is a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. –Proverbs 24:14 (NIV)



## Pray that women will be equipped to start and grow their businesses.

Through microloans, savings groups, and training, World Vision is focused on especially [teaching women around the world](#) about best practices in operating small businesses, such as tailoring, mat weaving, or selling crops they grow. As women gain confidence and contribute to the family income, they are able to positively influence decision-making on important issues such as nutrition, children's education, healthcare, and child marriage.

*Alpha and Omega, thank You for generous donors who help equip women and men with training and microfinance support to start their own businesses. Bless these small business ventures so families can live healthier, more secure lives. Help women become voices for improvement in their families and communities.*

"She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks." –Proverbs 31:17 (NIV)

Nine-year-old Joyce proudly displays some of the greens that her family grows in their garden. (©2019 World Vision/photo by Laura Reinhardt)

## Pray for World Vision to create more opportunities for economic empowerment.

World Vision's fully integrated, proven approach to economic empowerment equips hardworking men and women to move from surviving to thriving. Ask God to continue to equip World Vision to provide the basics parents and caregivers need to provide for their families.

*Almighty Lord, thank You for providing life-changing opportunities for families that struggle in extreme poverty. We pray for You to equip World Vision and its partners working in Your name to reach even more families, that they may be economically empowered. We ask that You help them to experience the fullness of life You intend for them.*

"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." –Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NIV)

*Laura Reinhardt of World Vision's U.S. staff and Fred Ouma of World Vision's Uganda staff contributed to this article.*

For more information about World Vision click [HERE](#)

## Hot off the Press Great News from Maggie

More wonderful news – from the Garfield Weston Foundation Trustees who have approved a grant of £25,000 for "SBC Community Rooms" refurbishment project. This was far above our shortfall of £13,367. In an email from the Grants Manager Harriet, I quote.

"After discussion with the Trustees, they are still minded to support your project at the original grant amount as a gesture of goodwill, given you still have a few unknown amounts to quantify and that project costs are rising. This will then cover your shortfall and give you some breathing space for any further unknowns that may arise for the work. They specifically wanted me to thank you for your honesty.

We wish you the best for your project.

We have so much to thank the Garfield Weston Foundation for. "He can do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine" Ephesians 3 v 20