

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday June 11th

This Sunday Ron is leading and preaching from Luke 12: 22-34

“Foundations 2 - Treasure”

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”

**Ron's Read**

Acts 17: 6

**For Your Prayers**

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

Father God, help us to be gentle, with others and with ourselves. Give us, we pray, the calm that makes for consideration and the respect for others that makes us courteous. Take from us hard words and the cynical look. Let us be to others as we would wish them to be to us and, when we fail, forgive us and when they fail, heal us.

Please pray for your neighbours that the Lord will guide you enabling you to pass onto them Jesus's message of love and salvation.

Creator God, we are part of the tensions and injustices of the world: heal the resentment between people, and intervene in the world's conflicts. Help us to walk humbly with you at our side and when we come to the crossroads and have to choose which way to go lead us down the path of justice and righteousness whilst steering us away from the road that leads to selfishness and sin.

**Virtual Prayer room**

**Sunday 4th June** Diana posted “A prayer request from Ben Mixer for his brother John who is in a bad way with ankylosing spondylitis. 2 fractured vertebrae in his neck. Currently bed fast and needing 2 carers 24hrs. Thankyou.”

**Monday 5th June** Lorraine posted “Please pray for Chris Bridgeman tomorrow morning .. this will be a second attempt of having a pacemaker fitted it didn't work last time as her veins were so narrow .. the Drs are trying a different procedure. Thank you.”

**Wednesday 7th June** Diana posted “OK, so been to the clinic. Saw a professor, no less. The CT scan shows my spleen to be as big as it was the last time and my bloods are showing increasing growth of bad cells. Unfortunately the biopsy results haven't come back and he was on the telephone to Cambridge as we left. He said they have been rather slow of late. He also wants me to have a PET scan. He said they will ring me to arrange that. So probably next week. He is more or less certain of the treatment he wants to give but wants to be absolutely sure it's the right one, so has to wait for the biopsy results and the PET scan. But he has given me the info anyway as he is fairly confident. So first one is the Retuximab which is the antibody infusion I had last time. The second one is Bendamustine which is chemo. These are both by infusion over 2 separate days and 4 weeks in between. He also said this combination of drugs has a longer remission time. I'm booked to go back in 2 weeks. I would appreciate your prayers for treatment to start quickly and that it will be effective.”

**Thursday 8th June** Pat posted “Greetings from Rayleigh. We have just had a call from Wendy, our daughter-in-law to say that their son Shaun, who is 19, has been admitted to Basildon Hospital with meningitis. He is scheduled for a lumbar puncher this morning to see if it is viral or bacterial. Please pray for him and the family that diagnosis is speedy and right treatment is started quickly. Pat and Alan”

**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 1 Samuel 16: 6-13 (MSG)  
God Looks into the Heart**

<sup>6</sup> When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Here he is! GOD's anointed!”

<sup>7</sup> But GOD told Samuel, “Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. GOD judges persons differently



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128  
Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

**For your Diary**

**Monday 12th June**

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 13th June**

Coffee and Chat  
9.30am -12 in the Stables  
7pm “Potter plus” Bible Study group at  
Jenny Payne's Rowans, School Road,  
Ashmanhaugh, NR12 8YN

**Wednesday 14th June**

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 15th June**

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

**Friday 16th June**

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

**Sunday 18th June**

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Eileen & Magda  
Flowers: Cynthia Meale

**Saturday 1st July**

8.30 Ladies Breakfast in the Stables

**Sunday 2nd July**

The Shrubsoles are at SBC [our BMS  
missionaries from Chad]  
Shared Lunch 12.30 - 2.30pm

**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@stalalhambaptist.org.uk](mailto:minister@stalalhambaptist.org.uk) The **Citizens  
Advice Service** is open on Friday in the Stables,  
1.15 to 3.00pm. Contact Food Bank on 07826  
376343.

than humans do. Men and women look at the face; GOD looks into the heart.”

<sup>8</sup> Jesse then called up Abinadab and presented him to Samuel. Samuel said, “This man isn’t GOD’s choice either.”

<sup>9</sup> Next Jesse presented Shammah. Samuel said, “No, this man isn’t either.”

<sup>10</sup> Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel. Samuel was blunt with Jesse, “GOD hasn’t chosen any of these.”

<sup>11</sup> Then he asked Jesse, “Is this it? Are there no more sons?”

“Well, yes, there’s the runt. But he’s out tending the sheep.”

Samuel ordered Jesse, “Go get him. We’re not moving from this spot until he’s here.”

<sup>12</sup> Jesse sent for him. He was brought in, the very picture of health—bright-eyed, good-looking.

GOD said, “Up on your feet! Anoint him! This is the one.”

<sup>13</sup> Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of GOD entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life.

Samuel left and went home to Ramah.

As a Christians how easy is it for us to judge a book by its cover?

Listen to Jerry’s short blog based on this verse click [Remy’s Blog](#). Or go to

[www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) and click on “Our Weekly Bible Commentary”

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## Sunday’s Prayer Chain

The prayer chain from Sunday’s Service is now hung up in the prayer tent. If you are popping into the church in the week, please spend a few minutes in the tent to pray over some of those prayer requests.

## Persecuted Christians in Nigeria

Release International supporting persecuted Christians launched a 3-month campaign from April to June called ‘Out of these Ashes’ informing UK Christians of the scale and severity of the violence against our brothers and sisters in Nigeria. A Release International fact-finding team recently returned from Nigeria where reports

suggest more Christians are being killed for their faith

than the rest of the world put together. However, what they discovered is not a church in despair but one that is overcoming through love and forgiveness, even towards those who have betrayed it.

**Please pray.**

For Christians who have experienced violent attacks, for the families of martyrs, for those who have been forced to flee and for those who have been kidnapped. For Release International partners who are working to provide basic food and medical supplies, trauma counselling and training for local pastors to share the hope of the gospel.

For the Nigerian government to act justly, to provide proper representation to Christian’s in the north and central regions, and to fulfil its duty to protect all its citizens.

For the terrorist groups and other militants who are targeting Christian’s to stop their violence and turn to God for forgiveness.

For the Christian community to trust in God’s faithfulness and ask that out of these ashes will rise a wave of an uncommon, unseen revival.

There will be a Coffee Morning in the garden of Jan and Henry, Three Windows, Brumstead Road on Friday 23rd June from 10.30am to 12 to raise money for the Persecuted Church in Nigeria. Proceeds will be sent to Release International. Look forward to seeing you.

## Can You Help?

Volunteers needed to clean/tidy the premises during the cleaner’s holiday. 18th July to 19th August.

Please put your name on the rota on the table at the back of the sanctuary if you can help with any of the dates. Speak to Monica (01692 580947) for further information.

## Refurbishment

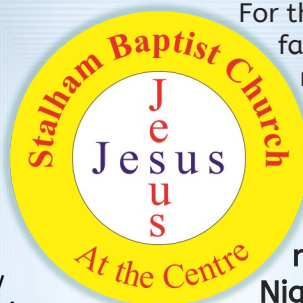
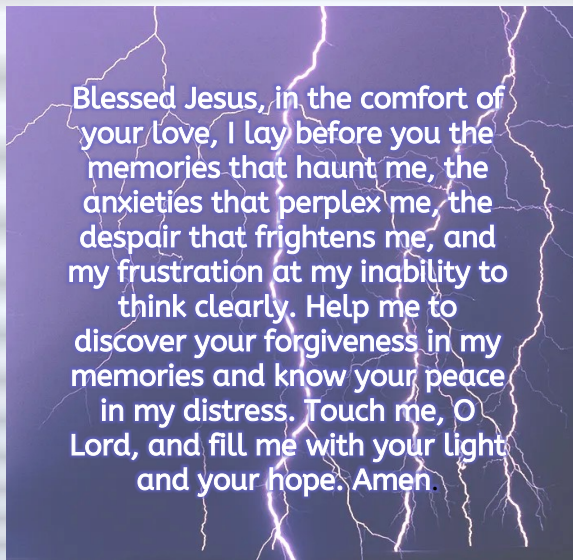
The refurbishment is well under way. We will try and have some pictures each week. Guess what this will be when finished. Answer on Just a Reminder overleaf.

## Spring Harvest 2024

Some of you have already been at Spring Harvest, others may not have heard about it. A few of our church members including our family went to Spring Harvest 2023 and we were so blessed by God’s presence and Him speaking into our lives.

That’s why we think it would be great to have more people from SBC (or other Christian friends) to come along with us in 2024.

We are aiming to do a group booking so we can have accommodation together. Once we know how many we will be we



**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.

can organise how we'll get there. It sounds very far away but the booking opens on June 14th. In order to get good prices it's advisable to book as early as possible.

From their website:

"Spring Harvest is an exciting and safe space for you to find Spiritual refreshment, hear God's voice and be inspired to go back to your streets, villages, towns, and cities to make a difference. Spring Harvest is the perfect holiday packed full of inspiration. It's where we equip the church for action.

The theme for 2024 will be: 'Up and Alive – Living the life we are made for'. This theme will become part of the daily focus for the events."

You can find more information on: [www.springharvest.org](http://www.springharvest.org)

**Date: 1 -5 April 2024**

**Location: Butlin's Skegness**

**Cost pp: Standard room £149 + dining package £91 = £240 all inclusive**

**Children: Standard room £149 + dining package £46 = £195 all inclusive**

**Other option is a self catering apartment: £213 pp, bring food to cook**

There is the possibility to apply for funds if it is difficult for you to pay such an amount.

### **Citizens Advice Service in the Stables**

The Citizens Advice 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: 11th June Costessey Baptist Church**

Costessey is a small town on the outskirts of Norwich and has been home to Costessey Baptist Church for over 200 years.

The church is currently without a minister. The leadership team are supported by Moderator, Revd Derrick Hill who, along with members of the fellowship and other local preachers lead Sunday services which includes a monthly café church with an attendance of up to 30 people and a similar size membership.

The Church is currently setting a vision for growth and outreach to the community and also preparing a church and ministry profile as they look ahead to beginning the process of calling another minister.

There is a popular weekly parent and toddler group, monthly coffee morning, Bible study and breakfast in a local restaurant as well as a weekly prayer meeting and morning services.

The activities seek to build relationships, deepen faith and share the love of Jesus with others, including those who have no other involvement with the church.

**Please pray for:**

- God's guidance in developing a vision for the church and preparing to begin the process of calling a new minister.
- Wisdom in how to disciple people and grow their faith.
- Opportunities for outreach in the community and growth within the church.

### **North Norfolk Foodbank**

During June 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.

### **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 Update**

If you would like to take part in the Shared Lunch on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 12.30 – 2.30pm in the Stables or Church add your name on the poster at the back of the church. Bethan & Gareth Shrubsole are our visiting speakers and will also join us for lunch. Diana and Elaine will be coordinating the food arrangements so those of you able to contribute a food item please speak to them. For more information contact Diana on **07951949128**.

### **Ladies Breakfast**

The Ladies Breakfast is on Saturday 1st July at 8.30am in the Stables. Breakfast includes cereal, Fruit Juice, Pastries, Cooked Breakfast. The speaker will be Elaine. No fixed charge, but all donations are appreciated, all profits will go to a charity. Please contact Elaine on 07796 875785 or email [Elainemith364@btinternet.com](mailto:Elainemith364@btinternet.com) for more info .

### **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. ANSWER Serving Hatch for new Kitchen

### **Quotes of the Week**

"Sell the treasure that won't last and seek the treasure that won't fail"

*John Piper*

"Truth is the heart's treasure."

*Matshona Dhliwayo*

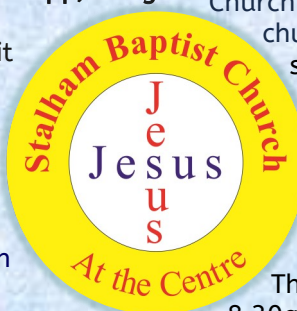
"Finding You Lord after so many years in darkness, is a treasure like no other." *Franky Dilch*

I have been finding treasures in places I did not want to search. I have been hearing wisdom from tongues I did not want to listen to. I have been finding beauty where I did not want to look. And I have learned so much from journeys I did not want to take.

Forgive me, O Gracious One; for I have been closing my ears and eyes for too long. I have learned that miracles are only called miracles because they are often witnessed by only those who can see through all of life's illusions. I am ready to see what really exists on the other side, what exists behind the blinds, and taste all the ugly fruit instead of all that looks right, plump and ripe."

*Suzy Kassem*

**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.**





**OpenDoors**

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

## Boldness and courage in Nigeria: Mary's story

Mary (name changed) was a courageous young woman from Nigeria who boldly shared her faith with Fulani militants after they kidnapped her during a raid on her church. We are sad to report that, shortly after we received her interview, Mary passed away due to an unrelated illness. Mary's family have told us that they wish for her story to be shared so that other young women like her will be seen and heard.



*This photo shows the real Mary, who knew the power of prayer: "I want the brothers and sisters around the world to help us and pray for Nigeria."*

Mary was only 20 years old when she was kidnapped from her village in northern Nigeria by Fulani militants. "We were having Sunday service, then we heard a gunshot," she remembers. "Everybody started running. Some were falling down. They attack Christians because we worship Jesus and they want us out of this land." In the chaos, the gunmen killed several people, including Mary's uncle. Mary was running away but heard her sister calling for her. "I didn't know if I should turn back for her or keep running," she says. She chose to run back for her sister, but one of the militants stopped her. He forced Mary and three other women to go with him. "They said if we didn't go with them, they'd kill us."

### Sharing Jesus with her captors

Mary and three other women were held in the camp for 54 days. During that time, they were forced to cook for the militants – but were given animal food to eat themselves. They also suffered repeated sexual violence at the hands of their captors. But despite her situation, she could feel God's presence: "I don't know where it came from – God gave me this strength and boldness."

The militants demanded a ransom for the safe return of the women to their homes – but it was a huge amount that the villagers couldn't afford. It's a tactic used to destroy the futures of young people like Mary. If a ransom is paid, there's no longer any money available for schooling. Without the hope of a future, it can be difficult for a young person to stand firm in their faith. The strength of Mary's faith and her faithfulness in prayer even led her to share the gospel with some of the

militants in the camp. She felt compelled to ask them: "Do you really not know that what you are doing is wrong?" Apparently, nobody had ever asked the question before. "They said yes, they know that it is wrong, but there is no way they can stop it. I said there is a way you can stop it. If you give your life to Jesus, He will forgive you – and you can stop all these things you are doing." Although they weren't receptive, she sowed the seeds of hope for redemption.

Mary's family eventually raised the money to release her. She returned home burdened with the trauma of her experiences: "Every night, I had dreams of what happened to me in that place. I didn't have peace of mind. I couldn't be around people. The pain wouldn't end."

*"I came to this place to heal. It has really helped my life. I can't thank God enough... I really appreciate God for the people He used. Mary*

### Finding peace through trauma care

"That's when, thanks to your prayers and gifts, Open Doors local partners stepped in with support at the trauma care centre. Mary was able to spend time with trauma counsellors, who helped explain what trauma was and how to respond biblically, helping Mary understand her true identity as God's loved daughter.

"I came to this place to heal," says Mary. "It has really helped my life. I can't thank God enough – for the peace He brings into my life. I really appreciate God for the people He used." Open Doors partners also helped Mary and her family with emergency relief to pay for necessities and helped to pay for Mary's schooling.

### "Help us and pray for Nigeria"


Mary knew the power of prayer – and asks for us to pray for her and all Christians in Nigeria. "I know it is fulfilment of the Bible – He said, because we are His children, that the world will persecute us," she says. "The world will deny us because we are not of the world. We are of heaven. We are the children of God. That is why the world is persecuting us.

"We are facing many problems, many challenges in our daily lives. I want the brothers and sisters around the world to help us and pray for Nigeria, that the Lord will intervene and let His peace rain upon this earth."

For Mary's family and all who are grieving her loss, that they will know God's comfort. That Mary's courage during her time in captivity and in sharing her story will bear much fruit and for Open Doors partners as they reach more young people with trauma care and support.

**The video below is an emotional story of the horror Mary went through.**

Watch the re-enactment of Mary's story click [Mary](#)

 **OpenDoors**

**YOU HELPED  
MARY FROM  
NIGERIA  
FIND PEACE**

Click for more news from [Open Doors](#)

