

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday July 30th

This Sunday Jerry is leading and will be continuing the sermon series on Hebrews 6:1-3 "The Laying on of Hands".

Ron is preaching at Park Baptist Church in Yarmouth

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

Jerry's Reads

Gn 48:14, Lev 1:1-5, Num 27:15-25, Lk 4:40, Mt 19:13-15, Acts 6

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember Esther Curson. During August please pray for the residents of Calthorpe, Close Bullemer Close, Wodehouse Close.

Father God, we thank you for the joy of human love, and for all those among whom we live and work. We pray particularly for loved ones who worry us with their health, or circumstances, or life direction. We pray for those among our friends and families who do not know you, or whose faith has been shaken.

We pray for all who suffer mental or emotional anguish and those who despair. We pray for those facing another day of pain, another day of hunger, another day of fear.

Loving God, we pray for all whose backgrounds make belief in a loving God laughable or terrifying.

Father God, we live in a fallen and broken world. There are so many things that can try to drag our church family members down. We pray that You would give them the strength they need to overcome every obstacle. I pray that Your power would be made perfect in their lives. Cover them with your strength, Lord! In the mighty name of Jesus, amen.

Now, more than ever, we need to place our trust in Jesus Christ, as we remember that God is not the author of confusion but of peace; and so I urge you to pray for a ceasefire, a withdrawal of Russian forces and for peace to prevail. Pray for the innocent – the women, men and children who are displaced, whose lives are disrupted, and who live in fear of the atrocities of war. Pray for those with power – that they may make a resolute and public decision to never use force, to actively work for peace and seek peaceful solutions to dispute and disagreement. Pray that there may be a recognition of common and shared humanity and God's promise of flourishing life for all people. *Source Archbishop of Canterbury*

Lord, British Gas's profits have jumped 900% so far this year and £4.5 million will go to the Chief Executive whilst disabled people can't afford to charge wheelchairs and stairlifts. People throughout the UK are struggling to pay their energy bills and many have huge energy debt. We pray that the profits by the energy companies can be shared with those in difficulties and not just go to Executives and shareholders.

Virtual Prayer Room

Saturday 22nd July Jerry posted "From Iris. Good morning all, at last good news. I was allowed to come home from the hospital yesterday evening. I have like a balloon thing in my back to keep my kidney open and a drain in. So at some point, I have to go back to the hospital to have the stent put in when the kidney is back to normal. So today, I count my blessing. I wake up in my own bed with a nice cup of tea made by my wonderful Graham. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers. They have been answered several times this week, I can assure you."

Also, on Saturday Jenny posted "Please pray for Bob, we are currently in A&E, having been to the Walk in Centre. He is in a lot of pain and may have kidney stones. Thanks."

Later Jenny said "Just back from 5.5 hours of NHS! Bob will be seen again for a CT scan and then to see the Urologist. Will know more then. Thanks for your prayers."



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 31st July

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 1st August

Coffee and Chat
9.30am - 12 in the Stables

Wednesday 2nd August

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

Thursday 3rd August

10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting

All Welcome to join in
Contact Diana for details

Friday 4th August

10.15 to 12.00pm Prayers for Revival & Israel at Three Windows, Brumstead Road

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables & Citizens Advice Service

Sunday 6th August

10.45 Sunday Service
Welcome: Hazel & Maggie H
Flowers: Barbara Mixer

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

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

Community Fridge Open

Monday 2 - 4pm
Tue to Friday 10am to 12 noon

Sunday 23rd July Jenny posted "Update on Bob, he has been admitted to hospital - diagnosis : appendicitis! So much for two retired nurses trying to diagnose! Please pray for him and the ward staff as he is probably the worst patient I can imagine! Thanks so much for your prayers. Jx"

Monday 24th July Jenny posted "Thanks for your prayers, Bob remains in hospital, because he takes anticoagulants, this has rather complicated decision making. For now he is still having IV antibiotics and, following more blood tests this afternoon, a decision will be made about surgery - possibly tomorrow. He is still in some discomfort and is not allowed to eat. Not quite the birthday we had planned! Thanks again for praying for him. Jx

Tuesday 25th July Jenny posted "Thanks for all your prayers. Bob is now home, tired and not entirely pain free, but happy to be home. The next issue will be getting him to rest!!! Jx"

Wednesday 26th July Diana posted "Just started my second round of treatment today. No adverse effects 🙏. The next 10 days will be my difficult ones so very grateful for continued prayers. Thankyou 😊"

Bible Reading Blog 1 Peter 2: 1-10 (MSG)

2¹⁻³ So clean house! Make a clean sweep of malice and pretence, envy and hurtful talk. You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God.

The Stone

4-8 Welcome to the living Stone, the source of life. The workmen took one look and threw it out; God set it in the place of honour. Present yourselves as building stones for the construction of a sanctuary vibrant with life, in which you'll serve as holy priests offering Christ-approved lives up to God. The Scriptures provide precedent:

Look! I'm setting a stone in Zion,

a cornerstone in the place of honour.

Whoever trusts in this stone as a foundation

will never have cause to regret it.

To you who trust him, he's a Stone to be proud of, but to those who refuse to trust him,

The stone the workmen threw out

is now the chief foundation stone.

For the untrusting it's

. . . a stone to trip over,

a boulder blocking the way.

They trip and fall because they refuse to obey, just as predicted.

9-10 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.

As Christians how easy is it to trip over the stone blocking the way?



Listen to Ron's short blog based on this verse [click Ron's Blog](#). Or go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"

North Norfolk Foodbank

During July any of the following would be much appreciated:

Tinned Fish, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce, Rice Pudding, Jam, Pot Noodles/ Mugshots, Cuppa Soup, any toiletries or household cleaning items and also reusable shopping bags

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

Financial donations are always welcome.

Sponsored Bike and Walk

The Norfolk Churches Trust sponsored bike and walk will take place on the 9th September. Forms and details of how to raise money for the Trust and SBC are at the back of the church. You can also register online at <https://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride-walk/bike-ride-registration-form/>

Since the Bike Ride started, the Trust has raised over £4million! A tremendous effort by everyone who has taken part. 2023 will be the 40th anniversary of the Bike Ride and they want to make it a really special day. The total raised in 2022 was a magnificent £134,301.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus: 30th July

Waterbeach Baptist Church

Waterbeach Baptist Church is a warm and friendly church at the centre of Waterbeach village a few miles north of Cambridge.

It is a growing church that focuses on preaching and teaching God's Word.

Representing fifteen nationalities and all ages, 60 adults and 30 children come together from Waterbeach and the surrounding areas, in the building where Spurgeon had his first pastorate.

The Pastor, Martin Ensell, longs for people to experience God's love and grace. Alongside him is his wife, Angela, who is the Administrator and oversees the Children's Ministry. They met at Bible college and brought that passion for the Gospel into their eleven years in pastorate here. They, and the church, believe in being open and approachable, engaging with all the people of Waterbeach wherever possible.

Two of the most successful examples are the Easter trail the church sets up winding through the village - which attracts 350 people each year; and the Holiday Club, which sees 35 volunteers from three local churches bringing the Gospel to 90 village children!

This year brings celebrations for the church, as they see four people being baptised, and the 160th anniversary of Spurgeon laying the foundation stone of the church building. 2023 also brings the start of 9,000 new homes being built as a new town, a mile away from Waterbeach Village. This will inevitably bring new challenges and opportunities for the village community and the church. Waterbeach Baptist Church would like to invite you to join them in praying for revival in this land. In addition, please pray for:

- All those finding God through Waterbeach Baptist Church, especially for the three who are being

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.

baptised in September.

- A continued prayerful heart for the church, especially as they pray for the people from the village to come to know God.
- All those that attended and helped with the Holiday Club that ran 24-28th

New Regional Minister Team Leader

The name of the Rev David Mayne, Lead Pastor at Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay Baptist Church (STBBC) in Essex, was brought to a General Meeting of the Eastern Baptist Association (EBA) on 16th July 2023 and the meeting voted to call him to serve as the new Regional Minister Team Leader for the Association. David will join the EBA team in the autumn, and will serve alongside current Regional Ministers Rev Claire Blatchford, Rev Gale Richards and Association Secretary Hayley Beckett.

At the General Meeting, all those involved in the appointment process, from the EBA and the wider Baptist Union, were thanked for their contributions, and the wider Association community were thanked for their prayers. The meeting heard how the appointment panel and then the EBA trustees unanimously decided to propose David for the role. David has been at STBBC for twelve years, and before this he served for six years at Selsdon Baptist Church in Croydon. Throughout his ministry David has always been engaged with wider Baptist life, including serving as Moderator of Baptist Union Council from 2015-2021, and being part of teams working across the European Baptist Federation from 2018-2022. From 2012-2016 he served as Moderator of the EBA and during that time was able to get a good appreciation of the way the EBA works and some of the challenges the EBA faces.

Throughout their appointment process the Association emphasised their need for someone to help the EBA navigate through a period of significant change with creativity and a heart for building relationships. Reflecting on the appointment, EBA Moderator Rev Fiona Heddle said, 'Our search for an RMTL has at time felt a long one but God has been at work, and we are delighted to welcome David to the EBA team.

We look forward to his collaborative leadership and will be praying for the whole team as they get to know one another and work out what the team might look like in this new phase of our journey together. We face some big challenges as an Association, David is a creative, strategic thinker with a generous, kind heart who seeks to follow where the Holy Spirit leads.' Reflecting on his appointment, David said, 'I will miss my ministry at STBBC very much, but the call to this new role has grown and been made clear in lots of ways over recent weeks. I'm excited about getting started and encouraging and supporting all our EBA ministers and churches.

God is at work doing new things inside and outside the Church, and so our mission and ministry must always be looking for signs of the Spirit, trusting that the future is bigger than the past. I'm pleased to be part of leading the EBA into that future.'

Hayley Beckett Secretary, Eastern Baptist Association

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"laying on of hands" was...an Old Testament ritual. When a man brought an animal offering, he laid his hands on its head to signify his identification with it. The animal was

taking his place on the altar of sacrifice.—J Vernon McGee

"Laying on of hands, then – like anointing or fasting or other external rituals for the church – is not magic and does not, as some claim, automatically confer grace. Rather, it is a "means of grace," and accompanies words of commendation and corporate prayer, for those who believe. Like baptism, the laying on of hands is a kind of inaugural sign and ceremony, an initiating rite – a way of making an invisible reality visible, public, and memorable, both for the candidate and for the congregation, and then through the candidate and congregation to the world." – David Mathis

"Since God the Father has laid on Christ the iniquities of us all, it is no longer necessary for the Jewish High Priest to "lay on hands." They must look to Him who is the resurrection and the life, instead of believing in the doctrine of the resurrection as taught by Judaism."—John Lowe

Grace is God's best idea. His decision to ravage a people by love, to rescue passionately, and to restore justly – what rivals it? Of all his wondrous works, grace, in my estimation, is the magnum opus. Max Lucado

"What gives me the most hope every day is God's grace; knowing that his grace is going to give me the strength for whatever I face, knowing that nothing is a surprise to God.—Rick Warren

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.

Championing the cause of older people

Alex Drew, Operations Manager at Webnet will soon be moving on to lead the work of [Faith in Later Life](#), a Christian charity which exists to inspire and equip Christians to reach, serve and empower older people in every community, through the local church.

She reflects on the transition

Joining the Webnet team and Seventy-two back in 2015 was a wonderful opportunity to support the work of equipping missional disciples in the West of England. At that time, I was the administrator at Clevedon Baptist Church, as well as being engaged in evangelistic ministries there, and lay preaching throughout the region. This triple aspect, of local, regional and all-missional has been a fantastic education and experience for me, which I hope will serve me well in my next role.

Through my work and ministry, I've had the privilege of connecting with churches and seeing within and beyond my own context the life-giving work that goes on throughout the Baptist family, and how in almost all cases older people are at the heart of it. Not only are they the recipients of God's love and care through His people, but they are often the channels He uses to share that love and grace with others in their reach.

Friendship cafes, seniors Alpha courses, good news events and care home services are largely led by people in later life for people in later life, and it's been inspirational to



see these wonderful ministries in action, and leading to faith and baptisms. But it's not just seniors ministries older people roll their sleeves up for – they're preaching in the pulpit, running the youth club tuckshop, welcoming people on the door, teaching children in Sunday school, and so much more.

Through the scriptures we know God loves older people, He has wonderful plans for them and calls us to honour those in later life. Our churches, communities, and society itself are enriched by the life and work of older people, it's time to celebrate them again, and to love them through the challenging season they may face.

A lot of time and resources are invested in reaching children and young people for Jesus, and rightly so – imagine the impact they'll have as Christians over their whole lives, for God's glory.

When it comes to older people though, we have a lot less time left to extend God's invitation of love and salvation. People in later life often have long-held and deeply rooted misconceptions about faith, Jesus, and His people. We know that God can overcome these, but the urgency of the gospel gets very real when something happens that accelerates a person's decline in physical health, understanding or communication, and our window of opportunity closes.

Aware of this, I'm both daunted and delighted to be taking the lead at Faith in Later Life. The work is urgent, complex, and sometimes heart-breaking, and yet I know that God wants none to perish, He's given us a simple gospel to share, and He heals the broken-hearted.

I also know it's a team effort. Every church has at least one person with a heart for older people, sometimes it's the pastor, and sometimes it's someone else. We're doing this together, but championing the cause of older people can be an isolating role, not everyone gets excited about seniors ministry (welcome to my world), so it's good to journey with others who are doing the same.

That's why I'm looking forward to connecting with the [Faith in Later Life Church Champions network](#) which is all about connecting, encouraging, inspiring and training those involved with this special work. It's for people who've been at it a long time, people just exploring what faith in later life might look like in their context, and those who don't even know where to start. A few Baptists are already part of it, and I'd love to welcome more!

Please pray for me as I finish my role at Webnet and make the move to Faith in Later Life in August.

If you'd value a conversation about faith in later life where you are, or would like to invite me to come and encourage your congregation through the scriptures and a few Faith in Later Life stories, you can invite me via alexandra@faithinlaterlife.org.

Baptist Times, 18/07/2023

For more on Faith in Later Life, visit: faithinlaterlife.org

Or for Baptist Times click [HERE](#).



Something to read

Jesus said to his disciples, "Occasions for stumbling are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come!"

- Luke 17.1.

Something to think about

Our faith doesn't allow us to be insular. Jesus' words make a connection for us between looking in towards ourselves and looking out towards the wider relationships and communities of which we are part. We are responsible to one another. There are many ways in which our decisions and actions can affect people who are far from us: how we spend and make our money; what we wear and where it comes from; what we eat; what we do with our rubbish; what we share online.

How can we choose wisely so that we avoid perpetuating injustice, even indirectly? This is significant ethical and spiritual challenge. But it's not something we can turn away from. We are part of systems that cause others to 'stumble', that intensify harm and increase damage to vulnerable communities and the natural world. It is only if we face our responsibilities together that we may, by God's grace, lift one another up, rather than causing one another to stumble and fall.

Something to do

Have a look at Christian Aid's work with young activists through the [Christian Aid Collective](#)

What could you do to support this work?

Pray for activists and for all those who are outward-looking, seeking to change the world for the better.

Something to pray

Lord Jesus,

Help me to be outward-looking.

Guide me, that I may make wise choices,

And act for the welfare of others.

Help me to tear down obstacles to justice

And barriers to flourishing.

Forgive me when I stumble

And when I cause others to do so.

I ask this in your name, Lord Jesus,

Amen.

This contribution was written by Dr Frances Clemson

For more information about Christian Aid click [HERE](#)

