

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday August 20th

This Sunday Barbara & Geoff are leading and our guest speaker Daisy Mansfield from the Leprosy Mission who will also do the children's talk.

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"

## For Your Prayers

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

Holy God, we pray for your church and ask that it might always provide a solid foundation upon which we can anchor our lives. We especially pray for Christians who pay a heavy price for their faith; who daily experience hostility from their governments, employers and neighbours, as a result of their identification with Christ. We also pray for the Christians in Jaranwala Pakistan who have had their churches and houses burnt down and bibles destroyed this week.

Creator God, you created us to be stewards of your creation, but we have chopped down forests, polluted the air, poisoned the rivers and seas, destroyed the places where animals live and then pursued them to extinction. We arrogantly claim we can destroy Your world; the truth is we are destroying ourselves. Your world will survive us. Help us change our ways so that we can look after the world, and make it the way that You want it to be and so our children, their children and subsequent generations can relax in the world You have created for us.

Gracious God, we pray for the ill, the lonely and distressed especially those tormented by the demon of mental illness. We pray for healing and wholeness in their lives and we pray for ourselves - help us to bring life and love, joy and hope, to those who live in despair.

## The Leprosy Mission Prayer

Almighty Father, the giver of life and health, look mercifully on those who suffer from leprosy. Stretch out your hand to touch and heal them as Jesus did during his earthly life. Grant wisdom and insight to those who are seeking the prevention and cure of the disease; give skill and sympathy to those who minister to the patients; reunite the separated with their families and friends; and inspire your people with the task set before The Leprosy Mission, that it may never lack either the staff or the means to carry on its healing work, in accordance with your will, and to the glory of your holy name. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord. Amen.

## Virtual Prayer Room

**August Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August** Hazel posted "Our son Joshua has an auto-immune disease and has his second fever in around a month. He's having trouble kicking it. This means more time unable to take his (important) immuno suppressants and more time off work as well as feeling lousy. Please pray for rapid and permanent recovery. Hazel."

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August** Hazel posted "Joshua is still very unwell. Temperature hit 40c last night. He's supposed to be visiting us next week but has to be well enough to travel which is looking unlikely. Please pray for a breakthrough. He's had this a week now and it could have a serious effect on his digestive system. He only got his stoma reversed last November so it's very worrying."

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August** Hazel posted "Although Joshua's temperature is less extreme it is still up and down. He is being sent for blood tests and has an appointment with the Behcet's clinic on Friday (booked a long time ago). The continued illness is threatening to have a very negative knock on effect on many important areas of his life and he is very fed up.

He is very grateful for the way even people who don't know him are praying for him."

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August** Diana posted "Hi everyone. Just to report I have had my 3rd treatment this morning. So half-way through. Yippee! Everything looking positive. My platelet levels have gone back up to being within the normal range. I think most of you know that the consultant has stopped the injections of Filgrastim which I had to give myself for 5 days in the second week. The benefits did not outweigh the problems the drug was causing me. So, I look



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington

01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 21st August

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church  
Prayers for SBC and young people  
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

### Tuesday 22nd August

Coffee and Chat  
9.30am - 12 in the Stables

### Wednesday 23rd August

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

### Thursday 24th August

10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables  
7.00 - 8.00pm prayers in the Sanctuary  
All Welcome to join in

### Friday 25th 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 27th August

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Magda & Eileen  
Flowers: Barbara Reynolds

## 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.

## Community Fridge Open

Monday 2 - 4pm

Tue to Friday 10am 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.



forwards to not feeling too lousy beyond this first 5 days. I have also been referred for a mid-treatment PET scan to check on progress. Also for my final 3 treatment dates I am changing to the new unit at Cromer, which is much closer. That makes my treatment days Fridays. My consultant also holds a clinic there on that day. I have my schedule and my last treatment date is 20th October. I don't think I told everyone that I had been having problems with my left eye. Not inflamed but a bit sore especially towards end of day and in morning my eye is firmly jammed shut. Just like when I had conjunctivitis. But I knew it wasn't that. Professor Bowles explained it's a result of losing eyelashes because they serve to protect the eye. So dust is getting in. He said no need for eye drops unless it changes and just to wipe across the eye with cooled boiled water and cotton wool ball. I also get (usually in night when I wake up and want to look at the clock) occasional blurred vision. He said that will go within 3 months of me finishing treatment. Thankyou as well for the personal messages you send me. Means a great deal. Onward & Upwards and having fun sporting my trendy headgear. 😊❤️”

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August** Hazel posted “Joshua has glandular fever. At present we have no idea what this means for an immuno compromised person. Prayers for top notch advice and (if it exists) treatment ASAP would be good.”

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

### **Bible Reading Blog Romans 12-21 (MSG) Love in Action**

**9-10** Love from the centre of who you are; don't fake it. Run for dear life from evil; hold on for dear life to good. Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle.

**11-13** Don't burn out; keep yourselves fuelled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; be inventive in hospitality.

**14-16** Bless your enemies, no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies; don't be the great somebody.

**17-19** Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. “I'll do the judging,” says God. “I'll take care of it.”

**20-21** Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good.

**As Christians how easy is it always to recognise the positives in others?**

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

## **Ladies Breakfast**

The next Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 2nd September 8.30 to 11am in SBC's Stables. Breakfast includes cereal, fruit Juice, pastries, and a cooked breakfast. The Guest Speaker is Hazel Manley.

No fixed charge, but all donations are appreciated, all profits will go to a charity.

**Book a place or more information by contacting Elaine on 07796 875785 or email [Elainemsmith364@btinternet.com](mailto:Elainemsmith364@btinternet.com)**

## **Leprosy Mission**

If you would like to donate to the Leprosy Mission there are collection boxes at the back at the church and in the Stables during tea and coffee at the end of the service. You can also donate next Sunday. If you would like to make a donation to be sent to the Leprosy Mission please put it in a separate envelope marked Leprosy Mission and place it in the offering bag or if you wish to make a donation on line to Stalham Baptist Church sort code 20-99-21 Account Number 00821705 with the ref. Leprosy Mission or LM and Stewart will send it to the Leprosy Mission from SBC.

## **Zoom Meetings**

Because of Folks away on holiday during August there will be no Zoom meetings for Bible Study & Prayer. These will re-commence in September. We will however have a prayer meeting in the Sanctuary on Thursday 24th August 7.00 - 8.00pm.

## **EBA Weekly Prayer Focus: 20th August Wood Lane Baptist Church**

Wood Lane Baptist Church is in Dagenham, East London. It is a group of ordinary, local people who are learning to love and trust one another under God's love.

Like many churches, they have seen a dwindling in their membership numbers; and COVID did not help. However, their heart to seek the lost has not diminished. That faithfulness has led to a slow return in their numbers as they meet to sustain and develop one another in Christian discipleship.

The church is aware that although the workers are few, the harvest is plentiful, and they have an active church life to fulfil their evangelistic vision. This includes afternoon fellowship and an evening Youth Club which has just restarted. Additionally, their hall is well-utilised with groups including Aerobics led by a church member, and other activities such as a sewing group. These activities provide opportunities for great conversations with locals, resulting in people attending on a Sunday morning. One of their next challenges is a walking football group which they hope to set up soon.

This level of activity can be challenging for the church to sustain, but they have been blessed with an increase in those in leadership, and new people have stepped up to lead some of the activities.

Pastor Anthony Egbunike has been the minister for the last two years, whilst also training at Spurgeon's College. Anthony has been part of the church for twenty years and was called as Minister in Training when the previous lead minister retired. He aspires to be in the community as



**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.



much as possible, and you will find him prayer-walking the local streets, but he also recognises the amazing journey God has taken him on through his studies. He has found his studies to be challenging but enjoyable and would recommend it!

Please pray:

For those not part of the church community at the moment, but who could return.

For continued unity in the church for vision and commitment to God's mission for the lost.

For a continuation for the church to be attentive to God's leading as they open new activities.

For more people to be able to help with activities, allowing balance and rest for those who have been working so hard.

For Pastor Anthony's final year at Spurgeon's College and his dissertation.

### North Norfolk Foodbank

During August 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.

### Quotes of the Week

"But what had lasting significance were not the miracles themselves but Jesus' love. Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and a few years later, Lazarus died again. Jesus healed the sick, but they eventually caught some other disease. He fed the ten thousand, and the next day they were hungry again. But we remember his love. It wasn't just that Jesus healed a leper but that he touched a leper, because no one touched lepers."

Shane Claiborne

"These people walk by a widow deformed by leprosy...walk by children dressed in rags living in the street, and they think, 'Business as usual.' But if they perceive a slight against God, it is a different story. Their faces go red, their chests heave mightily, they sputter angry words. The degree of their indignation is astonishing. Their resolve is frightening."

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*

"In life there are wounds that like leprosy slowly eat away at the soul in solitude."

Bae Suah

"In the darkness I was lost alone, feeling rejected, stumbling from day to day, falling apart, with no pathway to love and joy. You, Lord were the light that reached out to me, touching me. I then could imagine how the lepers felt when You Lord Jesus touched them and made them whole again."

Franky Dilch

## Leprosy defeated, lives transformed

Leprosy Mission is a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy.

Following Jesus Christ, we seek to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy and

empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

No one should suffer because of a preventable and treatable disease.

We work with people of all faiths and none to defeat leprosy and transform the lives of people affected.

The Leprosy Mission's Global Fellowship works in 28 countries.

Our focus is on ten countries in Africa and Asia - Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Sudan. These places have high rates of leprosy or lack the services or opportunities needed by people affected.

As well as supporting people living with leprosy today, we serve future generations by working to end the transmission of the disease so they may be born into a world free from leprosy.

We partner with governments, churches and other organisations. Most importantly, we work with people affected by leprosy to achieve our vision - leprosy defeated, lives transformed.

### We fight leprosy transmission, disability and discrimination.

Through this integrated approach, we offer a springboard to better health, self-sufficiency and new hope.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise that the dignity of the individual is fundamental and no one should be left behind. People affected by leprosy, especially those disabled by the disease, are often most marginalised. So our mission is as urgent and relevant as ever. We stand with the people many would rather forget.

In 1874, our founders Wellesley and Alice Bailey saw the suffering of people living with leprosy and were determined to do something about it. Like them, we are committed to defeating leprosy and showing the love of Christ to those it affects.

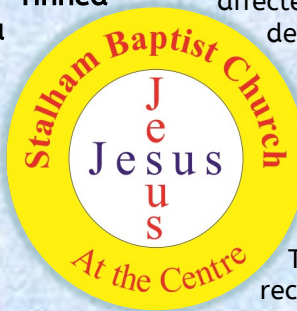
### Our Christian identity is at the heart of who we are and everything we do. Our values are:

**Compassion:** As Jesus did, we care deeply for others particularly those adversely affected by leprosy and those most in need. We feel their pain and are motivated to walk alongside them in Christ-like love, doing all we can to support their physical, spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

**Integrity:** We work with honesty and transparency with a seamless correlation between our message and our actions. We foster open communication, where there is no fear of sharing challenges and successes. We respect our partners and work together to find solutions to problems and achieve common goals.

**Inclusion:** We value all individuals, believing they were made in the image of God. We promote equal access and opportunity to all, and are committed to removing discrimination and other barriers, enabling people to live life in all its fullness.

**Justice:** We promote dignity, respecting and fostering human rights. We champion the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) treaty and the Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination Against People Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members. We have appropriate mechanisms in place to actively protect children and





vulnerable adults from harm and abuse.

**Humility:** We treat everyone as equals and do not see ourselves as superior to others. We seek to serve the most marginalised, who often live in difficult environments. We are willing to get our hands dirty as we serve others, just as Jesus was willing to wash the feet of his disciples. We value the opinions of others and are open to listen and learn. We solicit and respond to feedback from partners and those we serve.

## Leprosy on the rise in the USA

This week, media reports have highlighted a 'surge' in leprosy cases in the USA and particularly in Florida, the state reporting many of these new cases.

While this news will be causing worry for some, it's a vital opportunity for us all to understand more about leprosy and how much of a risk it poses.

We always welcome stories of leprosy in the press. They raise awareness of leprosy as a 21st century disease which continues to devastate lives today. But it is equally important to raise awareness that it is not a disease to be feared.

Leprosy has been easily curable since the 1980s with Multidrug therapy, a combination of three antibiotics. Yet it continues to thrive in the world today because of a lack of access to healthcare, lack of awareness and stigma.

Leprosy is a disease of poverty. It thrives in communities where there is malnutrition, overcrowding and poor sanitation. Yet it is only mildly infectious and in addition, more than 95 per cent of people are immune to the disease. This is why there have been no indigenous cases of leprosy in the UK since 1798.

It could be easy to feel alarmed by this week's news reports, but to put the US figures into context, there were 159 new leprosy cases diagnosed in the US in 2020 and 31 of these were found in Florida. In contrast, 65,147 new cases were found in India in the same year. We should bear in mind that this was a worryingly very low number for India. In 2019, 114, 441 new cases were found.

This dramatic drop in new cases was a result of people being unable to access medical care because of national lockdowns to prevent the spread of Covid. It was not because fewer people are living with the disease.

Research shows that for every person cured of leprosy, there are a further 19 hidden cases. Often, people with leprosy symptoms are reluctant to come forward for treatment because of the stigma of the disease, which has long been seen as a curse and still results in prejudice and discrimination today.

Unless these 'hidden' people are found and cured, they are at high risk of developing life-long - yet preventable - disabilities as a result of untreated leprosy. This is why our teams around the world work tirelessly to find and cure people in the early stages of the disease - and why rising numbers of people being diagnosed with leprosy can also be for the best.

Our mission is to defeat leprosy - through finding and treating new cases and transforming lives. We welcome greater awareness of the disease and of the fact that it is easily curable and not to be feared.

For more information of The Leprosy Mission click [HERE](#)



## The Secret of Chapel Field

Many of us may often walk down the road called Chapel Field Rd. that can be found just off the A149 at the Weavers Way end of Stalham High Street. The road is a lovely circular walk taking you past Stalham Staithe.

The name Chapel Field comes from the fact it was the site of a Leper Chapel in Medieval times. The chapel was believed to have been situated close to Hunsett Mill on the river Ant.

In the church of St James in Dunwich Suffolk you can find the remains of a leper chapel (pictured) and it is



believed a hall existed for the lepers to live in. The chances are that the building at Chapel Field would have looked very similar. During the Middle Ages, there was no cure for leprosy, and it was believed to be highly contagious [though we now know it is not.] The main treatment was containment with a medicine of boiled toads and barley.

Sufferers were isolated from healthy people, would wear bandages to cover their sores and carried a bell to warn people that they were coming.

## Leprosy and the House of the Dragon

**Game of Thrones** prequel *House of the Dragon* got people talking about leprosy.

Following episodes of the hit show, fans have been wondering what mystery illness could be affecting King Viserys, causing him to develop sores on his skin and suffer from deteriorating health.

Paddy Considine, who plays Viserys, has recently explained that his character is suffering with leprosy. In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly's* West of Westeros podcast, he revealed: "He's actually suffering from a form of leprosy. His body is deteriorating, his bones are deteriorating. He is not actually old. He's still a young man in there. He's just, unfortunately got this thing that's taken over his body. It becomes a metaphor for being king, and the stress and strain that it puts on you, and what it does to you physically, what it does to you mentally."

In the later seasons of the original show, the much-feared disease was greyscale, which causes the appearance of the skin to change. Those affected by greyscale were shunned by society and forced to live away from others.

This was often the reality for people affected by leprosy in Europe in the Middle Ages, and remains a problem for many of the people we support today.

Articles from SBC Community Scene