

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday September 24th

Harvest Service

This Sunday Diana will be service leader and Jerry will continue the Sermon series on Love. This week's topic is "What Love IS NOT."

The reading is 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Jerry's Structure "Love Does NOT"

(1) Envy, (2) Boast, (3) is not Proud, (4) Dishonour others, (5) It is not Self-seeking, (6) is not Easily Angered, (7) it Keeps no record of wrongs, (8) does not Delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

Jane and Ron are at Sheringham today for Isaac's Baptism

Jerry's Reads

Psalms 130:3-4, Proverbs 16:18, Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:3-4, 1 John 4:9-11;

For Your Prayers

As we pray through the Church Pastoral Group 3 please pray for: **Jerry Otieno, Simone Otieno, Daniel Nicholson, Victoria Nicholson, Steve English and Susie English**

During October please pray for the residents of **The Staithe, Mill Road, Chapelfield including the Barnes.**

Please pray for Fran Lenehan who is starting her second 90 to 100 mile Camino pilgrimage walk in Spain on 2nd October.

Creator God, refugees continue to flee from crises throughout the world and over half of them are children. Lord God, we pray for all those who have willingly invested their time and energy in serving the most vulnerable in the world that they will find opportunities to rest and will be strengthened for their work. We also remember aid workers throughout the rest of the world working in places and situations that are no longer newsworthy; give them the encouragement to continue their invaluable contribution of love and care for those people rebuilding their lives after man-made or natural disasters. We pray for those in Morocco and Libya whose lives have been decimated by earthquakes and floods.

Harvest prayer 2023: Seeds of hope

Generous God, we thank you for the gifts you have given for all people to share.

We plant seeds of hope and nurture them as we seek a harvest of plenty for all.

Forgive us for the times these seeds fail to take root in our hearts.

We grieve when homes and crops are washed away by floods,

when lives are uprooted by disaster, or trampled by fear and greed.

Living God, you lead us to a new way of being. Move us to help one another in our times of need,

to care for the earth and to love one another, sharing your harvest with all.

Amen. *Catherine Gorman/CAFOD*

Virtual Prayer Room

Friday 15th September Robert posted "I am sad to say that Annie died last night. Thank you all for your prayers."

Saturday 16th September Jane posted "Good morning email from Norma and David requesting prayer for their friend Alistair McHaffie. He has 4 grade 4 brain tumours without treatment he has 3-6 months, with op 1-3years please pray for him, his wife Pippa and children especially they all agree on the right course of treatment. Also pray it will deepen his faith in Jesus. Thank you."

To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 25th September

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church

Prayers for SBC and young people

2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

6.30pm Harvest Supper in the Stables

Tuesday 26th September

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Wednesday 27th September

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12 in the Church

10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Thursday 28th September

10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

7.00pm Prayer Meeting in Sanctuary

All Welcome to join in

Contact Diana for details

Friday 29th September

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

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables & Citizens Advice Service

Saturday 30th September

7.00pm Bar Room Blues in the Church

Sunday 1st October

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Magdalena & Teresa

Flowers: Cynthia Meale

Monday 2nd October

Bible study in the Stables at 10am

This was previously the Potter plus group but ALL are welcome

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.

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

power of prayer WhatsApp site text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone

Bible Reading Blog (MSG)

To Love, To be Loved 1 John 4: 17-21

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day—our standing in the world is identical with Christ's. There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.

¹⁹ We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first.

²⁰⁻²¹ If anyone boasts, "I love God," and goes right on hating his brother or sister, thinking nothing of it, he is a liar. If he won't love the person he can see, how can he love the God he can't see? The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both.

As Christians how easy is it to contemplate a Judgement day?

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

Ron's blog is another brilliant talk, based on John's verses. Ron states in his blog "Our love for Him first comes from Him, so trust Him for your salvation and love is a fruit that grows naturally in our lives." It is well worth a five minute listen.

Harvest Supper, Auction and Quiz

Harvest Supper, Quiz and Auction in the Stables at 6.30pm Monday 25th September.

To Book please leave a message on 07796 875785 Or email elainessmith364@btinternet.com

Prayer Meeting

Come and join the prayer meeting in the Sanctuary on Thursday 28th September 7.00–8.00pm.

For more info have a chat with Diana.

North Norfolk Food Bank

During September 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.

Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission Autumn 2023 catalogues are now available at the back of the church. They do include some items for Christmas if you like to be prepared in plenty of time.

Orders sent via Barbara Reynolds (Stalham Baptist's "trading partner") will save you postage, make a donation towards church funds (in many cases 20% of your order) and enable the leprosy mission to assist folk with this awful disease. You pay the same prices seen in the catalogue and can also order anything you see on their website www.tlmtrading.com

Please give your order to Barbara along with payment by cash or cheque payable to B. Reynolds [Leprosy Mission request this.] Happy Shopping!

Bar Room Blues

Bar Room Blues are returning to Stalham Baptist Church to give another free concert on Saturday 30 September 2023. Although entry is free, donations will be sought from those attending and the proceeds will be shared between two charities, MIND Norfolk and Waveney and EACH (East Anglia Children's Hospices). Bar Room Blues

are a trio whose repertoire will be enjoyed by those who remember, or are curious about, the British blues boom of the 1960s. Chris Myatt-Jones, who plays acoustic guitar and Greg "B.P." Chapman, who plays harmonica, share the vocals, while Steve Smith plays bass. Bar Room Blues do not take themselves too seriously so, as well as the music, expect a good deal of banter between the band members and engagement with the audience. Find out more about the band at <https://barroomblues.org.uk> Diana Gordon, Stalham Baptist Church secretary says, "We are delighted that Bar Room Blues are back again. Last year they

supported our School Room refurbishment fund raising efforts. Now that work is under way and should be completed by November, they offered to return to help raise funds for other local charities. Greg Chapman, founder of the band, explains, "Last year we played as a duo, but although we now have a bass player, who will be with us for the first time, we still play a laid back, near acoustic, set of numbers. Our primary inspiration remains with the days when the Rolling Stones, the Yardbirds and Animals were playing blues covers, that doesn't stop us playing a number made famous more recently by Adele. We're looking forward to our return."



Music from the British Blues Boom of the 1960s



The Trio will be in concert at Stalham Baptist Church Sat 30 September 7:00pm Free Entry

Donations accepted to Mind Norfolk and Waveney

and each East Anglia's Children's Hospices

www.barroomblues.co.uk

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.

Big Thank You

A big thank you to Barbara and Geoff who produced last Sunday's newsletter, much appreciated.

Shoebox Appeal

St Mary's and SBC will be getting together later in the year to collect shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. Magda will be putting some info at the back of the church soon.

We will have an update shortly.

24th September Prayer Focus The EBA Gathering

The Eastern Baptist Association covers such a large geographical area that it is rare for us to have the opportunity to meet together in one place. Our Annual Gathering provides this so we can worship and share fellowship, hear association news and build up and encourage one another. On 30th September we will be meeting at Colchester Road Baptist Church in Ipswich from 1-5pm. Our theme will be 'God is at work'.

Inspired by the recent Baptists Together magazine on this theme, our Gathering will provide an opportunity to hear from some of our chaplains, pioneers and ministers. We hope that these good news stories will encourage us to find ways that we can experience God at work even more, in our own contexts.

The Gathering will also include the EBA Annual General Meeting which will include an election of EBA trustees. (You can download the agenda and associated information [here](#)).

Claire, Gale and Graeme will be facilitating the day and we are grateful to Colchester Road Baptist Church for hosting us and for their musicians in leading us in worship.

A reminder that if you are coming you need to book a place by emailing secretary@easternbaptist.org.uk

The full information about our gathering can be found on our [website](#).

Please pray:

- For the opportunity that we have to gather together.
- For those sharing their stories with us.
- That those of us gathering would be inspired and sense God's calling in our own lives.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"If we resent the success and accomplishments of others and find ourselves striking out at them with damaging words or insidious innuendoes, we have a problem with jealousy. But God wants to administer the antidote of love. That alone will keep us from becoming jealousy's victim. If we shoot arrows of jealousy at others, we wound ourselves." –D. C. Egner.

"There is a self-effacing quality in love. True love will always be far more impressed with its own unworthiness than its own merit." –William Barclay.

"Two simple guidelines for a marriage that pleases God: Admit wrong and keep quiet about being right. It's a good way to keep the relationship strong." –J D Brannon.

"Lord, teach us the secret of loving. The love You are

asking today. Then help us to love one another –For this we most earnestly pray." –Anon.

'It's time to call out ageism!'

Most of us will experience ageism, writes Alex Drew ahead of the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October. It's time to call it out in all the places we see it happen - and here's what churches can do
[Source Baptist Times](#)

When I was 14 I was thrilled that I managed to convince the cinema ticket seller to let me into an 18 movie – I didn't use words, I just stood there looking the part. You see, when I was young, I wanted to be older and look older, and so I used make up and clothes, and what I presumably intended to be some level of sophistication to convince people and myself that I fitted in with the older crowd. Being taken for older or more mature didn't just get me in places, it commanded respect, some of my ruminations were even taken for wisdom and I was considered grown up. I loved it.

I don't know when the shift happened, maybe in my 30s, but suddenly I changed my mind; I didn't want to look older and be older anymore. I wanted to look younger and be younger.

You see, it hadn't taken the world long to convince me that youth should be my goal. It did this by having 13-year-olds promote anti-ageing potions; showing me how to apparently 'reduce the fine lines of ageing', of which of course they had none. It portrayed older tv characters as miserable and often ridiculous. Even in my own circles people began to regret another birthday and lie about their age. And suddenly forgetting why we walked into a room became known as a senior moment – as if we haven't been walking into rooms forgetting why since we were children.

Sounds harmless, doesn't it?

Fast forward a few more years and I can expect to be treated differently at work, to be patronised, and even considered a burden because others in our society have been brought up with the same negative attitudes about ageing as I was. The idea that ageing is something to be feared and that younger is better than older. And because they'll believe the hype, I'll be discriminated against; in subtle ways and in ways more distinct.

It will affect my self-esteem, my health, my sense of purpose, the way I experience day to day life when I'm older and may even lead to an earlier death for me.

It's called Ageism. A social construct that brings together stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination.

And the way things are going most of us will experience ageism, in society, and even in the church.

It comes from poor examples set us by others in their



attitudes and use of language, it comes from fear of death and of ageing, and it comes from denial – not facing up to the fact that ageing will likely happen to us too.

It seeps into our culture when we don't call it out.

It's madness really, as if anyone can help ageing. Whether we're 3 years old, or 17, 42, 68 or 91, most of us will get older. Hallelujah. God designed us to age.

And that's a good thing. Ageing means living. Life is the antidote to death. And the Bible tells us that age is a divine blessing – it's God's glory revealed through his creation – you and me.

There's no ageism in the Bible. We're called to love our neighbours as ourselves. God has no favourites. We are all loved equally, and nobody has cause to put themselves above another.

We see people like Moses, Joshua and Anna living incredible lives for God well into old age.

In the scriptures age distinguishes people in a good way – the wisdom and experience gleaned over a lifetime, shared with younger generations, who are honoured and privileged to learn from those in later life.

In 1 Timothy we're reminded not to rebuke an older man harshly but exhort him as if he were our father...and to treat older women as mothers.

And Jesus who regularly spoke out on behalf of those on the margins, led us in a beautiful example when he prioritised and entrusted the care of his mother to John even from the cross. A reminder that we're to make good provision for the welfare and care of older people in our midst.

It's time to call out ageism in all the places we see it happen. And it's time for us to be honest with ourselves if we are negative about ageing and at times, without meaning to, we too may have deep seated ageist thoughts. It's time to stand up and be counted.

That shouldn't be hard, much like in the Bible, when we take the time to notice, we see that our communities are filled with people in later life living to the full; taking risks, looking after themselves, learning new things, supporting their families financially and practically, being creative, keeping fit, praying for their neighbours, and still going on new adventures. Isn't it wonderful?!

Although not entirely exempt from ageism, the church already leads in a wonderful example – where else in society do we see such an army of older people engaged in effective preaching, mentoring, children's work, serving on trustee boards, welcoming, mass catering, praying, and more?

But as with all areas of life, we can always do better, and when it comes to ageism, we have a vested interest

to do so – after all – we're all getting older.

What churches can do

Here are some things churches can do to help fight ageism:

- Understand and celebrate the age profile of your membership
- Identify leadership for ministry among older people
- Promote involvement of older people at all levels and in all areas of church life. Let's stop the world from convincing us that younger is somehow better than older. It's different, that's all. Instead, let's convince the world of God's view of ageing; that it's a crown of glory bestowed on us by the ancient of days himself.



1 October - International Day of Older Persons (IDOP)

This year the International Day of Older Persons, led by the UN, is calling for the fulfilment of the promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons. The Bible is clear that age and experience have value, and churches are well positioned, experienced and motivated to express genuine love and care for older people, to reject ageism, and to encourage and facilitate meaningful and purposeful engagement into later life.

We encourage churches to pray for older people on 1 October and to use this opportunity to raise awareness and celebrate their older friends. [Baptist Times](#)

RESPONDING TO THE DISASTERS IN MOROCCO AND LIBYA

On Friday 8th September, a catastrophic 6.8 magnitude earthquake decimated Morocco leaving over 2,900 people dead and over 5,000 injured, followed by a devastating flood just two days later on the northeast coast of Libya that claimed at least 8,000 lives.

Tremors from the Morocco earthquake were felt as far afield as Portugal while Storm Daniel swept into Libya from the Mediterranean causing two dams to burst and obliterating infrastructure and buildings in Derna.

Samaritan's Purse is supporting our on-the-ground partners who are providing victims in Morocco and Libya with essential supplies, such as food, water and tents. We are also continually assessing the situation in both countries to identify further opportunities to help in Jesus' Name.

Tens of thousands have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones, creating an urgent need for basic supplies and shelter. At Samaritan's Purse, we are experienced in providing relief in the wake of major earthquakes and floods, both directly and through our partners. More recently, these include providing critical aid to victims of the Turkey earthquakes and Ukraine dam collapse.

If you wish to donate click [HERE](#)

