

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday October 1st

This Sunday Elaine and Maggie are leading and Ron will continue the Sermon series on Love. This week's topic is "This is Amazing Love"

The reading is 1 John 1: 1-3

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

Ron's Reads

Mt 8:27, Ro 5:12f, 8:14f, Jn 1:10f, Rev 1:12f Jn 14-17

For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 4. Please pray for: Diana Gordon, Greg Chapman, Cynthia Meale, Norma Huxter, David Huxter and Gloria Turner. During October please pray for the residents of The Staithe, Mill Road and Chapel Field including the Barnes.

Gracious God, from love we are made and to love we shall return. May our love for one another kindle flames of joy and hope. 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. Lord, our cornerstone in all that we do at SBC, we thank You for the blessings of the new families, the new people and the holiday makers joining us on Sundays. May the light and warmth of Your grace inspire us to follow the Way of Jesus Christ and share Your love.

Lord may nothing separate me from You today. Teach me how to choose only Your way today so each step will lead me closer to You. Help me walk by the Word and not my feelings. Help me to keep my heart pure and undivided. Protect me from my own careless thoughts, words, and actions. And keep me from being distracted by MY wants, MY desires, MY thoughts on how things should be. Help me to embrace what comes my way as an opportunity... rather than a personal inconvenience. And finally, help me to rest in the truth of Psalm 86:13, 'Great is your love toward me.' You already see the ways I will fall short and mess up. But right now, I consciously tuck Your whisper of absolute love for me into the deepest part of my heart. I recognize Your love for me is not based on my performance. You love me, warts and all. That's amazing. But what's most amazing is that the Savior of the world would desire a few minutes with me this morning. Lord, help me to remember forever what a gift it is to sit with You like this. Amen. - Lysa Terkeurst
Source crosswalk.com

Stables Bible Study

Bible study in the Stables at 10am Monday 2nd October. This was previously the Potter plus group but ALL are welcome

Bible Reading Blog (MSG)

When You Open Your Mouth James 3: 1-12

³ ¹⁻² Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.

³⁻⁵ A bit in the mouth of a horse controls the whole horse. A small rudder on a huge ship in the hands of a skilled captain sets a course in the face of the strongest winds. A word out of your mouth may seem of no account, but it can accomplish nearly anything—or destroy it!

⁵⁻⁶ It only takes a spark, remember, to set off a forest fire. A careless or wrongly placed word out of your mouth can do that. By our speech we can ruin the world, turn harmony to chaos, throw mud on a reputation, send the whole world up in smoke and go up in smoke with it, smoke right from the pit of hell.

⁷⁻¹⁰ This is scary: You can tame a tiger, but you can't tame a tongue—it's never been done. The tongue runs wild, a wanton killer. With our tongues we bless God our Father; with the same tongues we curse the very men and women he made in his image. Curses and blessings out of the same mouth!

¹⁰⁻¹² My friends, this can't go on. A spring doesn't gush fresh water one day and brackish the next, does it? Apple trees don't bear strawberries, do they?



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128
Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 2nd October

9.00am Deacons Zoom prayer meeting
10am Bible study in the Stables
10.30 to 11.30am in the Church
Prayers for SBC and young people
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Tuesday 3rd October

Coffee and Chat

9.30am -12 in the Stables

Wednesday 4th October

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 5th October

10 to 12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Friday 6th October

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 8th October

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Maggie & Hazel

Flowers: Janet Nicholson

12.00pm Church Meeting

Saturday 14th October

10am coffee morning in the Stables in aid of Breast Cancer's "Wear it Pink" appeal

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

Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

Raspberry bushes don't bear apples, do they? You're not going to dip into a polluted mud hole and get a cup of clear, cool water, are you?

As a Christian how easy can it be to allow the mouth to open before brain engages?

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

Volunteers needed

Rev Keith, the school Chaplain at Stalham High Schools, is planning to run the first ever Soul Space for the school, which will be happening the week after Half Term, **Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November**. Rev Helen and Jerry are helping plan it. They require volunteers from both churches to help with setting up (on Thursday after school on 19th October - this is when the school breaks up for Half Term, & clearing away on Friday after school on 3rd November, as well as helping to staff Soul Space itself throughout the week.

This is an exciting opportunity to introduce Soul Space at Stalham and strengthen our links with the school. If you can help, please contact Jerry at asstpastor@stalhambaptist.org.uk
Many thanks for your support.

Harvest Supper, Auction and Quiz a Great Evening

The Harvest Supper was a great success with 52 people attending. The auction raised £150 and donations for the meal raised £348 of which £48 covered the cost of the supper.

The £450 will be donated to Baptist World Mission Days of Plenty which is supporting Gulu farmers in Uganda.

If you would like to see the video about their mission work click on:

<https://www.bmsworldmission.org/product/days-of-plenty-feature-video/>

Or type into a web browser.

A big thank you to Elaine, Maggie and Fran who produced all the food and a big thank you to all those helping with the auction and quiz.

North Norfolk Food Bank

During October 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!

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 soon have leaflets and a date for the shoebox service at St Mary's church.

If you have any spare shoe boxes Magda would always be happy to hand them on to other people to fill.

Samaritans Purse say "Thank you for considering giving hope and joy to a child this year. By sending a shoebox gift with Operation Christmas Child you'll be sharing God's love and showing a child they are special and thought of."

EBA Prayer Focus 1st October Fakenham Baptist Community Church

Fakenham is a market town in north Norfolk with a Baptist chapel built in 1801.

FBC had a big vision to build a modern church that was suited to its needs, so with a legacy, bought a plot of land on a business park at the edge of town, sold the old church and broke ground on the project in 2019. The large, new and modern building is well-appointed with a range of facilities and community spaces that will allow the church to reach out in mission with a variety of work and be a blessing to the local community. Find out more [here](#).

Constructing a new building on a green-field site has not been without problems and setbacks, but the Lord has blessed the project, overcoming many hurdles along the way and answering specific prayers. The building is now in its final phases and is planned to fully open in 2024. The church is currently seeking an experienced project manager to oversee the building project through its final stages.

The church fellowship currently meets on Sundays at the Fakenham Community Centre with weekday meetings such as the Thursday Market Stall, a Toddler Group (Little Fishes), a cameo group for older people, and home groups. The church is supported by moderator Rev Jonathan Squirrell and has a leadership team of seven. The church website has been upgraded and technology has been helpful in keeping people together.

Issues for prayer include:

- Give thanks for God's continued leading in the development of the new church building.
- Pray for a project manager to step up to the role to

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.



complete the buildings.

- Pray for the church leadership and all the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.
- Draw the fellowship close together and unite them in seeking your vision for the future.

Breast Cancer Coffee Morning

Come and support the Breast Cancer "Wear it Pink" coffee morning in the stables 10am to 12pm on Saturday 14th October

Quotes of the Week

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood. Died He for me, who caused His pain, for me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me?

Charles Wesley

"You've gotta dance like there's nobody watching,
Love like you'll never be hurt,
Sing like there's nobody listening,
And live like it's heaven on earth."

William W. Purkey

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

Martin Luther King Jr.

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it--always."

Mahatma Gandhi

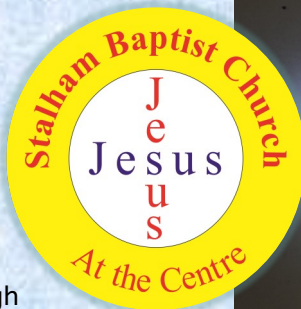
In the moment You gave me Your love. No price. Yes, the free lunch. You've share my hopes, my goals, You've, never hurt my feelings or made me feel not good enough. You have built me up and showed me things that make me feel special, in the quite calmness of Your love, that I never dreamed possible. You've listened to me in my dark moments - my complete vulnerability allows my heart to feel Your total love for me.

Franky Dilch

School Room

The Schoolroom is taking shape.

Pictures: New upstairs room and views of the schoolroom from inside and through the new kitchen hatch.



Goodness matters

Why has there been a sudden and alarming rise in theft? At its heart, the challenge is a moral one, writes Peter Shepherd - without an underlying code of morality, and a commitment to uphold it, no country can prosper

Retailers have recently reported [a sudden and alarming rise in theft](#). Sometimes, they say, it looks more like looting than shoplifting. Groups or individuals are grabbing merchandise from the shelves, mostly to be sold later, sometimes just down the street, seemingly unconcerned about getting caught and prosecuted. Staff are advised not to intervene because of the threat to their own personal safety and the police are slow to respond, so the risk to the thieves is small. For some businesses, the losses are substantial enough to threaten their survival.

Perhaps, sometimes, the driver for such criminal behaviour is poverty, but I doubt if this is the main one. Most of the thieves just see an opportunity to make easy money, selfishly careless of the damage caused by what they do.

There are other examples of unscrupulous individuals profiting from criminal activity, but shops are a central and public part of all our lives, and this trend highlights with particular openness a problem we are facing. It is not as if the thieves can hide behind the web, or the mysterious machinations of big finance. Although the issue

may not be as big as others we face, there is something especially blatant and shameless about it.

At its heart, the challenge is a moral one. Offences like this are a reminder that without a generally accepted sense of right and wrong, society cannot effectively function. The criminal justice system is obviously important, expressing in legal terms what our nation believes to be unacceptable behaviour, but to be effective, it relies on most people believing that behaving well matters. At the end of the day, respect and honesty depend more on internal motivation than on the threat of punishment.

Fortunately, most people do have a sense of what is right and wrong and do seek to live by it. But the growing spate of shoplifting is a sign that morality as a guide to life is under threat. Things are not as they should be, and perhaps they are getting worse. Other signs include various kinds of criminal activity and anti-social behaviour which are on the increase: fraud and abusive language for example. But also the fear and suspicion that is becoming so widespread. Many people seem to have lost a sense that honesty and kindness are necessary foundations for their own lives; even more seem to have lost confidence in the honesty and kindness of others.

No doubt today is not the only time this has been the case. But there is a particular challenge now for us in the UK. Two factors are worth thinking about.

One is the decline of religious observance in the UK. Historically, religious belief and practice have shaped attitudes and behaviour almost everywhere, even when Governments have officially been secular. This has often been for good, occasionally for bad. One thing this provides is the acceptance of an authority beyond and above any that humanity, acting in its own self-interest, can provide. Even in an increasingly non-religious country like the UK, Christianity has until quite recently provided a framework for good behaviour. But this is less and less the case today, not because of the presence of other belief systems, but because of the assumption by many that God is an irrelevance.

A second factor is the moral vacuum in leadership that has been a feature of recent political life, both in the UK and the USA. There have always been political scoundrels, and no political figure is beyond reproach, but when leaders demonstrate an apparently total disregard for what is true, it is no surprise that this has a corrosive effect on attitudes more widely. The message is clear: the end justifies the means; getting what you want is more important than how you go about it. Maybe the reason why such leaders are elected reflects a general lack of interest in both morality and politics. Whatever the underlying trends and causes may be, it is vital to recognise that goodness matters. Without an underlying code of morality, and a commitment to uphold it, no country can prosper.

Peter Shepherd is a Baptist minister and member of Cemetery Road Baptist Church, Sheffield. The reflection originally appeared on his [blog Eucharisto](#) and is published with permission

[Source Baptist Times](#)



Who We Are

After sharing the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus said "Go and do likewise." That is the mission of Samaritan's Purse – to follow the

example of Christ by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

Samaritan's Purse is an international relief and development organisation that works through local churches to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We are part of the global Samaritan's Purse family that has been providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world since 1970.

Samaritan's Purse also has offices in the [USA](#), [Canada](#), [Germany](#), [Australia](#) and [Korea](#).

You may have come across our Operation Christmas Child initiative, which thousands of churches, schools and businesses across the UK are already part of. Alongside sending shoeboxes overseas, we respond in a distinctly Christian way to issues facing people in the places where we work: issues like [water and sanitation](#) and [sustainable livelihoods](#) along with [disasters and emergencies](#).



OUR DISTINCTIVES...

We believe in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We're committed to seeing this Gospel shared in the form of both words (that can change spiritual circumstances) and acts of mercy (that can change physical circumstances).

Where possible, we work through local churches – seeing them as God's chosen instrument to bring hope to a hurting world. We work to raise them up to bring lasting hope to people in impoverished communities around our world.

We choose to work in partnership – which is why we are always looking to inspire and encourage others to join with us in being part of God's global mission. We know that each individual can bring their own talents, gifts and unique contribution – no matter how small – to this great work to which we have been called.

OUR VISION...

Our vision is to see transformation – of both individual lives and whole communities. We long to see people restored in their relationship with God and with each other and for their circumstances to be turned around.

OUR GLOBAL MISSION STATEMENT...

Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organisation providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organisation serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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