

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday October 15th

This Sunday Ron is leading and will continue the five-week sermon series from the Book of Jonah.

This week's theme is "The Presence of God"

The reading Jonah 1:1-10

**WE WILL ALSO CELEBRATE THE LORDS SUPPER**

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 Reads

Ron's reads: Ps 139: 1-16,

## For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 6, please pray for: Eric Hurt, Janet Nicholson, Henry Nicholson, Alex Pelling and Elspeth Pelling.

During October please pray for the residents of The Staithes, Mill Road, Chapel Field including the Barnes.

Lord, when evil raises it's self from the darkness we have only You to cling to. God of light, we pray for the innocent people of Israel and Palestine who have nowhere to escape to, have no control over the violence around them and can only watch their world disintegrate and hope their children, relations and friends and their selves will survive.

We pray Lord for those who have lost friends and family who have been slaughtered in their homes, have been captured and held for ransom or a human shield and killed as the rockets and bombs have fallen on their homes. We pray for those in hospitals that have no electricity and are running out of medical necessities.

We pray Lord, You will pour your power over those who can broker peace, can stop this war rapidly spreading into other nations in the Middle East and that Israelis and Palestinians would let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all.

## Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October Tim Manley posted "Very helpful doctor. Dr will double check with the cardiologist but it looks like Joshua may be safe to go back on the one med he had to stop.

He sounds pleased. Also the company he works for is waiting on some good news -please pray they get it (and more than they hope for)!"

Thursday 12th October Jane Skivington says "We visited Steve Slade yesterday and he asked if I would tell folk he would love to see them. His address is All Hallows, 26 St John's Rd, Bungay NR35 1DL. Thank you"

## Bible Reading Blog

### Simon the Sorcerer Acts 8: 9 - 24

<sup>9-11</sup> Previous to Philip's arrival, a certain Simon had practiced magic in the city, posing as a famous man and dazzling all the Samaritans with his wizardry. He had them all, from little children to old men, eating out of his hand. They all thought he had supernatural powers, and called him "the Great Wizard." He had been around a long time and everyone was more or less in awe of him.

<sup>12-13</sup> But when Philip came to town announcing the news of God's kingdom and proclaiming the name of Jesus Christ, they forgot Simon and were baptized, becoming believers right and left! Even Simon himself believed and was baptized. From that moment he was like Philip's shadow, so fascinated with all the God-signs and miracles that he wouldn't leave Philip's side.

<sup>14-17</sup> When the apostles in Jerusalem received the report that Samaria had accepted God's Message, they sent Peter and John down to pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Up to this point they had only been baptized in the name of the Master Jesus; the Holy Spirit hadn't yet fallen on them. Then the apostles laid their hands on them and they did receive the Holy Spirit.

<sup>18-19</sup> When Simon saw that the apostles by merely laying on hands conferred the Spirit, he pulled out his money, excited, and said, "Sell me your secret!"



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington

01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno

07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 16th October

9.00am Academy Harvest Practise  
in the Church

9.00am Deacons prayer meeting

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

### Tuesday 17th October

9.00am Academy Harvest Production  
9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the  
Stables

### Wednesday 18th October

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12 in the Church  
10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom bible meeting  
All Welcome to join in  
Contact Diana for details

### Thursday 19th October

10 to 12pm Warm Space in the Stables

### Friday 20th 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

### Saturday 21st October

8.30am Men's Breakfast in the Stables

### Sunday 22nd October

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Magda & Eileen  
Flowers: Magdalena

### Thursday 26th October

3.15pm Messy Church in the Sanctuary

## Personal Prayer , Food Bank, & Citizens Advice

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.

Show me how you did that! How much do you want?  
Name your price!"

<sup>20-23</sup> Peter said, "To hell with your money! And you along with it. Why, that's unthinkable—trying to buy God's gift! You'll never be part of what God is doing by striking bargains and offering bribes. Change your ways—and now! Ask the Master to forgive you for trying to use God to make money. I can see this is an old habit with you; you reek with money-lust."

<sup>24</sup> "Oh!" said Simon, "pray for me! Pray to the Master that nothing like that will ever happen to me!"

**As Christians how do we deal with those wanting to buy their way into God's gift?**

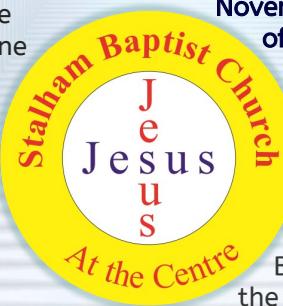
Listen to Jerry's short blog click [Jerry's Blog](#). Or go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"

### Memories of Anna Luo Otieno

The first anniversary of Anna's death is approaching on October 25th and we would love to compile a little book that we can look at to remember the impact her short life had on so many people. Therefore, we want to encourage



as many of you as possible to write down one or more memories that you have of our lovely daughter. You could also write about something you have learned because of knowing her. Following this Sunday there will be preprinted pages available at the back of the church to take home and bring back to Simone or Jerry over the next few weeks once you have written your memory. Simone then will laminate the pages and put them together to create a book of memories that we can treasure as the Otieno family. We appreciate every "little" or "elaborate" contribution.



### Dear Norfolk Food Bank Supporters

Thank you for your donations and Harvest Festival collections. During September you contributed 79.60kg of food. As we rely on food and financial donations to operate, we are extremely grateful when people choose to support us. So, thank you for thinking of us and enabling us to serve people in food crisis across North Norfolk.

In 2022/23 we fed 6816 people, which was an increase of 53% on the previous year. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to provide clients with everything they need, with 72,741kg of stock coming

in, up 34% on the previous year.

During October any of the following would be much appreciated:

**Tinned Meat, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Tomatoes, Squash/Fruit Juice, Pasta Sauce, Jam, Long Life Milk, Cereal, plus 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. Please see our website for details.

Once again thank you so much for your generous donations.

### The journey of a Christmas shoebox gift begins with you!

Since 1990 more than 186 million children in over 160 countries have received a shoebox gift and we want to continue helping and sending gifts but we need your help to do this too.

If you would like to help get as many shoebox gifts together all you need to do is:

- Ask family and friends if they would like to do the shoebox gift with you, maybe you have children and they will enjoy doing this knowing that it is going to make a child very happy to receive a gift from them.
- You need a simple shoebox that you can pack with gifts, and make to look all Christmassy decorating or wrapping the box and the lid separately before you start to put gifts into the box. If there are a number of you doing this you can also [purchase pre-printed shoeboxes](#) but recycling is always great to do too.
- Mark on the box if it is for a girl or a boy and the age category the gift would be suitable for – attach the label on the outside of the box. Age categories are 2-4 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years.
- You can fill the box with a variety of gifts that will bring a smile to a child's face, but there are some gifts that can not be accepted and will be removed from the box when it is checked. Take a look at what is a [good gift and what is not](#).

### Shoebox Appeal Date

The Shoebox service at St Mary's will be on Sunday 19th November at 3.00pm. Leaflets are available at the back of the church.

For more info talk to Magda.

### EBA Prayer Focus 15th October Witnesham City Baptist Church

Witnesham is a village about four miles north of Ipswich where for the past 150 years Witnesham Baptist Church has been situated in the heart of the community. It is a small rural church which is friendly and informal. The loyal congregation is currently not large and tends to be mainly older.

The church's own minister retired in 2022 and since then the church has been blessed with a variety of excellent preachers each week, which include different guest speakers and some local retired ministers.

On the fifth Sunday of the month there is a joint service held with the village Anglican church that alternates its venue between St. Mary's parish Church in Witnesham, Witnesham Baptist Church and two other local parish

**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.

churches.

As well as Sunday services there are weekday activities including a toddler group, home groups and a Bible Study and prayer meeting called 'Reflections'.

Since the village Post Office closed a few years ago there is now a Post Office outreach service in the conservatory room at the church on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings which attracts quite a lot of local residents into the church premises.

Overall the church is blessed with good buildings which are very well used by a wide variety of different local community groups including the Village Voices choir who meet each week.

Please pray for:

- More of the local community to be involved in the church and increase the congregation.
- A sense of God's vision in seeking new ways for the church to reach out.
- The continued blessing of excellent ministry bought by different visiting speakers on Sundays.

### Quotes of the Week

"The book of Jonah is one of the shortest books in the Bible. Yet, something beneath the surface whispers to us, hinting that there is much more beneath this little book."

Michael Ben Zehabe, A Commentary on Jonah

"Lord, make me less like Jonah and more like Jesus. Save me from being the kind of person who cares more about my comfort, my reputation, and my success than I do about the people You are calling me to serve. Help me to keep all of my dreams on Your altar and be ready at all times to respond with faith and obedience to Your call."

Colin S. Smith, Jonah: Navigating a God-Centered Life

"Jonah's anger was not marked by outbursts of rage but by a quiet withdrawal from the company of others and a growing preoccupation with the events in his own life."

Colin S. Smith, Jonah: Navigating a God-Centered Life

"When God interrupts your life, He is calling you to follow Him in a new way. By breaking into your settled pattern, He is moving you to a new place where you can make fresh discoveries of His grace. Embracing God's call is never easy, but this is where the pursuit of a God-centred life begins, and where the shame of a self-centred life is exposed."

Colin S. Smith, Jonah: Navigating a God-Centred Life

"God did not love you because of your background, your intelligence, your good looks, your prayers, your ministry, your commitment, your faith, or your good life. God loves you because He loves you. Let that lead you to worship."

Colin S. Smith, Jonah: Navigating a God-Centred Life

"When your heart is gripped by the love of God poured out in the cross, and when you see the extent of that love in the propitiation by which Christ became the sacrifice for your sin, bearing wrath and entering hell for you, and when you are convinced that this Christ offers Himself in redeeming love to others who do not yet know Him, a passion will be lit in your heart to pursue a God-centered life."

Colin S. Smith, Jonah: Navigating a God-Centered Life



**Open Doors**

60 years of serving persecuted Christians

## How to pray for all affected by violent conflict in Israel and Gaza

Please pray for all caught up in the ongoing violence in Israel and Gaza. A local source shares some ways to pray. Your prayers are urgently needed for all caught up in the escalating violence following a surprise attack by Hamas on southern Israel last Saturday (7 October).

Several news outlets have reported that more than 1,000 people have been killed in Israel since Hamas launched its attacks, including 260 at a music festival. It is reported

that more than 100 Israelis have also been kidnapped and taken to Gaza. Israeli authorities announced a state of war and launched massive retaliatory air strikes into Gaza in response, which have already killed more than 800 people. Thousands of people in southern Israel and Gaza have been injured in the ongoing attacks. Christians in Israel and Gaza are asking for prayer – for protection, an end to hostilities, and for justice and peace to reign. Civilians on both sides are living in intense fear, and believers are sharing their experiences and asking for prayer from the global church.

### "There is no safe place".

"My family and I feel fear, due to the heavy bombardments, and we feel that the house will fall – it is a permanent earthquake," a Christian father in Gaza shared with Open Doors partners. He asked to remain anonymous. "We try to hug our children and relieve them of fear and terror.

"We do not know what is coming... all we see, hear and feel is war... explosions and destruction everywhere and the screaming of children from the intensity of the bombing. There is a strong fear of what is coming as there is no safe place in Gaza," he continues.

This man is one of about 800 Palestinian Christians in Gaza. The churches in Gaza cancelled all their services last weekend, due to the current war and the bombings of the Israeli air force.

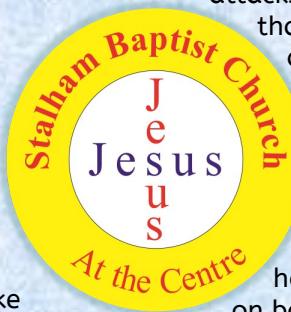
Christians in Israel are – like all civilians – also fearful of how they, their families and communities will be affected by ongoing violence. Around two per cent of Israelis identify as Christians.

Open Doors partners working in the region have recently confirmed that they are all currently safe – though one of them, on Saturday morning, had a rocket hit the house next door to them.

### How to pray

In this complex, ongoing situation, your prayers are earnestly requested by believers.

The Christian in Gaza asks: "We pray that love and peace will prevail in our country and I ask for a prayer for God's protection over my family and our home, that the war will end quickly, and that the Lord will meet all needs, especially at this time, and that we be can be the light in the middle of this total darkness and reflect the light and love of Christ in Gaza." Please join with him in this prayer.



Christians in Israel similarly ask for peace and protection, and to be able to shine the light of Christ in an area that is so significant in Jesus's ministry on earth and in the history of our faith.

Pray for an end to all violence and injustice in Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Pray that the church might be a beacon of hope for the people around through their testimony in words and actions.

Pray that the Lord will comfort those who have lost loved ones, or who are waiting to hear about missing family and friends.

Pray also that the international community will work towards lasting peace in the Holy Land.

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## “We are In shock and mourning”: update from Christians in Gaza and Israel

The ongoing conflict in Israel and Gaza has led to hundreds of deaths and thousands of people injured or homeless. Local Open Doors contacts share what they're witnessing and how their churches are responding.

The death toll continues to rise in both Israel and Gaza, and rocket attacks and bombing are ongoing. Civilians were victims in the first attack by Hamas and continue to be stuck in the midst of the violence.

For most of us, as we see the unfolding situation on the news and online, we can only do what our founder Brother Andrew advised us to do: pray for what you see and hear in the news, and pray for those affected. So let's keep praying for the people in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Pray that peace will come. Pray for the churches in Gaza and in Israel, that they will be strengthened to help and comfort those around them and show them the love of God.

### Christians in Israel

The Bible Society in Israel expresses on its website the feelings of so many of their brothers and sisters in Israel: “We are in shock, angry, in mourning. In a few short hours, hundreds of lives were snuffed out: women, men, children, elderly. Several thousand were wounded, over a hundred were taken hostage. More than three thousand rockets were fired into the southern half of the country.

“More than ever, we need your prayers.” *Christian in Israel*

“There is not a family in the country that has not lost a family member or a friend. More than ever, we need your prayers. Prayers for those who mourn. Prayers for God to use this tragic event to cause people to seek God about their own eternal destiny. And we at the Bible Society in Israel ask you to pray that God give us wisdom in these days.

“Wisdom how to comfort. Wisdom how to pray. Wisdom and grace to be His messengers, serving His kingdom, that we not weaken His message with our own anger. Pray with us that God will use all those leaders whose decisions in these days will determine the fate of so many people. May

our loving God bring this disaster to an end.”

### Christians in Gaza

Israel's military response has led to thousands of deaths in Gaza. Right now, Christians in Gaza are just trying to survive and to help our brothers and sisters who already have lost their homes or who cannot stay in their homes any longer. Local churches that Open Doors has connections with are providing those who found shelter in the church buildings with food and water. Pray for those churches, that these buildings indeed will continue to be places of protection.

“The street where I lived, which brought me so much happiness and held childhood memories, has now turned into complete devastation,” a Christian woman in Gaza shared. “I remember the library and the shops we were so familiar with, where the owners would call us by our names and invite us in. These places have now become ruins.

“How will we return to universities and continue our education when the roads are in ruins? Can we even access them amidst all this destruction?

“The street where I lived [...] has now turned into complete devastation.” *Christian in Gaza*

“The painful end came when they told us we had 10 minutes to leave our home because it was going to be bombed by Israeli war flights. We went to the church assuming it is a safe place.



“I hastily gathered my personal belongings and some clothes, hoping to return after the bombing, as I believed we could go back in a few hours. But the nightmare I never anticipated in my entire life became a reality – our home was bombed and destroyed, and the entire neighbourhood no longer existed.

There were no more houses, just a dark cloud in the sky, and the air was thick with dust. Some of my belongings were scattered among the rubble, and I was trying to imagine where my room used to be.

“In that moment, I closed my eyes, took a deep breath, and wished it was a terrible dream, hoping to wake up from it soon.”

Pray also for her and all our other brothers and sisters who have lost everything.

### Please keep praying

A pastor in Bethlehem (in the West Bank) – an Open Doors partner – shared on social media: “Your prayers, advocacy and support are much appreciated. [...] We are concerned about the high number of civilian casualties, irrespective they are Palestinians or Israelis. We call for the Geneva Convention and the International Humanitarian Law to be guaranteed by the international community.”

Pray for all those in Israel and in Gaza and on the West Bank who have lost loved ones, or who are waiting to hear about missing people. Pray for those who have lost their homes, and pray for all those who are now being treated for their injuries.

For more information about Opendoors click [HERE](#)

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.