

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News



Sunday November 26th

This Sunday Barbara and Geoff are leading and Ron is continuing the sermon series "The Characters of Christmas"

This Sunday "Zechariah"

The readings are Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 4, please pray for: Gillian Meale, David Maile, Julia Maile, Christine Emerson and Robert Emerson.

During December please pray for the residents of Upper Staithe Road and Millside.

Please pray for those who are delivering the Christmas Community Scene and those who have delivered them. Pray also that the Community Scene will reach out to the community and they will feel Jesus's love.

Prayer for Self-Care

Lord, lift me up for Your blessings today. I pray that you will anoint me with strength and self care today, tomorrow, and always. I pray that You will grace me with patience and wisdom. I pray that You will encourage me throughout the day to take the correct steps to walk proudly, and behave well. I pray all of these things in Your name. Amen.

Healing a Broken Heart

Lord, please heal my broken heart. Fill me with the peace and joy I know can only come from You during this hard time. Walk closely beside me during my journey to healing and recovery that I know is possible through Your power alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the healing of our nation. We acknowledge our need for your grace and guidance. Please mend the divisions in our government, restore peace, and bring unity to them. Give wisdom to our leaders and inspire them to work together for the common good. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Thursday 23rd November Julia Maile posted "Hi. Please can you keep David in your prayers today. He is having an angiogram this morning and any necessary treatment. He hopes this will improve his health. Thank you. Jx"

Later that day Julia posted "Thank you all. David is all done. They didn't find anything wrong, so his 'plumbing' is still good! So they will have to look elsewhere to account for his tiredness, breathlessness and tight feelings. Watch this space. Jx"

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

Luke 24: 36-49 Jesus Appears to the Disciples (MSG)

³⁶⁻⁴¹ While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

⁴¹⁻⁴³ He asked, "Do you have any food here?" They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

You're the Witnesses

⁴⁴ Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled."

For your Diary

Monday 27th November

9.00am Deacons prayer meeting
10am in the Stables Bible Study 7
Acts and the church Everyone welcome
10.30 to 11.30am in the Church
Prayers for SBC and young people
2 to 4pm Warm Space in the Stables

Tuesday 28th November

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the Stables

Wednesday 29th November

Table Tennis
9.30am to 12 in the Church
10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables
7.00pm Zoom Bible Study
Contact Diana for details

Thursday 30th November

10 to 12pm Warm Space in the Stables
2pm in the church – planning for Messy Christmas

Friday 1st December

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 3rd December

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

Friday 8th December

7.30pm Norfolk Wherry Brass Band
In the Church

Sunday 17th December

4.00pm Candlelight Carol Service
In the church

Monday 18th December

7.00pm Christmas Carols at the Swan Inn Stalham
All welcome

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

45-49 He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high."

As Christians how easy is it to convince non believers, Jesus lives?

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

Church December Prayer Meetings

Church prayer meetings will be held in the Chapel on the 1st and 4th Thursdays of the month from 10.30-11.30am, the next meetings will be on 7th and 28th December all welcome. The zoom prayer meetings will continue in the evenings. For more information talk to Jan Nicholson.

Edna's Christmas Craft Fayre

To be held at Eureka, St John's Rd, Stalham on Thursday 7th Dec and Friday 8th Dec 10.30-3.30pm. Come and see lots of Christmas ideas, presents, gifts etc. If anyone can make some table decorations, they would be most welcome. All proceeds to Stalham Baptist Church.

Norfolk Wherry Brass Band

The Norfolk Wherry Brass Band will be visiting SBC on Friday 8th December at 7.30pm when they will be playing a selection of Christmas music. Entry is by donations to be shared between the band and SBC in memory of Marie Read. There will be refreshments during the interval.

Food Bank

During December 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. Once again thank you so much for your generous donations.

Shoebox Appeal

The Shoebox Appeal was another success. 35 boxes were sent from St Mary's church and 7 from Ludham School. £205 was donated to help the boxes on their journey. A big thankyou to all those who contributed to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 26th November Fulmerston Church Barnham Cross

Fulmerston Church is on the Barnham Cross Estate in Thetford, Norfolk, a place where the church works hard to lovingly build relationships through positive activities, prayerfully hoping to also draw people closer to Jesus. It is an area of need but with real community spirit, and the church works with local people and agencies, to improve people's lives, the local area and its amenities.

The church uses their building to help with this, as it is a well-designed, welcoming, adaptable, practical space. It is

regularly used for groups such as the weekly 'Craft Buddies' for older people, 'Chat and Chill' coffee morning, where you sometimes find the local councillor, 'The Meeting Place' – a social group for older people and the externally run 'Life is for Living' exercise group, as well as the Sunday service! Special afternoon all-age services are held four times a year and a monthly bring-and-share meal after church usually attracts extra local people.

The church has five key values: Living for Jesus, Loving People, Working with the community, Helping each other grow, and Working together as a team. These principles are also seen in the leadership structure. Tim Lovejoy has been with the church since 1991 and in post as the Church and Community Worker since 2000, and speaks of the leadership being a team, of which he is a part.

It has been a tough year with the cost-of-living crisis hitting local people hard. In addition, Tim was unexpectedly taken ill and had three months recovery, but the church team rallied around brilliantly.

Encouragingly, over the last two years, the church has celebrated more new people coming and staying in the church than for decades, as well as last year's baptism — the first in 25 years, meaning that during their recent AGM, it was agreed that it had been a good year; a remarkable statement of God's faithfulness through tough times.

Fulmerston Church asks you to join them in praying:

It has been great to have local people joining us recently, and we pray that they will find their place and be able to use their gifts within the fellowship.

We thank God for our strong relationships in the local community and pray that we will continue to build on those.

We pray that we will continue to grow spiritually and numerically, making more disciples and baptising them.

That the church body will grow in confidence, feel encouraged by God and be eager to share with others about Him.

Big Thank You

A big thankyou to all the volunteers that have delivered the Christmas Community Scene or are delivering them.

Quotes of the Week

"When you are happy for other people's dreams, your dreams start jumping up with joy. Elizabeth was happy with Mary and her dream baby was jumping in her womb crazily for joy!"

Israelmore Ayivor

"Simple, powerful, poignant, the Sign of the Cross is a mnemonic device like the communion in where we sit down to table with one another and remember the Last Supper, or a baptism, where we remember John the Baptist's brawny arm pouring some of the Jordan River over Christ. So we remember the central miracle and paradox of the faith that binds us each to each: that we believe, against all evidence and sense, in life and love and light, in the victory of those things over death and evil and darkness."

Brian Doyle

"Dear church, John the Baptist died for exposing the sins of others. Jesus died to actually pay for the sins of



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.

others.

John was great, but we should not follow his model. Our model is Christ. So let's stop telling the world how bad their sin is and let's start sharing how good the Father has always been."

Carlos A. Rodriguez

"John (the Baptist) stands as prophets do to this very day, as an unyielding presence unsettling us and leaving us not quite sure of how we feel about him.

And yet John seems hard to know, hard to like even though we stand back in admiration of him. We react the same way to most absolute figures."

Eugene Kennedy

'We request fervent prayer for just peace'

Baptists across Israel and the Palestinian Territories share calls to prayer

Baptists across Israel and the Palestinian Territories request fervent prayer for just peace, [reports the European Baptist Federation](#).

This includes the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel with 17 Baptist churches and the Council of Local Evangelical Churches in the Holy Land representing 13 Baptist churches in the Palestinian Territories, including a Baptist church in Gaza.

Together as a Baptist family that is one in Christ Jesus, let us mourn with all whose loved ones have been killed or are held captive. Let us follow paths of peacemaking that unequivocally reject terrorism or any acts that target civilians, include dehumanising language, or limit human rights on the basis of ethnicity or faith.

Let us generously provide help and support with the compassion of Christ.

Let us stand together with our Baptist family and all who are suffering, and in the midst of complexity and violence, hear again the words of the prophet Micah "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly" in pursuit of restorative justice and peace for all people.

Our Baptist leaders in the region have shared the following calls to prayer.

Pray for a quick end to the conflict and the prevention of escalation into a larger war in the region.

Pray for the God of all comfort to be with those who are grieving the loss of their loved ones.

Pray for those who have been wounded during the conflict and for those providing medical assistance to them.

Pray for the safety and liberation of hostages, and pray for mediators to facilitate their release.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leaders, that they may make decisions that lead to lasting peace and alleviate suffering.

Pray that Christians from around the world will unite in prayer for peace, demonstrating the love of Christ to all peoples.

Pray for safety of local followers of Jesus and that they will be shielded from extremism and hatred, especially young people.

Pray for God to utilise our churches as effective witnesses during this challenging time, through the power of the Holy Spirit, including the Baptist church in Gaza and its ongoing ministry.

Pray that Christians around the world will give generously as our Baptist family across this area seeks to holistically minister in this critical time of suffering.

Pray for peace, hope, and security for the entire region, and that the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays so that Israelis and Palestinians will experience life lived in peace and freedom with one another.

A prayer guide created by the EBF and the Baptist World Alliance, calling the global Baptist family to prayer, can be accessed [here](#).

In an email update, the EBF reminded supporters of the need to pray for other conflicts and situations in the region.

'As the different crises in the EBF region escalate, we continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in these countries and respond to their needs,' it stated.

'In Isaiah's vision of the coming Kingdom, he recognises that the Lord "will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many people." Although we live in a time when the Kingdom of God has not yet come in its fullness, we can still pray for glimpses of this kingdom to be seen at this time.

'We pray with our brothers and sisters in Israel and Palestinian Territories, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Russia; for the intervention of our Heavenly Father and the in-breaking of his Kingdom at this moment in history to restore peace between nations.

'We pray with our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria; for healing and restoration as they still suffer from the massive earthquake in February 2023.' Baptist Times, 17/10/2023



MEMORIAL SERVICE.

**16TH DECEMBER 2023, @2 PM.
@ STALHAM BAPTIST CHURCH.**

The Stalham Bereavement Support Group invites you to our first Annual Memorial Service. The Service is open to All who would like to remember their loved ones who died.

During the Service, the Names of those we will be remembering will be read out, and those present will have an opportunity to light a candle and, if able to, read a short poem/ tribute in memory of their loved ones.

After the Service, refreshments will be provided at the Stable.

If you want your loved one to be remembered, please send their name and possibly a picture to: sbsg.0623@gmail.com before the **8th of December, 2023** or contact Jerry at 07733837687.



Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church
Stalham

Sun 3 - Sun 10 December

10.30am-3.30pm

(from 12 on Sundays, till 4pm on 3rd - Yuletide Market)

Late night opening Wed 6th 6-8pm

Free entry and a warm welcome

Fabulous trees decorated by

our fabulous community

Beautiful nativity scenes

Delicious refreshments

Sponsored
Baubling of
Mary &
Helen

Churchwarden Mary Shepherd and Rev Helen are raising funds for two very good causes at Stalham's Christmas Tree Festival. On Wednesday 6th December at the late night opening Helen and Mary will be transformed into Christmas baubles, by having their hair shaved off and their heads painted and glittered! Monies raised will be split between the refurbishment of the Stalham Church Rooms, and Leeway which supports people experiencing domestic abuse.

Scan to sponsor



It's Christmas Time

With
Norfolk Wherry Brass

Christmas Concert Stalham Baptist Church
Friday 8th December
19:30 — 21:30

Free entry and refreshments with retiring collection

The Stalham Yuletide Market

Organised by the Stalham Area Business Forum

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

— 12 NOON — 4 PM —

STALHAM HIGH STREET

(NR12 9AS)

Over 40 stalls, inside & outside
Food & Drink • Crafts • Gifts • Decorations

Christmas Tree Festival in St. Mary's Church
Independent High Street Shops • Live Music
Refreshments • Festive Costumes Encouraged!

plus . . . the chance to visit Father Christmas!

For more information call 01692 535263 • 07760 115153

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