

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday December 3rd The First Sunday in Advent

This Sunday Elaine and Maggie are leading and Jerry is continuing the sermon series "The Characters of Christmas"

This Sunday "Simeon and Anna"

The reading is Luke 2: 22 - 40

Jerry will be exploring: (1) Simeon Waiting for Comfort v 25-35.

(2) Anna Waiting for Redemption v 36-38

(3) What Are You Waiting For?

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service"

Jerry's Further readings

Leviticus 12, Isaiah 4:1-2; 49:13; 52:9; 66:13, Galatians 4:4-5.

For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 5, please pray for: Evelyn Eagling, Geci Burt, Peter Burt and Beryl Ashman.

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

This is Advent, the season of preparation. The shops are full of gifts that we might give or receive. Streets are decorated and choirs begin the rounds of community centres and retirement homes with their seasonal offerings of carols. As we prepare, we remember another, John the Baptist, who came to prepare the Jewish people for the arrival of Jesus. John, who would prepare a way through a call to repentance, so that hearts and souls would be ready to receive the One who was to come.

Father God, prepare our hearts not only for the celebration to come, but also for sharing that Good News with friends, family and work colleagues should opportunity arise. Grant us courage and a real willingness to talk about the love that came down to earth and walked among us. Amen

Ron's Bible Reading Blog

James 2: 14 – 26 Faith in Action (MSG)

¹⁴⁻¹⁷ Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

¹⁸ I can already hear one of you agreeing by saying, "Sounds good. You take care of the faith department, I'll handle the works department."

Not so fast. You can no more show me your works apart from your faith than I can show you my faith apart from my works. Faith and works, works and faith, fit together hand in glove.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Do I hear you professing to believe in the one and only God, but then observe you complacently sitting back as if you had done something wonderful? That's just great. Demons do that, but what good does it do them? Use your heads! Do you suppose for a minute that you can cut faith and works in two and not end up with a corpse on your hands?

²¹⁻²⁴ Wasn't our ancestor Abraham "made right with God by works" when he placed his son Isaac on the sacrificial altar? Isn't it obvious that faith and works are yoked partners, that faith expresses itself in works? That the works are "works of faith"? The full meaning of "believe" in the Scripture sentence, "Abraham believed God and was set right with God," includes his action. It's that weave of believing and acting that got Abraham named "God's friend." Is it not evident that a person is made right with God not by a barren faith but by faith fruitful in works?

²⁵⁻²⁶ The same with Rahab, the Jericho harlot. Wasn't her action in hiding God's spies and helping them escape—that seamless unity of *believing* and *doing*—what counted with God? The very moment you separate body and spirit, you



For your Diary

Monday 4th December

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church
Prayers for SBC and young people
2 to 4pm Warm Space in the Stables
7.00am Deacons meeting

Tuesday 5th December

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the Stables

Wednesday 6th December

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

Thursday 7th December

10 to 12pm Warm Space in the Stables
10.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church
10.30 - 3.30pm Edna's Craft Fayre
Eureka St Johns Road
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting
Contact Diana for details

Friday 8th December

10.15 to 12.00pm Prayers for Revival & Israel at Three Windows, Brumstead Road
10.30 - 3.30pm Edna's Craft Fayre Eureka St Johns Road
1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables & Citizens Advice Service
7.30pm Norfolk Wherry Brass Band In the Church

Sunday 10th December

10.45 Sunday Service
Including the Sunday School Christmas Play.

Welcome: David & Fran

Flowers: Magda Nicholls

Tuesday 12th December

7pm Bible Study at Geoff and Barbara's
Acts and the church.
Everyone welcome.

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

end up with a corpse. Separate faith and works and you get the same thing: a corpse.

As a Christian how easy is it to just to relax and be satisfied by the deeds you achieved in the past?

To listen to another powerful Ron's short blog click [Rons 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.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 3rd December Becontree Avenue Baptist Church

Dagenham is on the eastern edge of London and Becontree Avenue Baptist Church is the smallest of the four Baptist churches in Dagenham. The church at Becontree Avenue has been led for the past twelve years by Rev Sue Millar and during that time there has been a lot of change. Covid stopped many of the activities but some of these are now returning. The demographics of those who live in Dagenham have also changed too. It is a friendly and very diverse place but much of the population is transient, moving to the area and then out again a few years later. That presents challenges of continuity and commitment with a settled core of people and those who are part of the church for a limited time. However the church is growing with new members joining and the Sunday School has just started up again led by new

people who look after the growing number of children. In addition to the regular weekly programme the church holds various seasonal events to engage with the local community: Pancake Day, a BBQ, the church anniversary, a harvest lunch and a sausage, spuds and sparklers event for Guy Fawkes. These are very effective and simple events to organize.

An ongoing challenge is people resources. Many members have busy jobs and family commitments so are time-poor. Lots of the responsibilities fall on the same few people, and many of the regulars are getting older. The church now holds church meetings instead of deacons meetings, so while the meetings might be a bit longer everyone is involved in the decision making process and running the church.

Please pray:

- For continued and steady growth in the church.
- For more people to take responsibility and take the work forward in a confident way.
- For the upcoming church Christmas programme of activities including the Barking and Dagenham Churches Together Carol service on 14th

DJ Steve

Steve Slade has now moved to Oakwood House Care Home, Old Watton Road, Norwich NR4 7TP. He would welcome any correspondence or visits. You can contact him on his Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Stephen%20Slade>

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given."— G. Campbell Morgan

"Waiting on God, according to Scripture, is not a passive, vacuous state but rather an active process of asking, seeking and engaging with his Spirit."

— Pete Greig,

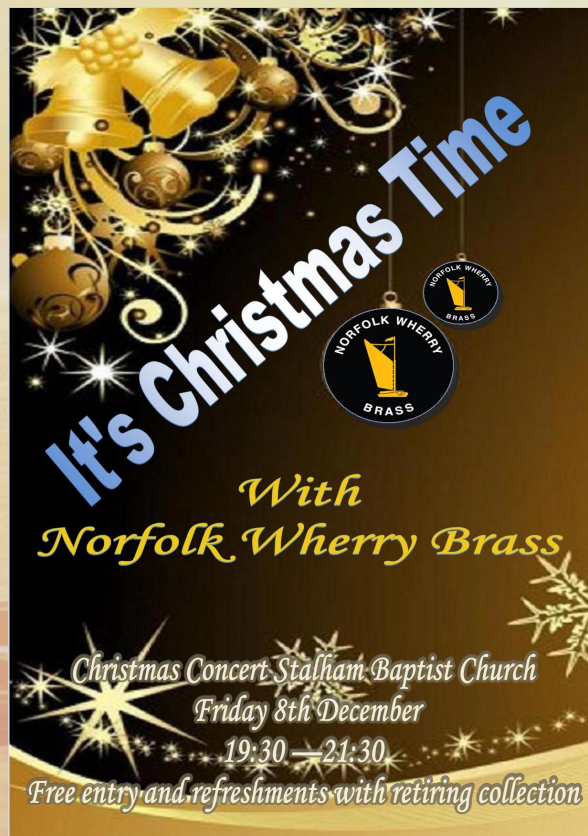
"Hope is patiently waiting expectantly for the intangible to become reality." —Avery D. Miller

"He who waits on God never waits too long" —Chuck Wagner

"Waiting is our destiny. As creatures who cannot by themselves bring about what they hope for, we wait in the darkness for a flame we cannot light. We wait in fear for a happy ending we cannot write. We wait for a 'not yet' that feels like a 'not ever.' Waiting is the hardest work of hope."

— Lewis Smeades.

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.



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.