

# Stalham Baptist Church *Weekly News*



**Sunday December 17th The Third Sunday in Advent**

**This Sunday Diana is leading and Jerry is continuing the sermon series "The Characters of Christmas"**

**And will be preaching on "Fear Not, Mary"**

**from Luke 1:26-38, 46-55 exploring Mary's responses to the message of Christmas 1) Fear 1; 26-30 (2) Trust 1: 31-38**

**(3) Praise 1: 46-55**

**WE WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATING COMMUNION**

**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"**

## **Jerry's Further Readings**

**Matthew 1:18-25 Compare the wordings in the accounts of the angel's appearance to Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) and Mary – Luke 1:12-20 (Zechariah) Luke 1:29-36 (Mary)**

## **For Your Prayers**

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 2, please pray for: Elinor Burdett, Jill Mobbs, Barbara Gales, Dee Patterson and Alan Patterson.

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

This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfilment of your plan to bring your prodigal people home again.

We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act.

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

[www.faithandworship.com/prayers\\_Advent.htm](http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Advent.htm)

## **A Pope's Prayer for Immigrants** *by Pope Francis*

Merciful God, we pray for you for all the men, women and children who have died after leaving their homelands in search of a better life. Though many of their graves bear no name, to you each one is known, loved and cherished.

May we never forget them, but honour their sacrifice with deeds more than words. We entrust to you all those who have made this journey, enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation, in order to reach a place of safety and hope.

Just as you never abandoned your Son as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph, so now be close to these, your sons and daughters, through our tenderness and protection.

In caring for them may we seek a world where none are forced to leave their home and where all can live in freedom, dignity and peace.

## **For your Diary**

### **Monday 18th December**

9.00am Deacons Meeting  
Prayers for SBC and young people  
10.30 to 11.30am in the Church  
2 to 4pm Warm Space in the Stables  
7.00pm Carols in the Swan Inn

### **Tuesday 19th December**

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the Stables

### **Wednesday 20th December**

10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables

### **Thursday 21st December**

10 to 12pm Warm Space in the Stables  
3.15 to 5pm MESSY CHRISTMAS  
in the Church  
All welcome.

### **Friday 22nd 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 24th December**

10.45 Sunday All Age Service  
Led by Ron

Welcome: Magda & Eileen

Flowers: Christmas Flowers

### **Monday 25th December**

10.00 Christmas Morning Service

### **Thursday 28th December**

10.30am Prayer Meeting in the church

### **Friday 29th December**

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables

### **Sunday 31st December**

10.45 Sunday Service

Christmas Flowers

Welcome: Henry & Fran

### **Thursday 4th January**

10.30am Prayer Meeting in the church  
2pm Messy Church planning in

The Stables

### **Saturday 6th January**

10.30am KO Stalham Baptist Church FC v South Walsham St Mary's at Stalham Recreation Ground

### **Sunday 7th January**

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Jill & Elinor

12.00pm Short Church Meeting

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

2pm Messy Church planning in The Stables

### **Saturday 13th January**

11.00 Grand opening service of Schoolroom

**Opening times of Community Fridge can be found over leaf.**



Merciful God and Father of all, wake us from the slumber of indifference, open our eyes to their suffering, and free us from the insensitivity born of worldly comfort and self-centredness.

Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals, to see that those who come to our shores are our brothers and sisters.

May we share with them the blessings we have received from your hand, and recognize that together, as one human family, we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you, our true home, where every tear will be wiped away, where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.

### Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December** Victoria posted "Thanks for your prayers for Poppy. We got back from the hospital this afternoon. She's got a nasty virus but the doctor was happy that the antibiotics prescribed on Tuesday would deal with anything serious if needed. She also has high blood pressure (caused by the Nephrotic Syndrome) but they said not high enough to need medication and will check her again at our check-up in few weeks. Obviously, all this on top of the Nephrotic Syndrome symptoms are making her feel very poorly. The doctor said it would take a couple of weeks for the steroids to start taking effect, but I'm hopeful they will start to work quicker. Hoping for her to improve over the weekend in terms of the virus and for her to be back to school Monday."

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** Robert Emerson posted "Please pray for Ruth because she's been attacked and hurt at work."

Later that day Ruth posted "It's nothing serious I'm ok pride is more effected than anything. My workplace is amazing and have really supported me through this."

### Ron's Bible Reading Blog

#### Matthew 1: 18-25 The Birth of Jesus (MSG)

<sup>18-19</sup> The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they enjoyed their wedding night, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced. <sup>20-23</sup> While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins." This would bring the prophet's embryonic revelation to full term: Watch for this—a virgin will get pregnant and bear a son; They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us"). <sup>24-25</sup> Then Joseph woke up. He did exactly what God's angel commanded in the dream: He married Mary. But he did not consummate the marriage until she had the baby. He named the baby Jesus.

**As Christians how easy would it been for us not to expose Mary when discovering she was pregnant?**

To listen to Ron's short blog click [Rons Blog](#). Or go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary" Ron brings Joseph who often is the forgotten character into the picture of Christmas.

### Christmas Greetings

Rosina and David Jenkin would like to wish you all a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They are currently unable to attend church because of Rosina's spine injury and just wanted to say they miss everyone at SBC.

### What's Happening over Christmas at SBC

There will be no newsletters until 7th January, so "Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all."

Sunday All Age Service on 24th December will be led by Ron.

Christmas Morning Service on 25th will start at 10.00am. Sunday Service on 31st December will be led by Elaine and Maggie.

Sunday 7th January will start at 10.45 and will be followed by a short Church Meeting at 12.00pm. SBC will be closed from 25th December until 2nd January.

The Foodbank will be open in the Stables on 22nd & 29th December.

The Community Fridge will be open as normal other than the Bank Holidays of 25th, 26th December and 1st January.

There will be prayer meeting in the church from 10.00am on Thursday 28th and 4th January.

### Candlelight Services

Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm all welcome followed by tea and coffee in the Stables. The collection will be shared by Tearfund Middle East Emergency Appeal and Norwich Homeless Support.

### Christmas Carols at the Swan

Join us in the Swan Inn High Street Stalham for Christmas Carols Monday December 18th at 7.00pm.

### 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.*

### Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Many Christians estimate difficulty in the light of their own resources, and thus, they attempt very little, and they always fail. All giants have been weak men who did great things for God because they reckoned on His power and presence to be with them." – Hudson Taylor

"Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35), and not by Joseph, in order that His human nature might be sinless. This is why He would be called 'the Son of God' at His birth." – Tony Evans

"The Virgin Birth alone insured both the full deity and full humanity of Jesus. If God had created Jesus, a complete human being in heaven and sent Him to earth apart from any human parent, it is difficult to see how He could be truly a man. If God had sent His Son into the world through both a human father and mother, it is difficult to see how He could be truly God." – Sam Storms

"Mary's Song is the gospel before the gospel, a fierce bright shout of triumph thirty weeks before Bethlehem, thirty years before Calvary and Easter... It's all about God, and it's all about revolution. And it's all because of Jesus— Jesus who's only just been conceived, not yet born, but who has made Mary giddy with excitement and hope and triumph."—NT Wright.



**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.