

# Stalham Baptist Church *Weekly News*

Sunday February 4th

This Sunday Elaine and Maggie are leading and Jerry is continuing the sermon series entitled "Who is Jesus?" The title of this week's sermon is "The God-Man", and the readings are from

Isaiah 9:6 & Colossians 1: 15-20

## Jerry's Reads

Luke 1:31-35, John 1:1-3, 14, John 10:25-33, Philippians 2:5-11, and Colossians 2:9-10.

## For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 8, please pray for: Pam De'ath, Jean Wunderlicht, Yvonne Brigstock, Rosina Potter-Jenkin, Jane Skivington and Ron Skivington.

During February please pray for the residents of the pond area of Stalham Green, Field Road, Hollingdale Drive, Harnser Court and Moore Lane.

God of peace, bearer of hope, we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace. Where there is hatred and division sow seeds of calm and openness. Where there is destruction help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying bring an end to tears. Shelter your peoples and protect them. Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of hope.

Amen. Linda Jones / CAFOD

We are moulded, each one of us, in the image of God, and within our souls there is a fingerprint none can erase.

We pray for those who have no regard for anyone but self, who put no value on human life.

For nations and individuals who abuse and kill.

We are not called to be judge or jury, but we are called to be agents of change, and if the butterfly that flaps its wings should be our attitude to others then so be it, Lord, and may the hurricane this generates somewhere within the world reach into the hearts and souls of those for whom we pray, and reveal to them how precious are those for whom they have no love, and how precious are they who now bring tears to the eyes of God. ©John Birch

Lord, we thank You for the healing of many in our fellowship, we thank You for those in our fellowship You have lifted from darkness surrounding them. We thank You for the families and all the young people joining us each Sunday. We thank You for the new people with us each Sunday. Lord, we thank You for being at the centre of SBC.

## Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January** Jerry posted "From Maureen. I would like to say thank you to you all for your thoughts and prayers. I have felt the love and protection of the Lord with me. I lost a bit of blood in surgery, and I will know today if I need a transfusion. Please pray all will be well. God bless, love Maureen xx"

Also, on Friday Diana posted "Could you please pray for Norma who is due to have surgery on her elbow. She has a Pre-Op appointment on 30th Jan with the operation due to take place on 12th Feb. Please pray that it goes ahead as planned."

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>** Jerry posted "From Maureen. Thank you again for your prayer. I had an iron infusion last night, and I am waiting on another blood test to see if my blood has improved. Love Maureen x"

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>** Diana posted "Ruth (Maynell) would appreciate prayer for her brother in law Graham as he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer before Christmas and it has spread. The doctors have said 18 months. Also pray for Suzanne, his wife and for Ruth."

Also, on Sunday Jerry posted "From Maureen: Prayers are being answered, and my iron levels have begun to improve. I hope to be home tomorrow. Thank you once again for all your prayers. Love Maureen x"

**On Monday 29<sup>th</sup>** Jerry posted "From Maureen: Praise the Lord, I am home. God is good. He knows our needs and answers our prayers when we continue to put our trust in him. God bless you all, M xx"



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 5th February

9.00am Deacons Prayer Meeting

10am to 11.30am ROMANS Bible Study  
[first of new series]

The Stables – 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 6th February

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the  
Schoolroom

### Wednesday 7th February

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12pm in the Schoolroom

10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables

7.00pm Zoom Bible Study

All are welcome. Contact Diana

### Thursday 8th February

10 to 2pm Warm Space in the Stables  
10.30-11.30 Prayer Meeting

in the Church

### Friday 9th February

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 10th February

10.30am SBC FC v Norwich Central BC  
Stalham Recreation Ground

### Sunday 11th February

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Hazel & Henry

Flowers: Doreen Hollebon

### Thursday 15th February

3.15pm Messy Church In Schoolroom

### Thursday 29th February

10.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church

### Sunday 3rd March

12.30pm Shared Lunch in the  
Schoolroom

## 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](mailto: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

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Magdalena posted “Could you please pray for the protection of my parents, brother, and their house. (in South Africa) Their village is under serious threat from fire.

### 30 January 2024: HANGKLIP FIRE UPDATE @ 13:15

The fire is spreading rapidly.

A full evacuation order has now been given for the whole of Pringle Bay. For your safety you are to immediately evacuate your home.

Overstrand Municipality has designated the Kleinmond Town Hall as your emergency evacuation centre. Pets welcome.”

Also, on Tuesday Magdalena posted “Thank you for your prayers.

I spoke to my mother and she said they are safe. These wildfires occur fairly often around the area. The wind direction is away from their house at the moment. Two houses have been damaged. The firemen are doing amazing work and helicopters are dropping water.”

## Ron's Bible Reading Blog

### Isaiah 61: 1-7 (NIV) The Year of the Lord's Favour

**61** The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

<sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy, instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour.

<sup>4</sup> They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

<sup>5</sup> Strangers will shepherd your flocks; foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

<sup>6</sup> And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.

<sup>7</sup> Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.

***As Christians do we often enough celebrate with joy what Jesus had gifted us and show those who are yet to know Him we aren't living in a sombre world?***

To listen to Rons short blog click [Ron's Blog](#). Or go to [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/) and click on “Our Weekly Bible Commentary” Ron brilliantly links Isaiah's bronze age writing to Jesus and how it fits with our world as Christians.

## AGM

Our AGM this year will take place on Sunday 7th April at 12.00. As usual it will begin with the election of deacons. Daniel Nicholson & Maggie Harpur are the deacons whose term comes to an end but are eligible for re-election.

We have no upper limit on how many deacons we may have; the requirements needed are being baptised and a full membership of a calendar year.

Please pray about this and if you would like to nominate someone please ask them first and then give their details to Diana. You can either use the nomination slips which will be at the back of the church or you can write a letter. Final date for nomination is Wednesday 20th March.

## Shared Lunch

We had a very successful shared lunch last year and are planning to do it again on Sunday 3rd March following the service.

Elaine will post a list of suggested items to bring at the back of the church - that doesn't stop you from adding anything else! If you would like to join us then please add your name underneath and what you will be bringing.

## Romans is Coming!

No, you haven't got to worry about an ancient Italian invasion, nor that I've forgotten that “Romans” is usually plural so the title should say “Romans are coming.” We're starting Romans in our Bible studies once a month – either tomorrow Monday 5th at 10am in the Stables or a Tuesday evening at 7pm at our house.

The once monthly meetings start with a cuppa, chat and nibbles [often cake] then we watch a video lead by Andrew Ollerton for about 20 minutes, chat about what we've seen, have another burst of video and chat then about 10 minutes prayer.

Andrew promises us lovely views of Rome and calls Romans – a letter that makes sense of life. His series we've just finished, “The Bible Course,” certainly made me consider some things differently. The meeting is about an hour and a half long – though you can obviously go earlier if you need to.

Why not drop in to session 1, either next Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February or Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February and join us? You'll be very welcome.

If you've got any questions do come and ask, or email me at [barbarageoff@gmail.com](mailto:barbarageoff@gmail.com) Barbara Reynolds.

## World Leprosy Day

Huge THANKS to everyone who gave to the Leprosy Mission last weekend – either in the profit from the men's breakfast, bringing in your own collection box, popping a labelled envelope into the offering bag or dropping some money in the collection boxes in the Church and Schoolroom.

So far I'm told we have £280.60. Please don't worry if you haven't brought your box back, you're not too late as Stewart won't be sending in the donation for a couple of weeks. I'll leave a box in the Schoolroom during refreshment time today for anyone who'd didn't have the chance to give last Sunday and would like to – no obligation!

I've ordered some more copies of “New Day” – the magazine with the article about Rajisha in it – and also some collection boxes. If you requested either I'll try to find you – but anyone interested is welcome to come and see me and ask for a copy or box.

The Leprosy Mission strapline is “We want people with leprosy to access quality medical care and receive the compassion shown by our Lord Jesus.” Thanks for helping them in their mission.

If you've got any questions do come and ask, or email me at [barbarageoff@gmail.com](mailto:barbarageoff@gmail.com) Barbara Reynolds.

P.S. £24 brings the cure to a person with leprosy. £36 provides a tonne of bricks to the building of a new



**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.

Outpatient Department. So far we're equivalent to 10 cures and a tonne of bricks...

## Thursday Prayer Meetings

1st and last Thursdays in the month are church prayer meetings in the main church from 10.30 to 11.30am

## Warm Space Soup on Thursdays

Warm Space is open in the Stables Monday 2-4pm, Wednesday 10-12pm and Thursday 10-2pm [until the end of March soup will be served 12 until 2pm.]

## EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 4th February Billericay Baptist Church

Billericay Baptist Church are a family-friendly, welcoming church celebrating their diamond anniversary this year! They are a congregation of around 250 adults and 70 children and youth who meet in two locations in Billericay. Both locations are part of the same church family, but Thynne Road is a more intimate setting, whilst Perry Street also has children and youth groups.

For 2024 the church are focused on Jesus: The heart of everything. Their Church Pastor, Rev Wayne Dulson says that this means that Jesus is at the heart of everything in the church, but also everything in each of our lives – work, school and home. Wayne has been at Billericay for a year now, and together with his wife Gemma and two children, he has a passion for seeing people fall in love with Jesus and then to see them keep falling deeper in love with Him. Wayne trained at Cardiff Bible College and has spent 23 years in full-time ministry. This breadth of experience with different churches and styles has made him certain of one thing – God can do anything. He is inspired by Jesus saying that anyone who has faith in Him will do greater things, believing that if God calls us to something we must take risks and step out in faith.

The church, alongside Sunday services and youth groups, also has regular weekly online prayer meetings and monthly in-person meetings. This year they want to run Alpha, as well as continuing wellbeing days for schools, and, at the invitation of the school, a wellbeing day just for staff. This is done in partnership with Schools Ministry Billericay. A new initiative is as a partner with Kintsugi Hope which trains churches to run wellbeing groups focused on mental health. One of the church's key focuses is on their local community. Rev Gary Bott is the Community Pastor. He has spent the last year getting to know the local community better and building relations with local community leaders and organisations. The church has realised that the community struggles with loneliness and is praying for ways to draw alongside people.

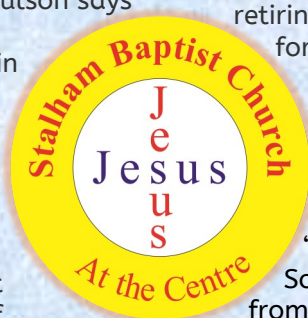
This is an exciting year for the church; whilst celebrating 60 years, they are looking to the past and seeking stories from some of their current members who were original members of the church! They want to celebrate this time with church family and the wider community. Alongside this, they are looking to the future and are passionate about the prospect of hiring a children and youth Pastor. This Pastor will be part of the leadership team as the children and youth are considered integral to the church's identity.

Billericay Baptist Church wants everyone who is part of the church to be involved in sharing Jesus with those who don't yet know Him. They also have a heart to see people grow in their faith and to keep growing. Their children and youth leaders are passionate about not just giving the children and youth a good time but equipping them to

seek out faith in Jesus themselves and be intentional about growing this faith. They want everyone who joins our service in person or online to experience the Holy Spirit speaking into their lives. Their Discipleship Groups are hungry to grow deeper in their faith.

Throughout this year, they are asking the church and community, 'How would our lives be different if Jesus was truly at the heart of them?' The church's heart is to intentionally remove the things in life and in church life that squeeze Jesus out, so that Jesus takes His rightful place in the heart of our lives. When we do this, we believe we will see Jesus do so much more amongst us. Prayer points. Please join Billericay in praying:

- With thanks for the last 60 years, but also the last year which has seen many changes.
- For the right person to become the new Children and Youth Pastor, and for the transition time when they arrive.
- For blessings on the church administrator who is retiring, and for discernment to know if God has plans for a new role instead of a direct replacement.
- For a more intentional focus on prayer, that the hunger and desire will stay strong and grow stronger.



## Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father." – *Nicene Creed*.

"God is not more, and cannot promise more, or do more than Christ is said to be, to promise, and to do. He has, therefore, been the Christian's God from the beginning, in all ages and in all places." – *Charles Hodge*

"That Jesus is Himself God is the heart of the gospel, because apart from His deity He could not save a single soul. No heresy so corrupts the gospel and robs it of its power as the teaching that Jesus is not God. Apart from His deity, there is no gospel and no salvation." – *John MacArthur*

"To explain Him is impossible; to ignore Him is disastrous; to reject Him is fatal. My speech is too limited to describe Him; my mind is too small to comprehend Him; and my heart is inadequate to fully contain this One whose name is Jesus." – *Dr. Adrian Rogers*.

## 'Let's advocate for a fair and just criminal justice system'

**A summit which sees Christians demand police and criminal justice reform is taking place in April**

[The 'Hope for Justice' Conference on 13 April](#) is organised by the Racial Justice Advocacy Forum (RJAF). It is presented in collaboration with Premier Christian Radio, the National Church Leaders Forum (NCLF), and Bloomsbury Baptist Church, which is hosting the conference.

The event aims 'to amplify the voices of Christians and provide a platform to help shape and influence the future of policing and criminal justice services in the UK,' organisers state.

The 'vexed issue of police and criminal justice reform' is set to be key battleground in 2024, with both a General

Election and the London Mayoral Race looming. 'Following an all-time low in public confidence, Christians demand a police and criminal justice system that is equitable, just, and accountable to the public it serves,' the organisers continue.

'This meeting is your opportunity to share your views and vision for

policing in Britain, as we journey toward the third decade of the 21st century,' the organisers continue.

'Your lived experience and insight will significantly contribute to the conference, making it a truly impactful and meaningful event.

'Post-event, we intend to pursue the issues with the Police and British Home Office, with a mandate established from the conference.'

Speakers include Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime); Leroy Logan (Founding member of the Black Police Association, Author); Mina Smallman (Racial Justice Campaigner); Bell Ribeiro-Addy (MP for Streatham); Revd Emmanul King (Spiritual Director of Prison Outreach Network); Andy George (President of the National Black Police Association in the UK) and Dr Eleasah Louis (Theologian).

Dionne Gravesande, Principal Advisor on Ecumenical Relations and Theology representing the NCLF writes, 'In pursuit of a future where justice knows no bias, instead accountability is the cornerstone of our legal system.

'Together, let's advocate for a fair and just criminal justice

**HOPE FOR JUSTICE**  
A CHRISTIAN CALL FOR CHANGE WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

RJAf in partnership with NCLF Premier. B



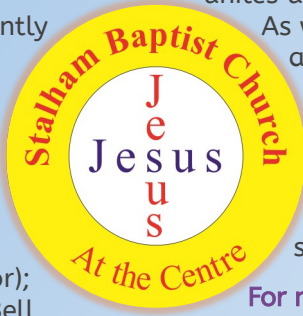
system that stands as a beacon of equality, ensuring that the scales of justice are balanced for all, and accountability resonates with the echoes of public trust.'

Bejoy Pal (Ascension Trust CEO) says, 'A hope for justice binds us all together to work towards a future in which justice flows like a river, righteousness like a

never-failing stream and the journey towards peace unites us.

As we look at our own responsibility, hold power to account and raise the voice of those silenced, let us feed into one mission that brings trust and healing to a broken world.'

The Racial Justice Advocacy Forum (RJAf) is an ecumenical network of black and Asian Christians tackling the issues of racial justice in society and Church.



For more details and to book your free place, visit [this Eventbrite link](#).

Source Baptist Times for more articles 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.

## VOLUNTEER FAIR

Saturday 17th February & Saturday 16th March

Town Hall, High Street 9am-11am

Discover a whole host of volunteering opportunities

FREE refreshments

Meet your Town Councillors

JUST POP IN

Make new Friends

Volunteering enables you to make a difference, help your local community, make new friends, learn new skills and improve your wellbeing

Volunteers are the heart of a Community



## NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

Business of the Year

Community Group

Person of the Year

All nominations must have benefited Stalham

Winners will be announced at the Annual Town Meeting on the 7th May 2024 at the Poppy Centre.

Take this chance to say Thank You to someone who has made a difference to you !

You can register your nomination by emailing [Clerk@stalham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Clerk@stalham-tc.gov.uk) or

Post your nomination at the Town Hall in the High Street.

Nominations Close on 31st March 2024.

If your volunteer group would like to take part then please call 07881638145 for more information .

