

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday February 11th

This Sunday Diana is leading and Ron is continuing the sermon series entitled "Who is Jesus?" The title of this week's sermon is "Jesus lover of my soul" and the reading is from

**Romans 5: 5-11**

**Ron's Reads**

Lk 7:36f, Jn 15:9-16, Ps 34:8, Song of Songs 2:14

**For Your Prayers**

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 2, please pray for: **Maureen Booth, John Booth, Sandra Feek, Mike Feek and Sonia Maynard**

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

Lord with the coming election we pray that as politicians wrestle with each other to gain power they will focus on the needs of the people in the UK, and not simply manoeuvring to feed the electorate with strap lines in an attempt to weaken their opposition. Lord, we pray that they can absorb your Wisdom and, in their hearts, they will, as the House of Common prayer states, "laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind."

**Prayer for Counsel**

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please you and I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that, if I do this, You will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for You are ever with me, and You will never leave me to face my perils alone. – Lead Me, Thomas Merton

**Stand Strong In You**

Dear Lord,

I don't know who or what will cross my path today. But I do know that You are my Rock and my Fortress. You are my Shield and my Strong Tower. Help me to anchor myself to You today. Teach me how to stand strong in You and choose only Your way today. Help me walk by Your truth and not my feelings. Help me to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see You at work and as an opportunity to point others to You. Thank You that You love me and nothing can ever take that away from me! Even if I fail today and fall short, You whisper Your unconditional love deep into my soul and remind me that Your mercies are new every morning. That truly amazes me, Lord. Thank You for meeting with me today. Would You wake me again tomorrow with the same sweet whisper of Your love? I can't wait to meet with You again.

In Jesus' name, Amen. – Wendy Blight Source [www.womansday.com/](http://www.womansday.com/)

**Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room**

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February** Diana posted "Can you please pray for Stuart Cato (sits up in the balcony) who has a leg ulcer which is taking a long time to heal and is very painful. Thankyou."

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>** Ruth Hayward posted "Can you please send a prayer for my husband we are currently sitting in hospital he is on iv fluids with an infection of unknown origin" Later that day Ruth posted "We were sent home this morning however things are not any better"

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>** Ruth posted "Good news! Simon is up and walking now, thank goodness and eating small amounts"

**Jerry's Bible Reading Blog**

**Romans 9: 14-24 Is God Unjust? (ERV)**

<sup>14</sup> So what does this mean? That God is not fair? We cannot say that. <sup>15</sup> God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to anyone I want to show mercy to. I will show pity to anyone I choose."<sup>16</sup> So God will choose anyone he decides to show mercy to, and his choice does not depend on what people want or try to do. <sup>17</sup> In the Scriptures God says to Pharaoh: "I made you king so that you could do this for me. I wanted to show my power through you. I wanted my name to



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
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Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

**For your Diary**

**Monday 12th February**

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

**Tuesday 13th February**

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the  
Schoolroom

**Wednesday 14th February**

Table Tennis

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

**Thursday 15th February**

10 to 2pm Warm Space in the Stables  
3.15pm Messy Church In Schoolroom  
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting  
All are welcome. Contact Diana

**Friday 16th February**

10.15 to 12.00pm Prayers for Revival &  
Israel at Three Windows,  
Brumstead Road

10am -12pm Bible Art in Schoolroom

1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables &  
Citizens Advice Service

**Sunday 18th February**

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Jill & Elinor  
Flowers: Jane Dalton

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

7pm Romans Bible Study [part 1] at  
Geoff and Barbara's

**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

**Community Fridge**

Open Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm  
Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

be announced throughout the world.”<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>18</sup> So God shows mercy to those he wants to show mercy to and makes stubborn those he wants to make stubborn.

<sup>19</sup> So one of you will ask me, “If God controls what we do, why does he blame us for our sins?” <sup>20</sup> Don’t ask that. You are only human and have no right to question God. A clay jar does not question the one who made it. It does not say, “Why did you make me like this?” <sup>21</sup> The one who makes the jar can make anything he wants. He uses the same clay to make different things. He might make one thing for special purposes and another for daily use.

<sup>22</sup> It is the same way with what God has done. He wanted to show his anger and to let people see his power. But he patiently endured those he was angry with—people who were ready to be destroyed. <sup>23</sup> He waited with patience so that he could make known the riches of his glory to the people he has chosen to receive his mercy. God has already prepared them to share his glory. <sup>24</sup> We are those people, the ones God chose not only from the Jews but also from those who are not Jews.

**As Christians do, we ever feel let down by God?**

To listen to Jerry 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”

## 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.

## Men's Breakfast

Hi Gentlemen!

Happy New Year! One breakfast done in 2024 already. Great to be able to meet in the refurbished Schoolroom with more space to move around and a modern, well equipped, kitchen to cook in. Everyone seemed to have a good time which is splendid. It is good to see more new gents coming along too. We have decided on a few more dates so I thought I would let you get them in your diaries and spread the word.

The dates are: 2nd March; 13th April; 11th May and 29th June. They are unevenly spaced but they have to fit around B & my other commitments. The gathering together is the important thing but thanks for your generosity into the donation box Sat. £162.46 (after food costs taken out) was sent to The Leprosy Mission. See you soon, Regards, Geoff. 01692 672120: geoffreynolds51@gmail.com

## Ladies Breakfast

The next Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 16th March 8.30 to 10.30am in SBC's Schoolroom. Breakfast includes cereal, fruit Juice, pastries, and a cooked breakfast. The Guest Speaker is Zephney Kennedy. No fixed charge, but all donations are appreciated, all profits will go to a charity. Book a place or more information by contacting Elaine on 07796 875785 or email [Elainemsmith364@btinternet.com](mailto:Elainemsmith364@btinternet.com)

## EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 11th February Social Justice: Deafness

Psalms 47:1 is an amazing Bible verse as it commands us to clap our hands and shout to God with cries of joy. Being deaf it is important to watch movements, to

know where to sing or sit down. The EBA Justice Hub has identified 'Deafness and Church' to be a big issue with an aging population, so it is important to welcome and open up about deafness.

Ben Plant from Framlingham Community Baptist Church is part of the EBA Justice Hub and is working with a deaf Baptist Minister about an area of 'Deafness and Church' that is wide open in Norfolk. Everywhere has some sort of deaf provision, but unfortunately deaf people have to travel to witness a sermon, sign songs of praise and converse with other Christians. And being deaf, can create isolation from church because they want interaction and fellowship. As a Justice Hub they feel it is important to pay particular attention to these areas where there is a gap, or not a lot of provision, and to just see how they can fill it.

What gaps are there in your church in regards to justice issues? How could you fill that gap? The Justice Hub would encourage you to take a step of faith and just go for it. Listening to God is easy, but doing as He says can be hard, but that is what faith is. Take a step of faith in regards to deaf provision. Ben is always happy to chat and provide advice.

Prayer points:

- Pray for those who are deaf or hard of hearing in your community and the provision there is available.
- Pray for the EBA Justice Hub as they discern and work with churches wanting to provide for areas of justice, in areas of disability, race, gender and poverty.

Ask God how you can take a step of faith in provisions for those with disabilities

## Thursday Prayer Meetings

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

## Quotes of the Week

“Spiritual victory is not something you earn - it is something you accept. The Christian life is not so much about what you have done - it's about what Christ has done. It's not so much about how strong you are - it's about how strong God is.”

*Alan D. Wright, Lover of My Soul: Delighting in God's Passionate Love*

“God loves you with the living flame of love, and he's always moving towards you so that it can burn more in your soul and replicate the same love within you. It is the flame of divine love that will take us through death to the other side, into the new creation.

*Julian Hardyman*

O living flame of love  
that tenderly wounds my soul  
in its deepest centre! Since  
now you are not oppressive,  
now consummate! if it be your will:  
tear through the veil of this sweet encounter!

*St John of the Cross*

“Jesus! He's the generous lover and pursuer of my soul, and the one who is abundantly enough for me.”

*Selena Frederick*

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.