

# Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday February 18th

This Sunday Maggie and Jerry are leading and Jerry is continuing the sermon series entitled "Who is Jesus?" The title of this week's sermon is "Jesus Our Older Brother" and the reading is from Hebrews 2: 11-18

## Jerry's Reads

Matthew 2:23; 12:46-50, Mark 3:34, John 17:1-5, Romans 8:29, Ephesians 1:3-13, & Colossians 1:15.

## For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 8, please pray for: Rita Cassidy, John Leaf and Sue Leaf.

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

## Prayer For Guidance

Lord, I pray you would move the Spirit more boldly in my life. I know that any sin can grieve and diminish the voice of the Spirit, and I pray against the temptation to sin. Help me crave your presence more than I crave sin. Help me grow in the fruit of the Spirit and so walk closer with Yourself. I pray for guidance from your Spirit- let your will and promises always be a meditation of my heart. In Jesus' Name, Amen. - **Kenny Luck**

## Pray that our leaders would commit to working together (and that we would too.)

Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself to walk alongside us as a man. Help our leaders be willing to walk alongside each other, their constituents, and especially the marginalized. Our leaders have different opinions and priorities; give them the wisdom to navigate differences and work together to strengthen our country. Remind us in this election year that You have called Christians to be one body. Source [Worldvision.org](http://Worldvision.org)

## A Breakthrough Prayer for Waiting for God's Timing

Lord, I thank You that You will answer my prayers in Your perfect timing. Reveal what is in my heart, and make me ready to handle the answer in the right way when it comes.

Help me to pray by faith consistently and long-term, to believe, wait, and then move forward in Your timing. Help me to be patient in prayer, not give up, and trust You even during moments when I feel negative emotions. I don't want to live by feelings but by faith. Help me not to take matters in my own hands. I choose to trust you, and I refuse to believe the lies of the enemy. I choose to be faithful in prayer ([Colossians 4:2](#)).

Deepen my understanding, and give me a greater knowledge of what You are doing in my life. I choose to hold unswervingly to the hope that I profess ([Hebrews 10:23](#)). Stretch my faith in the midst of the wait, just as You did with Your disciples when encountering a storm at sea ([Matthew 8:23-27](#)). I thank You that You have all wisdom and will answer my prayers in the perfect way. In Jesus' name, amen. (by [Debbie Przybylski](#))

## Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February David Huxter posted "Norma is recovering from her elbow operation. Gone well."

To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the power of prayer text Jerry on 07733837687.

## Ron's Bible Reading Blog

### Matthew 10: 26-39 (NIV) Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

<sup>26</sup> "So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup> What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup> Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup> Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. <sup>30</sup> And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup> So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup> "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington  
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno  
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

## For your Diary

### Monday 19th February

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

### Tuesday 20th February

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the Schoolroom  
7pm First of the Romans Bible Studies at Barbara and Geoff's  
Contact Barbara R

### Wednesday 21st 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 22nd February

10 to 2pm Warm Space in the Stables

### Friday 23rd 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

### Sunday 25th February

10.45 Sunday Service  
Welcome: Magda & Eileen  
Flowers: Cynthia Meale

### Thursday 29th February

10.30am Prayer Meeting in the Church

### Saturday 2nd March

8.30am Men's Breakfast

### 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

Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup> But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup> “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to turn

“a man against his father,

a daughter against her mother,

a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—

<sup>36</sup> a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.”<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>37</sup> “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. <sup>38</sup> Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup> Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

***As Christians how do we deal with family and friends who do not believe in Jesus?***

To listen to Ron's 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 explores the fear issues of life.

### **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.

### **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 [Elainemith364@btinternet.com](mailto:Elainemith364@btinternet.com)

### **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](mailto:geoffreynolds51@gmail.com)

### **Spring is on us with Daffs Galore**

Spring has sprung. It may be short, with the constant talk of another “beast from the East” or North but the daffodils are flowering and will soon be ready for harvest. Last year's Daffs raised a brilliant £1347 which went to the Schoolroom Refurbishment. Nearly 27,000 daffs were clustered up to produce 2994 bunches, an amazing effort. Henry needs some volunteers to start harvesting the daffs very soon. It is very therapeutic wandering through the woodlands where the owners have given us permission to collect the lovely flowers. If you can help have a chat with H.

### **DJ Steve**

Steve Slade says he would welcome any correspondence or visits. You can contact him on his [Facebook https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Stephen%20Slade](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=Stephen%20Slade)

### **EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 18th February Blackmore Baptist Church**

Blackmore is a very picturesque Essex village a few miles north of Brentwood centred around a village green and duck pond. Blackmore Baptist Church is a long-established church which has been led for the past eleven years by Pastor Max Carter. Since Covid the Sunday congregation has more than doubled in size. Most of the new people

travel from outside the immediate area and are drawn to the Bible-based Gospel preaching and teaching which is led by Pastor Max most weeks. The church has young children and several teens in the congregation. There's a good mix of ages and a variety of nationalities – including Spanish, Brazilian, Romanian and Lithuanian – in the congregation. The building was full with over seventy people at the Christmas Carol service. Once a month on Sundays, there is a church lunch after the morning service. This is followed by a time of evangelism with a small team going out into the village to bring the Gospel to the local residents. The Sunday morning services often include ‘Science Slots’ with a teaching emphasis on Creationism. A sharing time is always included and the prayer time covers requests for healing.

The church has a programme of weekday activities that includes prayer and Bible study, short-mat bowls, monthly flower arranging, and a monthly Saturday Praise and Worship evening meeting.

Behind the chapel there is an older building which provides a resource for the village as a community facility. The building is called ‘Pennies’ as it was built as the village school in 1830 when children were charged a penny a week for their education! The church also has a garden with several large raised-bed vegetable plots to teach and encourage the congregation to grow their own food.

Prayer requests:

- That the church will faithfully continue to remain Bible based, faithful in prayer and to share the Gospel to the village.
- For the church and the leadership team as it looks to God's leading, His wisdom and guidance for the future.



**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.

## Foodbank Letter

Dear Ron.

Thank you for your donations of 141.85 kg during January.

As we rely on food and financial donations to operate, we are extremely grateful when people choose to support us. So, thank you for thinking of us and enabling us to serve people facing hardship across North Norfolk.

In 2022/23 we fed 6816 people, which was an increase of 53% on the previous year. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are able to provide clients with everything they need, with 72,741kg of stock coming in, up 34% on the previous year.

During February any of the following would be much appreciated:

**Long Life Milk, Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Tomatoes, Tinned Fruit, Squash, Fruit Juice and shampoo.**

Please note that we cannot accept any fresh food or items that contain alcohol.

### Thursday Prayer Meetings

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

### Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"Jesus is reshaping how we think about family. He came to form a new family of those who follow him and are adopted as God's children. As sons and daughters of God, we become family together. And this family, Jesus demonstrates, is of prime importance for us."—Andrew Bunt

"Christ is the instrument of adoption. His work, planned by the Father and applied by the Spirit, made him your brother. Your adoption culminated not with a gavel, but with a cross. And it is through this cross the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ became yours too."—Aaron Menikoff

There are two ways to live the Christian life. You can live it either for the heart of Christ or from the heart of Christ. You can live for the smile of God or from it. For a new identity as a son or daughter of God or from it. For your union with Christ or from it. The battle of the Christian life is to bring your own heart into alignment with Christ's, that is, getting up each morning and replacing your natural orphan mind-set with a mind-set of full and free adoption into the family of God through the work of Christ your older brother, who loved you and gave himself for you out of the overflowing fullness of his gracious heart." — Dane C. Ortlund

"We are now heirs and joint heirs with Christ. That means everything we inherit comes through Christ. There are two names on the check: Our Lord Jesus signs the check, and we have to sign the check. This is what prayer is all about. This is why we come "in the name of Jesus," because apart from Him we can inherit nothing. You and I were born rich in Jesus Christ. We have the riches of His grace, the riches of His wisdom, and the riches of His mercy. We can draw upon all of His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.."— W. Wiersbe

### Who Do You Think You Are?

Who Do You Think You Are? is a short book written by Ted Doe in 2009 primarily about the history of Baptists in Norfolk. It is most definitely not a stuffy trudge through the

history of a denomination, nor is it limited to Baptists with a capital B. Instead, there's a more inclusive approach with plenty of humorous asides, good research, and interesting snippets of information.

The book covers topics such as where Baptists fit into church history, how they practised their faith in church (service formats, Bible translations, music etc), and perhaps more challengingly, how their beliefs impacted their actions not only in the area of personal piety, but social action and justice.

We have a rich heritage which should inspire us to pursue a riskier, more radical outworking of our faith. Our Baptist 'ancestors' paid a high price for freedoms we take for granted such as not being forced to pay a tithe to the parish or be a member of the Church of England to get into public office. They worked to alleviate poverty and inequality by running financial assistance schemes, blanket and coal clubs, and offered individuals better prospects by providing basic education, training and medical care. They did not stop there but went further by working to deal with some of the root causes. This included encouraging workers to form federations (a form of trade unions) and calling not only for male universal suffrage (a vote for every man, not just the rich or powerful), but votes for women too. They were actively involved in their communities to bring about change.

The book has four brief appendices one of which (B) is particularly interesting as it gives a brief introduction to what Christians believe about the end of this world, the way these beliefs have changed over the centuries, and how, even without realising it, we absorb them and let them affect our view of the world and our role in it. I learnt a lot, despite having studied quite a bit of church history. How many of these can you answer?

Why did they get called Ana-Baptists?

Why didn't early Baptists sing many hymns?

How many of the population went to Sunday School in 1910: 5 out of 6 went, 3 out of 6, 1 out of 6?

What is the connection between the EDP and Norfolk Baptists?

What went on at Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Clubs?

How did the introduction of mains gas affect Baptist services?

The answers can be found on the following pages: a-11, b-33, c-43, d-23, e-25, f-32

FREE copies of Ted's book are available at the back of the church or on request from Hazel Manley, ([hazelamanleysbc@gmail.com](mailto:hazelamanleysbc@gmail.com)) or from the Does (01603 783552)

### A Message from Christian Aid

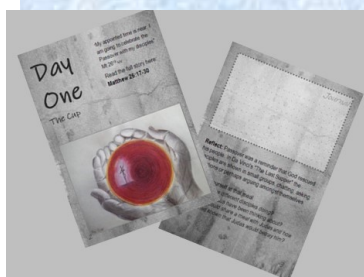
Something to read.

There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs. - Luke 12.2-3 (NIV).

Something to think about

In the context of this chapter, Jesus is speaking in this verse about hypocrisy. We are hypocritical when we hold others to standards that we have no intention of meeting ourselves, or when we proclaim a conviction publicly and fail to live by it at times when we think we can get away with it.

It's painful to have our hypocrisy exposed and this verse



might make us feel fearful. We all do things we know we shouldn't and perhaps we feel that we are showing a 'front' to the world that doesn't represent our true selves. But it's important to consider this verse alongside the many other times that scripture speaks to us of God's care for us, God's desire for our good, and the importance of the truth for becoming who we were made to be as disciples: 'the truth will set you free' (John 8.32).

We should also note those places where scripture speaks positively of being 'hidden'; these are the times when our hiding is not *from* God or *from* the truth, but *with* God. God is our 'hiding place' (Psalm 32.7) and our 'life is hidden with Christ in God' (Colossians 3.3). When we feel like we want to hide away then, the question is how we choose to do that. Do we hide behind hypocrisy or pretence? Or do we seek out God, who through care and tenderness gives us a place to safely hide without needing the cover of secrecy and lies? If you feel like you need to put on a front because life is too overwhelming to be your true self, try taking that to God - it's not wrong to want the comfort of hiding away sometimes.

So it is that can think of this verse in Luke about secrets and lies uncovered not only in terms of the need to be more honest with others but also the need to be more honest with ourselves before God. If we are honest about what we have got wrong, what we are afraid of, why we feel the need to put on a show for others, we might find ourselves freed to live a fuller and more true existence. To do that we'll need to ask for help from God and from those around us.

#### Something to do

Have there been times recently when you have not lived up to your principles? Perhaps you have urged others to give up or change something in their lives without doing so yourself? Do you feel like you are pretending, rather than being your true self?

Take these times to God in prayer, knowing that you are loved and forgiven. Talk about this with supportive friends.

#### Something to pray

Jesus, I get things wrong.  
I can't see the way ahead.

I feel like I don't know myself some days.

Help me to step forward confidently

Guided by you.

Help me to be truthful to others,

To speak truth to power,

And to be honest with myself.

Help me to confront my wrongdoing.

Release me, free me, to try again to serve you,

To love myself and my neighbour as myself.

Amen.

**Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.**

**Middle East Crises Appeal.**

**We're gravely concerned by the ongoing violence and mounting death toll in Gaza. Our partners in Gaza are continuing to respond with aid and support.** For more information about Christian Aid click [HERE](#)

**tearfund**

*Following Jesus where  
the need is greatest*

The crisis in Gaza and Israel is escalating and has already devastated thousands of lives.

You can use this prayer guide to call out to God in [intercessory prayer](#), which simply means praying on behalf of someone else. God hears your prayers. You can trust him with them.

#### What to pray...

##### Pray for peace

Pray for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the violence.

Pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that lead to lasting peace.

Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

##### Pray for safety

Pray for all civilians - that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with disabilities.

Pray for humanitarian workers - for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.

Pray for safe access to food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies, fuel and electricity.

Pray for people forced to flee their homes - pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home.

##### Pray for strength

Pray for church leaders - for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty. Pray for bravery as they guide their communities and offer loving support.

Pray for Christian communities and faith leaders across the region - for unity, connection and mutual understanding so that they can help bring people together and show kindness.

Pray for humanitarian workers - that God would strengthen their resolve and ability to provide relief and humanitarian assistance.

##### Pray for hope

Pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering in Israel and Gaza. Ask God to save them from despair - for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.

Pray that people in Gaza and Israel and those in the wider region wouldn't lose hope that peace is possible. 'With God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26).

##### Pray for healing

Pray for people who have been traumatised or injured; ask God to heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them deep comfort.

Pray for hospitals and medical workers who are struggling with limited resources and overwhelming needs. Ask God to provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and injured.

##### 'With God, all things are possible'

Matthew 19:26

##### Prayer for Gaza and Israel

Dear God,

We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too.

We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war.

We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge.

We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world.

Amen.

For more info about Tearfund [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.

