

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday March 3rd

This Sunday Elaine & Maggie P are leading and Jerry preaching, he is continuing the sermon series entitled "Who is Jesus?" The title of this week's sermon is "Dr Jesus" and the reading is from Mark 2: 1-12 that teaches those who seek the Healer's touch must: (1) Come to the Healer by Faith vv 1-5 (2) Don't Doubt the Healer (3) Trust and obey the Healer vv 8-12 The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Jerry's Reads

Matt 9:1-38; 11:2-5, Lk:4:16-24, Lk 8:43-46, Isaiah 33:22-24 ; 35:3-6, Jer 33:6-9, Jer 17:14, Daniel 7:13-14.

For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 2, please pray for: Maggie Harpur, Monica & Frank Payne, Eileen Neill, Maureen & Cyril Kerrison and Rita Rudrum. During March please pray for the residents of Old Yarmouth Road and Ingham Road

A Simple Thank You from SBC

Heavenly Father, thank You. Thank You for being everything to us. You are faithful! You are concerned with everything that concerns us. We are grateful for Your Holy Spirit that comforts us during times of fear and doubt. Thank You for everything that You've done for us; seen and unseen. We will praise Your name, forever! Based on prayer from www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/

Lord we thank You for the blessings of the growing fellowship with people and families from other countries, people and families from various towns and villages and those from Stalham. We pray Lord that SBC will continue to grow and many more people will enjoy time on a Sunday at SBC with Jesus at the Centre.

Lord, at SBC we are all part of the Ministry Team and we can all sow the seeds of Your Love to the community. In a way it's a take on the parable of the sower. The story cannot start until someone starts chucking the seed about. Lord, maybe we are too often engaged in having our own private garden, happy in our bubble with likeminded people or even having our potted plant secreted where no one ever sees it, both say salvation is ours. Selfish maybe, understandable only from the view "I'm OK." But Lord to fulfil our commitment to You we need to start throwing seeds about where the parable's possible outcomes can have a chance of happening.

Lord, we are the people who believe,
We can all be the sowers of seeds.
Jesus is the person who sees,
He is the person who will free.

Prayer of God's Provision

Dear Father God, Thank You for Your unfailing love for me, Your blessings, and goodness. Thank You for Your faithfulness to guide me and see me through times of uncertainty, for lifting me up, and setting me on high. Thank You for Scripture that comforts and reminds me of Your promises, plan, and provision. Thank you for taking away my fears and worries, the what-ifs, and reminding me that my help comes from You. Help me be a good steward and to sow wisely. In Christ's Name, Amen. ~ Renee www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/

Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Sunday February 25th Diana posted "Stuart C asked me to thank you all for your prayers. He has felt the healing power of prayer on his ulcer and nurses report new skin growing each time they dress it. He is able to return to his bus driving on light duties from tomorrow 🙏🙏"

Wednesday February 28th Jane posted "Rebecca is still in hospital. Please pray that the infection from the plate in her head would heal up. Thank you."

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



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 4th March

9.00am Deacons Meeting
10.30 to 11.30am in the Church
Prayers for SBC and young people
10 to 11.30 am Romans Bible Study
Group Session 2 in the Stables
All welcome

2 to 4pm Warm Space in the Stables

Tuesday 5th March

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the
Schoolroom

Wednesday 6th March

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 7th March

10 to 2pm Warm Space in the Stables
10.30am Prayer Meeting in the
Schoolroom Upper Room

Friday 8th March

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 9th March

10.30am Norwich Central Baptist
Church F.C. VS Stalham Baptist Church
F.C. BRITANNIA PARK

Sunday 10th March

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Jenny & Rita

Flowers: Mothering Sunday

Saturday 16th March

8.30am Ladies' Breakfast in 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

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

Ron's Bible Reading Blog Philippians 3: 1-11 (MSG) No confidence in the flesh

3 And that's about it, friends. Be glad in God! I don't mind repeating what I have written in earlier letters, and I hope you don't mind hearing it again. Better safe than sorry—so here goes.

2-6 Steer clear of the barking dogs, those religious busybodies, all bark and no bite. All they're interested in is appearances—knife-happy circumcisers, I call them. The *real* believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ's praise as we do it. We couldn't carry this off by our own efforts, and we know it—even though we can list what many might think are impressive credentials. You know my pedigree: a legitimate birth, circumcised on the eighth day; an Israelite from the elite tribe of Benjamin; a strict and devout adherent to God's law; a fiery defender of the purity of my religion, even to the point of persecuting the church; a meticulous observer of everything set down in God's law Book.

7-9 The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I'm tearing up and throwing out with the trash—along with everything else I used to take credit for. And why? Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by him. I didn't want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ—God's righteousness.

10-11 I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience his resurrection power, be a partner in his suffering, and go all the way with him to death itself. If there was any way to get in on the resurrection from the dead, I wanted to do it.

As a Christian can you claim you have already arrived at your goal?

To listen to Ron's short blog click [Ron's Blog](#). Or go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"

Ron explores Paul's letter to the Philippians where he challenges them. Ron asks "Do we work to get closer to Jesus?"

Ladies Breakfast 16th March

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 get more information by contacting Elaine on 07796 875785 or email Elainemsmith364@btinternet.com

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.

Gracie & Poppy in Sister Act

Gracie and Poppy are performing in their high school production of Sister Act JR.

Performances are every evening from Tuesday 19th March to Friday 22nd March at North Walsham High School.

Anyone wanting to support them and their school by coming to watch can buy tickets (£7 adults, £5 children) using the link click [HERE](#) or go to <http://tinyurl.com/nwhs-sisteract> Any problems ask Victoria or Daniel as they can send the link to your phone if needed.

Daffs are Selling

So far around £300 of daffs have been sold. The daffodils are on sale outside Edna's house in St Johns Road at 50p a bunch.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 3rd March Brentwood Baptist Church

Brentwood is located on the edge of Essex, close to the M25. A long period of pastoral vacancy gave Brentwood Baptist Church an opportunity to reflect on their missional engagement with the local community. The Church gives thanks that in September 2022 Rev Sean Fountain became their new minister.

As the fellowship at Brentwood looks to the future, they give thanks for established activities and the new initiatives that are beginning.

On Monday mornings "Oasis" offers a warm drink and a friendly environment. It provides a warm space and anyone from the community is welcome.

Monday after school "The Hub", run in partnership with Red Balloon, is an established group for primary aged children. Whilst the Hub happens at one end of the building, at the other a new Bible Study group runs for parents and other folk who may want to study the scriptures.

Tuesday is "Bible-study Tots" for carers and parents of young children who meet up to study the Bible and engage with fun activities for younger children. In the afternoon, "Women's Own" meet to share in fellowship with one another.

On a Wednesday morning "Little Footsteps" offers a morning of songs, craft and play for children and an opportunity for a cuppa and chat for the grown-ups.

On Friday mornings, Brentwood Baptist Church is a distribution point for the local Foodbank as well as being open to provide a warm space. This has just celebrated its first anniversary.

With House-groups and prayer meetings through the week, the fellowship at Brentwood Baptist Church is excited for the future. The Church longs to engage more fully with the love of Jesus for their community.

For prayer :

- Please pray for the leadership as they seek God's will for the future and look to engage the many new people attending on Sundays.



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.

- Please pray for the new initiatives that they may make an impact for Christ in Brentwood.

Big Thankyou

A big thankyou to all the people who provide the lovely flowers each Sunday. And a thankyou to Magda for organising the rota.

Leprosy Mission Donations

Stewart has let me know that £296.71 has been sent to the Leprosy Mission towards the work at the Muzaffarpur hospital. This includes the donations from the collection boxes at the church and those held by individuals as well as the money from the Men's breakfast. Geoff and I will update everyone on progress when we lead a service in about 6 months. Well done to all prayers and donors! Barbara R.

Foodbank

During March 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.

Prayer Meeting

The Church Prayer Meetings on March 7th and March 28th will be in the Upper Room with heating. They will be every 1st and last Thursday every month. At 10.30am.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."— Blaise Pascal.

"If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Saviour."— Max Lucado.

"Forgiveness is the greatest miracle Jesus ever performs. It meets the greatest need; it costs the greatest price; and it brings the greatest blessings and the most lasting results."— Warren Wiersbe.

"If there are evil forces in this world, we need an overwhelming, demon-crushing, darkness-killing champion. We need someone who'll separate us out from darkness and wrap us up in light. We need the doctor who can heal our bodies and our souls, the doctor who can take our pain, the doctor who can even raise the dead. Jesus in the Gospels heals with words and touch and spit. The hands of the King are the hands of a healer."— Rebecca McLaughlin.

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.

'Spreading hope and love amid the darkness'

Baptist organisations in Palestine and Israel are continuing to support people amid the 'heart-wrenching reality' of the war in Gaza

One such organisation is [Christian Mission to Gaza](#), whose

founder and president is Hanna Massad, the former pastor of Gaza Baptist Church.

In regular newsletters to supporters, Hanna details how CMG is actively involved in providing essential aid to those affected by the conflict

This includes winter clothes, groceries, meals for people sheltering in churches and beyond (many Christians are sheltering at St. Porphyrios Greek Orthodox Church and the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church), as well as financial support to help families meet basic needs. Alongside this he offers insights into the traumatic circumstances in Gaza.

On 13 February he wrote:

Could you imagine yourself without electricity, limited water, limited food, limited medicine, no safe place, and feeling constantly unsafe and unable to provide or protect your family?

This is the grim reality for many in Gaza right now. Resources are scarce, prices are soaring, and providing for families has become a daunting challenge. The situation is dire, with some resorting to using animal fodder to make bread, and even that is running out in some places.

In a newsletter titled 'Spreading hope and love amid the darkness' on 16 January, he included an account of a church leader at the forefront of the crisis:

'To describe the situation in Gaza, the word catastrophe falls short because life here has almost ceased to exist.

There is a severe shortage of food, water, and electricity.

'Fear, worry, and anxiety hang heavy in the air.

'It's nearly impossible to imagine the extent of destruction—homes, streets, and even human and animal remains buried under the rubble. The environment is far from healthy, and people are desperate, searching for something to eat, even if it's expired.

'Prices have skyrocketed, making even basic necessities unaffordable. Inside the churches, the situation is equally challenging.

'Privacy is scarce, and the food supply is limited, often consisting of canned goods. The cold seeps in, and illnesses spread quickly among children due to the harsh conditions. There's a constant struggle to find warmth and heat water for bathing children. Words alone cannot capture the gravity of this situation.'

'These powerful words underscore the urgent need for our continued support and prayers as we strive to bring relief and hope to those enduring these unimaginable hardships,' Hanna wrote.

'Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering.'

A group of anonymous donors have offered to match all donations to Christian Mission to Gaza up to \$110,000 (£88,000) - [click here for more](#).

The scale of the bombing has taken its toll on buildings – including Gaza Baptist Church, which Hanna reported has sustained 'significant damage'.

People had sheltered in the church earlier in the conflict, but no one was believed to be there when the damage happened.

'The soldiers utilised the church, causing extensive harm to both its interior and exterior,' Hanna wrote in his newsletter. 'A fire set inside the church worsened the damage.'

He told [Baptist Press](#) his organisation would attempt to repair the damage after the war. However, he wasn't sure how many church members would remain in Gaza – many





Christians 'are even more determined in our commitment to serve the Lord in this land.'

'We've faced considerable challenges, devastation, and an overwhelming sense of despair and hopelessness,' he wrote in a recent newsletter.

'Yet, in the midst of these trials, we get strength through our faith in our Lord who holds the universe by the word of his power (Hebrews 1:3), and through the encouragement of our friends, as the hearts of the saints have been refreshed by you, brother (and sister) (Philemon 1:7B).

'Our aim is to be salt and light, offering hope in the midst of darkness.'

In December ABC hosted a gathering for 200 young people, titled Broken Love.

have visas to enable them to travel.

The dire conditions were also reported by a Christian NGO working in Gaza, which the European Baptist Federation (EBF) is supporting. The NGO has collated messages from Gazans, who describe a 'brutal war', where 'everything is getting worse.'

'We need food,' one message states. 'Hunger cuts our intestines. We issue a loud distress call to you.'

Another read: 'I was displaced to Rafah - the situation is very difficult. Suddenly tanks were next to the house.'

Find out more about the EBF's Holy Land appeal [here](#).

[RCO Ministries](#), formerly Ramallah Christian Outreach, is also providing regular updates.

Its latest newsletter requested prayer both for a complete cease-fire and a way for restoration and rescue efforts to be made; and 'for the wisdom and righteousness of God to rule over the hearts and minds of ALL those who are in position to take decisions that affect thousands of lives.' The letter spoke of 'agents of peace that have been rising up amid the darkness of this war, like stars in the darkest skies,' and even a few reports of 'miraculous divine intervention amid the myriad of bad news— reports such as Christ Himself appearing in person or dreams even to Muslim brothers and sisters in Gaza.'

More prayer requests from RCO can be found [here](#).

[RCO runs the Home of New Life](#), a ministry to vulnerable children from the West Bank and Gaza, and supports Ramallah Local Church in the West Bank, a Baptist church led by Munir Kakish.

Munir is president of the Council of Local Evangelical Churches in the Holy Land, a European Baptist Federation partner which represents 13 churches in the Palestinian Territories, including Gaza Baptist Church.

RCO has been able to continue to conduct its services in the West Bank as usual, Munir added, including hosting the children at the Home of New Life for their program of providing a meal and after-school tutoring, as well as hosting 'all sorts of different programs for the children, youth, and adult Bible studies that are so vital as we seek to draw near to the Lord and process all what is going on around us in this Land.'

Elsewhere Bader Mansour, Development Officer of the [Association of Baptist Churches in Israel](#) (ABC), said



The gathering was initially postponed due to the war. It 'brought people together at a difficult time, putting their struggles at God's feet, joining in worship and prayer, as well as receiving something meaningful which they can take for their own lives,' said the newsletter.

Meanwhile, the Revd Dr Munther Isaac issued an uncompromising call to the UK church, stating it is called 'to be the church, and to act in costly solidarity towards an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire. This is a moral obligation. This is not the time for neutrality or soft diplomacy.'

Dr Isaac, pastor of Christmas Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, was speaking at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church on Sunday 18 February.

The vigil was attended by nearly 600 people, with a further 600+ watching online.

Links to the video and audio can be found [here](#).

Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, joined Christian Aid and 20 other Christian leaders in December in calling for [an immediate ceasefire and the release of hostages](#), alongside other movements towards peace and accountability in the devastating conflict in the Holy Land.

On Wednesday 21 February, the UK Parliament backed an amended motion calling for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.

image | Mohammed Ibrahim | Unsplash

Source Baptist Times <https://www.baptisttimes.co.uk/>

If you are reading this article as a PDF or online you can click on the plum highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.

Sovereign God, we pray for political, military and religious leaders involved in this conflict to show genuine willingness to work towards a better future for all Palestinians, Jews and others living in the region. We long for dignity, mercy, justice, peace and love to triumph so please grant wisdom and courage to those with authority across the world working to end this war. For Christ's sake. **Amen.**