

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

“Mothering Sunday” March 10th

This Sunday Barbara & Geoff are leading and Ron is continuing the sermon series entitled "Who is Jesus?" The title of this week's sermon is

"Jesus Son of God and Son of Mary"

and the reading is from Luke 1: 1-4, 30-35

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Ron's Reads

Lk 2:52, Acts 1:11 Ro 5:12f, 1 Cor 15:20f

For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 3, please pray for: **Jerry & Simone Otieno, Daniel & Victoria Nicholson and Steve & Susie English.**

During March please pray for the residents of **Old Yarmouth Road and Ingham Road**

Lord, we watch, the world's multiple conflicts on horror filled news screens or sometimes we hide from them as the innocent, who have no power to change anything, go hungry, their homes left as rubble as they try to escape to safe places that don't always exist. Children, women and men in thousands are killed, others suffer life changing injuries, filmed lying in the war-torn streets and in hospitals that are lacking all we take for granted. Many are tortured, women are forced into sex, and children abducted.

Currently there are 110 armed conflicts in the world. **Facts Geneva Academy.**

Lord, as peace making seems to be in crisis and more leaders are pursuing their ends militarily, we pray Your wisdom will fill those who are working to bring the end of conflicts, that You will break the stony hearts of the warmongers and bring peace to Your world. Lord, we pray for the innocents end of conflict in:

Gaza - Israel: At least 30,717 Palestinians have been killed and 72,156 wounded in Israeli attacks in Gaza since October 7th. It is thought that at least 10,000 children have died. The death toll in Israel from the October 7th Hamas attacks stands at 1,139. Approximately 130 hostages are being held by Hamas many are civilians and from other countries.

Yemen: and the Red Sea: The rising tensions with the Houthis threaten the peace process and International security. Over 150,000 people have been killed in Yemen, it's estimated that more than 227,000 have died as a result of an ongoing famine and lack of healthcare facilities due to the war.

The Sahel five member countries in western and north-central Africa : A deadly new era in the decades-long conflict. With millions displaced people. **CLICK**

Ukraine - Russia: Over 10,000 Ukraine civilians have died in the deadly stalemate with currently no end in sight which may escalate into surrounding countries.

Myanmar: The Rohingya genocide is a series of ongoing persecutions and killings of the Muslim Rohingya people by the military. It is estimated the death toll is at least 50,000 since the 2021 military coup, including at least 8,000 civilians.

Haiti: Gangs and vigilantes thrive with killings of nearly 5000, and guilty of kidnappings and sexual violence, notably against women and young girls.



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 11th March

7.00pm Deacons Meeting

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church

10 to 11.30 am Romans Bible Study

Group Session 2 in the Stables

All welcome

Prayers for SBC and young people

Tuesday 12th March

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the
Schoolroom

Wednesday 13th March

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12pm in the Schoolroom

10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables

Thursday 14th March

10 to 2pm Warm Space in the Stables

10.30am Prayer Meeting in the All are
welcome. Contact Diana

Friday 15th 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 16th March

8.30am Ladies' Breakfast in Schoolroom

10.30am Stalham Baptist Church FC vs
Eaton Eagles F.C. Eagles Stalham

Recreation Ground

Sunday 17th March

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Fran & David

Flowers: Julia Maile

Thursday 21st March

3.15 to 5pm Messy Easter in the

Schoolroom – all welcome.

Friday 22nd March

10.30am Bible Art in the Schoolroom

Personal Prayer, Food Bank, & Citizens Advice

SBC is 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

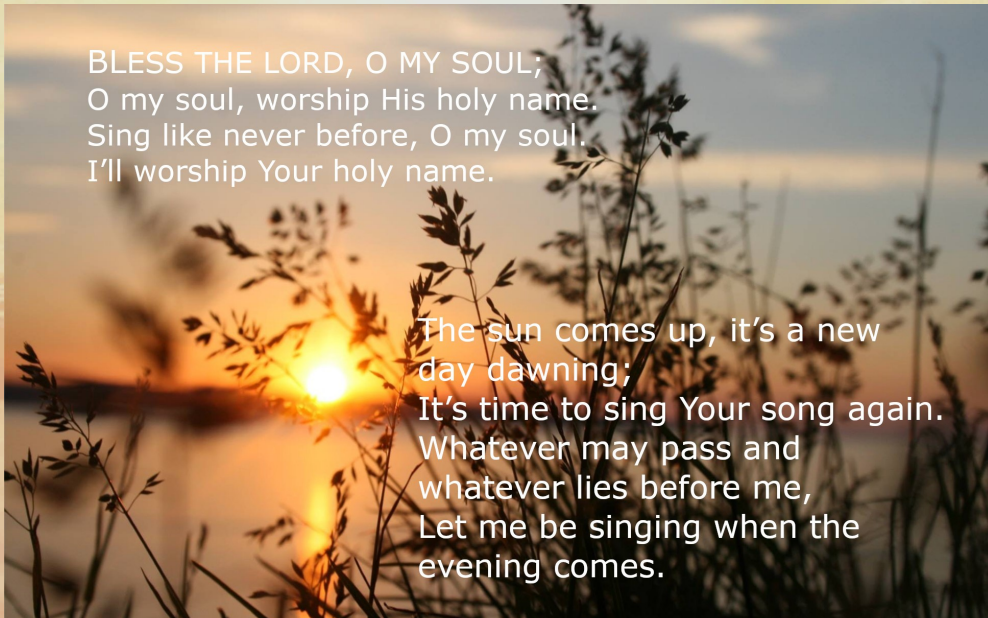
Community Fridge

Open Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm

Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

BLESS THE LORD, O MY SOUL;
O my soul, worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul.
I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new
day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and
whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing when the
evening comes.



Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Friday 2nd March Doreen posted "Update on Morgan. He is still in ICU. He has had a long operation on Friday and a further one today. He has quite a lot of injuries that will take a long time to heal. He may have to have further surgery and will remain in ICU for some time. Please continue to pray for his recovery and for his parents Michelle and Ian xx"

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

Ron's Bible Reading Blog Proverbs 3:14-26

Wisdom Bestows Well-Being (NIV)

- ¹³ Blessed are those who find wisdom,
those who gain understanding,
¹⁴ for she is more profitable than silver
and yields better returns than gold.
¹⁵ She is more precious than rubies;
nothing you desire can compare with her.
¹⁶ Long life is in her right hand;
in her left hand are riches and honour.
¹⁷ Her ways are pleasant ways,
and all her paths are peace.
¹⁸ She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her;
those who hold her fast will be blessed.
¹⁹ By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's
foundations,
by understanding he set the heavens in place;
²⁰ by his knowledge the watery depths were
divided,
and the clouds let drop the dew.
²¹ My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of
your sight,
preserve sound judgment and discretion;
²² they will be life for you,
an ornament to grace your neck.
²³ Then you will go on your way in safety,
and your foot will not stumble.
²⁴ When you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.
²⁵ Have no fear of sudden disaster
or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked,
²⁶ for the LORD will be at your side
and will keep your foot from being snared.

As Christians how easy was it to leave behind the darkness and accept the wisdom of the light?

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 King Solomon's talk to his son telling him "Blessed are those who find wisdom." Solomon reigned from 970-931 BCE, 2994 years ago. Ron brings his communication to his son into 2024 and challenges us.

Easter Sunday and Flowers

Please bring a flower on Easter Sunday and pop it onto the cross outside the church [the chicken wire will keep it in place.] This will be one way we can witness to Stalham as the plain-ness of the wooden cross is replaced by the glorious colour of the flowers – the tomb is empty, Jesus has risen! Hallelujah!

Message From North Norfolk Food Bank

Thank you for your donations of 141 kg during February from North Norfolk Foodbank at Cromer Methodist

Church.

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 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.

Food bank usage has spiralled

Poverty has [deepened over the past 14 years](#), leading to an explosion in [food bank](#) usage. From fewer than 100,000 in 2010, the number of emergency food parcels from the Trussell Trust has soared to almost 3m a year. Deep [cuts to benefits](#) and rising living costs have outweighed gains from [large minimum wage increases](#) for the lowest-income households. These cuts have reduced the incomes of poorest fifth by just under £3,000 a year, according to the Resolution Foundation. This laid the ground for a deeper cost of living crisis as inflation soared after the pandemic and Russian war in Ukraine to the highest level in 41 years. Source the Guardian.

Coffee Morning April 6th 10am -12pm

Gracie and Poppy will be running a coffee morning on Saturday, April 6th, from 10am-12 in the new school room to raise money for the Nephrotic Syndrome Trust (NeST).

As well as selling teas, coffees, cakes and scones, etc, they will be selling NeST merchandise such as trolley coins, pens, wristbands, and teddy bears.

There will also be an Easter colouring competition for children with a prize for the winner.

Please let Gracie and Poppy know if you are able to bake/donate any cakes or treats for it. They would be very grateful! Thank you very much in advance Victoria.

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 get more information by contacting Elaine on 07796 875785 or email Elainemith364@btinternet.com

Daffs are Selling

The total raised to date from the sale of daffodils is £450 which goes to the Building Fund.

The daffodils are on sale outside Edna's house in St Johns Road at 50p a bunch.

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



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.

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.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 17th March Barnwell Baptist Church

Barnwell is located in the north-east of Cambridge and Barnwell Baptist church is based there on a large estate with many social issues. Rev Stuart Wood has been the minister for twenty years and is leading this outward-looking fellowship through a time of change and opportunity. The congregation of about forty people meet on Sundays at the Howard Road building and there are also many weekday activities that take place. Eleven years ago, a Community Association, "Abbey People", was established that continues to develop work in the local community, including running a Food Hub. The Church has an Alpha Supper event planned for the end of April, with an Alpha course starting in May. Midweek small groups will take a break over the summer and will be refreshed and relaunched in September.

The church has seized the initiative with the building of the new Marleigh development of 1,400 new homes close by. A couple of years ago the church took on Catrin Horrex as Minister in Training and have agreed to appoint her as a full-time minister for Marleigh when she graduates from Spurgeon's College this summer. The church has bought a house on the Marleigh estate for Catrin and her family as she develops a new congregation there.

There is a new video about this at https://youtu.be/VmFV_spW1vU?si=CmoSmuHCERkzJ1pn

The church has stepped out in faith and has taken on the financial challenge to buy the house and to employ Catrin. And so far, God has provided at every step, and they are certain He will continue!

There are challenges ahead with the development and integration of two congregations as one church and with the new leadership structure. There are also long-term plans to redevelop the Howard Road premises to provide better facilities and more sustainable buildings.

These are exciting and changing times for the church at Barnwell and Marleigh.

Pray for:

- The engagement with deeper discipleship and the refreshing of small groups.
- Expanding the fringe of the church and the Alpha Supper event in April and the Alpha Course running in the summer term.
- For Catrin as she completes her training and goes full-time from September.
- For wisdom and guidance for the future for the potential development of the church site.

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.

Quotes of the Week

"This was what life really was a gentle hug and a love so deep that God would send his only son to teach the world that there was only one true gift the gift of oneself."

Darryl Nyznyk,

"Her (Mary's) Son first had to be the Child of the Father in order then to become man and be capable of taking up on his shoulders the burden of a guilty world."

Hans Urs von Balthasar,

"The modern woman will note with pleasant surprise that Mary of Nazareth, while being completely devoted to the will of God, was far from being a timidly submissive woman or one whose piety was repellent to others. On the contrary, she was a woman who did not hesitate to proclaim that God vindicates the humble and the oppressed and removes the powerful people of this world from their privileged positions."

Pope Paul VI

"Not so on Man; him through their malice fall'n,
Father of Mercy and Grace, thou didst not doom
So strictly, but much more to pity incline:
No sooner did thy dear and only Son
Perceive thee purpos'd not to doom frail Man
So strictly, but much more to pity inclin'd,
He to appease thy wrath, and end the strife
Of mercy and Justice in thy face discern'd,
Regardless of the Bliss wherein hee sat
Second to thee, offer'd himself to die
For man's offence. O unexamp'l'd love,
Love nowhere to be found less than Divine!
Hail Son of God, Saviour of Men, thy Name
Shall be the copious matter of my Song
Henceforth, and never shall my Harp thy praise
Forget, nor from thy Father's praise disjoin."

John Milton, Paradise Lost. Written between 1658 and 1663. Milton had gone blind in 1652.

Community Scene

The Easter Community Scene will start to be delivered next week. We pray it will be well received by the community.



A big thank you to all those who are delivering the magazine and to Monica and Frank for organising the deliveries. Also a big thank you to Steve English (pictured) who has produced the front cover and the cartoon on the back cover for the 24 magazines going back to 2017. Steve is a professional cartoonist and has produced front covers that have made the Community Scene stand out.

Churches to champion voter registration

As a General Election approaches, a new initiative has launched that will equip local churches to increase democratic participation through registering people to vote, providing information about the need to have appropriate photo ID, and encouraging people to vote on polling day. As Voter Registration Week (4-11 March) begins, the

Baptist Union of Great Britain, Church of Scotland, Methodist Church and United Reformed Church have been announced as ambassadors for the [Voter Registration Champions](#) initiative set up by Citizens UK.

The Electoral Commission has warned that 8 million eligible voters may not vote at the next General Election because they don't register to vote in time; 4 million eligible voters may not vote because they do not have appropriate Photo ID; and 14 million eligible voters may not vote because they are not motivated to turn out to vote on election day.

This lack of participation is skewed – you are at greater risk of not being able to participate in the democratic process if you are: young, a non-UK national, rent your home, have moved recently, live in an economically-disadvantaged community, or are from an ethnic minority. The Voter Registration Champions scheme has been set up to engage groups to address this, and encourage democratic participation, in a non-partisan way.

Organisations, employers, universities and community and faith groups can be accredited as Voter Registration Champions, and will be provided with free support and resources to help them enrol voters.

Local churches are encouraged to sign up as [Voter Registration Champions](#), as a way of helping to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to participate and be heard in the democratic process.

The Revd Lynn Green, General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, said, 'As a woman, I am acutely aware that in the UK, for every free adult to have the ability to vote is a hard-fought right, and yet sadly millions of UK citizens will miss out on their chance to vote when the general election is called because they are not registered.'

'Those who are young, those who live in economically-disadvantaged communities, and those from ethnic minority backgrounds are statistically at a greater risk of missing out on voting for this very reason – and yet so often it is these marginalised communities, amongst others, that are impacted most acutely by the decisions of those who are elected.'

'Christians believe that God has called us to seek the peace and prosperity of the places in which we live, one way we can do that is to listen to prospective parliamentary candidates, pray for them, reflect on their policies, and use our votes. There are many challenges facing our communities and the wider world in which we live, but few of these challenges are inevitable, they are often the consequences of decisions made in places of power.'

'I am very pleased that the Baptist Union of Great Britain is now a Voter Registration Ambassador – we will encourage all our churches to become Voter Registration Champions and to do what they can to encourage everyone to register and exercise their right to vote.'

The Revd Gill Newton and Kerry Scarlett, President and

Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, said, 'As a justice-seeking church, we understand acting for justice and transformation as part of our discipleship; of our becoming more Christ-like.'

'We know that in our communities, there are people who do not know that, in a democratic process, voting is a way to make their voices heard, and to join in shaping a flourishing society. Or, they may not know how to register to vote. That's why the Methodist Church is supporting the Voter Registration Champions initiative, and encouraging local churches to get involved in helping to overcome barriers to people's participation in our political processes. We urge everyone to 'love, pray and vote' this election



year.'

Thomas Hart, Youth President of the Methodist Church, added, 'The Methodist Church is supporting the Voter Registration Champions initiative to encourage as many people to register to vote and to make their democratic voice heard regardless of age, gender, race or belief.'

'In so many parts of our world, the right to vote is denied, so as the Youth President, I would particularly encourage our young people to register, and then to exercise their democratic right to vote. Young people have the greatest stake in the future, so our engagement in the democratic process is vital.'

The Revd Dr Tessa Henry-Robinson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church, reflected that, 'As followers of Christ, engaging with the democratic process reflects our faith in action. When we participate in the electoral process, it is not just about making a choice on a ballot; it is about standing up for our individual and collective values, concerns and aspirations.'

Explaining the decision of the Church of Scotland to support the initiative, Emma Jackson, Convener of the Public Life and Social Justice Group, said, 'In a just and compassionate society, exercising our right to vote in one of key ways in which we can not only participate in democracy, but demonstrate our love for our neighbour as we engage in the issues that affect us all and we seek to hold our leaders to account.'

'The Church of Scotland is uniquely placed in communities all around Scotland and is delighted to be working with Citizens UK and others as we help encourage and facilitate voter registration and participation in elections.'

16 April is the deadline for registering to vote for local and mayoral elections that are taking place in many parts of England on 2 May.

[Find out more about becoming a Voter Registration Champion](#)

[Find out more about new requirements for photo ID](#)
[Visit the Joint Public Issues Team \(JPIT\) general election resources hub](#)

Baptist Times, 04/03/2024

For more information 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.

