

Stalham Baptist Church

Easter Sunday

This Sunday Jerry is leading and preaching on the Risen Lord as part of our series "Who is Jesus?" The reading is from John 20: 24-29 Jerry will explore John's verses

(1) I will not believe vv 24-25

(2) Stop doubting and believe vv 26-27

(3) My lord and my God. vv 28-29



NOT Here

"He Has Risen"

The online service will also be available from Sunday. Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/
Jerry's Reads

Acts 3:14-15, 1 Cor 15, Galatians 2:19-21, Ephesians 1:18-21, Heb 11:1-40, 1 Peter 1:3-9.

For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 6, please pray for: Janet and Henry Nicholson, Elspeth and Alex Pelling and Eric Hurt.

During April please pray for the residents of St Johns Road and St Johns Gardens.

Lord we are blessed with a fellowship family at SBC, Lord we pray that we can bring more of the community to our family and they will enjoy Your love.

Lord adverts across a whole range of medias are full of miracle cream products that promise to make us look so much younger. But Lord the truth for us is the miracle of Easter Sunday Jesus's coming to life after His death on the cross three days after His crucifixion. We thank You for Your blessings Lord of the resurrection and our eternal life and pray that You can give us the courage to reach out to others in our community to share the love we have been given by You.

A Prayer for Easter Sunday

Lord God, you loved this world so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.

- Maria Miriam

An Easter Sunday Prayer

O wonderful God, my soul is filled with joy as I celebrate the Resurrection today! Thank you that you're alive, and that you want a relationship with me. I want to enjoy a relationship with you, as well. After Jesus rose from the grave on the first Easter, an angel told people, "do not be afraid" ([Matthew 28:5](#)). I can rise beyond fear this Easter by trusting you. I'm looking forward to new adventures together day by day. I love you, Lord! Amen. - Whitney Hople

Say "Thank You" for Jesus

Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to save me from my sins. Thank you that you loved me enough to send a perfect sacrifice, so that we could live together eternally. I confess that I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I ask you to come into my heart, and I commit to following Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen. - Glynnis Whitwer www.crosswalk.com/

Ron's Bible Reading Blog James 1:12-16 (NIV)

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. **As Christians can we always deal with temptation?**

To listen to Ron's 5 min blog click [Ron's Blog](#). Or go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary"

Another testing blog from Ron, again he explores James's verse and brings it into the world of temptations we face, asking is it easy to blame the evil one or could King David take a cold shower. Well worth a listen.

Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Friday 22nd March Geoff posted "Update, just heard from Phil. He has got Julie home and eating a bit of lunch.

Thanks again for your prayers, please keep praying for a good healing of the operation site."

To join the WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room that gives support with the power of prayer text Jerry on 07733837687. You need a smart phone

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!

North Norfolk Food Bank

During April 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.

Big Thank You to Tesco's

Tesco's will be supplying tea, coffee, biscuits and hot cross buns over the Easter week-end and supplying bacon and rolls for Gracie and Poppy's coffee morning on 6th April to raise money for Nephrotic Syndrome Trust (NeST). Tesco's also supply food regularly for the Community Fridge. We really appreciate their generosity.

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 have been nominated for the next 3 years of the diaconate.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 31st March Bildeston Baptist Church

The village of Bildeston is a rural community in central Suffolk and Bildeston Baptist Church has been at the centre of village life since 1737 – the first Baptist Church in Suffolk! The current building has been used to worship God since 1844. This small church has an enthusiastic and caring congregation and continues without a pastor but has a leadership team of six and much reliance on God's leading.

There are Sunday morning services each week followed by refreshments or sometimes a shared meal together which provides a good time for socialising and an opportunity to pray for one another. The church has several regular visiting speakers who come to preach. Otherwise the services are led by one of the team.

Motley Crew is a weekly evening Bible study and lively discussion group.

A monthly lunch club is enjoyed by many people in the village and surrounding area. One lady commented "I don't really mind what meal is served, it's a chance to meet with other people and have someone to talk to." In addition, an Afternoon Tea is also held during August.

The community café continues each Friday morning and is extremely popular with parents and their young children using the main church for toys on one side and tables on the other so parents can keep an eye on their offspring while they have refreshments. Older people sit in the church hall so they can chat in peace. During the past year sound proofing panels have been fitted to the ceiling to decrease the echo so the hard of hearing can enjoy their conversations. Strollers and Striders is a weekly walking group with a popular stop for coffee either half way round or at the end of the walk. It provides good exercise and an opportunity to enjoy chats and laughter!

Bildeston Baptist Church is a small but active congregation with lots happening.

Please pray:

- For a breakthrough with those attending activities, and they will find a personal faith in Jesus and become part of the church.
- For all the faithful and dedicated leaders and helpers and their valued work in the church.
- For guidance and wisdom for the ongoing and future ministry and mission of the church in the village.



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary Monday 1st April

10.30 to 11.30am in the Upper room
Prayers for SBC and young people

Tuesday 2nd April

9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the Schoolroom

7pm. Bible Study at Geoff and Barbara's Romans part 2 - all welcome.

Wednesday 3rd April

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12pm in the Schoolroom
10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables
7pm Zoom Bible Study.

All are welcome. Contact Diana for more information

Thursday 4th April

10 to 12pm Warm Space in the Stables no more soup in afternoon
10.30am Church Prayer Meeting is in the Upper Room

2pm. Messy Church planning meeting in The Stables.

Friday 5th April

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 6th

10am Poppy & Gracie Coffee Morning in the Schoolroom

Sunday 7th April

10.45 Sunday Service
Welcome: Hazel & Maggie
Flowers: Edna Woolsey
12pm AGM in the Church

Wednesday 10th April

1.30pm To discuss potential toddler group in Schoolroom

Friday 12th April

1.30pm Memorial Service for Rodney Linn

Saturday 13th April

8.30 am Men's Breakfast in Schoolroom

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.

Toddler Group

Wednesday 10th April 1.30pm Schoolroom meeting to discuss potential toddler group anyone interested in helping etc please come.

Prayer Meeting

The Church Prayer Meetings are in the upper room with heating and are on the 1st and last Thursday of every month at 10.30am. The next one is on the April 4th.

Warm Space Soup on Thursdays

Warm Space is open in the Stables Monday 2-4pm, (not Easter Monday) Wednesday 10-12pm and Thursday 10-12pm [Soup will no longer be served 12 until 2pm.]

Coffee Morning April 6th 10am -12pm

Please, please, please do come along and support Gracie and Poppy with the coffee morning they have organised to raise money for the Nephrotic Syndrome Trust (NeST).

As well as cakes, scones, treats, etc, there will now also be bacon rolls on sale too!

Also, NeST merchandise will be available to buy. Pens and wristbands at £1 each, trolley coins for £2 each and teddy bears for £7.50 each.

Also don't forget there will be a free kids Easter colouring competition too, with a yummy prize.

Your support with their fundraising efforts would mean a great deal to them. Thank you in advance.

For more information about Nephrotic Syndrome Trust (NeST), read last weeks Newsletter or Click [HERE](#)

Personal Prayer, Food Bank, and 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

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all that he said; if he didn't rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead."—Timothy Keller

"What is the difference between a dead Christ, whom the women went to anoint, and a living Christ? A dead Christ, I must do everything for; a living Christ does everything for me." —Andrew Murray

"Genesis ends with Joseph's death. Deuteronomy ends with Moses's death. Joshua ends with Joshua's death. The Gospels end with Jesus's resurrection. And that changes everything." — Tony Merida

Christianity does not hold the Resurrection to be one among many tenets of belief. Without faith in the Resurrection, there would be no Christianity at all. Christianity stands or falls with the truth of the Resurrection. Once disprove it, and you have disposed of Christianity." —Michael Green

We live and die; Christ died and lived!— John Stott



Open Doors

Despite persecution, Kabala from Cameroon is excited to celebrate his first Easter

Kabala is amongst many new Christians worldwide who will experience Easter for the first time this weekend. It will be a time of celebration and exploration, but also risk. Please pray for all believers worldwide who will mark Easter in the shadow of persecution.

Kabala is from Cameroon, which is number 43 on the latest World Watch List

"I couldn't stop thinking of who Jesus is," says Kabala* from Far North Cameroon. For about a year, this curiosity grew, until earlier this month he became a Christian – and this weekend he'll celebrate his first Easter!

The decision to follow Jesus is a hugely brave step to make, and one the 27-year-old long battled with given his Islamic upbringing which involved teaching the Quran to young Muslims in Cameroon and Nigeria. "I asked myself: If the Quran tells me Mohammed is dead, and Jesus lives and He has the keys to Paradise, why then do I believe in Mohammed and not Jesus?"

The question led him to a local church. "I met with an elder and told him my desire to become a Christian," he shares. "He prayed with me every time we met, and he said he would discuss my case with other church leaders. On that day, he took me to church to meet the pastor and elders and they admitted me as a Christian of the church."

What's it like to be a Christian in Cameroon?

Undeterred by lavish gifts

Kabala was overjoyed at his newfound faith, but it wasn't shared by his father. "Since the beginning of Ramadan, I have not gone to the mosque and my father noticed," he explains. "He confronted me that day and asked why I stopped going for prayers. I told him I had become a Christian. He angrily left the house and said nothing."

"My prayer for Easter is that Jesus will strengthen my faith in Him"

KABALA

"That same evening, my father informed my father-in-law of my decision, and I surprisingly received seven Muslim youths in my house who offered me a bundle of money," he continues. "They promised to buy me a motorbike and give me a business place where I could sell grilled meat if I stop the 'foolishness' I had started in the name of Christianity. I refused and they left my house grumbling and assuring me of trouble I will face in the future for my decision."

How can I pray for our persecuted family over Easter?



Fire Evacuation In the event of a fire everyone should make their way to the fire assembly point which is outside the Staithe Surgery. For more information speak to Daniel.

“I don’t know much about Easter”

Kabala is excited for Easter, expecting it to be a time of both celebration and exploration. “I don’t know much about Easter, but the pastor explained to me that it is that period when Christians understand who Jesus is and how He died and resurrected so that we can all go to paradise,” he says.

Kabala is married and has a one-year-old son. He lives with his parents, while his wife lives with her parents in a safer area in the community. His wife is also from a Muslim family, but Kabala said she is willing to support him in his Christian faith. He feels the pressure of persecution and is making plans to move with his wife and son to another region after Easter.

“My prayer for Easter is that Jesus will strengthen my faith in Him, and I will know Him more and more,” he says.

PLEASE PRAY

That Kabala will be given the faith to endure persecution, and that his family will come to know Jesus

That all believers from Muslim backgrounds will be given wisdom, courage and safety as they seek to celebrate Easter amidst pressure and persecution

For the protection of church gatherings worldwide over the Easter weekend.

For more information about OpeDoors click [HERE](#)

The Horror of the Cross

The Romans were not the first people to use crucifixion as a method of execution.

The Phoenicians devised it as a long, slow, agonizing death after experimenting with many other forms but it was the Romans that turned it into a macabre science. Their executioners were well trained and over the years had much practise -6,000 rebellious slaves supporting Spartacus were crucified along the road from Capua to Rome when the slave revolt was crushed.

Jesus’s death was a political necessity for the Romans and the priests as he was a threat to them both. Pilate needed to make a statement that the status quo would be maintained, Jesus being proclaimed as the Jewish Messiah was a potential threat even if He wasn’t preaching about an armed uprising. For the priests His radical teaching about God was undermining their powerbase.

Crucifixion was always a political statement; it was a public torture, an indescribable physical torment ending in a ghastly death. It was a clear warning to the observers not to mess with the all-powerful Roman Empire.

Once Pilate had sentenced Jesus to death He was scourged, a legal preliminary to crucifixion. Jesus would have been stripped. His hands tied above His head. The scourge was a short whip with several single or braided leather thongs of variable lengths in which small iron balls and sharp pieces of sheep bones were embedded at intervals. The number of strokes and severity was in the hands of the lictors (floggers) and how they felt that day. As He had been dubbed King of the Jews the soldiers ridiculed Him and gave Him the full treatment. The scourging was known amongst the soldiers as “The almost

death” designed to bring the victim to a state of collapse and close to death.

Jesus back and legs would have been lacerated, with deep cuts into the skin and subcutaneous tissues, flesh torn from the bone. He then had a crown of thorns crammed on to His head and the long journey through the streets of Jerusalem to Golgotha began, with the weight of the cross on his back.

On reaching the execution site Jesus was nailed to the cross, 5 inch (12.5cm) spikes driven through his palm into the wrists. Recent research suggests that Jesus’s ankles may have been nailed to each side of the upright or one spike through his overlapped feet.

Once the cross was upright He would have experienced the full horror of the crucifixion. As He hung from the crossbeam His pectoral muscles went into paralysis. He could draw air into his lungs but he could not exhale and he found relief only when He pushed Himself up by pressing down on the stake that pinned his feet. This was agonizing and it was repeated again and again. For six hours He hung naked on the cross, being taunted by many in the crowd. Matthew in his gospel wrote, “The leading priests, the teachers of the law, and the older Jewish leaders were also there. They made fun of Jesus the same as the other people did.” They said, “He saved others, but He can’t save Himself! People say He is the king of Israel. If He is the king, He should come down now from the cross. Then we will believe in him.”

At noon the sky blackened and the crowd quietened.

At 3.00pm Jesus cried out “My God, my God, why have you left me alone?” and died.

At the moment of His death the Temple Curtain that was 60 feet (18 metres) high and wide was ripped from top to bottom. The curtain signified that man was separate from God. The High Priest was the only person allowed beyond the curtain to meet God in the Holy of Holies once a year. The

tearing of the curtain signified that God and man were now reconciled through His sacrifice on the cross. As it was the Sabbath the following day it was requested that His body could be taken down. To make sure He was dead a soldier drove his spear into his side and blood and water spouted out from the wound. Doctors say this is physiologically accurate, a building up of pressure which can occur after heart failure leads to a clear fluid build-up in the lungs. The two criminals either side of Him had their legs broken and died of asphyxiation.

Jesus’s body was taken to a new tomb which was sealed and heavily guarded. Jesus died this horrific death as a man. On the cross He experienced the full horror of crucifixion.

Why did He die in this tortured manner? It was as a sacrifice for us. His death was an act of love. On the Sunday He was resurrected so that through Him we could find everlasting life.

So this Easter where will you be? At the foot of the cross mocking and taunting because it’s just another religious myth?

Or passing by with just a quick glance at a man suffering on a cross thinking it’s nothing to do with me I don’t do this God thing?

This pain was suffered for you.

So accept His love and ask Him into your life. Its simple just say “I love you Jesus please be part of my life.”

Source Easter Community Scene 2018

