

Stalham Baptist Church *Weekly News*

Sunday April 7th

This Sunday Diana is leading and Ron is preaching "Who is Jesus to me"

The reading is from 2 Corinthians 4: 1-6

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

12pm the AGM in the Church

No Coffee & Tea in the Schoolroom this Sunday

David will be away next week please send any bulletin articles to Diana

Ron's Reads

2 Cor 11:22f, Gal 5:1 Mt 28:19

For Your Prayers

We pray for Church Pastoral Group 7, please pray for: Fran Lenehan, June & Steve White, Denis O'Brien, Jill Humphrey – Smith and David Child.

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

Jonah's Prayer for Salvation (Jonah 2: 2-9)

We may never be swallowed by a great fish, but we can still experience the shame and regret that Jonah felt after he ran from God. The prophet's plea to the Father provides a poignant scaffolding for our own prayers of repentance. And remember that God heard and answered this humble, honest prayer:

"In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.' The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains, I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit."

"When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord, and my prayer rose to you, to your holy temple. Those who cling to worthless idols turn away from God's love for them. But I, with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, 'Salvation comes from the Lord.'"

Source www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study

On Sunday Lord, at 6.30am I stood on How Hill as the sun rose, with many others and we called out in joy, "He has risen"

Jesus, for far too long I kept You out of my life. I knew You and that I was a sinner and that I couldn't save myself. But I closed the door when I heard you knocking, ashamed of how I had let so many people down. But You kept knocking. I was blessed by others of faith gently helping me understand that You would forgive me even though I couldn't forgive myself for those things that deservedly haunted me. Eventually I opened the door and gratefully received Your gift of salvation. I now know You well and trust You as my Lord and Saviour. Thank you, Lord Jesus and those of faith for not giving up on me. You are for certain the Son of God who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day. Thank You for bearing our sins and giving us the gift of eternal life. Your words are true. You are in our hearts, Lord Jesus, YOU, ARE OUR SAVIOUR. AMEN.

Ron's Bible Reading Blog James 1:16 - 18 (NIV)

¹⁶ Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸ He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

As Christians do we always believe God is good all of the time in every way?

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 asking how do we face up to the circumstances that often are difficult and painful and sometimes in that pain, we are tempted to blame God.

Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Sunday 24th March Fran posted "Please pray for my grandson Keaton. He's going for an interview for his first job tomorrow. He's had struggles for a while now. Thankyou. Fran x"



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole
Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 8th April

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

2.00pm Warm Space in the
Schoolroom

7.00pm Deacons Zoom Meeting

Tuesday 9th April

9.30am - 12 Coffee and Chat in the
Schoolroom

Wednesday 10th April

Table Tennis

9.30am to 12pm in the Schoolroom

10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables

1.30pm To discuss a toddler group
in Schoolroom

Thursday 11th April

10 to 12pm Warm Space in the
Stables

7pm Zoom Prayer Meeting.

All are welcome. Contact Diana for
more information

Friday 12th 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

1.30pm Memorial Service for
Rodney Linn followed by
refreshments in Schoolroom

Saturday 13th

8.30 Men's Breakfast in the
Schoolroom

Sunday 14th April

10.45 Sunday Service

Welcome: Julia & David

Flowers: Lorraine Stuart

Thursday 18th April

3.15pm Messy Church in the
Schoolroom

Friday 19th April

10am Bible Art in the 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

Sunday 31st March Ruth posted "Please could you pray for a friend of mine Claire, she was prepping to go to mass this morning and had a large fit, she is currently in hospital as she is not a known epileptic, however her late niece was and unfortunately is how the niece passed away. So, we are very worried at the moment."

Wednesday April 3rd Fran posted "Many thanks from my daughter and myself for all the prayers for my grandson Keaton. His interview was successful, and he starts his first job shortly. Fran x"

Great News about Sunday School. Can You Help?

Many of you will have noticed that last week we were blessed with 27 children and young people in Sunday School! While this number was bolstered by holiday makers and other visitors, it has again highlighted the need for more adults to help with the SS sessions. We are also very keen to have a separate group of High School young people, meeting in the upper room, but we cannot start this group without extra help. In order to do this, we would need another 4 or 5 helpers. You do not need to have any prior experience in teaching or helping and would be asked to offer just one Sunday each month. If you would like to volunteer, or would like more information, please ask Jenny, Barbara or Jerry. Thank you.

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.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 7th April Barton Baptist Church

Barton Baptist Church, Cambridge feel very excited and blessed to be this week's EBA prayer focus. They are a small church that has almost doubled in size to a fellowship of around twenty-two people in the last two years. They are situated close to the local church school, which is very receptive to interactions with the church. Sally Daggianti became the pastor of Barton Baptist Church in October last year, but has been with the church since 2022. Her pastoral heart for evangelism is visible in what the church is doing but also in her history as a primary school teacher. She came to Barton with her husband, who balances being church treasurer with his prophetic art! They are both part of the children's outreach team. Sally loves going to the school and taking assemblies a couple of times a term, which are very fun and interactive.

On Maundy Thursday the church had their Easter event. The school encourages the families to come to church as they leave for the Easter holidays. Just a quick walk down the alley, they found the church with Easter egg hunt and craft stations retelling the Easter story. They all left with a Real Easter egg and Bible Society material.

During the week, Tea and Chat runs for the over 55s, with around fifteen people attending. It has been wonderful to see some of them start attending on a Sunday as well.

Prayer meetings are regular as they are the heart of the church.

Coming up is the start of a weekly Little Mustard Seed which will be just after school drop off in the morning and will cater for parents and pre-school children. They will

find many activities, some from messy church as well as refreshment. There will be clothes available for the children, either to swap or just take, as well as books, including Christian ones. The church is grateful to the school who will help publicise these events.

Please join Barton Baptist church in praying:

- For wisdom for the church leaders, their vision, and understanding of the provision of God.
- For the newly started children's church and the family that attends.
- For the new Little Mustard Seed that it may be a witness to Christ in the community.
- For continued fruitfulness in all outreaches as the church seeks to see where God is at work.
- For growth in discipleship for all.

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 April 25th.

Warm Space Soup on Thursdays

Warm Space is open in the Stables Monday 2-4pm, Wednesday 10-12pm and Thursday 10-12pm [Soup will no longer be served 12 until 2pm.]

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

A Big Thankyou

A big thankyou to all the ladies who produced a lovely breakfast to be shared by the people who had been to the Son Rise service at How Hill.

Quotes of the Week

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

Pope John Paul II

"If man had his way, the plan of redemption would be an endless and bloody conflict. In reality, salvation was bought not by Jesus' fist, but by His nail-pierced hands; not by muscle but by love; not by vengeance but by forgiveness; not by force but by sacrifice. Jesus Christ our



Lord surrendered in order that He might win; He destroyed His enemies by dying for them and conquered death by allowing death to conquer Him.”

A.W. Tozer, Preparing for Jesus' Return: Daily Live the Blessed Hope

Son Rise at How Hill

Over the years the Son Rise service has experienced ice, snow, and biting winds sweeping off the wetlands below. But on Sunday the sun rose at 6.30am with just a little warmth and a mist on the river below the hill, before the service a Bittern could be heard booming, along with a Owl calling in the trees, a loud Woodpecker was also heard, while Muntjacs scurried about. Thank you to John Applegate who had set up the speakers before the service.

The three guitarists Dan StJohn, Ron Skivington and David Osborne didn't quite suffer with freezing fingers as in other years.

The 40 or so people from various churches all called out “He Has Risen.” and the worshippers sang loudly.

Readings and prayers were shared by SBC and Helen from St Mary's Stalham spoke. Many of the worshippers commented on the atmosphere created by the service saying it was a spiritually moving event.

The celebration of God's love was so much more physically and emotionally powerful on an exposed hillside rather than the cosy comfort bubble of our churches.

At the end of the service the car park quickly emptied as many of the worshipers headed back to the warm schoolroom at Stalham Baptist Church for hot coffee or tea and a splendid full English breakfast.



Open Doors

NEWS

03 April 2024

Why are Christian women more vulnerable during Ramadan?



Shame, abandonment and financial hardship. These are some of the dangers that face women and girls in Central Asia who make the brave decision to leave Islam to follow Jesus. And during Ramadan, the risk can be greater – which is when the three stories below happened.

Nargena* was gathered at an underground house church in Central Asia when her son, Mehmud*, barged in and verbally abused everyone. He was furious that she was at a Christian meeting, whilst he continued to follow the Islamic customs that he'd been raised with – since Nargena had converted from Islam to follow Jesus.

He was particularly angry because it was Ramadan – a month of fasting for Muslim people, which concludes next week with Eid al-Fitr. It's a time when converts like Nargena can be particularly vulnerable, even from their own family.

“You're shaming me, your mother,” Nargena said to her son. “If you are a real Muslim, you should know that the Quran says to respect your parents!” Mehmud stopped shouting, but he remained angry. He grabbed his mother's hand and, leading her out of the house, he kicked the woman who was sat next to her.

In many countries and regions, particularly those where Islamic culture is dominant, women are treated as second-class citizens. Nargena would be expected to obey her male relatives, even her son. When Mehmud started persecuting his mother for her faith, he took advantage of this cultural norm – knowing that his mother would have little defence.

Taunted by own family

In many incidents of persecution against women and girls,



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.

the shame comes alongside other tactics, like abandonment by their own families. Given the dependency our sisters have on male relatives as breadwinners, this can in turn bring the additional challenge of financial hardship. It's a situation familiar for Zarina*, who lives elsewhere in Central Asia. She has been expelled from her home by her Muslim husband after she decided to follow Jesus, who said that he did not need such 'disgrace' in his old age. Her daughter and son-in-law have also cut her off. She is currently living with a woman from her church. As well as severely impacting her livelihood, Zarina – as a woman in this culture – is deeply affected by being tarnished and shamed by the label of 'disgrace'.

Baria* is much younger but her experience carries similar undertones. After she became a Christian, she was expelled from home by her Muslim parents and relatives, who have verbally abused her and taunted her that she will never get married or give birth to 'normal' children. The experience has left her devastated.

[Why are Christian women and girls are particularly vulnerable to persecution?](#) All three of these incidents have happened during Ramadan. Believers can stand out for not engaging with rituals, exposing them to attack, whilst it is also a time when more extreme Muslims are particularly likely to show hostility towards Christians. Women stand out if they choose not to wear Islamic dress, such as the hijab – one woman in the wider region told an Open Doors partner, "We, as women, are forced to wear a veil during Ramadan, because we converted to Christianity in secret." She shared that she feels less vulnerable during the rest of the year.

[Honoured by God](#)

Open Doors' ongoing [See. Change](#) campaign seeks to come alongside women like Nargena, Zarina and Baria to support them in their challenges and show them how, contrary their awful experiences, they are seen and honoured by God. The campaign is only possible because of the prayers and gifts of supporters like you – thank you! And as Ramadan ends next week, please remember your sisters in your prayers. It makes a real difference.

**Names changed for security reasons*

Please Pray

- For the provision of all needs for Nargena, Zarina and Baria, and for strength to persevere in their faith
- That their families will come to know Jesus
- That Christian women and girls in Central Asia will be given wisdom, courage and protection as they navigate the challenges and opportunities of Ramadan.

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

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An underground church in a remote area of Central Asia meet in a believer's garden



Good Friday witness walk in Sheringham

Over a hundred people from Sheringham churches took part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness to erect the wooden cross on nearby Beeston Hill. Tony Rothe reports.

The crowd set off from **St Peter's Parish Church** under threatening skies, and walked to the Clock Tower in Sheringham town centre for a time of worship led by **Sheringham Salvation Army band**, *pictured right*.

They then followed the cross, carried by young people from **Lighthouse Community Church**, through the town, *below right*, and along the winding path to the top of **Beeston Hill**, negotiating the broken steps as they climbed to the top of the local landmark.

The cross was then erected and secured on top of the hill, and a time of worship followed, remembering the sacrifice made by Jesus for the salvation of the world. The cross will remain in position throughout the Easter period as a visible reminder of the significance of the weekend.



For more information about Christian events click on <https://www.networknorwich.co.uk/>

The photos are courtesy of Gareth Gabriel at <https://filmand.photo/>

