



Stalham Baptist Church

Weekly News Bulletin

Sunday 5th July 2026



This Sunday, Elaine and Maggie are leading and Ron is preaching

1 John 1:1-7, Lk 17:1, 3-4 "Bear with one another in love"

Ron's Reads

1 Cor 1:12f, Mk 10:45,

We Are Now Recording and Streaming our live Service

The live service is now streaming on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. You can find the SBC Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist/> and the SBC website at www.stalhambaptist.org.uk. Clip on Live to get into the recording or streaming.

Jerry's Podcast

This week on my podcast, I will be sharing reflections on John 2:1-12, which recounts the story of the Wedding at Cana—where Jesus performed his very first public



miracle by turning water into wine. I had a wonderful experience retelling this story at the academy, using some special props, and it was truly heartwarming to see the children's excited reactions as they watched the water transform into squash right before their eyes. The next day, a mother shared that her daughter now thinks I am a magician! That's how special and memorable the assembly was!

John 2:1-5

"On the third day, a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, 'They have no more wine.'"

"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

To listen to Jerry's 5 min podcast click www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

"Our Weekly Bible Commentary" Or go to WhatsApp SBC Prayers

Praise and Prayer Evening Gathering In The Schoolroom

We warmly invite you to our first monthly Praise and Prayer Evening Service on 12th July 2026, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm., where we come together to praise, pray, and share with one another what God has done and is doing in our lives. If you would like to help or be involved in any way in this gathering, please get in touch with Jerry.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful time with you.

SBC Facebook

Use the SBC Facebook for information about what is happening and share events both at the church and in the wider community. Get more info from Hazel Manley

<https://www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist/>

EBA Weekly Prayer: Worstead Baptist Church

Worstead Baptist Church in Norfolk is in the small hamlet of Meeting Hill, on the other side of the North Walsham bypass from the actual village of Worstead. It meets in the Genesis Hall behind the chapel and serves the surrounding town of North Walsham and village of Worstead, and welcomes people from as far away as Aylsham, Bacton, Brundall, Cromer and Sheringham.

Life in a small rural church is very different from church life in a town or city, with the struggle with admin and building repairs being the most striking. Though few in number (between 20 and 25), its members feel they are there to love and support, refresh, restore and sustain one another and those whom God has sent. These include some of society's most vulnerable, the elderly and those who feel 'lost' in larger churches, whose needs may be long-term or traumatic in nature.

The church feels very alive spiritually. It wants to see the Kingdom grow and to be part of it. Sunday services are café-style. It holds a mid-week Bible study when it

Pastor Rev Ron Skivington
01692 434091
Assistant Pastor Rev Jerry Otieno
01692 434091
Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128
Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship
For Your Diary
Monday 6th July
7.00 pm Deacons Zoom Meeting
10.30-11.30 Prayers for SBC & Young People
2.00-4.00pm Warm Space in Stables
Tuesday 7th July
9.30am -12 Coffee and Chat in the Schoolroom
Wednesday 8th July
9.30am - 12pm Table Tennis in the Schoolroom
10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables All welcome
1.30 to 3pm Noah's Ark Baby and Toddler Group in the Schoolroom
7.00pm Zoom Bible Study
all welcome for more information speak to Diana.
Thursday 9th July
10 to 12 pm Warm Space in Stables
7.00pm Prayers in the church all welcome
Friday 10th July
10.15 to 12.00pm Prayers for Revival & Israel at Three Windows, Brumstead Road
1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables & Citizens Advice
5.30pm Youth Worship in the Schoolroom
Sunday 12th July
10.45 Sunday Service
Welcome: Jill & Elinor
Flowers: Elinor Burdett
12.00pm Church Meeting
6.30pm Praise and Prayer
Saturday 18th July
8.30am Ladies Breakfast in the Schoolroom
Community Fridge
Open: Monday 2.00pm
Tues-Fri 10-12.00 pm



can, and partners with Canaan Christian Centre in Sheringham, in a monthly prayer meeting. In recent weeks, it has filled its hall with special services, including a pet service, welcomed a group from Hungary, and has been joined in leading worship by Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson.

Please pray for

- The church to be blessed with new people: including those who have gifts of admin and policy making
- The folk with long-term health needs who see the church as being there for them
- The difference the church is making in the lives of those in its small community and beyond.
- Its commitment and partnership with Canaan Christian Centre

<http://www.worsteadbaptistchurch.co.uk/welcome.htm>



Unlimited and Boundless are the two Scripture Union holidays for young adults with learning difficulties that we are running this summer. We would really appreciate your help collecting the following items please:

- Large cardboard boxes (to make lighthouses!)
- Christmas trees (please label clearly if you would like it back)
- Christmas lights (please label clearly if you would like them back)
- Christmas decorations
- Large white sheet (to create a seascape backdrop)
- Old sheets (any colour)
- Volunteer to cut old sheets into circles (fish scales!)
- Garden netting (for weaving into)
- Ribbon etc to weave into netting
- A log (about 6" diameter, long enough to cut into about 30x1" slices) or
- length of wood that can be cut into similar sized chunks.
- Thin wooden doweling
- Ice cream tubs
- Pringle tubes
- Glass pudding dishes (it's a good excuse to treat yourself!)
- Cakes (some for 2nd August, some for 9th August) (no nuts please)
- Mince meat (for mince pies)
- Pebbles
- Christmas wrapping paper and loan of a Father Christmas outfit to the list please?

If you can help contact Helen or email helenvinter@icloud.com

Ladies Breakfast

The next Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 18th July 8.30 to 11am in SBC's Schoolroom, Breakfast includes cereal, fruit Juice, pastries, and a cooked breakfast. Gracie Nicholson is the Guest Speaker. 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

Quotes of the Week

"There is no denying that there is evil in this world but the light will always conquer the darkness." — *Idowu Koyenikan*

"Darkness is lack of light as sin is lack of love. It has no unique

Please prayer for the family and friends of Margaret Wait whose funeral is on Monday We pray for Church Pastoral Group 3, please pray for: Jerry, Simone, Elsa and Kalos Otieno, Daniel, Victoria, Gracie, Poppy, Autum and Ezra Nicholson, Steve & Susie English

During July - please pray for the residents of Baker Street, Baker Court, Sutton Terrace, Back Street, Dace Terrace and Market Row.

Prayer for this Sunday

Heavenly Father, we come before You today in the greatness of Your love.

We thank You for the joy of gathering together as a family of faith, from the youngest children to our most senior members. We praise You for Your daily mercies, Your steadfast love, and Your power to do the impossible.

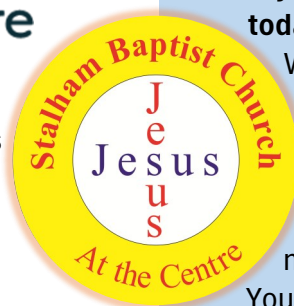
Prayers for Ukraine

Heavenly Father, we come to You in 2026 to lift up the nation and people of Ukraine, who have endured years of profound suffering, displacement, and the devastating consequences of war.

We ask that Your light breaks through the darkness, bringing an end to conflict and paving the way for a just, lasting, and dignified peace. Protect the vulnerable, comfort the grieving, and grant steadfast hope to a generation weary of war.

Prayer for Spiritual Growth and Leadership

Lord God, we lift up the young adults and children of Stalham Baptist Church to You. We thank You for the energy, creativity, and faith they bring into the church.



WISHLIST
June 2026

Items we're short of:

Tinned Meat
Tinned Fruit
Cuppa Soup
Jam
Long-Life Milk
Squash

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.

properties of its own. It is an example of the “scarcity” belief, from which only error can proceed. Truth is always abundant. Those who perceive and acknowledge that they have everything have no needs of any kind. The purpose of the Atonement is to restore everything to you; or rather, to restore it to your awareness. You were”

- Helen Schucman

“I have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:20 puts it this way: “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” I love that! The other parts of my identity are important, but my identity as a servant of the Most High God is most important.”

— **Mandisa, *Out of the Dark: My Journey Through the Shadows to Find God’s Joy***

**“Repair Café” In The Schoolroom
25th July 9.00am**

**REPAIR
Café
LET’S FIX**

What we do:

We repair things that would otherwise be thrown away!

Our aims:

To reduce the amount of electrical, electronic and other

waste that goes to landfill

To bring together and pass on valuable repair skills

To provide a pleasant, social hub where people can meet and chat

To reduce the climate-warming emissions caused by manufacturing new products

To promote a culture of sustainability in the local community

How it works:

The Repair Café opens once a month on a Saturday between 9:30am and 2:00pm in SBC Schoolroom.

It is run by volunteers for the benefit of the local community

Visitors can bring along anything they can comfortably carry that needs repairing

You don’t need to book ahead, just turn up

We can help repair a wide range of items, including electrical and electronic equipment, toys, furniture and clothes. We can also make simple bike adjustments.

What to expect:

When you first arrive, you’ll be greeted by a front of house person who will introduce you to our reception team.

They will log your item and issue a numbered work ticket.

When one of our fixers becomes available, they will pick up the next work ticket that matches their area of expertise

If all our fixers are busy, you’ll be guided to our café area, where you can buy drinks and homemade cakes, and have a chat with other visitors

If possible, our fixers will make the necessary repairs while you wait. You are

encouraged to chat to them - they’ll be happy to explain what they’re doing!

If we can’t fix something on the day, we’ll advise you on what your options are, including what professional services are available locally

We don’t make a formal charge for our service, but we’re very grateful for cash donations on the day. These help us cover our running costs.

Part of a global movement:

The first ever Repair Café was started in the Netherlands

in 2009

There are now over 400 Repair Cafés in the UK, and around 4000 worldwide

The number is growing year on year, as people try to live more sustainably

For more information, visit www.repaircafe.org



A reflection on prison chaplaincy

Baptist minister Andy Kerr leads a multi-faith team at HMP Ford in Sussex. He explains more about the role - and highlights ways in which churches can offer support to those leaving prison

I stepped into prison ministry 13 years ago and have served in Category B, C, and D prisons during that time. I currently serve at HMP Ford as Managing Chaplain of a multi-faith team.

In many closed prisons, the Managing Chaplain is often consumed by management processes, meetings, performance targets, and ensuring that chaplaincy teams function effectively to deliver statutory duties alongside meaningful pastoral care and faith activities. While this is essential work, it can limit the amount of direct, hands-on ministry that is possible.

In Category D (open) prisons, however, the dynamic is often different. The Managing Chaplain is typically much more central to the direct provision of pastoral care, while also leading a smaller chaplaincy team. For me, this offers an invaluable balance: contributing at a strategic level as part of the Senior Leadership Team, while still having 'feet on the ground,' walking alongside prisoners in their day-to-day lives. It is stretching - but all ministry is stretching.

From a Christian perspective, as a Baptist minister, I have been particularly encouraged in recent years to see an increasing number of men who have encountered faith while in custody and who are eager to grow spiritually as they move into the open prison environment. We have already witnessed several baptisms, working in partnership with local churches to ensure these take place within the context of a wider worshipping community.

Even as I write this, another prisoner has arranged his baptism with a local church he attends on release on licence from Ford and has invited our team to attend. These moments are profoundly moving.

There is little that compares to witnessing the often slow, but unmistakable, work of God in people’s lives.

Scripture itself is full of accounts of imprisonment - yet again and again we see God transcending walls and circumstances. In the open prison setting, individuals may be here for up to five years, allowing space for deep Bible study, discipleship, and spiritual growth through the real ups and downs of prison life.

Recent research suggests that following release, faith commitment often wanes during the first six to nine months before re-establishing. In response, we are working hard to encourage those who have found faith to connect with a local church as early as possible and, where feasible, to establish those relationships before release.

If your church has a heart to welcome people leaving

prison, I would encourage you to engage with [The Welcome Directory](#) - an organisation that supports and equips faith communities to become truly welcoming. This enables us in prisons to make meaningful connections with supportive churches before release. Please pray for those who minister to people in prison, for all who work within the prison system and in rehabilitation, and that the Kingdom of God will continue to grow - through those who already know Him and those who do not yet.

Thank you for your prayers and support. If anyone would like me to speak about prison work at 'breakfasts' or 'meetings' or preach at services, then I am happy to do so. You can contact me

on: Andrew.Kerr1@justice.gov.uk

This article originally appeared in the monthly South Eastern Baptist Association (SEBA) Association News, and is republished with permission

Image | Andy Kerr and HMP Ford

For more information www.baptist.org.uk/



OpenDoors

Please pray: Christian communities in Venezuela increasingly vulnerable after earthquakes
In the horrific aftermath of two earthquakes in Venezuela, communities are experiencing the devastating impact of the crisis.

Please pray for all affected,

especially our brothers and sisters made even more vulnerable at this time.

Two earthquakes struck Venezuela last week on Wednesday 24 June, flattening buildings, destroying infrastructure and causing the deaths of over 2,000 people, as well as tens of thousands injured. The earthquakes measured 7.2 and 7.5 in magnitude and were a mere 40 seconds apart, devastating communities in northern Venezuela and notably those living in the capital Caracas and La Guaira.

Search and rescue operations continue for hundreds of missing people, whilst the Venezuelan government has declared a national state of emergency given the extent of damage. Collapsed buildings, limited access to drinking water and widespread infrastructure destruction are rapidly growing the urgent need for humanitarian aid. Thousands of people are facing

displacement, insecurity and a growing inability to access essential resources.

Given damages to infrastructure, communication has also become extremely difficult. Families abroad are awaiting news of their loved ones with deep anxiety; communities in places like La Guaira are especially hard to reach.

"The main concern for Venezuelan families at this moment is knowing whether their missing relatives are still alive. Another major difficulty is for the injured and for those who have seen their homes destroyed. All of this adds to an emotional shock that creates anguish and despair," shares a local Christian. "In addition,

people outside the country with relatives in the affected states may be going through pain and distress as they learn that their loved ones are dead or missing.

"Power outages and communication disruptions in these areas are severely affecting the emotional stability of family members abroad. There is also fear of further aftershocks that could claim more lives and further damage already affected homes and belongings."

Whilst the horror of the natural disaster has affected many, vulnerable communities are especially feeling the sharp end of the disaster – amongst them, our brothers and sisters.

A church overwhelmed

Life for Christians in Venezuela is marked by pressure from authorities, surveillance and restrictions on the population. Believers could face detention or intimidation for denouncing injustices, and threats can also arise from criminal networks. These pressures reduce the church's capacity to respond to emergencies like the recent earthquakes, as they strive to be a refuge to those in need.

Christian communities are not only suffering the consequences of the natural disaster but must also navigate an environment where there are reports of unequal access to humanitarian aid, with distribution prioritised for those perceived to align with the authorities, leaving church communities neglected. Believers have suffered damage to homes and churches – simultaneously, leaders are trying to support their congregations and surrounding communities. In La Guaira, a church collapsed completely.

"Last night we were very frightened," shared a pastor from one of the affected areas.

"Many people are in distress after losing everything, with multiple structures collapsed," said Edilberto*, a Christian resident, through tears.

Despite growing needs, believers are sharing what they have and coordinating the delivery of aid to the hardest-hit areas. "Out here with the neighbours, we have been supporting one another, staying together and bringing calm during the night and this difficult time," explained a Christian from the state of Aragua.

A grieving land

"This tragedy has plunged society into mourning."

Local partner

"The Venezuelan church, as a social actor in the country, has been living in constant

uncertainty," says an Open Doors local partner. "Now, this tragedy – one that has plunged society as a whole into mourning – is added to that context. The church is overwhelmed, mobilising to contribute in any way possible while praying for divine intervention amid the immense needs the country is facing."

Your prayers are urgently needed for Venezuela in this recent crisis – especially for vulnerable communities like our brothers and sisters as they seek to be a blessing to others, even as they experience deep need themselves. Thank you. **Name changed for security reasons*

For more information www.opendoorsuk.org/

