

# Stalham Baptist Church

## Weekly News Bulletin 8th December 2019

**Pastor:** Rev. Ron Skivington 01692 582731  
**Assistant Pastor:** Jerry Otieno 07733837687  
**Secretary:** Diana Gordon 07951949128  
**Ministry Team:** Whole Fellowship



**Todays Service will be led by Diana; during the service Barbara, Dan, Diana and Pat will each share a 10 minute slot of scripture, talk and song. Jerry is leading the children's part.**

### *Today is the Second Sunday in Advent*

We would like to offer a very big welcome to any visitors who have joined us this Sunday. Would you kindly sign our visitors' book at the back of the Church, and you are very welcome to join us for refreshments in the Stables at the end of the service.

### For Your Prayers

Please pray for all the **young people coming to SBC** this week to celebrate Christ's birth. These events are part of the Church's outreach activities. This week three different schools are visiting. We have two after school clubs and the youth pop up café will be visiting Gravity in Norwich. Pray that seeds will be sown that will blossom in faith in the future.

Please pray for the family and friends of **Tony Slade** whose funeral is at SBC on Friday 13th at 12.00. Also pray for the family and friends of **Jackie Bones** whose funeral is at SBC on Thursday 19th at 11.30am. Please pray also in December for the residents of **Dunkerley Court, Baker Street, Bakers Court and Sutton Terrace**. Prayer cards have been given to **Nicholson's Stalham Green and Cherry Blossom Café Stalham High Street**. As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Josh Hollebon**. As part of our weekly worship we have a **Prayer Team** available to anyone who would like the support of others in prayer. You can find today's prayer team **Sheena and Barbara** in the prayer tent at the back of the Church.

### Prayer for the Election

Lord we pray that this Thursday's election will bring together 650 people in parliament whose aim is to serve the citizens of the UK. Also, that their ambition will be to close the tectonic splits in the nation and not seek to widen them. That they will with out self-interest guide the country to achieve equality in all areas of life, keeping in mind Charles Darwin's quote "If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions great is our sin." Amen.

### Virtual Prayer Room

On Monday 2nd Geoff posted. "Morning. We know it's not local but B just came across a Facebook post from Sara North who lived in the same road as us and went to school with our Matt and Phil. Her little lad has just been diagnosed with leukaemia. He is now in Great Ormond Street Hospital, please pray for his treatment to go well and for strength for the family." In a Facebook post Barbara told Sara about the prayer group and she responded, "Thank you so much that really does mean loads to us xxxx" Sara has just had her head shaved for GOSH – donations can be made via Justgiving.

### Jesus and Politics

Jesus's life ended with a political execution, crucifixion, which the Romans used against subversives and chronically defiant slaves. He talked about the Kingdom of Heaven and the differentials between rich and poor. When asked a question by a wealthy man, Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, then go and sell all that you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me!" The man walked away. John D Barry wrote. "The currency of Jesus' kingdom is different than ours. Jesus' economy is based on self-sacrifice and His currency love. For Jesus, belief and actions are one and the same—you cannot have one without the other. The more I reflect on the problem of poverty—and what Jesus had to say about it—the more I realize that we own the problems of the impoverished as much as they do. Our inactions have created many of them. We—all of us—are at fault for the state of our world. But we can also join Jesus in changing the state of our world." In today's world, 10% of adults own 85% of its assets. The UK is the fifth richest country in the world and is the fifth most economically unequal country in Europe. 10% of the wealthiest households own 44% of its wealth.

### A Very Busy Week at SBC

#### Monday

**Infant School Practise**

9.00am

**All Saints School Practise**

11.00am

**Monday Club**

3.00 to 4.30pm In schoolroom

#### Tuesday

**Infant School Dress Rehearsal**

9.00am in the Church

**Coffee and Chat**

9.30 to 11.30am In the Stables

**Prayer for Revival**

9.30am Three Windows Brumstead Rd

**Potter Heigham Study Group**

**Christmas Social**

7.00pm at Alan and Shenna's

#### Wednesday

**Over 60s Table Tennis Club**

9.30am to Midday

**Brumstead House Group**

10am

#### Thursday

**Infant School Nativity**

9.00am in the Church

**Academy Christingle**

11.00am in the Church

**Lunch Club**

12.00 for 12.30pm in the Stables

**All Saints School Christmas Service**

1.30pm in the Church

**Pop Up Café**

3.00 to 4.30pm In schoolroom

#### Friday

**Tony Slade's Funeral**

12.00am in the Church

**Food Bank and Citizens Advice Service**

1.30 to 3.00pm In the Stables

**Youth Pop Up Café**

Evening out

#### Saturday

**Getting together to PRAY!**

8.00 to 9.00am In the Church

#### Sunday

**Service 10.45am**

**Candlelight Service 6.00pm In the Church**

**If you have a T-loop facility on your hearing aid, and wish to use this, you will get the best reception in the church if you sit close to the walls as the 'loop' is transmitted from the conduit around the edge. We hope this will enable you to enjoy our services more.**

## Reminders

**Candlelight choir** If you are interested in being part of the choir and singing 2 songs at the Candlelight service (15th Dec. 6pm) please see Pat Dabbs today.

**Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2020** to everyone from Barbara and Geoff Reynolds. We've decided to "twin our toilet" instead of sending cards to church folk this year – the picture of your contribution to improved sanitation in Nokadouo, Bouna, Cote d'Ivoire is on the board at the back of the church. THANKS.

### Stalham Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre is today 1.00 to 5.00pm. Please support the SBC stall in the schoolroom which will be full of stalls. Fran is running a stall to raise money for SBC. In the church teas and coffee will be served.

### Candlelight Service

SBC Christmas celebrations start with the Candlelight service on Sunday 15th December beginning at 6pm. This is a very traditional carol service with all those much-loved carols. The music will be played by the SBC musicians that include guitars, bass, organ, drums and violin and will feature solos by some of the younger members of SBC and carols by the church singers. This atmospheric service in the candlelight, Christmas decorated Church, captures, rekindles and creates memories old and new.

### Christmas Carols at the Swan Inn

Is on Monday 16th December at the Swan Inn High Street Stalham at 7pm. Carol singing was banned by Oliver Cromwell in 1647 along with Christmas celebrations, leading to pro-Christmas riots in many cities, including Norwich. In Victorian times carols were sung in pubs and it wasn't until the 1880's that they were first sung in churches. Last year the Swan was packed with local people enjoying traditional carols in a traditional setting. Pat was playing the electronic organ and Simone played the violin or fiddle which would have been the instrument used in Victorian times.

### Norwich's Phoenix Male Voice Choir

#### Heralding Christmas in Stalham!

Heralding Christmas on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December at SBC (7.30pm) is Norwich's Phoenix Male Voice Choir and the city's Singing Men hope that you will be able to join them in Stalham on the last weekend before Christmas for a seasonal evening of male voice choral song. Advance Tickets (£8) are available from St George's St Music Shop in central Norwich by telephone 01603-626414 or in person, and from TicketSource <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/phoenix-male-voice-choir/phoenix-male-voice-choir-presents-heralding-christmas-stalham/e-lrzoama> All remaining tickets will be available at the Stalham Baptist Church doors on the evening from 7.00pm. **Entrance to the concert via the Stables.**

### Vacancy – Regional Development Office (Norfolk)

Linking Lives UK is a national Christian charity which works with churches and Christian organisations to support socially isolated older people. This is achieved by establishing befriending projects in local communities in which volunteers visit older people on a weekly or fortnightly basis. Linking Lives UK are currently looking for a Regional Development Officer for the county of Norfolk. The role will include building partnerships with existing local organisations, identifying priority areas which would benefit from befriending projects and piloting inter-generational groups which bring together children and older people. For more information about the role and for details of how to apply, go to [www.linkinglives.uk/blog/vacancies/](http://www.linkinglives.uk/blog/vacancies/) or contact Jeremy Sharpe on 07970 100131

[jeremy@linkinglives.uk](mailto:jeremy@linkinglives.uk) **Application deadline 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

## Sunday Service December 15th

**Flowers:** Christmas Flowers

**Welcome:** Magda and Maggie

**Refreshments:** Eileen and David

### For Your Diary

**Monday December 16th**

**Christmas Carols**

7.00pm in the Swan Inn

**Thursday December 19th**

**Jackie Bones Funeral**

11.30am in the Church

**Saturday December 21st**

**Phoenix Male Voice Choir**

7.30pm in the Church

**Sunday December 22nd**

**All Age Family Service**

10.45 in the Church

**Christmas Day**

**Celebrate Christ's Birth**

10.00 in the Church

**Sunday December 29th**

**The New Year's coming Family Service**

10.45 in the Church

### Quotes of the Week

"The late Kurt Vonnegut, the satirical American author, wrote: "For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the beatitudes. But—often with tears in their eyes—they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the beatitudes, be posted anywhere."

"Will Christians turn once again toward an approach that imposes its will on the rest of society? By doing so we would betray our founder, who resisted a temptation to authority over "all the kingdoms of the world," and who died a martyr at the hands of a powerful state. In the words of Miroslav Volf, "Imposition stands starkly at odds with the basic character of the Christian faith, which is at its heart about self-giving—God's self-giving and human self-giving—and not about self-imposing." Even"  
Philip Yancey, *Christians and Politics Uneasy Partners*

"Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ's compassion to the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now." *St. Teresa of Avila*

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Church Website: [www.stalhambaptist.org.uk](http://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist](https://www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist) Contact Stalham Baptist Church on 01692 582731

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