

Stalham Baptist Church

Weekly News Bulletin 22nd December 2019



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

Today Barbara will be leading and Ron will be preaching from Isaiah 11: 1-9 & Luke 1: 26-38
“The Birth Foretold” Today is the Fourth 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.

We wish the fellowship a Merry Christmas full of joy and love and with a New Year filled with God's blessings, goodness and grace.

This Sunday's bulletin is covering the services for the 22nd December and the 29th December as Century Printing is closed for the festive period.

For Your Prayers

Please pray for the family of Mary Millership whose funeral is on Monday at Cromer. Please pray also in December for the residents of **Horse Barns, Wayford Road and Stepping Stone Lane**. 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 **Jill Humphrey-Smith**. 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 **Jane and Cynthia and on the 29th Jan and Eileen** in the prayer tent at the back of the Church.

Virtual Prayer Room

On Saturday 14th prayers were said for Jane who as she put it “had the lurgy.” Jane posted “My boss Nina asked that we buy a coffee for the young lady who sells the “Big Issue” magazine and look after her.” Maggie Harpur added “This young lady travels from Ipswich and stands outside the old Newlands shop for people on their way to Tesco's. You can get a Costa Coffee at Tesco's petrol station so it will be hot.” Victoria posted some videos of the Candlelight Service and received thanks from people who could not attend. On Thursday Maggie asked for prayers for George, who had returned home from Addenbrookes Hospital, on Wednesday after having treatment for a rare blood cancer. Maggie said “The next 100 days are crucial” On Thursday evening Jerry posted “Urgent help needed! Teresa has had an accident and needs to get to James Paget hospital. Is there anyone who can help?” Soon after he posted “Just to let you know Ron will be taking Teresa to hospital. She had accidentally cut her foot. Please pray she'll be attended to soon”

Christmas Prayers

Thank you, God, for sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born a virgin, to live a perfect life and to die on the cross for my sins. Thank you that he rose from the dead three days later and that this Christmas and every Christmas we can celebrate the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear God, sometimes I get too caught in the Christmas commercialism. OK, a lot of times. Today, I'm going to refocus my heart and remember why I'm celebrating this wonderful day in the first place. I'm celebrating Jesus today...and every day! In Jesus' name, Amen.

A Big Thank You To Team SBC

Ron writes. “A big thank you to all who have been involved during our December events. Including school nativities the Street Fayre and services. From the decorating, preparing, catering, welcoming, singing and playing etc. We have had over 1000 people through our doors this month so well done and thank you team SBC.”

Christmas Day All Age Service 10.00am

Ron will be leading and preaching

The service will include a “Bring and Show” present section.



Next Week at SBC

Christmas Day Service

10.00am In the Church

Saturday

Getting together to PRAY!

8.00 to 9.00am In the Church

Sunday

All Age Service 10.45am

Sunday Service December 29th

Flowers: Christmas Flowers

Welcome: Rita and Barbara

Refreshments: Norma and David

News Stand

The Candlelight Service that attracted approaching 150 people raised £296.36 which will be shared between Toilet Twinning and Open Christmas Great Yarmouth.

Doreen and Josh Hollebon have a new landline number you can now get them on 01692 219205

Please take and use the Good News papers which are at the back of the church There are also copies of the Open Door carol sheets we used at the Swan which have some interesting items about Syria.

Invitation from Diana and Greg
Greg and Diana would like to invite folks to Ruston House between 2pm and 4pm this Sunday for tea/coffee/mulled wine and mince pies. Children welcome and if anyone fancies a wander in our grounds, they need to bring wellies.

Quote for the Week

“Want to keep Christ in Christmas? Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive the guilty, welcome the unwanted, care for the ill, love your enemies, and do unto others as you would have done unto you.” *Steve Maraboli,*

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.

Stalham Baptist Church

Bulletin 29th December 2019



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

Today Ron will be leading and conducting an all age service. "The New Year is Coming"

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.

Dear Church family, writes Naomi Stjohn from Reunion Island.

As it's approaching Christmas, my thoughts are far more often on friends and family in England, not least because I'm still not used to spending Christmas in the heat! Like every year, we have had some lovely people from church invite us to spend Christmas with them (every year it's a different family!) so that's been really lovely for us and we look forward to next week.

I hope you are all doing well and I would like to thank those of you who have sent me updates and even the SBC bulletin to read! (Thank you David Child!)

This year has been quite a hard one and we are looking forward to seeing the end of it, although I can say that God had prepared me with the word 'perseverance' at the beginning of this year. We have been stretched in many ways and have often felt safe in His hands, despite the difficulties.

There is also always good news and we are very grateful for so many things that have come out of this year such as:

My job

At the beginning of the year I mentioned that I changed my job position and am now in the purchasing department. It's been challenging but much better for my health as the work is far more manageable without as many 'urgent' problems to solve (something that the logistics department often has to face).

Flo's position with our local church

Florent is now leading the team that welcomes and looks after visitors and new Christians.

We are working on a 2 month Bible study that new believers can work through together in weekly cell groups, and we are working on how to improve connecting visitors and new comers to Church events and relationships.

We also run one of the weekly cell groups for new believers as well.

I mentioned at the beginning of the year that we wanted to focus on discipleship in our church, and so this year we were approached by a lovely pastor and his wife who have taken us under their wings. They are a great example to follow and we are learning a lot from them!

Les Fabriques

This is the small Christian paper company that I have been volunteering in over this last year. We are a small team of 5 women and the heart of the project is to provide encouraging words to people in their daily environment by printing and producing different objects. We hope to use the profits for supporting Christian activities around the world, and we'd love the founder of the company to have a salary!

This year we have printed two notebooks in French and English with Bible verses and quotations inside.

I've attached some photos (along with others of us!) if you'd like to have a peak, and if you'd like to order, let me know! :)

The website isn't in English yet, so if you'd like to practice your French, do have a look!

<https://ruelesfabriques.com>

This has been a really positive activity for me as I've gotten to know some amazing Christian women and been blessed and challenged in new ways.

Book Translation

I'm working on translating a book from French to English. It's written by one of the pastor's at our church. I hope I'll be done by the end of 2020! Please pray for me to be inspired and to transfer the real heart of the message as it's very powerful and can so often be 'lost in translation'!

Highlights of 2019

- Family visiting! (Lydia & Josh Smith and Abigail)
- Holiday in Thailand (The first holiday we've had together since being married 5 years ago!)
- Celebrating my boss's wedding (see silly photo above!)

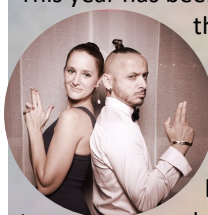
Celebrating our 5 year wedding anniversary at a restaurant (paid for by the pastoral couple that's looking after us!)

What's next in 2020?

Hopefully a visit to the UK! We will keep you posted.

As this email is getting a bit long, I'll organize an update for 2020 in January/February.

Sending all my blessings and thanks to you all, I hope all of you enjoy Christmas and have a wonderful time with family and friends. Naomi



Material sent to publicity@stalhambaptist.org.uk or telephoned to David Child on 07799 262645 may be used in any of the church's print or electronic media. Deadline for the print edition of the Bulletin is Wednesday 7:00pm.

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