

# Stalham Baptist Church

## Weekly News Bulletin 5th January 2020



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

**Today Pat will be leading and Ron will be preaching from Joshua 1:1-9.  
"Be Strong and of Good Courage"**

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.

**May the fellowship be filled with God's blessings, goodness and grace  
in the New Year.**

**For Your Prayers**

Please pray in January for the residents of **Horse Barns, Wayford Road and Stepping Stone Lane**. January prayer cards have been given to **Jan Harts to Me [the card shop] and Break**. As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Eric Hurt**. 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 **Jan and Eileen** in the prayer tent at the back of the Church. **Please pray for the Connect Service** on Sunday 19th in the Stables at 5.00pm.

**A Prayer for Faith in the New Year**

Lord, even though I woke up with the same troubles I had yesterday, I know there is great power in my choices. So today, dear God, once again, I choose to listen for your voice above everything else. Forgive me for not trusting you enough. Forgive me for spinning my wheels and trying to work everything out all on my own. Help me to truly let go of what you have asked me to release to you and to believe that you're at work in ways I can't fully see. Help me in my unbelief.

**Virtual Prayer Room**

On Saturday 21st December Jenny Payne posted "Please can I ask for a prayer. In the last 48 hours I have been experiencing severe tinnitus which is so loud in my head I'm having difficulty in blocking it out and it is really affecting my overall hearing. I have spoken to the consultant radiologist at Addenbrookes, she was reassuring but couldn't say if this was temporary or not. Apart from that I am feeling well and I am less tired than last week and seem to be recovering my appetite. Thank you, Jenny." On the following Sunday Doreen posted "Going to see Steve Slade tomorrow, please hold him in your prayers to encourage him."

On Tuesday 24th Jerry forwarded a message from Maureen and Cyril "Thank for your prayers for Cyril's eye, on our visit to N&N yesterday Cyril could see the large letters on the chart, he still has a way to go, but praise the Lord for the healing so far. Please continue to pray for the improvement in his vision and remain stable."

On Friday 27th Victoria posted "Please pray for my 9 year old niece Molly. She has had severe headaches on and off since Christmas eve night and upon seeing the doctor this morning they are very concerned as there is no sign of infection but abnormalities of her left optic disc so have sent her to hospital as needs test done ASAP. We are on our way at this moment as this was supposed to be our two families Christmas day together. My sister Rosanna is extremely worried so please pray for her and Mark too. Thank you very much as always xx.)

Later that day Victoria said "Thank you everyone for your prayers. She has had a lot of tests etc and is coming home soon. They have said that it is a migraine."

On New Years Eve Diana Gordon posted to the WhatsApp members "May God bless you in 2020."

**To join the ever growing WhatsApp Virtual Prayer Room text Jerry on 07733837687. You will need a smart phone.**

**Next Week at SBC**

**Monday**

**Deacons Meeting**

**7.30 in the Stables**

**Tuesday**

**Coffee and Chat**

**9.30 to 11.30am In the Stables**

**Prayer for Revival**

**9.30am Three Windows Brumstead Rd**

**Wednesday**

**Over 60s Table Tennis Club**

**9.30am to Midday**

**Study Group**

**7.30pm in the Stables**

**Thursday**

**Filling Station Prayers**

**7.30 in the Stables**

**Friday**

**Food Bank and Citizens Advice Service**

**1.30 to 3.00pm In the Stables**

**Saturday**

**Getting together to PRAY!**

**8.00 to 9.00am In the Church**

**Men's Breakfast**

**8.30am in the Stables**

**Sunday**

**Service 10.45am**

**"A lost sheep needs a shepherd to find the way; if you don't believe you are a lost sheep then you will always want because you will never find the way. Psalm 23:1."**

**— Felix Wantang,**



**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.**

## EBA Weekly Prayer Focus: Countess Free Church, Ely

The small historic city of Ely in the heart of the Cambridgeshire Fens is dominated by "The Ship of The Fens", Ely Cathedral. Located not far away is the Countess Free Church. The Minister, Revd Karl Relton has been there for eight years supported by his wife Karen, who is the Community Minister for the Church helping the fellowship engage with the many mission opportunities in this growing city. Supporting Karl and Karen are the team of Elders and Deacons. The church has been instrumental in helping start and run the Foodbank, CAP Debt Centre, and an in-college chaplaincy as city-wide projects alongside the other churches. They work with people who are struggling with addictions, hosting a weekly NHS funded recovery cafe. There is a thriving parent and toddler group, a mid-week children's club, and occasional Saturday Dads 'n' Kidz mornings. Four times a year they run a cafe style seeker event called 'Imagine' instead of the Sunday morning worship.

Ely as a city is set to expand with over 2,000 new homes. The Church is actively praying into pioneering with these new estates in mind and hoping to run their own Pioneer Evangelists Learning Community in the near future.

### For Prayer:

- Pray for the ongoing contacts the fellowship has with those on the "fringe" of the Church
- The pioneering opportunities that the new estates will create
- Wisdom for the leadership team as the new opportunities develop

## News Stand

**Barbara Gayle** would like to thank all those who helped her at times last year and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

**Don't miss the men's breakfast at 8.30am** on Saturday 11th starting in the Stables the guest speaker is John Booth talking about his mother's amazing war time experiences. Speak to Alan Jarman to book a place. 07594 204092

**Edna Woolsey** says "I have given £73.70 from the sale of knitted toys towards the Building Fund. Thank you all.

## Recycling Reminder

NEW YEAR - NEW RESOLUTION - RECYCLE

When the Church waste is put out for collection, I continue to find items e.g. Plastic containers, milk containers, glass jars, waste paper etc. which need not go to landfill. It would be helpful if all recyclable items could be taken home and put in your own household green bins.

If this is not convenient recyclable items can be put in the box in the play store or Church kitchen marked for this purpose. Thank you Monica.

## Open Doors "Christians Afraid of Christmas"

North Korea is currently the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian, and if a Christian is discovered, they will be arrested and imprisoned in one of the country's notorious labour camps. There, Christians are worked like slaves and often tortured; most never escape. That makes celebrating Christmas almost impossible – indeed, the word 'Christmas' doesn't even exist in North Korea, according to those who have escaped the country. But as the video shows, brave believers find a way around this. They gather and pretend they are commemorating their own birthdays.

It was Advent three years ago when a suicide bomber attacked Cairo's St Peter and Paul church, detonating a bomb strapped to his chest in the women's section of the church. The bomb attack left 27 people dead and another 49 badly injured. While churches in Egypt continue to conduct Christmas celebrations as normal, people have become more and more cautious. Christians from Muslim background also have to worry about pressure from the authorities. "We are celebrating Christmas alone. Me and my wife," says Magid, a former Muslim Egyptian. "We are not able to celebrate it in the church. Especially at Christmas, the police are guarding the churches and they also check to which religion the visitors belong." For more information and videos go to. <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/news/stories/christians-afraid-christmas/>

## Sunday Service January 12th

**Flowers:** Monica Payne

**Welcome:** Cynthia and Barbara W

**Refreshments:** Anne W and Maureen K

### For Your Diary

**Monday January 13th**

**Filling Station**

**7.00 for 7.30pm Hickling Barns**

**Thursday January 16th**

**Lunch Club**

**12.00 for 12.30pm in the Stables**

**Sunday January 19th**

**Connect Service**

**5.00pm in the Stables**

**Sunday January 26th**

**Church Meeting**

**12.30pm**

### Ron's Extra Reads

**Numbers 27:15-18, 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10**

**Hebrews 11:1-7**

### Quotes of the Week

"Sometimes we get lost due to the habit of asking directions from people around us, rather than asking someone who invited us to walk the path.

In doing so, we not only lose the right path, but also the trust that one day we too can become the guide to others"

*Shahenshah Hafeez Khan*

Then Jesus told them this story: <sup>4</sup>"Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but one of them gets lost. What will you do? You will leave the other 99 sheep there in the field and go out and look for the lost sheep. You will continue to search for it until you find it. <sup>5</sup>And when you find it, you will be very happy. You will carry it <sup>6</sup>home, go to your friends and neighbours and say to them, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!' <sup>7</sup>In the same way, I tell you, heaven is a happy place when one sinner decides to change. There is more joy for that one sinner than for 99 good people who don't need to change.

*Luke 3-7 ERV*

"All that is gold does not glitter,  
Not all those who wander are lost;  
The old that is strong does not wither,  
Deep roots are not reached by the frost.

From the ashes a fire shall be woken,  
A light from the shadows shall spring;  
Renewed shall be blade that was broken,  
The crownless again shall be king."

*J.R.R. Tolkien*