

# Stalham Baptist Church

## Weekly News Bulletin 19th January 2020



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

**Today Diana will be leading and Jerry will be preaching from John 6:25-51.**

**“I AM the Bread of Life”**

**Today we will be celebrating the Lord’s Supper and Ron is at Gunton Baptist Church**

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.

Jerry will be kicking off the “I am” series and here is today’s structure:

- a) Our Deepest Need -Hunger for Bread 25-31
- b) God's Greatest Provision -Bread of Life 32-46
- c) The Simplest Response-Eat The Bread of Life 47-51

**For Your Prayers**

January prayer cards have been given to **Harts to Me [the card shop] and Break** . Also pray in January for the residents of **Horse Barns, Wayford Road and Stepping Stone Lane**.

**Please pray for all the members of the fellowship who are unwell, waiting for hospital appointments or currently undergoing treatment.**

As we pray through the new Church Directory, please remember **Teresa Ince-Jones**.

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** in the prayer tent at the back of the Church.

Please pray for tonight's Connect service and Monday 27th prayer meeting.

**Prayers For Today**

Touch me, O Lord, and fill me with your light and your hope. Amen. Dear God, please give me **strength** when I am weak, love when I feel forsaken, courage when I am afraid, wisdom when I feel foolish, comfort when I am alone, hope when I feel rejected, and peace when I am in turmoil. ... Amen.

*“The LORD helps the fallen and lifts those bent beneath their loads.”* Psalm 145:14

God of the broken, and the forgotten,  
Father of the overlooked, and the down-trodden  
Your eyes see everyone – each one is made in your image.

We lift to you all who live in unseen poverty.

God of the distant shores, and the islands

Father of the obscure, and the powerless

You seek justice for all nations – each one is precious to you.

We lift to you all nations that are out of the public’s interest or awareness

**Virtual Prayer Room**

On Sunday 6th, June White posted “Please pray for my sister Sara who has an unknown muscle weakness pray that our trip to hospital will enlighten to the reason.” On Sunday 12th June said “Thanks for the prayers for Sara. Treatment has started with improvements straight away. Please pray this will continue over the next few months.”

Doreen Hollebbon requested prayers on Thursday 9th for Graham who has some medical issues with his lungs. She said “They have ruled out cancer but are still concerned and are carrying out further tests.”

On Wednesday Sheena asked for prayers for Alan Jarman. “He has been waiting for a respiratory clinic appointment at N&N since October but his condition is deteriorating. Please pray for an urgent appointment. Thank you Sheena.”

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

**Next Week at SBC**

**Monday**

**Monday Club**

3.00 to 4.30pm In schoolroom

**Tuesday**

**Coffee and Chat**

9.30 to 11.30am In the Stables

**Little Fishes**

Stalham Pre School 10.00am

**Prayer for Revival**

9.30am Three Windows Brumstead Rd

**Potter Heigham Study Group**

7.30pm St Nicholas Way

**Wednesday**

**Over 60s Table Tennis Club**

9.30am to Middyay

**Prayers for Persecuted Church**

10.30am home of Eileen and David

**Study Group**

7.30pm in the Stables

**Thursday**

**Pop Up Café**

3.00 to 4.30pm In schoolroom

**Friday**

**Food Bank and Citizens Advice Service**

1.30 to 3.00pm In the Stables

**Saturday**

**Getting together to PRAY!**

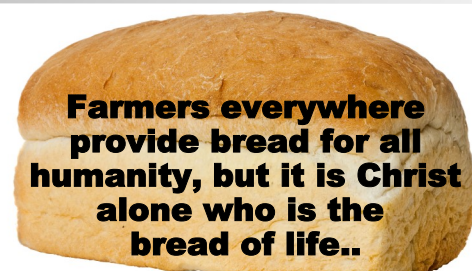
8.00 to 9.00am In the Church

**Sunday**

**Service 10.45am**

**Church Meeting**

12.30pm in the Church



**Farmers everywhere provide bread for all humanity, but it is Christ alone who is the bread of life..**

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.

## This Sunday's Connect Service

Don't miss the Connect Service that starts in the Schoolroom at 5.00 and will finish by 7.00pm. Barbara Reynolds will be sharing her life story including her faith, career and a few old photos to smile/laugh at! There will be music and snacks, tea and coffee will be served.

### Prayers for the Persecuted church

**Praying for the Persecuted Church** on Wednesday 22nd January at the home of Eileen and David, from 10.30 to 11.30 am.

#### **AUTHORITARIAN STATES: USING THE LAW TO CONTROL RELIGION**

**North Korea (1)** tops the World Watch List for the 18th year in a row. In this land – the most stiflingly authoritarian regime in the world – any faith not placed in the Supreme Leader is a political crime. But North Korea is just the pack leader: state authoritarianism is increasing in many parts of the world. Persecution is more than violence and destruction. This year many countries rose on the World Watch List, not because they turned more violent, but because of increased social, legal and structural oppression. And governments are increasingly aided in this task by personal digital technology. They are enthusiastic about technology like facial recognition and electronic chips – what better way to keep track of your 'loyal' citizens? Authoritarianism is on the rise in **China (27)**, where new Regulations for Religious Affairs came into force on 1 February 2018. There has been increased surveillance and scrutiny of churches. Chinese churches have been pressured to fly the national flag higher than the cross and sing the national anthem before services. A focus on prohibiting children and youth from hearing religious teaching has seen nursery and Sunday schools closed down, summer camps banned, and churches forced to place signs at the entrance forbidding anyone under 18 to enter. In several provinces, church meetings have been disrupted.

A government document promises to provide 'Active guidance' to help religion 'adapt to socialist society'; in other words, it must serve the Communist Party. A new 'Law on Belief and Religion' also came into force in **Vietnam (20)**, where the government views religion as a social problem and potential threat to national security. And in **Myanmar (18)** the United Wa State Army (UWSA), the largest ethnic militia in the country, declared almost all churches built after the Communist Party's 1989 collapse must be destroyed. No new churches will be allowed. All churches, missionaries, schoolteachers, and clergy are to be investigated, with foreign workers banned and those found to support missionary activities set to be punished. Its worth noting that the UWSA is supported by neighbouring China.

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/trends/>

### A Big Thank You

A big thank you to all those who provided lovely flowers for the Church in 2019 and another big thank you to all those contributing flowers for the coming year and Magda for organising the rota.

### Has baptism been on your mind?

Believer's baptism is a very special moment on the journey of faith. It is a moment when God's presence and blessing meets us, and when we make our personal commitment of faith in Jesus as Lord.

It signifies the end of our old life and of being born again to new life in Christ. It speaks of repentance and cleansing, of being united with Christ in his death and resurrection, and of witnessing to the call of God upon our lives. Baptism is also about receiving God's Spirit for service in the church and in the world. Please speak to Ron if baptism is on your mind.



## Sunday Service January 19th

**Flowers:** Jane Skivington  
**Welcome:** Maggie and Magda  
**Refreshments:** Ben and Barbara

### *For Your Diary*

**Monday January 27th**

**Prayer Meeting**

7.00 to 8.00pm in the Church

**Thursday January 30th**

**Lunch Club**

12.00 for 12.30pm in the Stables

**Friday January 31st**

**Youth Pop Up Café**

7.00pm In schoolroom

**Monday February 3rd**

**Deacons Meeting**

7.30 in the Stables

### Jerry's Extra Reads

Exodus 3 - I AM,  
Exodus 16- Bread from Heaven,  
Ecclesiastes 2- Vanity, Isaiah 55:1-3,  
Mark 8:31-38, Luke 12:13

### Jerry's Quotes of the Week

**"Nothing so thoroughly reveals the hearts of men as a summons to believe in Christ—to hear that call, and to have to abandon everything and feed upon him."**

---J. C. Ryle

**"Jesus Christ did not come into the world to assist you in meeting desires you already had before you were born again. He came into the world to change your desires so that he is the main one. That is the reason he came."**

---John Piper

**"The wine that ran out in chapter 2, the life of Nicodemus that was mere flesh and blood in chapter 3, the inadequacy of worship that took place in Samaria and Jerusalem, in chapter 5 the man near the waters but who would never be healed, and now in chapter 6 these people who are seeking bread that can never satisfy. And when Jesus gives wine that satisfies in chapter 2, life that satisfies in chapter 3, worship that satisfies and wholeness that satisfies in chapter 5, and here feeding that satisfies, The great question they should have been asking is, 'Where do we get the bread of Jesus?'"**

---Sinclair Ferguson