

# Stalham Baptist Church

## Weekly News Bulletin

Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2017



**Pastor:** Rev. Ron Skivington

**Secretary:** Geoff Reynolds 01692 672120

**Ministry Team:** Whole Fellowship

**Today Barbara is leading her theme "King Jesus" and Ron will be preaching.**

We would like to offer a very big welcome to any visitors who have joined us this Sunday.

Please take a "Welcome" booklet and also would you kindly sign our visitor's 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.

### What's on this week?

Monday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Church Open for Prayer Filling Station	10.00am -12 noon 7.30pm	Church Hickling Barn
Tuesday	10 <sup>th</sup>	Coffee and Chat Potter Heigham House Group	9.30am - 11.30am 7.30pm	Stables 30 St Nicholas Way
Wednesday	11 <sup>th</sup>	Over 60's Table Tennis Study Group	9.30am -12 noon 7.30pm	Schoolroom Stables
Thursday	12 <sup>th</sup>	Lunch Club Pop Up Cafe	12.15pm 2.30pm - 4.30pm	Stables Schoolroom
Saturday	14 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer Powerhouse Focus Morning	8.00am - 9.00am 10.00am - 12noon	Church (Side Door) Schoolroom
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday Morning Service Prayer and Praise	10.45am 7.00pm	Church Church

### For your Prayers:

Please pray for Sandra Feek who had an operation yesterday. Also pray for the family of Norman Wakeham whose funeral is on the 17<sup>th</sup> January. As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Thomas Maile**.

In January pray for the residents of **Strawberry Fields and Chapel Court**.

**Foulsham Baptist Church.** Now we look forward to a year of change as our minister, Neil Walker is retiring in April. Please pray with us for God's help in tackling the uncertainties and the decisions which face us as a church. Please also pray for Neil as he makes plans for the future.

January marks the end of a year of celebrations of our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary – we have had several events for the church and the village - a magic show, a scarecrow festival, a ceilidh, a talk from Fiona Castle and several special Sunday morning speakers. We thank God for the success of those events and the contacts we have made through them and pray for many opportunities to build on that success.

### Dates for your diary:

- January 14<sup>th</sup> Focus Morning Church 10-12 looking at Schoolroom proposals.  
" 21<sup>st</sup> Men's breakfast Stables 8.30am.  
28<sup>th</sup> Burns Night Supper 7.00pm.  
29<sup>th</sup> Church Meeting after the service at 12.30pm.

**Focus Morning Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>:** We are organising a drop in session on Saturday morning 10am - 12 noon in the Schoolroom to discuss further the plans that have been drawn up for the Schoolroom, the community's feedback is vital to the success of this project. If you could spare a few minutes to pop in on Saturday your thoughts would be very valuable.

**David Huxter Birthday Celebration:** To celebrate David's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, you are invited to food and a chat in the stables Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> Jan 3:30pm. All welcome. David and Norma Huxter.

**Men's Breakfast:** The next men's breakfast is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 8-30am in the stables with bacon butties cereals etc. and **Steve English** giving a short talk. Cost is £3 00 and any money left over goes into missionary funds. Please give your name to Alan Jarman by Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

**The BMS Birthday Scheme:** Raised £192.50 in 2016.

**Town Hall Stall:** We are having a stall in town hall Tuesday 31st January from 9am. These have been a great success in “reaching out.” If anyone is able to help give out free materials and talk to people speak to Ron.

**Burns Night:** This year’s Burns Night Supper will be on January 28th at 7.00pm please book with either Jane or Lorraine for an evening of food and fun.

**Monday Morning Rota:** If anyone would like to go on the rota for “Church sitting” on Mondays 10am – 12 noon please contact Janet Nicholson.

**The Persecuted Church:** Prayers for Persecuted Church 10.30 to 11.30 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 6 St Johns Road Stalham. For further details speak to Eileen or David Neil.

### **Thoughts on Persecution:**

**“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it” (1 Corinthians 12:26-27).**

What comes to mind when you hear the word persecution? Today an estimated 5.5 billion people (77 percent of the world) of all faiths (Christian, Muslim, Jew, Hindu, Buddhist and others) face some form of religious persecution, including economic discrimination, imprisonment, physical violence and death.

Here are four countries where the body of Christ is suffering. These individuals, their families and their churches are keeping the Christian witness alight in some of the darkest parts of the world:

#### **Syria**

The Syrian Christian population has been decimated. According to *The New York Times*, by 2013, almost 25 percent (450,000) of Syria’s Christians had fled. The number of registered Syrian refugees then was 1,877,020. Today, it has more than doubled to 4,086,760, so if displacement rates have remained the same, **more than 50 percent of the country’s Christian population may have become refugees.**

#### **China**

China’s Communist government has imprisoned Christian human rights lawyers representing “house churches” and their leaders. One lawyer, Zhang Kai was arrested and sentenced to six months in a “black jail” for representing numerous churches whose crosses had been forcibly removed by the government.

In Zhejiang province, the government removed an estimated 1,500 crosses from both government-sanctioned churches and house churches. In some cases, the government destroyed the churches themselves.

Info. on Black Jails <http://www.ibtimes.com/amnesty-report-highlights-scourge-torture-chinas-black-jails-2181070>

#### **North Korea**

**Tens of thousands of Christians are enslaved in labour camps for their faith.**

North Korea is one of the most dangerous places on earth for Christians. Anyone who practices Christianity is subject to arrest, torture, imprisonment, labour camps and death. The North Korean government classifies families based on their expressions of loyalty to the state and places Christian families at the bottom of society.

#### **Crimea**

**Only 1 percent of Ukrainian religious organizations succeeded in re-registering after the Russian invasion.**

Russian authorities are suspicious of “the political reliability” of indigenous churches. There are reports of pro-Russian militias targeting indigenous Ukrainian Christians for kidnapping, torture and murder. Indigenous leaders report surveillance from the security services and questioning by Russian security officers.

To read the full article of ten countries where Christians are persecuted go to:

<http://www.relevantmagazine.com/reject-apathy/violence/10-stats-show-dire-state-christian-persecution>

### **JOHN WHITE’S THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Daniel 3 vs.18 “But if not” + 1 Samuel 14 vs.6 “May be” [NIV “Perhaps”]. God’s superabundant grace, His best intention, even in our doubt or uncertainty, that Divine, unmerited favour. John 1 vs. 14-18.

### **Quote of the Week**

We must confront persecution faced by many Christian communities and the intolerance that plagues us. We must overcome anti-Semitism and the prejudice that divides us. We must defeat Islamophobia and the fears that weaken us. *Ban Ki-moon South Korean diplomat who was the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations from January 2007 to December 2016.*

**For next week’s bulletin please kindly give or send items to David Child 07799262645**

**[bulletin@stalhambaptist.co.uk](mailto:bulletin@stalhambaptist.co.uk) before 7pm on Wednesday.**

**Contact Stalham Baptist Church on 01692 582731**

**Next Week’s Service Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

**Flowers:** Monica Payne

**Welcome:** Elizabeth and Magda

**Refreshments:** David and Eileen