

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday 4th December 2022 Service

This Sunday Jerry is leading and preaching from 2 Samuel 7 considering "God's promise to David" in two parts.

This week part one:

David's Plan for God. 1-3, God's Perspective. 4-7, God's Promises. 8-11

The online service will also be available from Sunday.

Go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/

Then click on "Join Our Online Service

Jerry's Reads

1 Chronicles 17:11-15, Psalm 89:3-4&34-37, Luke 1:30-33, Revelation 22:16, 2 Samuel 23:5 and Isaiah 55:3.

For Your Prayers

Elsa Burt's funeral will take place on Monday 12th 2.30pm at Gorleston Crematorium. Please prayer for Peter and Geci and the wider family Please pray that the Christmas edition of the Community Scene, now being delivered round the town, will be well received. As we pray through the Church Directory, please remember **Jill Mobbs**.

During December please pray for the residents and businesses of the **High Street and those living in Rosedale Court**.

Lord, send down Your Spirit to guide me during Advent this year. May the Holy Spirit help me journey closer to You, and lift me up when I feel down and lead me when I feel lost. I may stumble at times, but I know my ultimate journey is to draw closer to You and build Your kingdom here on earth—a kingdom that Jesus's birth, life and death helped secure. Amen. Source <https://hallow.com/>

Virtual Prayer Room

On Thursday 1st December David posted "Please pray for Pat Hinkins a regular visitor to Coffee and Chat who is having major surgery on Monday."

Bible Reading Matthew 26 : 36-46 (MSG)

³⁶⁻³⁸ Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, "Stay here while I go over there and pray." Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me."

³⁹ Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, do what you want?"

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there's another part that's as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

⁴² He then left them a second time. Again he prayed, "My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I'm ready. Do it your way."

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ When he came back, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray, going over the same ground one last time.

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ When he came back the next time, he said, "Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let's get going! My betrayer is here."

How easy is as Christians to lose focus on what Jesus wants from us and getting side-tracked by all that's going on around us which seems so important?

Listen to Ron's talk on the passage with a short blog (less than 5 minutes) by visiting our [Scripture Reading Plan](#) Then click on [Public Area](#) then [Scripture Reading Plan](#).



Pastor: Rev. Ron Skivington
01692 582731

Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
07733837687

Secretary: Diana Gordon
07951949128

Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 5th December

7.00pm Deacons Meeting
2 to 4pm Warm Spaces in the Stables

Tuesday 6th December

Coffee and Chat
9.30am -12 in the Stables
1.30pm Stables School Christmas
Production Rehearsal in the Church

Wednesday 7th December

Table Tennis
9.30am -12 in the School Room
10-12pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
1.30pm Stables School Christmas
Production in the Church
2.30 - 4.30pm Christmas afternoon
tea and Beetle Drive in the Stables

Thursday 8th December

10 to 2pm Warm Spaces in the Stables
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting
Details in online Diary

Friday 9th December

10.15 Prayer for Revival
Three Windows, Brumstead Road
1.15-3pm Foodbank in Stables

Sunday 11th December

10.45 Sunday Service
Flowers: Lorraine Stuart
Welcome: Fran & David

Food Bank & Personal Prayer

SBC is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and for personal prayer. Jerry or Ron is always in attendance. The **Food Bank** is open on Fridays in the Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm. If you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Citizens Advice Service 0344 411 1444, the Food Bank on 07826 376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Community Fridge Open

Mondays 2.00 pm - 4.00pm Tuesday to Friday 10.00am to 12 noon

If you are reading this newsletter as a PDF online you can click on the red highlighted links and you will be taken to the relevant websites.

Gracie Nicholson's Cakes

A big thankyou to Gracie who took £94 for the Foodbank last Sunday with the cakes she made. She sold out of all she had made and could have sold more.

Carols at Sydney House

SBC will be holding a Carol service at one afternoon week beginning 19th December. [awaiting confirmation] If you would like to take part have a chat with Diana or Ron.

Stalham Yuletide Market

Please Support What SBC are Doing

The Yuletide Market is this Sunday 1.00 – 5.00pm. SBC itself will have musical entertainment from The Walcott Warblers, and from Papajam, a father and daughter duo who will be singing for us during the afternoon. Papajam will be performing at 1pm and again at 3pm with the Walcott Warblers singing carols and festive songs at about 2pm. Also in the schoolroom there will be stalls of Christmas goodies and Edna will have two stalls to raise money for the Building Fund.

As well as Father Christmas making a magical appearance at about 2.30pm in the Stables and giving out presents, we are hoping to have Facepainting for children. Teas, coffee and cakes will be available in the Stables as well as "Good as new and new clothes" to raise money for the Building Fund. Local author Peter Tye will be reading stories from his "Little Red Tractor" books. Peter will also be selling copies of his books for children. Peter has been visiting events for some years but this will be his last public appearance.

Bar Room Blues

The brilliantly entertaining Bar Room Blues evening by Chris and Greg last Saturday raised £165 for the building fund.

Did You Know

If you are buying Christmas gifts on Amazon you can raise money for SBC. Every time you buy something 0.5% will be donated to SBC at no cost to you.

Up to November SBC has received £55.53

Go to <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1192914-0>

Or Click [here](#).

EBA Prayer Focus 4th December 2022

Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay Baptist Church

Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay are the two communities that form the eastern edge of the City of Southend-on-Sea. Shoeburyness is a former Garrison town and Thorpe Bay is a newer residential area. The church is made up of people from both communities and beyond. At the start of November STBBC launched their vision/framework for the next season of church life – Hope & Hospitality. God is definitely stirring the waters and there is anticipation and excitement about how things are developing. In 2020 the church adopted a Statement of Inclusion and they have subsequently registered for same-sex marriage, conducting their first in May 2021. STBBC has since worked with a number of other churches who are discussing LGBTQ inclusion. Many people



in the church have also taken part in racial justice learning communities, and STBBC is actively working on how to better support and engage with people who are autistic. STBBC continues to be active in their local community, especially through work with children and young people and their Parish Nursing team. The live streaming of services and use of social media is enabling the church to increasingly engage with people online also. The church currently has two Pastors – Rev David Mayne (Lead Pastor) and Vicky Baker (Pastor for Children and Families), with Rev Jo Hellenbrand (Pastor for Caring and Serving Ministries) set to join the team in January. For prayer:

- For the Elders and Trustees as they work through the various challenges and strategic decisions facing the church.
- For the appointment of a new Youth Worker in January 2023.
- For the good welcome and integration of new people attending each week

Big Thankyou From Rita

Rita says "a big thank you to everyone for their prayers and words of encouragement," as all has gone well with her procedures.

Foodbank

This month any of the following would be much appreciated: Long Life Milk – full fat or semi-skimmed, Tinned Fish, Tinned Vegetables, Pasta Sauce, Rice Pudding, Pot Noodles/Mugshots, Squash/Fruit Juice, Laundry Detergent, Deodorant, Toilet Rolls, Cleaning Sprays. Plus any Christmas treats.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"God's staggering promise to David points us to the everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ. God's people had tasted the blessings of His rule for a short time during the reign of David. The full blessing of God's rule is found in Jesus Christ."—**Colin Smith**

"God made a binding promise to David concerning one of his sons; the genealogy [in Matthew 1] shows how he's fulfilled it. Human promises are flawed, but when God promises something, we can take it to the bank. If he has pledged himself to you, he isn't letting you go, no matter what you do. Israel couldn't out-sin the promises of God—and neither can you."—**Patrick Schreiner**

"God's promises are like the stars; the darker the night the brighter they shine."—**David Nicholas**

"The Bible is full of God's promises to provide for us spiritually and materially, to never forsake us, to give us peace in times of difficult circumstances, to cause all circumstances to work together for our good, and finally to bring us safely home to glory. Not one of those promises is dependent upon our performance. They are all dependent on the grace of God given to us through Jesus Christ."— **Jerry Bridges**

"Satan promises the best, but pays with the worst; he promises honour, and pays with disgrace; he promises pleasure, and pays with pain; he promises profit, and pays with loss; he promises life, and pays with death. But God pays as He promises; all His payments are made in pure gold."— **Thomas Brook**



'Albanians have been leaving their country for decades'

As a British pastor in Albania, Paul Alkazraji has heard many migration stories. In the light of a rise in the numbers of Albanians crossing the Channel this year, he offers this reflection. Source Baptist Times.

As I viewed the modern glass towers and the bare-bricked communist era apartments of the Albanian town where I lived this summer, my son showed me a TikTok advert popping up on his phone. It was for dinghy crossings to England over the Channel for £5500.

'You've already got your air ticket,' I joked, 'and it cost a lot less.'

Inside, though, I was surprised at the brazenness of it, and concerned that people smuggling adverts had reached my fourteen-year-old.

Since then, the figures of how many young Albanian men have been crossing the English Channel in small boats have become clearer: around 10,000 so far this year, with another 2000 Albanian women and children (up from 50 in 2020). As Albanian middlemen have got involved along the coast of northern France, they have been recruiting back home with some apparent success.

The majority of those Albanians risking the choppy waters will be economic migrants seeking a way to a better life. Some may have been trafficked for the sex industry. Some will game the system for asylum. Some will try to disappear and work illegally before returning home to Albania later with their earnings. Some may become debt bonded to the drugs gangs, if they let them pay the cross-Channel passage for them.

Albanians have been leaving their country for decades. There was a time under Enver Hoxha when rivers were electrified, those seen escaping were shot, and you could be sent to internment for saying the cheese was better in Greece. Later when communism crumbled, Albanians packed onto cargo ships from Durrës, trekked through the mountain passes into Greece, and hid in secret

compartments in the back of freight lorries to get out. These days they are not fleeing violent persecution, oppression or war, but rural poverty, unemployment, low wages, poor working conditions and corruption. In the Albanian village where I pastor a church,



I have heard many migration stories first hand. One time, a young man gave me his mobile phone the night before he left. I asked myself, why? Was it because he didn't need it anymore, and **was** intending to buy a new one in his destination country?

Then I realised it was a kind of token for his safe keeping. 'Don't forget me. Keep an eye out for me...' he was saying. A young single mother once told me how she had waded a border river illegally at night to reach a job to bring money back home for her son. I was moved by her physical courage.

In this fallen world, there are so many people seeking a better life, a place of peace where they can build a liveable existence and prosper. As the push factors mount up – wars, the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters, crop failures, food scarcity, cost of living crises – so will the number of people seeking to enter those places that presently have some stability.

Christians know how the story will end. There will come a time when 'nations will not raise their swords against other nations, nor will they train for war any more', and when 'swords are made into ploughshares and each person can sit under his own fig tree in peace and enjoy the fruit of his vine'. Until then, the authorities will need the wisdom of Solomon to filter out and exclude those individuals who would bring additional destruction and pain to the community, and in compassion give refuge too to the traumatised and vulnerable.

The Albanian Prime Minister, Edi Rama, says the present climate is 'fuelling xenophobia by singling out one community'. It is true to say that Albanians in the UK are feeling the cold wind of hostility blowing in their direction at the moment. Three times it's been said to me that 65 per cent of UK inmates are Albanian when the figure is nearer 2 per cent. Someone must be spreading that.

There are more than half a dozen flights every day from Tirana to the UK bringing Albanians in and out legally as they work, study and visit their relatives. My son deleted the people smuggling adverts and we hopped on the plane with them too.

Paul Alkazraji is a **British writer** and the author of a novel called *The Migrant*, which is published by **Instant Apostle**.

He was a freelance journalist in the UK until 2003, and from 2004 to 2010 editor and publisher of a magazine for churches in Albania.

He has been pastor of a village church there since 2014.

For more articles go to <https://www.baptisttimes.co.uk/>

**WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT STALHAM
BAPTIST CHURCH
THIS SUNDAY**



IN THE STABLES

**Father Christmas at around 2.30pm
with his presents**

Teas Coffee Cakes

Good as new and new clothes

**Local author Peter Tye will be reading
stories from his Little Red Tractor books**

IN THE CHURCH

**Christmas songs by Papajam
& The Walcott Warblers**

IN THE SCHOOLROOM

**Tables full of Christmas Goodies
All welcome**

**Christmas Tree
Festival**

**St Mary's Church Stalham
Sat 3 - Sun 11 December
10am-4pm**

(from 12 on Sundays, till 5pm on 4th - Yuletide Market)

Late night opening Weds 7th 6-8pm

Free entry and a warm welcome

Fabulous trees decorated by
our fabulous community

Beautiful nativity scenes

Delicious refreshments



**CHRISTMAS
AFTERNOON TEA
AND BEETLE DRIVE**

Wednesday 7th December 2022

2.30 till 4.30pm

In the SBC Stables

All Welcome

Please book with Elaine

07796 875785

or elainesmith@btinternet.com

**All donations to Stalham Baptist Church
Building Fund**

