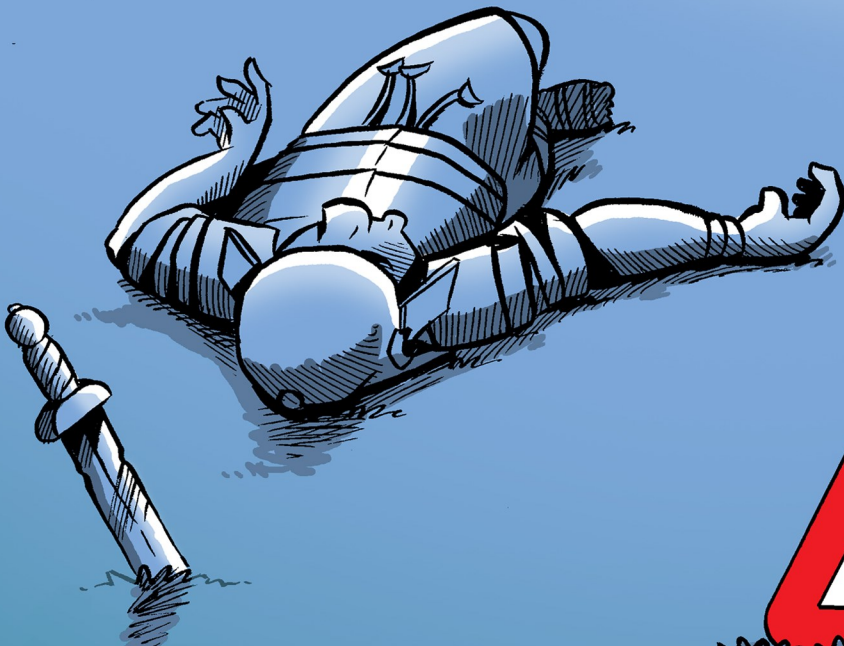
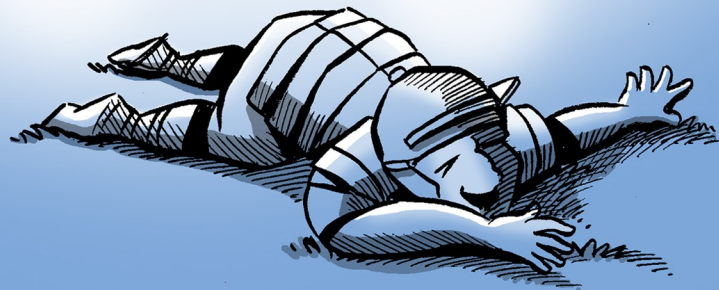
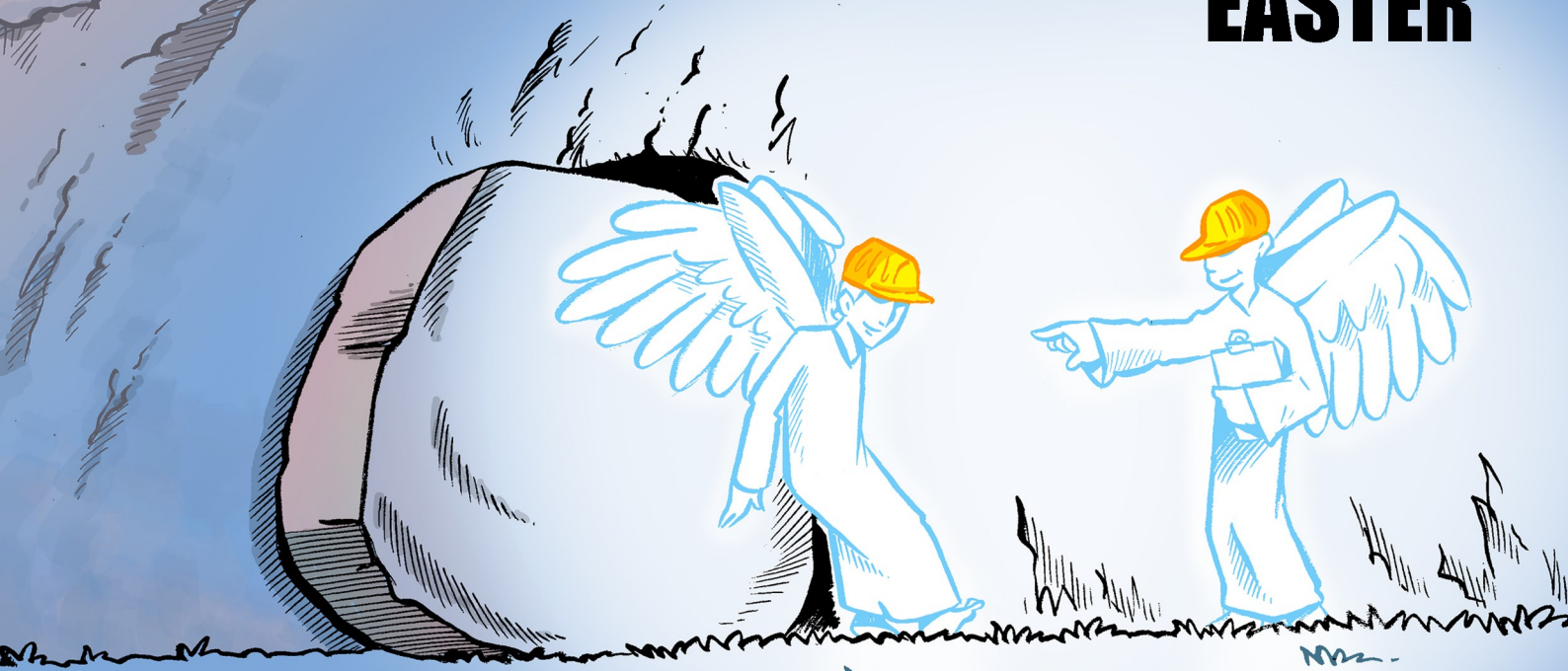


COMMUNITYscene

EASTER



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HELP FOR THE HOMELESS

SCAM ALERTS

Easter at Stalham Baptist Church

Good Friday 18th April

7.00pm Reflective Service

Stalham Baptist Church

Easter Sunday 20th April

CELEBRATION Service

Stalham Baptist Church

10.45am to 12noon

Son Rise Service

Easter Sunday 20th April

At How Hill 6.30am

NR29 5PG (Next to car park)

Easter Sunday services have been held at How Hill for over 30 years, and during that time the hardy flock of worshippers have been treated to early morning warm sun, or ice, snow, and biting winds sweeping off the wetlands below, all testing the musicianship of the frozen-fingered guitar players Ron Skivington and David Osborne before a rising, watery sun provides them with a little warmth.

“He has Risen” will be the shout, followed by readings and songs. The congregation will be joined by the singing tree-top birds, honking geese, and the circling gulls squawking cries. The outdoor service is a spiritually moving event. The celebration of God’s love expressed by Jesus’s torturous sacrifice for us on the cross and His resurrection for our salvation is physically and emotionally powerful on an exposed hillside, rather than the cosy, comfort-bubble of our churches. At the end of the service the car park quickly empties as many of the worshippers head back to the warm Schoolroom at Stalham Baptist Church for hot coffee or tea and a breakfast of cereal, croissants and hot filled rolls. Everyone is welcome to the Sunrise





Welcome to Stalham Baptist Church Easter Community Scene

For with GOD nothing is impossible

This is Stalham Baptist Church's twenty-fifth Community Scene.

A Really Big Thankyou to Steve English, who has produced all our great cartoons, Sonia Maynard and Tim Manley who helped with production and Roger, Niki and Katie Newman at our printers Century Printing Stalham. Thank you to all our amazing volunteers who delivered the magazine for us. You can contact us at editor@communityscene.org.uk

STALHAM FRINGE FESTIVAL SUNDAY 18th May ART EXHIBITION St MARY'S CHURCH. Thursday 15th – Sunday 18th MAY.

The Stalham Area Business Forum 's first Street event for 2025 is now planned. The free Stalham Fringe Festival of Music and Dance will be back on Sunday 18th May.

Our local talented local performers are joining us in the two inside venues, St Marys Church and the Town Hall. In addition, with dancers, musicians, and singers in the High Street there will be loads to do and see and without paying a penny. Free entertainment all day, starts at 11am.

The High Street will be closed from 10am to allow 30 plus stalls to set up and then residents and visitors can visit in a traffic free space and enjoy the day.

With a variety of food, drink, and craft stalls there should be plenty of variety for all. Cakes, savouries, bakes,

gin, beer, rum, cider, sweets, fudge, doggy treats, hot food and burgers will be offered alongside local crafts locally grown plants and new garden sculptures.

Performers joining us on the day include Holt Ridge Morris, The Pan Afro Band, The Scratch Band, Eastern Folkloric Dance group,

Penny Doe, Carpe Nocturne, The Seaside Ukulele Band, Richard Pearce, The Beautiful Cuban Wheel Salsa group, Dumisani Drummers, Dance Egyptian and the Black Hat Saxophone Quartet. Street organ Lucy will be playing in the High Street, along with local musicians. And we have Village voices, Merlin's Hat, Squeeze East and The Troshers joining us for the first time. And there may be more...

Walk along our Victorian High Street and see what's happening

This unique Festival gives 6 hours of entertainment. What a day to come out and enjoy the atmosphere. Stalham people can stroll from their homes and for visitors there will be free parking at Stalham High School, Stalham Staithe Surgery, and for up to 3 hours in Tesco for visitors, so who would stay at home?

BUT MORE.... New this year is a 4 Day Art Festival starting on Thursday 15th May in St Mary's Church with great local artists exhibiting.

Contact 07760115153 for more info or check The Stalham Fringe Facebook Page.



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THE Printers in Stalham for 30 Years 1995 – 2025

Warning Scam Alerts



The Norfolk Constabulary has advice on how to avoid scams, including phone scams, email scams, and cheque fraud. You can also report scams to the police.

Phone scams

- The police or your bank will never ask you to send money or buy items over the phone
- If you're suspicious, hang up and wait a few minutes before calling back
- Don't give out your PIN, bank card, or bank account details over the phone

Email and text scams

- Be careful when opening emails and texts, especially if you don't know the sender
- Don't open attachments or click links in emails or texts from unknown sources
- Don't give out personal information, financial details, or passwords

Cheque fraud

- Use indelible ink pens or black or blue ballpoint pens on cheques
- Cross through any blank spaces on cheques
- Don't leave large spaces between words
- Check your bank statements regularly

Reporting scams

- You can report a scam to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

Personal fraud and how to prevent it

Fraud is when a person lies to you, or 'scams' you, to gain an advantage, such as taking your money or learning private information about you. This could be via email, text, phone or in person, either on the street or on your doorstep.

Some adults may be especially vulnerable to fraud and financial abuse. If you're concerned about someone you know, contact your local social services and ask for Adult **Social Care**.

With a little knowledge you can protect yourself from fraudsters too:

- Learn the ten golden rules to prevent fraud (see below).
- Find out about the most common types of fraud.
- For more information and help and to report fraud, go to **Action Fraud**, the UK's national fraud and cybercrime reporting centre.

Ten golden rules to prevent fraud

Remember these ten golden rules to help you prevent fraud and beat the scammers.

1. Be suspicious of all 'too good to be true' offers and deals. There are no guaranteed get-rich-quick schemes.
2. Don't agree to offers or deals immediately. Insist on time to get independent or legal advice before making a decision.
3. Don't hand over money or sign anything until you've checked someone's credentials and their company's.
4. Never send money to anyone you don't know or trust, whether in the UK or abroad, or use methods of payment you're not comfortable with.
5. Never give banking or personal details to anyone you don't know or trust. This information is valuable so make sure you protect it.
6. Always log on to a website directly rather than clicking on links in an email.
7. Don't just rely on glowing testimonials. Find solid, independent evidence of a company's success.
8. Always get independent or legal advice if an offer involves money, time or commitment.
9. If you spot a scam or have been scammed, report it and get help.

Don't be embarrassed about reporting a scam. Because the scammers are cunning and clever, there's no shame in being deceived. By reporting it, you'll make it more difficult for them to deceive others.

Get help or report a scam

If you think you've uncovered a scam, been targeted by a scam or fallen victim to fraudsters, contact Action Fraud on [0300 123 2040](tel:03001232040) or at [Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.org.uk).

Reporting crime, including fraud, is important. If you don't tell the authorities, how do they know it's happened and how can they do anything about it?

Remember that if you're a victim of a scam or an attempted scam, however minor, there may be hundreds or thousands of others in a similar position. Your information may form part of one big jigsaw and be vital to completing the picture.

PC Matt Pritty our local Beat Manager

Since the last edition we have been carrying on with our visits to the local schools and interacting with the students whilst also providing a visible presence outside at the start and end of the school day to ensure the safety of the children and ensure parking and speeding are monitored accordingly.

Speed checks have been conducted across the Stalham area following concerns raised directly to us and at the recent SNM meeting.

The SNM (Safer Neighbourhood) meeting is where we invite members of the community to come along and hear what we've been up to in the area, what's coming up and discuss matters causing concern or worry and look to deal with these as part of our local policing plan (priorities), the SNM meetings are held roughly every 10 weeks and the next meeting is due on Tuesday 15th April @18:30hrs at the Poppy Centre at the Recreation Ground.

We've attended several events over the winter and been

invited to forthcoming events which we always aim to attend or provide a presence when possible.

Laura and I are still conducting follow up visits to victims of crime and vulnerable local residents supporting where possible and liaising with other organisations / external agencies who may be able to offer ongoing support.

We continue to have a rise in reports of scams, including phone calls, text messages and emails. Please see the attached advice sheet (page 4) and call the Police on the 101 number if you feel you have been a



victim of a scam or have concerns for another person.

You should never give out personal details to someone you don't know, and the bank or Police would never ask you for any money or bank card details.

I am always happy to be contacted for advice and will always look to respond as soon as I can. I would always advise reporting crime related matters to 101 for a non-emergency matter or 999 in an emergency.

You can contact us on SNTStalham@norfolk.police.uk or call 101 and ask for me on Extension 1153 @Hoveton
Thank you, PC 445 Matt Pritty"

Free Food at Stalham Community Fridge

Community Fridge at SBC's Stables has been open from July 2021. Since then, Tesco's have regularly donated and now so does Morrison's at Nicholsons Garage. Local people too make donations from their gardens and cupboards. The food on offer is available to anyone [one bag per person] who drops in, as the reason behind the fridge is the prevention of waste and food stuffs going into landfill. **For more information go to Stalham Community Fridge Facebook page.** Community Fridge is open Monday 2 to 4pm and Tuesday to Friday 10 to 12 noon.

Guidance for Seeking Care Support in 2025

Due to Budget Changes in October 2024 the cost of home care and residential care support has increased. It is suggested that the minimum hourly rate should be approximately £32.14* per hour, up from £28.53 last year. (Higher rates in Greater London).

When arranging care packages, whether privately funded or state-supported, it is essential for families to:

1. Compare Multiple Providers

- Obtain quotes and information

from several care providers

2. Key Questions to Ask

- Total cost breakdown
- Care worker actual wages
- Staff training programs and qualifications
- DBS (Criminal Record Check) verification
- Insurance coverage details
- Out-of-hours support and on-call systems.

Are there initial registration fees?

Information gives families the power to choose their provider, to ascertain the value of the care support that is being offered, and also to have the knowledge to change providers if they are not happy with the support. Able Community Care is a Live-in Care provider operating throughout the UK and happy to answer any questions that you may have.

T: 01603 764567

E: info@ablecommunitycare.com

W: www.ablecommunitycare.com

* UK Homecare Association.

Bring The Bible To Life

An experience that will forever change the way you view your Bible on Saturday 26th April 10am - 4.30pm

An interactive and engaging teaching event that uncovers the Big Picture of the Old Testament - Genesis to Malachi. An encouraging way to consolidate prior Bible knowledge and help fill in gaps.

PROMOTER

Diana Gordon

Stalham Baptist Church

07951 949128

secretary@

stalhambaptist.org.uk



Five 1hr sessions split over a Saturday. One of our experienced



**WALK
THRU
THE
BIBLE®**

Presenters will be leading the event. We use the room to explain the Biblical geography and how it impacts the story. Our specifically designed Workbook, accompanied by a PowerPoint, contains maps, charts and book summaries.

Arrive from 9.30am and bring a packed lunch.

Cost £14

free for those aged 11-17

VENUE

Stalham Baptist Church

High Street

Stalham, Norfolk

NR12 9AZ

01692 582731



THE CHOIR WORSTEAD SINGING AT SBC

On Sunday, May 4th, at 3pm The Choir Worstead will give a concert of varied music at Stalham Baptist Church.

The choir has been in existence since 2006 when a group of local Worstead friends met up for a sing. Eventually the group asked Sam Schiller to lead them and as the group grew in numbers, Beverley Downs took the reins and transformed the choir into a four-part SATB choir. She enlarged their repertoire and began giving concerts around the area. Recently they gave concerts at North Walsham Methodist Church, Worstead Queen Elizabeth Hall and Worstead church.

Originally based in Worstead, the choir now meets in Dilham Village Hall on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30. Beverley has since retired and the choir is now conducted by Adrian Connell who is well known for being the stage director and musical director of the Norfolk YMT for 25 years. The concert programme is not quite decided but will include:

A Prayer For Peace, an expressive anthem by Joseph Martin & Robert Sterling. Extracts from The Armed Man by the Welsh composer Karl Jenkins. The world premier of a cantata called, When Did The Shadow Fall? By the conductor, Adrian Connell
The second half of the concert is a

much more light-hearted affair starting with: *Feel The Spirit, a cycle of seven familiar spirituals expertly arranged by the brilliant John Rutter*

And in addition the Altissima Choir will join us and sing two items in the concert.

This is a free concert but donations would be appreciated and will be split between the choir and S B C.

The choir now has around 28 members, and new members are joining each month. If you enjoy singing why not come along for two weeks free trial and meet new friends.

Although the music can be tricky, many of the choir members don't read music and the conductor teaches each section, so you learn small sections as we go along in rehearsals. Plus, you will never be asked to sing solo.



THE CHOIR WORSTEAD
REHEARSING

The Howling Black Shuck

Black Shuck is the name of a ghostly black dog that has been said to haunt East Anglia going back to the 13th century. It has been recorded as a one red eyed creature the size of cow and other times as a large ugly dog with two eyes. His howl has been said to make your blood run cold. According to folklore the dog prowls hunting along dark lanes and footpaths of Norfolk and Suffolk.

Legend has it that on the 4th August 1577 Black Shuck crashed through the doors of St Mary's Church in Bungay to a roaring sound of thunder killing a man and boy and destroying the church steeple. The dog is then said to have clawed its way into Holy Trinity Blythburgh Church where it mauled and killed more people leaving its scorch footmarks on the door of the church pictured which still can be seen.

During the 1920s and 1930s there were reports from the fishermen of Sheringham hearing a hound howling on the cliff tops during stormy nights. As recently as 1970 a sighting of the Black Shuck in Great Yarmouth made the

headlines. In 1980 a young woman claimed to have met the hound whilst walking with her young son near Wisbech. The village of Overstrand which is close to Cromer has a road called Shuck's Lane. It's thought Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's wrote the 'Hound of the Baskervilles' after playing golf on holiday in Cromer and hearing about the creature that was believed to stalk the countryside.

Of course, the events in 1577 could just be the damage of a severe storm and what people see and hear can be misinterpreted in the darkness but we can add the East Anglian Black Shuck with the Yeti, also known as the Abominable

Snowman, a mythical creature said to live in the Himalayas and the

Bigfoot also referred to as

Sasquatch a large, hairy mythical creature said to inhabit forests in North America, and not forgetting Scotland's Loch Ness monster.

Picture Shuck from norfolkcoast.co.uk/



Dear Stalham Community

This is my first time writing in the community scene and it is a real privilege. Let me quickly introduce myself and then share a bit about my upbringing and what I've been up to this year!

My family moved to Stalham in 2004 and so I went through Stalham High School and that meant I did most of the things that young people do in Stalham do; the good and the bad. With not much of a plan or vision for my life, I then went to Paston before studying Geography at the University of Sheffield. **It was at this point, and while living a pretty wild university lifestyle that I decided to try my hand at teaching English, and I looked to do so abroad because it enabled me to make some money, travel, and see a new culture while doing so. I found what felt like a reliable job in China and took a gamble.**

Although it was a challenging transition, I felt myself enjoying the foreign environment that I was in and how it forced me to adapt and change. **I started to enjoy teaching and progressed in learning Mandarin, but I continued in a lifestyle that looked for happiness in partying and popularity.** I

committed to staying longer in China, but I became more aware of the ever-increasing feeling of emptiness within me.

It was in my second year in China, and while reading about the reality of eternity, I became convicted of my way of life and knew that I desperately needed to receive the forgiveness of Jesus. I look back at that moment and I know that he really did forgive me. I felt it. It made me become alive. I found a small group of Christians that met weekly in an apartment and made a commitment to join

them. I began to love this simple expression of church, and privately began to hunger for more of God, which led me to read the Bible and pray. Looking back, I know that God took me to a place of 'wilderness' to reveal himself to me and give me something genuine.

Fast forward, it was my 7th year of teaching in China, my faith had grown, and yet I really desired to grow in my relationship with God. I was recommended a Youth With A Mission base in South Africa that had a Bible School and prioritized worship and prayer, and off I went. I've been at the base for 1 year now, and I can easily say that it was the best decision that I have made. 2024 was a real year of transformation for me and I know that it is only down to God's work in my life. So much so, that I couldn't wait to commit 2025 to another year of studying the Bible and growing to know God within community.

I continue to call Stalham my home in the UK, and whenever I return, I seek opportunities to engage with the community and share what has happened in my life.

During my winter vacation in Jan and Feb I was given the opportunity to speak at Stalham Baptist's Men's Breakfast and I also presented an 'Overview of the Bible' one evening in the church. My heart goes out to people in Stalham

and I long that they too would discover the life that is found in Jesus Christ.

While I hope that my story does prove that a boy from Stalham can literally end up anywhere, I know that from all my experiences my faith is the only thing of importance, and I hope that you would consider this a timely reminder as this is the Easter Edition after all!



Leading my students in a Dragon Boat Race in China.



Dying For A Lie?

While people have been known to die for a lie because they believed it to be true, it is almost impossible to find someone who would die for a lie with the full knowledge that it was false.

Judas Iscariot Betrayed Jesus and then hanged himself

James the Great The first apostle to be martyred, killed by King Herod Agrippa around 44 AD

Matthias Stoned and then beheaded after replacing Judas

Paul Tortured and beheaded by Emperor Nero in Rome in the mid- to late-60s AD

Peter Crucified upside down in Rome at his request

Andrew Crucified on an "X"-shaped cross in Greece

Thomas Impaled with a spear in India

Jude Killed with arrows after refusing to deny his faith in Christ

Other deaths :

Philip: Some say he was crucified in

Asia Minor, while others say he was stoned

Bartholomew: Possibly flayed alive

Simon the Zealot: Reportedly martyred at an old age

Matthew: Likely killed in Ethiopia by the sword

John: Died of natural causes after facing severe persecution

Jesus's apostles died for their faith, proclaiming that they saw Christ die and then rise from the grave.

Help and information for Homelessness



It is undeniable that the housing emergency is more severe than it has been for decades, and Shelter must continue to lean into its purpose: to defend the right to a safe home. We are far from ending rough sleeping. We haven't built enough social homes, and

private rents and evictions are at record levels. Daily, we see families pushed into grim and unsafe hostels, B&Bs and worse, miles away from their support networks, schools and health care. Children are sharing beds and have nowhere to play, eat or do homework. But we know the solution to the housing emergency. Together with our supporters we can fight for people's housing rights on the ground and secure the delivery of 90,000 social homes a year for ten years in England. The government needs to take action.

Shelter will continue to work locally and nationally to tackle the root causes of unfit housing and homelessness. Our frontline services are now firmly focused on lasting change for individuals, families and communities and are working in new and innovative ways. Our national helpline and online advice are still dedicated to meeting the urgent needs of people facing the trauma of homelessness. We have so much to be proud of. Last year we directly supported 34,084 people across our emergency helpline and webchat, as well as our 11 community hubs in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn, Norwich, Bournemouth, Plymouth, Newcastle, Bristol, Birmingham and Sheffield.

Our emergency helpline

Opening times: Monday to Friday, 8am - 6pm | Closed bank holidays

Call the helpline if you:

- are homeless
- have nowhere to stay tonight
- are worried about losing your home in the next two months

are at risk of harm or abuse

We use an interpreter service. When you call, tell your adviser if you want to use an interpreter.

Our helpline only gives advice on English housing law. Try [Shelter Scotland](#) or [Shelter Cymru](#) if you need advice for these areas.

Helpline 0808 800 4444

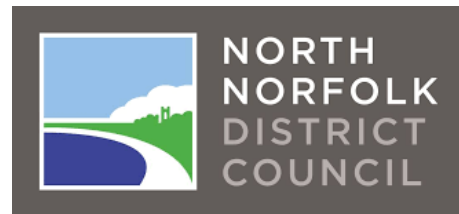
- our helpline is free
- it is useful to have documents ready before you call, like your tenancy agreement or relevant letters or messages. Keep trying if you can't get through. We're busy but we're here to help.

Get more help and information from Shelter.

https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help

https://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice/homelessness

https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/local_services/norwich



How we can help if you are homeless and have nowhere to sleep tonight, have been rough sleeping, or are in danger from the

threat of violence or abuse.

Please call our Housing Team on **01263 513811** or email housing@north-norfolk.gov.uk for advice and support.

Contact our emergency out of hours on **01223 849782** if you have nowhere to stay outside office hours or over the weekend.

Further advice and support

You can get further advice from:

Citizens Advice - provides free, confidential and independent advice to help people overcome their problems **Telephone:** 0800 144 8848

Crisis - a national charity for homeless people www.crisis.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline - contact **0808 2000 247** the freephone 24-hour National Domestic Violence Helpline.

Citizens Advice & North Norfolk Food Bank

The Citizens Advice Service is open on Friday in the Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm. To book an appointment contact the Food Bank on 07826 376343. You can also just drop in without an appointment.

SBC is a collection and distribution point for the Foodbank and is open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and provide a space for personal prayer.

Jerry or Ron are always on hand for anyone who needs help. The Food Bank at SBC is open on Fridays in the Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm.

If you need help, or know someone in difficulty, either contact the Food Bank on 07826 376343, or contact Ron Skivington at minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk

The Sign Says Free Breakfast ??

The question often gets raised as to just how long certain ministers will last in their new churches, the answer for many is around five years and then they will be gone. Writes Ron Skivington.

A reason was that by then they had run out of things to preach when Easter or Christmas came around again, they had given their best sermons, so anything further would be repetition they thought, however I don't think Paul the Apostle would ever have had that problem or thought that way.

In fact he wrote to a church he once had served in saying "when I came to you the first thing I did was tell you what I had so emphatically learnt, that Jesus died for our sins, just exactly as the Bible tells it, He was buried, He rose from the dead on the third day, again exactly as the Bible says, He then showed Himself to Peter, then others of His closest followers, and later still to more than five hundred all at the same time, most are still around [at the time of writing.] Then He spent time with James and others He commissioned to represent Him, and then Jesus showed Himself alive to me"

This Easter Sunday, in services all over the world, the greeting meeting the worshippers will be "He is risen," the response "He is risen indeed." Did you spot the tense in that? It is not saying Jesus WAS alive, nor Jesus WILL BE alive but He IS alive. There is a world of difference behind the meaning of past, present and future tenses. When we say "Jesus was alive," does that mean He isn't now, or does "He will be alive" infer He isn't at the present time? The timeless truth Paul shared was Jesus IS alive, that is the present continuous tense - that is now, meaning today and every day.

Imagine you are hungry and spot a sign in the local cafe window saying:

"Free all day breakfasts yesterday or tomorrow."

In you go thinking of what you will soon be savouring. "Can

I have a free breakfast please?"

"No" "But your sign says free breakfasts"

"Yes, if you had come in yesterday or come back tomorrow!!"

The con is yesterday is always yesterday and tomorrow is always tomorrow, but you are hungry today.

Life needs to be lived in the present. Past history may inform us of things to do or avoid, but we can't live totally in the past while our world moves on around us, and always dreaming about how things will be in the future can mean we never get to grips with what is actually happening now - we never are truly happy with what we have because we are constantly looking for an idealised future.

That's why it is important to hear again the Easter proclamation "Jesus is risen," that is, He is alive, right now, today, and that means today is today even when it becomes tomorrow. Yes, Jesus was alive yesterday and He

still will be tomorrow, that covers past experience and future hope but the best thing is He is with us in the present. Many people love history, learning about what was then; others speculate about what the future will hold. There are all sorts of museums and centres that try and create immersive experiences so you have a feel for what life was like for those that lived in the past or indeed simulate what they think tomorrow's world will be



like, however no matter how long you stay in the venue, soaking up all you can, eventually you will be put out, you will need to re-enter the reality of today.

Christians worship not a God of the past, not just a God of the future but a God who walks with us and talks with wherever we are and whatever is going on in our lives today.

That means we will never run out of material to tell about all He has done and can do for us, so why not try talking to Him today for yourself. 1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

A Lovely Guest at Robert Smith Court

During half term twelve-year-old Milly, pictured left, spent the day at Housing 21 Robert Smith Court Stalham. The flats are occupied by people aged over 55 and well into their 80s.

Milly enjoys spending time with older people and wanted to spend the day talking to the tenants.

It can be challenging for young and old people to make friends with each other due to the generation gap, which can lead to differences in interests, values, and communication styles. Often, age-related



stereotypes and prejudices can create barriers to forming meaningful connections.

But Milly doesn't see obstacles "I'm chatty" she said "and I enjoy talking to older people." and went on "in the future I would like to care for people." Recently she put flyers through doors offering to help elderly people with shopping or just chatting. But had

very little response.

The people at RSC had a lovely time talking with Milly and would very much like to chat to her again.

THE STALHAM BROADS WI

Many people think that the Women's Institute (WI) is a bunch of ladies of a certain age who meet to make cakes, drink tea and burst out in song (usually singing Jerusalem) yet it has, and always will be about much more than that.

For a start the WI is there for all women (yes even trans-women) no matter their background. Any woman over the age of 18 years can join (so much for it being an organisation for just retired women), and finally the modern WI member (even the more mature) is just as likely to be found jumping in a glider or sliding down a dry ski slope on a rubber ring as she is to be found knitting scarves or baking Victoria Sponges.

The Stalham Broads WI was formed in November 2021 just after the last COVID lockdowns and has grown from an initial membership of 20 to close to 40 in three years. As a newer WI we put less emphasis on the traditional view of the WI - we are less about jam and Jerusalem but more about learning, making friends and promoting important issues, and it is doubtful that most of our members have even made a jar of jam to be honest. That is not to

say we don't do traditional when required. If anything we have a healthy respect for it but there is a time and a place for everything - we've found.

The members have worked hard over the last three years to promote ourselves and were recently awarded a Norfolk Federation of WIs Advisors Award for our programmes' diversity and for the welcoming environment we provide which as a relatively new WI is something we are proud of and hopefully it will be the first of many awards in the future The Stalham Broads WI is not the first WI to have met in Stalham, there had been an earlier Stalham WI formed in 1922, which suspended (WI speak for closed) in around 2012 so there is a tradition of the WI ethos in the town. If you look you will still find evidence of their activities (the wooden town sign was paid for by them). We are keen to keep up the tradition of their work in and for the community and ensure that the ladies of 1922 can be proud of what their foresight has led to. We know it takes guts to walk into a room of strangers, but the Committee has made a point of ensuring that any visitor who attends on their own will be sat with one of the established members to be shown the 'ropes' and have



Beach Cleaning

someone to talk to. Likewise, we know that many women have big issues in their lives, like caring responsibilities or health problems and we will try where possible to take this into account (we are not social workers or counsellors however) but the WI is a safe place where all women can enjoy some free time without having to worry. By meeting in the morning, we feel we can attract both young and old. For young mums we can

offer an escape from the mundane; you can drop your children off at school and then have some me time with likeminded women, for the older generation we can give you a location where you aren't judged on your age indeed

the older members of the group have just as much to offer. We hold regular meetings on the 2nd Monday of the month at 10:00am (for a 10:15 am start) usually in the Stalham Town Hall and plan regular social events, outings and fundraisers in the local area, whilst our five sub-groups cater for more specific interests of some of our members. If you wish to find out more about what we do please either email us at stalhambroadswi@gmail.com, phone 07773 102185 or pop along to our next meeting details of which can be found

on the various posters around the town or on Facebook.



Planting Tree's with
Stalham's Mayor
Mr Kevin Bayes

Big Thank You from SBC to The Stalham Broads WI



For decorating the wooden cross outside SBC for Remembrance Day with poppies again. Those at the Remembrance service, which also included watching the two-minute silence at 11am, were thankful for the beautiful poppies that represented the sacrifice of those who served and died in the wars that also symbolizes a hope for a peaceful future.

Are You Spiritually Debt-Free?



At the heart of the Easter message is the good news that our greatest problem in life—our debt of sin—has been resolved! Imagine you owe a debt of £10,000, but you only have £10. It would be impossible for you to pay off that debt. Now, imagine if a wealthy friend deposited £1,000,000 into your bank account. How would you feel? You would likely be overjoyed, pay off the £10,000 debt, and enjoy living a debt-free life thanks to your friend's generosity. This is precisely what Jesus did for us when He paid the price for our sins in full as He died on the cross. Writes Jerry Otieno

The Bible teaches that God created us to love, honour, and obey Him in thought, word, and deed. However, we are not perfect, and every time we fail to obey God completely, we accumulate a debt to Him. Romans 3:23 states, **"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** Our sins make us spiritual debtors to God, and as Romans 6:23 points out, the penalty for our sins is death. Since all human beings are sinful, we cannot serve as a ransom for one another. No sinful human can ever repay God for our spiritual debt. Psalm 49:7-9 says, **"No one can redeem the life of another or give God a ransom for them; the ransom for a life is costly; no payment is ever enough—so that they should live on forever and not see decay."** The only person who has ever walked the earth without sin is Jesus Christ. He is the only one qualified to pay our debt as our ransom. Referring to Himself in Mark 10:45, Jesus said, **"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a**

ransom for many."

Colossians 2:13-14 confirms this by stating, **"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He cancelled the record of debt that stood against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross."** Jesus lived the perfect life we could not, died the death we deserved, and paid the price we could not pay in full. This Easter, take a moment to consider every financial debt you owe. Then, reflect on the fact that your spiritual debt to God is infinitely greater, yet it has been paid in full through Jesus' death on the cross! The gift of Easter is Jesus's willing payment of our debt, which is far too large for us ever to repay. The question is: Are we willing to accept God's gift of salvation and allow Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross to cover the debt of our sin by submitting our lives to Him in trusting obedience?

Only those who accept God's forgiveness on His terms are Spiritually Debt-Free and can genuinely sing the words of the song by Ellis J. Crum:

"He paid a debt he did not owe; I owed a debt I could not pay; I needed someone to wash my sins away, And now I sing a brand new song, 'Amazing Grace.' Christ Jesus paid the debt that I could never pay."

It's Here! March Has Arrived And So Have We

The Museum of the Broads is open from Sunday March 30th and all the weeks of cleaning, restoring, planning and preparation are over. All of us on the team are thrilled to welcome visitors, old and new.

Sunday March 30th is just ten days into official Spring (it starts on Thursday March 20th).

It's such a wonderful time in Broadland. The starlings are thinking about breeding, the earliest summer birds have started to arrive, and the hedgerows are showing the first flush of a new season.

And here in Stalham we're open to welcome you in. There's a lot going on.

It's Spring so start thinking about the Spring Trail.

Make a diary note now. April 6th to April 22nd

It's a lovely trail around the Museum and features - the **Bird Call Chorus!**

You'll learn so much and have so much fun. Spot the feathers and learn the calls of our famous Broadland birds! Look out for wildlife poos and pellets along the way and discover what goes 'crunch!' in a Barn Owl's lunch! And it's all included in your Museum entry fee.

Once inside the museum there's so much more to see. Brilliant new displays and collections are on show and



some of our established exhibits - including the wonderful Pippa Miller exhibition - have been refreshed for 2025. We have new Heritage Trails to sample too. First up is - **Museum Highlights.** This self-guided trail around the museum lets you discover the stories of the Broads through

10-15 of our objects on display throughout the museum's collections. It really adds something to your visit. And on the subject of your visit - great news! We've kept museum admission at the same price as last year. That's right! There's no price increase for 2025. It's not often you hear *that!*

Don't forget our special deal too - you can **pay once and come back as often as you like for a whole year.** Our team will be happy to talk you through it. It will soon be Summer so look out for details of our **Steam and Sail** package. And with Summer comes **Albion Open Day.** We'll keep you posted with updates month by month. Meantime everything you need to know is always available on our website at www.museumofthebroads.org.uk So take a look. But most importantly make a date to come and visit us. It's Spring and we're back. Bringing the stories of the Broads alive.

From March 30th. We can't wait to see you.

Stalham Baptist Church

Notice Board

Positive Creations Craft

Is every Tuesday in the Schoolroom at 12.30 to 3pm it started in November and has become a great success. Whether you're painting, crafting, or participating in mindfulness exercises, there's something for everyone. We are welcoming and supportive, plus the group is a great way to meet like-minded individuals in a fun, non-judgmental space. It's the perfect balance of creativity, relaxation, and community! For more information contact Natalie at baverstock@icloud.com

Table Tennis

Over 60s Table Tennis Club every Wednesday In SBC Schoolroom. Next to the Church 9.30 to 12.00pm No annual subscription just a donation. Coffee, tea and biscuits always available. The club has been going since 2008 It's a great way to get some exercise and have a chat For more info call Stewart on 07421129812

Coffee and Chat

In the Stalham Baptist Church Schoolroom Every Tuesday Morning 9.30 to 12pm Please feel free to drop in at any time for a tea or a coffee and a chat with friends. You may like to have a bacon roll, scone or tea cake. A donations box is available and contribution - go to a named charity. Do call in you will be sure of a warm welcome

Bible Art

We read each time a few Bible verses, reflect on them and think about their relevance in our own lives. Then each person has the chance to create something in reflection of the Bible passage. It can be a painting or it can be words, it can be a post card or a big canvas, everyone can choose their own creative method. Fridays, 10am-12am in the schoolroom

Dates:

We normally meet every 1st and 3rd Friday a month and if there's a 5th Friday we discuss that within the group. Any questions? Feel free to contact Simone Otieno: sim1otieno@gmail.com and or 07436837210



The Stalham Bereavement Support Group (SBSG) was established in the summer of 2023. Our meetings are open to adults grieving the loss of a loved one and would benefit from connecting with others in similar situations.

Attendance is free, and we provide a safe, friendly, non-judgmental, and welcoming space for open and honest sharing of experiences, feelings, memories, and helpful ideas. Most importantly, our group allows members to be there for one another through their grief.

Every other Monday, 7.00 pm-9:00 pm,
The Stable @ Stalham Baptist Church.

2025

April	7th
	21st
May	5th
	19th
June	2nd
	16th
	30th
July	14th
	28th
August	11th
	25th
September	8th
	22nd
October	6th
	20th
November	3rd
	17th
December	1st
	13th Memorial Service

Contact Jerry at 07733837687 Or email: sbsg.0623@gmail.com

You can get more info about SBC at
www.stalhambaptist.org.uk
www.facebook.com/stalhambaptist
<https://twitter.com/StalhamChurch>

Warm Space at SBC

SBC's Stable's has open Warm Spaces for people who need some time in the warm since October 2022 SBC's Stables is open as a warm space so people can come and have a cuppa, enjoy a chat, make new friends, play board games. It is open to everyone. Donations are always welcome.

Opening times:

Mon 2.00 to 4.00pm alongside Community Fridge
Wed 10.00 to 12.00pm alongside Community Fridge
Thurs 10.00am to 2.00pm alongside Community Fridge to 12.00noon.

Soup will be served from 12.00 to 2.00pm. Volunteers are still needed. If you can help staff it or occasionally provide soup, please contact Diana at secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk

The Power in the name of Jesus

In this issue of the Community Scene we share an article written by Rhandon Carl of the Lighthouse Church in Durban South Africa. SBC and the Lighthouse share blogs, videos, recorded services and articles with each other.

As we mature in life, we come to a realisation that life is not necessarily "fair" as we may understand "fair" to be. Rain falls on the good and the bad, the rich and the poor, and we all experience difficulties and challenges in life. Writes Rhandon Carl. (pictured)

And life as we know it is no respecter of persons. "Life" knows no colour or creed, no religious affiliation and no social status. For example, all religious groups and all race groups were affected by a recent tornado in Durban, South Africa. People of different religious beliefs died in a tsunami in Thailand. And people of different social standings and walks of life died in a volcanic eruption in New Zealand. But we, as children of God, have a great advantage! We bear the name of Jesus - and when we understand the power of His name, we can experience this advantage. For example: people in every sphere of life suffer from sickness and disease - but **the name of Jesus has power over sickness and disease**.

I have personally experienced this. In 1983, my mum Lorraine Elizabeth Williams (pictured) was diagnosed with cancer. I remember the doctor calling us in to explain the situation and informing us that she only had six months to live. I was still in school and only 13 years old, but I still remember him showing us the cancer on that X-ray. My grandfather was a pastor of the Apostolic Faith Mission, and he set up a prayer chain of people praying for my mum and people fasted and prayed for her healing. They trusted and knew that the name of Jesus had power over any disease, and they prayed the word over her. She later went back for another X-ray. To God be the glory, there was no cancer showing on that X-ray, showing the power in the name of Jesus. The doctor had given her six months, but God gave her another forty years! And from 1983 until the day she died



the cancer never came back.

The name of Jesus also has power to forgive sins. It's unfortunate that so many people live in condemnation and guilt because they think there can be no forgiveness for the things they may have done - but the Bible is clear:

"If we confess our sins, He is Faithfull and Just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." **1 John 1: 9**

I have also found that a lot of people in life are demonically oppressed (not necessarily possessed) - but **the name of Jesus also has power over demonic interference in our lives**.

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with

Him." **Acts 10: 38 NKJV**

Today we have the same Holy Spirit, the same power to speak over the demonic influence that may be in our lives - so let's exercise His name over our situation.

Another reality in life is that **everyone will experience death** at one time or another in their life... the death of a family member or a friend or a work colleague... death will eventually impact us all, but because **Jesus has overcome death** we do not mourn like those who have no hope. There is a glorious morning awaiting us and we are promised a "day where the dead in Christ will rise".

"He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces." **Isaiah 25: 8 NKJV**

So, a question we may ask is: **how do we experience the power behind the name of Jesus?**

I have personally found that a life of submission is imperative. We need to consistently live a life submitted to the Lordship and leading of Jesus.

A dedication to study His words is also imperative because in them we get to know His plans for our lives.

And the more you **know** Him the more you will know His power - and the more you know His power, the more you will begin to do great things in and through Him!



Saved by grace - by Gracie age 14

Sufficient grace for all of us

Made be as Jesus died on the cross.

His works, not mine

For me, He died.

He has turned his face toward us,

showered us with grace,

All so that when our time comes,

we can be in a better place.

He has given us the gifts of peace and righteousness, we were all born sinners but Jesus saved us.

May He bless you and keep you,

may his face shine upon us.

He has not called us to understand all

the plans he has,

He has called us to trust that the Lord, our eternal rock, has us in his hands.

We must walk in faith and always remember,

We are saved by grace, so even when we die our life is not over.

Toddlers Group

Baby and Toddler Group: Growing Together Through Play and Stories

This term at our Baby and Toddler Group, we have been taking inspiration from *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, a much-loved story that has captured the imaginations of children for generations. Each week, our crafts, songs, and storytelling have followed the journey of the little caterpillar as he munches

his way through the pages, transforming into a beautiful butterfly.

Our group is open to all who care for a preschool child—parents, grandparents, and childminders are all warmly welcomed. It's a wonderful place to meet others, share experiences, and enjoy a relaxed time while little ones explore, play, and learn.

We have a fantastic selection of toys to suit every child's interests, from large ride-ons to small sensory toys, as well as construction sets for budding builders. Our craft activities have been particularly popular, with plenty of painting, sticking, and creating caterpillars and butterflies to take home. The singing and storytelling sessions bring everyone together, encouraging little voices to join in and movements to match the songs.

Beyond the fun and creativity, the group provides a supportive space where friendships can grow—not just for the children, but for the adults too. Whether you're a regular visitor or thinking of coming along for the first time, you'll find a warm welcome, a hot drink, and plenty of smiles.

Join us as we continue to explore stories, play, and learn together. We'd love to see you and your little ones soon! Wednesdays 1.30pm - 3pm term time only.

Messy Church



We've enjoyed 2 Messy Churches since Christmas with the themes of Jesus saying "I am the gate" on 16th January and "God is love" on February 13th and are looking forward to March 20th for our third session. The photos show some of the activities from February including the "junk" modelling, [though the model is NOT JUNK but

one of the best uses of recycled materials I've ever seen!]

The happy chefs are preparing the pizza [with some other food too] ...while the "less happy" Greg is being beaten [I'm surmising] at one of the games – Greg is really friendly/



smiley and his table is sought out every meeting! Do watch the notice boards at SBC and St. Mary's for further information and future dates. Don't forget we'll be having our third birthday party in June!

From all at "Messy"... we hope you have a Happy Easter, glorious spring and God Bless...

Barbara Reynolds 01692 672120

Messy Church timetable:

3.15 start with activities and refreshments
4.15 story, song and prayer
4.30 Main food and dessert
5.00 See you next time.



Memory Cafe

There are many reasons why our memories fail us. With younger people it could be the result of some trauma causing head/brain injury. It could just be because we are getting older and can't retain things the same, or it could be the result of a known condition such as Alzheimer's or Vascular dementia. Whatever the reason we need to keep our minds active, and our memories stimulated.

We held our first memories café in July 2024, when we had 3 attendees and 6 volunteers! The café is held the last Monday morning of each month between 10am – 12midday, and each month we have been delighted to see a steady increase in numbers. We don't always get the same people but do seem to have a core of regular attendees. At our meeting in February, we had 10 attendees (that included a couple of carers) plus 4 volunteers. We have a mix of ladies and gentlemen. We have enjoyed a variety of activities usually starting off with a cuppa and piece of cake and people chatting between themselves. We then have a more organised activity, either in a large group or in 2/3 smaller groups. We do lots of reminiscence therapy, for example talking about our school days – favourite subject/teacher etc. In February we talked about what our earliest childhood memory was and our recollections of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth 11.

Helen from Stalham Community Gym has been a couple of times to do gentle chair exercises and before Christmas we had a 60's music session with a band. We do have crafts and games available, and we have managed to play Scrabble.

We have much more planned – a quiz in March and in April a Cinema Memories morning, with props! Then probably another 60's music session or similar.

So, if you feel this might be the place for you, or indeed if you know anyone who you feel would benefit then give yourself or someone else a little nudge. The next one will be Monday 28th April at 10.00am, in the Schoolroom, and we would love to see you there.

If you would like more information about the group, either to join in with the activities or to volunteer then call or email Diana. Tel: 07951 949 128 Email: secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Stalham Baptist Church Still Growing

Stalham Baptist Church has seen a steady flow of new faces, of all ages, recently attending our morning service and we are especially encouraged by the growth in the number of young people.

Our lively services last a little over an hour, led by different people, each with their own style.

Our songs and hymns range from older classics to modern standards played by a band of musicians and singers.

Usually before the youngsters leave, for age-appropriate groups, there is an illustrated talk geared to them, and we are looking at ways of more regularly involving them in delivering services.

Ron and Jerry, with the occasional guest, bring a relevant message in keeping with today's world and life.

Since Covid we have provided an Online service which

gives a flavour of what we do and can be accessed by clicking onto services on our website

<https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/>

Refreshments are always available in the Schoolroom after the service.

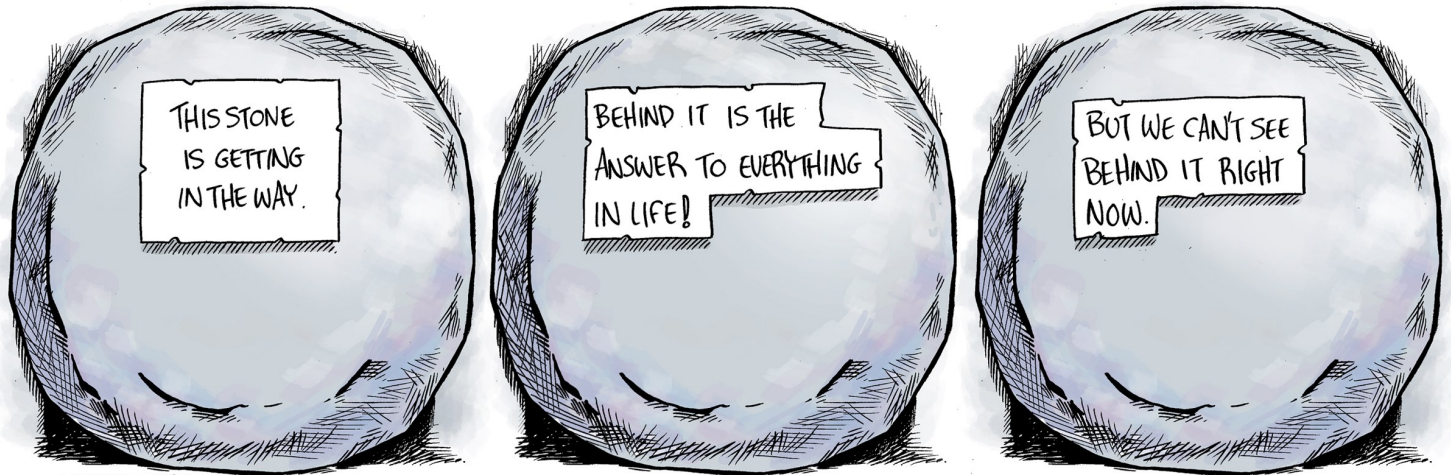
Come and join us on a Sunday at 10.45am. You are sure to find a warm welcome.

As many of you will know we deliver prayer request cards around Stalham. If you have something or someone you would like us to pray for drop a line to minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk. We promise complete confidentiality.

We are pleased too that more and more from the Stalham community are coming to events and activities held in the Schoolroom and Stables details of which are on page 12 & 14 and can be found on our website.



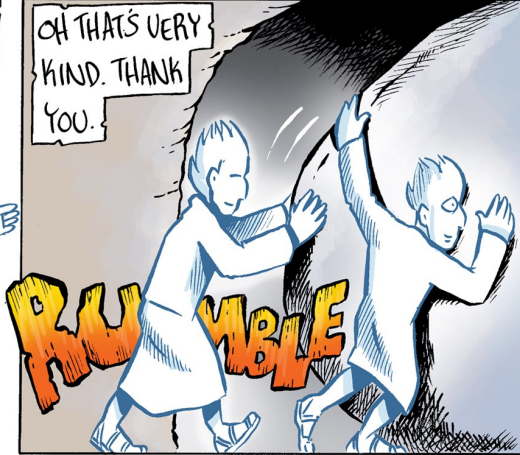
A PROMISE OF EMPTINESS



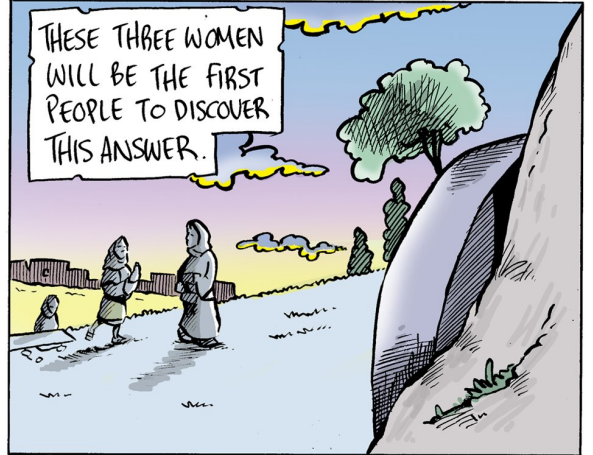
I WONDER IF THESE TWO GENTLEMEN WOULD...



OH THAT'S VERY KIND. THANK YOU.



THESE THREE WOMEN WILL BE THE FIRST PEOPLE TO DISCOVER THIS ANSWER.



OH, IT'S EMPTY!

BUT THIS IS NOT AN EMPTY PROMISE.



THESE WOMEN WERE EMPTY.

WE MUST TELL THE OTHERS.



IT'S A PROMISE OF EMPTINESS!

MORNING LADIES. JESUS IS NOT HERE. REMEMBER WHAT HE TOLD YOU IN GALILEE?



THEN THEY LOOKED INSIDE THE EMPTY TOMB.



THE SON OF MAN WILL BE HANDED OVER TO BE CRUCIFIED, BUT WILL RISE ON THE THIRD DAY.



NOW THEY ARE FULL!



HE WAS TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF!

HE'S BEATEN DEATH!



FULL OF JOY!!!

JESUS IS ALIVE!

