

Stalham Baptist Church Weekly News

Sunday November 5th

This Sunday Diana is leading and Jerry will be concluding the sermon series on the Book of Jonah.

Reading from Jonah 4

This week's theme is "1. Jonah's Heart = Anger: 2. God's Heart = Grace"

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

Exodus 34:6-7, Matthew 5.43-48, Matthew 18.23-35 and Luke 15:11-32.

For Your Prayers

Please pray for Esther Curson who died peacefully at home last week end and please pray for Paul and her wider family We pray for Church Pastoral Group 1, please pray for: Ian Bloomfield, Jean Bloomfield, Roger Meynell, Ruth Meynell and Michelle.

During November please pray for the residents of Lower Staithe Road, Albion Drive, Old Market Road including Market Mews and Chapel Court.

Lord the BBC reported that Boris Johnson agreed with some Conservative MPs who thought Covid was "nature's way of dealing with old people", the Covid inquiry was told. We pray that our government and MPs will respect all people of all ages in our country.

A Prayer for all Ages

God of all creation, you are timeless and beyond all ages.

We who are growing old give thanks for the years you have given us – for family, friends and all those who have enriched our lives.

We who are not yet old give thanks for the older people in our lives: for grandparents, loved ones, friends and all who generously offer the wise counsel of their years.

We who are growing old pray that we may be patient with our ageing limbs and difficulties in everyday tasks we once did much more easily.

We who are not yet old pray for patience and kindness towards those who do not move as quickly as we would sometimes like.

We who are growing old pray for good health in our later years, and forbearance when our health fails us.

We who are not yet old pray for good health for those we love and compassion towards those who suffer ill health.

We who are growing old pray for prudence and sweet timing in offering our wisdom to the next generation, while respecting their energy and creativity.

We who are not yet old pray for openness and humility in receiving the advice and guidance of our elders.

We who are growing old pray that we may face our death with serenity and dignity.

We who are not yet old pray that we affirm the sacredness of each person's life and accompany those who are dying with gentleness and deep respect.

God of endless love, help us to understand that we share a common life journey, a call to live life to the full and to strive to enable all creation to come to the fullness of the Cosmic Christ. Amen (Source www.ballarat.catholic.org)

Virtual WhatsApp Prayer Room

Friday 27th October Jerry posted "From Sandra: Update on cousin Jean. She's home now but unable to walk. She has carers 4 times daily. Her son Andrew is now in care. Thanks for all the prayers. Sandra."

Tuesday 31st October Diana posted "Thankyou G & B for putting on prayer app. My Haematologist has just been. Will be having intravenous antibiotics for 48hrs so be here a couple of days. They had no beds last night so had to come in through A&E. They have been magnificent. All tests done and started on intravenous penicillin I am still here in A&E (in a bed) but they hope to move me to a main unit to a side ward soon."

Wednesday 1st November Tim posted "Have just heard from Joshua that he has got Covid again. He's not fully over the glandular fever yet. Please continue to pray."



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Assistant Pastor: Jerry Otieno
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Secretary: Diana Gordon 07951949128
Ministry Team: The Whole Fellowship

For your Diary

Monday 6th November

10.30 to 11.30am in the Church
Prayers for SBC and young people
2 to 4pm Warm Space in the Stables
7.00pm Deacons meeting

Tuesday 7th November

9.30am - 12 Coffee and Chat in the Stables
10.00 am Sunday School planning meeting in the church

Wednesday 8th November

Table Tennis
9.30am to 12 in the Church
10-12pm Warm Space in the Stables

Thursday 9th November

10 to 12pm Warm Space in the Stables
7.00pm Zoom Prayer Meeting
All Welcome to join in
Contact Diana for details

Friday 10th November

10.15 to 12.00pm Prayers for Revival & Israel at Three Windows, Brumstead Road
1.15 to 3pm Foodbank in Stables & Citizens Advice Service

Sunday 12th November

10.45 Remembrance Sunday Service
Welcome: Jenny & Rita
Flowers: Remembrance Sunday

Thursday 23rd November

10.30 to 11.30am Prayer Meeting in the Chapel. All Welcome to join in

Personal Prayer, Food Bank, & Citizens Advice

SBC will be open Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 12 noon to receive donations for the food bank and for personal prayer. The **Food Bank**: 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 **Citizens Advice Service** is open on Friday in the Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm. Contact Food Bank on 07826 376343.

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

Thursday 2nd November Diana posted "Good morning. Update from me. I am home. They let me out yesterday tea time. One of the haematologists came to see me at lunch time and said "do you want to go home?". All my tests negative for sepsis. A viral Upper Respiratory Tract infection confirmed. He was going to discuss with rest if team and returned at 4pm to say I could go. I have a week of Penicillin which won't help my URTI of course but will safeguard me against anything else. I am also going to do a couple more injections to help stimulate my bone marrow to produce white blood cells so can be confident my immune system will have recovered by next week. These do give me bone pain but I have morphine!! 🙏🙏."

Bible Reading Blog

1 John 2: 15 - 7 Loving the World (MSG)

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out—but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.

As Christians how easy is it to be charmed into all the glitter of the world? To listen to Ron's short blog click [Rons Blog](#). Or go to www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/ and click on "Our Weekly Bible Commentary" Ron cleverly links us directly to John's verse and our glittery world.

Church Prayer Meeting

Church prayer meetings will be held in the Chapel on the 1st and 4th Thursdays of the month from 10.30-11.30am, the next meeting will be on 23rd November, all welcome. The zoom prayer meetings will continue in the evenings. For more information talk to Jan Nicholson.

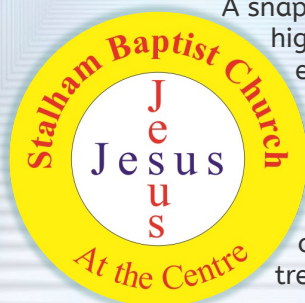
Candlelight Service Help

If anyone would like to participate with the music group to do a song for the candlelight service then please talk to either Barbara or Diana. The song we are planning to do you will know the tune. Just different words. It's by the Living Stones Quartet - Christmas Gospel Song. Found on YouTube and if accessing the newsletter digitally here is the link.

<https://youtu.be/houlFXBcWqs?si=6lZRqD672pZodv6j>

Warm Space Help Needed

We are intending to re-commence soup on our Thursday morning warm space slot. As we always need to have 2 people present because of safety we currently do not have sufficient volunteers to do this every week. Although the initiative was started because of the economic crisis and the difficulties households are having with heating costs and feeding themselves, there are many reasons why people come along to warm space. It can just be for companionship and a chat with a friendly face. Loneliness and mental ill health are a nationwide problems and we simply don't know what prompts a person to come along. But as a church following in the footsteps of Jesus we are here to serve. So if you feel you can give up a couple of hours on a Thursday to help out



please talk to Diana.

Gracie's Hand Made Bracelets

Gracie will be selling her handmade bracelets at the back of the church on Sunday for £2.50 each, with £1 from each bracelet going to the Nephrotic Syndrome Trust (Nephrotic Syndrome is a very rare, incurable kidney disease of which Poppy suffers). There will only be a limited number of bracelets for sale on the day, but she will be taking personalised orders too for anyone who would like specific names, colours, etc, on their bracelets. They would make great Christmas gifts!

Pictures on page 4.

Norfolk Food Bank

In November any of the following would be appreciated:
Tinned Meat, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Tomatoes, Squash/ Fruit Juice, Pasta Sauce, Jam, Long Life Milk, Cereal, plus any toiletries or household cleaning items and also reusable shopping bags.

Shoebox Appeal Date

The Shoebox service at St Mary's will be on Sunday 19th November at 3.00pm. Leaflets are available at the back of the church

Craft Fayre

We intend to have a Craft Fayre at Eureka, St John's Road. (Edna's house) on 7th and 8th December to raise funds for SBC. We will need artificial Christmas trees to cut up for making Christmas Wreaths and also Pinecones, Rose hips etc which can be passed on to Edna or Henry.

EBA Weekly Prayer Focus 5th November Godmanchester Baptist Church

Godmanchester is an expanding town near Huntingdon which retains a great community feel. Godmanchester Baptist Church was founded in 1845 and has met at the heart of the community ever since – with one move of site in the 1990s and a complete redevelopment of the premises over the last ten years. Daniel Beckett and Carolyn Keats are the pastors and they work with the Leadership Team and a large number of committed volunteers to head up the various congregations and activities.

A snapshot of their recent summer activities, highlighting the way that there is something for everyone at GBC whatever age or stage of life, includes:

A Children's Holiday Club – three mornings of fun, excitement and being pirates! Looking at the life of Paul and his love for Christ – and what can be learnt from his example and find the true treasure of knowing Jesus.

A Youth Activity Week – four days of activities held locally, including mini-golf, canoeing, a bake along, a make along, a film night, games and a barbecue. A way to encourage more young people to join in.

Tuesdays@11 – three Tuesdays of fun for older people with quizzes, board games, carpet bowls, pool, a visit from a speaker from the local hedgehog hospital and entertainment from the local ukulele band. All finished off with a thought for the day and a lovely lunch together.

Together Events – whole church fun events where they

Fire Evacuation In the event of a fire everyone should make their way to the fire assembly point which is outside Trett Phillips Residential in the High Street. For more information speak to Daniel.

fellowshipped together enjoying the summer weather (well, that was the plan!) – with cream teas, picnics and barbecues in various people's gardens and homes.

The fellowship continues to explore their multi-congregational model. They now have a second building, a few miles away, which was donated to them and they have recently started a new congregation there – wanting to be a witness and blessing in that community.

Please Pray

- For the fellowship as they seek God's direction and that they will endeavour to be obedient.
- As they continue to grow the different congregations.
- May their unique differences draw in a wide range of people who will feel at home.

Jerry's Quotes of the Week

"What anger fails to do, though, is tell us whether the wrong is outside or inside of us. We usually begin by assuming that the wrong is outside of us – our spouse or our children or our God has done something wrong, and we are angry about it...But when we track the anger carefully, we often find it leads to a wrong within us – wrong information, inadequate understanding, underdeveloped heart. If we admit and face that, we are pulled out of our quarrel with God and into something far larger and better – what Christ would call the Kingdom."—Eugene Peterson.

"God is both too holy and too loving to either destroy Jonah or to allow Jonah to remain as he is, and God is also too holy and too loving to allow us to remain as we are." – Timothy Keller.

"Grace means that God steps into the lives of particular individuals with the purpose and effect of saving them. He needs no permission to do this, nor is He under any obligation to do so." — Colin S. Smith,

"Jonah prayed his best prayer in the worst place, the fish's belly, and he prayed his worst prayer in the best place, at Nineveh where God was working. His first prayer came from a broken heart, but his second prayer came from an angry heart. In the first prayer, he asked God to save him, but in his second prayer, he asked God to take his life!"— Warren Wiersbe

'We request fervent prayer for just peace'



Baptists across Israel and the Palestinian Territories

share calls to prayer

Baptists across Israel and the Palestinian Territories request fervent prayer for just peace, [reports the European Baptist Federation](#).

This includes the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel with 17 Baptist churches and the Council of Local Evangelical Churches in the Holy Land representing 13 Baptist churches in the Palestinian Territories, including a Baptist church in Gaza.

Together as a Baptist family that is one in Christ Jesus, let us mourn with all whose loved ones have been killed or are held captive. Let us follow paths of peacemaking that unequivocally reject terrorism or any acts that target civilians, include dehumanising language, or limit human rights on the basis of ethnicity or faith.

Let us generously provide help and support with the compassion of Christ.

Let us stand together with our Baptist family and all who are suffering, and in the midst of complexity and violence, hear again the words of the prophet Micah "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly" in pursuit of restorative justice and peace for all people.

Our Baptist leaders in the region have shared the following calls to prayer.

Pray for a quick end to the conflict and the prevention of escalation into a larger war in the region.

Pray for the God of all comfort to be with those who are grieving the loss of their loved ones.

Pray for those who have been wounded during the conflict and for those providing medical assistance to them.

Pray for the safety and liberation of hostages, and pray for mediators to facilitate their release.

Pray for wisdom and discernment for the leaders, that they may make decisions that lead to lasting peace and alleviate suffering.

Pray that Christians from around the world will unite in prayer for peace, demonstrating the love of Christ to all peoples.

Pray for safety of local followers of Jesus and that they will be shielded from extremism and hatred, especially young people.

Pray for God to utilise our churches as effective witnesses during this challenging time, through the power of the Holy Spirit, including the Baptist church in Gaza and its ongoing ministry.

Pray that Christians around the world will give generously as our Baptist family across this area seeks to holistically minister in this critical time of suffering.

Pray for peace, hope, and security for the entire region, and that the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays so that Israelis and Palestinians will experience life lived in peace and freedom with one another.

A prayer guide created by the EBF and the Baptist World Alliance, calling the global Baptist family to prayer, can be

accessed [here](#).

In an email update, the EBF reminded supporters of the need to pray for other conflicts and situations in the region.

'As the different crises in the EBF region escalate, we continue to lift up our brothers and sisters in these countries and respond to their needs,' it stated.

'In Isaiah's vision of the coming Kingdom, he recognises that the Lord "will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many people." Although we live in a time when the Kingdom of God has not yet come in its fullness, we can still pray for glimpses of this kingdom to be seen at this time.

'We pray with our brothers and sisters in Israel and Palestinian Territories, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Russia; for the intervention of our Heavenly Father and the in-breaking of his Kingdom at this moment in history to restore peace between nations.

'We pray with our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria; for healing and restoration as they still suffer from the massive earthquake in February 2023:'

Prayers for Israel/ Palestine, the World and Ourselves

Prayers written by Paul Weller, a member of our Inter Faith Working Group:

Lord, we place ourselves before you this morning
And we are conscious that we should not be standing or sitting
We should be on our knees, and even prostrate on the ground
Because our words of prayer whatever they might be
cannot suffice for the enormity



Of the things that have happened, are happening and are about to happen

O Lord hear us in our cries of helplessness

But hear more, we pray, the cries of horror and grief, of rage and of righteous anger
Coming from the land of promise that for so many has become a land of loss of hope

We pray for Jews in Israel and throughout the world who, today, Feel great insecurity wherever they are in the world
Who, when they think of their ancestral line, instead of promise, think of the long line
Of pogroms in Czarist Russia, of Shoah in Nazi in Germany,
And now of killing of babies in cold blood before the eyes of their parents
And who have faced those who wish to eradicate not only Israel but also

all Jews

And who now fear, wherever in the world they live, for their very existence in this world

We pray for Palestinians, Muslim and Christian who, today, ask often in frustrated rage

About why has the world turned its eyes away from decades of occupation

From hundreds of thousands of uprooted people in an ancestral line of refugees
Of denial of their peoplehood and their aspirations for a state of their own
Of the deaths of many over many years and now the deaths of children in remote bombardments



We pray for Christians within these societies
For Messianic Christians of Jewish background and for Palestinian Christians in the state of Israel

For Palestinian Christians in the Palestinian authority and also those in Gaza

Lord, we who sit far away have no idea of the choices they face in a deeply fractured environment

For how they might be able to be salt and light, our hearts cry, help them with strength and wisdom

Be to them what we cannot in the additional challenges which they face and we can barely imagine

But we also pray for ourselves, that in our geographical distance

We do not allow our very real sense of helplessness to become an excuse to say and do nothing

Help us, we pray, to find the strength in our everyday interactions with everyday people

To find in speech and practice ways of standing for justice and for peace

And to hold to account the authorities in our and all other countries for what now happens.



Gracie's Bracelets