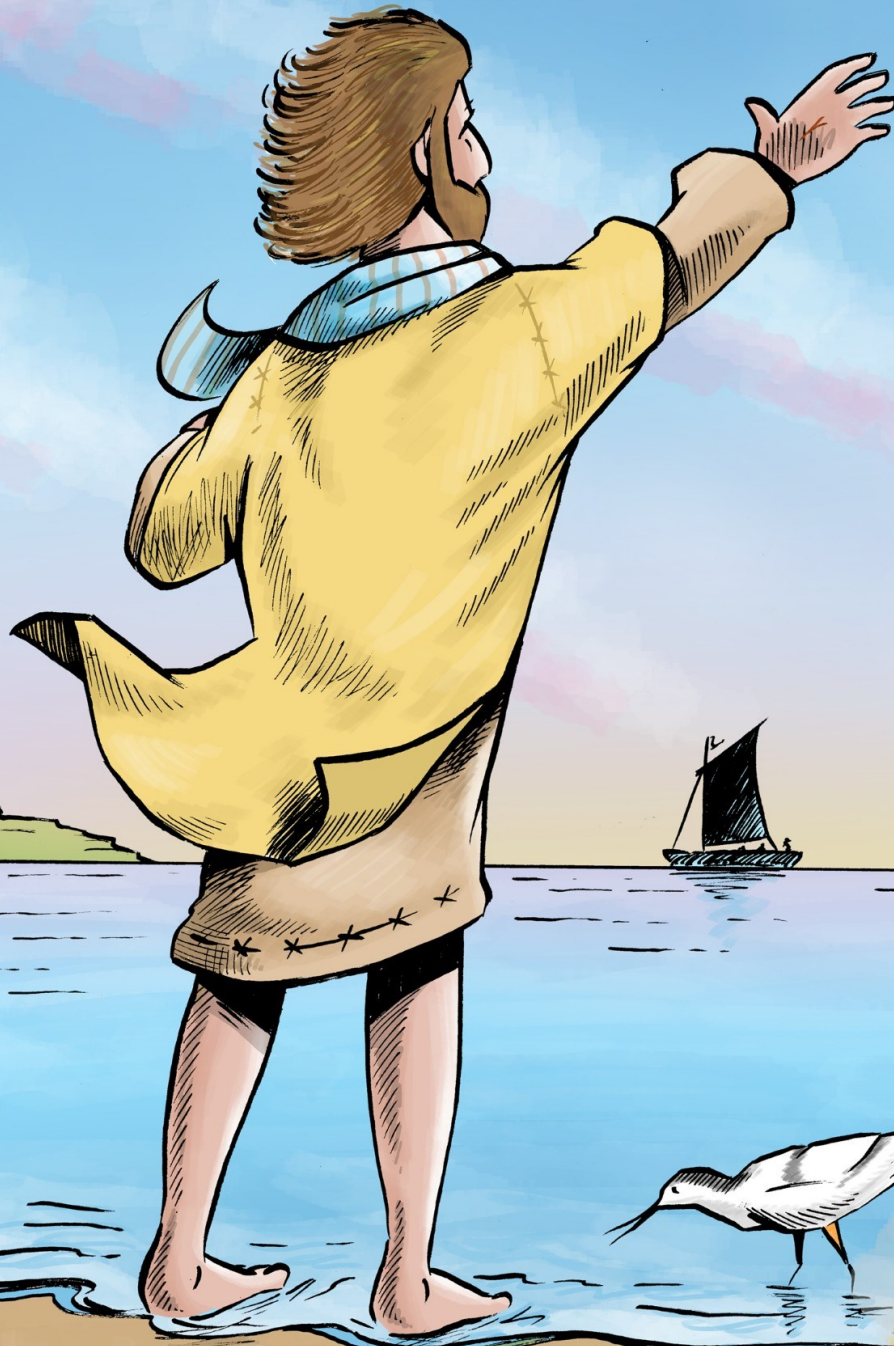




COMMUNITY scene

EASTER



**JESUS:
WAVING AT YOU?**

Easter at Stalham Baptist Church

Good Friday 3rd April

7.00pm Reflective Service

Stalham Baptist Church

Easter Sunday 5th April

CELEBRATION Service

Stalham Baptist Church

10.45am to 12noon



Sunday 5th April
At How Hill 6.30am

NR29 5PG (Next to car park)

Easter Sunday services have been held on How Hill's panoramic view for over 30 years, the sun this year will be rising at 6.22am.

"He has Risen" will be the shout, followed by readings and songs. The congregation will be joined by churches celebrating God's love expressed to us through

Jesus's sacrifice. The outdoor service is a spiritually moving event. The celebration of God's love expressed by Jesus's 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 service which lasts about 30 minutes.

If you would like a breakfast telephone Elaine 07796 875785 or email elain smith364@btinternet.com and leave a message to book breakfast.



Was Jesus Risen from the Dead?

People sometimes want to argue that Jesus, if He ever existed, could not have come back from the dead, but what do the facts say and where do we find them.

Firstly, the four Gospels all give accounts of how Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane from where He was bound and taken to Caiaphas the High Priest's house where Jesus stood trial on the charges of blasphemy, because it was said He claimed to be the Son of God. No creditable witnesses were found but two finally managed to agree on something Jesus was reputed to have said, and so Jesus was deemed guilty of death and in order for that to happen was handed over to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor.

Pilate was coerced into having Jesus crucified by the Jewish religious leaders, but before He was taken to Golgotha, he was given to the Roman soldiers to be flogged. The flogging was brutal as they used a leather whip with shards of embedded bone to cause the maximum pain and blood loss; often prisoners died from the scourging.

Once at Golgotha Jesus was nailed to the cross where He hung, struggling to draw breath into His lungs for six hours, and to ensure He was dead before being taken down, a spear was thrust into his side. If anyone survived or escaped from such an execution the Roman guards would pay with their lives. There is no

doubt that Jesus was dead and other Jewish writings of the time confirm that to be so, BUT did He rise?

The tomb Jesus was laid in was sealed and given a Roman guard to prevent the theft of His body but that didn't stop the Jewish authorities bribing the guards to say Jesus's disciples had stolen His body when it was



discovered He had gone and rumours that Jesus had been seen alive began to circulate. In fact, He was seen by the disciples several times; by 500 gathered together, by His younger brother James, who was a non-believer up until then and by Paul on the Road to Damascus.

The change in the disciples from being scared for their own lives to bold preachers prepared to die for what they knew was the truth is also very telling.

In fact, eleven of the twelve Apostles were martyred for their faith. Would someone really be prepared to die for a lie when they could have said "here is where we hid the body" ?

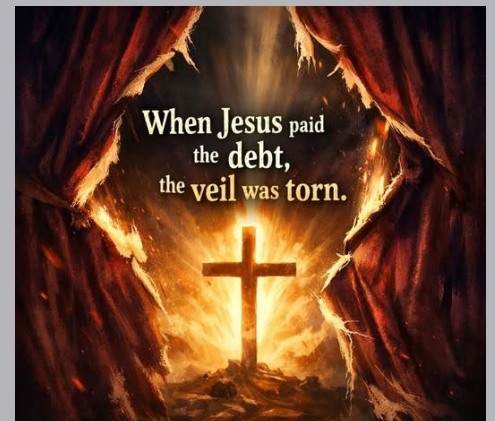
Today people from all walks of life, from different cultures and even faiths believe Jesus is alive. Why not take a few minutes to research for yourself, it may prove to be the best decision you ever make!

This is Stalham Baptist Church's twenty-eighth 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: news@stalhambaptist.org.uk

Jesus's Promise

Ripped in two from top to bottom "The veil was torn" refers to the moment Jesus died, when the heavy curtain in the Jerusalem Temple separating the Holy of Holies (that represented the presence of God) of the Mosaic sacrificial Covenant thus establishing the New Covenant. This means instead of only the High Priest being able to enter the Holy of Holies once a year on the day of Atonement now anyone at any time can come to God to receive His love and His promise of new life.



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SBC Notice Board

Citizens Advice Service

The Citizens Advice Service is open on Friday in the SBC Stables, 1.15 to 3.00pm. To book an appointment phone 07826 376343, or just drop in.

Coffee and Chat

Every Tuesday Coffee and Chat is open 9.30am to 12.00pm. Great social gathering with cakes, biscuits and bacon butties available. Everyone is welcome to sit and chat with a happy group.

Table Tennis

The table tennis Club meets every Wednesday morning 9.30-12.00pm In SBC Schoolroom. Your first week is free thereafter it's a £2.00 donation which includes refreshments. "We are a happy group" of all standards of players. We look forward to you joining us. 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 07421 129812

Warm Space

Warm Space's in SBC'S Stable is for people who need some time in the warm. It 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:

Monday 2.00 to 4.00pm alongside Community Fridge
Wednesday 10.00 to 12.00pm alongside Community Fridge

Thursday 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 Speak to or contact Diana secretary@stalhambaptist.org.uk

North Norfolk

foodbank



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 church also provides space for quiet prayer

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

SBC Bible Art

We are open for people of all ages to join us either as a one off or on a regular basis. If you have your own craft materials you are welcome to bring them along.

Bible Art is in the Schoolroom on the first and third Friday of each month, 10.00-12.00.

Any questions? Feel free to contact Simone Otieno: sim1otieno@gmail.com

SBC Facebook

Use the SBC Facebook for information about what is happening and share events both at the church and in the wider community.

Museum of the Broads

It's March- and that means two very important dates!

Friday March 20th - the first day of spring.

Saturday March 21st - The Museum of the Broads is open for 2026!

Yes - it's time to make important marks in your diary for March. Who isn't delighted that Friday March 20th is the first day of spring? Here in Broadland the migrating birds will be seen returning, the blossoms will start to appear on marsh marigolds and the first green leaves will emerge on the willow trees. Winter is closing down.

And - on Saturday March 21st The Museum of the Broads is opening up!

What better way to welcome spring than with your *first* visit (because we want to see you come back again and again) to The Museum of the Broads?

First off - if you really want to get involved call in on March 21st for our -

Volunteers Open Day

This is a brilliant opportunity to meet the team and find out more about our volunteer roles. If you're looking for a new challenge, a way to use your talents or a chance to learn some new skills we're here to talk. This could be your new thing for 2026. (And there's tea and biscuits!)

Volunteer or visitor you've got to try -

The Spring Trail Saturday 21st March – Sunday 12th April 2026 10am – 4pm

This fun thing to do is free with your museum admission. It's a family-friendly trail allowing you to explore the museum and discover 12 hidden messages. Have a go at mirror writing. Try morse code. Discover how the birds, the trees and the bees talk to each other. *And* if you decipher the message told in nautical flags you can claim a prize!



You already know (we have been telling you!) how busy we've been behind the scenes to get ready to welcome you in 2026. It's time! We have so much going on including new displays in The Surlingham Building. Check out the films and photos that tell the story (and jog the memory!) of holidays on The Broads.

Our boats are up and running for cruises from the start of the season and the events list for spring and Easter is in place. It's all on our website.

We're all about bringing the stories of the Broads alive. So, as we think about spring and the changes in the natural world right now, it's always good to reflect on Broadland back when. It was a hundred years ago, in March 1926 when a young chap called Herbert Woods took the helm of the Walter Woods boat building firm. By 1929 he'd re-

named it Herbert Woods and started to create the fleet of hire boats that would be instrumental in the development of The Broads as a holiday destination. Just twenty years or so later as World War Two drew to a close a Mr Richardson bought a motor cruiser. The father and son Richardson team would soon buy the Old Mill House Boatyard in Oulton Broad. That business would grow into one of the most successful providers of Norfolk

Broads boating holidays - and Richardsons are now hugely supportive friends and sponsors of The Museum of the Broads.

There are so many stories about The Broads and there's nowhere better to find out about them than here - The Museum of the Broads.

We're open from March 21st. Six days a week - Tuesday to Sunday. Bring the kids. Bring the dog. Get here!

Check out all the details at -

www.museumofthebroads.org.uk

Hard Times For Stalham

Stalham, along with the rest of Norfolk and East Anglia, experienced significant hardship during the Little Ice Age (roughly 14th to mid-19th centuries), characterised by severe winters, wet summers, and agricultural disruption. As an agricultural community, Stalham likely suffered from failed harvests, food shortages, and the "great dying of beasts" that plagued the region. Here is how the Little Ice Age affected the area:

Agricultural Disruption & Famine: The climate increased with rainfall and colder summers from the 14th century onwards led to poor harvests, resulting in reduced food availability and widespread hunger, or "famine-related diseases".

The "Great Dying of Beasts": Livestock suffered immensely during these periods, with reports of animals dying by the thousands across the country, limiting both meat and manure (critical for fertilizer).

Formation of the Norfolk Broads: The increased cold and wet conditions contributed to the end of large-scale peat



digging, which had been a significant local industry. Rising sea levels and increased flooding, partially driven by this changing climate, inundated the peat workings, helping to create the modern Norfolk Broads.

Extreme Winter Conditions: Winters during this period were harsh enough to freeze broads, rivers and coastal seas. Local records from Norfolk in the

18th century (e.g., Robert Marsham's diaries) describe winters so severe that trees split and, in the 1739–40 winter, urine froze in chamber pots. Picture 1893 ladies playing ice hockey.

Social & Economic Hardship: The prolonged cold, coupled with failed crops, fuelled economic hardship, leading to food riots in the surrounding Norfolk area. By the 18th and 19th centuries, agricultural innovations—such as the rotation of turnips, pioneered by Townshend Act 1767 axing colonial imports including American colonies, which helped keep livestock alive through the winter—provided some resilience to the residents of Norfolk.

Information for Young People



The Holt Youth Project (HYP) covers the entire **North Norfolk area**, providing a safe space, support, and development opportunities for young people in the region, including those with complex needs, disabilities, or from vulnerable backgrounds, working from its base in Holt but reaching far

across the county.

About Young Carers

North Norfolk Young Carers was established in 2011 with the help of a private donation after statutory services were cut.

We provide an annual respite weekend and the opportunity to attend the Young Carers Forum every 3 months.

About A.C.T

The ACT Programme is an alternative provision for young people struggling with emotional issues and finding it difficult to attend mainstream school or college. We deliver an accredited City and Guilds qualification, which is nationally recognised and is earned in employability and functional skills maths and English modules. We work in partnership with schools where appropriate and with other organisations to equip each individual with the help they need to broaden their horizons and have the best possible chance of success.

About Senior Hive

Senior Youth sessions are the heart of Holt Youth Project, a place where young people can meet and socialise in a safe environment. These sessions empower young people to reach their full potential and meet aspirations.

Some more information

Being part of the HYP family gives you the opportunity to take part in a wide range of weekend and holiday activities, including outward bound trips, Hadrian's Wall Cycle Challenge, conservation work, intergenerational and community-based projects as well as the opportunity to gain certificates such as Emergency First Aid.

About Junior Hive

Junior Youth Sessions promote fun and exciting term-time sessions for children aged 6-11yrs through structured activities.

Junior holiday programmes are full of amazing opportunities to try something new. We deliver many different day trips out including tubing, safari parks, picnics and water fights.

For more info
www.holt youth project.org.uk/

North Norfolk YAB

Join North Norfolk YAB if you want to make a change in your local area through campaigning, lobbying,

advocacy, hosting events and funding services.

Even living in the middle of nowhere I can still manage to get to meetings with the help of the YAB.

What is YAB?



North Norfolk Youth Advisory Board is a place for young people aged 11-19* living in North Norfolk to commission services, work on campaigns, host events, lobby and advocate for others, attend training and more- to make changes to their local area and make North Norfolk a great place for young people to live, work, socialise and study.

*up to 25 with a disability .

North Norfolk YAB on **0800 0744454**

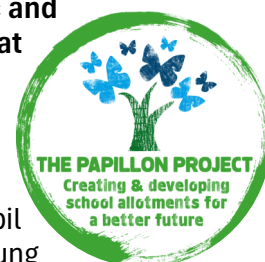
nnyab@mapyoungpeople.org.

The Papillon Project

The Papillon Project is an energetic and enterprising educational charity that promotes sustainable living and environmental awareness for young people.

It's our continued privilege to work with secondary schools, sixth-form colleges and pupil referral units in Norfolk to inspire young people to grow their own food for themselves and their local community. It is our very dedicated mission to help rehearse the next generation to know how to grow their own food so we can all start to live in a world that is greener and far more sustainable. **Ultimately, our charitable work is about helping young people to feel more confident about themselves.**

www.thepapillonproject.com/about-the-project/



BOOM! Young Carers

We provide positive activities to young people who have limited opportunities, such as young people who help care for a family member.

At The Benjamin Foundation, we The **Benjamin** Foundation are committed to supporting Young Carers to help them tackle some of the unique challenges they face.

BOOM! offers them chances to take a break from the day-to-day demands of being a young carer in a fun and friendly environment, plus make new friends and learn new skills. Staff are also on hand to provide help and advice on deeper challenges affecting either them or their families. Having the chance to talk to an understanding and listening ear about their lives is an important part of the BOOM! Young Carers service.

For more info benjaminfoundation.co.uk/

services/youth-support-activities/

boom-young-carers/

FYI Norfolk Health advice and information for 11 to 24 year olds across Norfolk & Waveney, with trusted advice from NHS



clinicians.

www.fyिनorfolk.nhs.uk/

Able Community Care—Questions and Answers

Question - My operation was cancelled at the last minute by a phone call on the morning I was supposed to attend. What are my rights around such a cancellation?

Answer - If the hospital or service cancels your operation at the last minute and for non-clinical reasons, (e.g. lack of staff, beds, admin error, etc.) they should offer another binding date within 28 days or fund your treatment at a date and hospital of your choice. If you're not offered an appointment within 28 days, you should complain to your local ICB. (Integrated Care Board).

If your operation is cancelled before the day of admission, the hospital or service is not obliged to provide an alternative option within 28 days.

However, your right to start consultant-led treatment within a maximum waiting time still stands. If cancelling your appointment results in you having to wait longer, you have the right to ask the hospital or ICB to move you to a different provider.

Question: My local council is reducing bin collections from fortnightly to every three weeks. I'm concerned that my elderly relative may struggle to move her bin to the gate with the extra week's waste. I've heard it might be possible to arrange for the bin to be collected directly from where it's kept. How can I arrange this on her behalf?

Answer: You'll need to contact your local council and request an Assisted Bin Collection service. Most councils offer this support for residents who genuinely need it, though there is an eligibility criteria to meet. It's worth visiting your council's website first to check the specific requirements and application process for your area, as these can vary between councils.

Question: As I get older, I'm finding it increasingly difficult to read newspapers, even with regularly updated glasses. I'd like to try a Talking Newspaper service, and when I mentioned this to relatives with similar difficulties, they were interested too. Is there a directory listing all these

services?

Answer: Yes, there is. The Talking News Federation maintains a comprehensive directory of Talking Newspaper services across the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland. You can find details of your local service by visiting their website at tnf.org.uk. This is an excellent free resource that makes staying informed much more accessible.

Question – I have seen a Shopmobility centre/office in my local shopping mall. What do they offer?

Answer – Shopmobility Centres are located throughout the UK and they offer mobility equipment which can be hired to enable people with mobility problems to shop more easily. Equipment can include: mobility scooters, powered and manual wheelchairs, rollators and some offer accessible parking.

The majority of centres are registered charities. It is advisable to book in advance, and you can find details of the 120+ locations on their website www.shopmobilityuk.org

Question – My elderly parents are becoming frail as time goes by, I need to get to know about aids and equipment and possibly a bathroom change. Do I approach Social Services first and what can they help with?

Answer – For an older person who needs support of any kind to remain as independent as possible, the first thing to do is to contact Social Services and ask for a free Care Needs Assessment

Following an assessment, Social Services may make an appointment for an Occupational Therapist (OT) to visit before deciding what aids or adaptations are needed. Social Services can provide free equipment and funds for minor adaptations up to £1000 in England and Wales. For major adaptations, it may be possible to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant, if you are eligible.

For more information www.ablecommunitycare.com

“Good Friday” Reflective Service April 3rd

This service remembers the reason for Jesus's death hence it being called "Good" as it helps us reflect upon the cost to Jesus and also the fact it meant God offers us forgiveness and new life.

The service is at Stalham Baptist Church on Good Friday at 7.00pm.
All are welcome.



Community Fridge

Many people confuse the Community fridge with Food Bank and therefore miss out on the opportunity to benefit from donations regularly made by Tesco's and Morrisons who provide us with food products that are nearing their sell by dates. This means if we the fridge did not collect such items they would simply be thrown out and add to the mountain of waste. In order then to prevent waste the fridge allows people to take one bag full of the products either in the actual fridge or from the table.

Donations always welcome, people will drop off things from home they have no need of and we have regulars who provide fresh fruit and veg from their gardens or allotments.

The fridge is open Monday 2.00 –4.00 pm Tues-Fri 10-12.00 pm



John's Journey from Prison

"I didn't know how to maintain a life outside of prison – it's been at times a very painful journey but through that pain came growth and that is what has been really important to me... I am 100% sure my success is because of the help and support I got from CCN when I came out of prison. It was an integral part of my recovery journey from prison."

'John' – Former CCN Client

John's story, like so many of our clients, is a story of the power of compassion, forgiveness and hope.

At Community Chaplaincy Norfolk (CCN), we believe that everyone has inherent value and should be shown compassion, forgiveness, and hope. This central principle guides us in our work: to support prison leavers as they look to rehabilitate and re-integrate with society. Since 2018, we have supported hundreds of clients as they leave prison and look to put their previous lives behind them.

John's story is typical of many of our clients. After serving 26 years in prison, John was released into a world which often felt distressing and isolating. So much had changed since John had been on the outside that he found it difficult to navigate his way around modern life. This is the reality that many of our clients face and is often a contributing factor in being stuck in the cycle of reoffending.

"When they finally let me out I didn't have a clue who I was. I didn't know how to shop properly. I didn't know how to manage money properly. Didn't know how to be social with people properly, because I spent so many years in prison." John said, reflecting on the barriers that stopped him from rehabilitating in the past. Thankfully, after finishing his last sentence, John decided to reach out to CCN for support.

CCN trains and supports a small team of trauma-informed volunteer mentors who work closely with clients like John and support them in their journey to rehabilitation. They provide practical, emotional and spiritual support, walking alongside their client and

advocating for them for as long as they need it. Whether it be help with things like writing a CV, registering for a doctor, attending appointments, or joining a faith community, our mentors provide a much needed and often-overlooked intervention in the lives of those seeking a second chance, and help our clients navigate their way to a better future.

We work closely with the Prison and Probation services to support prison leavers on both sides of the gate, as they prepare for their release and as they are reintroduced to the community. Through mentoring, social activities, signposting, and advocacy, we empower our clients towards engaging positively with society and building new relationships – with themselves, and others.

John is now celebrating five years out of prison and has since gone on from CCN to do amazing things, including supporting other prison leavers as they start their own journeys of hope. But John is only one story out of many, and unfortunately, many of those stories still do not have a happy ending. So many leave prison with little to no direct support and end up getting dragged back into that vicious cycle of reoffending. That is why, as a Christian organisation, we feel it is our duty to bring hope, forgiveness, and compassion to as many as we can.



If you would like to find out more about how to support Community Chaplaincy Norfolk, please email

info@norfolkchaplaincy.org.uk

If you would like to find out more about becoming a volunteer mentor, email

jack@norfolkchaplaincy.org.uk

For other ways of supporting CCN, please scan the QR code.



Boats at the Stalham Staithe

The first house was erected by the Staithe at Stalham in 1648, marking the beginning of the settlement as a landing place for goods.

While the town itself has medieval origins, the Staithe became a crucial, bustling trading point on the River Ant, later serving as a hub for merchants like Harry Burton.

Harry Burton's business was known as Burton's Mill (now residential) operated coal and grain merchant businesses using wherry boats like Dispatch, Ceres, and Cornucopia and later his widow, Sarah continued operating coal and grain merchant businesses in 1914. These vessels were vital for transporting goods to and from the staithe, near the current Museum of the Broads serving as their base .



One of Burton's Werry's

William ABBOTT

Peter Crippled with Shame and Guilt

Have you come across books where you are given choices as to where the story goes. Where you can make decisions that affect the outcomes well this article is a little like that. Writes Ron Skivington.

Jesus had risen from the dead; His disciples had seen Him but having been told to return to Galilee it appears they were kicking their heels a bit and so Peter and six others one night went fishing.

As John tells the story two are unnamed as though to say that could be you or me.

Despite being professional fishermen and out all night they caught absolutely nothing so as they rowed back to shore they were weary, disappointed, frustrated, hungry, and struggling to cope with life as it now was. They'd tasted something good when with Jesus but that was in the past not now.

Suddenly a stranger on the beach called out "throw your nets over the other side of the boat" for whatever reason they did so and within the blink of an eye so many fish were in the boat they struggled to stay afloat.

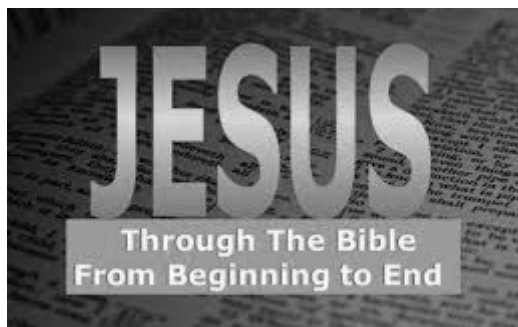
Only then, as the sky lightened, did John recognise Jesus "It's the Lord" he exclaimed, at that Peter dived over the side and swam to land, as though the boat was taking too long, by the time the others arrived with fish for breakfast Jesus and Peter are sitting by a fire,

the last time they had both been near a fire together was when Peter denied knowing Jesus. One of Peters lowest points in life and biggest regrets.

That tells us this is a "let's start again" moment a "do over" that the presence of Jesus coming into our lives can do so much more for us than anything or anyone else can. The story is a miracle, that used the fishermen, their nets, their boat and their willingness to risk even more failure, that brought Peter to the place of a complete reconciliation with Jesus.

Peter had been crippled with shame and guilt, he believed Jesus could have no more use for him, that his days as a disciple were over. He was certain his foolishness in not listening to Jesus had put him in the place where all his weaknesses were exposed, where fear took over as he

vehemently denied having had anything to do with Jesus and he had lost everything that had begun to hold purpose, value and meaning. Peter had to learn Jesus had come to seek the lost, to heal the broken, to give new life and that even meant for people like him who felt he was too far gone and not just for "them others"



So here come your choices, Jesus is beckoning to you today, how will you respond?

Stalham Emily Faith Shop Nearly Gives Away 100 bibles

Angela Caine who owns the Emily Faith Shop in Stalham High Street that she opened in 2010 says "I always give bibles free to people which was around 4 to 5 a year they came mostly from house clearing that I do, once a man asked if I had a bible amongst the books, I gave him a bible and he cried saying "you have no idea what that means to me" She went on "This year to date (which was October 2025 when Angela's



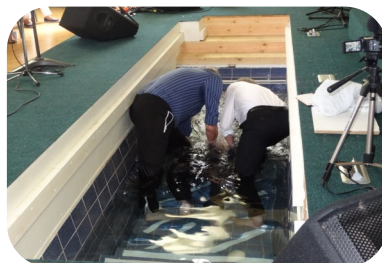
article in the Christmas Community Scene went to Century Printing, High Street, Stalham for printing.) amazingly we have given out 69 bibles, meaning I have had to get more bibles. The customers have been a youngster a 17-year-old to the oldest of 94, mostly the customers are aged 20 to 40." Angela pictured with bibles, told us that by December 98 Bibles have been given to people in 2025 and is expecting to give free over 100 bibles during 2026.

Baptism at SBC



Baptism in Stalham Baptist Church is a decision for believers who have made a personal confession of faith in Jesus Christ, may ask to be baptised. The baptism involves full immersion in water to symbolise dying an old life and rising to a new one, often

accompanied by a personal testimony. The baptistry at SBC is situated under the stage at



the front of the church that the music, songs and service take place. A pastor Ron or Jerry performs the baptism, for more info have a chat with Ron or Jerry. minister@stalhambaptist.org.uk



Coming Soon to Stalham a “Repair Cafe”

What we do:

We repair things that would otherwise be thrown away!

Our aims:

To reduce the amount of electrical, electronic and other waste that goes to landfill

To bring together and pass on valuable repair skills

To provide a pleasant, social hub where people can meet and chat

To reduce the climate-warming emissions caused by manufacturing new products

To promote a culture of sustainability in the local community

How it works:

The Repair Café opens once a month on a Saturday between 9:30am and 2:00pm in SBC Schoolroom.

It is run by volunteers for the benefit of the local community

Visitors can bring along anything they can comfortably carry that needs repairing

You don't need to book ahead, just turn up

We can help repair a wide range of items, including electrical and electronic equipment, toys, furniture and clothes. We can also make simple bike adjustments.

What to expect:

When you first arrive, you'll be greeted by a front of house person who will introduce you to our reception team.

They will log your item and issue a numbered work ticket.

When one of our fixers becomes available, they will pick up the next work ticket that matches their area of expertise

If all our fixers are busy, you'll be guided to our café area, where you can buy drinks and homemade cakes, and have a chat with other visitors

If possible, our fixers will make the necessary repairs while you wait. You are encouraged to chat to them - they'll be happy to explain what they're doing!

If we can't fix something on the day, we'll advise you on what your options are, including what professional services are available locally

We don't make a formal charge for our service, but we're very grateful for cash donations on the day. These help us cover our running costs.

Part of a global movement:

The first ever Repair Café was started in the Netherlands in 2009

There are now over 400 Repair Cafés in the UK, and around 4000 worldwide

The number is growing year on year, as people try to live more sustainably

For more information, visit www.repaircafe.org



History of the Broads in Brief

The Broads make up more than 70,000 acres of unique landscape, forged over hundreds of years by man's activity, which has entranced visitors and residents for generations. Learn about the history of the Broads here.

The Broads has always been a place of business, a working environment where Norfolk and Suffolk artisans and craftsmen have plied their trades – from farming to peat cutting, fishing to transport. It is the business of the Broads that has shaped the magical waterline which holidaymakers as well as residents now enjoy today. With the arrival of the early middle ages, much of the national woodland was being cut down to accommodate an increasing population, sparking a search for new building materials and fuels – and peat emerged as a primary heat source.

In an enterprise that would last 200 years, peat became big business. Huge rights to peat-cutting were acquired. It's claimed that the monks of St Benet's Abbey used 200,000 bales of peat a year themselves, and there was regular trade with the conurbations of Norwich and Great Yarmouth. Millions of cubic feet of

peat were dug out of east Norfolk, but as the holes got bigger the sea levels got higher and water flooded into the digging.

And that's how the Broads were born... but it was another 800 years before its origins were confirmed.

Academic Dr Joyce Lambert had been publishing research on the Broads since the end of the Second World War.

Then, in 1952, a colleague, JN Jennings published "Origins of the Broads" in which he claimed that the Broads was a natural phenomenon.

But Dr Lambert had different ideas. Through a series of tests, she established that the Broads had flat beds, vertical sides and pathways running through them – all linked to peat digging.

Eventually Lambert won the water wars. The Broads was man made! By this time the Broads had already become a playground for holidaymakers across Britain, all drawn by the romance of a week on the water, an idyll fanned by tales such as Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*, published in 1930. *Article from Richardsons Holidays Stalham*



Even More Happening At SBC

Ladies Breakfast

The next Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 21st March 2026 8.30 to 11am in SBC's Schoolroom, Breakfast includes cereal, fruit Juice, pastries, and a cooked breakfast. There will be a Guest Speaker.

No fixed charge, but all donations are appreciated, all profits will go to a charity.

Book a place or get more information by contacting Elaine on 07796 875785 or email Elainemith364@btinternet.com



As usual there is no specific period between dates but they are fitted around Barbara & my availability. I think that helps some who have commitment on a particular Saturday each month too.

So we look forward to seeing you at the Spring Breakfasts. The dates are: 28th March and 25th April.

See you soon. Regards, Geoff.

01692 672120 geoffreynolds51@gmail.com

Online Service and Podcasting

If you cannot make it to a Sunday service you can find the service online. Go to <https://www.stalhambaptist.org.uk/> Then click on the box which says join our Sunday online service. You can listen to the weekly 5-minute Podcast by Jerry or Ron by clicking on Scripture Reading Plan.

Bible Art

Come and get creative!

We will read a Bible passage and think about it together. Then everyone has time to create their own work of art to reflect on whatever part of the passage became important to them. This can be done as writing, drawing, painting, card making,... everyone can get creative in their own way. A few materials are there, but you are also welcome to bring your own if you have them. Contact Simone Otieno sim1otieno@gmail.com

Noah's Ark Baby & Toddler Group

The Noah's Ark Baby and Toddler Group continues to meet in the School Room at SBC every Wednesday from 1.30 - 3.00pm during term time.

We have a large space in which the children can enjoy active play as well as puzzles, craft, construction toys and books. Each week we have songs/stories and snacks are available too.

We have links with the local staff from the children's community hub who can also offer support to families. So, if you are a mum, dad, aunt, uncle, grandparent, childminder or foster carer you will be very welcome - so long as you bring along a child under five years old! Do come and join us for Wednesday afternoons of fun. For more information contact: Jenny Payne at jennifer.payne55@gmail.com

Messy Church

Its families [of all different shapes, sizes and ages] getting together to snack, be creative and celebrate on a Bible theme, then share a meal. It's a *different* sort of church. Ours, at Stalham Baptist, happens once a month on the 3rd Thursday at 3.15 to 5pm. We snack and are creative for about an hour, then have a story, song and prayer for about 15minutes before we share a meal. For more information contact Barbara on barbarageoff@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast Spring '26 date flyer:

Hello again Gents this is to thank you for continuing to support our breakfasts, and I hope enjoy yourselves as we share food, conversation and a little learning about one of our number or a visiting speaker.



The Stalham Bereavement Support Group (SBSG) was founded in summer 2023. Our meetings aim to offer a safe, friendly, non-judgmental, and welcoming environment where adults can openly share their experiences, feelings, memories, and helpful ideas related to grieving the loss of a loved one.

Every other Mondays from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at The Stable, Stalham Baptist Church.

2026	
March	9th
	23rd
April	6th (Easter Monday)
	20th
May	4th (Bank Holiday)
	18th
June	1st
	15th
	29th
July	13th
	27th
August	10th
	24th
September	7th
	21st
October	5th
	19th
November	2nd
	16th
	30th
December	7th
	12th (Memorial Service)

For more info, Contact Jerry at 07733837687 Or email: sbsg.0623@gmail.com

Matthew Project overcoming issues with drugs, alcohol & mental health

Every day across Norfolk, young people and adults face the hidden weight of drugs, alcohol, and mental health struggles. For more than 40 years, The Matthew Project has walked alongside them, offering hope, practical support, and a safe place to rebuild. Our work is simple at its heart: helping people understand their experiences, regain confidence, and find a fresh start.

We support young people who are using substances themselves. Through relationships built on trust, we help them understand the risks they face, reduce harm, and make safer decisions. Alongside this, we provide coaching and mentoring for young people who are struggling with school, training, or employment. Working extensively in Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn, our programmes use small steps, positive experiences, and strong, consistent relationships to rebuild confidence for those who've lost their sense of direction.

But many young people we work with are living with the impact of someone else's substance misuse. In Norfolk, around 5,000 children live with a parent or carer who uses drugs or alcohol. These children often take on adult responsibilities, worry constantly about their parent's wellbeing, and feel pressure to cope alone. Their vulnerability can make them easy targets for exploitation. We help them make sense of their situation, build emotional resilience, and rediscover the safety and freedom of childhood.

Misinformation is another challenge we tackle. When dealers began using QR codes on lampposts to advertise substances, our young people worked with us to design our own QR codes linking to clear, fact-checked information. When young people have honest, accessible facts, they can make better, safer decisions.

Our Recovery Centre on Oak Street in Norwich provides a warm, welcoming, community-focused space for adults. Many arrive feeling isolated, ashamed, or unsure how to move forward. The Recovery Centre offers a place where they can rebuild their lives with dignity and encouragement. Community is central to healing, and the centre provides relationships and routines that many people have lost along the way. We offer therapeutic support, check-ins, grounding techniques, and CBT-focused groups that help people manage urges and emotions. Alongside this, we run practical life skills and employability workshops such as cooking sessions,

woodwork, and arts and crafts, many delivered by our dedicated volunteers.



40 Fest

Real lives, real change

So what difference does all this make? Jason's story captures it well:

"A year ago today, I walked through the door of the Matthew Project completely broken. I'd relapsed after a failed marriage, and I wasn't surviving by myself, I was a tangled mess. Over the year I have been guided, supported, and cared for. I started volunteering at the centre, and life has moved forward. Healing takes time, and that is what the Matthew Project gave me the most: time, care, love, and respect."

Our mission is simple: to help people make sense of their experiences, find safety, and

transform their lives. Whether it's an adult rediscovering purpose or a child realising they're not responsible for a parent's addiction, every small step matters. Our values; Hope, Empathy, and Care guide everything we do. And with the right support, anyone can find a new beginning.

A ripple effect of change

Hananka first came to us because people were concerned about her use of ketamine and ecstasy. In those early days, our focus was on keeping her safe and helping her understand the risks and the impact on her wellbeing, and supporting her to take small steps to reduce harm.

With steady encouragement, she grew in confidence and began making healthier choices. She learned how to advocate for herself, even under social pressure. Between sessions, she felt safe to reach out whenever she had questions, receiving timely, practical harm reduction advice, support she didn't keep to herself. She shared drug alerts and safety tips with her friends, and this openness contributed to a noticeable reduction in substance use across her friendship group.

Reflecting on her journey, she said:

"From when I started to where I am now, there is a significant change in everything I do."

Perhaps most powerfully, she encouraged a friend to seek help too, this is proof that when one young person feels empowered, the impact can touch many others.

Hananka's story is a reminder that even small steps can lead to big changes. Every young person or adult who makes contact with our services carry their own challenges, but they also carry potential. With the right support, confidence grows, choices shift, and lives begin to heal. At The Matthew Project, we see this hope take shape every day.



Young Peoples Activities



www.matthewproject.org
 Socials:
 @thematthewprojectcharity
 Scan to find out more about The
 Matthew Project:
 If you are affected by any of the
 issues in this article, please contact

The Matthew Project for support:
Young People's Services:
 01606 626 123
 unity@matthewproject.org
Adult Services:
 01603 626 123
 nextsteps@matthewproject.org

Kind or Honest?

Jerry Otieno writes. Recently, Ron and I had the fantastic opportunity to be part of **Soul Space at Stalham High School**. Soul Spaces in schools are designated, calm, safe spaces and, often, temporary environments—like a repurposed library, hall or classroom — designed to support student wellbeing. It offers interactive activities focusing on spiritual exploration, gratitude, contemplation on "big life questions," and mental health. At the High school, the Library was beautifully transformed into a warm and inviting space with seven stations/zones featuring interactive activities designed to encourage students to pause, reflect, relax, and manage emotions during the school day.

One of the thought-provoking questions the students had to reflect on at the "**BIG Questions**" station was, "**Is it more important to be kind or honest?**" If you were asked the same question, what would your answer be? Do you feel strongly about one? Or do you, like me, feel caught in the middle, unsure of what to choose? Some people deeply value honesty and tend to be blunt, hurting others in the process, even when they're "just trying to tell the truth". Others prioritise kindness over honesty, avoiding truth to protect others' feelings, even if it means lying.

In the Bible, in John 8: 1-11, Jesus shows us a powerful example of balancing kindness and honesty. The story is of a woman caught in adultery, brought into the temple courts before Jesus and surrounded by religious leaders confident in their knowledge of God's laws and their judgment. Though they claimed honesty in fulfilling God's law, their actions were cruel because they didn't bother bringing the man involved, and their mission seemed to be shaming and destroying her dignity and life. They asked Jesus, "**Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stonemurder such women. Now what do you say?**" Their question was designed to trap Jesus. If Jesus sided with Moses and said yes, he risked upsetting the Romans. If he said no, he seemed to dismiss Moses' teachings. Jesus here is confronted with a question that still haunts us today: **When truth and compassion seem to clash, which do we prioritise—honesty or kindness?**

Jesus responds with wisdom. He doesn't simply take sides but turns the situation around with a gentle challenge, saying: "**Let anyone of you who is without sin**

be the first to throw a stone at her" (John 8:7). The Pharisees used the law as a mirror to their own guilt, making them look within. The result was that the religious leaders, confronted with their own sins, began to leave one by one, until only Jesus and the woman remained. **He then asks her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replies, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."**

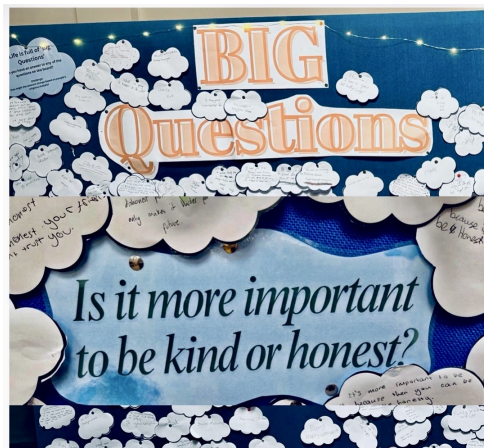
Jesus shows us that real **honesty is a mirror**—it should first help us clearly see who we are, not just others and real **kindness is a window**—it offers a vision of hope, freedom, and who we can become by God's grace. Jesus never sacrificed truth to be kind, nor kindness to be truthful. He neither denied nor excused the woman's sin. He was honest and kind—telling her the truth about her sin—"Go and sin no more," but also offering grace and dignity—"Neither do I condemn you." Here is the balance we must not miss— **we need Truth without condemnation and Kindness without compromise.**

Honesty and kindness are not opposites. They are partners when love is the motive. It's not a question of "either/or," but "both/and." Honesty without kindness throws stones. Kindness without honesty leaves people feeling stuck. Kindness gave the woman her dignity, while Honesty gave

her direction.

Jesus doesn't ask us to choose between honesty and kindness—instead, he calls us to embody both. In a world eager to condemn or compromise, let's strive to speak like Christ: honest enough to face sin, kind enough to offer grace, and loving enough to walk alongside others toward freedom and transformation in Him. May we also learn to be honest enough with ourselves and others about our own sins and be willing to take steps forward towards Jesus's kindness and forgiveness so that we, like the woman in the story, can experience the power of Christ's transforming love and grace.

"At one time, we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." (Titus 3:3-5.)



The Beginnings of Stalham Baptist Church

The church originated in the nearby village of Ingham in 1653, one of the first Baptist churches in the district.

Most members of the church were engaged in the agricultural economy of Norfolk. The nineteenth century had brought great change to these rural areas. Enclosure of common land led to the reduction of smallholding and increase of largescale farming, not least with agricultural mechanisation. This in turn led to a decrease in wages for labourers.

The end of the war with France in 1815 brought hard times. During wartime, there had been no trade with France, but with the

resumption of trade, the price of wheat fell. Coupled with a disastrous harvest, this area was badly affected, relying as it did on the crops of wheat and barley. This was a testing time for Samuel Cooke the miller and many others. **Samuel became a deacon in 1820. Women could not be deacons or even vote in the Baptist fellowship.** This did not stop Sophia Cooke influencing with her pen though. She was a prolific writer of letters and other forms as she thought befitting.

By 1878, the condition of the Ingham meeting house was deteriorating, and it was decided to build a new chapel.

Stalham was now much bigger than Ingham and was developing as a trade centre with many businesses supporting agriculture or general service providers such as grocers, saddlers, basket makers, chemist, clothing shops and a boarding school. Several of the members of the fellowship lived or traded in Stalham, which had acquired a river staithe for trading boats and a railway to both Great Yarmouth and North Walsham. The 1881 census records population figures of 852 for Stalham and 429 in Ingham. For these reasons, it was decided to relocate to Stalham. A trust fund had been set up, and land was acquired by the fellowship at the end of Stalham High Street.

There were seven trustees, including members Boardman Charles Silcock, farmer of Stalham (son of Richard Boardman Silcock), and Samuel Cooke, miller of Hoveton (son of Samuel and Sophia). On 17th April 1884 a foundation stone was laid and on Thursday 23rd October, imports of cheap grain from America were brought in, but Stalham managed to survive to some extent with its new role as a market town. In his letter of resignation of SBC, Rev. Woods wrote that the depression in the agricultural industry was seriously impairing the financial prosperity of the church, rendering it difficult to give an adequate support to the ministry. He added that under these

conditions, he felt it impossible to find his life work in Stalham, not finding sufficient scope for his energies in the service of God. It has been written elsewhere that Rev.



Drawing of Ingham Baptist Chapel built in 1813 and in use until 1884. In the background is the minister's house. The latter building survives to this day.

Woods had a heart for working men and he may have considered the developing urban areas had a greater need for his services.

Also telling is a message of sympathy from Rev. Bullimore on a visit in 1896 representing the Baptist Association "which recognises the difficulty of country church work".

Rev. Bullimore urged the importance of union and of regular contribution. Shortly before his visit, subscription had been replaced by weekly offering in envelopes. Other

fundraising was provided through the holding of bazaars, but the deacons and treasurer were anxious that the pastor was supported through regular financial commitment. In a later obituary of the treasurer Edward Slipper, it was written that he had 'sterling business ability and managed the finances of the church with scrupulous care'.

In 1896 a manse was built (not far from the vicarage), quite a feat for a financially struggling congregation, though even then perhaps it was recognised as a future investment.

Since the move from Ingham, pastors had lived in rented accommodation. It is recorded in the church minutes from 1896 that the gallery with seating above the seating below

was reopened after a period of being closed due to bad behaviour. This may imply there were goings-on upstairs, but other minutes record that boys had been throwing stones outside and breaking windows (so much so that the local police force had been approached). Fronting onto the High Street, it may be that sitting in the gallery could have resulted in being showered by broken glass.



SBC early 1900's

Maybe this should dispel the idea that such vandalism is limited to modern times.

In 1901, several church members expressed an interest in a monthly evangelistic meeting with hymns from Sankey's 'Sacred Songs and Solos'. However, this interest was not shared by Rev. Bird, who considered that all services were evangelistic (but his style was obviously not like that of Moody). Of interest is a record of the church meeting in June 1902 relating to the imminent coronation of Edward VII. The vicar of the parish church of Stalham St Mary had invited the pastor to read a lesson at a service to mark this event. In giving the invitation, the vicar made clear that he did not recognise the Baptist community as a 'church' or its pastor a 'minister'.

The invitation was not accepted in these circumstances by 16 votes to 7, though several abstained.

Now SBC and St Mary work well together.

How Stalham Baptist Church is now



SBC had a first major refurbishment since it was built in 1884 in 2012 and a renovation of the schoolroom in 2023. The church has three screens which show words to songs and video's.

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.

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

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 4 & 11 and can be found on our website.



PETER AND THE COCKEREL

