



Sittingbourne
Baptist Church



March 30th

March 2025

How Valuable is your Bible?

Little story of encouragement which came through Instagram recently (SBC is now on Instagram– find it and follow to get all the content!) I did a bit of research and the story has been going round Christian circles for some time.

The following is a true story told by Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ.

In the 1930's, Stalin ordered a purge of all Bibles and all believers in the former Soviet Union. Millions of Bibles were confiscated and multitudes of believers were sent to the gulags. In Stavropol, Russia, this order was carried out with a vengeance.



A few years ago, CoMission ministry, which Campus Crusade for Christ sponsors, sent a team to Stavropol. When their team had difficulties getting Bibles shipped from Moscow, someone



mentioned the existence of a warehouse outside of town where these confiscated Bibles had been stored since Stalin's days. One member finally got up the courage to ask the officials if the Bibles were still there and could be removed and distributed again to the people of Stavropol. The answer was "Yes"!

The next day the team returned with a truck and several Russian people to help load the Bibles. One helper was a young man, who was a skeptical, hostile, agnostic collegian who had come only for the day's wages.

As they were loading the Bibles, a team member noticed that the young man had disappeared. Eventually, they found him in a corner of the warehouse weeping. He had slipped away hoping to quietly take a Bible. What he had found shook him to the core. Inside the first page of the Bible he had picked up was the handwritten signature of his own grandmother! Out of the many thousands of Bibles still left in the warehouse, he had stolen the one belonging to his grandmother. She had no doubt prayed for him and for her city, and her prayers had followed him. Now this young man's life had been transformed by the very Bible that his grandmother found so dear.



The Bible itself says, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and his ways past finding out" ([Romans 11:33](#)).

Our small groups are the first and third Wednesday of each month and are a really good place to get to know your Bible, and to get to know more people from the church too. The leadership are looking at having more small group Bible studies – if you could host one in your home– even if you didn't feel able to lead one, please do speak to Nathan or the Deacons.



Minister

REV
NATHAN GORDON

Also find Sittingbourne Baptist Church on Facebook and Instagram for updates and information about our activities and our live streamed worship.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Great new photos thanks to Charles O!



RICKY GROSVENOR -
YOUTH PASTOR



GRAHAME
ATKINSON



JOSHUA
AJIBOYE



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



ADRIAN
CHEESMAN



Cresta
Durojaiye
CHURCH
ADMINISTRATOR



Nicola Hasan



LISA
PENNINGTON



Bex Ratchford



RICHARD
SILLS
Responsible for
Safeguarding



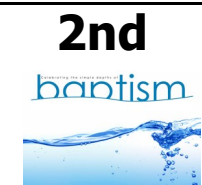
HYLKO
ZINGSTRA
TREASURER

Services for the month of March "Fighting Temptation"



Morning Service **10.30am**

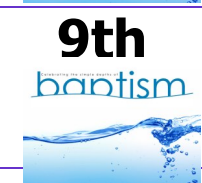
Evening Service **6.30pm**



2nd

"Why does God allow us to be tempted?" James 1v12-25 Rev. Nathan Gordon

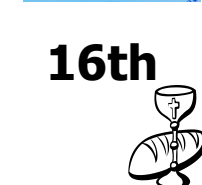
Communion Service - Alan Cole "How can we rob God?" Malachi



9th

"Help I just can't say no!" Romans 7 v 14-25 Rev Nathan Gordon

Stories of Faith— A time of Praise and testimony



16th

"Don't go swimming if you don't want to get wet!" Gen 39:6-12; et al. Rev Nathan Gordon

Praise and Worship Service

23rd

All— Age Service- "I am....."

6.30pm The Encounter

30th
Mother's
Day

"Who's in charge around here?" (Greatness in Serving) Mark 10:35-45 Rev Nathan Gordon

Mission service with a visitor from Tearfund



Administrator's Notes

Dear Church Family,

This really is a "Notes", short and sweet. I am writing this before our Members Meeting, as the deadline was due. Things in the "pipeline", which Will be discussed are the Stage Renewal and the Worship Audio/Visual, along with the Budget.

As this is the March magazine, the ladies have their Conference on Saturday 15th here at Sittingbourne Baptist Church, and some of the men are going to Tonbridge for the Kent Christian Men's Conference on the 1st.

That's all for now, as I said, "short and sweet". More next month I am sure.

With Christian love to you all, *Grahame.*

Changing a Light Bulb

How many people does it take to change a light bulb? You have heard it before! "There's nothing wrong with the light bulb, it's ok as it is. I like it, so why change it?" Answer, "It's got dim and is flickering".

"But it's been there 20 years, and has a lot more life in it. I don't like change!" Nobody likes change, but after our Vision Meeting on the 26th January, it was fairly obvious that change will be happening here at Sittingbourne Baptist Church, as it has in the past.

Before I was a member here I used to visit occasionally from my other church in Murston. I remember the wooden pews downstairs, with the Sound Desk in the middle. Now there are red chairs, and the Sound Desk is at the back. **CHANGE HAPPENED!** I honestly don't remember the wooden front doors being changed to the glass auto doors, but I am sure some of the long standing members can. Once again, **CHANGE HAPPENED!**



I remember when I was at Murston All Saints, we wanted to take the two back pews out to make room for the Community Activities we were doing. There was one person who opposed this, and it went on for two years. When it finally happened, the one person who opposed it said, "This is great, why did we not do it before!" **CHANGE HAPPENED!**

And what about you!!! Remember when you gave your life to Christ, **CHANGE HAPPENED!**

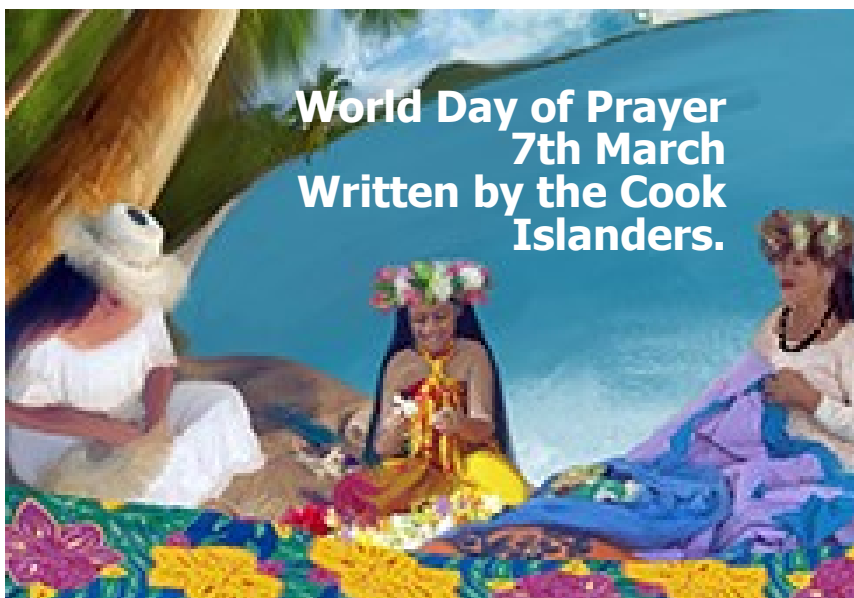
So you see, change happens for the best, like the dim, flickering light bulb. Embrace the coming changes please!
Yours, in the love of Christ, *Grahame.*

On our minds and in our Prayers

The Leadership team are seeking to have every generation represented in SBC. It is so important that we support and pray for all of our Age groups. During the Discussion time on 26th January it was noted that we need some young-er Adult events and Activities.

With that in mind Nathan is calling everyone 18-35 to stay after church on March 23rd for a planning and getting to know you event.

If you are in that Age group please let Nathan know you will be coming as there will be a light lunch provided, so we need to know numbers. Nathan is on 07788402087 or minister@sbc-church.org.uk



World Day of Prayer March 7th 7pm Sacred Heart Church, London Road

This year Sacred Heart are hosting the World Day of Prayer and have chosen an early evening slot. All are welcome— it is no longer exclusively for Women! This year it was written by a group from the Cook Islands in the South Pacific, off the North East Coast of New Zealand— probably enjoying a lot more sunshine at the moment than the UK!

The service usually lasts about an hour with songs, prayers and some thought provoking shared readings. This year, written by the Women of the Cook Islands. Come and join in prayer and learn something about this far away country and have a cup of tea afterwards. Don't forget March 7th at 7pm!



Don't Forget!
This month it's time for our first Women's Conference—for some time!
Come and hear Elaine Simpson and enjoy time together. If you haven't managed to sign up for this yet ask Bev/ Anna or Terri to help you get your hands on one of the last few tickets!

Focus on

Outreach Prayer Partners Needed

As our team is expanding, Praise God, we would like you to pray with us, and for us in everything we do for the Lord. We normally meet every first Saturday in The Hub at 1pm for "Prayer & Planning", and we would love you to join us for that, but you don't have to. The second Saturday we gather outside on the High Street to do "Outreach" between 11am and 1pm, and would like **your prayers** for our protection and good conversations.

If you are willing to become a **Prayer Partner**, for the Street Outreach Team please see me, Grahame Atkinson, or one of the **Outreach Team** for more detail. You do not even have to go out on the High Street with us as you can pray at home, but if you would like to come out with us, that would be good as well.

Thanking you in advance for your availability to pray for us.
Yours, in the love of Christ, *Grahame Atkinson.*

Poem called Remember— David Casse shared it with us when he preached in January All— Age Service.

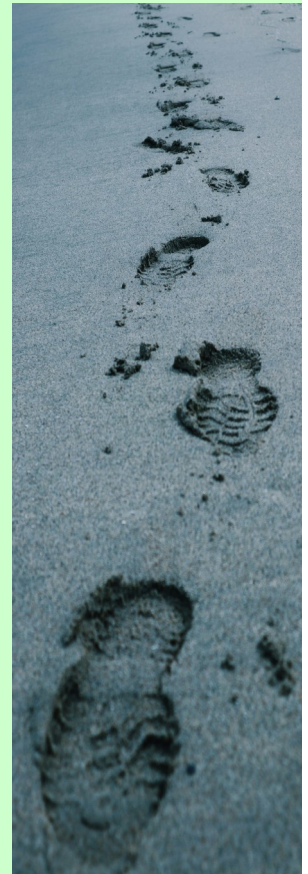
When your life gets muddled and you feel life is unjust
Remember God will lead you if in Him you put your trust.

When you go through trials which seem so hard to bear
Remember God won't leave you for He is always there.

When your life's a struggle and you feel you've had enough
Remember He's there for you when life is getting tough.

When you're afraid and things don't go as you would want
them to
Remember God is at your side and wants to walk with you.

And if your Faith in God above is slowly growing dim,
Remember you are not alone ,each step you walk with him.



Come on the Brickies!!!

It all started with a weird Facebook message from someone I have known for around 45 years!
One of those which makes you think their account has been hacked!



I have known the Reverend Malcolm Patten since I was around 13 when we started to go to a little church in Hartlepool called West View Baptist.

Well only this week the Facebook message came through- "We are praying for Sittingbourne FC in the FA trophy" Apparently, Joe Boachie who plays midfield goes to BlackHorse Road Baptist Church- where my old friend Malcolm is Senior Pastor.

With words from our discussion meeting in January ringing in my ears about engaging with the local community, I thought to add a little bit of information into the magazine!

Sittingbourne FC are through to the quarter finals of the FA trophy- as Wiki tells me.....
"The Football Association Challenge Trophy, also known as the Isuzu FA Trophy for sponsorship reasons, is a men's football knockout cup competition run by and named after The Football Association and competed by mainly National League teams. The competition was introduced in 1969 "
So—maybe check out the ticket availability- forget the big familiar favourite teams and on March 1st at 12.30pm Sittingbourne FC- AKA 'The Brickies' have a match at home (Woodstock Ground) at 12.30pm. They play Aldershot Town KO 12.30pm. So why not wrap up warm and support our local team?!

Also, thankfully Malcolm has not been hacked, and we were able to chat back and forth and it prompted this little article!

Good News on the Streets!



You may have noticed some prayer points in the Sermon notes about the Street pastors, and they have been back out on the Streets on patrol. They also had prayer partners Carol and Pam bearing them up in prayer whilst they were out.

I would like to pass on a snippet from the report for that Evening.

Hus writes:- While on patrol, we introduced ourselves to security staff at The Vineyard, The Red Lion, The Lounge and Sittingbourne Train Station. We received a warm welcome back. We spoke to security staff at the train station who were curious about our role. We also provided them with a SP leaflet. On leaving the church, we were approached by two young ladies outside Bunters who described their previous positive experiences with Sittingbourne Street Pastors. In addition, one of the ladies spoke about her faith whereby Nicola took the opportunity to minister and invite her to Church. She stated

that there is a tendency for young people, often under the influence of alcohol, to congregate in the area around The Light Cinema. Also mention was made of the Youth provision at SBC, which she had previous experience of. We encouraged her to tell any younger people she may know that the provision is ongoing and that all are welcome. We were also approached by two males shouting 'flip flops' in a cheerful manner.

Please pray for all the contact the Street Pastor teams have and the areas of Sittingbourne where they could make the most difference.

Matthew 5v16- In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Focus on



Every Monday morning in term time

SBC hosts a parent and toddler group

cleverly known as A.B. C– Adults, Babies and Children!!

The volunteer team set up the hall with chairs all round the edges for the Adults. The little coffee tables are set around as stations for play- 'play stations' means something else now! The cupboard at the end is packed with building bricks, play houses, jigsaws etc. and we set out a different selection each week. We also set out a simple craft activity– sometimes the parents enjoy that even more than the children!

Monday sees us looking after around 15 children between the ages of 8 months to coming up to 3 years. If everyone came every week there would be 20+ but it tends to stick at around 15.

The ministry part is mainly to the parents and carers who come along. The conversations range far and wide– anxieties about the children, latest holidays and celebrations and everything in between. We give out Christian books at Christmas and Easter and have an end of term party for the Three main terms.

We can always use more volunteers– some are moving away!!

Speak to Bev in the office or Marion S or Julie K if you want to know more about helping out!

As part of our safeguarding policy we have to maintain DBS checks on everyone who works with the youth or children– if you get an e-mail reminder please can you make an appointment with Bev to verify your documents as soon as possible. Times available are 9am-3pm Mon., Tues., Thurs., 5-9pm Wednesdays and 9-2 Fridays. (Bev) 01795-420990 Office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk

Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions!

Birthdays pop up on Face book but do let me know the Anniversaries as I need a little reminder! It is better by e-mail than on a Sunday!



March

4th March– Pancake Day!

17th Bev

21st Paul W


23rd Yemie

28th Marjorie P– on Facebook (94)

Also heads up everyone 30th March is Mothering Sunday this year!

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the April Magazine. The deadline will have to be Thursday 27th March. Then we can all pray for you too.

For all details and services you may have missed please check out the freshly revamped Church Website (Thanks Brian!) and follow/like the Facebook and our new Instagram account for regular updates on all that is going on!

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 10:00am-noon A.B.C.					1 10am-12 noon Contact Centre Kent Men's Conference — see poster for details 1-2:30pm Outreach team out	2 9.45am Prayer in Hub 10:30am -New series- Fighting temptation-Why does God allow us to be tempted? Nathan Gordon  6:30pm —Communion Service Alan Cole "How can we rob God?"
3 10:00am-noon A.B.C.	4 8am Early Prayer 9:30-11:30am Café 10am-noon Private event in Lounge 7:30pm Deacons business meeting	5 8am Early Prayer 1:30pm & 7:15 Housegroups 6-9pm Youth Alpha in Lounge Office Closed	6 8am Early Prayer 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band	7 8am Early Prayer 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7pm World Day of Prayer Service —Sacred Heart Church 7-9pm Underground	8 10am-12noon Contact Centre 1-2:30pm Outreach team out 1pm onwards Youth worship & Alpha afternoon in Sanctuary	9 9.45am Prayer in Hub 10:30am -Morning service- Fighting temptation-Help I just can't say no! Nathan Gordon 6:30 pm -Testimony service
10 10:00am-noon A.B.C.	11 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Private event in Lounge	12 6-9pm Youth Alpha in Lounge 7-8pm Prayer prep for Ladies Conference — church sanctuary	13 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 10:45am Focus on Faith at Woodstock 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band	14 9:30am Pastoral team meeting upstairs NO JAM CLUB Set up for Conference 7-9pm Underground	15 9am-4pm Conference Womens' Edition 25 in Lounge & Sanctuary NO CONTACT CENTRE	16 9.45am Prayer in Hub 10:30am-Morning Service-Don't go swimming if you don't want to get wet! Nathan Gordon Communion 6:30pm Praise and Worship
17 10:00am-noon A.B.C.	18 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Private event in Lounge 7:30pm Deacon's prayer Mtg-hub	19 1:30pm & 7:15 Housegroups 6-9pm Youth Alpha in Lounge	20 9:30am-11:30am Café 3:16 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band	21 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	22 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 7pm Start-Quiz	23 9.45am Prayer in Hub 10:30am -All age service 6:30pm-The Encounter
24 10:00am-noon A.B.C.	25 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Private event in Lounge	26 1:30pm Pine Lodge service 6-9pm Youth Alpha in Lounge	27 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 10:45 am Woodstock Care home 2pm Bright Hour YouthBand 7:30pm Church Choir— sanctuary	28 9:30am Pastoral team meeting upstairs 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	29 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 2pm Women in Prayer	30 9.45am Prayer in Hub 10:30am-Morning service- Mothering Sunday Whose in charge around here? (Greatness is serving) 6:30pm Evening Mission Service- Tear Fund