

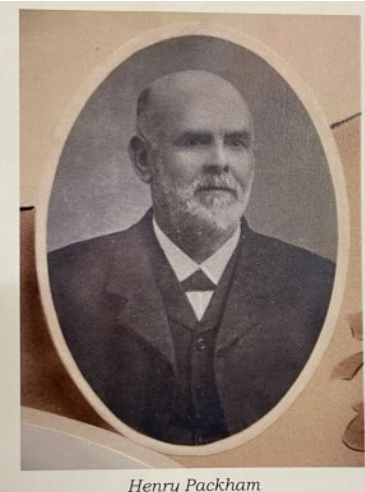


April 2026

SBC is 160 years old this year— the actual deeds were signed in September of the year so it will be Happy Birthday, God Bless You in a big way!!

The Leadership team are still holding out for ideas to celebrate God's Goodness to us in this location: There is going to be a Fellowship day when the weather can be relied upon!!

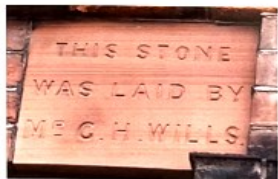
Also, recently, we featured in the Heritage Museum quarterly magazine—one lady was remembering her childhood in Teynham and Sittingbourne and was related to one of the



Henry Packham

founders of SBC Henry Packham. Mr Packham was a contemporary of a Mr Daniel Wills. Both of these families were members of the church here in the early part of the 20th century. They are recognized on the stones above the white side doors. Packham and Wills were part of

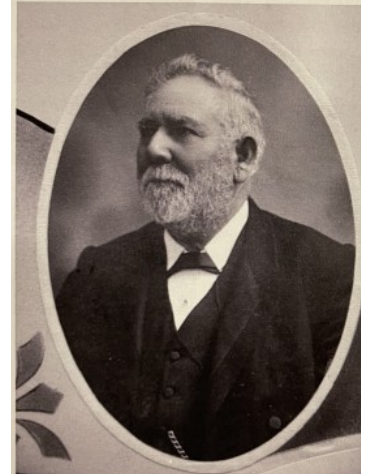
the Sittingbourne industry at that time and were also very strong on Temperance (possibly why it features so strongly in our



foundation documents)

The two men had a fleet of barges and these were named after the Temperance stalwarts in Great Britain and the US. Daniel Wills even called his house in Park Road 'Garfield House' after the president of the USA who supported the Temperance league.

Some of the barge names were Teetotaler (1877) Good Templar (1877) and Band of Hope (1878) Sittingbourne at that time had a reputation for making the bricks which built London—barges would come down and dump rubbish or ballast and then be filled with bricks to take back, up the Thames, to the London ports. It is said that alterations to 10 Downing Street in the 1950's used Packham and Wills bricks!



George Dean is remembered on some of the plaques outside too. He was also a strong supporter of being alcohol free.

These men went around the county speaking at different meeting places (some other foundation stones in local Baptist churches were also laid by them— Broadstairs, Rye and Ashford)

They caught the eye of the editor of the East Kent Gazette 100 years ago. In 1880 Billy Matthews wrote 'I clearly remember Mr George Dean and messrs Daniel Wills and Henry Packham all leading nonconformists and mainly through the agency of these men, there were great Temperance gatherings in those days....' How great to be known in the local newspaper as 'leading nonconformists'!!

The stone plaques were added to the side of the building as the church had seen the need for Education. They had knocked down the manse—where the minister lived, to build on at the side of the church two floors of rooms (currently the corridor and toilets and the creche above). This was needed so that the Sunday School could cope with all of the children who needed to come and learn. They were the poorer children, who had no regular schooling, before there was free education for everyone. SBC built a place where they could be safe and were free to learn by hearing Bible stories from their Sunday School teachers (Not much has changed!!)

SBC has been making a difference to the lives of many, preaching Salvation, practicing Temperance and caring for those they could in the local community for 160 years.

In 2026 this is surely something to celebrate?!



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



RICKY GROSVENOR -
YOUTH PASTOR



FLAVIE BALLIET



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



ADRIAN
CHEESMAN



CRESTA DUROJAIYE
CHURCH
ADMINISTRATOR



LISA
PENNINGTON



BEX RATCHFORD




RICHARD
SILLS
Responsible for
Safeguarding



HYLKO
ZINGSTRA
TREASURER

Services for the month of April

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
3rd April Good Friday	11.30am Communion Saviour or Scam? King or Con? Ricky Grosvenor	
5th	"Where is the proof of your Faith?" Rev Nathan Gordon	"How can I explain the Doctrine of the Trinity?" Alan Cole
12th	David Casse Topic tbc	Stories of Faith Testimony Service
19th 	"Are you the spouse God called you to be?" Rev Nathan Gordon	Praise and Worship led by J.J.
26th	Youth Led service Ricky and the Team	The Encounter—Music and Prayer

“The apostles understood the resurrection as the lynchpin of Christianity—integral to every aspect of life and thought—and therefore so should we.” — Ross Clifford

Dear SBC Family,

It is with joy that I write this article on the eve of Passion Week as we commemorate the hallmark and foundation of our faith. I love Easter because it offers a sense of focus and perspective. Although we don't need a specific time of year to reflect on the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, I find there's something unique about our services, events, and witness this time of year.

The entire canon of scripture is geared towards the cross and the resurrection. The apostle Paul understood this when he remarked, “and if Christ be not risen, then our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain.” (1 Cor 15:14) On this, the 160th year of Sittingbourne

Baptist Church, the Gospel has always been the foundation of our collective worship, purpose and vision. Our goal is to continue to serve the vision of our Lord, who commissioned his Apostles to proclaim the good news and baptise in the name of The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. Today, by God's grace, we continue to see the permeation of the resurrection in our community as we grow spiritually, numerically, and relationally as one body.

This April is also a special milestone for me personally, as I celebrate 10 years as part of SBC. As I reflect on the past decade, I am truly thankful to God and to the entire congregation/members for your continued support, prayers and encouragement. Anna and I are blessed to be part of a vibrant community of faith that loves Jesus and loves people.

I pray you all have a wonderful Easter and may the residue of Calvary and the resurrection bring hope, light, and love to you and your loved ones.

Every blessing

***Rev. Nathan Gordon
Pastor***

Stationery not stationary! Notes from the Office.....



As we approach Easter there are so many things to watch out for— special services and times of fellowship which can take place when everyone has a bit more time.

These times bring us together to celebrate the Risen Lord in many different ways— there are also lots of services at other churches in town which allow for quiet reflection on Good Friday afternoon (HTSB, St. Michael's, Sacred Heart)

Saturday 4th is not a quiet time of reflection- “Now is the Time” our Youth Event will be anything but quiet!!

Don't forget to put your name on the list for Breakfast on Easter morning— such a time of joy to eat together and then carry on into the Morning Service.

If anyone is willing to help with this —setting out or super speedy clear up ready for the morning service please speak to me (Bev) Especially if you aren't already tied in with the worship team or preaching!!!

After Easter there are a few days which are a little bit quieter as the children and youth activities stop for the Easter holidays. Please do pray for our younger members of the fellowship as there are many things which can add to their anxiety. We should continue to pray for those affected by the recent meningitis outbreak— for those who are grieving or recovering. Also as we head on through April it starts to become time for exams. Pray for those who are searching for God's will about which university they attend in September too! It can be life changing (That's where I met Richard!)

With Love and Prayers, *Bev*

Why don't we pray?

1. We don't pray because we don't understand the importance of prayer.
2. We don't pray because we don't understand the magnitude of the spiritual battle we're facing.
3. We don't pray because we don't prioritise time for it.

Five Strategies to Strengthen Your Prayer Life

1. **Pray the Word of God.** If your prayers have become repetitive, start praying with an open Bible. Scripture contains many written prayers, but we can also read a passage of Scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to help us see how we can apply that passage to our lives and turn it into a prayer. (Try borrowing Stephen Jumba's book from Mo- his prayers are totally wrapped up in Scripture and are so calming and soothing in desperate situations.)
2. **Remember that the Holy Spirit is always interceding for us.** If you're not sure how to pray over a specific situation, remember that we have help—the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26–27 says, *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."*
3. **Ask the Lord to change the desires of your heart.** The Holy Spirit is continually working in us, sanctifying us and making us more like Jesus every day. Pray that He will transform your heart, so that prayer will become your delight.
4. **Set aside a specific time to pray.** Pick a time when you can be by yourself with God and when you won't be easily distracted. Determine how much time you want to spend in prayer, but make sure that time is a joy and not a duty.
5. **Find a prayer partner.** Keeping up with any discipline is easier if we have someone who can encourage us and keep us accountable. Find a faithful partner who would be willing to pray with you and for you.

Understanding how vital this is to our spiritual health will transform our walk with the Lord, "The Christian life cannot be lived in a godly manner and in the power of God without prayer. Our mission needs to be accompanied by prayer."

With gratitude to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Organisation. This article comes from one of their global conferences.

There are so many opportunities to pray together at SBC– the first full week of the month there are early morning sessions 8-9am Tues– Fri. Whole church prayer meeting 7.30pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month and every service; every house group; every Bible study gives opportunities to pray. Buddy up with someone or come into church– there is prayer at the Ladies afternoon teas , there is prayer at the Men's fellowship meetings. Just keep in touch for times via the sermon notes and the monthly magazine.

You could use Zoom or the free minutes on your phone or a facetime to spend time in prayer with someone. Prayer not only changes lives it changes our attitude to life, and more importantly, our attitude to God.



Gifting led Ministry:

The New Testament consistently teaches that service in the church should be shaped by Spiritual Gifting rather than personal preference.

Ministry is not presented as something we choose based on what we enjoy or feel confident trying, but as something entrusted to us by God for the good of others and the glory of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul explains that there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. "To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

The emphasis falls not on self-expression but on Spirit-given empowerment for the benefit of the body. Paul develops the image of the church as a body: one body with many parts, each with a distinct function. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you," and the foot cannot decide to become an ear. The metaphor makes the point clearly: believers do not invent their roles; they discover and embrace the function the Spirit has assigned. When each part operates according to its gifting, the whole body flourishes. When it does not, the body suffers. Similarly, Romans 12 calls believers to sober self-assessment. Paul warns against thinking of oneself more highly than one ought and grounds ministry in "the grace given to each of us." He then lists various gifts and gives simple instructions:

If your gift is prophesying, prophesy; if serving, serve; if teaching, teach; if encouraging, encourage. The pattern is clear. Ministry flows from grace received, not ambition pursued. The focus is faithfulness within the sphere God has assigned, not experimentation driven by preference.

In Ephesians 4, Paul broadens the picture by explaining that Christ Himself gives particular leadership gifts—apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers—to equip His people for works of service. These leaders are described as gifts to the church, given with a purpose: to build up the body of Christ until it reaches unity and maturity. Growth happens "when each part does its work." The assumption is that each part has a proper work, defined by Christ's giving. Self-appointed roles undermine this design; recognised and exercised gifts strengthen it.

1 Peter 4 introduces the language of stewardship. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace." A steward manages what belongs to another and is accountable for how it is used. Gifts are not possessions to deploy however we wish; they are trusts to be managed faithfully. Even the strength to serve comes from God, so that in all things He may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Finally, Scripture makes clear that spiritual gifts must be developed through faithful use, intentional practice, and spiritual maturity. Paul exhorts Timothy, a young leader, "Do not neglect your gift... be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress" (1 Timothy 4:14–15), and again, "fan into flame the gift of God" (2 Timothy 1:6). The language assumes growth, effort, and perseverance. Likewise, the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30) teaches that what is entrusted must be invested and multiplied, not buried out of fear or uncertainty. Even figures like David, who was anointed as king while still young, spent years developing his calling in obscurity before stepping fully into kingship. These examples show that gifting is not instantly

mature; it is cultivated over time. For young people especially, this means creating space to explore, receive feedback, and grow in confidence, while remaining rooted in faithful obedience and accountability within the church. We thank God for those we see in the fellowship, the Gifts they have clearly received and the opportunity for growth. Taken together, these passages present a coherent Biblical vision. Gifts originate with God, are distributed intentionally, recognised within the church, developed and exercised for the common good.

Ministry, therefore, is not about doing what we fancy, but about discerning, embracing and stewarding the Grace God has given, so that the body of Christ grows and God receives the glory. Pray that God reveals His will to you.

(Richard)





160th Celebrations:- Don't forget to get in touch with Cresta and suggest how we can celebrate 160 years of SBC. We can eat, pray and worship together in so many ways! The leadership team would like to rededicate the whole building and look around at how we can be a bigger part of the Sittingbourne Community. What ideas do you have about Outreach, and links which could be made? Contact Bev in the office or Cresta our administrator and let's make a big Splash (as Baptists!) Some items will take a bit of planning so do get your ideas in soon.

We already have the idea of a picnic in the park fellowship day. This was suggested at the Church Meeting last week so watch this space for details and timings!

Nathan and Anna invite everyone to celebrate and give thanks for Alessia at 2pm on April 11th. There will be tea and cake in the lounge afterwards. Everyone is welcome! Also offers of Cake will be gratefully received! (speak to Bev)

Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions!

April
8th Jemima Marker/Flora S
9th Alice H
24th Maggie M (West Malling BC)
26th Debbie E
30th Mary H



Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the May Magazine— The deadline will have to be 23rd April ready for the weekend publication. Then we can all pray for you too.

PASSION WEEK & EASTER TIMETABLE

29th March - Palm Sunday
 10.30am Palm Sunday Service
 6.30pm Outreach Team Led Service

2nd April -Maundy Thursday
 5pm Live Podcast - The Last Supper

3rd April
 9.30am Good Friday March of Witness Service Outside (Pastor Nathan)
 11.30am Communion Service with Youth Pastor Ricky

4th April
 6pm Now is the Time Event

5th April - Easter Sunday
 9am Breakfast together including Communion
 10.30am Easter Service- "Where is the proof of your faith?" Rev Nathan Gordon

6.30pm "How do I explain the doctrine of the Trinity?" Alan Cole
 (No Communion)



I LOVE YOU BECAUSE YOU UNDERSTAND LORD
 EVERYTHING I TRY TO DO FOR YOU
 I LOVE YOU FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND REASONS
 YOUR LOVE FOR ME EACH DAY IS ALWAYS NEW

NO MATTER WHAT THE WORLD MAY SAY ABOUT YOU
 THE LOVE OF JESUS EACH NEW DAY I SEE
 I LOVE YOU FOR THE WAY YOU ALWAYS LOVE ME
 A SINNER NOW FORGIVEN AND SET FREE

I LOVE YOU BECAUSE MY HEART IS LIGHTER
 ALL THE TIME I'M WALKING BY YOUR SIDE
 I LOVE YOU BECAUSE THE FUTURES BRIGHTER
 THE DOOR TO ETERNAL LIFE YOU OPEN WIDE

NO MATTER WHAT THE WORLD MAY SAY ABOUT YOU
 THE LOVE OF GOD WILL RAISE ME WHEN I FALL
 I LOVE YOU FOR A HUNDRED THOUSAND REASONS
 BUT MOST OF ALL I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE MY ALL

FROM SIN AND CONDEMNATION THOU HAST SAVED
 ME
 THE PRICE OF THY SHED BLOOD HAS SET ME FREE
 REPENT, BELIEVE AND LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
 NOW
 THE SEED WILL GROW INTO A MIGHTY TREE.

Rewritten version of the Jim Reeves
 classic– I love you because...



Pigeonholes



Mail is exchanged via the "pigeonholes" at the rear of the church lounge, filed under alphabetical surname order. Post mail here to other church members and check your own box each Sunday.

Especially if you are part of a team that needs Rotas. You can also put articles for the magazine etc. in the church office pigeonhole!

As the cost of postage has gone 'through the roof' please do use the pigeonholes for Easter Cards but remember to check them regularly over the course of this month.

You need to know the initial of the persons surname so do ask around!

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 Thank you so much to everyone who responds to the reminder e-mails. It is all for free too!

Our Church magazine is published once a month usually just before the beginning of the month – if you have poems, articles, testimony stories or topics you wish to include please do send them into **Office.manger@sbc-church.org.uk**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup	2 9:30am <i>South Avenue Primary School-Easter ser- vice</i> 5pm <i>Podcast Re- cording in Base- ment</i>	3 9am March of Witness & start at 10am with service at 10.30am 11.30 am Commu- nion:Doubters to Be- lievers-Matthew 27 v.38-43 Ricky	4 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 1-2:30pm <i>Outreach Prayer & Planning</i> 6pm <i>"Now is the time" Youth Event (Doors open at 5.30)</i>	5 9am Easter Breakfast and Communion 10:30am Morning service-Nathan Gordon-Doubters to Believers John 20 v.24-31 Nathan Gordon 6:30pm "How do I explain the doctrine of the Trinity?" Alan Cole (No Communion)
6 Bank Holi- day Office closed No A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	7 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 10-12 <i>Choir</i> 7:30pm <i>Deacons' meeting</i>	8 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting	9 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 10:45am <i>Woodstock Faith talks</i>	10 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 9.30-11:30am <i>Café 3:16</i> 12-2pm <i>Glory girls</i>	11 10am-12noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 11-1 <i>Outreach on High St.</i> 1-2.30pm <i>Feedback</i> 2-4:30pm <i>Alessia's blessing- all wel- come</i>	12 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am –David Casse 6:30pm-Stories of faith
13- office closed NO A.B.C. 7pm <i>Writers group in Hub</i> 7:15-8:30pm A.A.Recovery	14 10am-12pm <i>Choir</i>	15 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup	16 9am <i>C.T.I.S.</i> 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i>	17 9:30am <i>Pastoral meeting</i> 9:30-11:30am <i>Café 3:16</i> 12-2pm <i>Glory girls</i>	18 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i>	19 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am Morning service-"Are you the spouse God called you to be?" Acts 18 v.23-26, Romans 16 v.3-4 Nathan & Communion 6:30pm Praise & Worship
20 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	21 10-12am <i>Choir</i> 7:30pm <i>Deacons' prayer meeting</i>	22 2:30pm <i>Pine Lodge</i> 7:30pm <i>Church Prayer meeting</i>	23 10:45am <i>Woodstock service</i> 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6:30pm <i>Youth Band</i>	24 9:30-11:30am <i>Café 3:16</i> 12-2pm <i>Glory Girls</i> 5-6:30pm <i>JAM CLUB</i> 7-9pm <i>Underground</i>	25 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 2pm <i>Women in Prayer</i>	26 10 am Prayer in Hub 10:30am - Youth led-Ricky 6:30pm Encounter
27 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	28 10-12am <i>Choir</i>	29	30 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6:30pm <i>Youth Band</i>			