



What a night!

Saturday 4th April saw the church packed out with young people– and a few oldies! Nick and Sal and the youth band kicked things off. Then we had a blast of scriptural Hip– Hop from Jesse Ayo. The beat flowed out over the congregation and Jesse sang of Gratitude and all that the Lord had done for him. He had a wonderful humility before the Lord– bigging up all that God had done for him– nothing of himself.

Then we heard from @Reality' AKA Michael! His wonderful testimony of being snatched out of Satan's grip– even whilst in prison. Again gratitude to God flowed through his every word. God had saved his life– not just from sin and Satan but from quite a few earthly enemies too. His warning to the young people to stay away from weapons and drugs and gang culture rang out loud and clear.



Jesse had joined with Ricky and the Outreach team and they had invited anyone they could on the High Street earlier in the day. There was a constant flow of new faces coming into the church– the Balcony was almost overflowing as more and more people came in to see what all the noise was about. Reality touched many hearts and prompted a group of folk to step forward and give their hearts to the Lord.

Please pray that God will take a hold of their lives and that they will find a spiritual home– whether it is at SBC or nearer to their home town. You may not have attended but your back up prayers for the seeds which were planted are so important.

As Paul reminds the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 3v6- "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

Youth Alpha is now finished and the Youth Bible Study restarts on April 22nd so please do pray that those who have followed through on the Alpha course will come to a point where they accept Christ, and see their lives changed, as they begin to follow Him. Please continue to pray for Ricky and the youth team as they move their sights to Limitless in August– already the group who are going is bigger than ever before!!

Watch out for the fundraising cake sale coming soon!





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 May

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
3rd	"Who's your Jonathon?" 1 Sam 18 v 1-4 Rev Nathan Gordon	"Can a Christian drink alcohol?" Rev Nathan Gordon 
10th	"Are you the spouse God called you to be?" Acts 18:23-26, Romans 16:3-4 Rev Nathan Gordon	Stories of Faith Testimony Service
17th	"Ready or Not!" Revelation 22 v12-21  Rev Nathan Gordon	Praise and Worship led by Agnes
24th	Led by the Ignite Team— Pentecost Sunday	The Encounter—Music and Prayer
31st	"What does God see in your tree?" Rev Nathan Gordon	Mission Service led by the Street Pastors

Stationery not stationary! Notes from the Office...



There are many sayings about Time— a stitch in time saves nine, Time and Tide wait for no man, and the gentler 'Time heals all wounds'. Just at the moment Time does not seem like a constant! This is me saying—I can't believe we are in the May magazine already! Christmas seems only a blink away. Still a lot has happened since then! The Bible also has a lot to say about time— it is our link with the eternal God:- "He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end." ~ [Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)

Chapter 3 in Ecclesiastes has the most wonderful summary of time— that there is time for everything. In difficult times we should remember that time spent in prayer is never lost as we are spending time getting close to God's heart. He already loves the people we pray for beyond measure. He made this world and knows every situation and occurrence before it ever makes it to BBC or Reuters.

We can bring anything and everything to him in prayer. The very action of prayer blesses us. When we are well and celebrating, the days seem to fly by and if we are under the weather or in pain, a minute can seem like an hour. God knows this too. As 2nd Peter says:- "But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." ~ [2 Peter 3:8](#)

If you keep a diary or a journal or Blog then consider adding a note of what you are praying for at the moment. Share it with God and see when it happens— usually with His special twist on it. Some things come up when we least expect them, some things seem to happen quickly, some may take all of our courage and patience. In these times we can rely on our Eternal Father who is strong to save and rely on the promise of [1Corinthians 10 v 13 \(Message version\)](#) No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll always be there to help you come through it.

With Love and Prayers, *Bev*



Kris Swiatocho

LIVING SINGLE
LIVING Faith

Next Meeting - Saturday 16th May at
Sittingbourne Baptist Church 7-9pm
Guest Speaker: Kris Swiatocho
Singles Ministry, America

"Encouraging one another in Faith"

Contact us now for further details:
Office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk
Mlchlvory4@yahoo.co.uk

Didn't We Have A Lovely Time on the Mission Evening

The Street Outreach Team took the Mission Service on the last day of March, and to me, it was fabulous. Were you there?

The Singers and musicians led the service, with Flavie giving a talk about what we do. We also watched a video of "Mr Benn", a children's cartoon with a message. There were testimonies from team members as well. If you would like to know more, or you would like to join us at any time, please feel free to speak to one of the Team. See below.



Get in touch with Flavie, Phil, Denis, Grahame or any of the others you see around Church.



Focus on
Outreach

Do You Want to go FISHING? (Think about it) ><>†

The **Street Outreach Team** warmly **invites you** to an event called...
Casting Your Net.

This is a training Day with a Facilitator from the "Casting Your Net" Organization. This will give us ideas to help us all with Witness (Tell others about our Faith) to those who do not know Jesus. So if you would like to come along, here are the details...

Saturday 6th June, 1 - 5.30pm, in the Sanctuary.

JESUS: THE EVIDENCE

There is a wealth of evidence pointing to Jesus being the Son of God. *Jesus: The Evidence* draws upon current historical, textual and archaeological research to present this evidence in a clear, rational manner. Accessible to non-Christians and Christians alike.

Summer / Autumn 2026 Tour

25 th August: Newmains.....	South Calder Church ML2 9BT
26 th August: Muir of Ord.....	Urray and Strathcarron Free Church IV6 7TL
1 st September: Glasgow.....	Struthers Memorial Church G12 9XF
2 nd September: Dunbar.....	Dunbar Parish Church EH42 1LB
6 th September (am): Nottingham.....	The Kings Family Church NG15 7JX
6 th September (pm): Doncaster.....	Hope Baptist Church Rossington DN11 0DU
7 th September: Haworth.....	West Lane Baptist Church BD22 8EN
8 th September: Mold.....	Tyddn Street Church CH7 1TB
9 th September: Pocklington.....	Pocklington Christian Fellowship YO42 2AY
10 th September: Throop (Bournemouth).....	St Paul's Church BH8 0NY
11 th September: Crickhowell.....	St Edmond's Church NP8 1BB
12 th September: Sittingbourne.....	Sittingbourne Baptist Church ME10 4EQ
13 th September: Yelvertoft.....	Yelvertoft Independent Chapel NN6 6LQ
20 th September: Blyth.....	Blyth Community Church NE24 2EJ
21 st September: Colne.....	St Bartholomew's Church BB8 0LD
22 nd September: Bedwas.....	Bethel Baptist Church CF83 8ED
23 rd September: St Ives.....	Venue to be confirmed

There are many ways of sharing your Faith—different ways to talk about Jesus which can be appropriate to different situations— so many descriptions Jesus applied to himself— Bread of Life, Living Water, Way, Truth, Shepherd, Vine. Each one gives a different picture of Him. One of the really good ways is to sit and pray about your own life. What made the difference to you— was it something someone said? Or Did? Showed you? Was it a verse which suddenly leapt out of the Bible at you? A phrase the Pastor said? When you can put that into words, that becomes your testimony. With a few verses which apply to being saved from whatever sin we were living in and knowing that we have been made clean, we are ready to tell anyone about our Faith. There is a link on the SBC website to God's Plan— devised by Phil to help us talk someone through the steps of coming to Faith. There are also lots of Jesus figures around the church— take one to give away to someone- "You found Jesus" There are also some John 3:16 mini crosses available from the office if having something like that in your hand will help start the conversation. Find the way that works for you and step out in Faith.

Advanced Notice of More Evidence

On Sunday the 5th April, Nathan's sermon was based on the proof of our faith in Jesus and the fact that He [Jesus] not only died, but was resurrected back to life. Now we as Christians believe and know that, but how would you explain to somebody the truth of your own evidence without actual proof. As Nathan said, "Factual proof is needed in a Court of Law". A few things he said throughout the sermon made me think that the "**Jesus. The Evidence**" presentation would be a good place to start.

S.B.C., have invited Derek McIntyre, a former Agnostic, to come and give us a presentation in September. He has written a little booklet to go with the presentation and is based on three main types of evidence.

- 1) Archaeological.
- 2) Historical.
- 3) Biblical Accounts.

The presentation will be on the **12th September**, which falls on our church birthday, so make a date!!! There will be more information nearer the time so that you can bring your family and friends.

Yours, in the love of Christ,

Grahame.

Check out SBC on the 'official' poster!!

1Peter 3v15 tells us...

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

Meanwhile— pray for the Outreach Team, pray for all of the church leaders in town who preach the Gospel week in week out, pray for Janet Findlater— going out to Uganda on Mission this month, pray for the Café 3:16 team, pray for yourself! Pray that God will open up opportunities to tell others about His Love in your life.

Pray for the training on June 6th— be prepared!!



160th Celebrations:- The ideas have been coming in—watch out for some dates for diaries for our big birthday. Also see the article about Jesus : The Evidence—if you pray for someone to come along to that start now!



The Christian Singles Fellowship have a special visit coming up this month— on May 16th Kris Swiatocho over from America. Let Bev in the office know if you are attending and then there will be plenty of refreshments! Saturday May 16th 7-9pm. Catch up with Michelle if you need further details.

Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions!

- May
- 5th Lou Fellingham (!)
- 6th Mary Casse
- 7th Monah
- 17th Sally D
- 24th Kristina
- 26th Hilary
- 27th Vicky C
- 30th Jan B



Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the June Magazine— The deadline will have to be 28th May ready for the weekend publication. Then we can all pray for you too.

Different Kind of Reminder!!

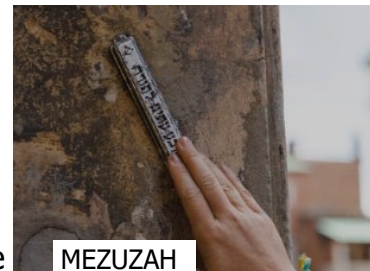
Every day a reading from Daily Bread drops into my inbox and I try and skim through them. This week there was a story that really struck a chord! It was about losing an earring that was precious and drew a parallel with the woman who lost one of ten coins and so swept the house searching for it.

Historic and cultural references state that this coin might have been part of her dowry head-dress and that the coin wasn't just something financial. It had emotional and relational significance.

The prayer point of the story and Bible verses then spoke of how Jesus came to seek and to save the lost— we have a value to him. We are so precious that he didn't just sweep the house , He gave His life.

The coin story reminded me of a pair of earrings that I do have —they are tiny George 5th sixpences with a little hole drilled in them. They don't have much financial value but they do remind me of the story of the lost coin every time I wear them. That makes a link in my brain. They are a little reminder of how precious I am to God.

I need to root through my earring tub and find them and put them on every now and again! We all need a reminder of how precious we are to God. It can come in many forms— taking Communion, singing a particular song or hymn, a Bible verse (JJ referenced Psalm 23 and lots of others at the last Praise and Worship service) or maybe like the earrings for me, it is a little something. It's not a lucky charm, just a little 'earthly' thing which in our own minds has a Heavenly meaning.



If you have a little thing like that , seek it out, put it somewhere where you can see it. God knows that our brains work like this— He made them. He reminded the Jews to bind His word on their forehead in a Phylactery; He told them to have words from the book of Law on their doorpost—usually in a mezuzah.

In the Psalms God often reassures by saying He is with us in our going out and our coming in— If we have a reminder of God on the doorpost or just inside the house then, Yes He is!!

So, not a lucky charm, but a constant reminder that God sees us, God is with us and God loves us. It doesn't matter what does that for you— seek it out and be reminded that God Loves you.

Please find below a testimony/letter from Kay—Please continue to hold Kay and Adrian in your prayers. We are so grateful for their honesty and thoughtful approach. Read the Bible verses and the letter together. None of us are experts but Christ calls us to bear the fruit of the Spirit at all times. We can all practice Kindness, gentleness and patience.

Philippians 2:1-4

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

My Mental Health Struggles as a Christian

Dear Church Brothers and Sisters

I am writing to you to reach as many of our church as possible to explain just how I am at the moment. Writing this has not been easy, as like many of my generation talking about Mental Health issues feels like I have somehow failed and that as a Christian this should not happen to someone with a strong faith.

For a number of years, I have suffered with mental health issues caused by Stress and Anxiety, however, this has got worse in the last two years and much worse in the last six months. This makes me feel that I owe some of you an apology, I feel that I have let you down as my loss of memory means I forget things, I sometimes say the wrong thing and I forget how to do simple tasks. The doctors tell me that I do not have dementia/Alzheimer's but that does not make me feel any better.

At worse, I sometimes even imagine things such as I am not wanted at my church and that someone is plotting to have me removed from the church. And whilst this is not true, (Both Nathan and Adrian have assured me of this) it still feels so real and I then feel so sad and alone.

I know that I have made many very good friends over my time at my Sittingbourne Baptist Church, so I ask each and every one of you to help me, so that when I say something wrong or forget something bear with me and love me. I am asking this not only for my sake but to encourage other who are suffering with mental health issues to speak up, so that we can all help each other through this journey.

Please do not be afraid to talk to me or Adrian about this, but remember be patient and understanding as sometimes I will lose my train of thought when answering and slowly stop talking or start talking very quietly. I do this when I feel stressed or anxious and the words I want to say have simply disappeared from my head.

I would like to thank all of my friends who already know about my illness who have been so caring, supportive and understanding over the recent months.

This is sent with much love but also with much trepidation.

God bless you all

Kay Cheesman with help from Adrian

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
<p>4 Office closed B.H.</p> <p>No A.B.C.</p> <p>7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery</p>	<p>5 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting</p> <p>10-12 Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Deacons' meeting</p>	<p>6 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting</p> <p>1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup</p>	<p>7 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting</p> <p>2pm Bright Hour</p> <p>6:30pm Youth Band</p>	<p>1 9:30am Pastoral team</p> <p>9:30-11:30am Café 3:16</p> <p>12-2pm Glory girls</p> <p>5-6:30pm JAM CLUB</p> <p>7-9pm Underground</p>	<p>2 10am-12 noon Contact Centre</p> <p>1-2:30pm Outreach Prayer & Planning</p>	<p>3 10am Prayer in Hub</p> <p>10:30am God centred relationships "Who's your Jonathon?" 1 Sam 18 v1-4</p> <p>Nathan Gordon</p> <p>6:30pm - Communion "Can a Christian drink alcohol?"</p> <p>Rev Nathan Gordon</p>
<p>11 Office closed</p> <p>10-12 noon A.B.C.</p> <p>7pm Writers group in Hub</p> <p>7:15-8:30pm A.A.Recovery</p>	<p>12 10am-12pm Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Deacons' prayer meeting</p>	<p>13 7:30pm Church Members' meeting</p>	<p>14 10:45am Woodstock Faith talks</p> <p>2pm Bright Hour</p> <p>6:30pm Youth Band</p>	<p>15 9:30am Pastoral meeting</p> <p>9:30-11:30am Café 3:16</p> <p>12-2pm Glory girls</p> <p>5-6:30pm Jam CLUB</p> <p>7-9pm Underground</p>	<p>16 10am-12 noon Contact Centre</p> <p>7-9pm Christian Singles Night— <i>Chris Swiatocho</i></p>	<p>17 10am Prayer in Hub</p> <p>10:30am "Ready or Not?" Rev 22 v 12-21 Rev Nathan Gordon</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>6:30pm Praise & Worship</p>
<p>18 10-12 noon A.B.C.</p> <p>7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery</p>	<p>19 10-12am Choir</p> <p>7:30pm Deacons' prayer meeting</p>	<p>20 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based Housegroup</p> <p>Office open Morning not Evening</p>	<p>21 9am C.T.I.S.</p> <p>2pm Bright Hour</p> <p>6:30pm Youth Band</p>	<p>22 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16</p> <p>12-2pm Glory Girls</p> <p>5-6:30pm JAM CLUB</p> <p>7-9pm Underground</p>	<p>23 10am-12 noon Contact Centre</p>	<p>24 10 am Prayer in Hub</p> <p>10:30am —Led by the Ignite team</p> <p>6:30pm Encounter</p>
<p>25 No A.B.C. Half term</p> <p>7pm Writers group in Hub</p> <p>7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery</p>	<p>26 10-12am Choir</p>	<p>27 2:30pm Pine Lodge service</p> <p>7:30pm Church prayer meeting</p>	<p>28 10:45am Woodstock service</p> <p>2pm Bright Hour</p> <p>6:30pm Youth Band</p>	<p>29 9:30am Pastoral Team Meeting</p> <p>9:30am-11:30am Café 3:16</p> <p>12-2pm Glory girls</p>	<p>30 10am-12 noon Contact Centre</p> <p>2pm Women in Prayer</p>	<p>31 10am Prayer in Hub</p> <p>10:30am Life changing stories "What does God see in your tree?" Rev Nathan Gordon</p> <p>6:30pm Mission Evening-Street Pastors</p>

