



# June 2026

# WHY?

For anyone who has ever spent time with children— their own, working with young children or spending time with family— this is the dreaded question!! Why.....? Sometimes the question is unanswerable— why aren't elephants pink?? And sometimes for a child they are all consuming— why are my friends being mean to me? Why don't I understand the Maths problem? Why can't I run as fast as Usain Bolt? Why don't my drawings look like they do in my head? (Always mine!) This Year our children's holiday club is going to attempt to answer some of the questions children may ask— Why am I here? Why am I me? Why can't I do just as I like?

So first let's answer some of the important questions— When will holiday Club take place this year?

**17th-21st August— then it leads nicely into the next Children's team led morning service and we can invite all of the parents to come along.**

### What will be happening?

At 9am each day the leaders and volunteers will meet to pray and sort out the resources and activities. At 9.50 we will begin to register the children for the day and activities, Bible stories, songs, craft will all take place over the next two hours.

At 12 we will then plan to provide some lunch for the children who wish to stay before they get picked up at 12.30pm.



Providing lunch has been a challenge I have felt recently. Food poverty in Swale is a severe and deepening crisis, with areas like Sheppey, Murston, Leysdown, and Teynham ranking in the national and county top 10% for deprivation. If we can send the children off after a meal, even a picnic lunch, we never know how much we are helping the parents.

The Summer holidays are a renowned difficult time—especially for those who have lunch provided when they go to school.

### Building on last year:

Last year we had feed back from the children who attended and one comment was "more animals" so we will answer the question "Why am I here?" with a look at creation and sneak some more animals in there!

Some of the café team have already volunteered to help with the holiday club but we will need plenty of helpers!

**If you have some mornings to spare in the week 17th-21st August please let Bev know in the office.**

There will be lots of spaces for folk who are willing to get to grips with answering the questions the children ask!! There will also be places for those who can make tea or cut sandwiches or hand out squash and biscuits and everyone

is absolutely vital to make this happen.

Consider this a seed planting exercise for outreach! The children aren't old enough to bring themselves so each time a child turns up a parent has crossed the threshold into the church. If we welcome them with a smile and look after their child for a couple of hours and then feed them, it could be a real burden off their mind.

Then we invite them into church on the 23rd August to see what has been happening during the week.

Tell your children about it— get them to invite their friends and we will surely grow as a fellowship. Better still— bring your children and their friends and stay as a volunteer for one morning— or all of the mornings!!

This is a great way to serve the community and to speak to lots of people who haven't been to the church before.

Just like the inter- church Youth Alpha had great results, we can work through this with the younger children too. Please pray about it and, if you are able, come along and help with part of it!



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 June

	Morning Service <b>10.30am</b>	Evening Service <b>6.30pm</b>
7th	"What does God see in your tree?" Rev Nathan Gordon	"LGBTQ+ & The Church" Rev Nathan Gordon 
14th	 "Signed, sealed and Surrendered" Rev Nathan Gordon Baptismal Service	Stories of Faith Testimony Service
21st	 "What will you do with the invitation?" Rev Nathan Gordon Communion & Father's Day	Praise and Worship Evening
28th	"Friendship" Youth led with guest speaker Mark Stevens	The Encounter—Music and Prayer

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



### All I can say for this month is—You were warned!!

There are hundreds of data forms circulating round the church— please do fill one in if you are a church member or this time, if you are an attender, who wants to keep in touch!!

As we grow , it is wonderful to be able to put names to faces more easily! If you are willing please email me a photo of yourself too and we can put that next to your name!

Once the majority of the forms are back the office will update our prayer directory and then you can pray for folk through the month and have contact details. At the bottom of the form is the most important part— we understand that some people have sensitive jobs or home situations and may not want their details in print so make sure you tick what you would like on display— or not on display!

We can do just names and you will still be prayed for.

May I ask a big favour too— I know there is a lot of visiting and caring that goes on across the fellowship— If you see someone who is a church member or associate and they are not getting to church at the moment— either temporarily or long term please do take them a form. Also let the pastoral team/office know!!

The Data regulations say that we have to check the details we hold—even if they haven't changed for a squillion years!

The other bit of news about services is that Sunday 14th June is to be our next Baptismal service. The classes have taken place for this one but please speak to Nathan if you are interested in being baptised. There will probably be a Baptismal service in July too!

News about the building— not resting on his laurels after the platform upgrade, Bradley is about to make us all a little bit safer over the coming months, by refurbishing our existing fire doors and checking their closure etc. There will be a few brand new ones too. As he fits it in round his 'proper' job we ask that you bear with any noises!! It is definitely for your own good.

I am hoping to compile the Directory and check all the details over the summer months and publish it at the beginning of September as we celebrate our church 160th Anniversary. It is such a privilege to look at all the names and to share in fellowship and worship with you all.

God Bless,  
Bev Sills

**Send any new photos to [office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk](mailto:office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk)**

**And please put your name on them!!! Sometimes an e-mail address isn't a big enough clue!**

## Don't Forget...

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"

Organisation. 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.**



# Focus on Compassion Project



As we grow it is too easy to assume that everyone knows what is going on in the background at SBC! The weekly activities fly by and then every now and then we have a specific service which might catch people 'off guard'. One such day is our Compassion Service—for the last few years this has been sometime in the Autumn. This year it will be 15th November.

What is Compassion Sunday I hear you ask!!

For a long time SBC has been linked to a particular project in Ecuador. Children in the country have to pay to go to school so many children who live in poverty grow up with little or no education.

Compassion is a Christian charity who find sponsors in the UK and other countries and make a link between individual children and their sponsor.

It's not cheap—about £1 per day £32 per month. This is channelled to the child you 'adopt' and covers some healthy food for them and their schooling. They will have health checks throughout the time they are sponsored. They have help and advice as they grow through school and in their older teenage years will hopefully be trained and guided towards a job. This may go on to support the family they belong to and eventually their own family. Once they graduate there is an opportunity to swap your sponsorship onto another child. (This has just happened to one couple in our church and they have passed on the information about a child to the office.—if anyone is looking to begin a sponsorship please do get in touch with Bev in the office.)

Of course the children have spiritual input too! The local churches provide activities and Bible stories—much like we do with JAM Club and Ignite! Children are the focus of every thing but it does help their own family too. On the Compassion website there are testimonies and stories from those who have been helped in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and of course Ecuador.

It is good fun to see the sponsored child as an extension of your own family! Our first sponsorship was a little boy called Charles in Uganda. That way Richard had a 'son' as well as his three Daughters! It is really easy to write to the child—there is an App which you can send letters to and then they are translated. There are opportunities to send Christmas gifts and small paper gifts like

a sheet of stickers or some colouring pictures.



## Protects children & youth

Sponsorship helps protect children and youth from threats like gangs, trafficking and child marriage.



## Supports health & well-being

Sponsorship supports children's health and well-being.



## Promotes long-term education

Sponsorship helps children stay in school longer.



## Inspires hope

Sponsorship inspires hope and helps children believe in a future free from poverty.



## Makes a spiritual difference

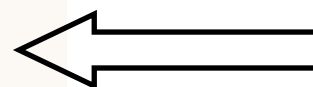
Sponsorship makes a meaningful spiritual difference, showing God's love through their local church and sponsor.



## Fosters community change-makers

Sponsorship equips children and youth to be change-makers in their communities.

THE SIX FOCUS POINTS FOR COMPASSION



# National Outreach Day



“The Outreach Team joined the National Street Evangelism on the 9th of May at 12 noon. As we sang together in unity across the nation, we truly felt the Spirit of the Lord moving powerfully among us. It was a blessed time of worship, outreach, and sharing the love of Christ with the community.” By Flavie



## JESUS: THE EVIDENCE

8 <sup>th</sup> September: Mold	Tyddn Street Church CH7 1TB
9 <sup>th</sup> September: Pocklington	Pocklington Christian Fellowship YO42 2AY
10 <sup>th</sup> September: Throop (Bournemouth)	St Paul's Church BH8 0NY
11 <sup>th</sup> September: Crickhowell	St Edmond's Church NP8 1BB
12 <sup>th</sup> September: Sittingbourne	Sittingbourne Baptist Church ME10 4EQ
13 <sup>th</sup> September: Yelvertoft	Yelvertoft Independent Chapel NN6 6LQ
20 <sup>th</sup> September: Blyth	Blyth Community Church NE24 2EJ
21 <sup>st</sup> September: Colns	St Bartholomew's Church BB8 6LO
22 <sup>nd</sup> September: Bedwas	Bethel Baptist Church CF83 8ED
23 <sup>rd</sup> September: St Ives	Venue to be confirmed

US!

## LITTLE BIT FROM 'OUR DAILY BREAD' WHICH HAD A POWERFUL MESSAGE.....MARK 9V14-29

“Doubt for long enough, and you may begin to despair of ever escaping,” Scott reflected. Doubts can grow deep roots, becoming part of “who I am”. Yet he also learned that doubt doesn't have to define our faith or our future.

Scott decided to direct himself instead to who God actually is. “The living God is a rescuing, delivering God, who enters in from the outside and shatters the bars of our expectations,” he affirmed. “He is a Pharaoh-crushing, sea-parting God; a sky-splitting, earth-shaking God; a Christ-giving, tomb-emptying God—and his hand cannot be stayed.”

In Mark's Gospel, a desperate father approached Jesus. After years of frustration, he'd lost all hope for his demon-possessed son (9:21-22). “If you can do anything,” he implored Jesus, “take pity on us and help us” (v. 22).

“If [I] can?” Jesus replied. “Everything is possible for one who believes” (v. 23). “Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!’” (v. 24). The father was honest about his ingrained doubts—yet put his small faith in Jesus. That was when he witnessed Jesus' willingness to bring transformation and hope (vv. 25-27).

Perhaps you are doubting after years of battling relentlessly or believing you're not worthy. Join that father today in setting your faith—however weak, trembling or scared—in Jesus. He is here, ready to provide what He knows is best for you and me.



**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!

**20th June 7pm is our next Quiz evening— bring a team of 6 adults or just bring yourself and join a team! Its handy to bring some snacks and soft drinks to sustain your brain—and it's more fun with a table picnic!!!**

The Next Meeting for our Christian Singles Fellowship is July 18th— these are really good evenings— speak to Michelle for more details.

LIVING

*Faith*

“Encouraging one another in faith”

**Holiday Club 17th –21st August**  
**Get in touch with Bev in the office if you are able to volunteer**

**Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions! June**

**3rd Joseph**

**12th Sally P**

**14th Peter and Marion (57)**

**16th Chez and Mick (25)**

**20th Tina M**

**25th Alan W**

**28th Pat**

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the July Magazine— The deadline will have to be 23rd of June as Bev has some Annual leave after that!! Then we can all pray for you too.



If you hear a whining noise— don't worry we haven't shared our premises with a dentist!! Bradley & Son are working their way round our existing fire doors with some new edging and fittings. All the changes in various regulations mean that our existing fire doors need a slight upgrade and have to be checked. We will also need to change the large doors through to the lounge from the sanctuary but that is phase 2! Hopefully nothing will be disrupted as they are figuring their way around the events and activities in the diary. So far some of the door plates have changed slightly and some handles are now smooth. If you are accustomed to where a door handle has been for the last 15 or so years— beware it may have changed!!

Just take your time opening and closing the doors and please don't wrong foot yourself and have a tumble. Most of the doors upstairs are very similar except they had had new closing springs, so opening them may take a bit more oomph. Downstairs along the corridor there are more handles and finger plates being added.

A **Big Thank you** to Bradley for all of his time and effort man-handling the doors on and off their hinges— especially when it has been toasty warm for doing jobs lately!

**This is a little additional thank you from the youth group—Way 1 and 2 but others from Underground too— Thank you so much to everyone who has given towards Limitless Camp this year. You have all been very kind and supportive. There shouldn't be anyone who can't go because of cash shortage. God Bless you for your love expressed in this way.**

# Spending Time together in prayer

There used to be a time when something in the diary would mean that there were people on the premises! Sometimes now it feels like 90% of things should have face-to-face in brackets and there is a small amount of our weekly meetings and activities which can be 'online'. These are known in a business "Remote" or the acronym WFH—working from home.

There are many opportunities to pray at SBC— early mornings, all the different services, every meeting which takes place and our monthly mid week prayer meeting.

This has recently had a bit of a refresh! For a while, Nathan has been adding gentle praise and worship into the prayer meetings— especially those on a morning (the first week of each month) and particularly the Encounter every 4th Sunday evening.



Last month there was a clash with the online Bible study, led by Nathan, and the midweek prayer so the two combined!

This month just gone Nathan streamed it again—it was possible to join the midweek prayer time online. God turns the world on it's head as those who joined did not feel 'remote' but very much a part of the prayer time and the worship (songs by Anna and Alessia!!)

Being present is also a term the world has taken over— meaning not scrolling on your phone but actually listening to the other person. Being present with God is so important. We need to hear his voice in good times and bad. If at all possible being present face to face with one another is still the best.

As it says in Hebrews 10 v 24-25

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are doing, but encouraging one another— and all the more as you see the Day approaching"

It is better to have face-to-face fellowship with one another if at all possible but do join the prayer meeting on the Facebook page if you are unable to make it down to the church in person.

If anyone needs any help with prayer topics and Bible verses which are supportive there are lots of Prayer letters and leaflets in the information stand in the lounge. Also if you walk along the corridor into the Hub and turn sharp left there are lots of booklets and notes which would give some Bible verses and prayer topics to read every day. Some of them are out of date but that really makes no difference, it's just helpful to have some guidance or a Bible reading plan. Or download a Bible App and use some of the reading and prayer plans they offer. Spending time with God is the target!

Get to know His Word and you will feel His hand on your life. Pray in all circumstances and He will be there with you just as He has promised from the very beginning  
Deuteronomy 31v6 "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you."

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.manager@sbc-church.org.uk**

# JUNE 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<b>1</b> 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A.Recovery y	<b>2</b> 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 10-12 Choir 7:30pm Deacons' meeting	<b>3</b> 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup	<b>4</b> 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 2pm Bright Hour Youth 6:30pm Youth Band	<b>5</b> 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	<b>6</b> 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 1-5pm Evangelism Training	7 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am Nathan Gordon "What does God see in your tree?" Luke 13 v6-9 6:30pm Often overlooked topics LGBTQ+ and the Church and Communion
<b>8</b> 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	<b>9</b> 10-12 Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10:45am Woodstock Faith talks 2pm Bright Hour Youth 6:30pm Youth Band 7:30pm Worship team meeting	<b>12</b> 9:30am Pastoral team meeting 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	<b>13</b> 10am-12noon Contact Centre 11-1 Outreach on High St. 1-2.30pm Prayer & Planning	14 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am - Rev Nathan Gordon "Signed, sealed, surrendered" Luke 14 V25-35 Baptismal service 6:30pm-Stories of faith
<b>15</b> 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A.Recovery	<b>16</b> 10am-12pm Choir 7:30pm Deacons' meeting	<b>17</b> 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup	<b>18</b> 9am C.T.I.S. 2pm Bright Hour Youth 6:30pm Youth Band	<b>19</b> 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	<b>20</b> 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 2pm Women in Prayer 7pm Quiz in Lounge	21 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am Rev Nathan Gordon "What will you do with the invitation?" Matthew 22 V1-14 Communion and Father's Day 6:30pm Praise & Worship
<b>22</b> 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7pm Writers' group 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	<b>23</b> 10-12am Choir	<b>24</b> 2:30pm Pine Lodge	<b>25</b> 10:45am Woodstock service 2pm Bright Hour Youth 6:30pm Youth Band	<b>26</b> 9:30am Pastoral team meeting 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory Girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	<b>27</b> 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 1-4pm Private event in Sanctuary	28 10 am Prayer in Hub 10:30am –Youth led - "Friendship" Mark Stevens 6:30pm Encounter
<b>29</b> 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery 7pm St Pastors C/tee Meeting	<b>30</b> 10-12am Choir					

