



Men from our church gathered together recently to be encouraged about being "impactful" for God in the world around them. The event held on Saturday 31st May was designed to serve as a way to get men from different local churches together to worship and connect, even though there

were no bacon sandwiches!

Alan Murphy, a pastor from the Dartford area who is also a local history teacher, shared his thoughts and spurred on those of us who were there. Several testimonies were shared openly and we were blessed by the presence of a group of guys from Sheppey, who we hope to build a stronger link with during the summer. Worship was provided in-house and the event set the stage for a possible further event towards the end of the year.







**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**



**JOSHUA  
AJIBOYE**



**GRAHAME  
ATKINSON**



**PAUL BLAKE**



**DAVID CASSE**



**ADRIAN  
CHEESMAN**



**Cresta  
Durojaiye  
CHURCH  
ADMINISTRATOR**



**Nicola Hasan  
Responsible for  
Safeguarding**



**LISA  
PENNINGTON**



**Bex Ratchford**




**RICHARD  
SILLS  
Responsible for  
Safeguarding**



**HYLKO  
ZINGSTRA  
TREASURER**

## Services for the month of July New Series— Music and the Psalms

	Morning Service <b>10.30am</b>	Evening Service <b>6.30pm</b>
<b>6th</b>	<b>"What a wonderful World" Psalm 65 v 8-13 Rev Nathan Gordon</b>	<b>Letter to Smyrna Rev 2v 8-11 Alan Cole</b>
<b>13th</b> 	<b>"Because I'm Happy" Rev Nathan Gordon</b>  <b>Lids off for 20th!!!</b>	<b>Stories of Faith Testimony Evening</b>
<b>20th</b>	<b>Baptismal Service Gospel Message Rev Nathan Gordon</b>	<b>Praise and Worship Service</b>
<b>27th</b>	<b>All— Age Service— I am.....</b>	<b>The Encounter—Music and Prayer</b>



## Stationery not Stationary!! (Bev)

It all started with a puppet! Well last month's article on Kindness did!

Following that I spoke at Bright Hour about Spiritual Fruit and how it was like a satsuma in my mind— all of the segments wrapped up as one fruit singular!

In my youth I definitely had a bookmark which had the slogan above illustrated on it with a variety of fruit shaped characters. As I prepared to speak at Bright Hour I took a dive through the concordance and ended up at the story of Jesus and the Fig tree which withered. I struggle with that episode as the verses clearly say that Jesus saw it from afar Mark chapter 11v12-25

Expressing his humanity the Bible tells us he is hungry and curses the tree which was not in a season of bearing fruit and provided Jesus with nothing to eat. Later in the passage the Fig tree is found withered up. Quite a warning— we always need to be ready to feed those around us and we always need to be bearing fruit.

Dianne C now tells me that usually Fig trees are in a cycle of fruit bearing and there will be ripe fruit and unripe fruit in a circle of provision. Clearly the Fig tree learned the lesson.

Jesus wants us to look out and see who we can help next.

Last month I wrote about kindness and this month, amidst the turmoil we see on the news, please think and pray on how you can bring Peace into the lives of others. Not just quietness— although we are trying to make a restful quiet place in the sanctuary after service for those who get a bit over wrought in the noisy lounge! Peace is not just the absence of war or noise, it is something deeper within as God says in Psalm 46v10 Be Still and know that I am God.

### Royal Mint PepperMint or SpearMint

A strange title you may think, but "Royal Mint" would probably be more appropriate. This is just a small introduction to my holiday this month.

I am going to Wales by coach, and one of the excursions will be to the Royal Mint. That's £money£ to you and me, but more in the shape of coins. Anyway, I hope to do an article about the Royal Mint, as I hope it will be an interesting trip and, I may even add photos!!! Watch this space [please].

Yours, in the love of Christ, *Grahame*. [aka The Travelling Man]



Being a peaceful person is leaving a gap in our prayers, conversations and Bible study for God to speak His peace into the situation.

1Peter 5v7 says Cast all your anxiety on Him for He cares for you.

Our Peace is not reliant on the situation we are in but on the God who holds us in His hand. In the wilderness Satan tempts Jesus with the verse Psalm 91 v 11-12

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;

<sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands,

So that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

What Satan omits is the next verse

**V 13 You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.**

So the verses Satan omits speak of conquering Satan himself when he tempts us as the roaring Lion and the serpent in the Garden of Eden. He is so done!

We can have Peace because we can overcome in the strength of our Lord and Saviour.

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!







# Focus on



The Praise and Worship service in June featured the Street Pastors and despite being the evening of Father's Day you showed up! With some tasty sweet snacks scattered around the tables and plenty to drink as it was toasty warm the evening was certainly a success.

SBC were joined by the SP team members from other churches and a guest visit from our former member Thana and his Ashford SP clan! Please continue to pray for the Street Pastors-none of the team have ever been hurt and we want it to stay that way!

Their main responsibility when something kicks off on the High Street is to let the Comms team know and to get CCTV focused on what is happening for evidence.

They are then instrumental in speaking to the door staff and providing pastoral care.

The door staff seem to be the most likely to be assaulted or to receive verbal aggression so their care is really important.

As well as handing out snacks, flip flops and information the Street Pastors stay with anyone who is vulnerable and may have become isolated from the group they set off with. SP's also clear up broken glass and make sure that the staff at the rail station and some of the fast food outlets are safe.

The wonderful Bella, the spaniel, has also joined the team as a Street Pawster and attracts attention and goodwill wherever she pawtrols!!

She has her own Hi-Vis jacket- safety first! The calming influence of being able to stroke Bella, or to direct conversation through her to the Human team, often gives an opportunity for people to admit they are in pain or have a need which they wouldn't otherwise have shared.

In the short time Street Pastors have been back on Sittingbourne High Street they have helped with witness statements for a serious assault; gathered in a very vulnerable female and prevented her from being preyed on by a group of males; Comforted someone who had broken up with his girlfriend and made sure that many of the younger folk under the influence have found their way home or back to their friends.





Matthew 25 v 36-40 tells us....

36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' If you can be a prayer partner or would like to train up as a Street Pastor please speak to Alan, Hus, Nicola or Terri or contact them through the Facebook page Sittingbourne Street Pastors.



**This actually follows on from Vicky's article so please read P6 and 7 before you read this!**

## **Fathers Love Letter- An intimate message from God to you.**

My Child,

You may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1 I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2 I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3. Jeremiah 1:4-5 Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31 For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27 In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28 For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28 I knew you even before you were conceived. I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12 days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16 You were not a mistake, for all your I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26 You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14 mother's womb. Psalm 139:13 I knit you together in your And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6 I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44 I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16 And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1 Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. 1 John 3:1 I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11 For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48 Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17 For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33 My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11 Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3 My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18 And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40 For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5 I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41 And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3 If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29 Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4 For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13 I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20 For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18 As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11 One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4 And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4 I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26 He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7 I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15 My question is... Will you be my child? John 1:12-13 I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

Love, Your Dad Almighty God

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## **In the eye of the storm.**

I felt led to share this with you.

For some context I grew up with domestic violence in the home. We left when I was five years old and we went into a refuge; we were found and had to move to another. A contact order was enforced. By today's standards I don't think this would have been granted. But it was the 90s. I dreaded going every week. Fear grew, and grew. Things got worse and worse. I protected my younger brother with everything I had.

It was when I was around 12/13 years old. On a contact weekend at my dad's. That I felt I couldn't go on. I felt scared, alone, weak, broken, invisible and insignificant. I was looking out of my bedroom window at the sky. I said to God, "If you exist, please show me". As I was saying this the clouds parted, and in the middle was a cloud in the shape of a first aid cross. To me this meant help. God was telling me he was my help in life. I felt comforted, that God would help me, that God heard me, and answered me! Even now it still blows my mind that God hears me and answers me! How wonderful is our loving father.

That yes he was very real and present. When I asked God to show me, it was coming from a place of despair, and I was His child. God had mercy on me. I needed hope if I was going to survive. I needed God to help me. God knew what the next few years of my life would look like. I have endured a lot of suffering. I tell you this so you might truly understand the wonderful hope we have in Jesus. This was the first time I began to understand that my help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:2)



God does not promise his children an easy life. God prepares us, cultivates our characters and hearts. Look at the life of people like Corrie Ten Boom, Brother Yun, who suffered but their lives were/are a walking testament to the Glory of God. Diamonds are made under pressure. [\(Read: Romans 8:17-30\)](#)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (NIV John 16:33)

God promises his children that he will be with them.

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." Isaiah 43:2

God will never leave you or forsake you (Deuteronomy 31:6). God cares for you. God wants to be involved in the big matters of your heart and the small.

God has rescued me so many times, from addiction, from harm, from darkness, from illness. Just like Daniel in the lions Den. The Lions may not be taken away, but they are under our feet! God closed the mouth of the lions. (Psalm 110:1). Daniel stood on his faith in God. Trusting God.

When you are lost the only way to navigate home is to follow Jesus.

When you are in the eye of the storm, the only way through is to follow Jesus.

Simply follow Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

If you are struggling, go to God. If you need to ask Jesus to keep refilling your cup ask! (Matthew 7: 7-8, Psalm 23)

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Romans 8:37)

The grace of God is more than sufficient for our lives.

My stepdad taught me that personalising scripture can be impactful. Place your name in the

.....

But now, this is what the Lord says—he who created you,..... ,he who formed you, .....:

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.

(Isaiah 43: 1)

We can over complicate everything, but the simple truth is God sent Jesus as a living flesh sacrifice, because God wanted to save us from sin and death, and to reconcile us to back to God, because he loves us. May our lives be a living testament to the Glory and love of God.

God does not love as the world loves; Gods love is not transactional. [God loves you unconditionally](#). God see's you, he hears you, he knows you, he loves you, he loves you, he loves you. Say that over yourself I am loved by God the maker of heaven and earth. NOTHING can separate us from the love of God.

Someone needs to know you are not unlovable. You are not unforgiveable. You are not alone. You are not ugly. You are not insignificant. God made this world, and said it needed you, so he formed you in your mother's womb! You have not gone too far to not come home. God is with you! God is your ever-present help. God is real. God loves you, God loves you, God loves you! God is for you! Go to your father, his arms are open wide.

Seek first the kingdom of God. (Matthew 6: 33)

(<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, <sup>[k]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8: 38-39) Going through a storm does not mean God does not love you. He loves you so much. God has not abandoned you. God is with you, for you. God loves you so much. Follow Jesus through the storm. Only Jesus can lead you and give you peace.

Mark 4: 39-41

<sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Closing personal prayer:

Dear heavenly father, Hallowed be thy name,

Thank you father that you first loved me. That you called me into your beautiful presence.

Father you see the situation in our world, in my life, in my heart.

You Lord are my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Jesus you are my way and my truth and my life. Thank you that you are rich in Mercy, and so good to me. That you that your grace is more than sufficient for me.

Thank you that you deliver and rescue: that you work signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, you Lord who has saved me, from the powers of the lions.

May your name be gloried amongst the nations, and all over the earth. You are the living God, enduring forever, your kingdom shall never be destroyed.

Glory be to God in the highest forever and ever.

In Jesus name I Pray, Amen,

I just wanted to include this. If you haven't come across this yet you can find further info at <https://www.fathersloveletter.com/text.html> (Had to squash this on Page 5)

## 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!



### JULY

**2nd Terri W**

**3rd Sheena W.**

**14th Adrian**

**19th Kuda**

**5th Dominic W**

**18th David H**

**27th Sonia**

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the August Magazine. The deadline will have to be 24/25th July ready for the weekend publication Then we can all pray for you too.

### Church Office details

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**Women in  
prayer**

**July 26th**

**2pm this month!**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	<b>1 8am Early prayer meeting</b> <b>10am-noon</b> Private event in Lounge <b>7:30pm</b> Deacons' meeting	<b>2 8am Early prayer meeting</b> <b>1:30pm &amp; 7:15pm</b> Housegroups in Lounge	<b>3 8am Early prayer meeting</b> <b>2pm</b> Bright Hour <b>6:30pm</b> Band	<b>4 8am Early prayer meeting</b> <b>9:30am</b> Pastoral team <b>9:30-11:30am</b> Café <b>12-2pm</b> Glory girls <b>5-6:30pm JAM CLUB</b> <b>7-9pm</b> Underground	<b>5 10am-12 noon</b> Contact Centre <b>1-2:30pm</b> Outreach prayer timer	<b>6 10am</b> Prayer in Hub <b>10:30am</b> Morning service "Music & the Psalms" Psalm 65 v8-13 "What a wonderful world" Nathan Gordon <b>6:30pm</b> -Alan Cole-"The letter to Smyrna" and Communion
<b>7 10.00am-noon A.B.C.</b>	<b>8 10am-noon</b> Private event in Lounge	<b>9</b>	<b>10 10:45am</b> Woodstock Faith talks <b>2pm</b> Bright Hour <b>6:30pm</b> Band	<b>11 9:30-11:30am</b> Café 3:16 <b>12-2pm</b> Glory girls <b>5-6:30pm JAM CLUB</b> -end of term <b>7-9pm</b> Underground	<b>12 10am-12noon</b> Contact Centre <b>1-2:30PM</b> Outreach team p & p- Hub??? <b>7pm</b> Quiz in Lounge	<b>13 10am</b> Prayer in Hub <b>10:30am</b> -Morning service-"Music & the Psalms" Psalm 47 v1-9 "Because I'm happy" led by Nathan Gordon and Communion <b>6:30pm</b> Stories of faith
<b>14 10.00am-noon A.B.C.</b>	<b>15 10am-noon</b> Private event in Lounge <b>7:30pm</b> Deacons' prayer meeting	<b>16 1:30pm &amp; 7:15pm</b> Housegroups in Lounge	<b>17 2pm</b> Bright Hour <b>6:30pm</b> Band	<b>18 9:30am</b> Pastoral team <b>9:30-11:30am</b> Café 3:16 <b>12-2pm</b> Glory girls <b>7-9pm</b> Underground	<b>19 10am-12 noon</b> Contact Centre <b>11-1pm</b> High St. outreach <b>1-2:30pm</b> Debrief outreach in Hub	<b>20 10am</b> Prayer in Hub <b>10:30am</b> -Morning baptismal service, Stand alone short gospel message Nathan Gordon <b>6:30pm</b> -Praise & Worship
<b>21 10.00am-noon A.B.C. End of term</b>	<b>22 10am-noon</b> Private event in Lounge <b>7:30pm</b> Writers' group in Hub	<b>23 2:30pm</b> Pine Lodge service <b>7:30pm</b> Church members meeting	<b>24 10.45am</b> Woodstock service	<b>25 9:30am-11:30am</b> Café 3:16 <b>12-2pm</b> Glory girls	<b>26 10am-12 noon</b> Contact Centre	<b>27 10 am</b> Prayer in Hub <b>10:30am</b> -All age service-Ricky Grosvenor-(I am ..... ) T.B.C. <b>6:30pm</b> -The Encounter
<b>28</b>	<b>29 10am-noon</b> Private event in Lounge	<b>30 7:30pm</b> Whole Church Prayer Meeting	<b>31</b>			