

"Casting Your Nets" On The Other Side Training Seminar with Rev Andy Godfrey

On Saturday, 6th June 2026, the Outreach Team hosted a *Casting Your Nets* training seminar led by Rev. Andy Godfrey from Outreach UK, attended by around 30 people. The afternoon focused on equipping everyday Christians to share the gospel more confidently and effectively. Through the themes *The Fishermen*, *The Fish* and *Let's Go Fishing*, we were encouraged to use our homes, hobbies, interests and personal stories (testimonies) as opportunities to connect with others and share our faith. We also learned the importance of listening well, understanding our communities and communicating the gospel in a clear and relatable way. The seminar was both insightful and practical, leaving many of us feeling inspired and better equipped for outreach. As a result, Phil, Denis and Paul, members of the Outreach Team, have ordered 100 copies of *The Good News* newspaper to distribute during their Friday outreach sessions in Faversham, while Grahame is considering adopting some of the creative outreach strategies discussed. We thank Rev. Andy Godfrey and the Outreach Team for such an encouraging event and give all glory to God for a successful afternoon of learning, fellowship and preparation for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The seminar was recorded and anyone who would like to listen to it is welcome to contact the Outreach Team for access—*article written by Flavie Balliet, The Outreach Coordinator.*



Grahame has added a couple of comments which you may find useful.

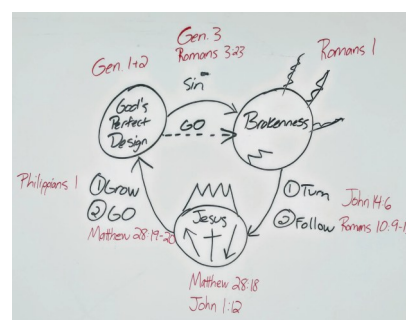
Andy started off with a question, "What kind of people [fish] are in your pond [town]."

He gave us some examples of how to evangelise, one of which was to "Listen" to people and not interrupt. Another one was "Stop talking Christian jargon/language".

One of the things he said really struck home with me as regards to "Street Outreach", and that was to use all types of songs, both secular and Christian, and different styles, as in folk, pop, rock etc. Phil and Dennis have been doing this lately, and I have noticed how people react to it, and speak to members of the team.

All in all, it was a good and informative afternoon, and individually, we all learnt how we can use our gifts and talents that Jesus gave us. Most of all, a Big THANKYOU to everyone on the Outreach Team for the wonderful, delicious cakes for our break time, and also to JJ for manning the Tech Desk. With Christian love, *Grahame.*

The drawing on the right hand side is a method known as the 3 circles for sharing our faith—begin with God's Perfect creation; man chooses to sin and then finds a new way of living in Christ—with a few Bible verses along the sidelines this is a quick way to explain the gospel story to people in any situation. One tip from an evangelist— if you use your Bible to go from verse to verse with the circles; in pencil write the reference for the next verse, you wish to find, in the bottom corner of the page— so useful to keep the flow going rather than falter over finding the next verse to read.





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 July

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
5th	"I must decrease so God can increase" Sermon from Ricky Grosvenor	"LGBTQ+ & The Church" Rev Nathan Gordon Communion service 
12th 	"What will you do with the invitation?" Rev Nathan Gordon Baptismal Service	Stories of Faith Testimony Service
19th 	"Do you possess what money can't buy?" Ricky Grosvenor Communion	Praise and Worship Evening
26th	Youth led	The Encounter—Music and Prayer

Stationery not stationary! Notes from the Office...



As we head into the 2nd half of the year– thank you to everyone who has filled in their data form– please do grab one from around the church if you haven't had one yet and we can carry on compiling the Prayer Diary for everyone to receive . This will hopefully be in September around the time of our Anniversary and then we can celebrate all the Saints who have gone before and carry on praying for those of us who are still here! Another thank you is the article on the next page or so. Last month we sent off clothes, toiletries and craft supplies to a couple of children centres and a Baby Hub in the Ukraine. We are in the process of doing another collection. The 'couriers' who take the donations as far as Poland and then hand them over to the Ukraine have sent some photos of what happened last time. There is also a response from one of the teachers in the Children's centre.

Coming next month to SBC is our Annual holiday club– this has quite an age range as we let the preschool ABC children come along as long as they bring an adult! Otherwise all primary school children are welcome. This year we are answering that infamous question WHY? Why am I here? Why am I special and so on.

If you have children who are at primary school and would like them to come along the mornings of 17th-21st August please pick up a form and pre-register them—then we will know if we have any super large age groups or if we need to ask for more volunteers. We already need more volunteers to make it all possible. It is our aim to provide a picnic lunch at the end of the session as Swale is renowned for child food poverty. We want to reach out to the parents and support them if we can.

If you can't volunteer but would like to donate biscuits or fruit or crisps on any of the days please do let Me (Bev) in the office know.

In other news please do sign up for the Summer clean mentioned on page 7, Some folk may want to adopt a room or area or just come along and do somewhere upstairs you may never have been!! It is a bit of a warren up there!

There is also a Fellowship day at King George's Park– 12pm onwards– bring yourself and a chair and lets spend time together outdoors!! See the List for food contributions in the Lounge on the noticeboard above the piano.

God Bless,
Bev Sills

**Send any new photos for the members board to
office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk**

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



A few months ago, I penned an article when I was seeking some volunteers to join the Baptistry team. Well, thanks very much to Dennis for volunteering.

However, I was somewhat disappointed that there was only the one volunteer. We all rejoice when we have Baptisms but they don't just happen, they need some organisation.

The Baptistry needs to be filled with water and the heater needs to be put in and heating started.

So please, think hard and if you are interested talk to Bev in the office and she will point out either Sandy or myself and we will be able to give you more details.

Peter Statham

Thanks to Peter for his honest response– please if you can drop by the church during the week, turn on the tap and turn it off again some six hours later please do speak to Peter, Sandy or Bev– this would help as there are some weeks when this small team can't make it.

What happened next?



What happened to the boxes of clothes and craft materials we sent to the Ukraine last month?

These photos show them being distributed and used and the comments copied in the text show how far your kindness went in supporting families in the Ukraine.

The items were taken to Poland by Mr and Mrs Pulman and then Mariusz takes them into Ukraine.

Jo writes "Our contact and friend Mariusz who lives in Poland and travels to dangerous, frontline areas of Ukraine sent all the photos I'm forwarding to you. The ones above are of people living in a 'container town' which was built after the 2014 war for the resettlement of refugees. They are still stuck there.



The next photos are of small children in Kherson City who are so grateful for the toys, clothes & craft materials. First here is a message from a teacher there.

Congratulations! Today we conducted a workshop with preschoolers based on the fairy tale "Little Pig."

The children are happy! They used your materials! Look how happy the children are! May God bless all the benefactors!



Let us pray for peace between our nations.

However the next message is harder to even comprehend:-

"Yesterday they bombarded with guided bombs, dropping eight of them, and drones were also flying and resetting. People are stressed. But drawing is wonderful therapy. We and the children are very grateful to you and to those who gave the children gifts. May there never be war between you. We pray for relations between our countries. For wisdom for politicians. That they may remain silent and historians may speak. Next month we will be in a different place. Then there will be photos with your remaining gifts. We also left something for these children. We love you, appreciate you, and send you a big hug!"

Let's make this heartfelt prayer for resolution our own as we send off the next batch of goods.

Continued from previous page– for this one last day (28th June) there are still boxes in the lounge waiting to be collected and taken to the Ukraine– pleasemake sure to pop anything in there you may have purchased as they will be going off sometime before next Sunday. Thank you to everyone who has contributed again and again– the photos clearly show what a difference it makes. The older children having some art therapy must be more aware of the situation. The little ones have never known anything different. Please pray that the conflict and invasion will end.



Our Mission Praise Evening last month was a time of encouragement sharing with the Street Pastors.

Thank you to all who attended and supported and to anyone who has offered to be a Prayer Pastor or to train as a Street Pastor off the back of the service.

We praise God for all who have added themselves to this ministry since the restart at the beginning of last year. There are now some additional duties being covered, for example, Rail Pastors and some extra sessions during the World Cup covering any high jinx which might occur on the High Street.

We pray for all of the committee members taking on the responsibility of the admin and finances. Please pray for all who are fully trained and for those who are nearly there!



Our Youth are hosting two events in July— one on Tuesday 14th July 6-9pm .

Please let everyone know who was involved with the Youth Alpha. This is a get together for Pizza and Karaoke but there will

be certificates and plenty of opportunity to catch up with youth from other churches in town

Secondly—date to be absolutely pinned down in the next few days the Youth will host an open worship evening— most likely Friday 24th July 7-9pm as Underground will have closed it's doors for the Summer by then!

Then pray for the 46 or more in the group going to Limitless Camp— 5th—10th August. Please pray for the travel, cooking, camping, getting to meetings and seminars, worship, general health and of course—the weather!! Most of all pray for Ricky!

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 Taking place on the 12th of September—if you pray for someone to come along to that, start now!

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



Holiday Club 17th –21st August

Get in touch with Bev in the office if you are able to volunteer— we need tea-makers, story tellers, puppeteers, listeners, speakers!! Or just be in the roomers!

Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions! July

**2nd Terri Wh.
8th Keith H
14th Adrian
19th Kuda
27th Sonia**



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.

Little Piece about Birthdays from J. John via Adrian (He celebrates on the 14th of this month!)

Today is my birthday.

I am not growing old. I am older, but I am growing!

But here's the deeper truth. Every one of us has had a first birthday, we were born once. Physically alive.

But Jesus said in John 3:3: *'Truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.'*

So here's the question: you've had your first birth, have you had your second?

Because if you're born once, you die twice. But if you're born twice, you only die once.

Here's the reality: your first birth gets you into this world; your second birth gets you into God's kingdom.

And don't miss this . . . *a birthday reminds us we're getting closer to the end, but being born again means we're getting closer to the beginning!*

The good news? No matter how many candles are on your cake, God still offers you a brand-new start.

So yes, I may be older but by God's grace I'm still growing – growing in faith, growing in wisdom, growing in Christ.

Because it's not how many years you have lived . . . it's whether Christ lives in you.

And that is something worth celebrating.

J. John

Quick Word of Encouragement from Our Daily Bread

READ 1 John 1:5-9; 2:7-10

If you've ever heard of the expression "albatross around my neck"—a phrase referring to a tiresome burden—you've heard an allusion to English poet Samuel Coleridge's famous poem "Rime of the Ancient Mariner." In the poem, a sailor shoots and kills a harmless, friendly albatross. The crew believes the mariner's cruel deed curses their voyage and forces him to wear the dead bird around his neck as punishment.

Are there regrets in your life that feel like a heavy weight around your neck? All of us have moments we'd do anything to take back. It can feel like we're cursed to carry the weight of our guilt and regret forever.

Yet God's grace can free our hearts from even the most painful regret. We all have sin (1 John 1:8, 10), but when we honestly confess our burdens to God, we're promised he "will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (v. 9). As His grace rushes in, His light and love can flow through us (2:10), freeing us to love those around us (3:14). In Coleridge's poem, the tormented mariner also eventually experiences this grace. When love for God's creation rushes into his heart and compels him to pray, the albatross falls off his neck, vanishing forever "like lead into the sea".

By Monica La Rose



What can feel like a weight around your neck? What does it mean for you to accept God's grace for your guilt?

Dear God, thank You that the guilt I carry doesn't exclude me from experiencing Your beauty and grace. Please help me find freedom in Your love today.

Big news!!!

We are having a "Summer" cleaning week— spring is long gone and there are too many activities taking place in the church during regular term time so **August 24th-28th** we are going to have a 'sprucing up the old place' week!! Just in time to fully celebrate our 160th in September.

There are tricky ledges which our cleaning team are not allowed to climb up to, to wash and dust, there are yards and yards of skirting board, hand rails and surfaces which all need a bit more time and a bit of a deeper clean. If you have a day or an afternoon to spare during that week and don't mind slapping on your rubber gloves, or climbing up a ladder then please sign up on the list which will appear in the Lounge! It's not Biblical that cleanliness is next to Godliness but it is Biblical that we can all serve the Lord in many ways— even with a bucket and cloth!!



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**

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup	2 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6:30pm <i>Youth Band</i>	3 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>	4 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 1-2:30pm <i>Prayer & Planning</i> 1pm YOUTH BBB at Sue & Ian's 2pm <i>Ladies After-noon tea</i>	5 10am <i>Prayer in Hub</i> 10:30am "I must decrease so God can increase" Ricky Grosvenor 6:30pm - LGBTQ+ and the Church—Nathan Communion Service 
6 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15pm <i>Writers group</i> 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 7:30pm Church Members meeting	9 8-9am Early prayer meeting 10:45am <i>Woodstock Faith talks</i> 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6:30pm <i>Youth Band</i>	10 8-9am Early prayer meeting 9:30am <i>Pastoral team meeting</i> 9:30-11:30am <i>Café 3:16</i> 12-2pm <i>Glory girls</i> 5-6:30pm <i>JAM CLUB-Party</i> 7-9pm <i>Underground</i>	11 10am-12noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 11-1 <i>Outreach on High St.</i> 1-2.30pm <i>Feedback</i> 2pm <i>Lower Halstow Fellowship Baptisms</i>	12 10am <i>Prayer in Hub</i> BAPTISMAL SERVICE 10:30am - "What will you do with the invitation?" Rev Nathan Gordon Please don't pull the plug  2 pm. Baptismal service from Methodist Church 6:30pm-Stories of faith
13 10-12 noon A.B.C. 7:15-8:30pm A.A.Recovery	14 10am-12pm <i>Choir</i> 6-9pm <i>Youth Alpha Reunion-Pizza & singing!</i>	15 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup	16 9am <i>C.T.I.S.</i> 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i>	17 9:30-11:30am <i>Café 3:16</i> 12-2pm <i>Glory girls</i>	18 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 7-9pm <i>Christian Singles Fellowship</i>	19 10am <i>Prayer in Hub</i> 10:30am "Do you possess what money can't buy?" Ricky 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 Live Prayer meeting</i>	23 10:45am <i>Woodstock service</i> NO BRIGHT HOUR but Out-coming to Bread of Life	24 9:30am <i>Pastoral team meeting</i> 9:30-11:30am <i>Café 3:16</i> 12-2pm <i>Glory Girls</i> 7-9pm Worship Night – tbc	25 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i>	26 10 am <i>Prayer in Hub</i> 10:30am –Youth Led 6:30pm Encounter
27	28 10-12am <i>Choir</i>	29 7:30pm-9pm <i>Women in Prayer</i>	30	31 9:30-11:30am <i>Café 3:16</i> 12-2pm <i>Glory girls</i>	1st August Fellowship Day 12 noon onwards King George's park– see other comms for details!	