



SOME OF THE GROUP WHO ARE GOING TO LIMITLESS CAMP ENJOYED A WALK DURING THE BBQ AT SUE AND IAN'S

And finally the big day is arriving! On 4th of August the advance team will leave for Stafford showground and begin setting up the mammoth amount of tents that we need at camp this year! With 45 in the group and the dining marquee and kitchen tent area it is quite a task.

Then very early the next day the coach will take everyone else up to the Limitless Camp site. Please pray for the journey, the settling in, the homesickness, (yes it will happen!) the meals, the showers, the praise meetings, the seminars, the teaching, the prayers and the hearts that will be changed. Our young folk and their leaders are guaranteed to come back different. Maybe they will have a direct personal calling from God. Maybe they will catch sight of a way of serving God that they had never imagined. Maybe they will receive supernatural gifts and a Mission to use them. We can be sure that God will move.

Please pray for the time that they spend in SBC camp too– there will be time for deeper conversation, for sillier silliness– water fights, football, cards, Uno, coffee and cake chats. Please pray for safety and security, for good health and some time for sleep! Also pray for the weather and the equipment, for no strops or bad moods– maybe just a refreshing nap and some time of peace. Please pray that no-one's patience wears thin, no-one feels ill and definitely that no-one wants to come home.

Please pray that over all the camp and all the days new young people choose to live their lives with Jesus and that Satan does not get a look in. If this camp makes one person turn away from the wide path and chose to follow Christ then we celebrate along with the angels in Heaven.

To the youth group;- we as the adults who stay behind say– We love you –we might not know all the names but we commit to pray for everyone of you. May your waking hours and sleeping hours have an element of balance and may God make His face shine upon you. God grant you fellowship and fun and open generous hearts to be kind and inclusive to everyone you meet. Amen.

On a side note– Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored a place for a camper or contributed towards food and transport– without your generosity the group would be so much smaller. God Bless You.





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 August Summer Outside (Beyond these Walls) series

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
2nd	"Who sits at your table?" Rev Nathan Gordon	"The Wrath of God— which cup will you drink from?" Phil Town Communion service 
9th	"Could one conversation change everything? (Share)" Rev Nathan Gordon	Stories of Faith Testimony Service
16th 	"Who are you hesitant to welcome? (Crossing Cultural barriers)" Rev Nathan Gordon Communion	Praise and Worship Evening

Saturday: Colour the Legacy: SBC at 160 date 22nd August 1pm start.

A creative celebration bringing the church family together to make something lasting.

23rd	Family Service in Celebration of Holiday Club	The Encounter—Music and Prayer
30th	"What happens when young people bring what they have?" (Intergenerational Ministry)	Mission Service— Ministry from the outreach team

Stationery not stationary ! Notes from the Office...



Once we make it to August I think everyone hopes for a quieter month! It does have a few slower days, when not so many of the regular activities take place, however some new ones have popped their head above the parapet!

Starting on 17th we have 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. The craft items have been ordered, the activities are planned; do encourage everyone to bring their children and grandchildren and if you have a young person 12-19 in your family please encourage them to come along as a volunteer!!

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 last month— we want to look shiny and clean for our Anniversary celebrations in September.

God Bless,
Bev Sills

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!

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 enough clue!

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!

There are some jobs which will require some 'heft' so please do not leave this to the less mobile members of the church— let's be intergenerational and definitely not sexist!!! I am really happy to let folk have a key to do some evening work!

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!!



What could a melting ice cream possibly teach us about life, gratitude and eternity? More than you might imagine . . .

Summer and ice cream belong together. One without the other is possible but somehow it doesn't feel quite right. There is, however, one universal law that has never been broken: **ice cream melts faster than you think it will.**

You begin with supreme confidence. *'I've got this.'* Two minutes later it's running down your fingers, dripping onto your shirt, and your dignity is disappearing. It doesn't matter whether you're five or seventy-five, ice cream has an extraordinary gift for humbling us all.

Of course, there are different kinds of ice cream eaters. There are the cautious nibblers who approach every lick as though they're performing delicate surgery. There are the fearless biters who apparently possess teeth made of reinforced steel. And then there are those who spend so long deciding between dozens of flavours that by the time they've finally chosen, the person behind them has fallen asleep. Life can be like that. Sometimes we're so busy trying to make the perfect decision that we fail to enjoy the gift God has already placed in our hands. Ice cream reminds us that some things simply aren't meant to last. No one has ever said, *'I'm saving this cone for next Sunday.'* It has to be enjoyed now.

The Bible reminds us of the same truth. James writes, **'Your life is like the morning fog – it's here a little while, then it's gone'** (James 4:14 NLT). Our possessions fade. Fashion changes. Fame evaporates. Fortunes come and go. Even the happiest holiday eventually becomes a photograph buried somewhere on our phone. We spend an extraordinary amount of time polishing what is temporary instead of pursuing what is eternal. Jesus invites us to make a different investment:

'Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal' (Matthew 6:20 NLT).

Those are treasures that never melt. Ice cream teaches another lesson too. The tighter you squeeze the cone, the bigger the mess. Perhaps that's true of life. Peace often comes not from holding on more tightly but from placing everything into God's hands. After all, everything we have is a gift from God.

One of the great joys of summer is watching children with ice creams. They aren't worrying about calories. They aren't wondering if someone else's looks bigger. They're simply enjoying the gift. Somewhere along the journey into adulthood we become experts at worrying and amateurs at wondering. Perhaps that's why Jesus said, **'Anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it'** (Mark 10:15 NLT). Not childish. But childlike. Trusting. Grateful. Ready to receive. So, the next time you find

*"We are secure, not
because we hold tightly
to Jesus, but because He
holds tightly to us."*

– R.C. Sproul

yourself holding an ice cream, enjoy it. Don't complain when it starts to melt. That's what ice cream does. Smile when it drips. Laugh if it lands on your shirt. Life is far too short to be defeated by a scoop of vanilla. Instead, let it remind you of something far more important. Life is a gift. Time is precious. People are always more important than possessions. Gratitude is better than grumbling. And eternity is never as far away as we imagine.

So enjoy God's gifts. Delight in them. Laugh over them. Share them generously. But never confuse the gifts with the Giver. Hold tightly to Christ.

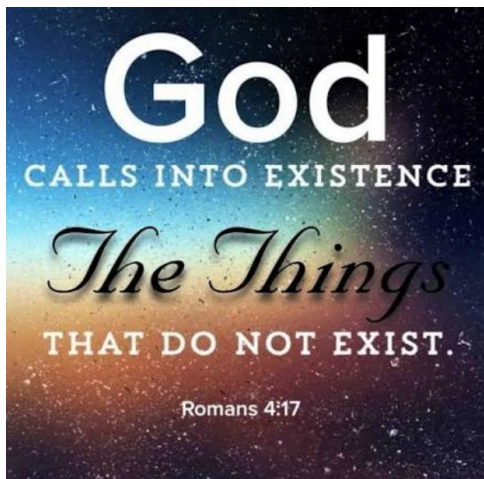
Hold everything else with open hands. Because life is rather like an ice cream. If you grip it too tightly, it becomes a mess. If you leave it too long, it disappears. So savour every day God gives you. Love your family. Treasure your friends. Help those in need. Laugh often. Pray faithfully. Trust Christ completely.

One day your ice cream will be gone. The summer will be over. The photographs will fade. But the love of God in Christ will never melt, never fade and never fail.

And that's the sweetest truth of all. Grace and peace, J. John

(As I chose the picture it reminded me that Jesus left the **99** and looked for the lost one– I am so glad he came looking for me and has been holding me ever since– Bev)





I Believe in the Spoken Word

I start off with the Introduction to John's Gospel from Eugene Peterson's **The Message**. *You will notice that I have added quotation marks above some words and highlighted the words, I Believe.*

In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, God is presented as "speaking" the creation into existence. God "speaks" the word, and it happens: heaven and earth, ocean and stream, trees and grass, birds and fish, animals and humans. Everything seen and unseen, called into being by God's "spoken" word.

In a deliberate parallel to the opening words of Genesis, John presents God as "speaking" salvation into existence. This time God's word takes on human form and enters history in the

person of Jesus. Jesus "speaks" the word and it happens: forgiveness and judgement, healing and illumination, mercy and grace, joy and love, freedom and resurrection. Everything broken and fallen, sinful and deceased, called into salvation by God's "spoken" word.

For, somewhere along the line things went wrong (Genesis tells that story, too) and are in desperate need of fixing. The fixing is all accomplished by "speaking" ~ God "speaking" salvation into being in the person of Jesus. Jesus, in this account, not only "speaks" the word of God, he *is the Word of God*.

Keeping company with these words, we begin to realize that our words are more important than we ever supposed. Saying "**I believe**," for instance marks the difference between life and death. Our words accrue dignity and gravity in conversations with Jesus. For Jesus doesn't impose salvation as a solution; he *narrates salvation into being through leisurely conversation, intimate personal relationships, compassionate responses, compassionate prayer, and putting it altogether ~ a sacrificial death. We don't casually walk away from words like that.*

The last paragraph spoke volumes to me, and hopefully to you too. Please let me explain where I am coming from. The words **I Believe** are part of our Creed....

....I believe in God the Father, I believe in Christ the Son,
I believe in the Holy Spirit, Our God is three in one.
I believe in the resurrection, that we will rise again,
For I believe in the name of Jesus.

As an Evangelist with approximately 30 years of street work, I have always been aware that I must remember that my belief is not everybody's belief. Not just those who "don't believe", but other religions as well. I always start off with The Creed, and speak with grace, never getting into an argument, and though I have never had any encounter with the police, I have always been ready to do as they ask at the time. Grace is the main word here.

Let's go back to Eugene Peterson's Introduction to John's Gospel. You may have noticed that, as I stated at the beginning of this article, I have put quotation marks on some words. I hope you noticed that those words were "speak" and "spoken". We are told that we should "*Speak the Word of God*". *There are lots of verses about this and I am sure some of you may know them all, but I draw your attention to Hebrews chapter 4 and verse 2 and Romans chapter 10 verse 14.*

(If you fancy a challenge there are many references to speech and using our words wisely throughout Proverbs chapters 18 to 25).

Romans 10 verse 14 is also a good example, and I quote from the NIV.

"How then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? [I add verse 15 here] And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those that bring good news". *(I might add that my feet are not that beautiful. Ha. ha.)*

So you see, speak the word of God (Christ) with love and grace, and try not to get into an argument with anyone.

Yours, in His love and grace, *Grahame*.





160th Celebrations: Jesus : The Evidence Taking place on the 12th of September—if you pray for someone to come along to that, start now!

September is very busy so things are doubling up!

On September 26th at 2pm is our next Ladies Afternoon Tea
The Next Meeting for our Christian Singles Fellowship is Also September 26th 7-9pm
– 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!

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the September Magazine– The deadline will have to be 25th August to catch the end of the month. Then we can all pray for you too.

2nd Dani Osoba and Sarah's daughter Julie Terry

3rd Linda Knowlton

6th Cresta– at camp!!!!

15th Vicky Wintle

19th Diane Bray

26th Sula

September is a big month for anniversaries too



"Getting to know you, getting to learn all about you!"



The leadership team recognize that it is tricky to get to know all of the 'new faces' we have in our morning and evening congregation.

To try and solve that we are having a "Meet and Mingle" after the service on 23rd August.

A handful of deacons and Ricky are going to head into the Hub– (if you are coming in the front door it is down the slope to your right or head right to the end of the main corridor.)

There will still be hot drinks and cold drinks in there and it won't take too long– please head in that direction if you want to firm up your links with the church or chat with some of the leadership team.

Please don't be shy– we just want to put names to faces and have a chat!

Please cast your eyes over this—we really need a lot more volunteers—especially those who are off school and college– come on all the teachers and TA's we have!!



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Just to help out a digital copy of this magazine is available from the church website www.sbc-church.

Please use the diary page to help you get to all the activities– Youth Camp is 5th-10th and the special end of 'year' celebration we have had for the last couple of years is August 21st 7-9.30pm to avoid the bank holiday weekend. For parents keep an eye on the WhatsApp group for updates from Ricky.

For every generation there is a lovely new series for August– Summer outside (Beyond these walls) Nathan will be bringing this series of challenging messages to us. As you must know by now, 'these walls' are 160 years old so September is full of Anniversary antics!



160th Anniversary

Yes that's right SBC has been around– on this corner for most of the time since 1866. It did start up in a house at the bottom of Park Road but then pretty soon the Victorian movers and shakers of the time bought this piece of land and built what is the inside 'sanctuary' part of the church and a manse for the Minister to live in. The minister's house was where the side door is now just about.

In those days children worked in all of the big industries here in Sittingbourne and Sunday School was Sunday School! Pretty soon after the church had started the Sunday school was overflowing and so the decision was taken to buy a separate house for the Minister, and knock down the Manse!! Their aim was to construct the 'school rooms' which were the rooms upstairs; where the creche takes place now.

Underneath where the office and the ladies toilets are now were the Ministers Vestry (Office) and down in the basement a very basic kitchen. If you venture down the basement steps the big sink area is still in the boiler room.

Where the cleaning cupboard is was a mini– lift/dumb waiter arrangement where all the crockery from church events went downstairs to be washed. Another extension saw the kitchen move up to the ground floor where we have it now. Still quite basic until around 20 years ago when the 30-40 somethings took it in hand and it had the cupboards and surfaces and tiling we still have now doing good service!

If you have a good look round some things remain from nearly 100 years ago– the pews upstairs used to be rammed with children and the Sunday school teachers sat on little drop down seats at the row end to keep everyone in check! The circular coloured glass windows in the sound desk wall were originally outside so the latches etc are quite sturdy. We still have chimneys running through the building as the ministers vestry used to have a wood burning stove– as did the church!! All of the grilles and pipework under the floor have been here a very long time!

The organ has had some adventures too! Water damage, being totally removed and set up in Canterbury Cathedral and then being put back in!

After our fellowship day in the park our next celebration day is Sunday 6th September when we will have a rededication service and lots of community contact going on– Pleeeeeeease keep an eye on the weekly sheet and the September magazine and be onboard with all of the celebration events– church isn't the building as we are learning from Nathan in upcoming sermons– it is the people serving God in this place.

**We pray the familiar chorus "Bind us together Lord Bind us together, Bind us together with love."
Amen.**

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**

