



October 2024

This little piece dropped into my inbox the day after we held our church meeting where Nathan closed by exhorting us to pray for Sittingbourne– that there would be a 'mass' of people coming to Christ because of our presence and efforts on the High Street. **God's Timing is perfect!**



Kingdom-Shaped Workplace

Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

Victorian factories were dark places. Fatalities were high, and workers often lived in poverty. "How can the working man cultivate ideals," George Cadbury asked, "when his home is a slum?" And so he built a new kind of factory for his expanding chocolate business, one that benefited his workers.

The result was Bournville, a village of more than three hundred homes with sports fields, playgrounds, schools and churches for Cadbury's workers and their families. They were paid good wages and offered medical care, all because of Cadbury's faith in Christ.

Jesus teaches us to pray for God's will to be done "on earth as it is in heaven" ([Matthew 6:10](#)). This prayer can help us imagine, as Cadbury did, what our workplaces would be like under God's rule, where our "daily bread" is earned and our "debtors" forgiven ([vv. 11–12](#)). As employees, it means working with "all your heart . . . for the Lord" ([Colossians 3:23](#)). As employers, it means giving staff what's "right and fair" ([4:1](#)). Whatever our role, whether paid or voluntary, it means tending to the wellbeing of those we serve with.

Like George Cadbury, let's imagine how things could be different if God were in charge of our neighbourhoods and workplaces. Because when He is, people flourish. (By Sheridan Voysey, for Our Daily Bread online message)

What would your workplace or neighbourhood look like under God's rule? How could you pray and work towards this vision?

Loving God, please help me to see what my workplace or neighbourhood would look like under Your rule and empower me to bring change where I can.

Also find Sittingbourne Baptist Church on Facebook for updates and information about our activities and our live streamed worship.



Minister

**REV
NATHAN GORDON**

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM



**HYLKO ZINGSTRA
TREASURER**



**Grahame Atkinson
Church
Administrator.**



**JOSHUA
AJIBOYE**



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



**ADRIAN
CHEESMAN**



KUDA OSOBA



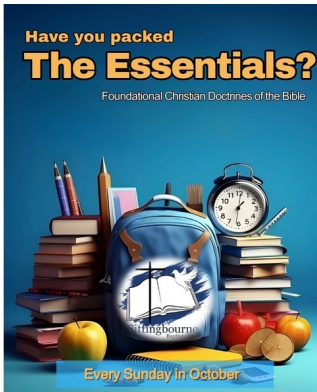
**LISA
PENNINGTON**



**RICHARD
SILLS
Responsible for
Safeguarding**



**RICKY
GROSVENOR AND FAMILY– YOUTH WORKER**

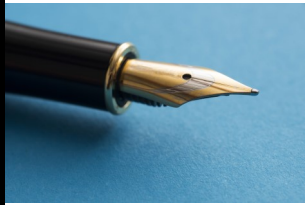


Services for the month of October– ‘Have you packed the Essentials?’”

**Morning Service
10.30am**

Evening Service 6.30pm

6th Oct	“It all starts with one” Monotheism Rev Nathan Gordon	Evening Communion Service- “Where is God when I feel lonely?” 
13th	“Can I really trust an old book with my life?” Rev Nathan Gordon	Stories of Faith– Testimony service
20th	“Am I really lost if I know where I am going in Life?” Rev Nathan Gordon 	Praise and Worship Service
27th	All– Age Service	3.30pm The Encounter– Afternoon Prayer Time



Administrators Notes

STOP PRESS Deacons Nominations and Elections.

Dear Friends and Members, the nomination forms for the proposal of electing Deacons are now available on the Communion table by the lounge entrance, or from me or Beverley, in the Church Office.

The forms must be returned to me or the Church Office no later than Sunday 20th October.

Just to remind you of how the process works. First, you must be a member of the church. Second, the person you wish to nominate must have been a member for at least one year and that you must have their permission to propose them as well. As SBC is a charity then our deacons automatically become trustees.

The elections will take place at the next Church Members Meeting on November 10th, after the morning service.

Yours, in the love of Christ, *Grahame.*

Saturday, 5th October from 2-4pm, Crochet in the afternoon,

“Come and join our next session, where you will learn how to fasten off; how to make a hairband. Please bring a 4mm crochet hook and a ball of wool, pale in colour and double knit. This helps easily identify the stitches you are making. See you then, Sally Dickson” (see sermon notes too!)

Just to catch anyone up who has missed this– Sally has been running this group every so often in the Church Lounge on a Saturday afternoon teaching anyone who wants to come along how to crochet. They have tackled starting off; the traditional granny square and now a hairband.

If anyone masters the hairband in the session then these could so easily go into the shoeboxes which need to be prepared over the next few weeks– see next mini article!



Blythswood shoe boxes- Just to update you that we have loads of content for the shoeboxes, loads of shoe boxes but could really do with some packing sessions over the next few weeks before the lorry pulls up to collect them! Please speak to Bev if you

can offer some time to wrap and pack– all paper Sellotape and goodies will be provided!

Church Office details

01795 420990

Office hours: Mon, Tue & Thurs 9am-3pm Wed 5-9pm, Fri 9-2pm.

Office Manager: Bev Sills

office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk

Email: office@sbc-church.org.uk

Web: www.sbc-church.org.uk

Win P– Women in Prayer Dates for the rest of the year!!



October 26th, November 30th, no meeting in December, in January the 25th (2025!!)



Focus on

The Street Pastors Initiative was started Nationally by a lovely man called Les Isaacs. His heart went out to those who ended up in A&E each week basically due to the consumption of too much alcohol on a Friday or Saturday night. He heard the call to get church members out on the streets pastoring those who were in need. They keep folk safe with drinks of coffee and water and filling them up with sandwiches or handing out lollipops to top up their blood sugar level. In the case of those who had either lost their shoes or taken them off to be able to walk, then flip flops were provided.

Street Pastors started in Sittingbourne around 20 years ago with a Salvation Army leader called Dave Ramsay. Later it was headed up by our very own Thana Shanmugam until he moved away to Ashford. Then it was Andrew Lee, from HTSB. Over this period of time support had waned a little. Then came Covid19!

The servant heart of someone helping another to stay safe, to get home safely— especially Females, has raised the churches profile on many high streets— including Sittingbourne. Up until Covid the Street Pastors were well known to door/security staff. Kindness was extended to them too— free hot chocolates and goodies at many of the café's and bars and a general appreciation for their fortitude— especially when the weather was grim!



In these times of drink spiking and coercion and theft of mobile phones etc the Street Pastors are needed more than ever. Now is the time for our Light to Shine before men and for us to have mercy on the broken. None of the Street Pastors are verbally preaching to those they help— in fact they are specifically warned against being judgmental or critical. They are to offer help without any thought of being repaid. They have a mobile phone to call for taxis and will help anyone to get home safely. BUT— and this is a big but! The question comes back time and time again, "Why are you doing this?" People who realise they are in danger appreciate the kindness and the safety they offer. Many parents have sought out the Street Pastors and are so grateful that their son or daughter has been returned home safely that they want to give a donation or more importantly they want to hear more about the Street Pastors or the Churches they come from.

The Police have funds to give for Street Pastors as they recognise the fact that petty crime and some more serious assaults are reduced when the Street Pastors are on the High Street. So have a think! Could you sit in the Hub at SBC and pray whilst the Street Pastors are out on the High Street? Could you pick up on the training and become a Street Pastor? Could you donate towards uniform, lollies and flip flops?? We can all play some part in reaching out to the darker corners of the High Street and shining the Light of Christ as a beacon of Hope.

The Street Pastors team in Sittingbourne closed over the period of Covid19 and Andrew came to the realisation that they could not carry on without a full committee supporting the actual street teams. Also that there had to be a commitment from Churches Together in Sittingbourne to support and promote the work of the Street Pastors. It has taken some time to get a new committee—but that has happened, the finances had to be signed over. There is quite a Fund pot available for training and uniform and supporting the active teams. The Police are all in favour of SP restarting, the council are all in favour of SP restarting.

Ian and the rest of the Committee would like to invite you to an information evening on October 4th to see if you can play a part in the care and protection they offer to Sittingbourne High Street. Come to the Hub at 7pm and find out more!

Notes from Limitless! Part Two– following on from the notes published in the September Magazine

Pruning

Why do gardeners prune? Maintain plant health/Control growth.
Encourage production/Transform the shape/Rejuvenation/Protection.

Applying this to God's Action in our own lives:-

When in a season of pruning:

Promises – stand on promises in scripture.

Practicalities – acknowledge the season, build healthy rhythms, choose thankfulness, get support.

Preparation – strengthen roots for later.

Peace doesn't come from understanding, it comes from trusting.

A Healthy relationship with an imperfect church - deconstruction

What creates your world view? Age, background, class, gender, race, life experiences, etc.

Deconstruction – critical dismantling of traditions.

Why is there a spike in deconstruction?

Loss of trust in large institutions and authority.

More diverse and accessible world.

Christians are burning out.

Focus on conformity over unity.

Conformity or unity? Theologies can be 'in blood' (non-negotiable), 'in pen' (firm) or 'in pencil' (flexible).

How do we deal with deconstruction?

Theological reflection:

What is going on? What is the issue?

Why is it going on? Why is it an issue?

What should be going on? What does scripture say?

How do we respond?

The digital world

5.35 billion internet users worldwide.

25% of 5-7 year olds (in the UK) have their own smartphone.

6.5 hours spent online every day on average.

Self harm in girls increased 78% since 2010.

Your phone changes your:

Identity and expression.

Memory and cognitive ability.

Physical presence and communication.

Habits and behaviours.

Phones/digital world create:

Social deprivation – less time in person with friends.

Sleep deprivation – quantity and quality.

Attention fragmentation – constant notifications destroy ability to stay on task.

Addiction – phones used in same way as slot machine gambling (dopamine hit)

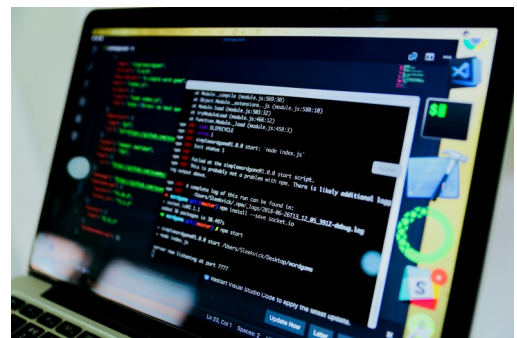
Consequences for well-being and relationships.

Where do we go from here? Reason in the synagogue, reason in the marketplace (go where the people are).

Use the tools but guard your heart.

Be the master of your digital usage.

Remember what the goal is.





Understanding the truth of your calling A NEW Bible Study series



Like Nothing Else

What are the things that are generally considered to be the most important in the world today: Politics, education, work, health, financial stability?
What if God had called you to something greater than the things outlined above? Would you accept that calling, would you want to know and understand more of what God is calling you to do? We all live our lives according to what we believe and order our lives to what we most hold dear, where we are free to do so.

Being part of something greater

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

As we delve into this new Bible study series, we will take a closer look at what it means to be called of God.

What a privilege it is to be chosen by God for ministry in his kingdom, and if you have a professing faith of Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, that includes you.

It is without doubt *the* most important work going on in our world and culture today.

The world may currently seem a very dark place, but is it really that different from the time of the first century Christians, who heeded God's call?

God is calling us. What is he calling us to? Is it simply to attend church on a Sunday, or something more?

Hints and Clues

The previous two articles in the August and September church magazines, were not just random themes. Rather they were looking ahead and were intended to provide a glimpse of the upcoming new Bible study series.

Some of the things covered in this series

The primary and general focus is understanding the scriptural evidence and meaning of the call of God on our lives. Then later, what that looks like in the context of the church and its impact on the world.

We will use the scriptures found in 1 Peter, which will form the foundation of our study. This will lead us (in context) to other scriptures in 1 Corinthians and Ephesians. We will also look at the book of Genesis, to help us understand the foundation of our study and realise the consistency of God's Word throughout the Bible.

The first study session....

Tuesday 8th October – 7.30 pm. Meeting in the lounge

This could be one of the most important Bible study series' yet, because it directly affects Christians and the church of TODAY.

Come along, bring your Bible and note-taking materials, and let us study the Holy Scriptures together.

Birthday Scheme-A Thank you letter from BMS

For anyone who has taken part in the Birthday scheme returning an envelope to Violet May with some cash or a cheque in—we have received a thank you from the BMS who receive the money and use it globally to help various projects. With a thank you for our most recent gifts totalling £115 Vi received a letter all about the support BMS had been able to give one young chap from Nepal.

Kamal is from the Surkhet district in the West of Nepal. As a young baby his parents noticed that his development was a little slower than expected. They were worried and spent their savings trying to find a diagnosis of what could be holding him back. Thanks to BMS Kamal's parents received the support they needed to discover he had Cerebral Palsy.

Since the diagnosis his Mum has been to a nine day camp with him and has had training in activities which will help Kamal to develop at his own pace.

His Mum Mina now knows different techniques to feed Kamal so he can digest his food more easily and benefits from better nutrition.

At the nine day Cerebral Palsy camp Mina learnt that she is not alone and should not be excluded from activities and can fellowship with other parents. She's also now better equipped to care for Kamal and help him to have the best chance at developing and growing into all God has created him to be.

No matter how big or small our gift is the money can always be used to support others. So many countries live in poverty that our money goes a long way to helping others in need.

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!

So far for October I have **Roger on the 27th!!**



One special mention was for Devina and Barry who missed the September magazine but had their wedding anniversary on Friday 27th September— 55 years. We want to congratulate them and have them in our love and prayers. So Happy Anniversary to Devina and Barry for last week.

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the November Magazine. The deadline will have to be 27th October. Then we can all pray for you too.

Rewrite of Psalm 23 as the Pilot Psalm— please pray for all of those who are seafarer's and the absence from their families. Our service on September 29th 6.30pm will focus on the Sailor's Society.

The Pilot Psalm- Psalm 23

adapted by Captain John H Roberts 1874

The Lord's my Pilot; I shall not drift. He lights me across the dark waters;

He steers me in deep channels;

He keeps my Log.

He guides me by the star of holiness for his name's sake.

Even though I sail amid the thunder and tempest of life, I will dread no danger, for you are near me; Your love and your care, they shelter me. You prepare a harbour before me in the homeland of eternity; You anoint the waves with oil, and my ship rides calmly.

Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take, And I will rest in the port of our God forever.

OCTOBER 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Private event in Lounge 7:30pm Deacons' Meeting-Hub	2 1:30pm & 7:15pm Housegroups 6-7pm Scout Visit in Sanctuary	3 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band 7:30-9pm Choir Practise	4 9:30am Pastoral Team 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Lounge 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7pm Street Pastor's Open Evening- Hub	5 10am-12noon Contact Centre 1pm-2:30pm Evangelism Team 2-4pm Crochet Group in the	6th 10am prayer in Hub 10:30am Morning service- "It all starts with One" Rev Nathan Gordon - our service includes Baptism 6:30pm -Alan Cole Communion Service- "Where is God when I feel lonely?"
7 10:00am-noon A.B.C.	8 8am Early Prayer 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Choir in Lounge 7:30pm Digging Deeper	9 8am Early Prayer 7:30pm Welcome Team Meeting- Lounge	10 8am Early Prayer 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 10:45am Focus on Faith- Wood-stock 2pm Care Home 6:30pm Bright Hour Youth Band	11 8am Early Prayer 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Lounge 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	12 10am-12noon Contact Centre 1pm-2:30pm Evangelism Team- debrief 1-5pm Men's Fellowship- sanctuary	13 10 am Prayer in Hub 10:30am - Morning service- "Can I really trust an old book with my life?" Rev Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Stories of faith
14 10:00am-noon A.B.C.	15 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Private event in Lounge	16 1:30pm & 7:15pm Housegroups	17 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band	18 12Noon Kieran and Savannah's Wedding- all welcome to the service 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	19 10am-12 noon Contact Centre	20 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am-Morning Service - "Am I really lost if I know where I am going in Life?" Rev Nathan Gordon & Communion 6:30pm Praise & Worship
21 10:00am-noon A.B.C.	22 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Private event 7:30pm Deacons meeting	23 7:30pm Church Prayer Meeting in Lounge	24 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 10:45am Wood-stock 2pm Care Home 6:30pm Youth Band	25 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Lounge 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	26 10am-12 noon Contact Centre	27 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am -All-age service- Led by the Youth Band and Ricky 3:30pm The Encounter Prayer
28 Half Term no ABC	29 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10am-noon Private event in Lounge	30 2:30pm Pine Lodge Care 7:30pm Preachers Meeting- Nathan	31 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16			

