



Happy 160th Birthday Photos!



Thankyou to everyone who prayed and planned and prepared.
Nathan rededicated SBC to following God's Will for us in this place. We continue to seek and to save the lost of Sittingbourne for another 160 years at least!! Or until He comes- Hallelujah! Let His will rule and reign over your heart in all you do to serve Him.



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**



**RICHARD
SILLS
Responsible for
Safeguarding**



**HYLKO
ZINGSTRA
TREASURER**

As of December 31st 2026 Adrian, David, Lisa and Richard are standing down after completing a 3 year term (or 6 years in some cases.) They are due at least a year of 'rest' before they consider whether to stand again for nomination in the future. Please carry them in your prayers and we join as a membership to thank them for their service over the past years.

Services for the month of October

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
4th	"Just a good book or so much more?" Rev Nathan Gordon	How the Bible addresses the Old Earth/ New Earth argument— Alan Cole 
11th	"Can I trust what I can't see?" Ricky Grosvenor (Youth Pastor)	Stories of Faith Testimony Service
18th 	—"Who is responsible for disasters?!" - Rev Nathan Gordon + Communion	Praise and Worship Evening
25th 	Youth Led service	The Encounter—Music and Prayer

And now for one of those official bits!!

Our Deacons elections will be held on Sunday 25th October in the church members meeting after the Sunday service.

There are postal votes available for Deacon's elections— please speak to Cresta or Bev if you require one. These should be returned to Cresta no later than Noon on October 25th so that they may be included in the vote count.

The current church rules state

9. ***The church shall be served by not less than four and not more than twelve elected deacons***. They shall not be under 21 years of age and shall be baptised church members. They shall have been members of Sittingbourne Baptist Church for at least one year. They shall be elected by ballot. A third of their number (or such as shall secure the retirement of all deacons every three years) shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. Nominations for the office shall be sent to the Church Administrator in writing, signed by a proposer and seconder, not less than **four** weeks before the election is to take place, Notice of the election must be given at public worship on the two Sundays preceding the church meeting. Nominees standing as deacons must receive the support of over **66%** of the eligible members voting to be elected. Please see below the list of Nominees for election 25th October 2026. The term of the successful candidates will be January 2027 to December 2029.

Nominee	Proposer	Secunder
Grahame Atkinson	Clara Rufai	Yemi Oseyemi
Jan Burton	Sonia Town	Alan West
Joe Mwanza	Grahame Atkinson	Phil Town
Kudakwashe Osoba	Clara Rufai	Cresta Durojaiye
Lewis Smith	Lacy Charlton	Nicola Hasan
Alan West	Nicola Hasan	Huseyin Hasan
Hylko Zingstra	Adrian Cheesman	Beverley Sills

Stationery not stationary! Notes from the Office...

Dear Everyone!

Yet more thanks!! For September thank you to everyone who moved Heaven and Earth— well the sound system outside to begin the month with our special Anniversary service! Thank you to all who added a few minutes onto their parking on the 13th to stay and vote for Ricky. Please continue to support him in prayer as he begins his studies with the South East Baptist Association— he will spend a Saturday every 6-8 weeks in Ashford on a brand new SEBA Ministry course. Thank you to everyone who helps with the 'mechanics' of a Baptism service— a little bit easier since the pieces were freshly edged— Thank you to Bradley. Thank you to our youth who continue to practice and to grow us all as they minister to us on the 4th Sunday morning. We are really blessed to see new faces coming through the doors every week— have a read of the 2nd part of the article by J. John on page 7 to give a nudge to speak to someone. We can all be shy but speaking to someone makes such a difference! Thank you last, but not least, to the nominees listed above who have agreed to serve on the Diaconate for the next three years if they are elected. Please pray for them all and for the roles they will take up on the leadership team. Please pray for Nathan too—17th September saw him complete his 4th year as Minister here. We give thanks for all the Blessings we have shared in that time, hold him and Anna and Alessia in your prayers.



God Bless, Bev Sills

Did you know.....

In each of the book in the Old Testament

Jesus is revealed



Psalms – Shepherd
 Proverbs – Wisdom
 Ecclesiastes – Meaning of Life
 Song of Solomon – Loving Bridegroom
 Isaiah – Prince of Peace

Genesis – Jesus is the Seed of the Woman
 Exodus – Passover Lamb
 Leviticus – High Priest
 Numbers – Cloud by Day and Fire by Night
 Deuteronomy – Prophet Like Moses
 Joshua – Commander of the Lord's Army
 Judges – Judge and Law Giver
 Ruth – Kinsman Redeemer
 Samuel – Prophet of the Lord
 Kings – Reigning King
 Chronicles – Glorious Temple
 Ezra – Faithful Scribe
 Nehemiah – Rebuilder of Everything
 Broken
 Esther – Mordecai
 Job- Ever Living Redeemer

Jeremiah – Righteous Branch
 Lamentations – Weeping Prophet
 Ezekiel- Son Of Man
 Daniel – Fourth Man In The Fire
 Hosea – Faithful Husband
 Joel- Outpouring Of The Holy Spirit
 Amos – Burden Bearer
 Obadiah- Mighty Saviour
 Jonah – Great Evangelist
 Micah- Everlasting Ruler, Born In Bethlehem
 Nahum – Avenger of God's Elect
 Habakkuk – Watchman
 Zephaniah- Restorer Of The Remnant
 Haggai – Cleansing Fountain
 Zachariah – The One Who Pierced Us
 Malachi – Son of Righteousness With Healing In His Wings
 AMEN!!

As you read through your Bible, look out for the references to 'The Lord' and all the different names applied– as you can see from this list the thread is from beginning to end.

For Those Not on Social Media

Over the past week, SBC posted seven devotional readings entitled "The Bridge" on Facebook and Instagram. Each reading was presented by a different member of the church, creating a continuous journey through the week. It is worth looking through the Bible verses which were shared.

The Biblical Thread

Ricky opened the series with Romans 12:1–2, and each day's reading built on the theme.

1 Corinthians 12:20–21 reminds us that, although the body of Christ has many parts, no part can say to another—whether hand, eye, ear, or otherwise—"I do not need you."

Ephesians 4 then developed this theme, first through verse 14 and then verses 4–5. The chapter focusses on oneness, unity, and Christlike relationships. We cannot urge people to follow the one Gospel and enter the one Kingdom unless that unity is visible in the fellowship of believers.

Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another." John 13v35

Intentional Unity

The devotional then returned to the Old Testament. **Psalms 133:1–3** portrays unity as life-giving, powerful, and refreshing—like oil that helps the fellowship work together smoothly. Unity must also be intentional. As **Amos 3:3** teaches, two people do not walk together unless they intend to do so and communicate with one another.

Finally, **1 Corinthians 1:10** gives this appeal: "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought."



Following on from our Worship Event last year Ricky has been gathering support and we are having another one this year. This one includes other churches around Sittingbourne. Please

come to the Worship event in the Sanctuary and young people—bring your parents!

If you have younger members in the family there will be a light party running upstairs for all children of school years 1-6.

In the run up to the event Ricky and a team will be out on the High Street publicising the event and Sharing

testimonies . If you wish to be involved with this please speak to Ricky or Flavie .

As a 'by the way', Flavie heads up the Outreach team and lots of things outside the four walls so do chat to her if you would like to join in at any time of year. No doubt we will be outdoors again in the run up to Christmas too!

Details about October events mentioned on page 6. Don't miss out! Take a photo of these pages and you will have everything you need stored on your phone!



SPECIAL MENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Saturday October 10th

Quiz and Live Music
7-9pm in the Church Lounge

Women in Prayer– October 14th
7.30pm in the Hub

24th October 1-4pm
"Fight or Flight"
Men's Conference
Guest speaker Mark Stevens

Saturday 31st October
Celebrate the Light not the Darkness
Youth Worship Event
plus Children's Party

As part of our safeguarding policy we have to maintain DBS checks on everyone who volunteers at church particularly 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!

Some are overdue– please make an appointment soon if Roger has been in touch!!

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

Office update from Bev!!

August 9th 2026 was my 7 year work anniversary– I started in the office with Marion on 5th August 2019 and then she left on the 9th! I was on my own!

Since then I kept on the Wednesday evening shift and thought that if anyone was working then they could come in and have a DBS done. Sometimes it was a good time to meet about health and Safety etc.

As the Winter looms I asked if I could change my hours to be spread out over four days and not turn out at 4.30pm through another Winter. The leadership team have kindly agreed this. The new working hours for the office manager are

Monday 8.55-4

Tuesday 8.55-4

Thursday 8.55-4

Friday 8.55– 2

} In all of these there is a 20 minute lunch break - quite

often taken clumped together on a Thursday or Friday!!

This 'new regime' starts from October. I will still be there at any church meeting which take place on a Wednesday evening and will take time off somewhere else along the line. **If anyone cannot get in during these working hours for a DBS check then we can work out an appointment on another day.**

I will get round to changing this on all the documentation which comes out of the Office but I wanted to let everyone know clearly what was going on– I would hate to look like I just wasn't showing up!

Thank you so much for all of your support ,
With love and prayers for all at SBC,
God Bless, Bev

Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions!



October

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the November Magazine– The deadline will have to be 28th October. Then we can all pray for you too.

8th

Pray for our former Minister Chris Hughes!

Who Would Feel Welcome with Us? Part 2 from last Month.

(Carrying on from where we left off last month....)

I hope so. Because if sinners aren't welcome, none of us can come in. The church doesn't have a VIP entrance, because the ground is level at the cross. The gospel contains one of the greatest words in the English language: 'Come.

Jesus says, 'Come to me . . . Come and see . . . If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me . . .' And on almost the final page of the Bible, 'The Spirit and the bride say, "Come"' (Revelation 22:17 NLT).

The Bible begins with humanity hiding from God. It ends with God inviting humanity home. Come. What a word.

Come with your questions. Come with your doubts. Come with your failures. Come with your wounds. Come with your history. Come with your hopes. Come with your mess. Come to Jesus.

Because Jesus says, 'Whoever comes to me I will never drive away' (John 6:37 NIV). Never. Not reluctantly, not suspiciously, not after you've passed an examination. 'I will never drive away.' What a Saviour. What a gospel. What a welcome.

Welcome is ministry. A handshake can be ministry. A smile can be ministry. Remembering someone's name can be ministry. Making space at your table can be ministry. Walking across a church foyer to speak to the person standing alone can be ministry. Inviting the outsider in can be ministry.

Perhaps our churches don't merely need better preaching, better programmes and better publicity. Perhaps sometimes we simply need a better welcome, because in a world increasingly divided into us and them, the church has an opportunity to demonstrate something radically different.

A table with another chair. A door held open. A hand extended. A smile freely given. A sinner embraced. A stranger becoming a friend. And over the doorway, one word: WELCOME!

Because that is what God has done for us. We were outsiders. He brought us in. We were strangers. He made us family. We were sinners. He called us friends. We were far away. He brought us near.

Those who have been welcomed by grace should become specialists in welcoming others.

'Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God' (Romans 15:7 ESV).



No theological degree required. No microphone necessary. No special training course needed. Just an open heart, an open hand and an open door. After all, we are not the hosts at God's table. We are guests who have been asked to welcome the other guests.

Maybe that's the test of Christian welcome. Not simply, 'Do you belong here?' but, 'How can I help you discover that there is room for you here?'

In a world with plenty of walls, perhaps the church could become known again for its doors. Open doors. Open hearts. Open arms. And one wonderful word: Welcome. Come in. There's room for you.

(From J. John via Adrian)

(Historic image of West Germans helping East Germans over the Berlin wall)

OCTOBER 2026

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band 6:30pm First Steps Bible Study in Hub 7.15pm Ladies Only AA meeting — sofa room	2 9.30am-11.30am Café 3:16 9:30am Pastoral team 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	3 10am-12 noon Contact Centre	4 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am "Just a good book or so much more?" Nathan 6:30pm Evening Communion- How the Bible addresses the Old Earth/ New Earth argument— Alan Cole
5 10-12 ABC 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	6 8-9am Early Prayers 10-12 Choir 7.30pm Deacon's Meeting	7 8-9am Early Prayers 1:30pm Bible study -Lounge 7pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Bible Study	8 8-9am Early Prayers 10.45 Faith Talks at Woodstock care home 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm First steps Bible Study— hub 6.30pm Youth Band 7.15pm Ladies Only AA meeting — sofa room	9 8-9am Early Prayers 9:30am-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory Girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9 Underground	10 10am-12noon Contact Centre 11-1 Outreach on High St. 1-2.30pm Feed-back 7-9pm Quiz & Live Music in Church	11 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am - "Can I trust what I can't see?" Ricky 6:30pm Stories of Faith
12 10-12 ABC 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	13 10am-12pm Choir	14 7.30pm Women in prayer -Hub	15 9am Churches together 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm First steps Bible Study— hub 6.30pm Youth Band 7.15pm Ladies Only AA meeting — sofa room	16 9:30am Pastoral team meeting 9.30-11.30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory Girls 5-6.30 JAM Club 7-9 Underground	17 10am-12 noon Contact Centre	18 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am —"Who is responsible for disasters?!" -Nathan and Communion 6:30pm Praise & Worship
19 10-12 ABC 7:15-8:30pm A.A. Recovery	20 10-12pm Choir 7.30pm Deacon's Prayer time	21 1:30pm Bible Study-Lounge 7:15pm Bible Study— hub 7pm Youth Bible Study— church lounge	22 10.45am Woodstock Care Home 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm First steps Bible Study— hub 6.30pm Youth Band 7.15pm Ladies Only AA meeting — sofa room	23 9.30-11.30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory Girls 5-6.30 JAM Club 7-9 Underground	24 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 1-4pm Men's Event "Fight or Flight?" Mark Stevens speaker	25 10 am Prayer in Hub 10:30am Youth led with Baptisms Church Members Meeting & A.G.M. after morning service 6:30pm The Encounter
26 NO ABC 7:15-8:30pm A.A.Recovery 7pm Writer's Group— Hub	27 10-12pm Choir 7-8pm Prayer meeting for Women's Conference in Lounge/ Sanctuary	28 2:30pm Pine Lodge Care Home service 7.30pm Whole Church Prayer Meeting	29 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm First Steps Bible Study-Hub 6:30pm Youth Band 7.15pm Ladies Only AA meeting — sofa room	30 9:30am Pastoral team meeting 9:30-11:30am Café 12-2pm Glory girls	31 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 6.30pm Youth event & Children's Light Party	

