



November 2025

Dear SBC Family,

Thank you is insufficient to say the least!

Anna and I are deeply grateful for the love, care, prayers, and support you've shown over these past nine months. Our journey to the birth of Alessia, as you know, had its challenges, and we look forward to sharing more at the upcoming testimony service on 9th Nov. (Not-so-shameless plug) We truly believe that without God and our church family, we could not have made it through this time.



When I arrived as your Youth Pastor in 2016, I quickly understood one of the standout qualities of SBC was the love and concern for one another we share. We must endeavour to protect this Christlike quality and fruit of the Spirit at all costs! The devil will always seek to create havoc and bring division amongst the fellowship, but we are wise to his devices because we walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. So let us continue to foster the Christlike qualities of love, concern, and forgiveness amongst the fellowship so that harmony and peace will be our testimony, not strife and bitterness.

Finishing Strong As 2025 draws to a close and Christmas approaches, it may be tempting to focus solely on planning for 2026. In my role within the church, I often look ahead, but my



recent experience after Alessia's birth reminded me of the importance of being present. Each day is a new opportunity to glorify God, live intentionally, and let Christ's love shine through us in practical ways.

It's not how you start that's important, but how you finish! – This well-known saying is not found verbatim in the sacred texts of the Scriptures, but the premise and principle are found throughout the Bible. You don't have to have it all together or have everything in life sorted to be effective in the Kingdom of God. King David

started out tending his father's sheep and was even overlooked by his father, yet he went on to become one of the greatest kings in Israel's history despite his faults and shortcomings. Saul started as a chief protagonist of the Christian church, making it his primary focus to destroy the church of Jesus Christ, but would inevitably go on to write 13 books of the New Testament and become one of the most prolific church planters of the first century. Peter was known as a humble fisherman who would sink so low as to deny his friend three times, yet he went on to preach on the opening day of the church (Pentecost), and 3,000 responded to the Gospel and were saved. Fast forward to the 21st century, and God is still changing stories, transforming lives, renewing hope, restoring families, and reviving destinies. There are countless examples, even within our church family, that remind us: it's not how you start in life; by the grace of God, He can make something beautiful out of our lives.

As we approach the final two months of 2025, if you find yourself feeling dismayed and frustrated with your progress so far this year, please don't write the year off just yet. Whatever changes need to be made, you can start right now through prayer and faith in action; you don't have to wait until 2026. In the words of the famous Nike slogan-"Just do it!"-start reading your Bible more now, start praying more now, and start serving in the church now. Wait until the new year, you may be thinking? Well, Jesus taught us in **Matthew 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Today has enough trouble of its own.**

Collectively as a church family as we approach the close of 2025, let's finish strong, if you haven't got to a prayer meeting so far consider attending one, if you haven't attended a midweek group all year, consider participating, if you haven't been as involved in the life of the church, don't wait, hesitate or procrastinate – start right now in Jesus' Name and allow God to add some interesting chapters to your life just like David, Paul, Peter and countless others who were bold to finish strong!

God bless you all, Nathan Gordon



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



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 November. Picking up the Jesus Life theme.

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
2nd	"Faithful in the Fire" Rev Dave Baxter	"The church that persevered" Alan Cole 
9th 	"What does the OT have to do with life today?" Rev Nathan Gordon Remembrance Sunday 	Stories of Faith Testimony Evening
16th	"What would Jesus do with Anger?" Nathan Compassion Sunday	Praise and Worship Service
23rd	4th Sunday Service all together— Ricky and team	The Encounter—Music and Prayer
30th	"Is it OK to think it if I don't do it?" Rev Nathan Gordon	Mission Evening

Stationery not stationary! Notes from the Office.....



With Autumn in full flow it is easy to want to hibernate– however we are warned not to give up the habit of meeting together. To help everyone with that there are 5 Sundays in November and our full range of services!

Church members have the important job of praying for the leadership team and praying for those who have been nominated and have agreed to stand as deacons. Nominations have closed and the names of those who have been proposed and seconded are shown below. They have also signed to say that they are eligible to stand as a deacon as they are also the Trustees of our charitable status.

The AGM and the regular church meeting will follow the morning service on 23rd November. This is the 4th Sunday and the youth have promised to finish promptly as close to 11.30am as is possible!

It has been suggested that if you intend to stay for the church meeting, you could bring a snack to have with your tea and coffee after the service. This is not a bring and share; as we know at SBC that can bloom into so much more! Just a little something to tide yourself over.

Please can everyone who heads up a department/group of the church send their written report to Bev in the office by 20th November. These can be compiled into our annual report booklet and will save so much time on the actual day. The Minister's, the Youth, The Treasurer's and the Administrator's will be read out at the AGM.

As we head towards December please start to pray for everyone you could invite to the special services– a reminder 14th December will be the Children and Youth presentation and the evening service on 21st will be the Carols by Candle light Service with one or two special activities throughout the month.

The Deacon's Election will be held during the Church Members Meeting after the morning church service 23rd November 2025– 4 places available.

If you require a postal voting form please ask Cresta Durojaiye, our Administrator, for one and return it by the deadline of 10.30am on Sunday 23rd November. Each church member may cast only one vote.

Nominee	Proposer	Second
Paul Blake	Roger Hinton	Margaret Beach
Flavie Balliet	Alan West	Nicola Hasan

Our Deacons are elected to serve the fellowship but also hold the legal position of Trustees for the Charitable status of SBC.

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 - Building Relationships



Seeing the Sights together!

During half term week the Youth took a trip to London Town! Spending time together builds up the relationships amongst the group— great to see so many who have only just gone up to Yr 7 enjoying time with the 'older' group. Fellowship, encouragement and friendship are so important. Praise God for the Youth and children we have in the church fellowship-

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." — 1 John 1:7

Your First Love

Do you remember your "First Love"? Well I do, and I could write a lot about it, but this isn't about my first "human" love, more about my first real love. As we come to the end of our Evening Communion service theme, "The letters to the Churches", Jesus said that the church in Ephesus, Revelation chapter 2, "*You have lost **Your First Love***".

David Casse in his Morning "stand alone" sermon in September chose to preach on Revelation. When Chris Hughes came to preach, he also chose Revelation. This got me thinking. Are we so used to our Christianity, that we have become normalised to it. Have we.... **Lost our First Love**.

We may have come from different walks of life, and from different church fellowships. I for one come from the Anglican tradition. You may have been a "Baptist" all your Christian life, so do you love the church more than Jesus? I ask that question because I still like bits of Anglicanism rather than the Baptist way of doing things. So, have I "lost my First Love"? I don't think I have. Have you "lost your First Love"? Only you can answer that for yourself.

Jesus should be our **First Love**, because HE.... "**First Loved Us**".
Yours, in HIS love and grace, *Grahame*.

Sweet Charity

¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.¹¹When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹²For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. ¹³And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

King James Version 1 Corinthians 13v1-13

Sometimes looking at a Bible verse in different translations of the Bible brings new meaning and freshness and this lovely passage has that refreshed meaning, looking at it in the older language of the KJV. November seems to be the Charity month of the year— a quick search on the internet gives you a list of physical and mental activities to get involved with:-

1st November – The Vegan Society [World Vegan Day](#)

1st to 30th November – Movember Foundation [Men's Health Awareness Month](#);

1st to 30th November – British Lung Foundation [Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#);

14th November – Diabetes UK [World Diabetes Day](#)

17th November – [BBC Children in Need](#);

17th November – BLISS [World Prematurity Day](#)

20-26th November – Brake [Road Safety Week](#);

28th November – Charities Aid Foundation [Giving Tuesday](#)

Over the years folk from the fellowship have walked over lots of London Bridges, sported a fake moustache— Kuda!! Knitted for 30 minutes each day (That seems only a short time!) and raised sponsorship and funds in many ways.

This year we will do a little something at ABC ready for Children in Need— For those of you with children at school I am sure there will be opportunities to cover many of these items too. Maybe in September you supported a Macmillan coffee morning or have already knitted for Dementia in October or gave to the BMS appeal we had for Harvest Sunday. Our Charity is our love in action.

As individual humans we have limited funds, limited time, limited capabilities—Our God is an awesome God and none of those limits apply to Him. So in this month of worldly charitable acts seek after God's heart to show you what he wants you to do to put his Love into action. It may be a brand new venture; it may be that you volunteer for something outside of church and find a new group of friends to witness to; it may be that you volunteer for something new or new to you within the church. Ask God to give you new eyes and ears to see and hear the needs he is bringing to your attention. Be open. Be willing, God can use anyone for good. Maybe it is something for a season/specific time like the Senior's meal helping to serve, maybe it is the Youth Alpha hosted by SBC starting in January 2026 or maybe it is something brand new to us all that God lays on your heart.

John 4v 17-19 from The Message translation of the Bible tell us.....

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ God is love. When we take up permanent residence in a life of love, we live in God and God lives in us. This way, love has the run of the house, becomes at home and mature in us, so that we're free of worry on Judgment Day.....¹⁹ We, though, are going to love—love and be loved. First we were loved, now we love. He loved us first..

Just as I am without one Plea.

As we read the words of Paul's testimony below I was reminded of the hymn which played as I walked forward to give my life to Jesus. It was a popular accompaniment to an appeal from the Minister for many years. It was also used as folk made their commitment at many of the Billy Graham Crusades and provided the title for Billy's autobiography. It was written by Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England (1789–1871). Charlotte was invalided in her youth and for the remainder of her life suffered pain and weakness. This often meant she was left out of the busy-ness of church life. Her brother the Rev H V Elliott had established a school for children of clergymen in Brighton. They were hoping to raise funds with a sale of work in the school Hall. For weeks Charlotte was unable to participate in the preparations due to her weakness. The night before the sale of work she was restless and wept before God because of her perceived uselessness.



The next day, the busy day of the bazaar, she lay upon her sofa... The troubles of the night came back upon her with such force that she felt they must be met and conquered in the grace of God. She gathered up in her soul the great certainties, not of her emotions, but of her salvation: her Lord, his power, his promise.

Physically Charlotte could not be involved in the hustle and bustle of Victorian life but her hymn was soon published in "The Invalid's Hymn Book" and then continued right through the next century and into the 21st century featuring in times of commitment and dedication. We all have times when we recognize our own weakness— we can be sure of the strength of God's Love for us and the certainty of our salvation. All we have to do is be willing to repeat the last line and God will do the rest— O Lamb of God, I come.

Paul Holland was baptised last month and shared his testimony by poem and there were so many requests to have it repeated I have it here for you!

My Testimony: A Friend Forever

I walked roads both wide and long,
Surrounded, yet I felt so wrong.
So many faces, laughs and names, but
none could quiet the hidden flames.

I joked, I smiled, I played my part,
Still I carried a heavy weight inside my heart.
They cared, they tried, but couldn't see
The empty space that lived within me.

I searched for love that wouldn't fade,
No bond no storm could ever break
But every friendship seemed to bend or break
When hard times came or seasons end.

One night in silence, still and deep,
I tossed, I prayed I couldn't sleep
I whispered soft "God are you near?"
And in the dark-His voice was clear.

Not Thunder loud, no glaring lights,
But Peace that broke my longest night.
He spoke my name, He knew my soul,
And slowly, gently made me whole.

Jesus my Saviour, Friend and Guide.
The One who walks close by my side.
He'll never leave, through every fall,
He will hear my cries and love me through all.

Now I can say, with my heart set free,
No greater friend will ever be. He
stays, He heals, He understands-
His love is sure, His nail scarred hands.

So, I smiled to hide the pain, And I've
searched for love that felt vain— And
now I know there is a way. His Name
is Jesus. He is here to stay.

Just as I am – without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
spot,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – though toss'd about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

Just as I am – of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height
to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
– O Lamb of God, I come!

We have here an old hymn and in Paul's
words a modern equivalent– each gives the
same message God will not fail us. It does
not matter how much we fail him.

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!

November

1st Hus

2nd Liz Sute...

12th Anna G

21st Nathan

23rd Margaret P

27th Jade G

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for
the December Magazine–

The deadline will have to be 26th November ready
for the weekend publication Then we can all pray for
you too.



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

**Still not too late to sign
up for the Senior's meal
on Saturday November
the 8th– Hus will need to
know how many bangers
to bring so please do it
this weekend if you are
not already on the list!**

NOVEMBER 2025

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 1-2:30pm Outreach prayer time & planning	2 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am Morning service- Rev. Dave Baxter "Faithful in the Fire" 6:30pm-Alan Cole- "The Church that persevered" Evening Communion
3 10-12 noon A.B.C.	4 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 10am-noon Private event in Lounge 7:30pm Deacons' business meeting	5 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 1:30 & 7:15pm church based house group	6 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band	7 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	8 8-9am Early Prayer Meeting 10am-12noon Contact Centre 11am Outreach Lounge & Kitchen Seniors' Meal 7-9pm Christian singles	9 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am -Remembrance Sunday—Including Communion Matt 5 v17-20 Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Stories of faith—Bring your testimony to share
10 10-12 noon A.B.C.	11 10am-noon Private event in Lounge	12	13 10:45 am Woodstock service faith talks 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band 7:30pm SBC Choir	14 9:30am Pastoral team 9:30-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	15 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 9:30am Churches Together outreach in Jubilee Centre Central Avenue	16 10am Prayer in Hub 10:30am-Compassion Sunday Morning service 6:30pm -Praise & Worship
17 10-12 noon A.B.C.	18 10am-noon Private event in Lounge 7:30pm Deacons' prayer meeting	19 1:30 & 7:15pm Church based housegroup	20 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band	21 9:30am-11:30am Café 3:16 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	22 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 2pm Women in Prayer	23 10 am Prayer in Hub 10:30am -All age service- Church Members meeting & A.G.M. 6:30pm-The Encounter
24 10-12 noon A.B.C.	25 10am-noon Private event in Lounge 6pm onwards Street Pastors fellowship meal	26 2:20pm Pine Lodge service 7:30pm Church Prayer meeting	27 10:45am Woodstock service 2pm Bright Hour 6:30pm Youth Band 7:30-9 SBC Choir	28 9:30am-Pastoral 3:16 9:30-11:30am Café 12-2pm Glory girls 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	29 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 2pm Ladies afternoon tea- speaker Natalie Watson	30 10am Prayer in Hub "Is it O.K. to think it if I don't do it?"-Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Mission service