Sittingbourne Baptist Church

November 2026

This is an apology article!! It should have been in the AGM booklet but is making it's appearance here!!!!! Sorry Hus!



Ascension Trust – Christian Charity – Our Governing Body.

Our mission is to provide a non-judgemental, peaceful presence, demonstrating Gods love though action and support for anyone in need in the community.

To improve the quality of life for the disadvantaged and empowering individuals and churches to work together.

We thank God for our Ministry, for the Street Pastors Initiative and for allowing us to serve the people of Sittingbourne.

We thank God for a revival and the continued support from our local churches, the local authority, and the police.

We meet people where they are and look to provide:

Practical Support Listening Ear Safety & Guidance Building Relationships Being the '***Gospel in Action' & Church on the streets.***

We are a part of the wider Kent Street Pastor Teams of Dover, Ashford, Tonbridge, Canterbury, Whitstable, Maidstone, Medway and Gravesham.

Sittingbourne Street Pastor Co-Ordinator – Huseyin Hasan.

Sittingbourne Street Pastor Committee Chairman – Ian Stride.

Sittingbourne Street Pastor online lead – Nicola Hasan.

We relaunched Street Pastor Patrols in January 2025.

We have a full working committee from a number of churches in Sittingbourne who provide an oversite, manage safeguarding, finances and budgeting and assist in the overall management of the ministry.

In addition, we have ongoing support from Bev from SBC who assists with our DBS checks, sharing our patrol reports with all churches and is a massive support in all other areas, including providing us with small wooden crosses to share on the streets. A big thank you to Bev, we appreciate you.

In May 2026 we had our second annual Street Pastors Praise & Worship Awareness event at SBC. We hope to make this an annual event.

We have continued to have two patrols monthly which have now increased, as of October 2026, to three patrols per month by God's grace. The plan is for 2027 to have weekly patrols every weekend, usually Friday nights.



Minister
ATHAN GORDON

Also find Sittingbourne Baptist Church on Facebook and Instagram fo 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

The Church members appointed Lewis Smith, Joe Mwanza, Hylko Zingstra, Alan West and Grahame Atkinson last Sunday – they will commence their role as Deacons from Jan 1st 2027.

Services for the month of November

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
1st	"Creation is speaking ..are we listening?" Harvest and Communion Rev Nathan Gordon	"What questions do young people ask today?" Pt 1 Ricky Grosvenor
8th	"Can we really believe in the virgin birth?" Rev Nathan Gordon	Stories of Faith Testimony Service
15th	—"What does Jesus know about being human?"- Rev Nathan Gordon COMPASSION SUNDAY	Praise and Worship Evening with Communio
22nd	Family service	The Encounter—Music and Prayer
29th	"Can we believe Jesus is God?" Alan Cole	Mission Service- Fun with our very own Street Pastors!

Stationery not stationary! Notes from the Office..



Dear Everyone,
This month sees us pick up speed as we head towards our Christmas celebrations! If you haven't yet spoken to Linda Knowlton or David Casse and would like to join the choir for our Carols by Candlelight service do get in touch with them and let them know you are on board! Practices are usually Thursday at 8pm to give everyone time to get in from work. The fellas enjoyed their conference in October and we provided a celebration of Lightness on 31st where we joined in fellowship to worship the Kings of Kings rather than celebrating darkness.
In a fortnights time the younger adults have organised a worship evening to draw us all into fellowship on a Saturday night- do come along- have good sing as a warm up for all of the Carols in December. They are doing another Saturday in December so we can sing lots of Christmas songs without having to brave the elements outside! Check out the Christmas 'flyer' which has already been on socials and make sure you don't miss out.
Meanwhile in November we are celebrating Harvest a little late- the Envelopes are for the Baptist Missionary Society who support projects in different countries around the World. Please see the information on the envelope for full details. WE also have our Compassion Sunday whenour partner from Compassion will be joining us and bringing a selection of children linked to the project in Ecuador. SBC mainly supports children from the one specific project although some members do have adopted children in other places where Compassion are working.
Our next batch of goodies will travel to the Ukraine this month- thank you to all who have made contributions. We were missing shoeboxes but this has replaced that outlet for your wonderful generosity for those who are so much worse of than we are. Please continue to pray they will experience peace and safety from attack very soon. The prayers are what they need most of all.

God Bless, Bev Sills



You may have seen in the sermon notes that we are protecting Contact Centre from anyone else being on the premises. This is really significant for the team as they do have parents who are not allowed to be on the premises at the same time and so the doors need to be secure.They also need to check everyone in and everyone out- to that end the chain will be on from 9.30am to 12.15pm when everyone has left.
Please do not enter the church premises during Contact centre unless you have made a prior arrangment with Julie Matson our contact centre co-ordinator or Adrian the current link deacon. No-one should use the side fire door either- there are parents who would see this as an access point who should not be allowed in.
Thank you for your co-operation.



Over this past year we have also increased our trained Street Pastors from 5 to 14 and while 3 of these are on hold due to personal matters, this has been a significant increase. We also have 6 regular Prayer Pastors.

In Sittingbourne we made the choice to share the roles when necessary and are all wiling to cover for each other. This, in our view, strengthens the Ministry and the interactions and bonding between our volunteers creating a wonderful sense of unity.

On occasion SP Jackie brings along Bella and SP Julie brings along Bertie, their pet dogs, who are brilliant at engaging with people and allowing positive interactions while on patrol.

In addition to the above, Southeastern Rail requested Rail Pastors to patrol local trains and train stations across Kent on a monthly basis. This is in order to provide support in particular around anti-social behaviour and increased levels of suicide and suicide attempts on the railways. The Sittingbourne initiative have provided 3 Rail Pastors to the total of 30 across Kent.

Do we make a difference? – Yes, we listen, we help, we care and show God's love for his people on the streets through practical provision. By providing community support, by being a calming presence, collaborate and relieve pressure for the door staff and local Police. We have radio contact with the local CCTV team whereby we respond to requests for support and also feedback any area of concerns we identify to our partner agencies. We will give out flip flops to avoid cut feet, lolly pops and sweets provide a great distraction and can and have diffused anger and conflict. We provide drinks and food, foil blankets for the cold and sick bags for those who need them. We work with emergency services and are trained and have an increased awareness of drugs, alcohol and safeguarding which assist in community safety. We sit with and talk to rough sleepers, other vulnerable people, people with mental health concerns and in particular pay attention to any vulnerable females on our streets in a non-judgemental way.

We remove glass bottles and other potential weapons from the streets to prevent any being used as weapons and sweep up broken glass to avoid injuries to others.

With regards to crime reduction, it is reported that there are significant falls in violent crime and anti-social behaviour when we work in partnership. Street Pastors across the country are acknowledged as a part of this by way of being a visible presence, de-escalation and supporting our local police, local services and businesses, whilst increasing the safety and well-being of the community.

While on patrol, our wonderful Prayer Pastor team remain at the Hub at SBC. They provide prayers prior to and while we are on patrol. We have called in for specific prayers from those on our streets who have requested these. Without our Prayer Pastors, we would not be able to function effectively. Prayer is essential for our safety, guidance and protection.

After each patrol we provide a report to our committee, churches and partner agencies which provide and overview of the patrol.

Our accumulated totals to date for 2026 are as follows:



Approx positive and meaningful interactions with public: 260

Approx interactions with staff / partners agencies: 127

Vulnerable people assisted: 27

Bottles collected / cleaned up: 52

Given the very high numbers, we no longer keep a record of the drinks and confectionary we share with our community.

Alongside these we have many wonderful and enjoyable interactions with our young people who are generally curious as to our roles. They often ask us why we do this and they remain inquisitive as to why we would volunteer etc. This allows the team an opportunity to engage with them, show the work of God and also to invite them to Church.

Recruitment – If you are interested in joining this Ministry as either a Street or Prayer Pastor come and speak to Hus or Nicola or see our leaflets and posters in the lounge at SBC. A monthly commitment would be great, although bi-monthly would be considered.

Training – There are a total of 11 separate training sessions which Street Pastors are expected to complete within 18 months. These are Roles & Responsibilities, Safeguarding, First Aid, Prayer, Drugs & Alcohol, Police, Mental Health, Knowing your Community, Homelessness, Youth and Listening Skills.

Donations – A big thank you to all who continue to support us. While Street, Prayer and Rail Pastors are volunteers, we are self-funding and as such are reliant on donations for our insurance, licence, training, uniform, equipment and our co-ordinator. We do need ongoing financial support to maintain and grow the Street Pastors Ministry. Any donations would be greatly appreciated.

Please see our leaflets and posters for a QR code to scan.

Street Pastors bank details for direct contributions / standing orders.

Barclays

Street Pastors Sittingbourne

20-54-11

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Please take a look at our Sittingbourne Street pastors website, Like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram- Nicola has been working on the social media side of things and we are up to 527 followers!! This really helps with raising awareness.

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A poem and a Thought to share with you all- poem from Grahame's friend and thought from Kuda!

This was the last meal

that Jesus with His disciples shared,It was very significant

and showed how much He cared,

He used the symbols of bread and wine

as something they were very used to

,Bread to represent His body and wine His life blood too,

Jesus prepared this supper

wanting us regularly to take,

As a permanent reminde

a sacrifice we all must make,

For just as Jesus died for us

to save us from our sin,

We need to die for self

and let Him dwell within.

John Knight (Friend of Grahame)

23rd October 2026.

I was asked to share at Bright Hour and the Lord laid Exodus 14 v 14 on my heart, which says The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still. At this time the Israelites were fleeing from Egypt, and Pharoah and his army were drawing close. Their means of escape was limited by the Red Sea, and they were panicking. God then sends word that they just have to be still, He would do all the heavy lifting.

I know that still can mean being stationary and calm, while you wait for what God wants to do. But another way to look at it is being steadfast and still doing the good He asks you to do while you wait for His promises to be fulfilled. Are you still serving Him with diligence? Are you still looking after that difficult relative with love? Are you still showing up to your duties with faithfulness? Are you still giving what you can, expecting nothing back? Are you still ... (fill in as appropriate)?

While we are trusting God for the next step, let's make sure we remember to be still. (Kuda)



Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions!

November Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the December Magazine– The deadline will have to be 26th November. Then we can all pray for you too.

1st Hus
21st Nathan
23rd Margaret Pellatt
24th Doreen- it ends with an 0!!!!!
27th Jade G

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

Swale

This CAP Debt Help Centre is run in partnership with:
Holy Trinity Church, Sittingbourne
Swale Debt Coaches:



Wendy Martin
Debt Centre Manager

To take your first step out of debt, call our friendly New Enquiries team who will arrange your first appointment with your local Debt Coach.

Call 0800 328 0006

Our Freephone helpline is open:

- Monday to Thursday 9:30am to 5pm
- Friday 9:30am to 3:30pm

Calls are free from landlines and mobiles in the UK.

- Since Swale CAP started in 2018, it has helped clients clear over £750,000 of debts:
- So far in 2026, 9 clients have gone debt free.
- There are currently 18 clients being supported by CAP Swale
- 5 churches regularly support CAP, SBC, Holy trinity, Community church, Bobbing church and Hope church.
- CAP is hoping to provide Christmas hampers for clients again this years. SBC will be providing mince pies and chocolate. Please leave any contributions on the table in the large schoolroom. They will be passed onto CAP office in Holy Trinity Church in the first week of December

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1. 10-30am HARVEST COMMUNION am CREATION Rev Nathan Gordon 6-30pm "What Questions Do Young People Ask?" Ricky Grosvenor	**2.** 10-12Noon A.B.C. 7:15pm AA Recovery	**3.** 8-9 am EARLY PRAYERS 10-12Noon BOURNE TO SING	**4.** 8-9 am EARLY PRAYERS 1:30pm & 7:15pm HOUSEGROUP	**5.** 8-9 am EARLY PRAYERS 2pm BRIGHT HOUR 6:30pm YOUTH BAND 7 pm FIRST STEPS BIBLE STUDY-Hub 7:15pm LADIES ONLY AA. Sofa room	**6.** 8-9 am EARLY PRAYERS 9:30am Pastoral Meeting 9:30-11:30pm CAFÉ 12-2pm GLORY GIRLS 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm UNDERGROUND	**7.** 10-12Noon CONTACT CENTRE 1-2:30pm OUTREACH PRAYER & PLANNING
8. 10:30am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE "Can we really believe in the virgin birth?" Rev. Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Stories of faith.	**9.** 10-12 A.B.C. 7pm Writers' group 7:15pm AA Recovery	**10**. 10-12Noon BOURNE TO SING	**11.** 7:30-9pm Women in Prayer in Hub	12.10:45am Wood-stock Faith talks. 2pm BRIGHT HOUR 6:30pm YOUTH BAND 7pm FIRST STEPS BIBLE STUDY- Hub 7:15pm LADIES ONLY AA Sofa room	**13** 9:30-11:30 CAFÉ 12-2pm GLORY GIRLS 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm UNDERGROUND	**14**. 10-12Noon CONTACT CENTRE 11-1pm OUTREACH 1-2:30pm FEEDBACK 7pm Worship Evening The Sanctuary
15.10:30am "What does Jesus know about being human?" Compassion Sunday 6:30pm Praise & Worship & Communion	**16.** 10-12Noon A.B.C. 7:15pm AA Recovery	**17.** 10-12 BOURNE TO SING	**18.** 1:30pm HOUSEGROUP 7:15pm HOUSEGROUP	**19.** 2pm BRIGHT HOUR 6:30-7:30pm YOUTH BAND 7pm FIRST STEPS BIBLE STUDY-Hub 7:15pm LADIES ONLY AA Sofa room	**20.** 9:30am-11:30 CAFÉ 3:16 12-2pm GLORY GIRLS 5-6:30pmJAM CLUB 7-9pm UNDERGROUND	**21**. 10-12Noon CONTACT CENTRE 7-9pm CHRISTIAN SINGLES FELLOW-SHIP
22. 10:30am Family Service 6:30pm The Encounter	**23**. 10-12Noon A.B.C. 7:15pm AA Recovery	**24. 10-12** **BOURNE TO SING**	**25.** 2:30pm Pine Lodge care home service 7:30pm Church Prayer Meeting	**26**. 10:45am Wood-Stock Service 2pm BRIGHT HOUR 6-30pm Youth Band 7pm FIRST STEPS BIBLE STUDY-Hub 7:15pm LADIES ONLY Sofa Room	**27.** 9:30-11-30am CAFÉ 3:16 12-2-00pm GLORY GIRLS 5-6-30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm UNDERGROUND	**28**. 10-12Noon CONTACT CENTRE 2pm Afternoon Tea
29.10am Prayers in Hub 10-30am "Can we believe Jesus is God?" Alan Cole 6.30pm Mission Service	**30.** 10-12Noon A.B.C 7:15pm AA Recovery					