

Sittingbourne Baptist Church

January Magazine & Diary 2019



Happy New Year

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

A Happy New Year to all who will read this article; and once again thank you for your support and encouragement over the last 12 months.

I do not have a "crystal ball" to inform me what the New Year holds for us as a church, but what I can do is point you in the direction of three areas where I am convinced we will be deeply challenged in 2019!

Discipleship – As a church we seem to be better at "receiving" than "retaining" in that each year many people join, yet there is a certain amount of membership leakage. While some is to be expected, we need to work at becoming a "sticky church," where people only leave for positive reasons, while those who remain are being discipled and equipped to minister and to be "salt" and "light" in the community – **"so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"** (Colossians 1 v 28.)

Ministry – While we are all ministers, believing as we do in the "priesthood of **ALL** believers," rather than the "priesthood of **ONE** believer," there will be a number of changes to the church staff during 2019. Robin our Minister in Training will be moving on to pastor another church, his place will be taken by Nathan Gordon our current Youth Pastor. These changes will result in the need to appoint a new office Manager to replace Marion, and the possibility of needing a replacement Youth Pastor to fulfil Nathan's current role – **"we have different gifts, according to the grace given us"** (Romans 12 v 6.)

Sacrificial Giving – While we occupy a wonderfully strategic position on the High Street, we inhabit an old building that is in need of constant repair and update in order that it might be "fit for purpose," and there are a number of fabric matters that will require attention in the New Year. Our staff levels, as mentioned above, could also expand, and then there are our joint ministries with some of the other churches of the town, with Esther our Foodbank Project Manager becoming salaried in the New Year due to the massive increase in demand on the Foodbank, as well as the desperate need to finance a permanent warehouse to store all the donated food; while the CAP ministry is also moving in a salaried direction as Ruth the Debt Centre Manager and her ever expanding team seek to satisfy a growing demand from people who need to become debt free – **"whoever sows generously will also reap generously"** (2 Corinthians 9 v 6.)

These then are just some of the challenges that we will face in the New Year. No doubt there will be others, some known, many unknown. So what can be done to meet these challenges? Here are some suggestions that **YOU** might like to turn into New Year resolutions:-

- 1** – "I will make a point of not only welcoming new people to the church, but of also seeking to befriend them, because ultimately it is relationships that keeps people in a local church."
- 2** – "I will by prayer, involvement and encouragement, fully support the ministry of the church."
- 3** – "I will in the light of the new financial challenges review my giving making sure that it is both generous and sacrificial."

It looks as if 2019 could be an interesting as well as extremely challenging year. I hope very much that you will walk together with us on the journey.

In his Grip – Chris.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Minister

Minister in Training



ROBIN BRENCHLEY



CHRIS HUGHES

Youth Pastor



NATHAN GORDON

Deacons

ADMINISTRATOR

TREASURER



GRAHAME ATKINSON



MILES ATTWELL



SHAUN HENDRY



FIONA COWAN



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



ADRIAN CHEESMAN

S



IAN DERHAM



BRIAN DICKSON



KUDA OSOBA



DORIS THOMSON

Church Office details

Office open 9am-2pm Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri. and Wed evenings 6-9 pm Tel: No. 420990

Email: office@sbc-church.org.uk Web: www.sbc-church.org.uk

Office Manager: marion.brenchley@sbc-church.org.uk



MARION BRENCHLEY

A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER-IN-TRAINING

Dear All,

A New Year is always a time for reflection, as we look back to the old year and ahead to the new. As I look back on the past year there is so very much to be thankful for. One of the highlights of this year for me was the 'Freedom In Christ' course that Marion and I were privileged to lead on Thursday evenings in the early part of the year. I know that those who came along not only enjoyed the content, but also the opportunity to journey with each other as we discussed the various parts of the course together as disciples. As always it was a real privilege to encourage others in their walk of faith. I am also thankful for successfully navigating the second year of my training, not only at college but also here in church, and of course for the support I have received from all of you as I have done so.

As I look forward to the New Year and all that it may hold, I am reminded, as the writer to the Hebrews tells us, that God has promised, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." As we approach 2019 there are changes to be faced as Marion and I seek settlement to our own pastorate, but I know that as disciples of our Lord Jesus we can all walk into the New Year in anticipation and excitement of what the Lord has in store for us individually and as a fellowship.

Happy New Year and God bless you all,

Robin

Fellowship News

A BIG thank you and another thank you

To ALL who took part in the various services over the Christmas season. For me the Carols by Candlelight service was the highlight of the Christmas celebrations. I am very aware of all the preparations that took place which made it run smooth and trouble free.

I don't usually name specific people to say thank you but I feel I must do, as what a marvellous job they all did, I'm sure you agree.

First, an obvious thanks to Chris Hughes and the readers who made the service such a thought provoking and clear Christmas message. To Brian Dickson and David Casse and the choir for the work and dedication to rehearsals, which certainly made an angelic choir, it was lovely.

A special thank you to Linda Knowlton, Mark Wrighton, Joseph and Miles for accompanying the Carols and Choir with their musical skills. And of course to Peter on the Sound Desk.

Thank you to Barry and Mary who gave out the programs at the door, and to our Candle Lighters, Grahame, Phil, Judy, Ian and Sue, Doris and Sheila. You did a great job and thanks for tidying up the candles afterwards.

To our Fire Marshalls, Adrian Cheesman, David and Julie Matson, Ian Derham and Nathan. They had to come to the church the Saturday before to have training, so thank you guys much appreciated, as without all the H & S things in place we couldn't have had such a lovely service with real Candlelight. To all the office volunteers who have done so much folding and stapling for the extra programs and invitations.

And last but by no means least, thank you to Julia Kinglsey, Hazel Waters, Marion Statham, Roger Hinton, for all the putting up and the taking down of Christmas decorations. God bless you everyone !!

Marion Brenchley, Office Manager



Thanks very much to all the musicians who led the Sunday carols round the district event, on Sunday evening the 9th December. We walked to Hawthorn Road and onto Frederick Street and Arthur Street.

God blessed us with good weather. It seems so much easier to sing when you can get oxygen into your lungs. People came out to listen and I felt really blessed.

Thank you Lord.

Margaret Pellatt (Church Member)

Article from Phil Town, Evangelism Team

Following consultation with the church leadership, I have prepared a presentation of the gospel in its fullness, which runs for about 12 minutes on PowerPoint or on DVD.

It has also been produced in a small booklet form.

The presentation will be shown in the Hub between **12:30-1:30pm on Saturdays** as part of the 'Street Evangelism Team' work, with refreshments served and questions answered.

If you have anyone that you are witnessing to that you would like to send along to see this presentation, then they need only turn up at the Hub with or without you.

The DVD and booklet presentation will be made available for anyone in the church who wishes to use it for their own personal sharing of the gospel.

I will be away from the UK from mid January for 2 months, but once I return would like to get a team together of 6 people, who are seeking to be more effective in their own personal evangelism to friends and family. If you would like to be a part of that team then either speak to me before I leave or contact me via email at: philiptown2@gmail.com.

Dear friends



A good few years ago now, the Lord laid it on my heart, to pray for Israel and especially peace in Jerusalem.

In rather unusual circumstances at our sons wedding, I met a couple, who I had not met before and as the conversation developed they informed me that they were part of a Christian Ministry helping Jewish people return to Israel 'Operation Exodus'. Since then Sue and I have been involved in a small way.



**EBENEZER
OPERATION EXODUS**

I have felt that the Lord has prompted me to write this letter, as the media in this country is overwhelmingly biased against Israel. Also there is much anti-Jewish sentiment in this country and worse in Europe.



It is very difficult to be a Jew in France at this time. Every week more than one Thousand Jews are returning to Israel. (Making Aliyah)

Ezekiel 11:17.

"Therefore say, thus says the Lord God. I will gather you from the peoples, assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered and I will give you the land of Israel."

Many prophetic scriptures are being fulfilled now. God's time clock seems to have speeded up since 1948. Much of Israel was a barren waste land, but now has been transformed into a land of plenty.

Ezekiel 36:34-36.

"The desolate land shall be tilled. Instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. So they will say, this land that was desolate has become like the Garden of Eden, and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited."

In seventy years Israel has one of the strongest economies in the world. Many passages prophesy of Gentiles being involved in the Return of the Jewish people to their land. Operation Exodus has been called of God to stand with the Jewish people and encourage

them to return. We have much to thank Israel for without them we Christians would have no Bible, no Apostles and no Prophets and no Saviour. I will close with God's promises to Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abraham.

"Get out of your country, from your family, and from your Father's house, to a land I will show you, I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing, I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all families of the earth shall be blessed"

I would urge us all to pray for the Jewish people at this pivotal time in history.

Yours in Christ
Ian Derham
(Deacon)



Israel as it is today.

Worship Corner

January 2019—by Brian Dickson (Worship Co-ordinator)

~ HAPPY NEW YEAR ~

Reviewing 2018

The Church Choir. What a blessing 2018 has been. It was the year in which we saw the formation of our very own church choir with practices and performances beginning in May. Since then, the church choir has gone from strength to strength, ending the year with the 'Candlelight Service' and a great performance. My thanks to all involved.

The Church Organ has been played at the end of the last Sunday of the month, mostly by David Casse and sometimes by Ian Stride which helps to help keep it in good working order. The organ has also been played during the service a few times too, and I look forward to it being played more in services in 2019.

A New Song has been introduced to the church at the start of each month, some being better received than others, but that is the way the cookie crumbles. It's great to keep things fresh and we shall continue in 2019, trying to keep things varied.

Worship Lounge is a monthly practice evening for the Worship Team, but all are welcome. Part of the evening is given over to practicing the forthcoming new song for the month. The last Worship Lounge evening was one of the best in that endeavor, with everyone getting involved and enjoying the evening.

Our Worship Team; singers, musicians and the 'Tech Team', are made up of people who have given up a lot of their time on a regular basis to serve God and the church through this ministry and they are such a blessing.

Looking forward into 2019

We pray the Lord will continue to bless this ministry of Praise and Worship in 2019.

Advances in sound and light? The Tech Team are the backbone of our services, providing much valued information through the projector and onto our main screen, and also balancing all the various sounds sources for all to hear. It may be seen as the 'technical branch' of the

Worship Team, but that doesn't mean we can't be creative with it, and so we hope to add a little flair into the proceedings going forward. Watch this space.

Expanding the Worship Team. Being part of the Praise and Worship team requires commitment with a heart to worship God. If you would like to be part of the team in 2019 whether musical or technical, then please come and have a chat with me at the end of the service.

Keeping Jesus at the centre is the most important thing we can remember when it comes to praise and worship...

Colossians 3:16-17 (NKJV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Which leads me nicely on to our 'New Song' for January.

New Song of the Month



The new song for this month is 'Thank You Lord' by Don Moen .

What a wonderful song to start off the year. A lovely and simple melody, which encourages passionate and thankful praise to our God, for all the good things he does in our lives. Information and a link to a YouTube video (where available), can be found on the church website at:

www.sbc-church/sbc-praise-and-worship.

Worship Lounge

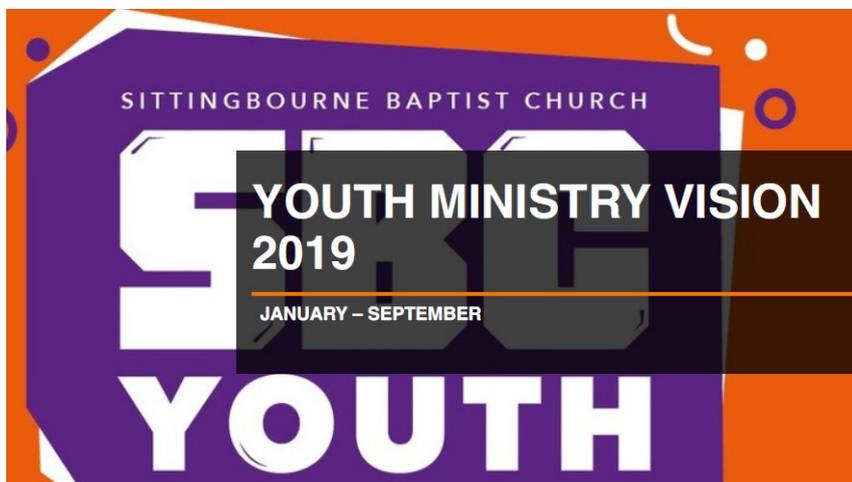


Our next Worship Lounge practice will be: **Thursday 10th January**, our first one for 2019.

Church Choir Practice



The church choir will be enjoying a much earned break, and will return to practicing and performing in February.



Dear Friends

Over the past 2 years the Holy Spirit has challenged us through 2017's vision to live boldly for Jesus (live out loud and live out God's love), our scripture focus was from Mathew 5:16 ' In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.' in 2018 we were challenged to deepen our commitment to Christ and others with the scripture **Roman 6:17** ' but thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching

to which you were committed.

I am so excited to share our new vision focus for 2019 which will again challenge us spiritually in our walk with the Lord. One of the ageless questions throughout time is 'Why am I here?' ' what am I created to do?' 'What is God calling me to do'? These questions are part of our human plight to find our purpose in life. Winston Churchill once remarked ' Its not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something.'

This year though our teaching sessions, mentoring , support groups, events and worship experiences I pray that God will reveal not only our collective purpose as Christians but our individual purpose in life.

I am so excited about my final year as Youth Pastor at Sittingbourne Baptist Church! It has been an unmerited blessing serving a wonderful group of young people !". God has blessed us over the last 3 years with open doors, spiritual and numerical growth, unforgettable memories and importantly the experience of reaching young people with the love of Jesus Christ.

Let's continue to work together for the purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus and demonstrating God's love every day.

Happy New Year!
Nathan Gordon (SBC Youth Pastor)



January=Prayer, February = Unity, March=Reaching Out, April=Progress, May =Obedience, June=Sacrifice, July=Elevation,

SOCIAL MEDIA & CONTACT INFO:  @ kentyouthsbc  @kentyouthsbc
email:  youth@sbc-church.org.uk website:  www.sbc-church.org.uk

2019 BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV)

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE:

"It's not enough to have lived. We should be determined to live for something". WS Churchill



At the end of last year, long time youth workers, Danni and Thana Shanmugam moved to Ashford. We thanked them for their work with the young people of the church during one of the Youth

services. Danni and Thana have sent in their new address and hope to keep in touch.



WE HAVE MOVED TO:
23 Snowbell Road, Kingsnorth,
Ashford, TN23 3NF. 01233 463535. Thana
and Danni - Shanmugam.

Creative Writing Group

Rynn Kemp and Leiburt Kirby have started a creative writing group.

Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Rynn 07941656627 or Leibert 07757536179

YOUTH IN ACTION GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

THE ENCOUNTER YOUTH PRAYER GROUP	Once a month –to encourage a personal prayer life and to prayer for the world around us.
DRAMA GROUP	We are planning a new skit for 2019
YOUTH BAND	Regular rehearsals– leads the youth service
THE WAY	During the morning service held in the basement
IN DEEP MID WEEK BIBLE STUDY	Twice a month on Wednesdays with social events
UNDERGROUND YOUTH CLUB	Friday night during term time. 19:00-21:00
NEW HOUSE	Fridays Sports event 17:30-18:30. Term time
YOUTH FOOTBALL TEAM	Play games against other churches and local teams periodically throughout the year

MAIN YOUTH EVENTS IN 2019

QUIZ NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR SOUL SURVIVOR	Saturday 2nd March 6:30pm at SBC
COMMUNITY OUTREACH DAY	Saturday 30th March
HOLIDAY CLUB 2019	Monday 8th to Friday 12th April 2019
BIG CHURCH DAY OUT	25th-26th May 2019, West Sussex
ALL NIGHT Underground Youth Club	9pm Wed 29th May-7:30am Thur 30th May
CHESSINGTON WORLD OF ADVENTURES YOUTH TRIP	Saturday 6th July
SOUL SURVIVOR	3rd –7th August, Staffordshire Showground

Preachers for JANUARY SERVICES

6th	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Brian Dickson (Communion)
13th	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Mission-with Roy Scarsbrook
20th	10:30am	Nathan Gordon (Communion)	6:30pm	Chris Hughes (Training & Equipping)
27th	10:30am	Robin Brenchley	6:30pm	Nathan (Aftershock Youth Service)



JANUARY 2019

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	7.45pm Ladies Contact Club 7.45pm Deacons' Business Mtg. in Hub	7pm Soul Survivor Mtg. 7.30pm Prayer Meeting	11am-12.30 C.T.I.S. Ministers' Fraternal-Lounge 2pm Bright Hour 7.30pm Worship Lounge in Sanctuary	10am-12 noon Food Bank-Hub 12.30-2pm EST 7-9pm Underground 10pm-2am Street Pastors	10am-12 noon Contact Centre 12.30-2pm EST	10.30am Morning Service- 6.30pm Evening Service-Mission
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2-3.30pm Rendezvous- Colin Harvey Titanic-	10-12 noon Private Function 7.30pm Digging Deeper in Lounge	10.30am-12 noon A.B.C. 7-7.45pm Underground Team Mtg. 7.45-9pm S.S. Team Mtg.	10.30am C.T.I.S. Prayer in Hub 12.45am Lunches 2pm Bright Hour 7-10pm Mens' fellowship	10am-12 noon Food Bank-Hub 12:30-2pm EST 4-5pm Band 7-9pm Underground 10pm-2am Street Pastors	10am-12 noon Contact Centre 12.30-2pm EST	10.30am Morning Service- with Communion 6.30pm Evening Service- Training and Equipping
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
2-3.30pm Rendezvous- Isle of Sheppey singers	10-12 noon Private function 7.45pm Deacons' Prayer Mtg. in Hub	10.30am-12 A.B.C. 7.30-9pm In Deep	10.30am C.T.I.S. Prayer in Hub 2pm Bright Hour	10am-12 noon Food Bank-Hub 12:30-2pm EST 4-5pm Band 7-9pm Underground 10pm-2am Street Pastors	10am-12 noon Contact Centre 12.30-2pm EST	10.30am Morning Service- 6.30pm Evening Service - Aftershock Youth Service
28	29	30	31			
2-3.30pm Rendezvous- The Leprosy Mission- Jarrett Wilson	10-12 noon Private function 7.30pm Digging Deeper	10.30am-12 A.B.C. 6.30-7.45pm Youth Reps. Mtg.	10.30am C.T.I.S. Prayer in Hub 2pm Bright Hour			

