



March Magazine 2024



Vision for 2024 Shared by Nathan

Key Verse - Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow** with hope by the power of the **Holy Spirit**

Overflow

KJV Greek = to exceed the capacity of a contained limit.

NIV (Overflow) = boil over, bubble over, run over, inundate or swamp.

Overflow 2024 - Characteristics

- ✦ A Church overflowing with love for each other, the community we serve and all of God's creation. (1 Thess 3:12)
- ✦ A Church moving in the power and freedom of the Holy Spirit
- ✦ A Church that is open to the leading of the HS in worship, evangelism, discipleship, Prayer and every aspect of the church
- ✦ A Church reflective of the gifts and fruit of the HS

The Holy Spirit

- 🕯 A greater focus on the topic of the Holy Spirit in sermons throughout the year
- 🔥 Combined HG Course on The Holy Spirit (Dates TBC)
- 🕯 Encourage members & congregation to participate in a spiritual gifts assessment. This will help people to understand their giftings and areas where they can serve.

At our church members meeting held on 11th February Nathan shared with all who were there the Vision for the church in the year ahead. As Nathan prayed at the beginning of the year the word for 2023 of "Growth" became even more exciting this year as it became "Overflow"

Not the misery causing, overflow of a bath tap left running, but the bounteous Gifts of God through his Holy Spirit. These Gifts and Fruit will be overflowing in abundance through the church fellowship and streaming out through the doors to reach the high street and the Local Community. The areas of Growth from last year are still a focus—we don't want to stand still or shrink, but our prayer as a fellowship is that we are filled to overflowing. We can have a greater impact on our community if we overflow with Love and Grace from God.

The activities that Sittingbourne Baptist Church can be involved in will be serving the people of the town. Our aim is constant:- 'Declaring Christ to people, discipling people to Christ' and never changes.

Later in the year we are hoping to host whole church house groups— in the same way we had 'I am a Church Member' last year. These will be led by Nathan and will most likely be every Wednesday afternoon and evening for one of the Summer months

Please use your personal Bible study times to deepen your own faith and pray that God will guide you into your personal Ministry inside and outside of the church Fellowship.

Join with the whole church fellowship to pray in our new afternoon "Encounter" services which will be the 4th Sunday afternoon each month at 3.30pm. (More on Page3)



Minister

**REV
NATHAN GORDON**

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



CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM



**JOSHUA
AJIBOYE**



**Grahame
Atkinson
Church
Administrator.**



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



**ADRIAN
CHEESMAN**



KUDA OSOBA



**LISA
PENNINGTON**






**RICHARD
SILLS**



**HYLKO ZINGSTRA
TREASURER**

Services for the month of March New Series—"The Road to Easter"

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
3rd	"Are you prepared for challenging road conditions? Nathan Luke 18:31-34	"Does God actually exist?" Pt 1 Evidence against! Alan Cole 
10th Mother's Day	Dealing with Betrayal Luke 22 v1-5 & 14-23	Digging Deeper Brian Dickson "First steps on the mission field"
17th 	Can I have a different route please?" Nathan Gordon Matt 26:36-46	Praise and Worship Evening Led by Terri Wheeler
24th 	All-Age Service plus Baptisms Nathan Gordon	3.30pm Prayer Event "The Encounter" Time of Prayer -all welcome
Good Friday 29th	"Forgiveness Street the Road we must all travel" Communion here at SBC after the outdoor service and Walk of Witness (Message from Nathan)	
31st	Did you not get the memo? The Funeral is cancelled! Nathan Gordon Luke 24:1-12,36-49	Special Evening Service of Praise/Worship and Testimonies



Administrators Notes

Love and peace to you all, in the wonderful name of Christ our Saviour.

Well, where do I start? We had our Members Meeting, at which quite a few things were mentioned. I will just mention a couple of things which stood out for me.

First, our church “theme”. **Overflowing**. Nathan mentioned that we had a theme of Growth last year, and I for one have seen God’s hand in that. We have grown, “Numerically, Spiritually and Relationally”. Now we need to see the **Overflowing** of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church and our own lives. The Bible verse is

Romans 15 v 13. *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Secondly, different styles of monthly services, both morning and evening.

By the time you read this, you would have noticed that the 4th Sunday of the month has been revised and the morning service is now led by our Youth, as an All-Age service. The 3.30pm service on the 4th Sunday will become “The Encounter” a whole church Prayer time initially led by Nathan.

Last but not least, Richard presented Ricky Grosvenor as our Youth Worker to be— Ricky and his family have begun to worship with us and his employment will commence in April.

My advice to you all is to keep reading the weekly “Service Notes” and the “Monthly Magazine” for the ongoing changes, especially the calendar at the back.

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

(Carrying on from the front page)

With our theme of “Overflowing” very much in mind please use the slide shown below as a prompt to prayer. We can never predict what God will do but these are a good start to focus our minds!

VISION POTENTIAL OUTCOMES:-

Local community and new-comers will recognize SBC as a loving community of people

Overflow in lives impacted by the Gospel (New Christians)

Overflow in Baptisms

Overflow in New Members

Overflow in intergenerational participation in the ministry of the church

Overflow in fellowship and prayer

Overflow in community reach and impact

Overflow in leadership development and unity

**Warning:-
March 10th is
Mothering Sunday,
time to select your greetings
card and gifts!!**

Actually there is a longer history to the day connected to the Church!

Mothering Sunday coincides with Laetare Sunday, also called Mid-Lent Sunday or Refreshment Sunday; a day of respite from fasting halfway through the penitential season of Lent. Its association with mothering originates in the texts read during the Mass in the Middle Ages, appearing in the lectionary in sources as old as the Murbach lectionary from the 8th century. These include several references to mothers and metaphors for mothers. Here at SBC we celebrate all of our ladies— no matter what age or whether they have children or not. All are precious in his sight, as the chorus says.

It is very good news though that there is some respite from whatever you have given up for Lent! If you have targeted sugary treats then this, according to the history books, is a respite from that sacrifice!

What we really want you to know is how much we appreciate all of our women folk – the absolute majority in our Ignite and The Way leaders and assistants, the majority in our lovely singers in the Worship team, the majority in the Worship leaders too! Definitely in the lead when it comes to volunteers and hospitality in the fellowship (– although I did enjoy a wonderful Sunday Dinner prepared by Hus last week and Richard definitely makes the most hot drinks in our house!) We pray that you will all remain strong in your faith, in your commitment to His service and in your health and well-being too. Keep doing all the things you do and if you have ideas for the ministry of the church get in touch with the Deacons or Nathan to explore them further. No-one's voice should go unheard.



Dog Walking!!

This can be a really sociable activity– in fact you don't even have to have a dog of your own to do it!

If you would like to get together for a short stroll round one of the local parks with your own dog, or a borrowed one, then please get in touch with Nicola Hasan.

Any pooches which participate will be introduced gently to one another and allowed to roam according to their own preferences. The Owners will be able to enjoy a take away hot drink and a natter as the dogs and the owners get their exercise! The evenings are getting lighter and the weather drier and warmer—we hope -so this can be an informal way of getting to know one another.



Walk of Witness Friday 29th March 2024

Please can I ask for volunteers to be stewards on the route of the Good Friday March— This means wearing a Hi-Vis tabard and just watching out for folk along the route so that we can keep everyone safe. It would also be good if there were one or two who were able to fetch a few chairs out from SBC foyer when the procession stops outside. Quite a few folk struggle to stand for the 30-40 minute time period we are outside and we have some light tubular framed chairs which could be used outside temporarily. Contact the Office if you are able to be a steward. Contact details top of the page!



Church Office details **01795 420990**

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

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Don't forget– World day of prayer on March 1st at 2pm. If anyone can bring a cake along to share afterwards that would be fab!!



29th-31st March **Easter is upon us!**

Easter Sunday— The tradition of eating breakfast together and sharing an informal Communion is being maintained! Do invite your friends and relatives if you have them staying with you. Always the more the merrier for breakfast and Communion in the Church Lounge 9am. Then a swift clear up all hands on deck before our Easter Celebration Service 10.30am. In the Evening at 6.30pm we are skipping Mission for one month and will have Special Evening Service of Praise and Testimony. Start to think if you can participate in this and give a testimony and maybe choose a song. Get in touch with the Office or Nathan if you are willing to contribute a testimony.



Series Title: The Apostle Paul - A man on a mission Main Scripture: Acts 9:20-31, Gal 1:11-17

Saul's conversion testimony

In our last session we read from Acts 9:3-18, which gave a 'third person' account (written by Luke) of Saul's vision and conversion on the road he travelled from Jerusalem to Damascus. In our February session we looked at scripture which records Saul's own words of the same event, in Acts 22:1-16. These passages offered some additional information not found in the 'third person' account. There is yet another 'first person' account to be found in Acts 26. These verses contain details not mentioned in the other two accounts. This is why it's important to read other related passages, which often provides a clearer picture.

Gaining more insight into Saul's character and background

Saul spoke multiple languages including Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek and likely Latin too. He was born in a large city (Tarsus) in a region called Cilicia, which is modern day Turkey, and in those days was a province of Rome.

He was zealous for God and religion. He was a Pharisee and studied Judaism under a famous religious teacher called Gamaliel.

In the book of Philippians 3:2-6, we read how he was born a Jew, circumcised on the eighth day according to the OT law, and that he was a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin.

So, what can we conclude from all this? That Saul was highly educated and very capable, and you don't get to be one of the few to study under the leading teacher of the Scriptures, without being dedicated to God and living a life that clearly reflects this.

Commission received in humility

During his vision, Saul had seen the risen Lord and heard his voice. Additionally, Jesus commissioned Saul to ministry, to preach the Gospel to the gentiles; and so, Saul became an Apostle for the furtherance of the Gospel to the gentiles.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

1 Corinthians 15:9 (NKJV)

The shoe now definitely on the other foot

Saul never hides the fact that before his conversion, he had a zeal for persecuting the church. After he was baptised however, he displayed the same zeal and began to immediately preach Christ in the synagogues to the Jews, which greatly confounded them.

He was so effective in his preaching, that the Jews began to plot how they might kill him. Right from the beginning of his ministry, Saul experienced what it was like to be persecuted for being a disciple of Jesus, the Son of God. Did this have a chilling effect on Saul and dissuade him from preaching? On the contrary, Saul was just getting started.

An escape to retune his theology?

Galatians chapter one describes how Saul fled to Arabia, and there he spent close to three years. No doubt he would have been re-evaluating all prior training in the scriptures, given his vision experience. Galatians 1:12 says Saul received revelation of the Gospel from Jesus.

Saul & Barnabas

Acts 9:26-30 informs us how Saul eventually returned to Jerusalem and found a friend in Barnabas, who accepted Saul as a true convert to the faith at a time many remained suspicious and fearful. It was through Barnabas that Saul got to meet Peter and some Apostles. This gave him the opportunity to share his testimony with them. After this, the disciples began to feel peace towards Saul and accept him as a brother of the faith, rather than the dangerous adversary he once was.

First Contact

Ricky Grosvenor—
Youth worker to be!



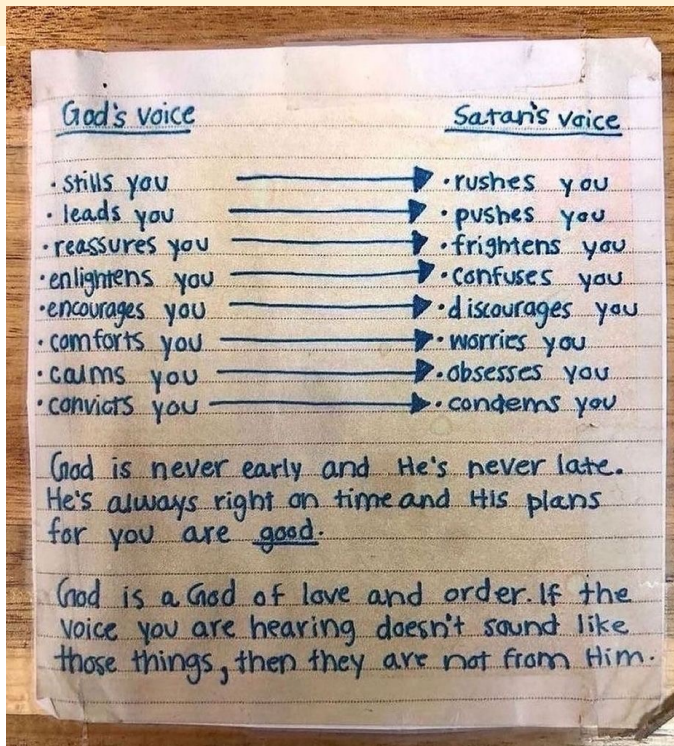
So telling you about my faith, I have been a Christian for 16 years and it was the best decision of my life. Since becoming a Christian I have travelled the world and grown so much. I would not be the husband, father and man I am today without Jesus.

My wife is Jade she is 37 we have been married for 11 years. Jacob is 10 and Jude is 7.

You asked my favourite food— well that could be a long list but you cannot beat a home made roast dinner!

(Have a chat with Ricky and Jade as they join us on a Sunday morning leading up to his start date in April. Pray for the whole family to settle in to the fellowship here at SBC)

Watch out for Kuda as she looks to Interview people in the fellowship old and new to help us all get to know each other as our church family grows!



This was a part of the vision board article in January, but so many people have mentioned it so it's worth repeating— I didn't write it.

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! March

21st Paul W
22nd Ben Sav
23rd Yemi
24th Holly Sav
27th Josie B
28th Marjorie Piper (!)

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the April Magazine. The deadline will have to be 27th March— That might sound early but Easter is coming!! Then we can all pray for you too.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary 2pm World Day of Prayer here at the Church 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	2 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 1-3pm Evangelism Prayer & Planning	3 10:30am Morning service-New series -Are you prepared for challenging road conditions? Luke 18: 31-34 Nathan Gordon Followed by baptism class 6:30pm Reflective service & Communion
4 10-12 am A.B.C.	5 8-9am Prayer 10-12 Private event 7:30pm Deacons meeting	6 8-9am Prayer 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 1:30pm & 7:15pm Housegroups	7 8-9am Prayer 2pm Bright Hour 6pm Youth Band	8 8-9am Prayer 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	9 10am-12noon Contact Centre 11-1pm Outreach (Outside) 1-3pm Debrief & Prayer (Hub) 2pm Ladies afternoon tea	10 10:30am -Morning service-The Road to Easter (Mother's Day) Dealing with betrayal Luke 22 v 1-5 & 14-23 6:30pm -Digging Deeper-Brian Dickson "First steps on the mission field"
11 10-12 am A.B.C.	12 10-12 Private event	13 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 7pm Film night-"The Shack" in Sanctuary	14 10:45am Faith talks at Woodstock 2pm Bright Hour 6pm Youth Band	15 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	16 10am-12 noon Contact Centre	17 10:30am -Morning service-The Road to Easter Can I have a different route please? Matthew 26:36-46 Nathan Gordon (including Communion) 6:30pm Praise & Worship service
18 10-12 am A.B.C.	19 10-12 Private event 7:30pm Deacons prayer meeting	20 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 1:30pm & 7:15pm Housegroups	21 9am C.T.I.S. Fraternal Mtg. in Hub 2pm Bright Hour 6pm Youth Band	22 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	23 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 2pm W.I.N.P. in Hub	24 10:30am -All age Youth service & baptism (Palm Sunday) -Nathan Gordon 3:30pm -Prayer time
25 10-12 am A.B.C. (last until 15th April)	26 10-12 Private event	27 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 2:30pm Pine Lodge service 7:30pm Church Prayer meeting	28 10:45am Woodstock service 2pm Bright Hour 6pm Youth Band	29 Good Friday Walk of Witness- meet at 9:30am and walk at 10am followed by Service here at 11:15am The 7 last statements from The Cross-Nathan Gordon	30 10am-12 noon Contact Centre	31 Easter Sunday 10:30am -"Did you not get the memo? The funeral is cancelled Luke 24 1-12 & 36-49 Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Evening service-Testimonies/Worship

