



April Magazine 2024

“There’s nothing as constant as Change”

Three things are changing in the Church activities— two to do with Food!!

Just since March 15th our Food Bank ministry on a Friday Morning has moved into the Church Lounge. For many practical reasons Jackie and the team have juggled the food storage into the lovely new cupboards in the Church Lounge.

The new cupboards were provided by Esther Hurwood who heads up the Swale Food Bank Project as a Trussell Trust employee. As they are new and bright they seem to make the lounge a bit lighter!

Some of the tables have moved around a little but we still have room for around 100 people in the lounge.

‘What happens if there are more staying behind for a tea or a coffee?’ I hear you cry! Well please do feel free to go back into the church with your drinks. (We would just ask that you don’t leave cups through there when you are finished.)

The doorway becomes a bit more crucial too so please try and keep a clear pathway through, so no-one stumbles over the edge of the platform or trips up the slight slope just inside the doorway.

It is such a wonderful sign that SBC is growing!

During the Food bank sessions the lovely Josie B (Happy Birthday for Wednesday!) serves those who are waiting for food supplies with drinks and cake and is such an encouragement. Many people come into the Food bank unsure of themselves and a little wary, but Josie puts them at their ease and keeps the whole team going throughout a very busy morning.

If you are available to help on a Friday morning do speak to Jackie—or anyone in the leadership team who can point you in the right direction!

And Tadah!

April 2nd the Café is opening in the Church. It has been named

The 3:16 Café

(For obvious reasons!)

3:16 will take place Tuesday and Thursday Mornings 9.30-11.30am in the sanctuary with another lovely team of volunteers serving light refreshments. These are going to be ‘by donation’ and no-one will be presented with a bill.

The whole point is to obey God’s Word and “Swing wide the Gates”, so that everyone can come into the church and spend time in conversation. The team are all ready and willing to talk about their Faith and will be an outreach to the High Street

Again if you are available on either of these mornings and would like to help out—either now and then or on a regular basis, please do let Julie Stride know and be prepared for a little training!

It is not necessary to be a member of the church to volunteer at either of these Ministries, but we do ask that you meet with Bev in the office and have a DBS check done. Our safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy means that everyone who is in a position of Trust should have a DBS check done. It is free for Volunteers and takes about ten minutes. Please call the office on 01795 420990 to make an appointment. (See below for Office hours)

Church Office details 01795 420990

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

Office Manager: Bev Sills

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



Minister

REV
NATHAN GORDON

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM



HYLKO ZINGSTRA
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JOSHUA
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Grahame
Atkinson
Church
Administrator.



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



ADRIAN
CHEESMAN



KUDA OSOBA



LISA
PENNINGTON



RICHARD
SILLS
Responsible for
Safeguarding

Services for the month of April

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
7th	"Dear Timothy, Ricky & SBC from Paul" Rev Nathan Gordon	"Does God actually exist? Pt 2 - five things the atheist cannot explain." Alan Cole 
14th 	"Living the Resurrection Life" John 20v19-29 Brian Dickson	Digging Deeper 'A turbulent mission field sees increased fruitfulness'. Brian Dickson
21st	"Dealing with Life's disappointments" Luke 24v13-32 Rev Nathan Gordon	Praise and Worship led by Agnes Appau– songs to her by previous Thursday please!
28th	All– Age service led by Youth Band Ricky Grosvenor	3.30pm The Encounter Prayer Time

Administrators Notes



Dear Friends in Christ. Love peace and joy to you all. There is a saying that goes, "In like a lamb, out like a lion.", and this month [March] has been a bit like that here at S.B.C. We started the month off by hosting the "World Day of Prayer" and then carried on "as normal" so to speak.

But at the end of the month, **WOW!** Our evening Praise and Worship service was excellent, with both a mix of traditional and modern songs and...it was attended by at least 40 worshippers. So why don't you come and join us next time?

Following on from that we had a fabulous, Spirit filled **Baptism** service. All glory to God!!! We had four candidates, Louisa, Kelvin, Chevette & Jodie, who all gave POWERFUL testimonies. Congratulations to them all, and praise be to God, Please pray for their protection over the coming months.

At the start of this month [April] we welcome Ricky Grosvenor as our Youth Leader. He and his fabulous family have been worshipping with us during March, even having a "First Contact" section in the March magazine.

Last, but by no means least, don't forget our vision for this year.
Romans 15 verse 13. Are you OVERFLOWING with the Holy Spirit?

Love and peace to you all, *Grahame.*

P.S. Members Meeting this month. Wednesday evening 24th April at 7.30pm.

Brighton Belles!

2nd March saw two car loads of SBC ladies go to visit Brighton– The Seagulls were not our focus but a Lou Fellingham conference event- 'Made for you'.

It took place in the Clarendon Centre where Emmanuel Church meet This is Lou's home church, when she isn't on tour!

There were teaching sessions from special guests Kemi Koleoso and Elle Limebear, who led the morning worship session. In the afternoon we had some choir training with one of the singers in the Kingdom Gospel choir and then worship led by Lou with Nathan and the rest of the band lifting our spirits.

Keep an eye out for events in the South East– it is usually possible to round up a 'Posse' to go with and then we can all share transport too!



Are we Listening?

In a recent early morning prayer meeting in the church, God's Holy Spirit came and ministered to us. It was awesome. Absolutely awesome. It felt like a magnificent peace came over us, one we couldn't understand. This is what happened.

The meeting opened with a reading from 1 Samuel 3 v 1-11. which somebody felt led to bring. This comes from the Message version.

Vs1-3 The boy Samuel was serving God under Eli's direction. This was at a time when the revelation of God was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad- he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of God, where the Chest of God rested.

Vs 4-5 Then God called out, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am." Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so he did. 6-7 God called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am." Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before Samuel knew God for himself. It was before the revelation of God had been given to him personally.) 8-9 God called again, "Samuel!"- the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am" That's when it dawned on Eli that God was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, God. I'm your servant, ready to listen'" Samuel returned to his bed.

10 Then God came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

11 And the Lord said to Samuel: "See I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle. "

Then we waited upon the Lord to speak and reveal what this passage meant. This is when the Holy Spirit came to be with us in an overwhelming peace. As we sat and allowed the Holy Spirit to minister to us, He enabled us to fully understand what this passage meant. We believe God is calling us (the church) to open our ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. We need to be like Samuel and make sure it is God's voice we are listening to and not our own. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to minister to us and not run away. We should not be afraid to make time and sit with God and ask Him what He is calling us to do (individually and as a church).

It is time for us to surrender to Him. This is what we feel the Holy Spirit is saying. Samuel was not afraid when he heard a voice, so why should we? Why should we be so afraid of what God has in store for us? It will only be good things, as long as, as Christians we seek ye first the kingdom of God' Matt 6 vs 33 (ESV)

As we continued to wait upon the Lord to speak, He did not disappoint. Although I am not sure in which order the Lord spoke to each of us, but He did speak.

This is what He said.

"I have heard your prayers. I have seen your tears. I have seen your frustrations. I am the head of this church. I am the alpha and the omega. I have said, and I will do what I have said I will do, whether you are ready or not." (Matthew 24 vs 44)

We waited again... The word of the Lord came again. He is going to **"try His people like silver and gold because silver and gold are tried with fire and all the dross is burnt up."** (1 Cor 3 vs 11-15 NIV)

We waited again... The word of the Lord came again... **"Judgement starts in the house of God"** (1 Peter 4 v17 KJV)

Praise God He turned up and we were so blessed.

Although this may seem like a fearful thing that God is going to do, it is not. All He requires us to be is obedient to what He is calling us to do. As long as we are listening and doing what He is asking us to do, we have no fear. God is so full of mercy and love that He just wants what is best for us and only He knows that. When we surrender all, we come under His protection and it allows God to have His way in everything we do. If you continue to read on from 3 Samuel verse 12 to 18, you can read the outcome of Samuel's obedience to God but also Eli's downfall because he didn't do what God expected him to do i.e. Eli did not rein his sons in for their disobedience to God. Is this something we need to consider? Are we really doing what God is asking or are we only paying lip service to it? Maybe it is time to get real with God. I can only speak for myself but I would rather be in God's camp with His grace, than endure his wrath.

Where are you?

(Continued at the top of the next page)

In finishing I felt led to write, what a privilege it is to have such a wonderful God who wants to dwell not only within us but within this church. We are so blessed that God has chosen this church to speak into. All He requires us to do is to be obedient to Him.

(Julie S has scribed this account with contributions from all who were at the early prayer meeting in February– We just missed the March magazine) The April prayer times are 2nd-5th 8am-9am

MENS FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY.

Saturday 2nd March, 6 members of the Men's Fellowship attended the Kent Christian Men's conference in Sevenoaks. There were around 300 men of God worshipping the Lord together (what a wonderful sound that was) and we had 3 excellent sessions of teaching from Graham Daniels, ex professional footballer and currently director of Christians in sport ministry.

All of us came back with an even stronger vision to see our men's fellowship at the church move forward and grow into all that the Lord has planned for it. Our next gathering at the church will be on Tuesday 16th April It would be great to see more men in the

church to catch this vision and be part of it, so we hope you will put the date in your diary and join us to find out more. We will send another reminder the week before!



Just to refresh our memories—this is the prophecy the Men's Fellowship is based on.

These are the men in the house. I have a Word for the men, if I don't know anything else, I know the voice of God. It is the Voice that will stop hunger and you won't waste your time eating, it will cast sleep aside and you will be refreshed on 3 hours of sleep. So the Word of the Lord came to me late at night when I should have been sleeping and He has a message for the men in our midst, a plan for our house, this house, this church. And He needs to use men, men who are prepared to go to the edge of the Red Sea and step out. Men ready to lift up His banner and raise the name of Jesus high as they go forth. Men willing to drop everything and let the Light of God shine through them. God has a plan, and He is ready, and he wants the men in this house to be ready. Ready to put their hand to the plough and do the hard work needed to fulfil destiny for this church, to reach the lost that are out there. Men working, warring, fighting together as a family and an army against the enemy of our faith, and the enemy of all that He wants to do in and through us. Working, and fighting hand in hand for the glory of God. The bedrock in this church is Jesus, but the pillars that hold it all together are the men! You join the walls together, and by His grace you get the work done, in this church. And you need to come together, you need to work together, and by God's grace, we will get the work done.

Dennis, this is your first day for a wonderful new life and new strength, and God has blessed you. But in this church, we don't need to wait for anointing oil, the Holy Spirit if available to us today. So, join the men in this congregation. Join them to spearhead the work God has in store for this church, this body of Christ. To achieve great things, great things for this community. Be the backbone and the muscle and the sinew that holds it all together. Be the heart, the brains and the blood that flows from this place to make a difference in our town and in our very lives. Be the workers and the strength this church needs to do good in our homes, our families, our children, our church, our community for God. All for the glory of God. If you dare to accept the anointing He has for you men today, if you accept His work, if you give Him space in your life, He will show you what He wants you to do. He will show you how to use your talents, your skills, to touch people. If you will stand for the banner of Jesus, publicly professing and living out your faith, then there is nothing God cannot do to us, in us, with us, through us and for us as a body of believers. There will be more people in heaven than in hell, if you step up. Please step up to whatever He is calling you to do, because all I have is the Word, you have the work to do. If you allow God to talk to you, if you allow Him space in your life, He will show you what He wants you to do.

So we should all pray that God will touch you with tongues of fire and anoint you and that God will give you the strength you need for the next phase of His plan.

The Apostle Paul - First steps on the mission field



Main Scripture: Acts 13

The two Antiochs

There were many cities during the first century named Antioch, and our study this month covers two such places. The first and most prominent of these, refers to the church at Antioch in Syria. This is the place where the disciples were first called Christians (Acts 11:26). It is also the place where Saul and Barnabas ministered extensively for the period of a year. The other place named Antioch is in a region called Pisidia in Asia Minor, which is modern-day Turkey.

Called to the mission-field

Both Saul and Barnabas were specifically called and set aside by the Holy Spirit in Acts 13:2,3. It is here we are reminded that it is God who chooses people for particular ministry, and not we ourselves. It is also in this passage we see the practice of the 'laying on of hands', which in this case symbolises the act of agreement, blessing and releasing by the church elders upon those being called by God.

The first missionary journey

It was approximately ten years from the time of Saul's vision and conversion on the road to Damascus, to his first missionary journey. The Bible tells us this is one of three missionary journeys embarked on by the Apostle, plus there was his final journey as a prisoner to Rome. On each of his journeys, he would go to preach in large cities, and on this first mission, this included six cities in four regions.

Cyprus

The Apostles visited two cities in Cyprus, first on the west coast, the other on the east. Both times they went to the Synagogue of the Jews. It was in Salamis (the first city) they picked up another disciple, whilst in Cyprus, whose name was John Mark. This was the same person who is believed to have written the second Gospel in the New Testament.

A false prophet hinders the gospel

Acts 13:6-8 tells us that the appointed leader in Cyprus, had called for Saul and Barnabas in order to hear the gospel. This effort was frustrated by a false prophet, whose name was (ironically) Bar-Jesus, who made every effort to attack and dismantle the message of the gospel. He wasn't stoned to death as prescribed in the Old Testament, but Saul cursed him and he became blind for a time.

It is at this event the Bible tells us Saul is also known now as Paul. (Acts 13:9).

Asia Minor (i.e. modern-day Turkey)

The Apostles then journeyed on to Asia Minor whilst John Mark took his leave to head back to Jerusalem. Paul and Barnabas went to four cities in Asia Minor, visiting the Jewish Synagogues on the Sabbath day. It is whilst in Antioch in Pisidia (not the other city in Syria), that we read of Paul's first recorded sermon which was preached to the Jews. Some believed as a result of Paul's preaching, but others rose up against him and Barnabas.

The Gentiles heard about the preaching in the Synagogue and pleaded with the Apostles to preach the message to them on the following Sabbath. This they did and almost **the entire city** came out to hear the gospel message. What a contrast!

Come and study the Bible

In our study sessions we go into much more depth than can be conveyed in this article. There is much God wants us to know. Come along to our next session to find out more. (Digging Deeper is on the 2nd Sunday evening of the month— Bring your Bible and notebook! Next Time has the intriguing title '**A turbulent mission field sees increased fruitfulness**'. Bev)

First Contact

Emmanuel Osunfisan



***When was your first contact with SBC* ? Emmanuel and Margaret**

We came to Sittingbourne in January 2020 and immediately faced lockdown. Before we left Croydon, we had checked online and found the church, but we could not come physically because of the lockdown, and the only contact we could have was online. The Lord had taught me to read and to write music quite supernaturally, and I have subsequently used my talent to serve Him within the church. I was the choir master at the Nigerian Air Force Base Church in Ikeja Lagos Nigeria for several years. There was a Sunday in August 2020, that I was in the town centre on my own, and I noticed that people were entering the church and then I realised that physical attendance was starting again. I spoke to Monah Scarsbrook and Nathan at that time. The reception was good, and we have since attended and felt very much at home in this church.

Now that you have been for a while, and blessed us with your singing voice in the choir, what has really made an impact on you?

My wife, Margaret and I both feel assured that God wants us to be working in the church, and not just attend services. I feel that Reverend Nathan's session on "I Am A Church Member" was really very impressive, and the Word from the pulpit is always very uplifting. I am looking for God's direction as to where He wants me to serve and what He wants me to do. We know He has a job and a place for us here.

Please pray for Emmanuel and Margaret as they have been having quite a busy time lately! Go speak to them too they are lovely!! (Bev)

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! April

10th—Marion S and Gordon Watson (Hope church)
17th Carol B
21st David C
24th Maggie M (now moved away)
26th Debbie E
30th Mary H

Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the May Magazine. The deadline will have to be 23rd May— Then we can all pray for you too.



You may have spotted Ricky and Jade and the boys joining with us on a Sunday— well here goes with the Third 'change' mentioned on the front cover-April 2nd **Ricky begins his job as youth Worker here at SBC.**

He will be spending time with a whole host of the leadership team and will need a few weeks to settle in but do say Hello if you see him around the church.

Some things to do with Youth will definitely stay the same—Underground and the Sunday teaching sessions in the Basement are the bedrock of our Youth work! Time will tell if there are changes in the future. Ricky has been preaching and being an elder in his previous church so he will definitely participate in the All-Age services. Nathan has a special message for the church on April 7th called "Dear Timothy, Ricky & SBC from Paul" based on 1 Timothy 1:18-19; ch 2:14-15, ch 4:11-16. If you can't make it to morning service that day then watch live on Facebook or on catch up SBC via the website.

APRIL 2024

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2 8-9am Prayer 9.30-11.30 am Café opening in Sanctuary 10-12 Private evt 7pm Street Pas- tors meeting in Lounge 7:30pm Deacons Mtg in Hub	3 8-9am Prayer 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 1:30pm & 7:15pm Housegroups	4 8-9am Prayer 9.30-11.30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 7.30-8pm Guitar lessons- Lounge	5 8-9am Prayer 9:30am Pastoral team meeting 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Lounge	6 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 1-2:30pm <i>Evan- gelism</i> Prayer & Planning Lounge 7pm Quiz night in Lounge	7 10am prayer in Hub 10:30am Morning service- "Dear Timothy, Ricky and SBC!"-Nathan Gordon (1Timothy various verses) 6:30pm Evening service Part 2 "Does God actually exist?"5 Questions the Atheist cannot answer!" Alan Cole Communion Service
8	9 9.30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanc- tuary 10-12 Private event	10 11am-1pm Recov- ery meeting (Creche) 7:30pm Church pray- er meeting	11 9.30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10:45am Faith talks at Woodstock	12 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Lounge	13 10am-12noon Contact Centre 11-1pm <i>Outreach</i> (Outside) 1-2:30pm Prayer & Debrief (Hub)	14 10 am Prayer in Hub 10:30am -Morning service- Living the Resurrection Life Pt 1 John 20v19-29 Brian Dickson 6:30pm-Digging Deeper-Brian Dickson 'A turbulent mission field sees increased fruitful- ness'.
15	16 9-12:30am Café opening in Sanc- tuary 10-12 Private event 7pm Mens' fellowship in Lge/ Sanctuary	17 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 1:30pm & 7:15pm Housegroups	18 9am C.T.I.S. Fraternal in Hub 9.30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 2pm Bright Hour 6pm Youth Band 7:30-8pm Guitar	19 9:30am Pastoral team meeting 10:30am -12:30 Food Bank in Lounge 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	20 10am-12 noon Contact Centre Evening- Youth Appreciation Meal (time tbc)	21 10:30am -Morning service-"Dealing with disap- pointments" Nathan Gordon (including Communion) 6:30pm Praise & Worship ser- vice led by Agnes
22	23 9.30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10-12 Private event 7:30pm Deacons prayer meeting	24 11am-1pm Recov- ery meeting (Creche) 2:30pm Pine Lodge 7:30pm Church members meeting	25 9.30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10:45am Woodstock service 2pm Bright Hour 6pm Youth Band 7.30-8pm Guitar	26 10:30am-12:30 Food Bank in Hub & Sanctu- ary 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm Underground	27 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 2pm <i>W.I.N.P.</i> in Hub	28 10:30am -All age Youth ser- vice-Ricky and Youth Band - 3:30pm -The Encounter-- Prayer time
29	30 9.30-11:30am Café 3:16 in Sanctuary 10-12 Private event					

