

Sittingbourne Baptist Church

July Magazine

and Noticeboard 2020



The Lord is my Shepherd

My paternal Grandad, Richard Raymond Clifford Hulks, was a shepherd - a humble shepherd. He was born at Bossingham, near Chartham on 23rd April 1888 into a large working class family, one of 11 - 9 boys and 2 girls. He spent all his working years in Kent, moving frequently, as farm workers did in those days. I grew up living in a village nearby to him and my Granny. He wasn't a worshipping man, but he never worked on a Sunday on principle - he would walk down to his spotless, tidy garden to see the vegetables growing but would never hoe or pull up a weed or pick vegetables - 'They will still be there in the morning' he said, 'This is the Lord's day.' But he did walk out to see the sheep every single day.

My Grandad knew his sheep and his working dogs; his sheep were almost always on marsh land, bleak and unsheltered.

In the Bible we read a lot about shepherds - poor people, often loners, working and walking for long hours in rough and harsh countryside. And the hours spent at lambing time ...watching, helping and reuniting poorly lambs with their mothers. Good shepherds took seriously their role. They put the care and nurture of their sheep at the heart of all they did.



There are many references to shepherds in the Bible. Moses was a shepherd before undertaking the role to lead the Israelites - or was that the shepherd in him? David was a shepherd boy - he knew to look out as a shepherd and how to use a sling to protect the flock against predators. Jesus is so often referred to as 'The Good Shepherd' - in John 10 v 1 to 21. He was prepared to lay down his life for us - his sheep. We read the parable of the lost sheep Matthew 18 v 12 to 14. In John 21 v 15 Jesus tells Peter to 'feed my lambs, feed my sheep v 17'.

Shepherds are also tough bodied and minded. They work with a plan for their sheep, 'reading' the sheep and the landscape. The shepherd has to coordinate a group of easily distracted animals, some going astray and into danger. The shepherd has to have constant vigilance. We read in the Bible of the shepherd sleeping with the flock to protect the sheep against predators. 'Digging Deeper', as Brian has shown us, has encouraged me to research the work of shepherds and Pastors.

A Pastor leads us to pasture, brings us into the fold for safety, to graze, protecting us as his sheep, from attacks and will go out to find the lost sheep.



What happens to us when we stray, when we put things off or we don't face up to things? What about when we don't put our trust in the shepherd and go our own way?

The shepherd gently leads, protects us and guides us. The shepherd brings us together, and we should trust and follow. Jesus the Good Shepherd did all of these things, even ultimately laying down his life for us.

All we read in the Bible about shepherds reflects and reinforces God's love for us through his son Jesus Christ. In these trying and unsettling times in which we are living at the moment, the work of the members in our church, especially the sermons from Chris and Nathan, together with many others, have carried out in full the example and teaching of the Good Shepherd, bringing us to the fold and providing food for the soul.

Thank you all and God Bless.
Jackie Kemp

CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Minister



REV CHRIS HUGHES

Minister in Training



NATHAN GORDON

Deacons

ADMINISTRATOR



GRAHAME ATKINSON



MILES ATTWELL



SHAUN HENDRY

TREASURER



FIONA COWAN



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



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New Home-Office hours: Mon, Tue & Thurs 9-3, Wed 9-1, Fri 9-2.

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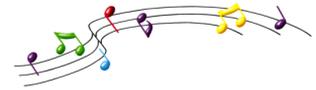


BEV SILLS

Preachers for future Sermons- updated!

		New Sermon Series following through July– 'OPENING TIMES!'
5th July	am	A.Cole - Acts 5 v 19 - Open prison doors
12th	am	N.Gordon - Acts 14 v 27 - Open door of faith to the Gentiles
19th	am	C.Hughes - Acts 16 v 14 - Open heart + communion
26th	am	N.Gordon - Revelation 20 v 12 - Open book of life

Worship Corner



By Brian Dickson
(Worship Co-ordinator)

July 2020

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23:4 (NKJV)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Where is the Lord in times of trouble?

If Psalm 23 is the best-known Psalm of them all, then verse 4 is surely the most often quoted. Who could have foreseen the days in which we now live at the very start of this year? It seems as if our world has been shaken, if it is not one thing, it's another. Trouble is all around us and people are rightly concerned, even afraid of what else might be around the corner.

We are living in turbulent times, where can we turn to for comfort, where is the Lord our God? According to our scripture verse, he is right here with us as we go through this valley of the shadow of death. Not only that, but our wonderful God says we should 'fear *NO* evil' (emphasis mine) because he is with us and what is more, between his rod and his staff he will keep us on that straight and narrow path.

Within those comforting verses of Psalm 23, we see that our God is faithful. He is our rock in times of trouble, and as we walk through this storm his love is our anchor. Our hope to get through it all should be placed in him and him alone.

It may seem hard to focus on God and not get distracted by current events. Surely these are unsettling times, yet it is good to remember the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.

There is a verse in the Bible that says a friend sticks closer than a brother [proverbs 18:24], and what a friend we have in Jesus. Despite having to go through trials and temptations, despite the feeling that trouble is everywhere; we should never be discouraged, but instead, we should take it to the Lord in prayer.

Please be encouraged by listening to the songs below.

Focus Songs for July

Song: Faithful One – Brian Doerksen

Focus words: You are my rock, in times of trouble. You lift me up when I fall down.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/7PjSO5IhI0M>

Song: The steadfast love of the Lord – Edith McNeil

Focus words: His mercies never come to an end.... they're new every morning, great is thy faithfulness O Lord.

YouTube: https://youtu.be/fBX_YvQ8BKE

Song: What a friend we have in Jesus

Focus words: Are we weak and heavy laden.... Precious saviour, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/QCV5t8wRBI8>

(Our thanks goes to Brian– and Sally for their ministry in music over the past months and for continuing to direct our minds to songs of worship in this rather parched time for communal worship– God bless you both.)



Shoe boxes

Blythswood Shoe Box appeal

I have been in contact with Blythswood, the distributors of the shoe boxes we packed last year, to try to get an idea of what might be happening this year. With the virus and lockdown, like us, they really don't know. However, they are determined to collect and send out shoe boxes. The campaign starts in August and when I have this information I, together with Vicky, will start to look at opportunities we have to start our plans for shoe boxes. This year I feel the boxes will be needed more than ever, including in our country.

A lot can happen in the next few months and I have been thinking that, in the meantime, if you are knitting, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens will be gratefully received.

God bless you all – Jackie Kemp



First Contact

.....June Woodfine.....

What was your first contact with Sittingbourne Baptist Church?

In 1953, I was 12 years old and I came along to the Sunday School and Jessie Clark said "I think you need to go in to the Girl Covenant group for older children". Then when we had the Church split in 1992, I left and went to the Family Church for a few years. I used to come to the evening services, but I felt that God wanted me to come back here and I returned in 2010..

What are the things that keep you worshipping here?

Firstly, I feel at home and I do enjoy Chris' preaching. I have strong friendships with many people in church. I feel it is a very loving and welcoming church.



On a regular basis Kuda will be looking out for people who are willing to be interviewed, and asking for their views on their first contact with Sittingbourne Baptist Church.

She cleverly alternates between male and female and tries to encourage our quieter members to participate! Thanks Kuda x

LOCK-DOWN thoughts.....

(Whilst we rest Digging Deeper! But actually this article could be titled Digging Deeper!!)



There is a saying, much used to adorn tea towels, posters, coasters and the like which states, "Bloom Where you are Planted".

The sentiment is clear, the message one of making the most of any situation, of doing your best despite circumstances, almost a 'get on with it and stop moaning' mentality!

While this is partly true, and I'm sure we have all 'bloomed' to a degree where we are, I've also learned another side of the coin, as demonstrated by an Azalea bush.

Several years ago some relatives visiting us kindly bought an Azalea plant for us to put in the garden, which I duly did. I dug the hole, (too shallow) under a large Pyracantha bush, (too dry) watered the plant, (too little) and hoped for the best.

The Azalea has survived, and every year produced 3 or 4 buds, 1 or 2 of which bloomed, while the others died before maturing. The plant was still small, but alive, producing buds but not enough. It didn't die, but barely prospered either, desperately trying to bloom where it was planted, but failing miserably.

However, the hours of lockdown have enabled me to pay a bit more attention to the garden, (the manse garden will be in a much better state now than it would have been without lockdown!) borders have been reclaimed, weeded, watered and tidied. Having cleared the remains of an old, dead rhododendron from the left side of the garden, I had an empty space to fill, and with garden centres closed, decided to try moving the azalea plant to a new position on the left. The soil, newly dug, was soft and moist, in a sunny spot and I positioned the azalea carefully, unsure if it would make any difference.

What a difference!! Within two weeks, there was 12 beautiful flowers on the plant, big, bold blooms, bursting with colour! It occurred to me that, with a few small changes, the plant had blossomed. It was still in the same garden, but not hindered by a Pyracantha taking all the moisture and sun, it had space to grow & flourish, now able to put down deeper, stronger roots.

Are there any small changes you & I could make to help our spiritual blooming? A change of ministry perhaps, the use of a different gift, the 'watering' of prayer and bible reading, in a position under the Son's grace and love? Still in the fellowship of the 'SBC garden', but in a different spot?

Give it a go, you never know! Happy blooming!

(Ann Hughes)



(Editor's note– whilst in Lock down much comment has been made about being able to hear the birds sing, cheep and tweet a lot more– if you have a plant pot saucer going spare don't forget to create a micro pond for the birds as they have to search for fresh water especially when the weather is at its driest– some of them like a dust bath but lots of them could do with a drink!! So water the birds as well as your garden or pots and boxes!!)

Looking for hidden depths! - a little something from Sally!

Just to say that during this time of lockdown I have been reading through the book of Psalms to start my day, and this particular day in May, the Psalm was Psalm 60 and my quote for the day was – Moab is my washpot! – Well, it did make me chuckle, however I wanted to find out more about the meaning.

Before lockdown, I attended the “Digging Deeper” sessions at church and one of the things I learned is to read the verses before and after in order to gauge the context, so I did that, and was still rather confused. So, I contacted Chris, our Minister and he sent me a lovely response complete with some teaching – apparently I was on the right track as I did think that it all sounded like a warning – anyway, he mentioned that Moab (descended from Lot) and Edom (descended from Esau) were, over the years, Israel’s traditional enemies (see 2 Samuel 8 verses 1-14). This was God’s way of saying that they were not part of his chosen people, and would always be regarded as menial servants, and ultimately subject to his people.

So, thanks to Chris because I learned

something and also re-read the scriptures and then Psalm 60 started to make more sense to me.

*⁶ God has spoken in His holiness:
"I will rejoice; I will divide Shechem
And measure out the Valley of Succoth.
⁷ Gilead is Mine, and Manasseh is Mine;
Ephraim also is the ⁸helmet for My head;*

*Judah is My lawgiver.
⁸ **Moab is My washpot;**
Over Edom I will cast My shoe;
Philistia, shout in triumph because of Me."*

Why not check out the whole thing for yourself?!



Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary special mentions! Thank you to those who responded by e-mail this past month—if you are willing to be mentioned by first name only in this section, as we go forward please let me know by e-mail, as the source of my information about the dates and years of marriage/ birthdays is not stored on this computer! We still want to celebrate with you all the special occasions we would normally recognize and as we are dispersed at the moment we can hold the people mentioned in prayer for that month- 'Bruce Bonus' on the whole month of prayer!!!



Our marriages are very special and in these days of social isolation the range and the variety we can add to our prayer lives is really important.

Let's use the familiar words from Ecclesiastes 4v12 to pray for the marriages within our church and the lovely blessing from Numbers 6v24-26 for those with a birthday.

For July:-

Julie and Dave have their 36th Anniversary on the 14th– Congratulations x

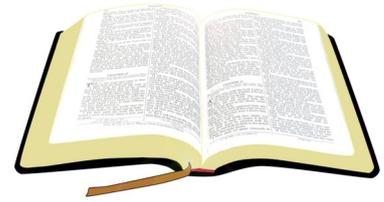
Ben Sutehall is 12 on July 18th– Happy Birthday from us all Ben x
Michael Jonas is 88 on the 20th– happy Birthday Michael with all our love and prayers!

Jackie and Rynn celebrate their 49th wedding anniversary on the 31st of July– massive congratulations– start planning for next year!!!

Don't forget to pray creatively for these folk as they celebrate and to send in your special mentions for the August Magazine whether or not it is online or on paper!!!

Activities and Events

The Sundays element of our children and youth provision is still very much going on!!



Listen via the website for the teaching and weekly sessions for each age group— there will be additional paper based activities and craft ideas to download and print off for your children.

Kuda will have an ongoing memory verse which is emphasized each time!

If you think a phone call from your child's Ignite or Way leader would be encouraging then contact youth@sbc-church.org.uk to give your phone number and then this can be provided hopefully at a time which is beneficial to all. This has been going ahead for the first few weeks and you can still add your child on if you are thinking another voice would be handy! Also a Zoom version of In Deep has been taking place at 7pm on a Thursday so please if you are missing out on that contact Kuda for details for that too!

Topics for **Ignite**—Listen in on the website for audio and download resources!

Topics for the **Way**— young people can access the teaching via the church website sbc-church.org.uk

Contact Kuda if you are interested in the new younger age group zoom meeting to offer support to those in yrs 5&6

Creation Wordsearch

Being in Lock Down has certainly made us appreciate the wonders of creation over the past few months so here is a biblical wordsearch from those first few verses in Genesis.



- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| BEGINNING | FISH | NIGHT |
| BIRDS | FORMLESS | PLANTS |
| CREATE | FRUIT | SEAS |
| CREATURES | GOD | SEASONS |
| DARKNESS | HEAVENS | SKY |
| DAY | LAND | TREES |
| EARTH | LIGHT | VEGETATION |
| EMPTY | LIVESTOCK | WATERS |
| EVENING | MALE | YEARS |
| EXPANSE | MAN | |
| FEMALE | MORNING | |

How did God describe his creation? That word is also hidden in the puzzle. Can you find it?

JULY 2020

Until the SBC fellowship is up and running again I thought I would use this page to bring you little snippets which may well have appeared in the Sermon Notes— but now they will appear here as an encouragement to pray for the person mentioned— if you have testimony or brief entries for next month please e-mail them to me on office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk



A very big Thank you!

This comes to us from Sandy and she wishes to thank all of those people who have supported her on her cancer journey— which has been over the last three months.

Sandy wishes to thank all of those who have prayed, phoned, given lifts, looked after, fed, sent flowers, and sent cards— which she is keeping up for the time being! She is now at the end of what was the required treatment and the lovely NHS are just keeping an eye on her for the next few years.

God bless all who have played a part in this journey— Sandy knew so clearly that she wasn't facing it alone.

Thank you



Weekly Sermons on
www.sbc-church.org.uk

Face book— search
[@sittingbournebaptistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/sittingbournebaptistchurch) and like or follow the page to get the link easily

Weekly sermon notes by e-mail- please let Office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk know your e-mail if you are not already receiving these. Also birthdays and Anniversaries for August. Big or little we can pray for the person.
Monthly prayer meeting 8th July will be e-mailed out and streamed on Facebook



More Opening Times (as well as the sermons!)

From Friday 3rd July the church will be open for Individual prayer between 10am and Midday Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

There will be directions and guidelines for safe usage in place, coordinated by a team of volunteers.

Access will be a one way system via the main doors

So that we do not have too many people on the premises may I ask that others who access the building avoid these times and please let the church office know on all occasions when you are using the building as there are others who access the premises intermittently

- [01795 420990](tel:01795420990) or
- office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk

Marion Statham has the final word on the Magazine!!

In more ways than one as she is my champion proof reader!

“please add a great big thank you to all those who have faithfully ministered to us in every worship service on line-it must be very difficult preaching, playing and singing with no congregation. Also to those who have organised it all. You are wonderful. ”

So many contributions this month—thank you from Bev—I claim any errors for my own!