



# CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

## Minister



REV CHRIS HUGHES

## Minister in Training



NATHAN GORDON

## Deacons

### ADMINISTRATOR

### TREASURER



GRAHAME ATKINSON



MILES ATTWELL



SHAUN HENDRY



FIONA COWAN



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JACKIE KEMP



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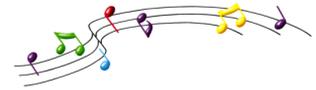


BEV SILLS

## Preachers for future Sermons- updated!

		Preachers for the month of September– thankyou to all involved! Our new series "Joy Bringers!"
6th Sept	am	<b>N. Gordon—Joy in believing</b>
13th	am	<b>C. Hughes— Joy in abiding</b>
20th	am	<b>C.Hughes (Communion)- Joy in God's Word</b>
27th	am	<b>N. Gordon (Harvest) BMS Operation Chad</b>

# Worship Corner



By Brian Dickson

(Worship Co-ordinator)

**September 2020**

## Scripture Reading

### Revelation 21:4-5

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

## The Old and New

There will come a time when we will not be concerned about pandemics, lockdowns, and all the other concerns of life. For whatever we face now is fleeting, it will come to an end, and ultimately God is going to create a new Heaven and a new Earth (v5).

It is perhaps hard to imagine right now, a world in which peace reigns and death is a thing of the past, it is a hope all true believers have. We know this is not a false hope because it is God who gave us the promise.

## Behold our God of Hope

Our God cares for us, he knows the struggles we face in life. In his loving kindness and compassion, he wants us to have such a hope. In the day that God will create a new Heaven and a new Earth, he will 'wipe our tear-stained eye, as thirst and hunger die'. Even death and sorrow will be no more (v4) because our God lives and 'holds the keys of death and hell'.

## A Great Day is Coming

All who call upon the name of the Lord will hold dear a special day. It will be a day when we will have 'endless joy and perfect peace', a day when 'Earthly pain will finally cease'. It will be the greatest day in history.

With such promises, it is no wonder we acknowledge our God as Almighty God. He is above all, his power is the highest power and there is none greater.

## Focus Songs for September

**Song:** Behold the Lord – Noel Richards & Gerald Coates

**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/obxth1H--Cw>

**Song:** There is higher throne – Kristyn Lennox & Keith Getty

**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/KEX3WY3zFF4>

**Song:** The greatest day in History – Tim Hughes

**YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/SrCCIUUV-HvE>



# A favourite old hymn



And why not!? We still have worship corner but this month I was asked to include the words of a favourite hymn and so I thought I would include it under the spotlight. So many times, as Nathan would point out, there is a full story behind the writing of a hymn as a Christian reflects in song/poetry on the works of God.

Margaret Pellatt shared this one for the chorus— which is : "Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future, Life is worth the living just because He lives.

The Hymn is maybe not as old as you may expect and the explanation behind 'Because He Lives (1971) is this

"'Because he lives' [1971] was written in the midst of social upheaval, threats of war, and betrayals of national and personal trust. It was into this world at such a time that we were bringing our third little baby. Assassinations, drug traffic, and war monopolized the headlines. It was in the midst of this kind of uncertainty that the assurance of the Lordship of the risen Christ blew across our troubled minds like a cooling breeze in the parched desert."

This was written by the couple themselves William and Gloria Gaither when it was to be included in a newly published hymnal. It is based on John 14:19c 'because I live, you also will live.' In the midst of the wonderful teaching and prayer which took place before Jesus went to the cross for us. So thank you to Margaret for reminding us of this wonderful truth.

## First Contact



*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*

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

*Every month we are distanced use the First Contact to really bear that person in prayer— just like the Anniversaries and Birthdays.*

This month our first Contact information is for Margaret Pellatt— seated on the right in this photo!

### **What is your first contact with SBC?**

I came in 1989— My friend Anne gave me a lift to church when I said I wanted to find the Lord. Her daughter Carolyn was in the Sunday school here.

### **What are the things the church does that have helped you in life, particularly during this pandemic, if there is anything specific?**

The fantastic fellowship, the virtual Sunday services, contact with each other, the Bible teaching and the house groups have been marvellous too. Praise the Lord.

## Lessons from Lockdown 3! Share the Gifts

A 'socially distanced' cup of tea and obligatory piece of cake in a friends garden recently saw the conversation turn to knitting, of all things. I came away borrowing a pattern book of knitted farm animals, hens and chickens with knitted eggs, a resplendent rooster, a very pink pig and the cutest highland bull you can imagine.

A visit to the wool shop ensured the required colour wools, and I was off, trying my hand at a Billy goat, complete with his little beard. All went well as I followed the pattern, knitting first the body, hind legs x2, forelegs x2, ears, horns, tail and beard. So far, so good. I managed to sew the body together and stuff it according to the instructions, but was undone by the instruction to shape the head and fold the ears in half, and I couldn't seem to get a 'snout'.

All was not lost, as 2 experienced and very 'crafty' friends did the sewing up for me, shaping the head, producing the snout and attaching the correctly folded ears, and Ta Dah! Gideon the Goat was a huge hit for grandson number 3!

As these things do, my attempt at knitting animals escalated into an idea, (not mine!) of knitting a complete safari. Imagination ran wild as we secured various colour yarns, lions, giraffes, gorillas, koala bears, snakes and even polar bears were to adorn the safari mat, which magically transformed into a hold-all to contain the animals.

My role was to knit some animals, so I started with an elephant. Now, the safari animals are much smaller than the farm ones, hence much more fiddly to do, resulting in my elephant being mistaken at home for a Clanger, (of TV cartoon fame) and my brown bear likened to a sheep. Worse was to come, my koala bear more resembled a foetus shown on a 12 week baby scan than anything from the animal kingdom!

Defeated, I stated I was hopeless and wasn't knitting any more animals! However, a solution was found in that I could knit the actual animals, easy to follow the pattern, and my friend then sewed, stuffed and completed them, adding embroidered claws, eyes and other tiny details.

The lesson? I was doing what I could do, someone else doing what they could do and working together we were able to produce something lovely. We are all familiar with the biblical passages on gifts, (1 Corinthians 12v 4) and of the church as a body, (1Corinthians 12 v 12) with all the parts working together for the good of the whole.

So, do what you can do, whatever it is, it's not hopeless or inferior, it's an important part of the whole, and will be knitted together with all the other parts of the great community we call 'church'.

God bless,  
Ann



Completed 'Kevin'

# Thanks for being a Cheerful Giver! Could also be called Focus on Foodbank!!

Kuda writes.....

"Of all the things that I have done during lockdown, volunteering to drive for Foodbank has been right up there at the top of the list. Not only did it stop me being cooped up in the house, but gave me a legitimate reason to get out in the fresh air, even before the government decided we could do this for exercise! I also felt useful, as my job meant that I was not needed much at work, and could not work from home – working with students needs ...well... students, and they were all locked down like the rest of us.

So, I was really pleased to answer the call from the pulpit to join a new adaptation of volunteers that would drive food parcels to people's houses, instead of them congregating dangerously at churches across Sittingbourne to collect what they need. I was lucky enough to enjoy driving, be in good health and have lots of time on my hands. I truly believe it did my family good too, as I returned with lots of interesting stories of meeting Rosie the dog, new friends from various churches around Sittingbourne and anonymously sharing about the very grateful clients that happily received the food.

Who knew it would last so long? Who knew it would be so refreshing and rewarding? Who knew I would miss it so much when it is so close to the end? As the weeks rolled on, I got into a lovely routine, and I worked regularly on Wednesdays and Friday afternoons. My role changed from just driving prepared parcels to various addresses, to driving to the supermarkets to collect the food kindly and generously donated by members of the public as well as the supermarkets themselves. I was also asked to do the weirdest shopping I have ever done! it usually comprised of 25 toiletries of 6 different types, rolls and rolls of toilet paper and what felt like gallons of baby milk. Nappies for bigger babies were also needed. Now, it is not that people did not give generously or often, but there were just times when the Foodbank storehouse ran out of certain products. I have never had to buy baked beans, for example. This is very much an inside joke, as there is ALWAYS a copious amount of baked beans available! Foodbank is also blessed with people who gave money, and this was always used wisely in buying things that were running out – including pet food, as some of the beneficiaries of the services had animals, as we all now appreciate how important they are to our wellbeing. They needed to be provided for as well, so I soon knew the staff at Pets At Home well!

After 23 weeks my time with Foodbank was drawing to the end, with school days looming, I was blessed with a great idea. I thought to ask 12 friends to entrust me with £10 each that I would use to buy those things that had made up my very odd shopping list – I was getting used to the funny looks from fellow customers -or was it just my hair?!

My first victim – I mean trustee – was sitting with her two daughters enjoying lunch when I put the idea to her. She immediately asked for my bank details and her two daughters pledged £10 each too! I was humbled and encouraged by this and send 30 texts messages that evening, still aiming for 12 positive responses. To my surprise, I had 30 friends and relatives willing to give me money within the first 24 hours, and some exceeding the £10 asked for! Then I received a text from a friend that I had not asked because she had already given to Foodbank in April, saying she was cross with me as she had heard I was doing this but had not asked her! Her attitude was very much "Do you not think I can afford it?" I was in shock! and thought "Right, I am asking everyone I can think of! I can't run the risk of offending my friends!" so I sent out more messages!



I had to stop, as I felt, I really had to put a stop to it somewhere, but am now committed to doing this as an annual event in August, as it is such a worthy cause, and gives people the opportunity to give. The Bible tells us in Luke 6 v 38 that giving something away to those in need gives God the opportunity to give back to us, and God makes sure it is pressed down (to make more room), shaken together (to make room for even more stuff for us!) and running over (so that everyone can see our blessings). And God does not make a mistake. When we give, He gives us back what we need. So, if you give money away, God may give you back good health, patience or joy, or whatever you really need.

We also know from 2 Corinthians 9 v 6 that we should give cheerfully, bountifully and readily when we see a need, as this is the way God will give back to us. When you give, it can be a seed that you sow in the Kingdom of God, and God uses this to water your blessings and make them grow. So, what are you waiting for? Actively look for an opportunity to give, and take it with both hands! Give freely and often if you can.



During my last week with Foodbank, I went to 3 local shops and bought ridiculous quantities of the things they used to ask me to buy as top-ups! Jerome helped to check the prices of 4 shops to make sure we bought the most economical products but kept to good quality as well. This is because God wants us to be good stewards and put the money He puts into our hands to good use without wasting it – Matthew 25 vs 14-30. Daniella was very shrewd with making sure we spent the money equally across the things we needed, and were faithful to all those people who had donated so generously. It felt really good walking away with trolleys filled to the brim of all these things, because we knew the families on the receiving end were so grateful, after all, I had seen it week after week over 5 months.

I would like to send a big thank you to all my friends and family that have enabled me to do this AMAZING thing, and I do sincerely pray God's blessing on them all. That they will never lack, and God will give them back, not just the money, but more of His love and presence and whatever STUFF that they need too! If you are in a position to spare £10, this is going to be something I will be regularly doing – quietly (editor's note!!!) raising money to top up Foodbank with things that they would usually have to buy, so that their storehouse never runs out. Any help you give would be appreciated. As well as this, usual donations to Foodbank are always needed, so please don't stop giving whatever you can spare.

As well as our financial giving to Chad for our BMS appeal for Harvest this year we are hoping to somehow facilitate physical Harvest gifts to the Food bank as we did last year– don't ask me how just at the moment! With Risk Assessments and opening times to allow access to church and quarantining donations for the appropriate amount of time we will try and allow your generous harvest donations to take place! I will speak to Esther Hurwood and to Adrian about the right way to do this so watch out for information closer to the time! (Bev)



# One of the things which would have been a newsletter to pick up .....

I send this on behalf of BUEN - the Baptist Union Environment Network, which is launching this September to coincide with Climate Sunday, as supported by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. You find out more about Climate Sunday here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/climate-sunday/>

The aim of BUEN is to connect people with a passion for the environment and tackling climate change, and to inspire churches and regional associations to grow in valuing creation and join God in environmental mission and taking action to care for creation and people. You can see new the BUEN Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/BUEN-Baptist-Union-Environment-Network-114586650343272>

In advance of the launch, there will be a BU Webinar at 1pm on 2nd September featuring Rev Dr Dave Gregory (convener of BUEN, Director of the John Ray Initiative which aims to connect the Environment, Science and Christianity, and former President of the BU 2018-2019) and Rachel Young (who is helping to co-ordinate the new cross-denominational Young Christian Climate Network aimed at people aged 18-30). The link for where the webinar can be viewed on Youtube is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=No-ZSEAO6Jo>

I hope you will find these resources helpful in stimulating thoughts, conversations and action. Watch this space for more developments, and if you think you, or someone you know (particularly in SEBA), might be interested in getting more involved then please do get in touch and let me know.

Kind regards, Rev Amanda Pink- Chaplain, Darent Valley Hospital

## **Fresh Starts– with grateful Thanks for God’s bounteous Giving.**

A few years ago some of the worship team attended a series of worship seminars in Methodist Central Hall. These were led by the up and coming worship leaders who were the main Christian song writers of the time: Tim Hughes and Al Gordon. During one of those times of worship someone I didn’t know climbed over the rows in the balcony where we were sitting and laid a hand on my shoulder and said, ‘God says– see I am doing a new thing, where there is a parched place now fresh streams will flow. Amen’ She patted my shoulder and said ‘That’s for you.’ and then she clambered back to her place.

I have thought about it many times over the years; times when I have been at Soul Survivor with thousands of singing young people or Morning worship times when Chris or Nathan have used the exact same verse I have just read in my quiet time, or when one of the hymns really hits ‘the mark’ I think of the words from the message and feel refreshed.

Clearly it could be any time– certainly changing my job over a year ago was one of those moments– I was parched by the job and the travel and the long hours. Just because I had associated it with worship didn’t mean that it wasn’t a message for my career– all of our Christian life and service are worship after all!

Of course I had just about learnt all the things in a regular church year and then there was another change– lock down. Finding new ways to do church from home! This is really a big thank you– to God, and to the whole church community! Thank you for those who have acted as delivery people, thank you to those who ring and catch up every now and again, thank you to those who have been very open and friendly by e-mail and have topped up the prayer requests and anniversaries as the months have gone by, thank you to those who shared ideas towards restoring church services. A very special thank you to Chris and Ann, Nathan and Alan, and everyone who bravely sung/played in our online services– not just on-line but lifeline. Thank you!  
(Bev)

# Activities and Events

For Children and Youth

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!



**Sunday School notice -**  
**In Deep Zoom meetings will continue on Mondays at 7pm so we can hear how the youth are settling back in to school.**

**Y5 and Y6 Zoom meetings on Wednesdays at 6pm will continue with games, fun quizzes, and a chance to share issues. Short feedback to parents each week.**

**Some of Junior Church expressed the desire to write to pen pals. If your child is interested email Kuda on [youth@sbcc-church.org.uk](mailto:youth@sbcc-church.org.uk) to join in the fun. Children will be paired up with someone of the same age**

Topics for the **Way**– young people can access the teaching via the church website [sbcc-church.org.uk](http://sbcc-church.org.uk)

Last month the Summer camps featured in the centre pages of the magazine but the links remain live so if you or your children fancy a browse.....

Follow the link for the Limitless programme  
<https://www.elim.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=255813>

Or Urban Saints virtual camps

<https://www.urbansaints.org/events?location=&event-type=6>

Or the young and Mighty materials provided by the Family Trust

<https://www.chequertree.org.uk/young-and-mighty>

**subscription is free with an e-mail address and the good news is we have booked our Youth Group place at Limitless next year– if it all goes according to plan!!! Further details and requirements will follow in due course as we still have a deadline (January) to get our places at a cheaper rate and then April to provide everyone’s information!**

**Watch this space!!!**

# Two opportunities to give and bring Joy!

## Angel Tree

We have been asked by the chaplaincy at Swaleside Prison if we could consider helping the Angel Tree Christmas present initiative. The charity buys a Christmas present suggested by the child's father which is wrapped by volunteers and the father writes a card which is attached to the present.

Whilst this pandemic has been tough for us all, it has been very tough for the children of prisoners as they have not been allowed to visit their parent in prison for over 6 months. Last year a little girl called Jessica, was given a teddy bear from her Dad, through us. The child stuck the card to her wall next to her bed and has spoken to the bear and the card every night since last Christmas.

To further explain why we feel this is an important venture, here is a frightening statistic: 7% of all children will feel the impact of their father's imprisonment before they leave school. The Angel Tree project is just a small way to help prisoners stay in contact with their families during imprisonment, this has helped to reduce re-offending rates.

We realise that all of you are bombarded by appeals, especially in the run up to Christmas. However if you feel able to help, one present costs £15.00 including wrapping and posting. We will be grateful for any sum, however small. If you feel able to give please just pay it into the church account marking it as Angel Tree or put it through the church letter box in an envelope with the word Angel Tree on the outside. All donations will be sent directly to the Angel Tree team buying these presents.

Why support the Angel Tree Project at Swaleside?

Jesus reminded us to care for our prisoners, Matthew 25 says: "Lord when did we see you as a stranger and invite you in or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you?" Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

If you do feel able to help with this could I ask that you act as soon as possible, ideally by the 25 October 2020 at the very latest. As we hope to have a lot of presents to buy and wrap within a short time frame.

We have been promised that they will let us know in due course, what has been bought and the names of the children, so that we can pray for the families. Equally as important as the giving. If you would like any further details please contact me on 01795 522252.

*Thank You so much  
Kay Cheesman*



For those of you following the church on Facebook—watch out for 'Fresh Starts/or for those going back to school, a time of new starts! This will be bible verses through the month of September to remind us of the goodness of God every day.

# Shoebox Update

We have awaited advice from Blythswood, the organisation that collects and distributes shoe boxes, and at the moment we cannot see how we can **collectively** fill shoes boxes this year.

There seems little optimism that we shall be able to use the church building to get together to fill the boxes. This is sad, as getting together brings a very special event that we share and send off our love with these boxes. But we have become very good at adapting our ways these last months haven't we? We can make things happen, we are certain.

Our suggestion at the moment is to collect items to put into boxes. If you are able and have funds to shop we can use any items on the list at the end of this article. If you are handy with knitting and sewing we can accept knitted clothing (new please) and sewn items, but we are sorry to have to say knitted toys are no longer permitted, due to the fear they may hold contraband items!!!

Shoe boxes have become a rarity; they were last year but more so it seems this year, but we have a few stored. If we run out of boxes we can send items in bags for the volunteers in Gillingham to put into boxes and fill in gaps. (I have a few spare-Bev)

The plan at the moment is to arrange to set up collection hand over points and times at the church. This has to be agreed and organised, but in the meantime, please do, if you can spare the time and costs, begin to set aside items we can donate.

We live in strange and uncharted times but we will, with prayer and God's blessing, send what we can to those who are in greater need than ourselves, and perhaps to share in our own country. Please continue to hold organisations such as Blythswood and others in our prayers.

*Many thanks and God Bless,*

*Jackie and Vicky.*

(The check list for items is on the virtual notice board on the back page– please check the restrictions carefully when buying toiletries and sweets!)



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 or phone, and then we can remember you in prayer. 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 September:-

Gill and Doug very kindly share their Wedding Anniversary with Richard and myself—the 9th of September -Gill and Doug are celebrating 48 this year and it is our 31st!!!

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

# SEPTEMBER 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](mailto:office_manager@sbc-church.org.uk)



## Prayer Points

Grace, Val, Shirley, Joe, Doug.  
Deacon's Meeting on 1st September  
Steps made towards services/  
activities at church  
Operation Chad, Food bank, Contact  
Centre and the parents who have  
gone so long without contact.  
Those still shielding.  
Those awaiting 'routine' medical care  
Chris and Ann and their family  
Nathan and his family

Weekly Sermons on  
[Www.– sbc-church.org.uk](http://www.sbc-church.org.uk)

Face book– search  
@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](mailto:Office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk)  
know your e-mail if you are not already  
receiving these. Also birthdays and  
Anniversaries for September. Big or little  
we can pray for the person.  
Monthly prayer meeting 12th August will  
be e-mailed out and streamed on  
Facebook

## Shoebox Items Checklist

### CHECKLIST 2020

Please tick items included and firmly secure this list  
on your shoebox lid.

**ESSENTIAL ITEMS (ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW):**  
Please include the following items highlighted in the top box.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and<br>Toothpaste | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Toy for boys and girls such<br>as cars, dolls, balls. Please only<br>include new shop-bought toys.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat, scarf, gloves           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweets (No chocolate or any other<br>food) 'Best Before' date no earlier<br>than March 2021. <b>No loose sweets,<br/>lollies or undated bags of sweets.</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap                         |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underwear                    |  |

**Do not include** used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should also not be included.

#### Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)

- Shampoo
- Soap/Shower gel
- Face cloth/ Moist wipes
- Deodorant
- Moisturising Cream
- Comb/Brush
- Sanitary Products
- Shaving foam/Razors
- Socks/Tights

#### Miscellaneous

- New Make-up
- Sewing Equipment

- Household Candles
- Screwdrivers/Pliers
- Kitchen Utensils

#### Stationery

- Pens/Pencils/Sharpener
- Notepads/Colouring books
- Rulers/Rubbers

#### Clothes and other Items

- (T-shirts/Pyjamas/Jumpers/  
Shirts) etc
- .....
  - .....
  - .....
  - .....

**The church will be open for 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 door**

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](mailto:office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk)