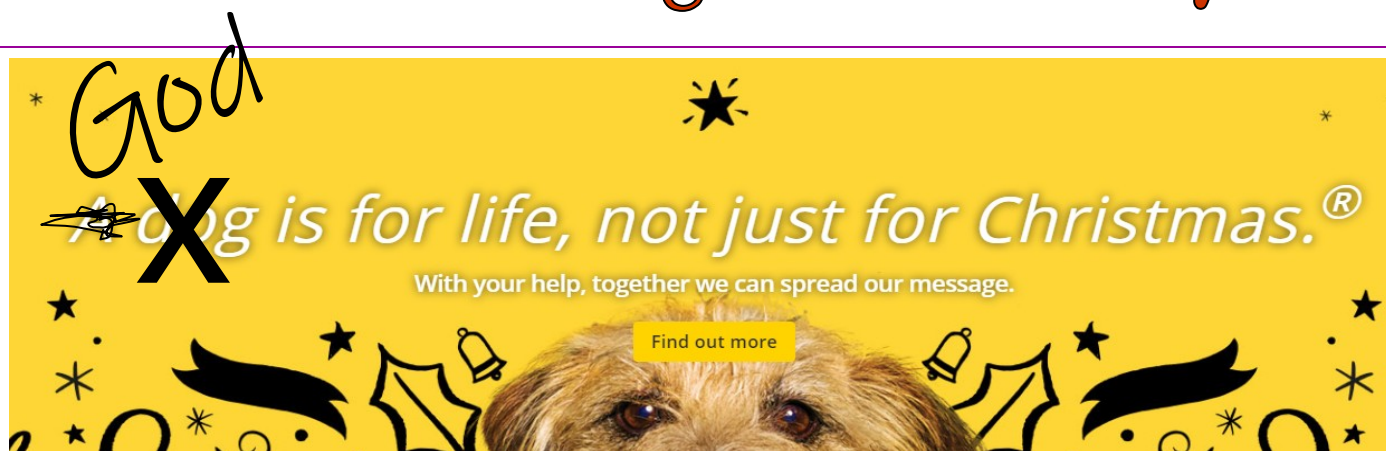


Sittingbourne Baptist Church

December Magazine & Diary 2019



To steal a line from the Dog's Trust advert above, and slightly alter it– God is for Life not just for Christmas.

Christmas is definitely a time for traditions and we have a few of those in our December Church Life– Like the rest of the country most of them feature Mince Pies!

We know not to lose sight of God in the Traditions, and yes, fripperies, but we can express God through those traditions and fripperies.

We must welcome all who come; they may have needs, they will definitely be sinners, as are we all, and they may not behave or speak or dress exactly as we do. (Imagine the staring match between the Kings and the Shepherds, for example!)

We must communicate God's Love through our actions, words and the warmth of our welcome.

As Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."

There are many opportunities to serve over the Christmas period but there are also many opportunities to invite friends and family who might not otherwise come to church. Ask them to come and see the Newborn King– hopefully through our love they will also stay and meet with the God who loved them so much He gave his only begotten Son.

This is our opportunity to make visitors feel very welcome, to demonstrate the spiritual fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5v22-23)

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost– we must invite and welcome them in!

Saturday Dec 7th – Christmas Social – 7 pm – Lounge (please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the notice board by Dec. 1st)

ARTISAN MARKET 14TH December– 10-12noon

Evangelism Street Team are handing out Mince Pies accompanied by the Good News! Please can we have donations for this date specifically– any in date leftovers will carry forward to the Carol Service!

Sunday Dec 15th – AM – Children & Youth Christmas presentation

PM – Carol singing in and around the district **with invitation distribution.**

Sunday Dec 22nd – AM – Informal communion followed by Carol singing **and invitation distribution** in front of the church

PM – **Carols by Candlelight.**

Wednesday Dec 25th – Informal Christmas morning family service

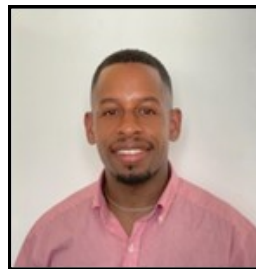
CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Minister



REV CHRIS HUGHES

Minister in Training



NATHAN GORDON

Deacons

ADMINISTRATOR

TREASURER



GRAHAME ATKINSON



MILES ATTWELL



SHAUN HENDRY



FIONA COWAN



PAUL BLAKE



DAVID CASSE



ADRIAN CHEESMAN



IAN DERHAM



BRIAN DICKSON



KUDA OSOBA



DORIS THOMSON



BEV SILLS

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: Beverley Sills office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk

This will all have to change at the end of the year—we welcome Gary Hearn and Jackie Kemp onto the Deaconate and say goodbye to Brian Dickson-still our worship co-ordinator! Thank you also to Grahame for re-standing and remaining as the Deacon focussed on Contact centre, Evangelism and Men's Fellowship.

Preachers for December Services

1st	10:30am	Chris Hughes	6:30pm	Nathan Gordon (Communion)	
8th	10:30am	Nathan Gordon	6:30pm	Mission Evening– Mission Direct 10/12 years on!	
15th	10:30am	Children and Young People's Presentation (No Communion)	6:30pm	Carols in the Community	
22nd	10:30am	"Singing on the Steps " preceded by Communion	6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight	
29th	10.30am	Alan Cole	6.30pm	Brian Dickson	

Women's Breakfast

The women's breakfast that was held on 9th November was a really 'special event' as one lady described it on the day. Sixteen ladies enjoyed a very special occasion. Ann Hughes gave a 'thought for today,' which was very much in season and several ladies felt it was a perfect word for them. Our thanks go to her for stepping in at the last minute.

The food was excellently prepared and served by the men of the church, Ian and Dave but a special thanks must go to Peter Hendry for getting up so early and helping wash up!!! A full English breakfast consisted of bacon, eggs, beans, mushrooms, tomato, sausages and hash browns. There was also an option of cereals, juice and toast with as much tea and coffee as you could drink!!



The Kitchen Crew!

It was lovely to have fellowship with ladies from other churches and meet up with old friends. Each lady went home with a small gift with a gospel message on it.

Many thanks to all who supported and managed to get out of bed at such an early hour to have such a special time of fellowship together and with the Lord.

Donations given will be used to buy gifts for children of parents who frequent the food bank.

Breakfast Team xx





Food Bank

CHRISTMAS APPEAL



**HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOODBANK
WITH FOOD AND FUNDS THIS CHRISTMAS**

DONATE FOOD

Help by donating an item or two from our shopping list to ensure we can provide food to help people in crisis.



DONATE MONEY

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.



SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

TOOTHPASTE
TOOTHBRUSH
DEODORANT
UHT MILK
SHAMPOO
PASTA/RICE/
NOODLES
TINNED FRUITS
TINNED MEATS/
FISH
TINNED SOUP
CEREAL

Don't forget...
You can help transform
more lives with a
financial donation too.



Foodbank users at this time of year.

(Editor's note— Reverse Advent is putting something into a box every day for the duration of Advent and then passing the contents on to the Foodbank Volunteers who are distributing them across the area on Christmas Eve.)

Swale Foodbank are also taking part in additional and special Christmas collections at Morrisons and Sainsbury's in December. We are hoping to have special items as well as the usual fare. **At the moment we are short of meat, pasta sauces, tinned fruit, custard and rice pudding, squash and juice,** but at the moment do not need pasta and baked beans. All the food bank outlets seem to have surplus of these.

For those who could possibly volunteer:-
Phoenix House, Central Avenue is hosting Companionship at Christmas meals on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. There will be hot and cold food and there is no charge. Transport is available on request. Booking is essential. Contact Julia Watling or Louise Johnson on 01795 473828. Volunteers to help are welcome or if you know someone who needs the time of friendship then let them know about the two days of meals.

Thank you to you all for the generous donations over the past year and we wish you a very Happy Christmas !

Jackie Kemp and the Foodbank team SBC

This year we are giving out Advent Calendars, with effect from November 29th and we have a good number of donations of the Real Advent Calendar from within the church and we like these because of the Christian booklet enclosed. We will hand out gift bags with effect from December 6th as clients come to us, one per family or individual.

In the bags we are putting individual Christmas puddings, shortbread or boxes of biscuits, selection boxes, jelly, snack type party food, crisps or Pringles, and a Christmas card.

Perishable food is not included, for obvious reasons; we are trying to think what can we do to make Christmas special for those with so little money or choices. Donations will always be welcomed for the gifts from Sittingbourne Baptist Church and also the Reverse Advent boxes which are collected Nationally for

COMPANIONSHIP AT CHRISTMAS



**Alone this Christmas?
Come and join us ...**

Hot and Cold Food

**Transport Available
on Request**

**NO
CHARGE**

Booking essential

Held at: Phoenix House, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne

For more information call 01795 473828:
to book your place, please contact Zoe Deveson
or Julia Watling

Tuesday 25th December 2018 10.00am to 3.00pm

Wednesday 26th December 2018 10.00am to 3.00pm

Supported by Swale Community and Voluntary Services Registered Charity Number 117973
and Swale Community Centres, Registered Charity Number 1103312

Kent Reliance
Provident Society Fund

Linda Hogan Community Fund



Kindly provided by
Church member

Christmas Quiz



AW is missed by

us all in so many different ways and
he, together with his Dad, having spent last
Christmas with E and I, brought back a happy
memory for me which I would like to share.

We were 'resting' after E's excellent Christmas lunch
when A shyly produced a quiz he had made up for our
afternoon entertainment, explaining that he
enjoyed taking part in and producing general knowledge
games.

I am sorry to say that we could have all done better at
giving the answers, it may have been the food and a
little wine that dulled the brain, but that is my excuse,
so it is attached for all to share and have some fun.
I know Alan would be pleased to have done so.

**The really big clue is that these are all Kentish
Place-names! (Editor's hint for you all!)**

1. There is a bird in front of this 'R'
2. This congregation does not sound that bright
3. Make mine a cheese and ham
4. Fortunately it ends 'ing' not 'y' otherwise the
residents might get accused of insanity.
5. The Priestfield stadium is here
6. These ships are not going south
7. I want to try and get £25 for my old guitar
8. Usually known by two words, but sometimes a third
is added first. How regal!
9. Other places end likewise, but this one is not about
to stand for it any longer

10. Change one letter of this well-known
university town to get another place in Kent
11. Its four letters are all consonants (Looks
a bit Welsh to me— Editor's note!)
12. I wonder whether all the residents of this
Borough are actually wealthy
13. He has one of these but not a saucer
14. Contains surname of a former British
tennis champion
15. Has the same first and last letter and
those who like to turn things around might
also spot a poem
16. 70's/80's glam rock band are at the
rear near here
17. Perhaps an agreement
18. Is it a tree in front of a car? Possibly
19. It starts with an 'S' and has three more
of them in its remaining eleven letters
20. Sounds like these are O.K. to get by
anyone coming down

To conclude for those who like anagrams

21. FRED'S TIN
22. WASH METER
23. GOT TWINS
24. ME NOT SAID



Answers in January!!!!

First Contact

FIRST CONTACT is a column by one of our deacons, Kuda Osoba.

This Month: RW

When did you first come to Sittingbourne and what was your First Contact with SBC?

I first came to Sittingbourne in 1993 and the first contact with SBC was in 1999 when I came to Family Church which was run by Bev Sills and DS. That's when I started coming to church in the week.

What are the things that you feel have kept you here?

I feel it was loyalty as I have always been in the Baptist movement and I felt loyal to that process. The church has always been supportive of my son, Michael and I needed the bigger church, as I have been involved in a church plant before. Also, I felt that I was not permitted to go, as I attempted to leave this church twice, and the Lord said "No." But I do feel that the Lord is now saying "Go" and I don't want to, but it is always right to obey Him.



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:

christians
against
poverty

CAP

Some CAP updates and information for the New Year

The CAP Life Skills course will be starting in the New Year through The Hope Church and The Methodist Church but have no firm dates yet, so more news will be in Jan 2020 magazine.

For those online any further information will be available on this link:-

<https://capuk.org/i-want-help/our-services/cap-life-skills/introduction>

Thank you for all the Cards made in the craft sessions with ST, and a BIG thank you to all who made them.

The clients are really blessed and they shall all get a hand made card inviting them to a local service close to where they live and with the help of the reverse Advent they will all get Hampers as well.

There is a new CAP prayer letter pinned to the board in the lounge and copies in the information stand in the Sanctuary– please take these up and bear R, S and the CAP organisation in your prayers.

Activities and Events



Bring parents and grandparents and anyone you can to

The Christmas presentation which takes place on December 15th in our 10.30am Service.

**N.B. Dec 14th
Practise 2-4pm and Party
4-5.30pm**

Please support everyone to learn their lines and the song words!

Benjamin Britten's

A CEREMONY OF CAROLS

Experience Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* in the atmospheric setting of Rochester Cathedral's medieval Crypt as performed by the Rochester Cathedral choristers and harpist Carys Hughes.

Saturday 14th December 2019, 7pm

Doors: 6.30pm, unreserved seating

Tickets £20 including drinks reception

Tickets available in the Cathedral shop and
www.rochester-cathedral.org

Rochester
CATHEDRAL
Growing in Christ since AD604



Christmas Social Evening



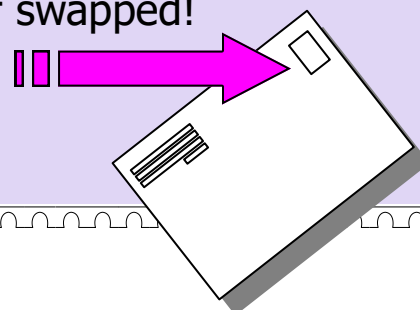
**7th December 2019
7-9pm**

**An evening of fun,
festivities and
friendship.**


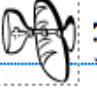
**All are welcome please
use the sheet in the
Lounge to sign up soon
as we are limited to 90
for safety and
comfort!!!**



Calling all Philatelists!!!
Please don't throw away or recycle your stamps over Christmas– we can use them in the Church to send away to benefit the Baptist Missionary Society– also if you are tearing or cutting them off your envelopes please leave a margin of paper as the society need them to be complete with perforated edge to be sold or swapped!



DECEMBER 2019

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30 Rendezvous- Whitstable Gospel Male Voice Choir in Sanctuary	31					1 10:30am Morning Service 6:30pm Evening Service with Communion 
2 2-3:30pm Rendezvous- Whitstable Gospel Male Voice Choir in Sanctuary	3 9:30-noon Private function 7:45pm Deacons Meeting in Hub 7:45pm Ladies Contact Club	4 10:30-12 noon A.B.C. 1:30pm Housegroup 7:30pm In Deep in Basement	5 10:30am C.T.I.S. Prayer in Hub 12:45pm Christmas Lunches 2pm Bright Hour	6 9:30am-12 noon Gardening Club Lounge 10am-12 noon Food bank in Hub & Sanctuary 1-2pm EST 7-9pm Underground 10pm-2am St Pastors	7 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 12:30-2pm EST 7:00pm Christmas social in Lounge	8 10:30am Morning Service 6:30pm Evening Service-Mission Mission Direct-10-12 years on
9 2-3:30pm Rendezvous- Carols & Christmas Party in Sanctuary	10 9:30-1:30pm Private function 2pm-4pm Private carol service in Lounge	11 10:30-12 noon A.B.C. 7:30pm Prayer Mfg. in Lounge	12 10:30am C.T.I.S. Prayer 2pm Bright Hour 7:30pm Basic Christianity in Lounge 8pm Choir rehearsal	13 10am-12 noon Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary 1-2pm EST 7-9pm Underground 10pm-2am Street Pastors	14 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 10-12 noon EST Artisan Market 2-5:30pm Rehearsal & Party	15 10:30am Morning Service- Children's presentation 6:30pm Evening Service-Carol singing in the community
16 Rendezvous- Carols & Christmas Party in Sanctuary	17 11am Private funeral 1pm Private function 7:45pm Deacons' Prayer	18 10:30-12 noon A.B.C. 1:30pm Housegroup 2:30pm Pine Lodge Residential Service 7:30pm In Deep in Basement	19 10:30am C.T.I.S. Prayer in Hub 10:30am Woodstock Residential Home Service	20 10am-12 noon Food Bank in Sanctuary & Hub 1-2pm EST 10pm-2am St Pastors Pastors in Hub	21 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 10-12 EST Covenant L.C. 7pm Youth Workers meal in Lounge	22 10:30am Communion followed by carol singing outside 4pm Choir rehearsal & tea 6:30pm Carols by Candlelight 
23	24	25 10:30am Service CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 10am-12 noon Food Bank in Sanctuary & Hub 1-2pm EST 10pm-2am Street Pastors	28 10am-12 noon Contact Centre 1-2pm EST	29 10:30am Morning Service 6:30pm Evening Service