



January Magazine 2024



A Call to prayer
Some of you may know
that 18th-25th of January,
is the Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity (WPCU)
Each year there is a theme
and this year it is 'Love thy
Neighbour.'



This comes from the Passage in Luke when Jesus is asked– who is my Neighbour and tells the story of the Good Samaritan in response. The Christians of Burkino Faso have planned the themed services for 2024.

During the WPCU in Sittingbourne the churches together are hosting prayer slots throughout the week, and we are all called to join together and to pray for one another. If we use the Good Samaritan as an example, then our Neighbours might be from a different culture or back ground. They may be wounded physically or mentally, and they definitely need something that we can give.

Hopefully there will be more information closer to 18th but at the moment prayer times are as follows:

Thursday 18th January 11am Ichthus Fellowship
 Central Ave

Saturday 20th 2pm Methodist Church High Street

Sunday 21st 6.30pm Themed Praise and Worship
 Baptist Church

Wednesday 24th 7pm Sacred Heart Ecumenical
 Prayer Service, London Road.

GENERAL CALL TO PRAYER

As we look back over the targets and aims we set for the church over 2023 – we gathered together in January and February to study the book "I am a Church Member"

and our main vision points were to grow Spiritually, Numerically, Relationally and to be united in Prayer.

2023 was quite a busy year!!

We did grow numerically and there were so many events and getting to know you opportunities that our relationships with one another deepened.

There are still greater steps that the body of Christ represented here by many members could move forward.

Prayer can always increase.

Our Early prayer sessions will resume in the first whole week in February

Tues– Fri 6-9th. If you can make these times, it is a really good time of fellowship and the prayers have torn down barriers for more people to cross the threshold into church; we have seen light spreading into dark corners of the town and have blessed one another. There could still be more!

There may also be new opportunities for fellowship through prayer coming in the next weeks and months– Come and pray and see what the Lord can do.



**REV
NATHAN GORDON**

Minister

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



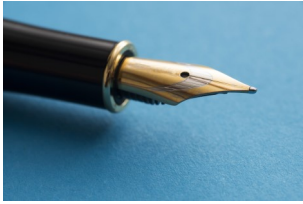
**RICHARD
SILLS**



HYLKO ZINGSTRA

Services for the month of January Theme "Re-focus"

	Morning Service 10.30am	Evening Service 6.30pm
7th	What's your vision for 2024? Vision boards in service guided by Nathan Proverbs 29:18; Habakkuk 2:2-3; Philippians 3:13-14	"How can we know Peace with God?" Reflective message from Alan Cole, with worship led by Ian Stride
14th	What/Who is the apple of your eye? Matthew 6:22-24 Rev Nathan Gordon	Digging Deeper– New Series all about the Apostle Paul Brian Dickson
21st 	"Re-focus my passion-It's time to get to work!" 2 Thess. 3v1-15 Rev Nathan Gordon	Praise and Worship Service on the theme of Love thy Neighbour for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity Led by Bev Sills
28th	Rev Joth Hunt (SEBA) Title TBC	3.30pm All Age Service– change is coming!! Watch this space.....



Administrators Notes

Greetings to you all, and a Happy New Year.

I do hope you enjoyed the birth of our Lord and Saviour, the
"Prince of Peace".

I would like to take this opportunity to **thankyou all** for your cards and lovely messages inside of them. I did not realise how much I am loved, and I am very humbled. **Thankyou.**

What are we starting the year off with? At this point, I don't know, but I am sure that by the end of this month we will all know. Remember last year and the study "I am a Church Member". Let's continue to love one another, and not just apply our own preferences.

A word for our "New Worshippers and New Members".

If you have been worshipping with us for some time, you may consider yourself to be a member, unfortunately not, though we do welcome you as "part of our church family". If you wish to become a "Member", and have the right to attend, and vote, at "Church Members Meetings", you will have to apply by filling in a "New Members" form, which can be found in the entrance vestibule, or obtained from the Church Administrator or Office Manager.

I would also like to draw your attention to the church "Internal Mail System" called **Pigeon Holes.**

This can be found at the far end of the lounge. It is a white wooden box frame that looks like pigeon holes, hence the name. They have been well used recently for Christmas Cards but they are in action all year round—keep a check on your surname initial for important information.



My Christian love to you all, *Grahame.*

Housekeeping for January 2024!!

As we hit the ground running in the New Year there are one or two things which need to be mentioned over the coming weeks— they are in the Church Diary but not everyone absorbs things in the same way!!

There are a few practical things taking place over the next week or so— on Tuesday 9th Jan. all of the electrical items in the church will have their PAT test done— We like to keep

everyone safe especially with electricity! If you have anything shut away in a cupboard or out of sight, out of mind please make Bev aware of it and then it can be tested.

Second thing— anyone who is a key holder for the church needs to contact Bev in the office before Saturday 13th January if you haven't got a new key. The lock will be renewed on 13th Jan and the old yale style brass keys will no longer get you into church.

Please do not contact Bev outside of Office hours to be let in to the church— you must get your key renewed before the 13th if you still only have the old one!!

Out with the Old in with the New!



Also may I please ask that if you are a church member you complete the data refresh forms and pop them back in the office Pigeonhole as soon as possible— there are still blank forms around the church—even up on the Balcony!!

Church Office details 01795 420990

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

Office Manager: Bev Sills: office.manager@sbc-church.org.uk

Email: office@sbc-church.org.uk **Web:** www.sbc-church.org.uk





Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

SBC received a lovely e-mail and lots of photos from CAP to say thank you for the chocolates and Mince Pies which we sent across for the Christmas Hampers for Clients. I know there were many of you who brought in lovely boxes and bars of chocolate and added them to the box in the lounge. There have been years when we have had a crafting day and made lots of Christmas cards for CAP too so maybe this year.....?!



The Worship team had a meal together organised by Ian– good for Fellowship and Unity

End of 2023..



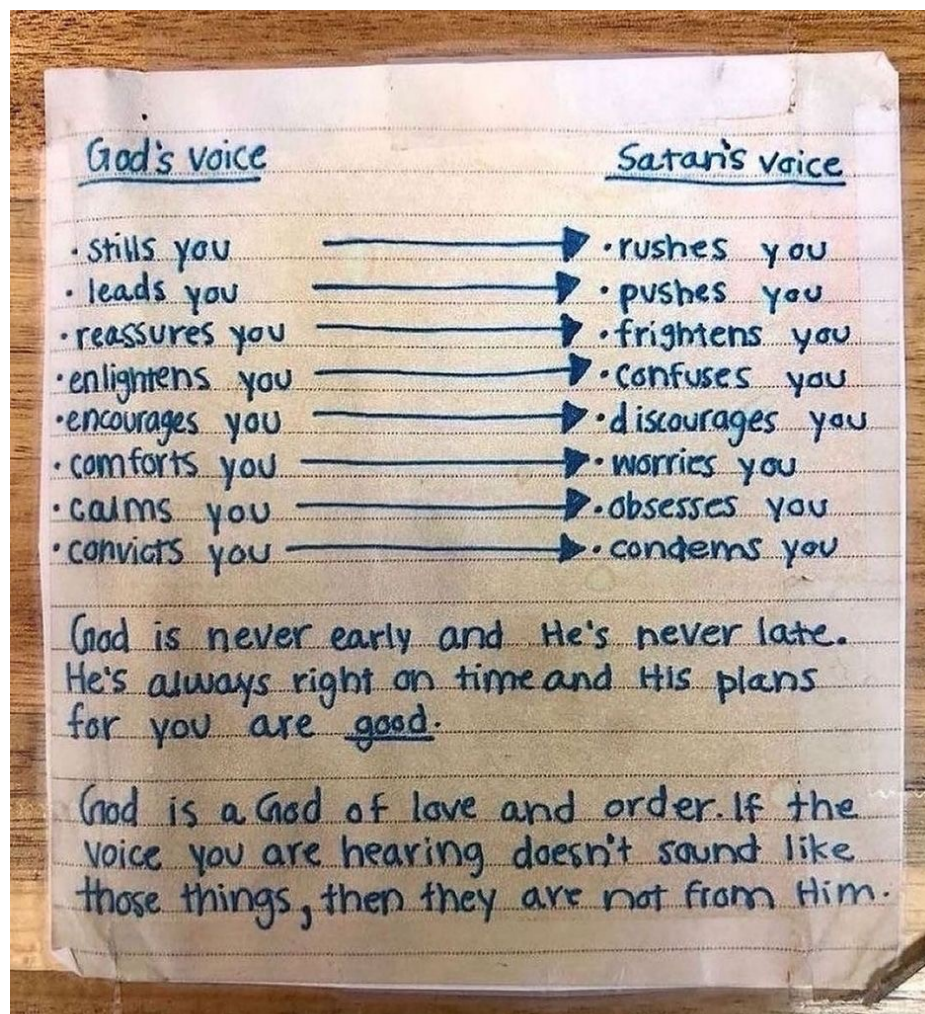
We outdoor Carolled and made some new friends!

The Service at 10.30am on 7th January is all about "What's your vision for 2024?" Sharing verses from God's Word and prayer and Encouragement, Nathan leads us to grow closer to God. We will use practical, creative steps to make a visual reminder of how God wants us to grow this coming year. As we pray and discuss this together God will speak into our lives with fresh ideas for following in His Footsteps.



Beginning of 2024

Thoughts
for the
coming
months



The Apostle Paul - A man on a mission



There are many characters in the Bible that stand out for completely giving themselves over to God, but very few who would go on to leave a mark on the world so profound, that evidence of life and ministry would survive thousands of years after their death.

The Bible has much to say about the Apostle Paul and in this New Year of 2024, we will begin a NEW series and explore the person of Paul, find out what his peers thought of him, and examine what God managed to accomplish through him.

We will start with a blank canvas and go on a journey of discovery; we will find out why this man had such a huge influence in his generation, and also look at the impact his legacy continues to have on much of the known world today.

An inspiration or someone to be avoided?

Who was this man? What made him so special that he should be used of God so greatly?

Through studying the person and ministry of the Apostle, we can learn much

As Christians

As a church

From his writings, we learn that this was a man with focus. He had an overflowing desire to live a life dedicated to his Lord and Saviour. Surely this is someone from whom we can draw much inspiration.

Not everybody liked Paul, some feared him, and some rejected him, they just didn't trust him.

Many would distance themselves from him and some even sought to destroy him.

So, who were his friends, and what did they mean to him?

Who were his enemies, and why did they try to silence him?

A man on a mission

What do places like Ephesus, Galatia and Philippi have in common? These are just a few places where the apostle preached during one of his three missionary journeys, and in which he planted churches. These churches received letters from Paul, letters that were inspired of God and these became part of the New Testament canon of scripture.

Paul worked hard and preached in many towns and cities. He travelled an estimated nine thousand miles on his missionary journeys alone, and that does not include his journey to Rome, nor distances walked whilst at these places.

Paul preached in many countries, including what is known in modern times as Turkey, Greece, Syria and Italy.

The modern-day missionary might seem quite different from a first century evangelists' perspective. Paul's life as an apostle and preacher was not an easy one. He was often chastised, scourged, imprisoned and stoned. Yet this man managed to remain faithful until the end.

Nobody should doubt his commitment to the ministry and his faithfulness toward God.

Should Paul's legacy be accepted or rejected?

To dedicate your life to God is admirable enough, but that did not suppress his detractors. They sought to silence him and even kill him.

You'd think after a few thousand years, that would be that, but you'd be wrong.

Even today Paul has enemies, they still want to silence his legacy. Our study will seek to find out why Paul's writings are scrutinised, detested and divisive among many in the church today.

Come and explore together

Come along, bring your Bible and note taking materials, as we find out more about the Apostle Paul, whom many consider, one of the greatest missionaries of all time.

(We should thank Brian for his study and research and he always wins first entry for material to the magazine!)

First Contact

Tina Andrews aka Auntie Tina!

When was your first contact with SBC?

The first contact was Adrian and Kay's wedding in 1980, then I came again for Jane Cheesman's funeral in 2003 because I am Adrian's aunt, so I was with his mum, my sister. I have always found the church so welcoming and supportive to the family through difficult times.



When you come to Church now, what do you get out of it?

I get a feeling of warmth and togetherness and a feeling of family love. I have seen many changes through the years, and there are a lot of things we need to do in the church too, but on the whole they are for the better.



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!

Faith in Focus is taking place at Woodstock Care Home 10.45am every 2nd Thursday in the month. If you are able to join the team—even for a one off occasion contact David Casse— one of our Deacons.





In case you don't catch it in the weekly sheet— Is there anyone who has a larger vehicle who could help Jerry (usually at the back near or sitting at the sound desk) to take one or two things to the tip. His car just isn't big enough— have a word with Jerry if you can as you will have to agree a time to book— that's how they do it now!!

Here we go with Birthday and Wedding Anniversary mentions!



January
7th Brian
15th Mark W
18th Congrats to Shaun and Hilary
27th Miles
31st Violet

Birthdays pop up on Face book but do let me know the Anniversaries as I need a little reminder! Don't forget to send in your special mentions for the February Magazine. The deadline will have to be January 25th and then we can all pray for you too.

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 1:30 & 7:15pm Housegroups	4 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6pm <i>Youth Band</i>	5 10:30am-12:30 <i>Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary</i> 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm <i>Underground</i>	6 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 9-4pm <i>Deacons planning day</i>	7 10:30am "What's your vision for 2024?" Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Reflective service & Communion "How can we know peace with God?" Alan Cole 
8 10- Noon A.B.C.	9 9am onwards PAT Testing	10 11am-1pm Recovery meet- ing (Creche) 7pm Street Pastors Discussion Meeting-Hub	11 9am C.T.I.S. <i>Prayer meeting</i> 10.45am <i>Faith talks at Woodstock</i> 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6pm <i>Youth Band</i>	12 10:30am-12:30 <i>Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary</i> 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm <i>Underground</i>	13 10am-12noon <i>Contact Centre</i> <i>Noon onwards Lock of Side Door changed!</i>	14 10:30am -"Who/What is the apple of your eye?" Rev Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Digging Deeper– New Series—The Apostle Paul Brian Dickson
15 10-Noon A.B.C.	16 7:30pm <i>Deacons prayer meeting</i>	17 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 1:30pm & 7:15pm Housegroups	18 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6pm <i>Youth Band</i> 7.30pm <i>Worship whole team meeting</i>	19 10:30am-12:30 <i>Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary</i> 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm <i>Underground</i>	20 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i>	21 10:30am "Refocus my passion– It's time to get to work!" Rev Nathan Gordon 6:30pm Praise and Worship on the theme "Love Thy Neighbour" for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity 
22 10-Noon A.B.C.	23	24 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche)	25 10:45am <i>Woodstock service</i> 2pm <i>Bright Hour</i> 6pm <i>Youth Band</i>	26 10:30am -12:30 <i>Food Bank in Hub & Sanctuary</i> 5-6:30pm JAM CLUB 7-9pm <i>Underground</i>	27 9:30am-Sanctuary– First Aid Training followed by Food Hygiene 10am-12 noon <i>Contact Centre</i> 1.30pm <i>Evangelism team meet</i> (Upstairs) 2pm <i>W.I.N.P.– Hub</i>	28 10:30am Visiting speaker Joth Hunt from SEBA (south East Baptist Association) 3.30pm All– Age service
29 10-Noon A.B.C.	30 10-12 <i>Private event</i>	31 11am-1pm Recovery meeting (Creche) 2:30pm <i>Pine Lodge service</i>		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity– watch out for prayer sessions throughout the week and special services –they will appear on the Sermon notes for that week.		