

# Knightrider Street News



**MARCH 2025**

MAIDSTONE  
**BAPTIST CHURCH**

The logo for Maidstone Baptist Church features a stylized black silhouette of a church building with a cross on top, set within a semi-circular arch. The text 'MAIDSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH' is positioned to the left of the logo.

*Taking the Good News of Jesus into our lives and into God's World*  
[www.maidstonebaptist.net](http://www.maidstonebaptist.net)

***Maidstone Baptist Church***

**Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6LU**

Registered in England as a charity, no. 1128948

*“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!”  
Genesis 1:31a (NLT)*

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**Church publications:**

**Monthly notice sheet:**

Information for the notice sheet should be sent to the  
General Administrator, c/o the church office.

**Monthly magazine: Knightrider Street News**

Editorial Deadline: *Second Sunday of previous month: 20.00hrs by e-mail only*

Editor: **Paul Tebbutt**

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**Knightrider Street News Postal Distributor:**

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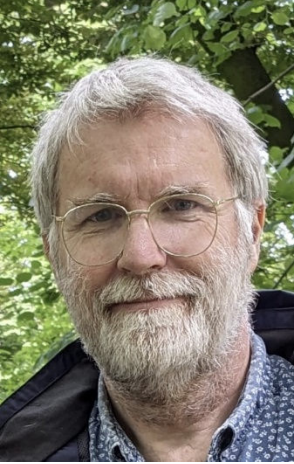
*Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors,  
and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.*

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**Pastoral Visits:**

At Maidstone Baptist Church we are happy to offer pastoral visits - for prayer, communion, or simply a chat. We can meet at church, in your home, or elsewhere, such as in a park or coffee shop.

If you feel this would be helpful, please speak to Nigel or Al, or to your Pastoral Leader.



Numbers! The thought of doing anything with numbers fills some people with dread, for others it's a skill they find easy. But maths and numbers are important, whether we like it or not. Even as young babies we start learning through number songs, and of course schools spend much time teaching maths. Numbers are a part of life that we can't get away from.

As we go through life we continue counting: have we got enough money to afford the toy we want, a holiday, a new carpet, to put the heating on? We count our grey hairs when they arrive, although some of us lost count long ago!! We count calories. We count our steps. We count how many days left until an event. We count how long we've been waiting to see someone. You get the picture. Numbers and counting matter.

But how often, in the busyness of life, do we stop to count our blessings? Even in the middle of our greatest troubles there are blessings to be found. I have visited folk who have been very unwell in hospital who have felt blessed to have the bed by the window so they can see the sky. Some have even told me that they are happy to look out over the car park, because even that evidence of human activity is better than staring at a blank wall.

When we shift our focus to look for blessings, we are looking out for God. We can look for the snowdrops popping up in the verges. We can be thankful for online shopping when we can't get to the supermarket. We can be blessed as we watch the joy on the face of a toddler splashing through puddles in their wellies. We can be blessed by having a cup of tea with a friend. There are always blessings to be found.

In Matthew 5:3-12 we read The Beatitudes. Beatitudes (or supreme blessings) are bold statements given by Jesus in order to help us establish the kingdom of heaven on earth, and these will in turn bring true peace and freedom for anyone who chooses to follow Jesus and become one of His disciples. Maybe you can find a quiet moment to read these verses and reflect on them; perhaps this is the most important one:

***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God - Matthew 5:8***

An old hymn (from 1897) goes like this:

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*

Over the coming weeks as you count your steps, your calories or your pennies, take time to count your blessings also. When we choose to recognise our blessings, we shift our focus and move closer to God.

*Nigel*

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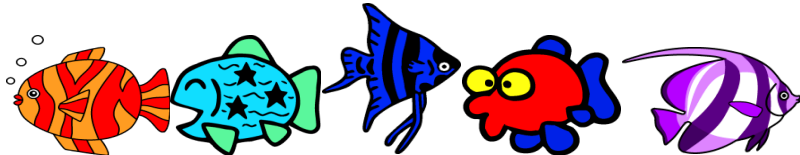
**Deadline for April Knightrider Street News:**

**Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Please e-mail contributions to the address on inside front cover  
*No later than 20.00hrs on this date*

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**Little Fishes**

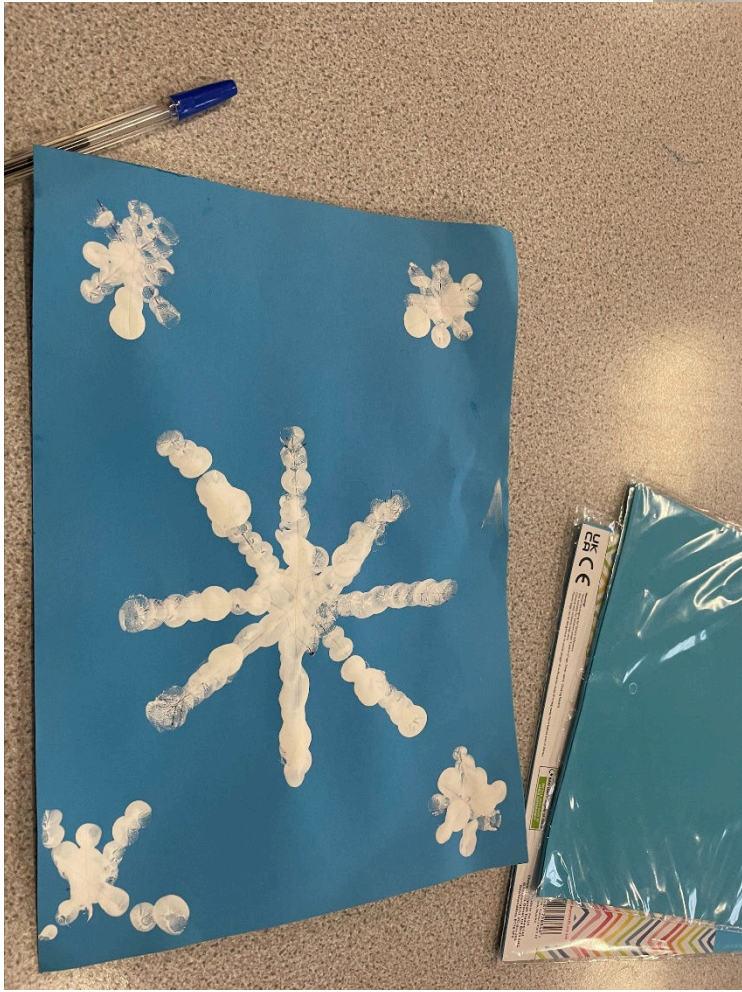


As we wrote this (*early January*) we have had an exciting Christmas Party where the children all had a Christmas present to take home. We also had a ‘*pass the parcel*’ game and a talk from our Youth Pastor Alastair.

We have had a good number of children through the door since last September and have had fun creating lots of different crafts. (*see pictures below*)

We look forward to continuing this work and are always happy to have others to help if they feel able.







## LADIES BRUNCH

*March 29<sup>th</sup> 2025*

We are planning once again to have a Ladies Brunch in March, following our very enjoyable time last year.

We are delighted, and grateful, that Jane Haslam has again offered her home in Coxheath for this.

Please save the date: **Saturday morning, 29<sup>th</sup> March**, from 9.30 a.m. for 10.00 start, to 12.00 noon. More details to be given out in the church.

We hope you will join us for a really relaxing morning of food, fellowship and getting to know one another better.

Please contact Sheila Smith or Nic Weller if you would like to come – places may need to be limited.

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## **PASTORAL TEAM**

As you are probably aware, pastoral visits are offered on request by our Senior Minister, for chat, prayer and/or communion. However, you may not know that we have a Pastoral Team of people allocated to different areas of Maidstone.

These Pastoral Leaders try to keep in touch with those in their area, and to contact all newcomers who give their details. They are there to contact you from time to time, to support you with encouragement and prayer, and to meet you and visit you if you would like this.

Sometimes we are looking for new Pastoral Leaders to come on this team, and if this is something that you feel suits your gifts and where you would like to serve, please contact Nigel or Sheila so that we can take it forward.

For your information, the current Pastoral Leaders and areas are as set out below. If you would like your area leader's phone number or email, please ask Nigel or Sheila.

**Pastoral Area 1** London Road area from Rocky Hill, Snodland,  
Larkfield, Allington, Eccles, Aylesford

*Anne Swannell*

**Pastoral Area 2** Tonbridge Road area to Barming, Wateringbury,  
East Farleigh

*Barbara Beavis*

**Pastoral Area 3** Tovil from Knightrider Street, Hayle Road area,  
Mote Park area, Forest Hill area

*Elaine Watson*

**Pastoral Area 4** Willington Street area, Plains Avenue, Parkwood,  
Shepway, Otham, Langley

*Marilyn McIntosh*

**Pastoral Area 5** Loose Road area from the Wheatsheaf to Coxheath,  
Staplehurst

**Pastoral Area 6** Bearsted, Hockers Lane, Headcorn, Sandway,  
Hollingbourne, Harrietsham

**Pastoral Area 7** Penendon Heath, Ringlestone, Vinters Park,  
Sittingbourne Road area, Holland Road,

*Barbara Small* Sandling, Grove Green, Rainham, Chatham,  
Walderslade, Rochester, Sittingbourne, Detling.

As a fellowship we want to thank those who continue to serve us all in this pastoral way. But especially at this time to thank Chris Frost and Pam Fishwick, who have recently stepped down from this work. We all benefit from the tangible love and care we receive.



“Good News for Everyone serves to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ by the placing, presenting and/or distributing Scriptures in many different areas of life.

We want to thank our Friends and church members for all your faithful prayer support and giving. This giving enables us to purchase scriptures to present to Year 7 children in our local schools, provide scriptures for the guests in Winter Shelter and for local foodbanks, or make sure New Testaments are available in our hospitals for patients and relatives, among many other places.

As well as visits to many school assemblies, we give thanks that one school invites us in each year to take classes. This year two or three members will visit 9 classes early in March and may we ask for your prayers for lively questions and interaction and that the children’s hearts will be touched by God’s word. Thank you.”



## **BMS Birthday Scheme.**

- |                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| March 5 <sup>th</sup>  | David Frost       |
| March 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Judith Woodbridge |
| March 19 <sup>th</sup> | Arthur Vigar      |
| March 22 <sup>nd</sup> | Helen Harman      |



# **Happy Birthday to you all!**





**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> –Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025,  
7.30pm-9.30pm**

***Speaker: Rev Chris Wright***

**Theme: ‘Jeremiah: Prophet for Today’**

**Venue: Maidstone Baptist Church, Knightrider Street**

*Admission: FREE (A collection will be taken)*

Rev Chris Wright is the Global Ambassador of the Langham Partnership, and author of many books, including *Jesus in the Old Testament*, *The God I don’t Understand*, *The Mission of God*, and *Old Testament Ethics for the People of God*, as well as several BST commentaries.

Chris spoke for us previously in 2018, and was a very popular speaker. We are thrilled that he is able to share with us again, this time on the theme of ‘Jeremiah: Prophet for Today.’

*Put the dates in your diary now and come and join other Christians from around Maidstone for four nights of Bible teaching.*

## New Wine 30<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Last summer the Swannell & Flemons families, accompanied by a couple of others from the church, attended New Wine Christian Festival.

New Wine is held at the Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Wiltshire. I don't think anything could have prepared us for the vast site, which had 15,000 people camping. It was like a little taste of heaven, worshipping in the main venue with 6000 others is a fantastic experience. There were a few bigger groups from other churches within Maidstone, with whom we met whilst there. Whilst there we said it would be lovely to have more people attending this coming summer as a group from Maidstone Baptist.

The teaching occurs throughout the day with two main venues for adults plus a variety of venues for children and teenagers according to their age. Also several smaller venues where individuals can go for quieter sessions - an accessible adult venue as well as an accessible children's venue, which provided quieter spaces for those with physical disabilities and special educational needs.

The teenagers group, Luminosity was clearly excellent. Even Marcus, normally a man of few words, often came back from his sessions talking eagerly about how great they were. He loved the music, fun and energy, and being surrounded by other Christians of his age. (Having enjoyed the Detling event so much, he insisted we go again, despite the much longer drive to Shepton Mallet).

It felt like the organisers had thought of everything; there is a venue for parents and young children, open from 5.30am with play equipment as well as tea and coffee making facilities in case the light mornings wake the children too early. There was a bar for the evenings with after-hours entertainment and a number of shops including a supermarket.



The camping is split into villages, each with a village hall containing plug sockets, kettles with tea and coffee making facilities and village hosts available to assist throughout the week.

For those who aren't keen on camping under canvas, there were a large number of B&B's; air-bnb's etc within a couple of miles driving distance making it an accessible event for everyone.

**Cost:**

If cost comes to mind as a reason to prevent you from attending, and you are willing to work whilst there (either part-time or full-time), then the cost is reduced significantly for the part-time workers and to a small amount for the full-time workers. You become entitled to meals provided for you if you should want them when working full-time. I worked full-time whilst there last year, it was the only way in which I was able to attend. It did not prevent me from enjoying and benefitting from the teaching in any way. In fact, I gained so much from it. I worked 8am -1pm and 5pm-9pm. There were events I could attend in the afternoon in order to get uninterrupted teaching without working at the same time.

It is also possible at present, to pay a deposit and the remainder in instalments which often makes it more feasible for some people.

If you would like to join us, please contact me or Anne Swannell.

**Please note:**

- You would need to either provide camping equipment to stay in (we are not able to source it for you) or arrange your own accommodation off site. There may be ways to share some equipment (cooking etc) possibly by having one or two cooking gazebos so that we cook for ourselves but work as a group to save on some costs and the amount of equipment we need to take.
- You would also need to arrange transport to and from the venue (daily if staying off site)
- You will need to book it yourself, but we are available to give advice if required.

However, if you would like to ask questions about any of the facilities etc. please feel free to speak to us. We hope to have more of you join us in the little taste of what heaven may be like.

*Rachel*





# Prayer Points

*March 2025*

- Sat 1<sup>st</sup> Let us remember today, the first of the month, the uncertainty that is going on around us in this country and abroad: the violence and killings on our streets with knife crime and also the wars and tensions going on in Gaza, Israel and Ukraine.
- Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> Pray today for those within our church family who are struggling in their daily life; those finding it hard to see what all this means with the events taking place. Pray for comfort, solace and inner peace as we navigate this period in time.
- Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> May we pray today for strength to keep going even when things seem impossible: so much death, so much pain, so much sadness, so much brokenness in society.
- Tue 4<sup>th</sup> Pray for those who have recently been bereaved or have loved ones near to death, as tears are shed and grief is so painful. Remember those who have lost loved ones as a result of fighting and national unrest.
- Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Remember families in the church with young children and those with teenagers at a time when growing up in a high technological and digital age is a real challenge for safety online.
- Thur 6<sup>th</sup> Let us pray for Nigel and Alastair and the senior team as they lead the church and for those taking up new roles in leadership after the AGM.

- Fri 7<sup>th</sup> Let us also pray for our music group who lift up their instruments and voices in praise to our God each week as we gather together.
- Sat 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for our youth who are contemplating new careers and taking exams to determine their future pathways.
- Sun 9<sup>th</sup> Today let us focus our attention to Global mission and Home Mission outreach, reaching out to all who need to hear the good news of our Saviour.
- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Pray for our brothers and sisters who are suffering persecution simply because they are Christians in this country or abroad.
- Tue 11<sup>th</sup> May we pray for wisdom in the words we speak to our colleagues and the actions we portray as we are in the workplace, school or college today.
- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Pray for the important work being done at Archbishop Courtenay School and the outreach program involved there.
- Thur 13<sup>th</sup> Let us pray for our government under Sir Kier Starmer as he leads the country through this turbulent time negotiating with world leaders from east to west.
- Fri 14<sup>th</sup> Pray for our elderly members who may be feeling so isolated due to personal health needs and long term conditions.
- Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Pray also for those who are in residential care and nursing homes receiving 24 hour care, particularly at this time when sickness and infections are always a concern.



Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Pray for the church leadership team and the deacons as they meet and plan for the future ahead. Pray for those who will be elected to serve at the church meeting this Thursday.

Mon 17<sup>th</sup> Let us pray for the local hospitals and social services here in Kent as they continue to work together to cope with all the needs that they have address.

Tue 18<sup>th</sup> Pray for all those who are involved in local mission outreach here in Maidstone and beyond, and for the Churches Together in Maidstone.

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Pray again for the Boys' and Girls' brigades as they continue to deliver projects near and far and their community work.

Thur 20<sup>th</sup> Remember the Street Pastors and volunteers as they go out each weekend in support of people out for the night.

Fri 21<sup>st</sup> May we remember our coffee mornings taking place every Friday, that blessings will flow to all who attend.

Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> Pray for local schools and colleges as they prepare for Summer term, that all the support they need will be available.



Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> Pray for all of us who at times feel unfulfilled, saddened or anxious about life and find it hard to speak to someone.

Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Today may we pray about those feelings we sometimes get when we are fearful and troubled in spirit and unsure if we will make it to the end.

Tue 25<sup>th</sup> Remember in prayer all the homeless people who are still



sleeping rough and have no fixed abode.

Wed 26<sup>th</sup> May we pray for the regions around the world still under the control of dictators and extremists, that human compassion will rule at all times

Thur 27<sup>th</sup> Pray for the aid agencies such as Save the Children and the Red Cross in their work in afflicted areas around the world, savaged by floods, earthquakes or war and also for the relief of the suffering people in Gaza and Palestine trying to rebuild their lives.

Fri 28<sup>th</sup> Let us remember to pray for our wider church family here in Kent. Pray for unity in spirit and truth.

Sat 29<sup>th</sup> Pray for those who are without work at this time and still looking for employment at a time when so many businesses have suffered loss of trade.

Sun 30<sup>th</sup> Pray for anyone who is experiencing workload pressures and stress in the workplace due to the demands of their organisation.

Mon 31<sup>st</sup> Pray for those who are being bullied, victimised or harassed in the workplace, that they will be supported and encouraged.





## **Introducing Yana** **(an inspiring Tearfund partner in Ukraine)**

### **The inspirational story of one of our Ukraine partners, and how God is using her experiences as a refugee to bring hope.**

When the conflict in Eastern Ukraine first broke out back in 2014, Yana\* and her family fled to find safety in Poland. It was a really difficult time for them. The language was different, the way of doing things was different, and their children – one of whom was at a crucial stage in their secondary education – had to leave their friends behind, find different schools and adapt to new ways of learning. And it wasn't home.

Yana, a strong, capable powerhouse of a woman (as you're about to discover), holds back tears as she recalls this time in her family's life. But, she says, God has used these hardships to shape her. Out of the pain, loss and trauma of her time as a refugee in a foreign land, Yana's response is providing comfort and hope for hundreds of people caught up in the midst of war.

### **The role of the church**

For Yana it's all part of her faith and of how she sees the role of the church. 'The main thing that the church should be doing is providing for people's basic needs, for food and shelter,' she says. 'If a person doesn't have those things, you can't talk to them because they're distracted by worrying about where their next meal is coming from, or about their safety and security. The church needs to start by thinking about the practical help they can give to people. How they can support them wherever they are. By doing this they also build trust and a relationship, and then churches can start talking about Jesus and the gospel. They also need to accept people wherever and whoever they are. Acceptance is so important to people.'

## **Meeting people's needs (all of them!)**

Yana, her husband and their church are certainly doing all of these things! Yana's husband is a pastor and their church is involved in responding to the increasing needs of the community, but it is Yana's own organisation that Tearfund helps support – an organisation that is reaching people in a myriad of vital practical ways.

What originally was Yana's successful business of building contractors and supplying building materials, was transformed in 2018 into a nonprofit organisation (NGO) that is building (and rebuilding) people's lives.

'I kept hearing from God that he wanted me to serve him,' says Yana, 'and so in 2018, we decided to register the organisation as an NGO and all the profits from the business would go into supporting it. Based on our personal experience of what it is like to be a refugee, and being so aware of everything that we needed support with at that time, our longing was to help people facing the same situation.'

## **The Ukraine conflict context**

The needs in Yana's community are varied. Their city is not many miles from the frontline and there have been times when they struggled to access food and clean water.

'At the moment the situation has stabilised for us in terms of water and food,' Yana says.

'We've got a water supply thanks to Tearfund who provided the first water pump and purification system back in 2022. And we're also able to buy food now. Before, it was a really big problem because we didn't have either.'

In surrounding towns though, there are "grey zones" [places between the live conflict and where there is relative peace] where there are still issues getting both food and water.'



And this is where the work that Yana's organisation does starts.

### **Fresh bread, hot meals, homework and games**

Every day, they bake loaves of bread and deliver them to the surrounding towns and villages where the local councils make sure that it gets to the people who need it most.

They've also set up two hot meal points for widows, widowers and vulnerable children – one at Yana's church and the other in a different building in the city. There are between 40 and 50 adults, most of them elderly, and about the same number of children who come twice a week to be fed and eat together. Many of the people who come are from very disadvantaged families, are living with a disability or need some form of social protection.

There is also a day centre that runs twice a week alongside the meals. They have four groups of children who come to receive support with their school work and take part in other educational activities and games.

### **School, business skills and drama therapy**

Many schools in the region have been destroyed or closed because of the conflict and a large number of children have been displaced with their families. Yana's organisation (with support from Tearfund) is helping bridge the gap by providing educational input that is restoring to children the opportunities that the conflict has taken from them, and giving them a place to enjoy some sense of normality, of friendship and of fun.

'It's not just the school,' says Yana. 'There's also a bakery. The children come from 8.00 in the morning until 4.00 in the afternoon. We provide them with meals and they have lessons and different extracurricular activities. There are 55 children enrolled and we also run groups for more than 50 of the parents to come and take part in activities each day.'

The school provides classes up to primary level, but we run an additional club for teenagers.

Right now we're teaching them about business and how to make a business plan. We hope that with this knowledge they can go on to apply for micro grants to support themselves and their families through their business ideas.'

On top of all this, with the ongoing conflict having left almost everyone with some form of trauma, this year the school has started a new programme to meet some of the psychological needs people are facing in a way that is fun and engaging.

'We found a specialist in drama therapy,' Yana tells us, 'so we've started a drama club. Right now, we have a mixed group of 25 adults and children taking part... and a waiting list of about 240 women and 400 children! We're planning to expand this work because it's been so popular.'

### **Women's groups, physiotherapy and landmine education**

As well as all of this, Yana's organisation runs two community support groups for women of different ages, where they can meet and talk and find a sense of support and community.

There's also a physiotherapy room providing rehabilitation for injured men returning from the front. Free or low-cost sessions are available to anyone else who needs physiotherapy too.

Recently, the organisation won a small grant and purchased several 3D printers. They've used these to print models of landmines so that people can learn about what they look like and how to avoid them. These landmine models have been supplied to other areas in Ukraine and now around 1,000 people each month are receiving this potentially lifesaving training. The United Nations Development Programme reports that Ukraine is now the

most mined country in the world, with up to 23 per cent of the land at risk of contamination by landmines.

There's also a team of people who visit and provide social support to 76 elderly people who have no relatives or family nearby.

And, for people who have been displaced by the conflict, often arriving in the city with little or nothing to support themselves, each month the organisation provides them with necessities such as hygiene products, food and clothing.

All of this is a huge amount of work making a significant difference to so many people in her community.

But this is not all Yana is doing...

The drama therapy group that Yana's organisation runs put on a Christmas production that went on tour to four cities in Ukraine. It was a hope-filled story enjoyed by more than 2,300 people!

### **More about Yana, adoption and hearing God**

Yana's church specialises in supporting adoptive families and their team runs retreats for women and young people throughout Ukraine. And there's a very personal set of circumstances behind this.

In 2012, Yana and her husband adopted four children. They already had two biological children but, during her quiet times, Yana says, God kept leading her to verses about caring for widows and orphans.

'It wasn't like a revelation,' says Yana, 'it was very gentle. Little by little. So, I started reading about the biblical approach to adoption and caring for orphans. And I started asking: God are you trying to tell me something? Is there an action that I need to take?'

‘I spoke with my husband and my children and we started to pray together as a family, asking God to reveal what he was trying to do. Then, my husband said, “Let’s do it like this: let’s pray that if this adoption is definitely something from God, then let the children knock on our door themselves and we’ll just adopt however many children come.”’

Not long after that, Yana and her husband had a visit from social workers from a different city. A family with 15 children who Yana and her husband had helped in the past, had moved to that city and mentioned them to social services.

And now, knocking on their door, were four children Yana’s family was being asked to take in.

Yana recalls, ‘They told us: the father is going to jail and the mother has been killed, so the siblings are going to be separated and distributed to different orphanages throughout the country. Would you like to adopt this family?’

‘The children had been through horrendous trauma. They had witnessed extremely violent abuse and alcoholism and been exposed to content that was completely damaging and inappropriate. They had been living in terrible conditions in a hut – not even a real house.

The children had been subjected to this kind of life from a very early age.’ It was a deeply faith-filled and extremely challenging undertaking. Yana says, ‘Understandably, the four children were so traumatised by everything they had been through, that it was difficult to parent them.’ Yana and her husband felt at a loss. A period of depression followed for the couple as they struggled to cope in this new version of their family. ‘We simply didn’t know what to do,’ Yana says.



After about a year and a half of daily struggle, Yana and her husband decided to enrol in a two-year university degree in child psychology, specialising in childhood trauma. Slowly, things began to change as they learnt more about what the children were going through and how to deal with it. The couple, along with the three eldest of the four children, also joined a therapy program for adoptive families.

Eventually, Yana and her husband went on to qualify as trainers in the programme.

‘After about ten years of 24/7 practice in how to live as adoptive parents, we finally started to feel like we were getting somewhere. But it took ten years, no less,’ says Yana.

Now the four children are doing really well. Two are at university studying for therapeutic professions that will help other people once they are qualified, one has started a small business, and the youngest is still in school.

And, just recently, a seventh child has joined the family. Yana and her husband are in the process of adopting a ten-year-old girl who came to them after she was abandoned by her mother. She arrived with no documents and unable to speak because of her deep trauma, but in Yana’s home, she has found a safe place where she will have the opportunity to grow and thrive.

***Tearfund works with many partners like Yana around the world. Individuals and organisations that provide comfort, hope, safety and practical support for people fleeing conflict and disaster. You can make a difference too by giving and praying.***

## Pray for Ukraine

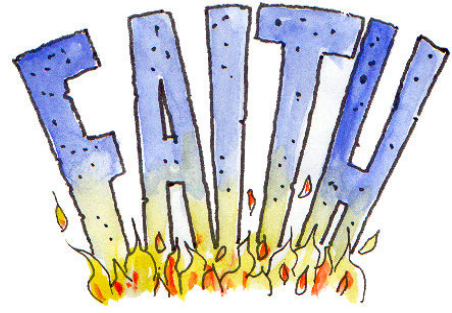
- Pray for the peace negotiations and deal-making that is widely expected to take place with the new US administration. Ask for God to bring peace to Ukraine and for an end to the destruction and loss.
- The front line is very close to where Yana's organisation is based. They ask for prayer that if they are forced to leave because of the conflict, that God will open the doors and show them where to set up their work.
- Pray for the post-traumatic stress disorder rehabilitation centre that Yana wants to open. There is a great and pressing need for this kind of input. Pray for them to find the right specialists and resources to be able to do this.
- Pray for their church as so many different people from varied walks of life are coming into the church. Yana asks for prayer for them to know how to be good shepherds, to have a unified church family, and to have wisdom about how to serve people who may not have anything in common with themselves.

Written by *Tarryn Pegna*

16 Jan 2025 One Voice



## **Persecuted Church**



### **At least 10 believers killed in spate of devastating attacks in Nigeria**

Your prayers are urgently needed following a spate of deadly attacks on predominantly Christian communities in north east Nigeria.

At least ten believers have been killed in the attacks on seven communities in Chibok LGA, Borno State. Several have been wounded, and churches and homes targeted. In the most deadly attack, in Shikarkir, eight people were killed and 57 homes destroyed. More than 4,000 people have been displaced and there is fear of further attacks.

“We are praying that you should help us in prayer,” says Pastor Yarakawa Mutah, Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in Chibok. “We urge, all over the world, brethren Christians to help us pray that these attacks will stop.”

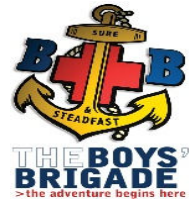
### ***Please pray***

- For an end to the attacks, and that the Nigerian government will be decisive and efficient in tackling these latest incidents
- That God’s unfailing comfort will surround all those affected by the attacks
- For protection and provision for those displaced, and strength to hold onto Jesus.

*Open Doors, January 2025*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Maidstone Girls' Brigade & 1<sup>st</sup> Maidstone Boys' Brigade



We have had interesting and fun times with all our groups over the past few weeks. Over this term our younger groups have had a variety of sessions including thinking about the topics of kindness and sharing and God is there for us. Each week they enjoy their story time, games and a variety of activities and crafts around the theme. The Juniors have continued to focus on the theme of Respect, and rounded the session off by making acrostics and writing poems / raps about this. For Chinese New Year we all sat down together to try some Chinese food, and even have a go with chopsticks.

The older groups continue to do a variety of topics sometimes discussion based, sometimes more practical but hopefully challenging them to think further about themselves, the wider world and the community in which we live as well as just having fun. Their sessions have included team work challenges, giant battleships, having a go at an IQ test and a lego challenge and they always enjoy some games time during their evenings.

Plans for our Camp Amazing weekend and fun day over the early May bank holiday are starting to come together.

**Date to note** : We will once again be holding a Fund Raising Barn Dance - this year on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2025**. Look out for details soon.

Don't forget that we would always be pleased to welcome new members (aged 5 and above) to any of our groups. Do get in touch with Alastair or myself if you would like further information.



Please continue to remember the Brigade staff and young people in your prayers as they meet week by week – we do really value your support and interest.

*Jane Haslam  
mbc-415@highg.net*

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## Saving lives in Chad



Zeinab\* wanted to do whatever she could to bring her baby safely into the world. She went to Guinebor II Hospital (G2) as soon as she felt her contractions beginning, knowing she would receive good care there. It took three days before her active labour began, but when it did, it was exhausting. After hours of contractions she still didn't seem to be progressing. Her cervix wasn't fully dilating and, eventually, her baby's heart rate began to drop — it was time to move fast.

Zeinab was taken for a C-section, but after the surgery, her baby had to be resuscitated.

Fortunately, G2's midwives were there, and mother and baby were soon reunited. Zeinab was able to leave hospital four days later with a healthy and happy baby.

In a country with the second worst maternal mortality rate in the world, stories like Zeinab's are only possible thanks to your support. It's been amazing to see the amazing generosity of BMS World Mission supporters in response to our Special delivery appeal. Your gifts really will make such a difference to women like Zeinab in Chad. Thank you so much for standing up for mothers and babies in need.

*BMS World Mission. January 2025*

## **BAPTIST MINISTRY FOR THE GOSPEL IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY**

**A study day for ministers and church members,  
organised by Walderslade Baptist Church.**

**Speaker: Rev Steve Finamore**

President of the BUGB 2024-25, and Principal Emeritus of Bristol Baptist College (Principal 2006-23).

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025, 10am-4pm**

**at Walderslade Baptist Church**

Catkin Close, Chatham, KENT ME5 9HP – near junction 3 of M2.

Nearest train station: Chatham.

**Cost: £10 per person**

**Programme:** Steve will lead four 1-hour sessions around the theme above, relating to:

§ Biblical/theological foundations

§ Witness: evangelism and serving

§ Discipleship: nurturing spirituality and maturity

§ Pastoral care

Steve will speak for 30 mins, followed by informal questions and discussion. **Please bring your own lunch.**

**All Bookings and enquiries:** by email to  
waldersladebaptist@gmail.com

## Regular Sunday Meetings.

Every Sunday: 10.30hrs In-person Worship at Knightrider Street

Services also streamed via Zoom and on YouTube when possible.



Would you like to join our Street or Prayer Pastor Team?  
We are always looking for volunteers to join us.



If you would like to make a donation to our work, please scan this code.

Please email:  
[maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk) for more information