

# Knightrider Street News



AUGUST 2025

MAIDSTONE  
BAPTIST CHURCH

The logo for Maidstone Baptist Church, featuring a stylized green cross above a green wave or mountain shape, all enclosed within a green arch.

*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)*

*Senior Minister:* **Rev. Nigel Riley**

Mob: 07354 849933

*e-mail: minister@maidstonebaptist.net*

*Youth Pastor: Alastair Middlemist*

Mob: 07876 335131

*e-mail: youth@maidstonebaptist.net*

*General Administrator:* **Helen Jones**

Tel/Ans/Fax: 01622 686013

**Church Office**

*e-mail:office@maidstonebaptist.net*

*Church Secretary:* **Position vacant**

*Church Treasurer:* **Barbara Williams**

Tel: 01622 726006

*e-mail:treasurer@maidstonebaptist.net*

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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**

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

*Editor:* **Paul Tebbutt**

*email:* paul.tebbutt2015@gmail.com

***Knightrider Street News Postal Distributor:***

**Mrs Sally Walters**

Tel: 07944 639851

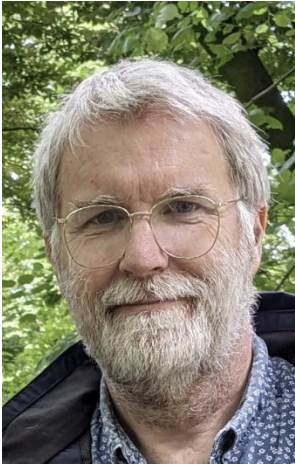
*Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.*



### 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.



How many of us like being told what to do? I guess not many! Often as children we are given instructions, and quite often we resent them, but usually these are given for our own benefit. And so it is in life, instructions are usually given for the greater good of everyone around.

The Bible is, as we know, full of instructions. Instructions on how to live our lives, how to treat others, how to pray, how to share the Gospel, how to behave towards those who treat you badly, how to love one another... the list goes on.

Many of you will be familiar with the story of the wedding at Cana in John 2. Jesus was at a wedding when they ran out of wine. This was a real social faux-pas for the host. Mary tells Jesus what has happened and Jesus steps in. He gives the servants instructions to fill the wine jars with water and then take some and serve it to the master. When the master tastes it, he is astonished to discover that the water has been turned into the best wine they've ever tasted.

When we look at this story we often think of the miracle of turning the water into wine. But in order for that to happen, something else had to happen first. *Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet." They did so. ~ **John 2:7-8***

Jesus told the servants to fill the wine jars with water and to serve it to their master. He gave them an instruction. To the servants this instruction would have made no sense at all. Firstly, these jars were reserved for good wine. Secondly, serving water to their master in front of his guests was bound to get them into trouble!

But notice those last 3 words of verse 8 - **they did so**. For this miracle to take place at all, someone first had to fill the jars with water. That's actually really important! For Jesus to perform the miracle, someone had to do the ground work first. From a seemingly useless task a great miracle took place.

I hope this is an encouragement for you. Sometimes we may feel like God is prompting us to carry out a seemingly worthless or uncomfortable task. But if we are faithful and carry out His simple instructions, it is then that

He can perform miracles and transform lives. Often God's instructions may make little or no sense to us. But God can achieve great things in those quiet steps of obedience.

So trust Him even when the outcome seems unclear. Obey Him even in the simple things. The wine that had been transformed from water was the best they'd ever had. God wants the best for each one of us. He's working on something far greater and far better than we can ever imagine. Remember, before the water turned into wine, someone filled the jars.

May we all be blessed with servant hearts so that we can see God's miraculous work and lives transformed. Which jars does God want you to fill?

*Nigel*

-----OOOOOOOOOOOOOO-----

### ***An invitation to all ladies of the fellowship :***

You are invited to join us for an afternoon of fellowship and picnic at Teston Country Park, Teston Lane, Teston ME18 5BX on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August from 3:30pm.

There is plenty of parking at a cost of £3:00, there is a machine available or you can use PayByPhone or RingGo apps. If you need a lift, please speak to Sheila Smith or Nic Weller



The coffee kiosk will be open but please be aware this is pay by card only.

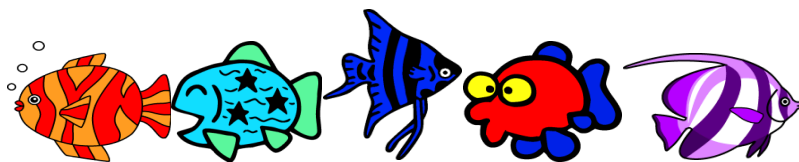
Please bring your own food and a rug or chair to sit on.

It will be a relaxed afternoon with games or walks available for those who wish to be more active or you can just enjoy chatting and getting to know one another.

### ***SAVE THE DATE:***

We are also planning a ladies retreat day on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Aylesford Priory. More details will follow but please get the date in your diary as numbers will be limited.





## **Little Fishes**

We have completed another year at Little Fishes and have said goodbye to four children who will be starting school in September and to Chloe who starts a full-time job. We appreciate all that she has contributed to Little Fishes over the last two years and pray that they all enjoy their new challenges.

Our numbers continue to change every week; despite this the children always have fun playing or making craft whilst the parents/carers have a

good chance to have valuable conversations.

We value the continued prayer and support and hope that more help will come available so that this outreach can continue.





August 2025

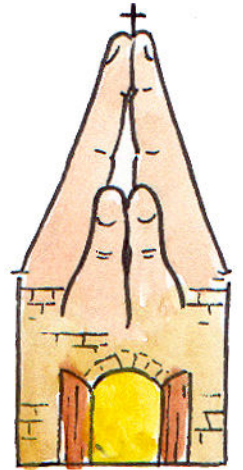
- Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Today being the first day of the month, thank God for his abiding and continued love towards us even when sometimes we get things so wrong. Lets pray for continued patience as we go through turbulent times in this country and also for the political landscape of the the USA ,UK and the Middle East.
- Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> May we pray for our pastoral area leaders in and around Maidstone. Pray for the important work they do for all those who need special care at this time when there is so much uncertainty, sadness, worry and bereavement in the country.
- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Pray for those people who are still trying to run from their homelands where there is persecution and violence. Pray for those who are keeping the peace and for children who are travelling alone.
- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Ask God to be with our young people who have left school this Summer and are embarking on new jobs or further education.
- Tue 5<sup>th</sup> Pray for the deacons in the planning of the churches' role now and in the future and guidance that the right decisions will be made. Pray for the leadership team as they support our minister Nigel.
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Let us pray for the church music and those who conduct the musical items each week, for upliftment and refreshment.
- Thur 7<sup>th</sup> Pray today for all those in church who are going through a tough

time in their Christian life. Pray for strength and guidance.

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for those recently bereaved who have lost loved ones, for Jesus to comfort them, and give peace to all who are looking after dying relatives.

Sat 9<sup>th</sup> Today let us pray for our churches here in Maidstone that the members will be united in spirit and truth.

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Pray for those who are sick and have been diagnosed recently with a worrying illness, also those who are receiving treatment.



Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Pray for those in hospital and nursing homes receiving 24 hour care here in Maidstone, who are not able to get out as before.

Tue 12<sup>th</sup> Remember our hospitals and emergency services here in Kent as they endeavour to respond to all kinds of challenges placed on them on the front line.

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Let us pray for the Boys' and Girls' brigade as they continue their challenges up and down the country and their witness throughout this Summer period.

Thur 14<sup>th</sup> Remember our youth club and those who run this; for the support for Alastair and his team as he tries to keep their spirits up.

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> May we pray for the Labour Government as they are in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year now. Remember all the MP's across the whole house.

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted because of their faith both here and abroad.



Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Let us pray today for the team planning the next phase of the Winter night shelter this year.

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Pray for our elderly folk in church who with advancing years find it difficult to walk or eat and do their daily chores due to long term illness and may be feeling isolated.



Tue 19<sup>th</sup> May we remember our young people who are finding it challenging in these days of so much pressure to keep on the straight and narrow, but pray that they will not lose sight of the marvellous love that Jesus has for them in their struggle.

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Pray for the local social services here in Maidstone and the services they provide for the local community. Pray for them to be given the resources they need.

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Remember the victims of domestic violence locally and nationally. Pray for peace in our cities in the UK.

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Pray today for Government departments and the international work they are involved with, in the home office, the foreign office, the international development dept and ambassadors.

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> May we remember those who are living and sleeping rough in Maidstone and of no fixed address, who are finding it difficult to cope.

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Pray for all those who are anxious and fearful of the future and finding it difficult to cope with life in general.

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Pray for strength in our workplace, schools and wherever we



find ourselves in our day to day experiences.

Tue 26<sup>th</sup> Pray for families with young children in the church as they spend the Summer days together, nurturing and learning, that it will be in peace and harmony.

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Remember the beauty of nature in creation as we enjoy the Summer sunshine and see glorious sunsets and the green fields.

Thur 28<sup>th</sup> Pray for those who are finding things difficult in the workplace and dealing with issues of bullying and victimisation.

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Pray for mums and toddlers in the week, for the work involved in planning their daily tasks in these difficult times.

Sat 30<sup>th</sup>     Let us pray for Alastair and his family as he continues to lead the youth work here in Maidstone.



Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Ask God for courage and strength to keep up in these troublesome times to love to share among our neighbours. Pray that the words we say and things we do will leave an inprint that looks like Jesus.

[illegible]

**Deadline for September Knightrider Street News:**  
***Sunday August 10<sup>th</sup>***

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

## Somayeh from IRAN



*It started with one aim: to prove that Christianity wasn't true and Islam was. So when a Christian friend in Iran invited Somayeh\* to church, she decided to go.*

“My only goal was to challenge and disprove everything I’d heard,” she says. God, though, had other ideas. And when she entered the church, everything changed. “The presence of God was overwhelming,” she says. “It was everything I had longed to feel in my prayers but never did.”

Somayeh opened her heart to Jesus. “When I walked out of the church, I felt like a bird released from a cage,” she says. “As I prayed and learned, I grew in my faith and got to know Him. Through prayer, discipleship and the Holy Spirit, my new life truly began.”

### **The Cost Of Discipleship**

Somayeh’s new life came at a cost. When her husband discovered her faith, he was furious. A violent, abusive man, he beat her and treated her cruelly. “He found my Bible and tore it up in front of me,” she recalls. “Another time, he ripped up my birth certificate. It was as if my identity was torn apart. I cried so much that day.”

God brought comfort: “In the midst of those tears, I heard a voice say, ‘Your name is written in the Book of Life,’ and those words gave me strength to carry on,” she says. She could only risk going to church once a month, and relied upon recorded sermons. Somayeh was questioned by the secret police, but they didn’t find anything. And in the background, there was always her husband. “My husband had threatened to kill me if I preached the gospel,” she says.

“But I couldn’t stay silent.” Finally, he took drastic action. He moved the family to another city, cutting her ties with her Christian community.

### **The Impossible Church**

Isolated and displaced, Somayeh cried out to God: “Why has this happened?” Suddenly, to her surprise, she felt God say, “I want to build a church here in this town.”

It was an impossible idea. But she set out. And, starting with a handful of Christians meeting in secret, it soon grew to an underground house church with more than 30 members.

“When we gathered, we never mentioned our meeting places over the phone – we used code words and were extremely careful,” Somayeh says. “All phones had to be turned off, and we even removed the batteries to avoid tracking. “We saw miracles happening with us, and with people around us! Seeing the church grow was one of the greatest joys of my life.” Then, one day, the intelligence services called with a chilling message: “We will see you soon.”

Time to go.

### **Sustained By God**

Today, Somayeh and her daughter live in another country. She had to flee, leaving everything behind, even her son due to his military service. “It’s difficult knowing he’s still there,” she shares, “but even when hope feels delayed, I know God is working. His love sustains us, and His guidance strengthens me every day.”

She has found a Persian speaking church where she can worship freely and, helped and trained by Open Doors partners, she serves secret Christians in Iran through an online ministry.

“I am truly grateful to those who support these seminars and make them possible,” she says.

“Thank you.”

*\*Name has been changed for safety*

### **NOTE:**

**Iran - Did you know? Christians who convert from Islam are viewed as a threat. While historic minorities like Armenian and Assyrian Christians have some protection, they are not allowed to worship in Persian or interact with converts from Islam**

*Open Doors Magazine July/August 2025*



## THREE SHEEP AND A BICYCLE BRINGING JOY TO FARIDATOU

*Faridatou and her family lost everything when they fled the violence.  
Tearfund has been helping them start again.*

Three years ago, at age 33, Faridatou\* was living peacefully with her husband and five children (two sons and three daughters) on their land in Burkina Faso. The couple supported themselves and their children by farming. The family was self-sufficient. They managed to provide all that they needed through their work. And then, abruptly and terrifyingly, everything changed in the matter of a few hours.

### **A context of conflict in Burkina Faso**

Burkina Faso has been struggling with conflict since 2016. In the first half of 2024 alone (up to August), it's estimated that around 6,000 civilians in the country died in conflict-related violence. By that point, the eight years of violence had already forced more than 2.3 million people to flee their homes.

In 2022, it was Faridatou's family's turn to run. Devastating attacks on their commune destroyed houses, belongings and farmlands. Along with their neighbours, they were forced to abandon everything they knew, leaving their homes and livelihoods behind to seek safety in another part of the country. Faridatou, her husband and their five children arrived in a new community without any material possessions. The life they had known had been shattered. In an instant, they had been flung from their stable way of life into a precarious and vulnerable position.

### **Struggling for food, work and education**

With no source of income, they struggled to pay for even their most basic needs. And, to add to their challenges, their 16-year-old would have to walk almost four miles to reach the nearest school.

Recognising that such a long journey each morning and afternoon was not good for their son's wellbeing or academic performance, the family made



the difficult decision to send him away to live with a family living closer to the school. This separation, though necessary, added to the emotional strain on the family.

Faridatou's husband diligently sought out any available work he could get to try to provide for the family's needs, but the opportunities were few and far between and despite his best efforts, they lived in a constant state of hardship and uncertainty.

Determined to contribute to the family's survival and help improve their circumstances, Faridatou started doing some market gardening\*\*. This work, though demanding, offered them some practical hope.

### **Opportunities and sheep**

Then, things improved even more. As part of a local Tearfund partner project called Food for the Body and Soul, Faridatou was offered the opportunity to train in an income-generating activity of her choice. She chose livestock breeding. Once she had completed the training, which included input on business management and management tools, she also received a ram and a breeding kit, livestock feed, a manger and a water trough.

A few months later, she was able to sell the ram and afford to buy a bicycle for her son so he could come home and still get to school easily without having to live away from the family!

Faridatou also bought a couple of sheep to breed and she happily explains, 'I now have three sheep as one of them bore a lamb. 'I am confident that this work will expand and will help to bring my family relief.'

### **Food for the Body and Soul: a food and nutritional resilience project**

Now in its third year of implementation, the *Food for the Body and Soul* project in Burkina Faso includes activities designed to: support households struggling to access sufficient food and nutrition; improve relationships within households and communities through peacebuilding

activities and promote positive gender norms using Tearfund's Transforming Masculinities approach.

**As part of this project:**

- 121 people (105 women and 16 men) have been trained in effective farming techniques, the use of simplified management tools and the development of marketing strategies;
- 36 young people (13 boys and 23 girls) and 75 women have been able to create an income-generating activity and improve their finances;
- 12 gender champions have been trained to conduct Transforming Masculinities dialogues;
- 26 community leaders (21 men and five women) have been envisioned on the Transforming Masculinities approach;
- 62 couples have attended Transforming Masculinities community dialogues so far; and
- 109 children (75 girls and 34 boys) identified as malnourished have been restored to health after training provided to their mothers helped them produce nutritious meals.

\*Name changed for safety

**\*\*What is market gardening?**

*Market gardening is small-scale farming that focuses on growing a variety of produce (fruits, vegetables and flowers) to sell. It is associated with manual labour as opposed to using farming machinery.*

**Pray for Burkina Faso**

- ❖ Pray for complete and sustainable peace in the country and throughout the region so that people will be able to return to their homes and live stable, peaceful lives, free from fear of violence.
- ❖ Pray for all those who have lost homes and livelihoods. Ask God to provide for their needs.
- ❖ Pray for young people whose education has been disrupted. Ask that they will not be robbed of opportunities to fulfil their potential.

*Tarryn Pegna June 2025*

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE

020 3906 3906

[info@tearfund.org](mailto:info@tearfund.org)

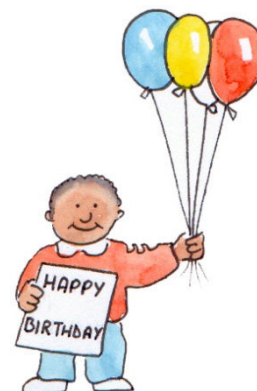
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## **BMS Birthday Scheme.**

August 1<sup>st</sup>                      Sheila Smith

August 5<sup>th</sup>                     Mary King

August 9<sup>th</sup>                    Anne Lever



# Happy Birthday to you all!

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**MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP  
(MAF)**

MAF believe every community, however remote, should have the essentials for life.

### **Serving the isolated**

Imagine if your community had no roads and little access to the outside world. How would you or your family reach a doctor if you were sick or injured? How would you receive an education or access job opportunities? This is the reality for millions of people.

Jungles, mountains, swamps, insecurity and dilapidated infrastructure are all barriers to receiving physical and spiritual care and a hope for the future.

## **Why we fly**

We are Mission Aviation Fellowship – or MAF – a Christian mission organisation that uses planes to overcome these barriers. Our pilots and personnel deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, school books, food, medicines – everything that can only be safely and speedily transported by air. Our supporters give and pray to make this all possible.

With an MAF plane taking off or landing every six minutes, the need is huge. Will you partner with us?

## **Our Mission:**

*Serving together to bring help, hope, and healing through aviation.*

## **Our Vision:**

*To see isolated people changed by the love of Christ.*

Below are three short examples of the work of MAF

## **SAMUEL'S CANCER JOURNEY**

**On an otherwise ordinary day, a father – Nicholas – noticed that his son – Samuel – had a very swollen mouth.**

As soon as it could be arranged, the 12-year-old boy was driven from his home in Enairebuk, Kenya, to a hospital in Narok where he was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer.

**That's a four-hour road journey.**

Due to the shocking nature of Samuel's cancer, he was referred by doctors in Narok to the specialists at Nakuru Hospital.

**That's another three hours further north.**

The long, arduous journey was worth it. Genuine progress was being made. Samuel and his entire family felt relieved. The future looked far brighter than it had done since the initial cancer diagnosis.

**Then the doctors in Kenya went on strike.**

Samuel was quickly admitted to a private hospital in the capital Nairobi. Patiently, he endured 36 sessions of radiotherapy.

**The new journey also takes seven hours**



It was at this point in the story that MAF started to put the smile back on Samuel's face. And an indescribable feeling in his dad's heart.

Christian organisation Red Tribe, who work with Kenyan communities on a variety of health and education projects, heard about Samuel's plight. They called us immediately.

Samuel and Nicholas were flown to Nairobi. They were spared the physical and mental exhaustion of the horrendous road journeys they had shared for so long.

Bravely, Samuel suffered 12 sessions of chemotherapy.

**He's determined to live.**

## **MAF PILOT'S EXPERIENCE**

**I wanted to share a remarkable experience I recently had while piloting for MAF to the remote area of Loglogo in northern Kenya.**

I had the privilege of transporting a team from Water Matters Sweden to deliver water filters to communities in dire need, especially in places where clean water is scarce and often unsafe to drink.

When we touched down in Loglogo, we were greeted by Meshack Gayere a dedicated health officer from Marsabit. His warm welcome reminded me once again why we do what we do. Meshack spoke with such heartfelt appreciation, saying,

***'These water filters are a lifeline for our community. They don't just provide clean water, they bring hope, health and the promise of a better future.'***

**In northern Kenya, access to clean water is a daily struggle and water sources are often contaminated. The risk of waterborne diseases like cholera is ever-present, and the people here have endured several outbreaks due to the scarcity of safe drinking water.**

The situation is made worse by conflicts over these limited water sources and the worsening effects of climate change.

But on that day in Loglogo – after I'd taken off – something extraordinary happened. As the team demonstrated how to use the water filters, the

villagers watched in awe as murky, dirty water was transformed into crystal-clear, drinkable water.

The look of sheer joy and relief on their faces was something the team told me they'd never forget. Many of them called the team 'angels sent from heaven,' and they could see in the people's eyes just how much these simple devices meant to them.

Marcus from Water Matters Sweden, who led the team, expressed what we were all feeling: 'MAF's commitment to reaching the most remote locations makes all the difference. Together, we're not just delivering filters; we're delivering life.'

## **YOU BRING LIFE**

It is early spring.

A man is taking a short cut home to his family, after shopping for flour. His stroll takes him along the riverbank. Suddenly, he is set upon by men armed with knives who take his shopping, his phone and his money before stabbing him three times. He is left for dead, shouting desperately for help.

**You won't read this news story in your newspaper or see it on your television. It happened in remote Papua New Guinea (PNG)... invisible to the world's 'media'.**

Had this atrocious act happened here, an ambulance would have been mere minutes away. In remote PNG, the wounded man was just minutes from death.

**Amazingly, a Baptist pastor happened to be walking along the riverbank. When he saw the dying man he phoned immediately for help.**

MAF flew to the rescue. Because of the MAF family, that man is alive. **His name is John and his message is this: 'I was a dead man, but you saved my life'**

*MAF Website July 2025*



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



As we come once again to the end of another Brigade year we are thankful for the busy and fun year we have had with all sections of our Brigades. More recently the Barn Dance at Boxley Abbey was once again a lovely evening. As always there was some enthusiastic dancing, lots of laughter and a lovely atmosphere. Special thanks to Dave and Sam for all their work in getting this set up and run, but also to the Brigade team for their hard work in setting up and on the night – and to all who supported us by coming along or making a donation – we really appreciate it.

Summer programme activities have been fun and it has been good to have been out and about together. The younger groups did some activities local to the Church and then had a few Wednesday evenings in Mote Park with games, walks and scavenger / treasure hunts and always some time in the play area too. The older groups did walks, games, a 'treasure hunt' and water games. All sections had a fun evening swimming at Larkfield Leisure Centre too. We will round the Brigade year off with a picnic at Honeyhill for all our members and their families.

At the end of another Brigade year I want to thank all who support the work of the Brigades in prayer, by showing interest in what we do and in other practical ways too. We really do value your support and I would encourage you please to continue to remember the children and young people and the Brigade staff as we prepare for the start of the new session in September.

We always love to welcome new members. If you have or know of any boys or girls aged 5 or above who would like to join us then please do get in touch with myself or Alastair or bring them down on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September when we restart for the new session, and see what we get up to.

*Jane Haslam    mbc-415@highg.net*

## **Regular Sunday Meetings.**

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

*Services also streamed via Zoom and YouTube when possible.*

***Please Note:*** For safeguarding reasons photography and/or moving image recording, using any type of device, is **NOT** permitted in the church without **prior** permission.



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

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



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