

Knightrider Street News



NOVEMBER 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.

Taking the Good News of Jesus into our lives and into God's World
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

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**

email: paul.tebbutt2015@gmail.com

Knightrider Street News Postal Distributor:

Mrs Sally Walters

Tel: 07944 639851

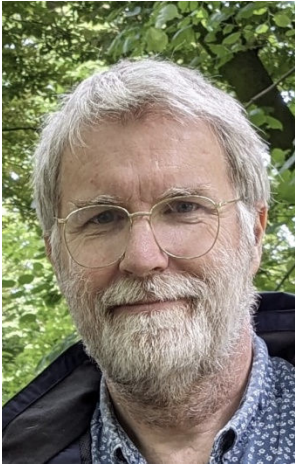
Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.



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.



What do you sound like? The UK is a small country, yet within it there are so many different accents! Someone who grew up in Kent has a very different accent to someone from Liverpool or Newcastle, and then there are Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish and many other accents to add to the mix.

In an international church such as ours we have accents from different countries - Nigeria, Nepal, Zimbabwe, Hong Kong, India...and many more. Sometimes we can identify where someone is from by their accent, even though we all think we are speaking English. Sometimes we need to listen carefully to understand an unfamiliar accent, but likewise we ourselves may need to slow down and speak clearly so that others may understand us. Communication is a two-way process.

But it's not just about pronunciation or accent. When you are talking in a social setting - at home, at work, in the gym, in the coffee shop etc - does the language we use, the words that we speak, match the way you'd speak in Church? And do your actions match your words? In other words, could a stranger or casual observer identify you as a Christian?

Scripture gives us some clear instructions on this important aspect of Christian behaviour:

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" - Ephesians 4:29

"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" - James 1:22

It really doesn't matter what accent we have, or where we grew up, or where we live now. What is important is that we are speaking and acting in a way that identifies us as Christians - the language of God's love.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:16

Nigel



November 2025

Sat 1st As we come to another autumn month, remember the warmth of the summer sun in the knowledge of our Lord who continues to love us throughout the ongoing seasons and forever. Knowing that His love never runs out, let us pray today that we as his people will reflect this warmth to those we meet.

Sun 2nd Pray today for our town and our country and the leaders in government, that the Lord will guide and overrule in their decision making. Pray that we will accept God as the ruler of our lives, our hopes and aspirations. Pray for Sir Kier Starmer in his prime ministerial role dealing with all the domestic issues.

Mon 3rd Let us remember those in our family and brethren who are in pain, grief or sorrow and those who are saddened due to personal issues which only our dear Lord and Saviour knows about. He knows when we are in tears or in pain and when we have lost loved ones.

Tue 4th Pray for our members who are starting a new career this autumn; for some of our young people who are beginning their chosen career pathway having completed university. Pray for Gods guidance in their lives in these difficult days.

Wed 5th Let us pray today for members in the church and the leaders who are keeping things going as we go through uncertain times.

Thur 6th Pray for the ongoing crisis in the Middle East today and the world leaders trying to maintain peace there.

Fri 7th Pray for the church here as we work with other churches in Maidstone dealing with the homeless the sick and vulnerable.

Sat 8th Remember in prayer those victims of the war in Ukraine and the ongoing conflict there. Lift up the Russian leader today and the president of Ukraine.

Sun 9th Let us pray for the Deacon's as they meet from time to time, asking God for support, encouragement and confidence to meet the challenging tasks ahead and the support they need to maintain the church's function and the pastoral areas they represent.



Mon 10th Today as we think of the many troubles in and around the world, in areas where there are hunger, war, murders and political unrest. Let us pray for those areas and ask God to do what only he can do.

Tue 11th Today we think of those in our church who are about to undergo hospital treatment and possibly surgery. Pray that the great physician himself will be part of the medical team at the hospital, and that Jesus will be there in the operating theatre taking the lead role.

Wed 12th Remember in prayer Elaine who is the coordinator for the 5 and 2 monthly meals, that this will be a real blessed ministry and sustenance for those who receive it.

Thur 13th Remember the local health and emergency services in prayer today as they face never ending demand. Ask God to uphold and

maintain them in their work, even while we are sleeping, especially with those who are struck down with all forms of sickness this time of the year.

Fri 14th Let us pray for all those who are sleeping rough on the streets and those who do not have a fixed place of abode, remembering what planning is being considered at this time.

Sat 15th Pray for our young people who have recently started school, college or university asking God to be with them in their learning experience. May they find out more about Him who is the true source of all knowledge, wisdom and understanding.



Sun 16th Pray for those among us who are experiencing financial problems, as we bring these issues to our Saviour. We have only to wait to see how great God is - let us hold on to the words 'He will supply all our needs according to the riches of his glory.'

Mon 17th Today pray for our Brigades as they contemplate their community projects with their leaders.

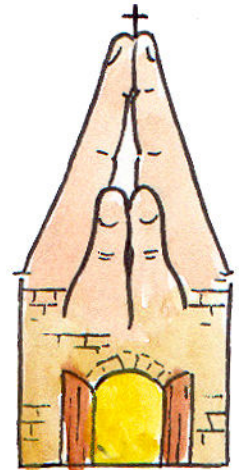
Tue 18th May we pray today for mission work in this country and abroad, remembering overseas mission and TEAR fund projects working in very challenging parts of the world and areas where persecution and wars are taking place.

Wed 19th Remember in prayer the work of the Street Pastors as they continue to come together to plan and co-ordinate a service at a most difficult time.

Thur 20th Pray today for our local government and council leaders as we

bring their responsibility before God asking for guidance and wisdom in decision making for our town and county.

Fri 21st Let us be attentive to the still small voice of our Saviour as he speaks to our hearts. Let us see him in the skies, the flowers, the hills the sunshine and rain. Pray that this will be our experience today even though its getting colder and the darkness of winter looms.



Sat 22nd Pray for those who are at this moment being persecuted because of their Christian standing. Ask that they will feel Gods presence with them more closely in the workplaces, schools, sportsfields, battlefields, Houses of Parliament or Whitehouse.

Sun 23rd For those among us who are bereaved and have lost loved ones, pray that today they will be comforted in a special way only God knows how to give.

Mon 24th Today let us remember our youth culture and those who are in young offenders units around the country. Pray for those who are working with them and supporting them. Pray also for those in prison and detention centres: and for the staff who are working in the prison service: be with them.

Tue 25th Remember in prayer today our elderly folks and those who are contemplating going into care, asking that they will feel secure and safe in their choice.

Wed 26th Pray today for those who are frightened, anxious and fearful for the future not knowing what will happen next. God knows the end from the begining, he holds time and eternity in his hands. Pray to keep close to him in these uncertain times.

Thur 27th Pray for our local council and the services they provide; those who work in the county and borough councils. Pray for our police force and the demanding work they do.

Fri 28th May we pray for a closer walk with Jesus as we go about our daily challenges in life.

Sat 29th Lets pray today that God will be reflected in our place of work: at school, college, office, hospital, bank, shop; wherever he has placed us in the mission field. And may we realise that no man is better than another.

Sun 30th As the winter days move nearer, let us walk close to Jesus who is the bright and morning star who sends warmth and joy to our souls. Pray for peace again for the Middle East and Ukraine because Jesus is the prince of peace.



Deadline for December Knightrider Street News:

Sunday November 9th

Please e-mail contributions to the address on inside front cover

No later than 20.00hrs on this date



2nd Maidstone Girls' Brigade & 1st Maidstone Boys' Brigade



All sections have had a fun start to the new Brigade year. We have been pleased to welcome some new members in all our sections, and our evenings are busy.

Our younger groups have had sessions based around the stories of Julia Donaldson, T-Rex , measuring and mental health. They have had crafts to do, games, discussions and devotions. The older groups have had sessions focused around the women's rugby world cup, on the Bible, creative worship and a Traitors evening. Their sessions always include times for games and devotions.

We had a fun afternoon / evening in early October with 11 of our Year 4's – Year 7's, as part of the national BB birthday celebrations. We went bowling at Lockmeadow, made fruit kebabs and pizzas, had a quiz, did some games and thought about light. We linked in via Zoom with Boys' Brigade companies nationally who were meeting in various locations at the same time. We ended with glow sticks and a silent disco. A good time was had by all.

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

Jane Haslam

mbc-415@highg.net / 01622 744546

SAVING LIVES WITH CLEAN HANDS: TEARFUND AND WASH



Global Handwashing Day was on 15th October and we're looking at some of the WASH work Tearfund is doing to help save lives.

How can you know what no one has ever told you? And what if what you don't know could cost you your life?

Not too long ago (though we may prefer to forget), we were reminded every few paces, by posters, print, social media, radio and TV, that washing our hands well and regularly with soap and clean water could, literally, help save our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

And yet, with all this knowledge we have available to us, a UNICEF/WHO report states that, globally in 2025, around 1.7 billion people still lack basic hygiene services. They don't have access to the essential things they need, such as soap and water, to wash their hands. More dangerously, the information about why handwashing is so important hasn't been made available to them, either. This makes it really challenging for families to defend themselves against the spread of infections, illnesses and harmful germs when no one has shown them how.

Facts about handwashing and hygiene

Every day, around 1,000 children under the age of five die as a result of unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** conditions. And, in some places, only 50 per cent of the healthcare facilities where families might go to seek treatment have basic water, sanitation, hygiene and waste services.

In fact, 1.1 billion people rely on health care facilities that don't even have clean water.

In 2016, a World Bank study showed that hygiene promotion is the most cost-effective health intervention. Giving people the knowledge

and facilities to help people adopt healthy hygiene practices – like washing their hands at key moments, such as before eating, after using the toilet and when dealing with food – is a simple, efficient and highly impactful way to save lives and even to help people free themselves from cycles of poverty.

How Therese is washing her hands of poverty

‘Our household is one of those that didn’t know about the importance of toilets and proper hand washing,’ says Therese* in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

She’s a 21-year-old mother of two young children who provides for her family through farming, but she was struggling to work. She explains, ‘Before, we were constantly being hit by diarrhoea and even cholera.

I didn’t have enough time to farm because every fortnight I was hospitalised along with my children. It was painful and people suspected it was witchcraft.

‘Before Tearfund arrived and started helping us in this area, we lived in unhygienic conditions which caused multiple illnesses in several families and resulted in increased poverty.’

Therese goes on to tell us about when Tearfund came to work in the village. One of the first things to happen was that the village chief started to understand the hygiene problem and what needed to be done about it.

‘We built a toilet at the request of the village chief for fear of penalties without knowing why we did it,’ she says. ‘But, this toilet remained unhygienic because I didn’t yet know why and how to make it hygienic. Even though I’m capable of looking after it, I didn’t know what the right thing was to do.

‘Then, we received information from Tearfund and started to use the advice they had given us. And we’ve really seen a difference. My children and I don’t fall ill all the time any more and now I have enough time to do my farming activities!’

‘This intervention has protected my family from diarrhoeal diseases, typhoid fevers and other water-borne diseases, which we all used to fall victim to regularly.

‘Our family also received various items to help us with water and hand hygiene.

‘Since Tearfund arrived, I’ve noticed a big change in our community. Families have not only built toilets, but also installed hand washing facilities.

‘I’m grateful to Tearfund for addressing the real needs of my family.’ Therese tells us she is now fully committed to not only maintaining the hygiene of her own family, but also sharing the message within her community to help more people understand the importance of handwashing and sanitation.

Pierre’s answered prayers

Pierre* lives in the DRC. He is 28 and has two children. He was a farmer until he lost his arm in a crocodile attack. Beyond the fact that it made it difficult for him to work, it also meant that, because he had no access to a tap, he struggled with hygiene.

‘I lost one arm and so I can’t work and earn enough money to live a comfortable life,’ he tells us. ‘When I was in hospital, my wife sold almost everything we had to pay for the medical care and provide for my

family. When I left the hospital my life was very difficult.

‘With only one arm, I could hardly ever wash my hand as I needed someone else to hold the cup. My family was also often sick with diarrhoea and typhoid, and any money we did have had to be spent on medicine.

‘But, now God has answered my prayers. Tearfund gave me jerry cans, a bucket with a tap, soap, a basin and a stool. Thanks to this support, I can now wash my hand by myself, and so I make sure to wash my hand at every key moment. The jerry cans mean we are able to safely store water and we are getting less sick now.

‘We say thank you to Tearfund, you have really helped me and my family.’

Safe, clean water for Charlotte

Charlotte* from South Kivu, DRC, lives with her husband and four children. Like Pierre, she also lost her arm because of a crocodile attack when she was collecting water from Lake Tanganyika.

She says, ‘We are so pleased to have been given this assistance from Tearfund. The containers and buckets they gave us were impossible for us to get for ourselves, as they are too expensive.

‘Before this, I stored water in a basin with no lid and my family often suffered from diarrhoea and cholera. I know that storing water like this can cause diseases but I had no other choice.

‘I also struggled to wash my hand well, especially if no one else was with me. I often couldn’t wash my hand before eating and this meant that my children and I got sick. But now I have received this kit from Tearfund and I am so thankful. This kit makes it easier for me to wash my hand, even if I am on my own, and the cans keep our drinking water safe and clean.

‘I hope that the work of Tearfund will stop more people losing their arms like me as they won’t have to collect water from the lake! This will also help to reduce diseases in our villages.’

Pauline’s healthy expectations

Pauline is married and expecting her first child. Her health is even more important than ever as her body protects and grows her new baby. But until recently, Pauline was getting sick frequently.

‘Earlier this year I was even hospitalised because of typhoid,’ she tells us. ‘My family is often ill and we have to spend what little money we have on medicines and health care.

‘Through Tearfund, we’ve learnt about the importance of good hygiene practices. I was also shown how to set up a handwashing station, which I now have next to my latrine.

‘Now, all members of my family wash their hands properly after using the latrine, and we’re already seeing less illness as a result. ‘This also means I’m able to save some money ahead of having my child as I don’t have to spend it on health care! ‘I thank Tearfund for their help, and I’m committed to raising awareness to other households in my community so that we can all benefit.’

**Names have been changed for protection.*

Many of Tearfund’s water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) projects focus on providing people with access to safe water as well as encouraging families to adopt healthy hygiene and sanitation behaviours.

If you’d like to help support work like this that transforms lives and communities, please contact us

****What is WASH?**

WASH is the acronym commonly used to talk about access to: safe water for drinking and personal hygiene; decent, functional sanitation facilities; and the adoption of healthy hygiene behaviours which, when combined, help keep people safe from waterborne diseases that can be deadly, particularly to young children.

*****What is a tippy tap?**

A tippy tap is a cheap, easy-to-construct tap which can be made with locally-sourced materials. All that’s needed to build one is a few sticks, string, soap and a container to hold the water. The tap is operated with a foot lever, which significantly reduces the chance of diseases being spread as the user only touches a bar of soap, supported by a string.

Pray for WASH projects

- Pray for a lasting change in hygiene habits so handwashing with water and soap at critical moments will become a life-long habit which helps improve health, safety and even economic conditions.
- Pray for the health and safety of children. Unhealthy hygiene and unsafe sanitation causes the deaths of more than 1,000 children under the age of five every day. Pray for children to become 'agents of change' in their families and communities.
- Pray for people who have been displaced because of disasters and conflict who often have limited or no access to clean water and the items they need for good hygiene. Lift up our staff and partner staff as they distribute hygiene kits.
- Pray for church leaders who are often trusted and influential members of the community. Pray that they will take on the responsibility to play a key role in their communities to demonstrate and model healthy hygiene and sanitation.
- Pray for women and girls as they are often disproportionately affected by a lack of clean water and safe sanitation. Pray that Tearfund's WASH projects will bring them dignity, security, and the freedom to attend school.

Tarryn Pegna, 9th October 2025

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE; 020 3906 3906; info@tearfund.org

@@



WORLD WATCH LIST BULLETIN

SUDAN Church demolished

Christians from a church in Sudan watched on as their 35-year-old building was demolished for allegedly not complying with regulations – and more churches could be targeted. No legal notice was given for the demolition of the Pentecostal church in the capital, Khartoum. “They will target all churches in the outlying areas of the main cities and demolish them with a direct attack,” says Rafat Samir, chairman of the Evangelical Community Council for Sudan. “People are extremely traumatised and this impacts our witness,” says Rafat, reflecting on the wider challenges facing Christians in Sudan amidst ongoing political upheaval. “It’s not just our buildings that have been broken down, but also our people.”

PRAY Against further church demolitions and closures, and for Christians to be strengthened in their faith

SYRIA 25 killed in suicide attac

Amid rising violence in Syria, Christians are in mourning and fear after a suicide bomb attack on a church in Damascus killed 25 people, followed just weeks later by the foiling of a potential attack on a separate church. Hundreds had gathered for a service at the Greek Orthodox Saint Elias Church on Sunday 22nd June, when a man opened fire before detonating himself. Three weeks later, three people were arrested after being discovered with explosives and extremist literature close to a church in Al-Kharibat, near Tartus. The threat of further attacks has made the community very fearful. “These are impossibly hard days.” “We’re scared, truly scared,” said a church leader. “All we can do is wait here in our homes and pray...

These are impossibly hard days. We just pray for our lives, for peace. We're beyond tired."

PRAY *For protection of Christians in Syria, and for God's perfect peace to drive out fear (1 John 4:18).*

VIETNAM Bathroom baptism

The dangers facing an undercover believer in Vietnam meant that Danh's* baptism happened in a bathroom with believers keeping guard. Danh lives in a remote village and comes from the Hmong ethnic group. Like many local believers, and there are very few, he must practise his faith secretly.

"There's tight government monitoring and control," says Doan*, a local expert. "Authorities want to keep it 'zero-Christian', meaning they don't want anyone to follow Jesus here, nor do they want Christianity to grow."

"We had to be discreet, careful and watchful," says Pastor Luca* of the baptism. "But Danh was resolute – there was no turning back. It wasn't the place that mattered, but Danh's decision to follow Jesus no matter the cost."

PRAY *That Danh's witness will lead others to Jesus*

NORTH KOREA Will prisoners be released?

In a surprising move, North Korea has launched an internal investigation into its own harsh punishments, raising fragile hope that some prisoners could be released. Whilst the government has not explained its motives, observers believe it could be aimed at appeasing public anger and improving its image prior to the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party on 10th October. "The investigation may be limited," says Simon Lee*, Open Doors coordinator for North Korea ministries. "It may be a political gesture.

But even so, if it results in just a few lives being spared or a few families being reunited, it's worth praying for."

Despite extreme danger, God is very much still on the move. "The underground church in North Korea is growing," says Simon. "A former prisoner who became a Christian while in a North Korean labour camp said, 'Even in darkness, God finds us. Even in suffering, He is with us.'"

PRAY *For the release of prisoners, and for the anniversary to be a turning point towards reform.*

MYANMAR A flow of Living Water

Water is flowing in more ways than one in a community in Myanmar, thanks to support following the devastating earthquakes in March. Whilst Pastor Than* and his family were safe after the earthquake, their clean water supply was not, becoming increasingly polluted. They reached out to Open Doors partners, who helped reinforce the well with a shock-absorbing foundation and elevated the water tank.

"We can access clean drinking water," says the pastor, adding that it's serving other believers and the wider community. They're amongst hundreds who've benefited from the response to our emergency appeal, with other support including food and medicine. "We feel your care and love, flowing into our lives like living water – for our family, our church and our community!" he says. "Pastor Than's words reminded me of the story of the Samaritan woman drawing water and meeting Jesus (John 4)," says Ko Lwin*, a partner. "I pray that the people will not only draw water from the well, but also encounter Jesus, the Living Water."

PRAY *That people across Myanmar will meet Jesus through the love of His people.*

Open Doors Magazine September/October 2025



THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD.

Many of you may have signed up for the choir last year for the All Saints Carol service. This will be happening again and you are invited to sign up if you want to be involved this year.

Maidstone Carols is a golden opportunity for our congregations to invite their friends to a wonderful, high-quality event, where everyone can hear the Gospel explained in a traditional carols format with a contemporary twist! This truly is THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD.

Venue: All Saint's Church, Mill Street, ME15 6YE

Date and Times: Saturday 13th December at 4pm and 7pm

Theme: THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

Sign up using the web addresses below if you want to get involved:

Community Choir: Our community choir is suitable for aged 12+. Everyone is welcome, no choir experience necessary. 5 weeks of rehearsals begin on Monday 10th November 7:30-9pm . [Sign up to the choir at: https://stlukesmaidstone.churchsuite.com/events/srzlcudt](https://stlukesmaidstone.churchsuite.com/events/srzlcudt)

Volunteer Roles: Tech and production support, welcome, first aid, refreshments, stewarding and event support. People interested in joining the team can sign up via the [Volunteer sign up form can be found at.:](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfdWW7gia1KvurUxMZBv7dAxXbHrGej_s-nXv-OSx42UIwMiQ/viewform)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfdWW7gia1KvurUxMZBv7dAxXbHrGej_s-nXv-OSx42UIwMiQ/viewform

Prayer: Please join us in praying for this event as we proclaim the Gospel this Christmas and demonstrate our unity across Maidstone. Any questions? Feel free to contact Robyn Trainer (creative lead) robyntrainer@stlukesmaidstone.church



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 for more information



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