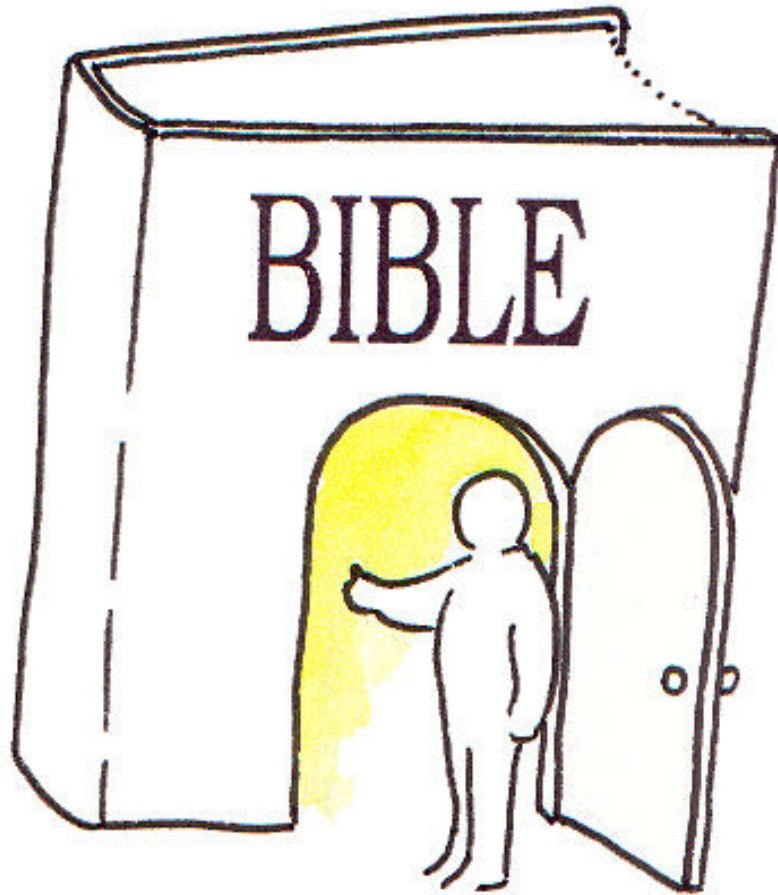


Knightrider Street News

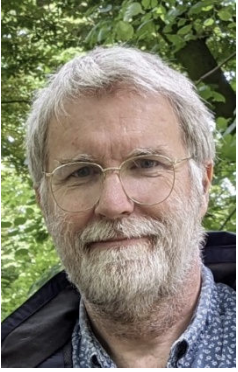


MAY 2026

MAIDSTONE
BAPTIST CHURCH

The logo for Maidstone Baptist Church, featuring a stylized cross above a wave-like shape, all enclosed within a semi-circular arch.

Taking the Good News of Jesus into our lives and into God's World
www.maidstonebaptist.net



Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. - Matthew 7:7-8

Many of you will be familiar with these verses from Matthew 7, but it's always worth delving a little deeper into familiar passages. These verses are part of the Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew chapters 5-7, a series of foundational teaching from Jesus, including the Lord's Prayer, the Beatitudes, how to live within the law, how to love. These chapters contain many of the core doctrines at the heart of our faith.

It is very easy to misinterpret these verses. If we get the emphasis wrong we could be reading it as

Ask and it will be GIVEN to you
Seek and you will FIND
Knock and the door will be OPENED

And this is, of course, true! If you ask, it will be given; if you seek, you will find; if you knock, the door will be opened. If you are looking for a relationship with God, whether that's the tentative relationship of someone new to Christianity or as a long time follower of Christ, this is a great starting point.

Our emphasis, however, should be on the Ask! Seek! Knock! There's an urgency to it, in the same way as when someone shouts "Stop!" or "Help!" It requires a response and it requires action. There's a persistence to it too. The Greek verbs emphasise a continuous action: ask and keep on asking; seek and keep on seeking; knock and keep on knocking. We ask, seek and knock through regular prayer, Bible study and talking with other Christians.

There is increasing intensity to these instructions too. We start with speaking. Having a conversation with God, verbalising our needs, our concerns, all that is on our hearts. Then there is a more active

searching. This is actively trying to find out God's will, discernment. Then there is the knocking. Persistence, keeping in touch with God, checking-in that you're on the right path.

And this pattern is cyclical. We don't just ask, seek, knock once. We aim to keep going with this routine regularly, both as individuals, but also as a whole church. That is why being a member of church is so important and why our members' meetings are so important. As individuals we come to God to deepen our relationship with him, to be guided, comforted and corrected by Him. But as a Church we collectively come to God to discern His teachings, His paths, His plans.

Sometimes God opens new doors to us. As a church I believe we are on the cusp of something new. This can feel daunting but it's also exciting! God hasn't revealed all of His plans yet so as a fellowship we keep on asking, seeking, knocking. And when God opens that door, we need to be ready to walk through it with the confidence of knowing that God is right beside us!

Nigel

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BMS Birthday Scheme.

6 th May	Jan Garrod
16 th May	Marilyn McIntosh
21 st May	Barbara Small



Happy Birthday to you all!

From Maidstone to Guernsey: *A Year of Grace and New Beginnings*

It is hard to believe that nearly a year has passed since May 24th, when Anne and I stood before our church family in Maidstone to celebrate our wedding. That day remains a beautiful tapestry in our memories—a joyful blend of our Igbo and white wedding traditions that truly felt like a celebration of God’s diverse and unifying love.

Just two weeks after we said, “I do,” our journey took a literal leap across the sea as we relocated to Guernsey. Transitioning from the familiar streets of Kent to the rugged beauty of the Channel Islands has been both an adventure and a lesson in trust.



Reflections on Twelve Months of Marriage

The first year of marriage is often called a “year of firsts,” and for us, that has been doubly true. We have been navigating the rhythms of married life

while simultaneously adapting to a new culture and community. Through it all, we have seen God’s hand at work in the quiet moments:

Provision: Finding our footing in a new place and building a home together.

Community: Feeling the prayers of our Maidstone family even from across the water.

Growth: Learning that “home” isn’t a specific building, but wherever God has “planted” us together.

The Beauty of Guernsey

Life in Guernsey is settling into a wonderful rhythm. The island’s pace and the stunning coastal landscapes have provided a peaceful backdrop for our first year as husband and wife. We have found a local church community that has welcomed us warmly, though a piece of our hearts will forever remain with our friends at MBC.



A Season of Waiting

Of course, every journey has its “waiting rooms”. As we look to fully settle into our future here, we are still waiting for the final piece of our transition to click into place: the sale of my flat back in Rochester. We are leaning into the scripture that reminds us God’s timing is perfect, even when it doesn’t align with our own calendar. We would value your prayers that

the right buyer comes forward soon, allowing us to fully close that chapter and focus entirely on the work God has for us here in the islands.

If you or someone you know is looking into buying or renting a flat in the Rochester /Chatham area, then please have a look at the link below –

https://www.rightmove.co.uk/properties/172584827?utm_campaign=property-details&utm_content=buying&utm_medium=sharing&utm_source=copytoclipboard#/&channel=RES_BUY

Looking Ahead

As we approach our first anniversary this May, we want to thank you all for the role you played in our beginning. Your love and support during our wedding gave us a foundation of joy that we’ve carried with us to Guernsey.

We serve a God who moves mountains, but we’re learning He’s also the God who walks with us through the transitions. We miss you all dearly and wish the Maidstone Baptist family a blessed month of May!

With love and blessings,

The Berwick-Moore’s

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<p><u>Deadline for June Knightrider Street News:</u> <u>Sunday May 10th</u></p> <p>Please e-mail contributions to the address on inside front cover</p> <p><i>No later than 20.00hrs on this date</i></p>



Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May 2026

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Salvation Army Citadel

Speaker: Nigel Styles

Book the dates now and come join other Christians from across the town to enjoy fellowship, share worship and hear God's word.



Nigel will be speaking on

'Remember to Remember' –

2 Peter helps us to wait for the King.

Nigel has been involved in church leadership for over 40 years (most recently as Senior Minister of Emmanuel Church, Bramcote, Nottingham), and he was then Director of the Cornhill Training Course (training preachers) in London for eight years.

He is now Director of Cross Connections, a UK charity that funds Bible-training initiatives all over the world. His role is to champion expository preaching, and to train and support those leading Cross Connections Worldwide Hubs.



REMEMBER TO REMEMBER

Waiting for the King
(2 Peter)

MAIDSTONE BIBLE WEEK 2026

SPEAKER: Nigel Styles

Mon 11TH - Thurs 14TH MAY
7:30PM - 9:30PM

SALVATION ARMY CITADEL
74-80 Union Street, ME14 1ED

Admission is FREE

(A collection will be taken)

WWW.MAIDSTONEBIBLEWEEK.ORG.UK

Little Fishes



As we finished last term we had a visit from the Easter Bunny and the children all took a gift home.

The term was packed with lots of fun playing with toys and getting creative making the crafts. Thanks to Chloe for all the craft ideas.

If you are up for a challenge and feel you would be able to be part of the Little Fishes team then please let us know, even if it is not every week; you would be very welcome.

Helen Driver
helenj.53@outlook.com





Prayer Points

May 2026

Fri 1st As we start a new month, may we take the widespread concern of the suffering that is happening in the world, both near and far, to the Almighty God of the universe, praying for peace soon and an end to the destruction that is happening in Middle East and Ukraine.

Sat 2nd May we pray for those in our town who are living in isolation and may be unwell, mentally and physically and still homeless and sleeping rough as a result of personal hardship and difficulties.

Sun 3rd Remember in prayer today our church secretary, deacons and Senior Minister as they co ordinate the church activities at this uncertain time.

Mon 4th Pray for our Boys' and Girls' brigade and their work and projects in Kent and surrounding regions. Pray that the light they bring to people will reflect Jesus.

Tue 5th Pray for those in our church who have recently lost loved ones.

Wed 6th Lets pray for families who have been housed over here from war torn countries that the healing process will be their experience.

Thur 7th Pray for the elderly members in our church who may be struggling in various ways. Pray for their safety and protection from abuse or danger and that their care will be maintained in these times of

uncertainty.

Fri 8th Let us pray for churches in Kent as they meet in spirit and truth to proclaim the gospel. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life.'

Sat 9th May we pray for our Government leaders who may be involved in negotiating peace in Israel, Iran and the whole of the Middle East at this time.

Sun 10th There may be people in the church who need special help in their walk in the Christian life, finding it difficult in the fight against addictions of all kinds. Pray for strength, healing, and confidence in the comforting words of Jesus: 'Neither do I condemn thee'. May we be open to His word today.



Mon 11th Pray for Alistair and Kirsty in their work here in Maidstone, asking God to be with them in these difficult times, with the challenges facing our youth and young people as they go out in these dangerous times.

Tue 12th Pray for the church family as we meet each week, as we all face the same situations and concerns. Let us pray for the Maidstone Bible week which is underway.

Wed 13th Pray for our church leadership team and the deacons as they plan for the year ahead. Pray for the newly elected deacons who are just about to start in their roles.

Thur 14th Let us pray for local businesses in Maidstone who are finding it a financial challenge to run, due to increased taxes.

Fri 15th Pray today for all those in church who sometimes feel unfulfilled, saddened or anxious about their life but find it hard to speak to someone about it, because God knows who they are.

Sat 16th May we pray today for the church budget plan and its financial standing, and for those responsible for managing this as they need divine help in financial leadership.

Sun 17th Pray for Jane as she is involved in the Make Lunch project here in Maidstone and that any future plans will be executed according to the needs of families.



Mon 18th Pray for the local hospitals and accident and emergency service as they struggle to meet the health needs of people.

Tue 19th Let us pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted in countries who are against Christianity. Pray for their safety.

Wed 20th Pray for our local schools and colleges as they continue to meet the demands placed upon them to maintain standards in education and learning.

Thur 21st Today let us remember families in the church with young children and those with teenagers who are growing up in a highly technological age with social media and all the risks associated with the internet. Pray for them.

Fri 22nd Pray for families struggling to make ends meet due to the increased cost of living and rising fuel costs, who have to rely on food banks.

Sat 23rd Pray today for those who are sick and receiving treatment, those

who have just found out about an illness, or those who know something is not right. Pray for them.



Sun 24th May we pray for all the political parties and local and central government that they will be led and directed. Pray that they will be given wisdom and understanding.

Mon 25th Pray for wisdom in the words we speak to our work colleagues and the actions we portray while we are in the workplace today that we will be invitational for the good news we have.

Tue 26th Pray for our young people who may have varying degrees of personal issues which are complex yet very real to them, but only our Dear Lord knows about.

Wed 27th Pray today for Alastair and his work within the schools in Maidstone and surrounding district and the team he works with.

Thur 28th Pray today for a closer walk with the Lord Jesus and ask Him to answer the deep questions we have and hear the deep groans we have in our spirit which we are unable to express in words.

Fri 29th Let us pray for the social services here in Maidstone as they continue to help children who have lost parents as a result of war particularly from the Middle East and North Africa.

Sat 30th Remember those who have been the victim of radicalisation with terrorist groups. Pray for their release.

Sun 31st Pray that our church service each week will echo a blessing for anyone who is passing by at the time.



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



We have a busy few months coming up :

Camp Amazing

Please pray for all the plans and preparations for our **'Camp Amazing'** weekend camp and fun day (1st – 4th May 2026), for the staff team and the children and young people, and for fun, safety and challenge in all our activities both on and off site whilst we are out and about. We want the weekend to be about fun, building relationships, trying new things, sharing experiences and learning about Jesus.

Awards & celebration evening

We will be holding our annual awards and celebration evening on Wednesday 20th May starting at 6.00 pm for about an hour. We would be pleased to welcome any Church friends who would like to join us for this event. It is a great chance to see and hear a little of what the children and young people have been doing over the year, and for us to present awards to a number of the boys and girls in recognition of their efforts.

Barn Dance

We will once again be holding a fund raising **Barn Dance** at Boxley Abbey on the evening of **Saturday 27th June 2026**

(£10.00 adult ticket, £5.00 per child (under 16)).

Bring your own food and drink (tea & coffee will be provided).

All are welcome. Do contact one of the Brigade leaders if you would like to purchase tickets or need any further information.

Don't forget that we would always be pleased to welcome new members (aged 5 and above) to any of our groups.

Jane Haslam

BBGBMaidstone-161@highg.net



FROM EVERYWHERE TO EVERYWHERE

Mission has traditionally been seen as being "from the West to the rest". But in Ghana, there's a very different story playing out – and it's one that BMS World Mission is thrilled to be part of.

As a young Christian, Ghanaian Kwame Adzam dreamed of being involved in sharing the gospel. And he's certainly doing that: these days, he heads up BMS' Heart for the Gospel ministry, building strong evangelism and discipleship programmes. But he also had another, more specific dream. "When I became a believer, I was thinking, 'When will Ghana be able to send mission workers to other places?'" he remembers. "I've always been praying, 'Lord, would you open the doors for the Global South Church so that we can become significant partners in fulfilling your mission?'" Now, finally, this vision is taking shape.

Stronger together

Over recent decades, mission agencies have begun thinking of mission less as something belonging to the West, and more as an enterprise "from everywhere to everywhere". While the Western Church is struggling, Christianity in the Global South is thriving and growing. And with this vibrant faith comes the desire to spread the gospel. "BMS was beginning to change posture, thinking about the gift of God that lies within the Global South Church," says Kwame. In 2024, with support from BMS and local partners, the African Oasis Mission Hub was born. It's a centre in Ghana where Christians from across Africa can gain the knowledge and skills they need for engaging in mission – in their own

continent and beyond. The training includes modules on evangelism, discipleship, world religions, risk management and community transformation. There's also a three month practical placement.

It's a phenomenally exciting new venture. "This is the beauty of the Oasis Hub: it's intentional," says Kwame. "It's the first of its kind, deliberately and strategically working with churches to identify, recruit, train, send and support mission workers from Ghana, from Africa, to other places."

Having a mission hub in Africa brings all kinds of benefits. For instance, it's easier for African Christians to access certain countries where western workers might struggle to gain entry. There are often fewer linguistic and cultural barriers to overcome. And in areas that are less open to the gospel, African Christians can share the good news of Jesus without ringing the alarm bells that western workers might.

This is where the hub can be really strategic – for example, in reaching into North Africa, where many countries are hostile to Christianity. "We are hoping to energise the sub-Saharan student population, who know life in the North African countries and have built some relationships," says Kwame. "They can then begin to connect, albeit in a sensitive and discreet way, with the nationals."

A harvest for generations

Graduates from the Oasis Hub are already sharing the gospel enthusiastically across Africa. One student, Ife, came from Nigeria to train at the hub. He's now serving God in the Gambia, a Muslim-majority country where less than four per cent of the population identify as Christian. It's

somewhere BMS would never otherwise have been able to send a mission worker. “The gospel harvest that will happen in the Gambia for generations to come is because BMS was generous with the resources God has given us, but also generous in our heart posture to see God’s Kingdom expand,” says Kwame.

Other hub graduates are serving in countries as diverse as Guinea, Tanzania, Zambia, Nigeria, Togo, Burkina Faso and Côte d’Ivoire. In time, Kwame hopes the hub will send workers beyond Africa to help revitalise the Church in the West.

The story doesn’t end with the Ghana hub. BMS recently started making plans for a second mission hub in Thailand, which could reach an incredible 1.6 billion people. “It’s really exciting for me to be part of this,” says Kwame. “It feels like it’s a call God gave me decades ago coming to be.”

Please pray

- Give thanks for the mission workers who have been trained and sent into some of the least evangelised places, and pray for more doors to open.
- Pray for wisdom for the hub’s leaders to make strategic choices in the face of so much need.
- Pray for humble collaboration, so that Christians everywhere can join together in fulfilling God’s mission

BMS magazine “Engage” Issue 65 2026

BMS World Mission, PO Box 49, 129 Broadway, Didcot,
Oxfordshire OX11 8XA 01235 517 700

mail@bmsworldmission.org

GROWING THEIR FUTURE



She sat on the open walkway outside the hospital and, when the MAF pilot greeted her, she stood up very carefully.

Nabintu had endured violence that had broken her body. The doctor explained that she'd waited there for four months without a surgeon. Without medicine. Without electricity. A tragically common scenario in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Asked if she could fly to the hospital in Bukavu, Nabintu beamed. Asked to gather her things, she lifted a small bundle of cloth and a piece of plastic. 'This is all I have,' she said. In the plane, she laid the plastic on her seat – a mixture of shame and courage in her eyes. The MAF crew were left with memories of a woman in pain, her dignity gone.

Two days later, the MAF crew visited Nabintu. 'The doctor who examined me gave me a little hope that I might become whole again,' she smiled.

It's tiny seeds of hope like this that so often open the door to a future that looks dead and buried to people like Nabintu.

BELIEVING IS SEEING

Medical care is often inadequate in rural Tanzania. Ophthalmologists are particularly scarce, so simple operations that would prevent blindness or restore sight don't happen

'Our patients can travel more than 100 miles just to reach hospital,' says Dr Amos Mahona – Medical Officer at St John Paul II Hospital in the Tabora district. 'And, when they get here, we have to say we can't help them.'

However, the MAF family is changing that. We recently flew renowned Tanzanian eye surgeon Dr Erick Msigomba and his team from Njombe to Tabora where they saw 200 patients and performed 60 cataract operations.

Dr Msigomba would never have made the journey by road. It would have taken two full days driving over bumpy terrain, risking damage to delicate medical instruments. ‘But,’ says the doctor, ‘MAF delivered me safely with all my tools intact.’

Prior to this momentous flight, 75-year-old Rozalia Mayunga could not care for herself having lost her sight nearly three years ago. ‘Every day I prayed, “My God, help me – I am tired of this suffering.”’ ‘When my children told me that doctors were coming, I made up my mind to go for treatment. I was so excited! ‘After the operation, they removed something like a scarf from my eyes and I started seeing again. Now I can walk on my own. I will cook and eat instead of begging people for food. They will see me at home, walking, and they will be shocked.’

Yet many more people await the treatment which would dramatically transform their lives. MAF Tanzania Country Director Stewart Ayling is praying that our aircraft will help to vastly increase the number of men and women who will be able to see again. ‘Having seen the impact of the work, our whole team is highly motivated to ensure this medical camp is the first of many.’

MAF magazine “Flying for Life” Apr-June 2026

If you would like to support the work of MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) their details are:

MAF UK, Castle House, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone,
Kent CT20 2TQ 01303 852819

supporter.relations@maf-uk.org

SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS

James Fraser travelled to an Egyptian village to see how one church and a Christian co-operative are making a difference.



It is 20 years since two believers were killed in a mob attack on its church but the minority Christian community remains vulnerable. We are travelling to a village in Upper Egypt to meet Father R, a Coptic Christian leader whose church hosts a sewing co-operative that was formed with funding from Release International to help believers to make a living.

As we approach the entrance to the village our partner instructs us to draw the black-out blinds on the car windows. Millions of Western tourists visit Egypt every year but the villages are not typical destinations and our presence there would have drawn unhelpful attention to the Christians we were visiting.

After driving down a noisy street filled with people, donkeys, carts, motorbikes and 4x4s we were dropped off in a side alley and led into the Coptic church compound through a back door. Once inside, tensions eased and we were welcomed into Father R's office. He greeted us warmly but it was impossible not to notice a large screen on the wall behind his desk displaying images from multiple CCTV cameras dotted around the building – a reminder of the continuously precarious security context for recognised places of Christian worship in Upper Egypt.

The fact that we were sitting in a church, however, says a lot for the way in which Father R has interacted with the community since the attack – the peak of persecution, as he describes it. Although two Christians were killed in the violence and fires were lit around the church, which had only just been built, the building survived.

It continues to be difficult for believers to get permission to build in Egyptian villages because many Muslims consider it shameful to have a church in their area, while local police can also resist development, but, in the aftermath of the attack, Father R resisted the temptation for the Christian community to retreat from view and harbour resentment against their Muslim neighbours.

Instead he was determined to lead his people on an alternative, more demanding but more fruitful path – demonstrating humility, kindness and forgiveness. He gave small gifts to Muslim children he met in the street, he attended community weddings and funerals, he made sure the church doors were open to visitors all through the week and he refused the use of a church car in order to identify more closely with the struggles of the local people. Critically he instigated dialogue with local Muslim leaders.

Progress has been slow and there have been setbacks, but Father R believes this approach has built a degree of protection, understanding and respect for Christians. ‘People see the fruit over the long term,’ he said. ‘It has taken 20 years to build this trust and reputation through practical acts. The lived-out message of Christ protects us.’ He said that while trying to settle a recent dispute in the Muslim community, one of their leaders had commented, ‘We need to learn from Christians and how they forgive.’ As part of this process Father R has witnessed spiritual growth and holistic development within the Christian community. He said that before the church was built, ‘we were in darkness. Previously, Christians in the village were very [poor] economically, educationally and spiritually’.

However, income-generating projects, funded in part by Release International, have improved living standards. A new generation of young people have better access to education and are entering more highly paid professions with promising futures. Dialogue with the Muslim community has developed trust and enabled disputes to be resolved before they

escalate. There is no true equality, but life has improved, partly because the Christian community now has a sense of confidence and assurance in its identity.

Christians are still in the minority and many of their neighbours continue to resent the presence of the church, but they are here to stay, and are determined to live in peace with everyone. They will not fight back if attacked but neither will they run. Reflecting on this 'turn the other cheek' approach, Father R added: 'The church is a lighthouse in the village to shine the light of Christ.'

Sewing Co-operative

After leaving Father R's office we were introduced to a Christian widow who has run a small sewing co-operative from the church compound for the past three years. 'Agatha'* has seen bereavement and ill health in her life and before joining the co-operative was isolated at home and depressed. However, now she is full of joy and purpose. She shone with pride as she showed off the impressive rugs and bags she had made along with the five other widows who are part of the group.

Our partner told us that the support Release International provides to help to fund co-operatives such as this one makes a significant difference both in terms of financial income and spiritual encouragement. Agatha said, 'Even if no one knows us, we are part of the body of Christ. God compensates us on earth and in heaven.'

In total the Release International project aims to help around 2,000 people spread across 100 villages in Upper Egypt. As well as income generating grants, it includes providing for basic living needs, home repairs and pastoral care.

**Name changed to protect identity* Release International, PO Box 54,
Orpington BR5 4RT 01689 823491 info@releaseinternational.org

Regular Sunday Meetings.

Every Sunday: 10.30hrs In-person Worship at Knightrider Street
Services are also streamed on 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.



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

Please email:
maidstone@streetpastors.org.uk for more information