

Knightrider Street News



OCTOBER 2026

MAIDSTONE
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Verse for the year 2026:-

"This is the confidence that we have in approaching God, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." 1 John 5: 14

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**
Church Office

Tel/Ans/Fax: 01622 686013

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

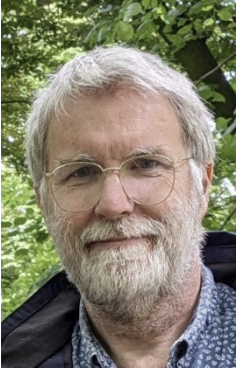
Tel: 07944 639851

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.



This month I'm writing about worship. We can, and indeed should, worship God every day in our homes and everyday lives. But we also think often about our focus in our gathered worship times in church.

Leading a church service on Sunday morning can feel strange.... What do I mean?

Well, in how many other jobs do you stand in front of 150+ people - from babies to 90s, and everything in between - and need to try and deliver something that is relevant to everyone? I try week by week to create a space where everyone can worship: I attempt to teach and preach (as led by God of course) and allow space for the Holy Spirit to minister to us all, and to equip us for coming days.

Quite often someone will say to me after the service that they really didn't like a particular song or picture that we've used that day, and a moment later someone else will say it is their favourite!

But maybe that's the point - that worship isn't (and never should be) about us, or what we like: it's about recognising God amongst us, and finding ways of honouring that divine presence and promise.

Sometimes it's about trying to expand our experience of how to sense God amongst us. Church is one place among many where we feel God with us, and worship is a consequence of that.

Psalm 95:6 - Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Psalm 100:2 - Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

Psalm 150:6 - Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!

When we turn the emphasis from “Did we like the songs?” to “Did we glorify Jesus?” then our whole attitude to worship changes. We will have made extra space for the Holy Spirit to empower us.

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth. - John 4:24

If in church you feel led to raise your hands in worship, go ahead. Feel free to kneel in prayer, or wave a flag, or dance, or cry - or just stand or sit, and enjoy being with God and with God's children. True worship comes from our hearts and honours God.
And that matters more than anything else.

Nigel

-----OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO-----

LADIES FELLOWSHIP DAY

Responding to God's Call

Ladies, we are pleased to announce the date of the next fellowship day which will give us an opportunity to dig into God's word, fellowship together and make new friends.

SATURDAY 17TH OCTOBER AT AYLESFORD PRIORY.

Please meet at 9:30 for a 10:00 start. We will draw our time together to a close at about 15:00

Bring a packed lunch or purchase lunch from the café onsite.

Plenty of parking is available for a donation of £2. We will ask for £10 towards the cost of the room but please speak to us if this would be difficult for you.

We do need to know numbers as places in the room are limited. As always, please speak to us if you will need a lift.

Nic and Sheila.



Volunteer Needed:

After a good number of years, Paul Ledger is standing down from his role of submitting (for publication in this magazine) articles and information about what God is doing elsewhere in the world.

If you feel God might be challenging YOU to help continue this work, please talk to Nigel.

Psalm 117:1 – "Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples."

Thank you.

-----OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO-----

A Reminder:

Dear Friends,

Can I remind those of you who visit people in Residential and Nursing Homes to remember to sign in and sign out when visiting friends. This is for safety reasons for you and the friends you are visiting. Thank you.

Jane Gurnett Pastoral Care team

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BMS Birthday Scheme.

October 2nd

October 15th

October 16th

Tommy Small

Barry Tucker

Barbara Williams



Happy Birthday to you all!

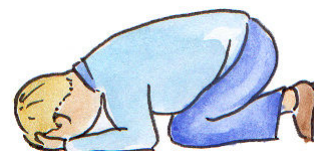


Prayer Points

October 2026

- Thur 1st Thank God for his continued leadership in our lives as we reach the end of the Summer months. Let us remember in prayer the many people who are suffering as a result of the wars in Gaza, Ukraine and Iran.
- Fri 2nd Let us pray that the heavenly comforter will be with all who are mourning the loss of family in this country and abroad.
- Sat 3rd Remember the church's role at this turbulent time when so much is going on and uncertainty is always before us.
- Sun 4th May we remember our Boys' and Girls' brigade during another autumn of programs and projects along with their educational commitments. Pray for the leaders and teams as they plan each week.
- Mon 5th Remember our young people who started schools and colleges this autumn and who may be feeling apprehensive or fearful. Pray for them. Also those who may not have achieved the school of choice.
- Tue 6th Pray for a return to experience the beauty of holiness and the joy of salvation as if it were to be reset back to when we first believed.

- Wed 7th May we pray today for the children in Little Fishes group, which meet each Wednesday. Ask Jesus to guide and direct their projects and for the additional helpers they need in the group.
- Thur 8th Remember those in church who are suffering ill health and who are under special medical management from the hospital. Remember too the terminally sick and those who are receiving palliative care in hospice or home.
- Fri 9th Let us pray for the elderly in church and outside in the community at large, that they will get the care and support they need, particularly those with mental health problems and especially as we approach the Winter months.
- Sat 10th Pray for our minister Nigel as he leads the church here in Maidstone, with the many challenges which this position holds.
- Sun 11th Pray today for those of our church who are in nursing homes and care centres receiving care 24 hours a day and remember the social services department.
- Mon 12th Pray for our church leadership team and deacons; for guidance in their decision making for the future of the church.
- Tue 13th Let us pray for our local hospitals and emergency services as they prepare for a busy Winter ahead, remembering the Accident and Emergency department when the Winter pressures begin.
- Wed 14th Pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted in this country and abroad because of their Christian beliefs.
- Thur 15th Pray for all those near us who feel unfulfilled and desperate



about their lives and who may be discouraged on their journey due to personal failures or issues with close family members.

Fri 16th May we remember the organisers of the Street Pastors who go out each week. Pray for their safety.

Sat 17th Let us pray for our relationship within our neighbourhood and friends as we try and shine Jesus' light to them in this dark world.

Sun 18th Pray for world leaders as they try to reach a peace deal in and around Ukraine, Russia, Gaza.



Mon 19th Pray for all those who have recently lost loved ones and are now bereaved, both young and old, inside and outside the church.

Tue 20th Pray for our youth club and the supporting teams involved in their management.

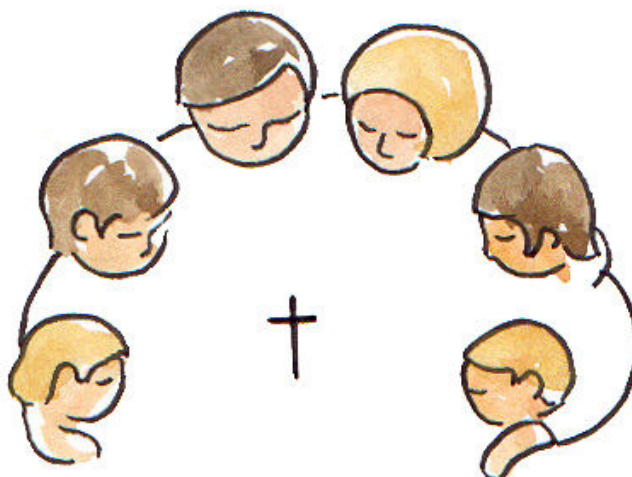
Wed 21st Let us pray for our members who are finding things difficult at work, either because of bullying, victimisation or overwork, asking God to grant a quiet time for refreshment and recuperation as he sees fit.

Thur 22nd Pray for all those who are commencing new careers and new jobs and those who are taking final exams.

Fri 23rd Pray today for a closer walk with God in these troublesome times when to be a Christian can be challenging.

Sat 24th May we pray today for families in and outside church who have young children to guide in these difficult times.

- Sun 25th Let us pray for those of our members who are not able to get out each week to church, that their spiritual needs will be met.
- Mon 26th Pray for wisdom as we speak to our friends and colleagues in the workplace so that we will reflect the love of Jesus.
- Tue 27th May we pray for our pastoral area coordinators who give the support and encouragement to all who need it at various times.
- Wed 28th Pray for a closer walk with Jesus as we go into our individual place of work; school, college, office, hospital or board meeting.
- Thur 29th Pray for all those who are sleeping rough and are homeless here in Maidstone who were previously helped by the winter shelter project.
- Fri 30th Pray for our social services here in Kent as they are often overwhelmed with demand for emergency support, especially with the children of families arriving from trouble and war torn countries.
- Sat 31st Pray for our church family here in Maidstone, that we will be one in spirit and will sing from the same hymn sheet when witnessing for Jesus.





SURVIVING THE OUTBREAK: EBOLA IN THE DRC

Loice is a nurse in the city of Bunia in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She's also survived the Ebola virus.

Loice is a nurse in the city of Bunia in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). At 32 years of age, she's a single mother to her 12-year-old daughter. She's also one of at least 155 health workers who have been confirmed to have contracted the Ebola virus so far.

The current outbreak is now the deadliest in the country's history. Of the 5,105 cases confirmed (as at 17th August), at least 2,420 have been fatal – that's approximately 47 per cent.

Ituri, the province where Loice lives, is the epicentre of it all. It's where this outbreak was first reported, and more than 3,400 of the cases have been recorded here. And while the statistics reflect the scale and spread of the virus, what they don't fully convey is the pain, fear and individual heartache for each patient, and for every person around them.

Loice survived and has recovered, but her life has been incredibly difficult in the aftermath.

Loice: a survivor's story

'On 16th June 2026, about a month after the official declaration of the 17th Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic in the DRC, I went to a local healthcare facility because I was experiencing headaches, fatigue and a loss of appetite.

'After some medical tests, I received treatment for malaria and typhoid fever. But, my condition continued to get worse.

'So, I went to a medical center, where I was diagnosed with EVD. I was extremely anxious at the time of my admission to the Ebola Treatment Center (ETC) and, given everything I had heard about this disease, I had

lost all hope.

‘At the ETC, I was well cared for, well fed, and well clothed. I was admitted on 29th June 2026 and I started feeling better after four days of treatment. I was discharged on 11th July 2026, having been declared cured. ‘I am grateful to God and I appreciate the efforts of the health workers who contributed to my recovery.

‘However, once released from the ETC, I began a new stage of life marked by many different challenges: upon returning home, I was not welcomed in the neighborhood because many people doubted my recovery. Some people thought that, in addition to having EVD, I was HIV-positive.

‘On top of that, my mattress, blanket, sheets, clothes and other household items were incinerated by the decontamination team.

‘I also no longer had a job to go to because the healthcare center where I’d been nursing was shut down by health authorities after multiple cases of EVD were reported there.

‘Faced with stigma, the loss of my job and my belongings, and feeling very embarrassed, I did not know what to do.

‘Thankfully, after hearing about my situation, my former employer decided to take me into her home.’

Tearfund’s local partner, PPSSP, has also provided some support for Loice – including through counselling and home visits to help ease the anxiety she was struggling with after the shock of the illness, the loss of loved ones, and the fear of being impacted by the disease again.

She says this has restored her self-esteem, and she now feels loved, heard and recognised as a full human being once again – rather than being seen as a source of danger in her host family and the wider community.

Her willingness to speak freely with others in her community about her journey through illness and recovery has allowed her to break down fear and combat stigma around the disease, and has also given her a voice to

guide her loved ones and other community members toward staying safe from this epidemic.

She says, ‘Thanks to Tearfund and their partner, PPSSP, I’ve received psychological support which has helped me see myself as a survivor.

‘I also received a full hand-washing kit, which includes a stool, an 800g bar of soap and two 20-liter plastic buckets with a tap, enabling me and my family members to keep our hands clean.

‘My community has also benefited from awareness raising by PPSSP’s team, and my neighbours now understand EVD better and have welcomed me back.

‘I’m very grateful to PPSSP and Tearfund. Thanks to them, I have recovered the hope for my life and future.

‘Even though I still experience headaches and insomnia, which is typical of many EVD survivors, I remain hopeful and trust that God’s mercy will make my future bright.’

Ebola in the DRC: context and challenges

Across eastern DRC, 2.6 million people are seriously malnourished. More than half of these are in Ituri. Ongoing violent conflicts in the region, large amounts of population movement, difficulty gaining access to communities by road, and a lack of – and sometimes mistrust of – health services has enabled the virus to spread quickly.

And the response has also been hampered by attacks on healthcare facilities, often as a consequence of misinformation about safe burial practices which causes upset in grieving communities.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that more than 70 per cent of people who die of Ebola do so not in health centres, but in the community, where traditional expressions of respect and grief for the dead include contact with the body of the deceased. This makes lack of awareness on safe burial practices and on vital decontamination processes extremely dangerous for all those in the community.

Strikes by some health workers after they did not receive payment have further complicated efforts to respond to the outbreak and a shortage of personal protective equipment, such as gloves and face masks, has made being a healthcare worker, like Loice, a very risky role.

Along with these circumstances, the particular strain of Ebola that is being spread, the Bundibugyo strain, has been very rare until now and there is no recognised treatment, vaccine or cure yet.

Of the confirmed cases, 1,000 people have recovered and 730 remain in healthcare or isolation facilities.

What is Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)?

Ebola is a version of the orthoebolavirus. It is rare, but usually severe and often fatal. It affects humans and other primates, and the primary carrier of it is thought to be fruit bats. (Other wild animals, such as porcupines and non-human primates are also known to host the disease.)

Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with blood, secretions, organs or other body fluids of infected people or animals. This can include dead bodies and contaminated surfaces or materials, such as bedding or clothing. The virus does not spread through the air, like respiratory viruses, and a person is only contagious after they begin showing symptoms.

Symptoms may take between 2 and 21 days to show and, according to the WHO, may include fever, fatigue, muscle pain and weakness, headache and sore throat. These initial symptoms are usually followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, abdominal pain, rash and symptoms of impaired kidney and liver functions, and may develop to unexplained bleeding, bruising or haemorrhaging.

While the Bundibugyo strain of the virus has no recognised treatment, if it is caught early and a patient receives intensive supportive care, including oral or intravenous rehydration, and treatment for the specific symptoms, this can significantly improve their possibility for survival.

Prayer requests from Loice

- Please pray for her, and for other people who have lost jobs or providers in the family because of Ebola, to have an income-generating activity that would allow them to support their families.
- Pray for Loice, and the many other people like her, who have had essential household items damaged or destroyed because of necessary decontamination. Ask God to provide for their needs.
- Pray for an end to the spread of the virus and that those who are ill would be healed and restored. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones.

If you'd like to give to help Tearfund respond to the Ebola outbreak, contact details are below.

Tarryn Pegna

August 2026

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

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WE'RE THE CHANGE AGENTS OF OUR OWN FUTURE

One church. Three women. Countless stories of transformation

It's in the high 30s and what feels like 100% humidity when we arrive at New Harvest Manjama Church in Bo District, Sierra Leone. Although this area is rich in diamonds and gold, over half its population live in poverty, struggling to access the things most of us take for granted. Education. Healthcare. Three meals a day. We're welcomed into the church by its lead pastor, Feima Fefegula. It's still early, but at least 15 people are already

sitting in the church hall. Waiting for us. Ready to tell us how they've transformed their own lives through the training they've received here.

The training, known as the Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMP for short), is more exciting than its name suggests. It's an empowering, potentially poverty-ending tool for those who take it to heart. It has taught the members of New Harvest Manjama Church to understand the root causes of the poverty they're experiencing, recognise their God-given skills and resources, and then use them to transform their own stories.

"We now know that we can make use of the little that we have and make something big out of it," says Rev Feima.

Whether it's starting a small business or building a school in the back garden (yes, Feima has actually done this!), change that started in this church is rippling out into the community. And it's beautiful to see.

Deborah has a smile and warmth that puts you immediately at ease, so it's surprising when she says that before the CCMP training, she was so reserved she wouldn't even say hello to people in her community when they greeted her. It was the training, she says, that helped her understand how to relate to herself, to God and to her community. It also helped her find a way to make a living and support her family.

Deborah used to make beaded bags at home but never thought she could use this skill to improve her life.

Through CCMP her mindset changed. Now, she makes and sells beaded bags and tie-dye shirts – and she is training others to do the same.

Empowering the people she used to ignore on the street to earn a living.

"There is a Bible study that talks about when Jesus fed the 5,000, and that really changed my life," says Deborah. "It opened my eyes to do more and to help people. I am very happy because of what I'm doing."

Learning this skill has helped a lot of people, and now they are also earning money. I feel joy because I'm impacting lives. So, I'm very happy to see that."

Rev Feima has also taken inspiration from the stories of Jesus' ministry. How he saw a need (hungry people), took something small (five loaves and two fish), and did something huge with it (fed 5,000). The need Feima saw? Education for disadvantaged children in her community. They needed a school. So Feima built one. "I didn't have a big piece of land or a building to start a school, but CCMP taught me that we can make use of the little that we have," she says. So she built a small, four-classroom building in her back garden and started a school with 15 children. Three years later, there are 80 children at the school, many on scholarships. Feima is trusting God for a bigger piece of land, but she didn't wait for it. She started with what she had.

Not only has CCMP improved the economic and educational opportunities of people inside and outside New Harvest Manjama Church, the training has also grown the faith, prayer life and number of members worshipping at the church. Before the training, Feima says her church members thought prayer was for the church leaders. Now, they know prayer is for everyone. "Whether I'm there or not, they will mobilise themselves and come together to pray. For the church, for the disciples, for the community, for the lost souls, for the country," says Feima. "And now evangelism is part of the church."

This passion for prayer and evangelism, alongside all the practical ways the church is involved in the community, is leading people to Jesus. "Two weeks back, we baptised up to 13 people from the community," says Feima. Some of the new believers came to the church through Deborah's skills training programme. "I've brought many people to learn, and as a result of this process, we have three people who are now believers in Christ because I gave them scholarships to learn how to make these bags..." says

Deborah. “Now they are part of the church here.”

Every member of this church – new and old – is important to God, and Isata’s story demonstrates that beautifully. Isata felt that she couldn’t fully engage in church because she never had the opportunity to learn to read or write. That meant that she didn’t have the confidence to share her testimony, and the idea of leading a Bible study felt impossible. How could she lead a study on something she couldn’t even read?

The training has changed that. Rev Feima was equipped to teach the oral version of CCMP as well as the traditional version. The oral version uses simple language and symbols that the church comes up with together to help them remember key parts of the training – Bible stories and the church’s mission statement, things like that. It means everyone can actively engage in the process, whatever their level of education. That was really important for Isata. “I was ashamed to stand before people, to give testimony,” she says. “But the process has given me the boldness to do Papa God’s work. It helped me to stand before people, to give testimonies, to lead a discovery Bible study. Now I can do all of that.”

It’s still boiling when we leave New Harvest Manjama Church, but we’re leaving richer than we arrived. Our imaginations are full of these stories of transformation. Of how much is possible when a church is empowered with the knowledge that they can change their own lives, and the skills to start now.

BMS Engage magazine
Issue 66, 2026

Deadline for November Knightrider Street News:

Sunday October 11th

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

No later than 20.00hrs on this date



‘I would cry out to Jesus and ask him to heal me quickly—so that I could share the gospel with those who are in darkness.’

Your brothers and sisters around the world face the threat of violence and arrest for sharing the gospel, or for simply gathering together as followers of Christ.

Pastor Rajendra* is passionate about seeing people won for Christ. It is a passion that has led to his suffering on several occasions.

He has been brutally and savagely attacked. He has seen members of his family attacked, too. He has also been arrested and imprisoned.

Voice of Persecuted Christians’ partner in India continues to provide vital support to Rajendra.

Several years ago Rajendra and his brother were attacked by a group of about 20 Hindu extremists who wanted to rid their village of Christianity. Rajendra’s brother was beaten and one assailant swung an axe towards Rajendra’s head. Instinctively, he raised his arms and both were hit. As he turned they struck him again from behind, leaving him unconscious, in a pool of blood.

A harrowing four-hour journey to hospital in an ambulance followed. Our partner visited the hospital to ensure Rajendra was given adequate medical treatment.

After his eventual discharge, Rajendra says he could neither stand nor sit. ‘I was desperate and kept praying to Jesus Christ while lying in bed, weeping.’ But he prayed for healing so he could continue his gospel ministry! ‘I wept and cried out constantly, praying to the Lord that I could glorify him again.’ Our partner provided Rajendra with financial assistance, including the costs of his treatment and medical care.

It would be fully six months before Rajendra was able to resume his pastoral ministry, leading services in a small building. ‘All the blood had drained from my body. My nerves were severed and my bone was dislocated. Now I am standing on my own feet. If this isn’t a miracle, what is?’ he said.

But last year Rajendra and his family were subjected to another brutal attack by Hindu extremists, armed with stones, swords and axes. This time the assault left his parents severely injured.

The very people who attacked them then went to the police station with false accusations, that resulted in Rajendra being wrongfully imprisoned for six months. Court cases are still outstanding, and Rajendra continues to travel 15 miles to hold worship gatherings. Through all of this Voice of Persecuted Christians’ partner continues to stand by his side, providing vital support for his family and funding his legal costs.

‘The people who attacked us say, “You must stop worshipping God here. Otherwise, like earlier, we will beat you again.” But God has kept me alive,’ said Rajendra, ‘because the work entrusted to me is not yet done: that’s why I am still alive. The Holy Spirit gives us strength in our lives. In the church we fellowship, praise and worship God together—and go to the villages to preach in his name.’ His brother added, ‘As God has chosen us, no matter how many difficulties come, we will never stop preaching about God.’

Rajendra added, ‘I do feel afraid. I was beaten before, so the fear remains. But we pray and draw strength from God.’

** Name changed to protect those we serve*

Voice of Persecuted Christians
August 2026

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.

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



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