Knightrider Street News



NOVEMBER 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

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Church Office *e-mail:*office@maidstonebaptist.net

Church Secretary: **Position vacant**

Church Treasurer: **Barbara Williams** Tel: 01622 726006
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Church publications:

Monthly notice sheet:

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

***Monthly magazine*: Knightrider Street News**
Editorial Deadline*:* *Second Sunday of previous month:20.00hrs by e-mail only*
Editor: **Paul Tebbutt** *email*: paul.tebbutt2015@gmail.com
Knightrider Street News Postal Distributor*:*
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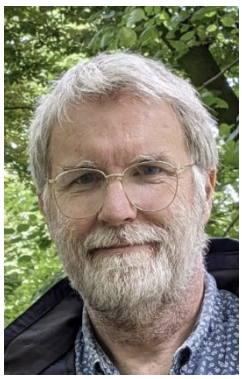
Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.

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Pastoral Visits:

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

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



As we enter November we are conscious of the dark nights and cooler weather. Perhaps a season for wrapping up in a blanket next to the fire while watching your favourite TV programme rather than venturing outside. But I, along with many other Church leaders, am preparing for Advent - this year starting on Sunday 29th November - and looking towards Christmas. Advent is, as you may know, the season of waiting, of preparation, of looking forward to the birth of Christ, of God coming to the world in human form.

Matthew 25:1-13 is a parable about preparation and waiting. Ten virgins all waiting for the bridegroom to arrive; all waiting, all with a lit oil lamp, all seemingly prepared. But what they didn't know was exactly when the bridegroom would arrive. Some were caught out because they didn't have spare oil to keep their lamps burning.

This parable isn't about looking ready but about actually being ready. It is referring not to Christ coming to the world as a baby, as we will hear about over the coming weeks, but to His promise to come again.

You may have heard suggestions that we should each have an emergency kit of food, blankets, candles etc to see us through a few days in the case of an extreme cold spell in the winter. This isn't about scaremongering but about being prepared, ready for an event to take place at an unknown time so we don't get caught out. And so it is with this parable. We are told to be prepared for Christ's return, whenever that may be.

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (Matthew 25:13)

Preparation is about the prayers prayed in secret, the obedience that costs something, the love that remains when the wait is long, the commitment to worship in the dark times, the encouraging of each other. To the world the women in Matthew 25 all looked ready because the world could see a light. But God looks at your oil supplies.

As you prepare for cold nights and look towards Christmas, are you living your life now and preparing your heart for Christ's return? Keep your heart faithful in the waiting.

Nigel

LADIES FELLOWSHIP DAY

On Saturday 17th October many of our ladies had a retreat day at Aylesford Priory. Sheila and Nic led us through the theme of "Responding to God's Call". We looked at the prophets Miriam, Deborah and Jeremiah who all responded to God in different ways. We had time to share some of our individual journeys with each other. We spent time moulding clay, reflecting on God moulding us.

"But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him." Jeremiah 18:4

At the end of the day we reflected on what we had taken from the day and how God had spoken to each of us.

We hope ***you*** can join us next time!












The Almond tree
God is watching to see that his word is fulfilled.
God
Say
Listen
Listen
Be encouraged
Follow me
I will be with you forever more
God speaks to us daily. Am I ready to hear His voice and ready to respond to His leading?
Light
Open your heart
Receive Him
Trust Him
Follow Him
GOD is still shaping ME
how does God want to use me?
GOD IS AT WORK AND WILL REFRAME US INTO WHAT HE WANTS US TO BE
BUT WE NEED TO LISTEN AND FOLLOW HIS GUIDANCE
PEACE
ENCOURAGEMENT
SHARING
HIDDEN PATHS
NEW RELATIONS
For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11






GOD is still shaping ME
how does God want to use me?
The Almond tree
God is watching to see that his word is fulfilled.
HIDDEN PATHS
SHARING
God speaks to us daily. Am I ready to hear His voice and ready to respond to His leading?

On 25th October we were hugely blessed to hear Derek's testimony and to witness his baptism. God can turn lives around and give fresh hope!



If you would like to know more about baptism, please speak to Nigel or Alastair.

Baptism



GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD

Knobcone Pines For many trees, forest fires are disastrous, but for one tree, the Knobcone Pine, fire is essential to allow new trees to grow. Knobcone Pines which grow in the west of the United States, are tough trees, often reaching a height of 23 metres (75 feet). They will grow in poor soil and up to 1390 metres (4500 feet) above sea level, often in areas where forest fires are common.

When the cones form, they stay closed, even though some may fall to the forest floor. The cones, which are the hardest in the world, stay viable for up to 50 years, even perhaps after the tree they came from has fallen and decayed.

Birds and other animals which eat seeds are unable to open them, and they will even withstand a hammer blow! Sometimes cones become embedded in the tree as the trunk grows around them. Only when a forest fire occurs do the cones release their seeds, so that they can germinate and replenish the forest.

But why aren't the cones and their seeds destroyed by the fire that destroys the forest? The answer lies in the cones' ingenious design. They are sealed with a hard resin that requires high temperatures in excess of 350 degrees Fahrenheit to open. When they begin to open, they produce a gas which protects the seeds from the fire. Only when the fire has gone out will the cones open fully, allowing the winged seeds to be scattered so that they can produce more Knobcone Pines.

Can evolution by natural selection explain how the cones of this tree got their wonderful ability to withstand forest fires? They not only need the heat to open them but also the gas which prevents the seeds from being destroyed until the fire dies down. Surely random, chance processes could not do this?
The evidence points to design by a Wise Creator!

Creation Resources Trust, Cheering Words Magazine Sept 2026



Prayer Points November 2026

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

Mon 2nd May today be a day when we pray for our town and our country and the leaders in government, that the Lord will guide and overrule in their decision making. Pray forAndy Burnham in his prime ministerial role, dealing with issues nationally and internationally.

Tue 3rd Remember our families and brethren who are in pain, grief and sorrow, who are saddened due to personal issues which only our dear Lord and Saviour knows about. He knows all about us and is there when we are in tears or pain.

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

Thur 5th Let us pray together for the people affected by the recent floods in Nepal and Hong Kong and the relief agancies trying to help them recover.

Fri 6th Pray for the ongoing crisis in the Middle East, and the world

leaders trying to maintain peace there. Remember those suffering in Gaza, Iran and Yemen.

Sat 7th Let us pray for the church here in Maidstone as we work with other churches dealing with the homeless the sick and vulnerable.

Sun 8th Remember in prayer those victims of the war in Ukraine and the ongoing conflict there.We lift up the Russion leader today and the president of Ukraine.



Mon 9th Pray for the Deacons 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.

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

Wed 11th Think today 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.

Thur 12th Pray today for the Little Fishes group that meets each week. Pray for guidance for those who are leading this group of young minds.

Fri 13th Remember the local health and emergency services in prayer today, facing never ending demand. Ask God to uphold and maintain them in their work even while we are sleeping, especially at this time of year when seasonal infections increase

demand.

Sat 14th Pray for all those who are sleeping rough on the streets and those who do not have a fixed place of abode, remembering plans that are underway to offer assistance.

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



Mon 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."

Tue 17th Pray today for our Brigades as they contemplate their community projects with their leaders.

Wed 18th May we pray today for mission work in this country and abroad, remembering TEARfund working in very challenging parts of the world and areas where persecution and wars are taking place. Pray also for the shoe box appeal.

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

Fri 20th Let us pray today for our local government and council leaders as we bring their responsibilities before God, asking for guidance and wisdom in decision making for our town and county.

Sat 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 .



Sun 22nd Pray for those who are at this moment being persecuted because of their Christian faith. Ask God that they will feel His presence with them more closely in the workplace, school, sportsfield, battlefield, or the seat of government.

Mon 23rd For those among us who are bereaved and have lost loved ones, pray that in a special way today they will be comforted by God.

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

Wed 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.

Thur 26th Pray today for those who are frightened, anxious or fearful for the future, not knowing what will happen next. God holds time and eternity in his hands: lets pray to keep close to him in these uncertain times.

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

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

Sun 29th 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.

Mon 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 again for peace for the Middle East and Ukraine because Jesus is the Prince of Peace.



Let us pray

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Maidstone Baptist Church in September 1956. By the autumn of 1958 a Girls' Life Brigade company started up at the Church too - 2nd Maidstone Girls' Brigade (GB).

There is no space here to list the numerous activities and people who have been involved in service to God through the BB here over the past 70 years. Hundreds of boys have been members of the 1st Maidstone BB throughout that time; some for only a short time, others were part of the organisation throughout their childhood and as they became young men, and indeed others stayed involved beyond that, as many of our current leaders have done. There are still leaders ready and willing to serve the Boys' Brigade and give the boys who meet here regularly on Wednesday evenings (and girls too, since January 2011 when we started joint working) an interesting, fun and challenging programme, camps, outings, events, and a chance to hear and respond to the gospel; people who are interested in them and provide encouragement, support when needed and are positive role models.

The Brigades enable children and young people to have fun, learn new skills, challenge themselves, make new friends, develop leadership and teamwork skills and explore their relationship with God. What we do and how we do it has changed of course but it is still BB (now of course successfully working jointly with 2nd Maidstone GB).
We thank God for 70 faithful years of service by 1st Maidstone Boys' Brigade as an important part of the mission of Maidstone Baptist Church. 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.

We are always ready to welcome new members in any of our sections. Speak to Al (youth@maidstonebaptist.net) or Jane if you would like any more information.

Jane Haslam BBGBMaidstone-161@highg.net

THE BURUNDI MUMS BUILDING A HUNGER-FREE FUTURE

For mothers like Anita in Burundi, raising a family used to be defined by frequent illness and constant fear. All four of her children have suffered malnutrition at different points in their lives.

'I felt hopeless,' Anita shares quietly. 'I was so worried and perplexed and didn't know what to do.'
Before the local church stepped in with training, Anita's children were frequently sick, suffered recurrent diarrhoea, and spent far too much time in hospital. 'I was spending most of my days going to hospital with my kids because I didn't know it was malnutrition, and I didn't know about hygiene and sanitation,' she recalls.

She felt helpless in other ways too. Without an income or knowledge of how to start a business, Anita felt entirely dependent on her husband who was away searching for work.
'Before Tearfund and their partner FECABU brought these teachings to my village, I was a prisoner of poverty,' Anita admits. 'I depended on my husband, begging him for everything all the time. I felt like I was living a dog's life because it was very hard.'

The recipe that changed everything

The turning point came when local churches began working alongside Tearfund's partner, Evangelical Fraternity of Christ in Africa in Burundi (FECABU), and developed a new community programme to tackle malnutrition.
When concerned parents were invited to attend, Anita responded immediately, bringing her then 18-month-old son, Don Fleury, who was often extremely unwell.

Don Fleury was tested and admitted to an eight-week malnutrition programme which targeted children under five, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding mothers. While severe cases of malnutrition were referred to specialist health centres, moderate cases were supported right there in the community, through practical nutrition demonstrations.

Rather than relying on help from outside, community facilitators taught Anita and other mothers how to prepare a rich, nutrient-dense porridge using locally available ingredients: maize, peanuts, soya beans, water and salt. Parents learnt about essential food categories required for good health and how to maintain a balanced diet.

‘In two months, my child was healed,’ Anita says. ‘I gained a lot of skills in preparing a balanced diet for my family. I didn’t know how to cook before, and I was even skinny and unhealthy too, but things are so different now.’

The results across the community have been staggering. Before the local church and community took action, the malnutrition rate in Anita’s village stood at 71.5 per cent. Today, that figure has plummeted to five per cent. And local parents have now made it their mission to reach every single child and end malnutrition for good.

Desire Majambere, Tearfund’s Country Director in Burundi, says that infant and maternal mortality are both serious concerns, especially in the most remote areas of Burundi.

‘But this is a clear example of what a community can accomplish when they are given the knowledge they need to take action to rewrite their own story,’ he says. ‘There are communities I walk into today where I cannot find a single malnourished child because parents and leaders have been equipped to take hold of a healthier future. It is very inspiring to see.’

Building skills, strengthening community

The training Anita received went far beyond food preparation. After graduating from the nutrition programme, she joined a self-help group,

learning how to generate income for her family. ‘My mind broadened and I understood the reason why the Lord created me,’ Anita says.

The impact was immediate. Anita has since bought two plots of land, a cow to fertilise her crops, and a bicycle to carry goods for her business. She is now providing for her children’s education and working towards improving her home to provide better shelter.

Things are better in her marriage too. ‘In the beginning, it was only my husband bringing ideas. Today, we sit to discuss things together and I contribute my ideas. We used to have conflict, but now we are good.’

A healthier future for Don Fleury

Don Fleury is flourishing after his mother attended the nutrition programme in her village. Credit: Andrew Staite/Tearfund

Today, Don Fleury is seven years old – a healthy, energetic boy full of joy. ‘The porridge is very, very nice: I like it,’ he says with a big smile.

Seeing Don Fleury so vibrant is proof of what happens when a community is equipped to care for its own children. Hospital visits for Anita’s family have dropped to just once a year if someone catches malaria.

‘Now I’m overjoyed to see them healthy,’ Anita says proudly. ‘I feel very proud and happy about this change in our lives.’

Passing on the blessing

This transformation is not being contained within one village. Just as this community was originally inspired by a neighbouring village, Anita and her fellow group members are actively sharing their learning with others.

Anita explains: ‘We cannot keep these blessings in our village only. As women we have decided to carry the message to neighbouring villages so that they can hear and see their communities transformed too.’

‘I thank the God of heaven for this programme. My past life experience was very bad, but now we have hope.’

Your prayers and partnership allow local leaders across the globe to unlock resources, share knowledge and see whole communities flourish.

Pray with us

- ❖ Lift up Anita and every mother (and father) who has faced, or continues to face, seeing their children hungry and malnourished. Thank God that Anita's children are now well fed and pray that more parents will access the skills, knowledge and resources to ensure their children are healthy and well nourished.
- ❖ Pray for the local churches in Burundi and for our local partner as Tearfund works with them to help communities bring the changes they need to thrive, and particularly to see an end to hunger.
- ❖ Ask God to provide resources where they are needed and for the crops that the communities are relying on for food to flourish.

Jen Clark, October 2026

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

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barnabas aid
bringing hope to suffering Christians

SAFETY AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR CHRISTIAN CONVERTS IN BANGLADESH

Think back to when you first became a Christian.

It might be that you grew up in a Christian family. Perhaps you already attended church. Outwardly, your life might have changed very little when you first truly trusted in the Lord for salvation. Or maybe the change was more dramatic, and there were things in your life that needed to change.

Perhaps following Christ was costly. Perhaps you faced ridicule – maybe even hostility – from your family and friends.

In Bangladesh, Christian converts endure fierce persecution and a level of hostility that leaves them under threat of violence.
Maybe even death.

“Some believers are threatened, disowned by relatives, expelled from their communities, deprived of inheritance or employment, and left without safe accommodation,” says a Barnabas Aid project partner in Bangladesh. “Their sudden displacement can expose adults and children to further violence, homelessness, emotional trauma, and pressure to renounce their Christian faith,” he added.

“After my family discovered that I had become a Christian, I was told to renounce my faith or leave our home,” reported one new believer. “I had nowhere safe to stay and feared further violence.”

Barnabas Aid project partners are looking to operate a safe and secure emergency shelter for some of the most severely persecuted Muslim-background believers. This shelter will be a safe place where your brothers and sisters will receive discipleship and counselling as well as accommodation and food. Each will be supported in building a new life, finding a safe permanent place to live, and settling into a church community.

These new believers are now part of your family in Christ.

Please pray:

Our Father, we praise You for calling people in every time and place to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray for our brothers and sisters in Bangladesh, those who have left Islam to follow Christ. Please meet their needs for shelter, safety, food and spiritual support. Please encourage them with the promise that those who have lost their homes and families for the sake of Christ “will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life” (Matthew 19:29, ESV), for we ask it in His Name.

If you would like to know more, or feel led to give towards this initiative, contact details are below.

Barnabas Aid UK, Unit 23, Ash Industrial Estate, Kembrey Park, Swindon, SN2 8UN
01793 744557 info@barnabasaid.org

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‘ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK’: RESTRICTIONS FOR CHURCHES IN INDIA

Since the implementation of anti-conversion laws in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra States, the risks and requirements of simply attending a church service are rapidly multiplying for believers and seekers in these regions. Please pray for our brothers and sisters as they navigate increasing pressures.
“Only Christians are allowed to enter church for prayers. If others come of their own free will, they will be held responsible for their choice.”
Signs bearing this warning have been set up outside over ten churches in the Dhamtari district of Chhattisgarh State, India. In the wake of a recently implemented anti-conversion law, the signs have been placed, perhaps surprisingly, by the churches themselves.

Why would a church put up a sign that might discourage people from attending? The reason is to prevent potential violence backlash. Hindutva [Hindu nationalist] extremist groups are increasingly targeting churches with accusations of forced conversions, as are the Indian authorities. Such incidents have been numerous over the past year in parts of India that have instated anti-conversion laws – for instance at a Christian conference in Rajasthan State in June. These signs are precautions against further incidents.

The placement of the signs follows the submission of more than 1,000 self-declaration forms from people who are not registered as Christians stating that they are visiting churches voluntarily. These forms require applicants to provide personal details, information about the place of worship and a declaration that they have not been unduly influenced, threatened or deceived to attend.

Documentation demanded

However, Chhattisgarh State isn't the only state to see such developments. On 28th August, Maharashtra State implemented an anti-conversion law introducing stricter legal provisions against forced religious conversions. The ripple effects of these changes are evident, notably in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) of the state.

In response to the law, local pastors in the region have been asking Christian attendees to fill out self-declaration forms stating that they are participating in church meetings of their own free will. The forms require that believers deny any 'pressure, inducement, temptation, lure or threat of any kind' and that their decision to attend church is 'completely personal, voluntary and independent.'

Alongside this declaration, believers must supply identity documents and photos to prove their statement, increasing the barriers to the much cherished fellowship that enables Christians in Maharashtra State to stand firm and grow in their faith.

'Faith without fear'

These worrying developments point to the growing pattern of restrictions and suspicion towards believers.

This pattern, at present, is affecting our brothers and sisters in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra States – however, it could continue to ripple out to other areas where Christians are already experiencing persecution and discrimination because of anti-conversion laws.

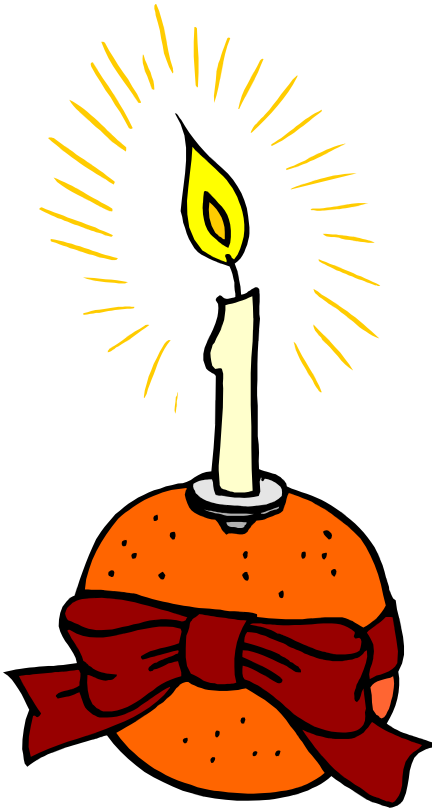
"Christian leaders and believers have become concerned as a result of these reports regarding the freedom and safety of Christian worship," says Priya Sharma*, a local Open Doors partner in India. "We request prayers for the church in India, that it may receive protection, courage, wisdom, justice and peace, and for the freedom of every person to practise their faith without fear."

Your prayers for believers in India are vital in this time of growing limitation and anxiety. Thank you.

**Name changed for security reasons*
Phoebe, Open Doors Team, Email October 2026
Open Doors PO Box 6, Witney, Oxon, OX29 6WG

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Deadline for December Knightrider Street News:
Sunday November 8 th
Please e-mail contributions to the address on inside front cover
No later than 20.00hrs on this date



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.