

Knightrider Street News



DECEMBER 2025

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

“Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!”

Genesis 1:31a (NLT)

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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*

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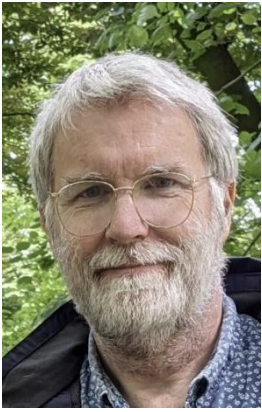
Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.



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 I am writing this, Christmas still seems a fair way off but it will be here soon enough. By the time you read this, many of us will be in the throes of buying presents, planning gatherings and preparing food. Some of us may be despairing at all the hype, the secularism and the flashy glitz and glamour that seem - **for so many people** – to be at the heart of this season.

Of course for large numbers of people across the world Christmas will be a day just like any other.

The homeless will be hoping they may get a meal. Some people will be sheltering from bombs and gunfire. Others will be battling against natural disasters and climate change. Some may be sitting beside loved ones who no longer recognise them. In situations like this, where is the Christmas hope that we hear about year by year? Where is God for the hurting, the lonely, the rejected?

On our Christmas cards, we often see images of a charming and cute nativity scene. It all looks very clean, cheerful, calm and ordered. We think of those people key to the Christmas story as being special and worthy. But this sanitised version of the Christmas story is so far from the truth. It was a young, unmarried girl who carried our Saviour. Jesus was born into a dirty stable, surrounded by noisy and smelly animals. Mystics from the East were the first to acknowledge the importance of the star in the sky. Lowly, outcast shepherds were the first to be invited to see the baby. A marginalised town was chosen as the place where Mary and Joseph would raise the Holy Child.

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2-7)

That first Christmas God came down to a broken and hurting world. He came to ordinary people, to the overlooked and rejected. He came to the mess and the chaos. And this is exactly why we should have hope! We

don't have to have the perfectly decorated tree. We don't need a huge pile of presents. We don't need shopping trolleys full of food and drink. But we do need open hearts to welcome in the love and salvation that only Jesus can offer.

Margaret and I pray that you will know God's peace this Christmas.

Nigel



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Christmas Services at Maidstone Baptist Church:-

Nepali Christmas event

Saturday 13th December 16.30 – 20.00hrs

Brigades Christmas lunch

Sunday 14th December after morning service. (*Further details see page 10*)

[Pre-Booking essential]

Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 17th December 18.30hrs

Carols around the Tree

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December 16.30hrs

Christmas morning All-Age Celebration

Thursday 25th December 10.30hrs



Christmas Services at All Saints church:-

Maidstone Carols at All Saints Church – The Greatest Story Ever Told.

Saturday 13th December 16.00 hrs and again at 19.00hrs

Communion at All Saints Church

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th December at Midnight



Prayer Points

*December
2025*

Mon 1st As we come to the final month of the year we look back over the past year and all that has happened: the ups and downs, the laughter and the tears, the questions and the answers, the pain and the sorrows. Pray today that whatever has happened we will continue in the strength of the Lord. there was not an event which took place that he did not foresee.

Tue 2nd Remember in prayer today all the leaders around the world particularly Sir Kier Starmer, Donald Trump the US president, and all the European leaders, as talks continue to find a solution to the war in Ukraine and a lasting settlement in Gaza.

Wed 3rd Pray today for those who have lost family and loved ones in the recent hurricane in Jamaica and the surrounding Carribean Island regions.

Thur 4th Let us pray for the relationship between England, Wales, Scotland and also Northern Ireland at this time of political differences within our shores.

Fri 5th Pray for our members here in Maidstone who are going through their own crisis and turmoil: some in pain, anxious, bereaved, fearful, isolated, spiritually discouraged, or despondent about their destiny.



Sat 6th Pray today for our youth and youth Pastor as they work together here in Maidstone, preparing for the Christmas period upon us once again.

Sun 7th May we pray for the Winter Night Shelter organisers who are planning again this year, that those homeless people will still get help they need from local government bodies.

Mon 8th Pray for the Street Pastors as they plan to go out when they can, and that new volunteers will come forward so that the service can resume in full once again.

Tue 9th Let us pray for the Connect Groups as they meet regularly to support, uplift and encourage.

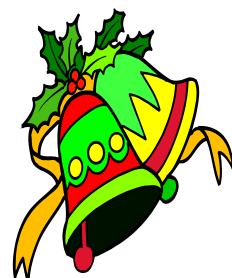
Wed 10th Pray for all those in church who are waiting for surgery or hospital treatment, and for a speedy recovery. Also pray for those in 24 hour care in homes and care centres.

Thur 11th Pray for our emergency services as they prepare for another winter period responding to peoples needs.

Fri 12th Let us pray for our elderly members who are weak and frail and at risk as they go about their daily activities as the weather worsens. Pray that they will be safe at this dangerous time with flu and chest infections looming.

Sat 13th Pray for all those who are sleeping rough in and around Maidstone and those who have no regular place of abode. Pray that they will benefit from the service of local charities.

Sun 14th Remember in prayer the needs of this church under the



leadership of Pastor Nigel. Pray for the deacons and the whole leadership team.

Mon 15th Let us pray for our youth club and those who organise it; for wisdom, tact and discernment in their work as these are challenging times for our youth and young people in the light of so much crime in the town.



Tue 16th May we pray for our government leaders and those in senior positions of authority as they deal with every kind of social and economic issue.

Wed 17th Pray for those who organise Sunday School services that their spirits will be uplifted.

Thur 18th Pray for Jane as she was so instrumental in continuing the Make Lunch project and the success it has seen over the summer period.

Fri 19th Pray for all those who are suffering in the workplace for whatever reason – bullying, harassment, abuse etc.

Sat 20th Pray for supermarket and shop staff that as they sell food and gifts for Christmas in the quietness of their thoughts they will be reminded of the saving King born in a manger.

Sun 21st Pray for all those who are going through terrible times at the moment through personal and worrying situations that only God can deal with.

Mon 22nd Pray for those in church who need special support, especially those who are struggling with certain weaknesses and shortfalls that Jesus knows all about.

Tue 23rd Let us pray for world leaders who should be dealing with the climate crisis with the aim to reduce carbon emissions.

Wed 24th Pray for our Boys' and Girls' brigade as they reflect on their past years events and prepare for a new season ahead.

Christmas Day 25th 'Unto us a child is born and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace' Pray that each of us will take a portion of these words in our lives today.



Fri 26th May we pray that even as the days are shorter and darker, the light of heaven will be reflected in our lives, our words and deeds.

Sat 27th Pray for all those who are persecuted in this country and abroad because of their Christian faith, particularly those in the care services.

Sun 28th Pray for wisdom as we speak and grace as we act in front of each other today either in the workplace, school, or at leisure.

Mon 29th Pray for all those who are just about to go into a nursing home due to personal circumstances and worsening disabilities.

Tue 30th Pray today for our town here in Maidstone and the county and borough council and the leaders who are instrumental in the planning and organisation of the town and district.

Wed 31st As we come to the final day of 2025 pray that we will go in confidence, resting on the promises of God and press towards the

high calling. Leaving the past behind,
remember that Jesus knows what lies ahead. He
can already see what is going to happen - He
holds time and eternity in His hands.



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



Our weekly meetings are going well, busy and fun with lots of different things going on in each of the groups. Recently the younger groups sessions have been based on topics such as Jesus Light of the World, Remembrance, Children in Need and a Trip through Time. Their sessions include games, crafts, discussions, quizzes, challenges and lots of fun. The older groups sessions have included a mix of practical and fun topics, and for the oldest group of young people they have been taking a turn in preparing and leading their own sessions.

A number of the Brigade leaders recently attended the Baptismal Service of one of our young people at a local fellowship. Brigade has been an important part of his faith journey and we were pleased to be able to support him as he took this public step of faith.

We had a contingent out on parade at the Maidstone Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service on 9th November and Liam & Tommy laid a wreath on our behalf at the War Memorial along with representatives from the Armed Services, Cadet forces, local Council and other school and uniformed groups. It was great for us to be represented and the young people did themselves and the Brigades proud on this important civic occasion.

Don't forget our fellowship and fund raising **Festive Lunch** following morning worship on **Sunday 14th December**. All are welcome. This is one of our regular events bringing the church family and Brigade families together to share a meal and fellowship, and, where possible, to raise some funds for our Brigades. If you would like to attend please sign up on the form at the rear of the Church or use the electronic booking system no later than Sunday 7th December, or speak to one of the Brigade staff or drop me an email.

We would love to welcome new members into any of our sections – do get in touch with Al or myself if you know of anyone who would like to join us or just want to find out a little more about what we do.

Jane Haslam

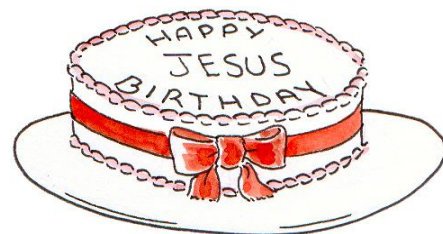
BBGBMaidstone-161@highg.net

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BMS Birthday Scheme.

26th December

Jen Townsend



Happy Birthday to you!

Deadline for January Knightrider Street News:

Sunday December 14th

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

No later than 20.00hrs on this date



PRAY FOR GAZA AND ISRAEL

The conflict in Gaza and the Middle East has caused famine, destruction and despair. It has devastated lives across the region and millions have been forced from their homes.

We thank God for the news of a peace plan between Israel and Hamas and for the return of all 20 living hostages. But it's only the beginning and vast amounts of aid must be allowed into Gaza, so please pray.

In Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon, local churches and Tearfund's partners are responding to people's urgent needs and providing life-saving aid.

You can show God's love to people in the Middle East by lifting them up in prayer.

Pray for peace

- Pray that this will be a lasting ceasefire.
- Pray for aid to freely enter Gaza and for safe humanitarian access.
- Pray that Israel and Hamas will commit to a just and lasting peace.
- Pray for healing and the restoration of communities.
- Pray for God to change the hearts of world leaders towards justice, peace and mercy.
- Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

Pray for safety

- ❖ Pray for all civilians in Gaza and across the region – that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with disabilities.

- ❖ Pray for humanitarian workers – for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.
- ❖ Pray that our local partner, Anera, can quickly and safely deliver vital aid to people in Gaza.
- ❖ Pray for safe access to food, and treatment for those who are starving and suffering from malnutrition.
- ❖ Pray for safe access to water, sanitary items, medical supplies and fuel.
- ❖ Pray for Palestinians forced to flee their homes multiple times. Pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home.

Pray for strength

- Pray for church leaders – for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty. Pray for bravery as they guide their communities and offer loving support.
- Pray for faith leaders and communities across the region – that they would stand firm, and for unity, connection and mutual understanding so that they can help bring people together and show kindness.
- Pray for Tearfund and our partners in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and neighbouring countries – that God would strengthen them as they support schools and hospitals, and as they provide food and essentials to families who have been displaced.

Pray for hope

- Pray for those who are hungry, terrified, mourning and suffering. Ask God to save them from despair – for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.
- Pray that people across the Middle East wouldn't lose hope – that lasting peace is possible.

- Pray for the millions of people in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Israel who have had to leave their homes under horrific circumstances and are dealing with the trauma of the conflict.

Pray for healing

- Pray for people who are malnourished, traumatised or injured. Ask God to heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them deep comfort.
- Pray for hospitals and medical staff – for strength as they continue to provide life-saving services to all those affected. Ask God to provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and malnourished.
- Pray for the hostages to make a full mental and physical recovery. Pray that they will receive all they need to fully heal from the trauma they have experienced in captivity, and for their families as they support them.
- Pray for the families of hostages who were killed by Hamas while in captivity. Pray for strength, comfort and healing.
- Pray for families and children in Gaza who have experienced the trauma of war and famine, as well as families who have lost loved ones during the conflict.

Tearfund October 2025

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





PERSECUTED CHURCH

FOR ROBIN THIS CHRISTMAS IN BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, Robin's faith marks him out. At school and around the village, people don't even use his name: they simply call him 'the Christian'.

For 11-year-old Robin*, Christmas is a bright light in a world that often feels dark and lonely. It's a day to unwrap gifts and gather at church, full of excitement. It's a day of cutting a cake together and singing carols with other children. It's a day of knowing you belong... and Robin doesn't get many of those.

REJECTED BY CLASSMATES

Recently, when a classmate sat next to Robin at school, another boy taunted him: "Why are you sitting with him? He's not a Muslim, he's a Christian." It was as though an invisible wall formed around Robin. Nobody would sit next to him. Other children wouldn't play with him.

"I want to play too, but I can't even ask them out of fear," says Robin softly. "I just sit there and feel very lonely. I feel sad when they treat me like this. But I will never do the same to them. As a believer, we should not hurt others, even if they hurt us."

A HATEFUL CAMPAIGN

Robin has often felt rejected by other children at school – but persecution took on a terrifying new dimension last year. After Bangladesh's prime minister was ousted in August 2024, political disorder erupted across the country.

The chaos emboldened some radical Muslims to take advantage of the situation and increase their targeting of religious minorities – including Christian families like Robin's. A local extremist group started waging a hateful campaign against Robin's family and ten other local Christian families. The group printed and distributed leaflets, accusing the families – by name – of trying to coerce Muslims to convert to Christianity. It put them in incredible danger.

MOLY'S CONVERSION

Like many of Bangladesh's small Christian population, Robin's family had converted from Islam. Moly*, his mum, asked to borrow her neighbour's Kitabul Mukaddas – the Bible – and read Matthew 7:7: "Ask, and it will be given to you." Moly was amazed that a God would listen to her prayers. It was the start of a journey that led to her husband, Jubayer*, and Robin also deciding to follow Jesus. That made the extremist Muslims in their community very angry. As converts, they were particularly vulnerable – even young Robin. "Persecution can be influenced by religious beliefs and teachings, with some Muslim leaders portraying Christians as enemies and promoting the idea of establishing a 100% Islamic state," explains Rajon*, a local Open Doors partner. "False teachings and misinformation about Christianity perpetuated by some Muslims contribute to a culture of hatred and discrimination against non-Muslims. This agenda includes converting Christians back to Islam and targeting church leaders and families to instil fear and pressure them to renounce their faith."

CHURCH DESTROYED

The accusations in the pamphlets worked like a poison through the agitated community. One morning, about 11 o'clock, a furious mob of 40-50 people descended on their small house church. "We had a church, our meeting house," remembers Robin. "That's where we all used to worship. Then some of the local imams [Muslim religious leaders] and some others came and destroyed our church. They were yelling, 'You are Christians!' and 'Christians can't live here!' They came to kill us."

Thankfully, the believers were warned and managed to flee just in time. When the mob found the house church empty, they turned their anger upon the building and the Bibles they found inside.

"They started setting things on fire," says Robin. "They burned the Kitabul Mukaddas. They burned everything to the ground. They completely destroyed it."

AN ULTIMATUM

The attack had a long lasting impact on Robin's family. His dad, Jubayer, decided to return to Islam. He faced intense pressure from his family and was deeply shaken by the mob's attack.

"My grandparents came and took my father away," says Robin. That's how he understands it. "I feel bad that he left. I'm not angry, but I feel sad. I miss my father, but I have my mother who takes care of me.

Jubayer gave Moly an ultimatum: renounce Christianity and return to Islam, or he would divorce her. Moly knew she and Robin could never turn their backs on Jesus. And so, as

Jubayer had threatened, he divorced Moly – leaving her and their son with nothing.

Today, Moly's brother – a day-labourer – carries the burden of providing for them all. Their financial situation is desperate, and Robin's education has been at risk because of the cost of school fees. His father has refused to provide any financial help, as long as Moly and Robin remain committed to Jesus.

Robin is only young, and yet he has experienced persecution in multiple ways. Rejection by children who should be friends. Violence from adults who should be gentle. Poverty, because the man who should provide for him has, instead, abandoned him.

A TREASURED BIBLE

Moly and Robin still face pressure from Jubayer's family, as well as the threat of further violence from the Islamist extremists, but their faith is too precious to abandon. Moly teaches Robin Bible stories, helps him memorise Scripture and teaches her son what it means to follow Jesus. Open Doors local partners have given Robin a children's Bible, and he treasures it.

One of their favourite verses is Colossians 2:2,3: "My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." "Wisdom comes from Jesus," Robin explains. "My mother prays for me every day to receive that wisdom." He also loves the story of David –

and his favourite part of the story is not when he was a powerful king, but when he was a young boy. "My mother reads from the children's Bible we were given, and tells me stories," says Robin. "I like the shepherd boy, David. God said, 'This is the king.' Then he was made king on the throne – and he was a little boy." It's clear that Robin can empathise with a young boy following God, underestimated by many and with powerful enemies – yet chosen by God as His own.

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

At Christmas, of course, Robin reads about Jesus's birth in his children's Bible. It's a special time, because he and Moly gather with other Bangladeshi families who have converted from Islam. Other children who know what Robin's life is like. "On that day, I wear new clothes and we go to church," says Robin. "We cut a cake for Jesus's birthday, then we wear red hats, we eat cake, and have a lot of fun. We play with everyone." He is keen to share the delight with as many people as possible: "If there were more people, it would be even more joyful!" It's clearly an unforgettable day. It is a joyful and freeing time, run by Open Doors local partners and made possible by people like you. A similar special gathering happens at Easter. But these are just two days out of the year: Moly and Robin need the support of Open Doors partners all year round.

UNWRAP HOPE FOR ROBIN

As well as the children's Bible and special gatherings, these local partners are stepping in with vital food and relief

aid. They're also paying Robin's school costs so that his education can continue.

If you would like to be involved in help for Robin and others like him:

WRITE TO ROBIN

You can send a special message of hope to Robin! This Christmas, you're invited to write a letter to encourage Robin, and other children who also face persecution for their faith. It would mean a great deal to know they are remembered by their uncles and aunties around the world.

Find out how at opendoorsuk.org/write

OR, you can send a gift at opendoorsuk.org/children

PLEASE PRAY

- ✚ "Thank you all for praying for us," says Robin. "We are strangers, yet you are praying for us."
- ✚ Robin's prayer request is: "That people stop mocking me and that I can make new friends."
- ✚ That Robin and other persecuted children would know God's Fatherly love, encouragement and protection.
- ✚ For Robin's dad to be convicted again by Christ's love, and the family to reunite
- ✚ For Open Doors local partners to be equipped as they serve persecuted families in Bangladesh and around the world.

* Name changed for security reasons

Open Doors magazine November/December 2025

Regular Sunday Meetings.

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

Services also streamed via 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.