

Knightrider Street News



SEPTEMBER 2026

MAIDSTONE
BAPTIST CHURCH

The logo for Maidstone Baptist Church features a stylized black silhouette of a church building with a cross on top, set within a semi-circular arch.

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

Maidstone Baptist Church

Knightrider Street, Maidstone, Kent. ME15 6LU

Registered in England as a charity, no. 1128948

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

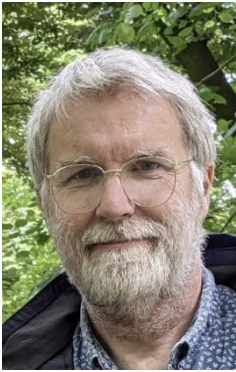
Views and opinions expressed in KSN articles are those of individual contributors, and are not necessarily those of the Church leadership or editor.

[illegible]

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.



Love. It's a strange thing isn't it? We all crave love. Some of us grew up knowing what it is to be loved by family and friends, some of us didn't. Some of us strive each day to try to earn the attention and affection of others. A toddler may offer a picture of a brightly-coloured squiggle in thick wax crayon to a parent, knowing that the reward will be the hug that they crave. It's hard-wired into them that what they need is love and they do what they can to earn it. As we grow older we offer acts of kindness in the hope that we receive love in return. But love is not a commodity. We were not created to barter with love.

Right back at the beginning of time - soon after the creation of the world in the Garden of Eden - God loved Adam and Eve. Genesis 1:27-30 tells us how He created Adam and Eve and blessed them with all that they needed. Not because they had earned it, but simply because God loved them. From the beginning of time God's heart has been open and generous.

When Jesus came to earth he came with a heart full of love. He loved the unloved, the outcasts, those with tainted pasts, those who mocked him. Jesus didn't treat those people as projects to be worked on, to be loved only when they had changed their ways. He loved them first, and waited patiently for that love to bring about change in human hearts. Jesus still waits to see that change.

You will know the Christian chorus "Jesus take me as I am, I can come no other way", and there is much to commend these words. We do not need to worry over the question of "What do I need to do for God to love me?". Instead we need to ask the question "What is God inviting me to receive?" Nothing we can ever do would be enough to earn the love of God. And yet He loves. Freely and unconditionally.

1 John 4:7-21 describes God's love and how, through His love, we learn to love others.

We love because He first loved us - 1 John 4:19

Maybe someone reading this needs to hear today that God loves you. If

you have never understood the depth of God's love for you until this moment, or you need reminding, come and have a chat with me because I'd love to tell you more. And my challenge to those of you who do know God's love is to be bold and share His love with others. There is not much in life that is totally free, unlimited and long-lasting, but God's love is exactly that. Everyone deserves to know that truth.

Nigel

-----OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO-----

SAVE THE DATE - 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.

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that a whole year has passed since we packed up our lives & moved to Lincolnshire. They say time flies when you are having fun & our first 12 months here in the Holbeach area have certainly proven that to be true with lots of hard work & patience with our lively Dachshund puppy Caesar, who is sleeping on my lap as I type.

We are fortunate to have beautiful parks & open spaces nearby. Regular early daily walks are the routine & of course gardening. Tommy has done an amazing job at knocking it into shape with a lovely variety of plants & shrubs & my favourite..... roses.

12 months ago we stepped into a new season, a new county, praying we would find a new church family. Our prayers have been more than answered. In March we walked into a small church down the road & will soon be members of Holbeach Methodist. A very different small congregation with our lovely organist Kelsey & hymns only. Sadly no children or youth, mostly older folk like us.

We have been doing our bit helping with various activities. Tommy in the kitchen where the men don't really appear to help. We had what they call 'Warm Spaces' Soup & Pudding for lunch after the Service last Sunday.

I have tidied & sorted a book & jigsaw corner in the hall. Our full time minister joins us in February.

Our family news....

My brother Robin & his wife Jean arrived back in Australia on 22nd July after being in the UK & Europe since January. Also having spent a couple of weeks off & on here with us. Robin coped, considering he suffered with constant abdominal pain.

Andy is still in our Chatham flat until the sale is completed. Lynn & Holly are working together in Chelmsford where Holly rents a small flat. Hannah

started work in London on 27th July after months of searching. She shares the flat with Holly.

We are all well & still miss you all a lot but have been really blessed living in this lovely big house with family around mostly at weekends, so visitors are very welcome up here with 'sleepovers' available, as it's a 3hr trip by car from Kent.

Thank you so much for your Church Bulletin, Facebook messages, photos & online Services. MBC is SO amazing & we were truly blessed being part of your wonderful ministry for 18 years. We wish you all many lovely blessings as you continue to fellowship together.

With our fondest love,

Tommy & Barbara,
Peter & the Irving
family



Deadline for October Knightrider Street News:

Sunday September 13th

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

No later than 20.00hrs on this date



Prayer Points

September 2026

- Tue 1st Thank God for his continued leadership in our lives as we near the end of the Summer months. Pray for our world leaders and governments as they battle with the impending result of climate change and global warming around the world.
- Wed 2nd Let us pray for the planning team involved with the Winter Shelter that this will be successful this year.
- Thur 3rd Remember our situation here in Maidstone and surrounding towns after the recent drought conditions and water shortages.
- Fri 4th May we remember our Boys' and Girls' brigade as they start another Autumn of programmes and projects along with their educational commitments. Pray for the brigade leaders at this time of so much change.
- Sat 5th Remember our young people who are starting schools and colleges this Autumn and who may be feeling apprehensive or fearful of the future.
- Sun 6th Pray for world leaders as they deal with war and conflicts around the world in many countries, including Gaza, Ukraine, Israel and Iran.
- Mon 7th Pray today for people who are still trying to escape from violent

countries like Iraq; and that governments will show mercy as they cross the channel in dangerous conditions.

Tue 8th Remember those in our church who are suffering ill health in any form and who are under special medical management from the hospital.

Wed 9th Let us pray for elderly members in church and outside in the community at large, that they will get the care and support they need, particularly as it is difficult to see GP's sometimes.

Thur 10th Pray for our senior Minister Nigel and Youth Pastor Alastair as they continue to serve here in Maidstone in these trying times, keeping the church functioning with the support of the Deacons.

Eri 11th Pray today for those of our church who are in nursing homes and care centres receiving care 24 hours a day.

Sat 12th Let us pray for our church leadership team and the deacons who are involved with planning and guidance at this difficult time.

Sun 13th Pray for our local hospitals and emergency services as they prepare for a busy Winter ahead.

Mon 14th Pray for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted in this country and abroad because of their Christian beliefs.

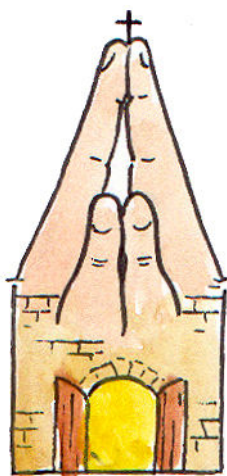
Tue 15th Pray for those near us who feel unfulfilled and desperate about their life and who may be discouraged on their Christian journey but also fearful about the future.



Wed 16th Remember the work of the Street Pastors. Pray for their role and commitment and support network as they go out each week.

Thur 17th Pray for the relationship we have with our neighbours and friends as we try and shine Jesus light to them in this dark world.

Fri 18th Let us pray for our government leaders and the party conferences which will take place over the next few weeks. Pray for each of the political parties.



Sat 19th Pray for all those who have recently lost loved ones and are now bereaved, both young and old.

Sun 20th Pray for our youth club and the leadership team at this time with the recently launched new format, that it will prove successful and attract more attendees.

Mon 21st Pray for anyone finding things difficult at work, either because of bullying, victimisation or harassment.

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

Wed 23rd May we pray today for a closer walk with God in these troublesome times when we are challenged, sometimes daily, to express our faith.

Thur 24th Pray today for families in and outside church who have young children to guide in these difficult times.

Fri 25th Pray for our members who are not able to communicate or contact others due to personal circumstances and feel isolated.

Sat 26th Pray for wisdom as we speak to our friends and colleagues in the workplace. May the peace and joy of heaven fill the conversation.

Sun 27th As we are almost at the end of the final week, pray that we will be peaceful in our relationships, kind to those who mistreat us, give love to anyone who shows hate, a soft answer if we are given verbal abuse and be a blessing to our persecutors.

Mon 28th Let us pray for a closer walk with Jesus as we go into our individual place of work, school, college, office or hospital.

Tue 29th Pray for those who are sleeping rough and are homeless here in Maidstone.



Wed 30th Pray for our social services here in Kent as they are often overwhelmed with demand for emergency support, especially from families who have no permanent home due to personal loss.

@@



Drought, clay pots and vaccinating goats: a Pakistan story

Drought is making farming more difficult for people like Laila and Teekam in Pakistan. Tearfund is working to help.

Culturally, collecting water in rural Pakistan is a woman's job. Using rounded clay pots, known locally as matka or ghara, which they balance carefully on their heads, women like Laila* in Umerrkot often walk long distances for the task. The clay pots are porous, which allows some of the water to evaporate slightly, keeping it naturally cool during days when the heat becomes fierce, but they can only hold ten litres at a time. And, for a

woman in her 60s, like Laila, the strength and energy required to do the journey four or five times every day to provide for family, crops and livestock is a heavy task.

It's particularly hard because the area where Laila and her husband, Teekam, live is extremely dry. It's a region that has traditionally struggled with seasons of drought, but as Pakistan finds itself one of the countries in the world most immediately and negatively impacted by the climate crisis already, those periods without water have been getting longer and more challenging.

Drought disaster

London, where Tearfund's UK office is, has just experienced its first month without rain in 150 years. The heat and drought have brought hosepipe bans, dead grass and sleep and travel disruption.

But, for a family that relies on farming to survive, the unbroken heat and parched land is more than an uncomfortable experience, it's a disaster. UK farmers are warning of food shortages looming because of the drought locally. For Laila and Teekam, they are already living in that reality.

Even the monsoon rains that come each year to Pakistan, ironically sometimes interspersing the deadly droughts with equally destructive flooding, can no longer be relied upon to bring some relief from the lack of water.

'My past has been very hard,' Teekam tells us quietly. He describes how the family lost everything in terrible monsoon flooding in 2011 and had to start again with nothing. 'Since then,' he says, 'we are still trying to stabilise. And now the drought has come.'

The farmland Teekam once cultivated, which he and Laila relied on as they raised their two sons (now adults with their own families), is shrinking. From two fertile acres, he now only has half an acre left because the land has been destroyed by drought. 'In ten years,' he warns, 'we may not have any land to cultivate at all due to no access to water.'

The region's last substantial rainfall before August this year was in early 2022, and the seasonal ponds, underground rain catchments and traditional

well-sharing systems that local communities have depended on to survive are no longer coping with the demand of more frequent droughts and declining groundwater.**

While the situation is getting more difficult, like many of us, Teekam and Laila long for some respite as they age. ‘I want to have peace in my old age,’ he says. ‘I have worked all my life. Now I just want to live without fear of what tomorrow will bring.’

After all their years of toil, Tearfund is helping bridge the gap for the losses Teekam and Laila are struggling to come back from.

For a start, the couple received a water container, and a lightweight, durable carrier – known locally as a ‘gallon’ – that can hold almost 20 litres, twice the amount of water as the old clay pots.

‘The “gallon” is easier for me to use,’ says Teekam with a small smile. ‘It doesn’t feel like only women should carry it. I can help my wife now. Instead of five trips, we only make two or three.’

For Teekam, this is not just about water. It’s about dignity. And it’s about him being able to stand beside his wife as they age.

Along with that, Teekam and Laila also received a food package that lasted them around 20 days, and they have also received support for the livestock they share.

To earn a living, Teekam is part of a shared goat-rearing system. He takes care of goats for other people, and they share the profits with him when they reproduce. At the moment he only has one goat that he shares. Sadly, he lost seven goats not too long ago. Three were his own and four were part of the sharing system. All of them died because of a seasonal disease. There’s an effective vaccine available which, in spite of the difficult cost, Teekam used to pay each year to prevent the disease, but on that occasion the vet didn’t get round to attending the animals in time.

The loss to Teekam and Laila (and the other shared owners) was huge – the equivalent of years of investment and labour gone in an instant. They

are still struggling with the pain of the animals' loss and the dire circumstances it left them in.

‘This is why vaccination matters,’ Teekam says. ‘When animals are not vaccinated, they die.’

To help with this, as part of the same project that provided Teekam and Laila with water containers and food, Tearfund organised veterinary camps for livestock examination and vaccination.

Teekam's community still has great needs. ‘I desire and pray for a happy community where we have school and medical facilities,’ he says, ‘but now, with the veterinary camps, our animals are safe. Today I have only one shared goat, but she got vaccinated free of cost.’

Please join us in praying for people like Teekam and Laila who are facing drought and food shortage.

** Name has been changed for security*

***Studies by Sindh University show that the groundwater table in parts of Umerkot has dropped by more than 6 meters (20 feet) over the past 15 years.*

Pray for Pakistan

- Lift up all those facing losses and poverty due to drought. Ask God to bring rain and provision where it is needed.
- Pray for people in Pakistan as the country struggles with significant challenges to farming and water access because of extreme temperatures and extended periods without rain because of the climate crisis.
- Ask God for more resources and wisdom for more solutions to difficulties that people are dealing with.

Written by Tarryn Pegna, August 2026

Tearfund, 100 Church Road, Teddington, TW11 8QE 202 3906 3906
info@tearfund.org



Gladys' Journey of Possibility

24th July 2026

In Kenya, many children from low-income families who have been born with clubfoot, a condition where one or both feet twist inward, are unable to access treatment. Families face rejection and can be ostracised from their community.

Together with our local partner, Dreamland Mission Hospital, we provide life-changing treatment that helps children with clubfoot to walk pain-free. We also empower vulnerable families to build sustainable livelihoods.

The sun begins to set over the rural village where Gladys and her family live. Gladys is getting her children ready for bed, and she marvels at the change that has happened in just a couple of years.

Two of her children used to struggle to walk and stand without intense discomfort and pain, and even sleeping was extremely uncomfortable. But today, her children can sleep peacefully.

Not only that, but for the first time, Gladys is contributing to the household income; she now runs a flourishing business, and through her profits, her husband has been able to expand his business and employ others.

Family losing hope

A few years ago, two of Gladys' children, Daisy and Kennedy, were living with disabilities. Daisy had clubfoot, and Kennedy had knee issues. Gladys and her husband believed there was nothing they could do.

Gladys' husband was a carpenter, but he struggled to provide enough for all of them, and Gladys wanted to contribute but felt she didn't have the resources to get started.

Life-changing treatment

One day, a Dreamland Hospital advocate approached the family and shared with them that treatment for their children was available, and that there

could be help with the cost of surgery. This was the start of a transformative year.

Daisy and Kennedy without pain

In February 2022, Daisy and Kennedy received surgery at Dreamland Mission Hospital. The operations were successful, and both children made good recoveries.

Today, they are able to walk and stand without pain.

During the family's time at Dreamland, Gladys and her husband were invited to take part in a brand-new programme to equip parents to set up small businesses and strengthen their livelihoods.

Building a business

Gladys and her husband decided to build a chicken coop and purchase some chicks. Once they were laying enough eggs, some were sold, some fed her family, and the rest were hatched to become the next generation of egg-laying hens.

Although Gladys and her husband faced some challenges, such as keeping the chicks warm in colder weather, their business began to flourish.

With the profits, they ensured that their children were well fed and able to attend school. They also paid for the National Health Insurance Scheme, which covers any medical needs for the whole household.

Year two of business

As Gladys continued to work hard and the business did well, she began to diversify. With some of the profits she bought a sewing machine and used it for dressmaking. Additionally, some of the profits were used to boost her husband's carpentry business, and a few months later, her husband set up a carpentry shop and started employing three people to help with manufacturing and selling furniture.

Inspiring others in their community

Gladys and her husband became active members of the business support group, where they share their experiences and mentor others in their

community. Last year, the family also received an award from the Dreamland team in recognition of their exemplary work.

Today, Gladys and her husband continue to work hard and support others. Gladys is the chair of the business peer support group in her area, and continues to nurture and advise new families starting their own businesses.

July 2026

Project Possible, 3 Manor Courtyard, Hughenden Avenue, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire HP13 5RE 01494 433170 office@projectpossible.org.uk

%%%



Rafael's story:

Fleeing violence in Mozambique

Rafael, a young Christian in northern Mozambique, is one of thousands displaced by Islamist terrorism. Only 15 years old when his brother was shot and killed by an Islamic State fighter, Rafael found safety and renewed hope in a community of displaced people served by Pastor "Gabriel".

What is life like for a Christian in northern Mozambique?

For several years, the people of northern Mozambique have endured relentless attrition from Islamic State (IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh).

The province of Cabo Delgado is the epicentre of a jihadist insurgency that began in October 2017. The region has suffered years of violence claiming a devastating death toll of around 2,700 civilians.

The terrorists often boast of targeting Christians for their faith.

"The moment they come into contact with you, there's no compromise," says one Mozambican Christian. "If they catch you, they will kill you."

Another adds, "They attack people using swords and other weapons. They kill people. They burn houses. "If they find girls there, they take them to make them their wives," he continues. Some boys are forced into becoming child soldiers.

Family tragedy forces family to flee

Rafael was 15 and living with his family in the far north when his older brother was shot and murdered on the side of a road by Islamist terrorist. Like many others, Rafael was forced to run, and his life was reduced to only what he could carry. Rafael has had to come to terms with his brother being murdered by jihadists. He had to focus on staying strong and finding a safe haven even though grief for his brother was welling up.

“There are still times when I really feel the grief of everything that I left behind, even when I remember my brother,” he reflects. “I just have to be strong and pick myself up.”

Refuge found

Still scarred by the loss of his brother, Rafael and his family were forced to flee more than 200 miles to the nearest settlement for internally displaced persons. After surviving in destitute poverty for four years, food scarcity drove them further south, where they met “Gabriel”, the pastor of a church for displaced believers. “When I first arrived at this settlement, the Lord asked me to start a church, just me and my wife,” Gabriel recalls. “We faced a lot of difficulties because it was a new area for us, but it was in God’s divine plan. He was setting me up to do ministry in a different area to other displaced believers.”

Rafael’s faith deepens and leads to conviction

At the time, Rafael was not a committed believer, but through the ministry of the church, his faith was deepened and he was reminded of the Gospel and what Jesus had done for him. “God gave me a new conviction, ‘I have to teach’,” he shares. “It is so important for me to pass on an education to the next generation because these children could be the next presidents, the next doctors or even teachers like me with a passion to help!”

Affording any formal education has always been a struggle for Rafael.

“Even before we had to flee, I was struggling to afford to go to school, but the displacement meant that my schooling had to end,” he reflects.

Violence and displacement compounded the problem. Without an education and stranded in a remote settlement, believers struggle to find work and feed their families.

Gabriel's vision being realised through Barnabas support

When Gabriel saw the frailty of his congregation, he decided to step up and live out the command of Christ. Gabriel ministers to his congregation through prayer, but he also wanted to provide through farming, so that his church could eat. But even this wasn't enough; the needs of the church were too great to look beyond day-to-day survival and the grip of perpetual poverty. So, Barnabas Aid stepped in to help.

Donations from Barnabas supporters are enabling Christian children to look to the future with hope "Now that Barnabas have come on board, we have been able to buy a maize mill... and goats to distribute to the congregation," he explains. "Many in the church have given testimony to say that with the money that can be earned from these donations, their children will be able to go to school!"

In time, this means young men like Rafael will be able to continue their education and pursue a career that brings hope to the future generations that have already lost so much.

Please pray

- Pray for persecuted Christians in northern Mozambique. Ask the Lord to protect them and cry out for an end to the ongoing terrorist violence.
- Pray for many, like Rafael and his family, who have had to flee their homes in search of safety. Pray that the Lord will direct their steps as they seek to rebuild their lives.
- Praise God for men of vision such as Pastor Gabriel that they will experience divine wisdom and compassion as they minister to their flock and receive the resources to build His Church.
- Pray that the Church will know much joy even in displacement as God's people grow in numbers and spiritual depth.

- Lift up to the Lord young believers including Rafael, asking that they will have opportunity to pursue the dreams they receive from God and know His faithfulness abounding as they are faithful to their calling (Hebrews 10:23).

Barnabas Aid UK, Unit 23, Ash Industrial Estate, Kembrey Park, Swindon,
SN2 8UN 01793 744557 info@barnabasaid.org June 2026



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



Preparations are well in hand for the start of the new Brigade year in early September. We are looking forward to another fun and busy Brigade year together.

Boys' Brigade & Girls' Brigade are Christian uniformed youth organisations, open to all children and young people aged 5 – 18 years. They provide opportunities for children and young people to learn, grow, discover, gain awards, make friends and have fun in a safe, fun and caring environment.

We meet weekly during term times on a Wednesday evening in the Main Hall and hold special events throughout the year, the highlight of which is our annual weekend camp and fun day.

If you know of any children / young people aged between 5 – 18 years who would like to join us, or you would just like to find out a little more about Boys' / Girls' Brigade or what we do here you can take a look at our national websites:-

<https://boys-brigade.org.uk> / <https://www.girlsbrigadeministries.org.uk> or get in touch with Al (youth@maidstonebaptist.net).

We are always pleased to chat through what we do and would love to welcome new members into any of our sections.

Jane Haslam. mbc-415@highg.net

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.