

The Tidings

Gillingham Baptist Church, Green Street,
Gillingham, Kent. ME7 5TJ



July/August 2026

Issue 33

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GBCKent19@gmail.com



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Welcome to our monthly community newsletter from Gillingham Baptist Church (Kent). Read on for a blog from our Minister the Rev. Stephen Greasley, as well as an overview of all our services and activities happening this Summer.

About Us

Situated near to the High Street in Gillingham (Kent), we're a friendly, welcoming, multinational worshipping community with a heart to share Jesus and serve the people of Gillingham. Find out more about us on our website:



gbc-kent.org.uk

Rev. Stephen Greasley



Blog - Being a Father...

After our service on 21 June, I was told off (nicely) by a couple of people for failing to mention it was Father's Day. I suspect because I never make much of it, then I assumed other people didn't either. How wrong you can be!!

Being a father these days is probably as important as it has ever been. Modelling good behaviour to our children is vital at a time when youngsters seem to find role models through a variety of different mediums. And maybe there is a role for all the men in the church in being 'father-figures' to the children and young people in the congregation. We can become the stable examples that are so valuable in this day and age.

Andy Twilley, one of the Regional Ministers for the Southeast Baptist Association, preached for us on 21 June. He reminded us that the Spirit that lived in Jesus is the same Spirit that can inhabit us today. We can do the things that Jesus did. That may seem a bold claim to make but it is perfectly true. Through inviting the Spirit of God into our lives, we can overcome our deficiencies and our persistent failures and can become the people God designed us to be.

Come and Join us

We'd love to see you at one of our services.

Sunday - 19 July

10.30am - Baptismal Service

Preacher: Rev. Stephen Greasley

Sunday - 26 July

10.30am - Morning Worship

Preacher: Rev. Stephen Greasley

Sunday - 2 August

10.30am - All Age Service

Preacher: Sarah Rai

Sunday - 9 August

10.30am - All Age Communion Service

Preacher: Rev. Stephen Greasley

Sunday - 16 August

10.30am - All Age Service

Preacher: Rev. Stephen Greasley

Sunday - 23 August

10.30am - All Age Service

Preacher: Rev. Stephen Greasley

Sunday - 30 August

10.30am - All Age Service

Preacher: Ruth Millard

Prayer ministry
is available
after most of
our Sunday
Services.

After the service on
9 August there will
be a retiring
collection for the
Church Family
(Communion) Fund
which helps us to
support families in
the church who are
experiencing
financial hardship.

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Prayer & Bible Study at GBC

At Gillingham Baptist Church we prioritise prayer and Bible Study and have a variety of different opportunities for both throughout the week and the Church year. Some activities only take place during school term time so please check before leaving home.

Sundays - we aim to meet before every Sunday service at 10am in our designated church 'Prayer Room'.

Wednesdays - Lunchtime prayer meeting every week from 12noon-12.40pm in the Lighthouse. 'Prayer and Bible Study' on Zoom on a Wednesday evening every fortnight from 7.30pm.

Thursdays - Good News @ 10 - Bible Study meets alternate weeks at 10.00am-11.30am in the Lighthouse.

Other activities:

We have a number of 'Home Groups' that meet throughout the week during the day and evenings.

The Borstal fellowship usually meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 10.30am to 12.30pm at Borstal Village Hall.

For further information please contact our Church office.

Live-streamed Services

A reminder that all our live-streamed Sunday services are available for at least a month for you to watch on Facebook and You Tube. Don't miss out - be part of our community today!

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Weekly Activities

We run a number of mid-week activities. There is normally no weekday activities during school holidays.

Monday

STEPS: 10 to 11.15am: A play and chat group for mums, dads and carers with their young ones (under fives) in the Lighthouse.

Tuesday

BORSTAL FELLOWSHIP: Meet at Borstal Village Hall once a month between 10.30am -12.30pm. Everyone welcome. Next meeting on 28 July.

Wednesday

FRIENDSHIP MORNING: Everyone is welcome to come between 10 & 11.45am to enjoy company, tea/coffee and biscuits in a relaxed atmosphere. Last session on 15 July. Returns on 9 September.

PRAYER TIME: 12 noon in the Lighthouse. Everyone welcome.

BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER ~ Fortnightly at 7.30pm on Zoom only. Next meeting 22 July.

Thursday

GOOD NEWS @ TEN (to 11.30am). Alternate weeks. Next meeting on 23 July.

CRAFT TIME: 10 to 12 noon: Alternate weeks. Next meeting on 16 July. Sign on for the new session is Thursday 3 September 10-11am.

Friday

CAP DEBT CENTRE DROP IN: 10am to 12 noon in the Upper Room.

1st GILLINGHAM BOYS' BRIGADE and GIRLS' ASSOCIATION:

6.15pm Anchors & Juniors 7.30pm Company & Seniors. Returns in the Autumn term.

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Just Speak Life...



On 30 June we were delighted to hear from one of our Elder's, Ayodeji, in our Sunday service about speaking Jesus into our everyday lives. We asked him to provide a follow up outline of his key message which you can read here. Thanks so much Ayo!

Our words matter because they reveal where we place our trust. Do they echo our circumstances, or do they echo the promises of God?

In Ezekiel 37:1–10, the prophet stood in a valley of dry bones, a picture of complete hopelessness. Humanly speaking, there was no future and no possibility of life. Yet God asked a remarkable question: "Can these bones live?" God did not ask Ezekiel to analyse the bones, measure the extent of the damage, or complain about how hopeless the situation looked. Instead, He commanded him to speak God's word over what appeared impossible. The focus was not on the problem but on the promise. As Ezekiel obeyed, God breathed life into the lifeless, transforming a valley of death into a mighty living army.

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Just Speak Life...

This account reminds us that speaking life is not about positive thinking or denying reality. It is about allowing our words to reflect God's character, proclaim His truth, and affirm His promises, even when circumstances suggest otherwise. When fear whispers, we speak faith. When despair threatens, we speak hope. When criticism is easy, we choose encouragement. When bitterness tempts us, we extend forgiveness. Our words become life-giving when they point ourselves and others towards the God who restores, heals, provides, renews, and never fails. Jesus taught that our words flow from our hearts. As we draw closer to Him, the One who is the Word made flesh, and who came that we might have life, He transforms not only what we say but also the hearts from which our words flow. The miracle was never in Ezekiel's voice; it was in the God who gives life. Likewise, our confidence is not in the power of our words but in the faithfulness of the One whose Word never returns empty.

How often do we find ourselves analysing our "dry bones", rehearsing our fears, magnifying our problems, or speaking words of defeat? God's invitation is different. He calls us to acknowledge reality, but to let His promises have the final word. Faith does not ignore the valley; faith speaks God's truth in the middle of it. And perhaps you have been speaking God's promises over your family, your health, your marriage, your children, or your circumstances for a long time, and you are growing weary. Remember that Ezekiel was asked to speak again. The first declaration brought movement; the second brought life. God's delays are never His denials. Keep trusting, keep praying, and keep speaking words that reflect His character, His truth, and His promises. The God who began the good work is faithful to complete it.

Whether in our homes, workplaces, community, churches, or everyday conversations, may our speech become an expression of our faith in Christ. May our words bring hope to the discouraged, peace to the anxious, strength to the weary, and encouragement to those who need it most. When God's Word fills our hearts, words of life naturally flow from our lips. As we journey through life, may our words become echoes of God's promises in a world that desperately needs hope. Let us choose just to speak life.

Ayodeji Ibitoye (June 2026)
Elder

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GBC Community News

End of an Era...

On Friday 10 July, at the annual Awards night, we said a fond farewell to Craig and Rachel Davey from the 1st Gillingham Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association. Although the last 13 years Craig has been Captain, his story in Brigades started more than 47 years ago when his mum brought him along on a Friday night... and he never left. After achieving his Queens Badge back in 1991 he remained as a leader and volunteered with each section bringing new ideas and encouragement to every child and young person who came along.

Volunteering at BB isn't just a one night activity! Craig has organised and led numerous enjoyable company camps held at Downton in Wiltshire and more recently at Honeyhill in Bearsted. Craig has also been active within the wider Battalion having been Chaplain at various Company and Junior camps and has run national sports leadership courses at the former BBHQ at Felden in Hemel Hempstead.



Although Rachel stepped back from face to face meetings a few years ago she has remained behind the scenes sorting out admin and the socials. However, we are not quite sure she has ever forgiven Craig for volunteering her to help with Juniors back in 1999 during their engagement! Since then, she's not only run Company section but also took the lead with Battalion Junior camps and was a Battalion trustee for a number of years.

During the Awards Night we were delighted to welcome back a number of former members who wanted to wish them well as well as parents and current members there to collect awards.

Thank you Craig and Rachel for your many years of faithful service to the Brigades at GBC. You will be missed! Enjoy your Friday nights!!

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JOIN THE ADVENTURE

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**
& GIRLS' ASSOCIATION
> the adventure begins here



ANCHORS

4 – 8 Years

புனம்பேடு

8 – 11 Years

Company

11 – 14 Years

Seniors

14 – 18 Years

WE MEET AT

GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
GREEN STREET, GILLINGHAM, ME7 5TJ

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL GROUP BY CONTACTING
1GILLINGHAM@BOYS-BRIGADE.ORG.UK