

# The Tidings

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



**November/December 2025**

***Stay in touch:***

**Issue 28**



[GBCKent19@gmail.com](mailto: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 November & December.

## 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](http://gbc-kent.org.uk)

Rev. Stephen Greasley



## Blog - Remembrance...

One of my happiest childhood memories is standing at the back door of my grandmother's council house in Barnsley on Bonfire night. Dad would have sorted out a bonfire and then he would set off some fireworks – Catherine wheels on the fence post; bangers down the side alley; and rockets from an old milk bottle. Grandma would have been baking – black treacle toffee and sticky Yorkshire parkin. I loved it. Happy days.

I also have another childhood memory from that same time of year. On Sundays my dad took me swimming (Church going didn't feature in our family at that time). But, he would always make sure that on Remembrance Sunday we were back to watch the televised service at the Cenotaph in London with the march past of the veterans and the laying of poppy wreaths by politicians, dignitaries and members of the Royal Family. It was a poignant and solemn moment, and one that left a lasting impression upon me.

Leading Remembrance Sunday services in Church is never easy. Capturing a mood that is serious without being depressing is challenging in itself. Then, there is making sure that you observe the two minutes silence as near 11.00am as you can. Nobody wants to mark the occasion at 10.55am or 11.05am. (I had a couple of disasters in my first Church around this!!)

Standing in solidarity with people across the length and breadth of the country at exactly the same time for exactly the same reason is a powerful thing. Even if Church isn't generally your sort of thing you would be very welcome to join us this Remembrance Sunday to recall those who lost their lives in various conflict zones since 1914.

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



# Come and Join us

We'd love to see you at one of our services this November and December.

## Sunday - 9 November

10.30am - Remembrance Sunday with Communion

## Sunday - 16 November

10.30am - Morning Worship with CAP Presentation  
Preacher: Sarah Rai

Prayer  
ministry is  
available after  
most of our  
Sunday  
Services.

## Sunday - 23 November

10.30am - Morning Worship with a presentation on religious  
freedom from Christian Solidarity Worldwide

## Sunday - 30 November

10.30am - Advent Sunday Service



Recently, we were  
joined by SEBA  
Regional Minister  
Joth Hunt who  
took this fabulous  
picture of our  
congregation.

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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' in the Lighthouse 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.

**Fridays** - 'Half nights' of prayer periodically throughout the Church year in the Lighthouse.

## Other activities:

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

Regular prayer meetings are held at Bridge House, Medway Road, Gillingham every other Thursday evening.

The Borstal fellowship usually meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10.00am at Borstal Village Hall.

For further information please contact our Church office.

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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).

**ALPHA:** 9 to 11.30am in the Upper Room (breakfast included). An introduction to the basics of the Christian faith.

## Tuesday

**BORSTAL FELLOWSHIP:** Meet at Borstal Village Hall once a month between 10-12noon. Everyone welcome.

**ALPHA:** 7pm in the Lighthouse (meal included).

## Wednesday

**FRIENDSHIP MORNING:** Everyone is welcome to come between 10 & 11.45am to enjoy company, tea/coffee and biscuits in a relaxed atmosphere.

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

**BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER** ~ Fortnightly at 7.30pm in the Lighthouse. Next meeting on 12 November. Looking at Romans 9-11.

## Thursday

**GOOD NEWS @ TEN** (to 11.30am). Alternate weeks. Next meeting on 13 November.

**CRAFT TIME:** 10 to 12 noon: Alternate weeks.

## 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.

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# Parish Nurse Niki's News!

Just in case you don't know, my name is Niki and I am a Parish Nurse which is a 'Faith Community Nurse'. Parish Nurses work for Churches and Christian organisations - I am employed by GBC for 10 hours a week. We work under the umbrella of Parish Nursing Ministries UK, a Christian charity started by Helen Wordsworth, a Baptist Minister. Parish Nurses provide health support for the whole person incorporating body mind and spirit. This means we can support people with their physical and mental health and wellbeing, and we can give social and spiritual support; we are allowed to pray with people, if that is what they'd like. NHS Nurses are not allowed this joy and privilege, but for Parish Nurses, our Christian faith is central to all we do, and we can offer this if someone would find it helpful. We work with people from all religions and none and everything we do is underpinned with spiritual care. Most of my work takes place down at the Sunlight Centre in Richmond Road. I have been working down there for five years. I visit six different groups there once a month, plus I visit the GBC Friendship Morning monthly, and I provide a wide range of different types of health support and advocacy: Sometimes I take blood pressures and weigh people, I might discuss somebody's asthma, diabetes or heart condition with them, or we might have a chat about stopping smoking, drugs, exercise, medications, sleep or healthy eating.... Sometimes I simply sit with someone and listen: this we call 'the ministry of presence' and it can feel like I'm doing nothing but people tell me it's very powerful and it means the world when people feel seen and heard. And I often offer prayer at the end of a consultation. You might not be a trained nurse, you might not be able to support people with various aspects of their health, but I believe everyone has the potential to 'just be' with someone, to come alongside them in their distress, grief, loneliness or sadness and to just listen. No need to be an expert or a counsellor, just to be caring and compassionate - and quiet! And if you are a Christian you will be fully equipped to do this because the Holy Spirit resides in you. He is the Paraclete: one who comes alongside another with care and compassion, and one who intercedes for others. If you know and love the Lord, you are a temple of the Holy Spirit and you take Him wherever you go. So, go and be a Paraclete!

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# Parish Nurse Niki's News!

And as Autumn rolls into Winter, the weather changes and the temperature drops it's time to protect your 'temple!' Lately, more and more people seem to be suffering with upper respiratory infections and Covid appears to be on the rise again. Whilst most healthy people should be able to manage these infections well, there will always be some who could become really, seriously unwell, and for them there could even be a risk of death. So, please try not to spread infection if you have one, stay away from others if you can and cover your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough, ensuring your hands are well-washed and sanitised if necessary. We are blessed with live-streamed services every Sunday morning; it would be a gesture of kindness, love and care to stay away from others whilst infectious with any virus. You never know who is battling with cancer or other acute or chronic illnesses and we need to protect these people. Now is the time to be thinking about keeping yourself and others safe by considering having seasonal vaccinations against flu or Covid, if this is something you are entitled to and would like. Hopefully, they'll work well, protecting you and therefore others from some strains of Covid and Flu. Although they won't keep you completely free from upper respiratory infections, they could keep you from becoming very unwell if you do get one.

If you want to see me for a chat about your health, I usually go to the GBC Friendship Morning on the second Wednesday of the month. Come and see me there. I am not an emergency service and I do not work on Sundays so I would prefer it if we don't discuss your bunions, bumps and boils on a Sunday. And if you come for prayer ministry after the service and I'm on duty, please remember it's for prayer ministry and not for a Parish Nurse consultation. Thank you for understanding.

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayer.

Every blessing,

Niki Lownds  
GBC Parish Nurse

**Stay in touch:**



# GBC @ Christmas Playlist

Last month we shared that we're now on Spotify. We can see a lot of you have begun to listen to our Worship Songs Playlist. This month we've launched our GBC @ Christmas Playlist. This is now available for you to add to your Spotify Library or for streaming. Scan the QR code below to access the new playlist.

Do you have any favourite Christian Worship or Christmas songs? Please let us know as we'll be adding more songs very soon! Keep an eye out on our socials for updates!

- 1) Adore - Chris Tomlin
- 2) The Table - Darlene Zschech
- 3) Manger Throne - Phil Wickham
- 4) How Many Kings- Marc Martel
- 5) Noel - Chris Tomlin
- 6) Christmas Day - Chris Tomlin
- 7) Christmas Offering - Paul Baloche
- 8) From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable (Immanuel) - Stuart Townsend
- 9) From Heaven You Came (The Servant King) - Graham Kendrick
- 10) Hearts Waiting - Matt Redman
- 11) Hallelujah it's Christmas - Phil Wickham
- 12) Here Comes Heaven - Elevation Worship
- 13) Help From Heaven - Matt Redman & Natasha Bedingfield

- 14) Here with us - Joy Elizabeth Williams
- 15) I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day - Chris Tomlin
- 16) Light of the World - Lauren Daigle
- 17) Mary, Did you Know? - Mark Lowry
- 18) Midnight Clear (Love Song) - Chris Tomlin
- 19) An Irish Christmas Blessing - Keith & Kristyn Getty
- 20) The Peace - Graham Kendrick
- 21) What Hope We Hold - Chris Tomlin & Ed Cash
- 22) Welcome to our World - Chris Rice
- 23) Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger) - Chris Tomlin
- 24) The Reason Why - Hillsong Worship



**GBC @ CHRISTMAS  
PLAYLIST NOW ON SPOTIFY**

## GBC Community News

On 12 October Sarah Rai was commissioned as our Minister in Training. Joth Hunt (SEBA Regional Minister) is pictured here with Sarah alongside members of the Kent Nepalese community. Sarah is also supporting with her Ministry. Please pray for Sarah as she settles into this new role as well as studying with Bristol Baptist College.

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Press pause on the busyness of Christmas. Come and join us for coffee, crafts and a light tea, a candlelit time of worship as well as reflections on the theme of Advent.

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30**  
**4.00-6.30PM**

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

**Book your place on (01634) 850369.**

Or sign up in the conversation area in Church.

Please bring a friend or a neighbour.

This is a free event for all ladies and older teenage girls.





GILLINGHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

# Christmas

Come and celebrate with us

**Sunday - 7 December**

10.30am - All Age Service

**Sunday - 14 December**

10.30am - Christmas Communion Service

**Sunday - 21 December**

10.30am - Nativity Service

6.30pm - Carol Service

**Thursday - 25 December**

10.00am - Christmas Celebration

**Sunday - 28 December**

10.30am - All Age Service

