

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” Romans 15:13



<http://www.folkestonebaptistchurch.org/>

Edition 297

10th May 2026



Prayer points

Pastoral:

In Hospital:

Rehabilitation: making good progress

At home: Edith, Madeleine, Gloria, Chris, Ruth, Wilf A, Pauline S. Di & Harold H. Bunny P. Sue B.

Friends and Family:

Barbara J; Katy's mother

Pray for the Church Finances, the Fellowship and the Leadership Team in the discernment of the ongoing vision and how best to use members of the fellowship. The need for volunteers in the many areas of FBC ministry.

Roads around FBC: Swiss Way; Capel: Victoria Road

Local: pray that the holy Spirit will move through Folkestone

National: Pray or Christians standing in local elections and that the Christian message will be heard and not abused.

International: Praise God for the growth of the Church in Iraq, pray that the different communities will work together and that discrimination will cease; for the work of Tearfund in Nepal; continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon and Ukraine, not for getting Syria, Columbia and Libya; pray for believers and the churches in China being pressurised to following Communist Party instructions;

Notices

Saturdays: Ladies Socials – see notice

May

7-18th: Minister on Leave

10-16th: Christian Aid week

10th Sunday: Cakes after the service (to buy)

23rd Saturday: Africa Day

24th Sunday: Claire Bedford visiting Hill Road
6pm CTF Cheriton Baptist Church

The Christian Message is Political

Politics and religion are two topics that it is said should not be discussed in polite conversation. We have all heard the suggestion that Christians should leave their faith at the front door when they go to work (allowing others to take their views in with them!). Recent pronouncements by national and international leaders have suggested that Christian leaders should stay out of politics, even attempting to lecture them on theology, quoting dodgy biblical verses that do not exist. Pope Leo has been restrained and responded that his role is to preach the good news of the Gospel and he will continue to do so.

The Christian message is inherently political, and is not the ownership of any one particular party. Christ came to upset the world order and did so bring a new message for the people and a new relationship with God, at the same time reinforcing the message to look after the vulnerable (widow, poor, orphan and the foreigner/refugee). Jesus aligned himself with the poor and the marginalised, James talks about not showing favouritism. All of which rankle many of today's political elite.

At this time we need to stand with Christian politicians (MPs, Councilors and others) encouraging them to be salt and light in what is often a dark place. Encouraging and supporting them to speak the truth when the time calls.

Rest in Peace

Doreen Wood (wife of Rod), died on Monday 4th May 2026

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rod and his family

BMS Prayer News

Pray for Nepal and the new Government; that the new Government will fight corruption, seek justice and equity for all; Alan Baker in his work with Human Development and Community services (BMS Partner) and Astha and Deepak who are BMS supported; pray for Alan and Megan Baker's links to Bangladesh and Pakistan that they will bear fruit; for Kathmandu International Study Centre and the work to support quality education in rural school, pray for Krishna and Dil, BMS workers; pray for wisdom for Megan as she works in the field of disability, improving lives for these disadvantaged peoples; pray for Alan and Megan's spiritual health and that Nepali churches can flourish and be models for all.

Christian Aid Week: 10–16 May 2026



Today, we focus our **morning worship** on Christian Aid Week. This year, we are supporting families in Nairobi, Kenya, to overcome food poverty through urban farming tools and training. Below are some ways you can get involved and make a difference.

- **Donations:** Please use the envelopes provided.
- **Cake & Coffee:** Stay after the service for refreshments and treats,
- **Prize Quiz:** Entry is just £1—pick up a sheet for a chance to win.
- **Sponsor a Hymn:** Nominate a favourite throughout the month of May.

Claire Bedford Visit Sunday 24th May

News Letter in the Foyer

Africa Day: 23rd May. Includes Lunch
Organised by African heritage Christians resident in Folkestone.

Folkestone Baptist Church. RSVP to 07741 550524.

Ministers Annual and Study Leave

Katy is away 7-18 May

Tackling the 'unplayables' in life's unpredictable game

With Roger Bretherton

[Tackling the 'unplayables' in life's unpredictable game | Seen & Unseen](#)

Ladies Social Events All occur on Saturdays

4th July 2pm - 5pm Walk and Talk
19th September 7pm - 9pm Singing and Sausages
7th November 3pm - 5pm Relax, Refresh, Recharge
December 3pm - 6pm Christmas Crafts

Regular Church Events

Tuesday: House Groups

Wednesday: Prayer Pause 12pm

Thursday: Community Lunch 12pm
Music Practice: 7:45pm
House Group (10:30 am) and Messy Vintage (2:30pm) alternate weeks in Capel

Friday: Craft Club: 2-4pm 1st Friday of the month
Men's Group: 11am Chat and Bible study. Clifton Hotel

Saturday: 2nd Saturday of the month – Messy Church 3:00-4:30: Capel
Prayer breakfast 9:30 Last Saturday of the month. Capel.

Sunday: Church Service 10:30 am
1st Sunday – All Age Service
3rd Sunday - Communion

Ladies' Socials: See notices

Prayer Box

If you would like prayer for someone or something; please leave a request in the prayer box (near the Dover Road entrance). All requests will be dealt with in confidence

Prayers at Noon: Come to the church and pray together at 11:30am, or pray for the church where you are. Thursday 14th May Psalm 117

CTF Pentecost Sunday

24th May

6pm Cheriton Baptist Church

Contact Information

Pastoral matters:

Pastor:

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News Letter: David Smithard

Email by Thursday please. galafrei@icloud.com

Weekly news sheets and sermons available on the website.

Full fibre broadband at Hill Road

Wifi: 'WorshipWifi'; password: 'alphaandomega'.