

**table tennis** in the Main Hall

**Mondays**  
2 pm – 4.00 pm & in evening



ALLINGTON Baptist Church  
76A London Road, Maidstone  
Car Park off Leafy Lane, ME16 0DT  
[www.abcmaidstone.co.uk](http://www.abcmaidstone.co.uk)  
Tel: 07311 253720

Messy Church is an opportunity for families to come together, have fun, be creative together, eat together and worship together. We offer a warm room and tasty food.

**3.30pm – 5.30pm on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February**




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## CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY NEWS

**ABC Youth**  
Allington Baptist Church - 76A London Road  
FUN FUN FUN...  
We meet every Friday, 6.30pm- 8pm

MUSIC GAMES  
Bible talk  
CRISPS  
TUCK  
CHILL

SPORTS  
SMACKS  
SQUASH COFFEE PIZ  
TABLE TENNIS  
ACTIVITIES


FOR SCHOOL YEARS 7-13



the **Ladies'**  
Bible Study Group  
At 10.30am

Thursdays  
In the Main Church Hall

During term time



**Babes & Toddlers**

Wednesday  
10am – 11.30am

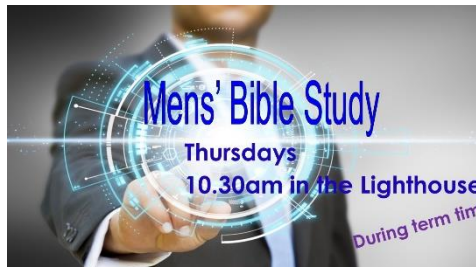
Weekly in term time




**Mens' Bible Study**

Thursdays  
10.30am in the Lighthouse

During term time



Entertaining  
Accessible  
Profound  
Life-changing

Sundays in January @ 6.30pm at  
Allington Baptist Church, FREE  
Pizza served during discussion.  
All welcome

**just10**  
God's Timeless Values for Life Today

**J. John**



'GET TOGETHER' COFFEE  
AFTERNOONS

FIRST & THIRD  
THURSDAYS  
2.00pm –  
3.45pm



Message from our Pastor, Martyn Colley

*I wonder if you've done all your Christmas shopping yet? If you're a man like me, you're probably leaving it to the last minute! Have you wrapped all the presents, arranged your decorations, bought in sufficient food and drink for all the family? For many people, Christmas is a time of great joy and festivity. For others, I know, it's a difficult time. A friend of mine lost her husband during the Christmas period. How do you enter into all the festivities after that? The short answer is you may not be able to. But thankfully Christmas isn't just about the festivities. It's much bigger than the razzamatazz which surrounds it!*



*The presents and food and crackers are all great, but they don't really get to the heart of Christmas. For at the centre is something far greater than all our partying, the great truth that God became man, and entered our world for our salvation. 'The Word [Jesus] became flesh..' says John's gospel (1:14). Here we see the central mystery of the Christmas story. The one through whom everything was made took on our nature and entered the darkness of our world. Jesus Christ, God's Son became one with us and shared in our joys and pains. The Bible tells us that Jesus is God with a human face. He understands the reality of our physical and emotional pain.*

*Yet it's even more amazing than that. Jesus not only shared our humanity. He took our sin upon himself also. The Word became flesh in order to die on a cross for us, so that we might share with him the glories of heaven. That's how much he loves us. 'This is how God showed his love among us,' says the Bible, 'He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.' And it goes on, 'This is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins' (1 John 4:9,10). Trusting in Him we receive new life with God, which brings tremendous peace and joy..*

*And Jesus is with us, even in the difficult places of life. As J.B. Philips once wrote, 'The light still shines. Two thousand years ago, into the bleakness of our suffering world came a flame of love that no darkness could ever extinguish.' I pray that all our readers might experience the true joy of Christ this Christmas. Happy Christmas to you!*

REGULAR EVENTS @ ALLINGTON BAPTIST  
CHURCH: For further information on any event, please email:  
[office@abcmaidstone.co.uk](mailto:office@abcmaidstone.co.uk)

## Jesus: Light of the World

Light is of great significance in our everyday lives, influencing the changing seasons in nature, providing illumination for dark spaces, showing up the places in our homes which may need a spruce up, enhancing the atmosphere, making sure it is safe for us to walk outside or to drive at night. The night skies with stars and moonlight can bring a sense of wonder at creation, and artists and photographers take great pride in capturing just the right light of a sunset or sunrise. Even as I was writing this, the unusual appearance across the United Kingdom of the Aurora Borealis, the famous Northern Lights has delighted many of us. Medical evidence also tells us that daylight helps to regulate our sleep patterns and influence our sense of well-being.

As a child growing up in the 1950's one of my favourite memories is of the sparkle and warm glow of Christmas Lights. I lived at an address called Dark Hill, and dark it certainly was, with no street lights, and no immediate neighbours with homes lit up. I remember the enjoyment of walking into the village on Christmas Eve with the shops lit up, enticing us in to buy last minute gifts and Christmas goodies. Over the years since then most towns and village centres now decorate their streets and may even hold a lighting up event. Many of us now adorn both the inside and outside of our homes with ever more elaborate decorations and lights.

There are many references to Light in the Bible from the very beginning of creation. Light has a special significance in the Christmas Story. Many of us will have received Christmas Cards with illustrations of the Star of Bethlehem, a bright light which guided the Wise Men from the East to find the Christ Child Jesus in Bethlehem. In the Bible, his birth was forecast many centuries earlier by the prophet Isaiah, with the promise of a great light. His own cousin John spoke of Jesus as the **true** light which gives light to everyone. Later, Jesus himself said "I am the Light of the World, whoever follows me, will not walk in darkness but will have the light of the world." We live in a world where there is much darkness and evil, and where our own hearts are spoiled by disobedience to God, which is sin. Jesus the Light came into the world to deal with sin by dying on the cross in order to pay the price of our sinfulness, so that we can move from darkness into His light. If we chose to acknowledge our sinfulness, and believe that he is the **Light** of the World we can know the peace and joy of the real meaning of this Christmas time.

All our Christmas Services at Allington Baptist Church are shown in this community newsletter and you would be very welcome to join us.

We also have Messy Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.....

Maggie Knee, Elder



ALLINGTON Baptist Church

Messy Church

76A London Road, Maidstone  
Car Park off Leaty Lane, ME14 0DT

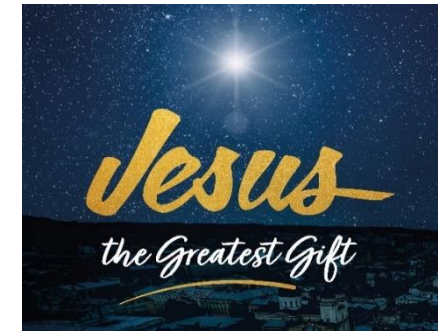
Messy Church is an opportunity for families to come together, have fun, be creative together, eat together and worship together. We offer a warm room and tasty food.

**Messy Church Christmas!**

3.30pm – 5.30pm on Saturday 2nd December



### A VERY WARM WELCOME DETAILS OF SERVICES DECEMBER 2023



<b>Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Advent Service (10.30am)</b> Martyn Colley speaks on The Greatest Gift (1) Advent: Isaiah 9:1-7 <b>Unto us a son is given</b>
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Family Service (10.30am)</b> Martyn Colley speaks on The Greatest Gift (2) Luke 2:1-20 - <b>A Saviour born to you</b>
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Christingle Family Service (10.30am)</b> Martyn Colley speaks on The Greatest Gift (3) John 3:16 - <b>God so loved that He gave...</b>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Morning Communion Service (10.30am)</b> led by Maggie Knee <b>Christmas Eve Candlelit Carols (6pm)</b> Martyn Colley speaks on The Greatest Gift (4) 1John 4:9 <b>How God showed His love</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Christmas Day service (10am)</b> Martyn Colley speaks on The Greatest Gift (5) John 1:14 <b>The Word made Flesh</b>
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	<b>Into The Bible Service (10.30am) Including Communion</b> Josh Hooker speaks on The Greatest Gift (6) Titus 2:11-15 <b>For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people</b>

If you would like prayer for anything or a visit from someone at Allington Baptist Church, please contact: [elders@abcmaidstone.co.uk](mailto:elders@abcmaidstone.co.uk)

