
Herne Bay Baptist Church

Sunday 12th July 2026

A Very Warm Welcome – Literally!!

Dear Church Family,

As we read this newsletter separately, yet together in spirit, I want to extend a warm welcome to each of you. It is during times like these, especially with the current heatwave, that we are reminded of our shared responsibility to care for one another. Many in our congregation may be finding it difficult to cope with the soaring temperatures.



In Galatians 6:2, we are called to "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." This scripture reminds us that our faith is not just about individual perseverance but also about community support. As we navigate this challenging weather, let us ask ourselves: How can I help?

Consider reaching out to those who may be struggling. A simple phone call, a visit, or offering to share resources such as fans, cool drinks, or a bit of shade can make a significant difference. Let's embody the spirit of love and compassion that Christ teaches us.

In Matthew 25:40, Jesus tells us, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." As we look for ways to support each other during this heatwave, let's remember that in helping those around us, we are serving Him.

May we all be vigilant and proactive in caring for our neighbours and church family during this time. Together, let's create a community that shines with love, kindness, and support. Stay cool.



Recognise this Story?

Who's Lost – by Peter Woodroffe (Southport)

Jesus told this story
of a man who owned a farm.
He had two sons, and did his best
to keep them out of harm.

But one of them, the youngest,
was getting really bored.
'I don't want to be a farmer.
I'd just like to go abroad.'



And so he asked his dad to split
the farm up into two.
He took his half and sold it
and then off abroad he flew.

He spent a lot of money
on lots of useless stuff
and naughty things I can't describe
- I've told you quite enough!

But when the money all ran out,
he was really in distress.
He had no home, no clothes, no hope.
His life was just a mess.

He'd have to go and find a job.
He thought of picking figs.
But the only man who'd take him on
said, 'Go and feed the pigs!'

Now, feeding pigs is not a job
a Jewish lad should do.
But he really had no other choice,
the jobs were just so few.

He had no food, he really starved.
The future looked so bleak.
Even the pigs got peas and pods.
He was really up the creek!

He started thinking, 'It's no good,
I've nowt to eat tonight.
Even Dad's servants get well fed
I've got to put things right.'

I'll go back home and say to Dad:
'I've let down God and you.
I'm just not fit to be your son,
Make me a servant too.'

But while he was a long way off
his father saw him there.
He ran and gave his lad a hug
- an answer to his prayer.

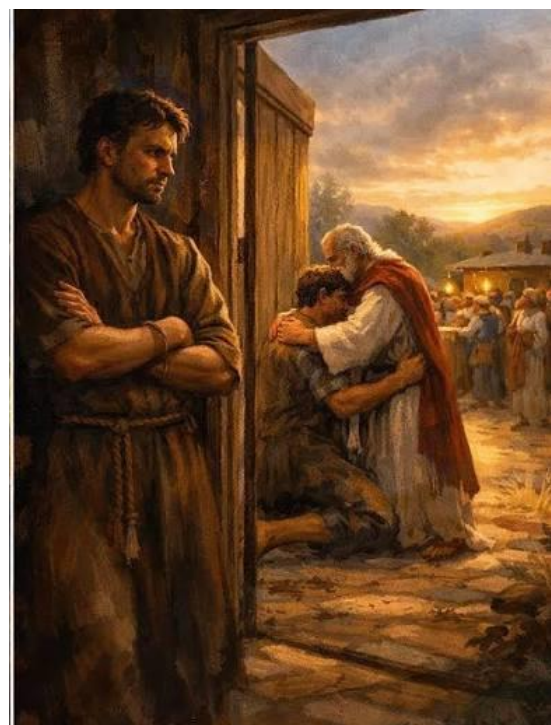
This dirty, skinny, ill-clothed boy
had been through so much pain.
His father thought that he was dead.
He's back - alive again!

He called the servants: 'Bring some clothes
The finest - nothing creased.
And kill that special fatted calf,
we're going to have a feast.'

View this picture carefully, what do you notice?



Who has an attitude, & why?



Now don't forget the other son,
who'd stayed to help his dad.
When he found out his brother's home
he really went quite mad.

'He's spent his money, lost the lot.
I suppose he's back for more.
I've worked hard all these years for nowt.
You'd best show him the door.'

His father was upset by this.
He said, 'Now look here, son.
Everything I have is yours.
And that can't be undone!'

'But he's your brother I thought lost.
And now he has been found.
It's right that we should celebrate
to have him still around.

The meaning of this parable
is really plain to see.
God's family is for all of us,
those brothers, you - and me.

So what's so special here?



How is this depiction different?

Conclusion

As we reflect on the story of the prodigal son, we are reminded of the boundless grace and unconditional love that God extends to each of us. Just as the father welcomed his son back with open arms, we too are called to embrace one another with compassion and understanding, especially during challenging times. This narrative teaches us that no matter how far we may stray, there is always a path back to love and community. Let us carry this message in our hearts as we support each other through life's trials, ensuring that everyone knows they are valued and loved within our church family. In doing so, we embody the spirit of reconciliation and hope that lies at the core of our faith.

Forever hopeful
Pastor Steve



OUR VISION

We aspire to be a body of Christ that recognises & embraces its divinely given talents,
to attract, enable & equip people to know & grow in Christ.
Aspiring to build a thriving and modernised church, to be an inspiring & generous people,
investing in the future and determined to energise the emerging generation,
& with a yearning to create an incredible legacy of hope.

Reaching Out – Drawing In – Building Up

LEN BANKS

Below is a message from Pam Banks that she sent to the HBBC Prayer WhatsApp Group on Monday.

Hi prayer warriors, very sad news letting you know that my husband Len passed away overnight. We are waiting for a post mortem. I am surrounded by wonderful family and friends. We would value your prayers, especially for our son Scott (and Tash) and Len's children Amie and Daniel and our grandchildren Thomas, Libby and Cici xXx It's been a huge shock.



ANNE CARTER

A Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service to celebrate the life of Anne Carter will take place on Monday 20th July 2026, 2.30pm at Herne Bay Crematorium. All are welcome to attend.



PRAYER MINISTRY

If you wish to receive prayer after the morning service, please make your way to the prayer corner, where members of the prayer team are available every Sunday morning. Alternatively, ask those around you to pray for you. We are a priesthood of all believers.

HEARING AID LOOP

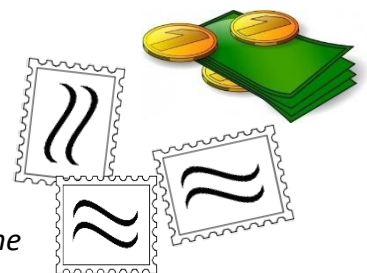
We have a loop system which can be accessed by turning to 'T' on hearing aids.



USED POSTAGE STAMPS ETC

Please remember to save your used stamps, with a 1cm envelope border, foreign notes and coins. The stamps will be passed to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and notes and coins will go to British Airways Flying Start charity. We also accept postcards, cigarette cards and tea cards which will be passed on to appropriate charities.

Please pass your stamps, coins etc to Alan Jordan or a member of our Welcome Team. Many thanks.



HBBC CONTACT DETAILS

Minister: Rev Stevan Kirk-Smith:

Church Office:

Website:

Email: minister.hbbc@gmail.com

Email: admin.hbbc@gmail.com

www.hernebaybaptist.org.uk

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If you would like to be kept informed of events and activities, please leave your contact details with Ali or our Church Office

CHURCH DIARY

Sunday 12 July 2026

8.00am – 9.00am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
10.30am	Morning Worship
2.00pm – 6.00pm	The Beacon Church – Service @ 3.30pm

Monday 13 July 2026

4.00pm – 6.00pm	Police Youth Hub (The Basement)
7.00pm – 9.00pm	Pray For The Bay (Pettman House)
	Lead: Simon Redman, Community Leader, Canterbury Vineyard
	Joined by: PC James Melia and a colleague to give an update on issues in Herne Bay

Tuesday 14 July 2026

2.00pm – 3.30pm	CAMEO – Come And Meet Each Other - Trip To Windsor
4.00pm – 5.00pm	Roots Youth Club - For 10, 11 & 12 Year Olds (The Basement & The Hall)
7.30pm	Messy Church Planning (Hall)

Wednesday 15 July 2026

9.00am – 10.00am	Leadership Team Prayer Meeting (Friendship Centre)
10.30am – 1.00pm	All Are Welcome! (Church)
6.00pm	Church Meeting (Church)
4.00pm – 5.15pm	Christian Relaxation & Meditation Course (Church)
7.30pm	Private Booking: The Model Railway Club (Primary Room)

Thursday 16 July 2026

1.30pm – 3.30pm	External Booking (Church/Hall)
7.30pm	Fellowship & Bible Study (Church)

Friday 17 July 2026

10.30am	Reflections Coffee Shop (Church)
4.00pm – 6.00pm	Police Youth Hub (The Basement)
7.00pm	Worship Group Practice (Church)

Sunday 19 July 2026

8.00am – 9.00am	Prayer Meeting (Church)
10.30am	Morning Worship with Communion
2.00pm – 6.00pm	The Beacon Church – Service @ 3.30pm

MESSY CHURCH PLANNING MEETING

The next planning meeting is Tuesday 14th July when we will be thinking about the Messy Church sessions in September & October. Please come to the Church Hall, for a 7:30pm start to the meeting.

If you are interested in joining the Messy Church team, do pop along and find out some more!

CHURCH BBQ

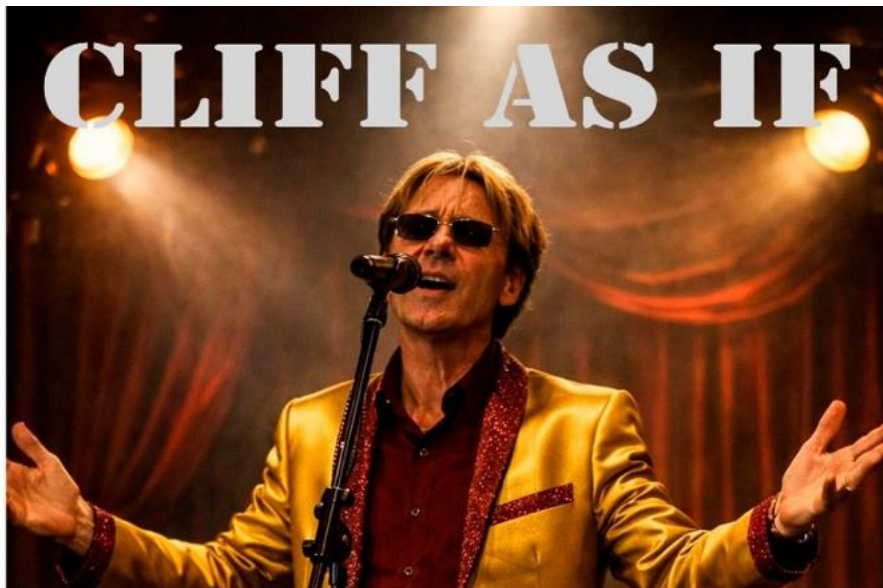


Steve & Jane cordially invite you to the Herne Bay Baptist BBQ at the Manse, 30 Spenser Road, Herne Bay CT6 5QL. Everyone is welcome, indeed encouraged, to come, be with friends, chat, eat & drink together.

The BBQ will be on **Sunday 26th July at 1:00pm onwards.**

To help make it a good afternoon you will have to bring some things... a smile, empty hands & encouragement for others. Also, for those who are able, a chair would be welcome.

Everyone is invited, but we would ask you to add your names to the sign-up sheet at the back of the church by Sunday 19th July to assist with catering.



An Evening with Will Chandler -possibly
the finest

Sir Cliff Richard Tribute Act

Herne Bay Baptist Church, High Street
Herne Bay
on

SAT. 25th JULY at 7pm

Tickets are £10 to include light refreshments

**Book early as seats are limited -contact
Church Office - 01227 367908
email admin.hbbc@gmail.com**

Herne Bay Baptist Church is a Registered Charity No.1153040