

Community News

Watching a recent episode of a much-loved restoration programme on television, I was fascinated to watch a cobbler at work, restoring a pair of old spiked running shoes as the viewer told the story of his father's life as a runner, alongside some famous runners of their time. The condition of the shoes reflected the story with their cracked, hardened leather uppers, a gaping hole, where the upper had separated from the sole and the stitching had rotted through. The spikes on the soles were rusted and blunt, and the shoes, though obviously treasured for the memories they held, were clearly not fit for purpose. The viewer had been inspired to take up running himself, and he was often accompanied by his daughter who was fascinated by her grandfathers' life and would like to own the shoes as an encouragement to her own emerging running career.

With the utmost respect the cobbler handled the running shoes, which today many of us would have consigned to the dustbin. He began by lovingly treating the tired cracked leather, feeding in moisture and removing dirt and grime, restoring the shape and flexibility of the uppers. Next, he worked on the layers of lining on the bed of the shoes, which had become worn and rucked and would surely have caused discomfort and blisters to anyone using them in their state of disrepair. He carefully smoothed and treated each layer, ensuring added comfort and strength to the shoes. He painstakingly removed the decaying stitches, replacing them with new strong thread which matched the restored leather and re - attached the uppers to the soles to make them fit for use again. He repaired the eyelets which had become stretched and worn with constant friction, and added new laces which would

ensure that the shoes would be fastened and adjusted securely in order to ensure comfort and stability for the wearer.

Turning his attention to the soles, he cleaned the spikes, removing grime and rust, ensuring that each spike was sharp, and fitted well in order to fulfil its role in gripping the running track. Finally, he gave the shoes a further polish, pronouncing that he was pleased with the outcome of his work.

At Allington Baptist Church we believe in a God who restores broken and worthless lives. He is a master craftsman who created us in his image and saw that his creation was good. He created us with free will, and through our own desire to be in control, our lives have been spoiled by the wrong we have done. We may have many regrets and wonder if our life has any purpose but if we ask God to forgive us, the Bible tells us he is willing to give us a new heart, and a new spirit. We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. He is able to renew us from within and restore life which can bring us joy, and help us to be a blessing to others. If you would like to understand more about God's purpose for your life, you would be welcome to attend any of our services, and find out more.

Weekly BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays 10.30 – 12.00noon
Ladies meeting in the main
Church building Men's meeting
in the Light House Next
Meeting 4th June



Keep Fit for All Ages

Wednesdays 10.30am – 11.00am
In The Church
Free Exercise Group for All

TABLE TENNIS CLUB

Mondays 2.00 – 4.00pm
in the main Church building
Next Meeting 1st June



GET TOGETHER

3rd Thursday of
the Month
2.00 – 3.45 pm
Join us for light
refreshments and
friendship. Next
meeting 18th June

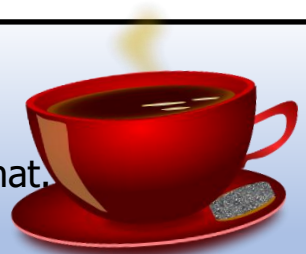
ENGLISH as a SECOND LANGUAGE

Wednesdays 9.00 – 10.15 am
in the main Church building
Next Meeting 3rd June



COFFEE and CAKE

Wednesdays 10.00am – 12.00 noon
In The Oasis Foyer. Come along for a chat.
Free but donations Welcome.



Details of our June Services

- Sun 7th 10.30am into the Bible service. Anany Kasongo speaks on Psalm 72: 'The Royal Son'.
- Sun 14th 9.15am Early morning Communion service in the Light House Annex. Service led by Anany Kasongo.
10.30am All Age Service led by Martyn Colley & Anany Kasongo. 'Encounters With Jesus' Zaccheus.
- Sun 21st 10.30am Into the Bible service. Martyn Colley speaks on Psalm 89: 'My Chosen One'.
- Sun 28th 10.30am. Into the Bible service. Howard Satterthwaite speaks on Psalm 110: 'Sit at My Right Hand'. Service includes Holy Communion.

A promotional graphic for ABC Youth Club. It features a collage of images: a person in a yellow shirt holding a pink ball, a person in a red shirt jumping for a football, a person in a white shirt playing pool, and a group of people playing a game on a grassy field. The text is overlaid on the images.

ABC YOUTH CLUB
FRIDAYS During term **7-8:30 PM**

Join us now and make unforgettable memories with your friends!
youth@abcmaidstone.co.uk
07828266390

INTERS:
YEAR 6-8
SENIOR:
YEAR 9-13

abcmaidstone.co.uk

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