

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
AUGUST 2015

ST. MARY'S GATE
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE
LU6 3SW

WWW.DUNSTABLEBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG

INDEPENDENT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH BASED UPON THE BIBLE

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH

Our regular meetings are as follows - everyone warmly welcome

SUNDAY

- 9.45am Young Peoples Bible Class
Church Prayer Meeting
- 10.30am Morning worship service
Sunday School is held during the service
A crèche for under 5s is available during the sermon
Refreshments are served after the service
- 6.00pm Evening Service
- 7.15pm Church Fellowship Meeting – once a month
- 7.30pm Young Peoples Fellowship – 1st and 3rd in month

MONDAY

- 6-7.00pm Monday Kids Club (age 5-9)
- 7.30pm Ladies Bible Study – 3rd in month

TUESDAY

- 9.15-11.00am Toddlers
- 7.30pm Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

- 10.00am Ladies Home Prayer Meeting – 3rd in month
- 2.00pm Friends and Neighbours – 2nd in month
- 2.30pm Friends and Neighbours Link – 4th in Month
- 7-8.30pm 'TNT' club for age 9-12

FRIDAY

- 8-9.30pm 'Ignite' club for age 13 – 19

SATURDAY

- 11.00am Open Air Ministry – 1st in month
- 8-9.00am Mens Prayer Meeting – 3rd in month
- 7.00pm Social Group (as announced)

OTHER MEETINGS AS ANNOUNCED

For further information contact Scott Mitchell – 01582 703875

CHURCH WEBSITE

www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org

CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Monday to Saturday open 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Telephone 01582 601945

Email books@christianbooks.uk.com

Website www.christianbooks.uk.com

Dear Friends,

Over the last few months we have been considering biblical paradoxes. In this article we shall be thinking of the paradox 'receiving through giving.'

Christ

As ever, for believers, Christ is our supreme example. Paul wrote '*Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her*' (Eph 5:25). However, though he gave himself without reservation to the suffering of the cross he endured it and despised its shame '*for the joy that was set before Him* (Heb 12:2). The apostle Paul gave expression to the depth of Christ's giving when he wrote that '*he made Himself of no reputation*' (Phil 2:7). He emptied himself or '*stripped Himself (of all privileges and rightful dignity)... to assume the guise of a servant (slave)*,' (Amp. Version). However, there was great joy set before him. The joy of bringing eternal glory to his Father through his suffering and obedience (Matt 26:39; John 17:1). The joy '*in bringing many sons to glory*' (Heb 2:2) and giving to them eternal life (John 10:28). The joy of receiving a kingdom whose citizens are all the elect of God (Matt 25:34; Rev 11:15).

The Lord has been given '*All authority (all power) ... in heaven and on earth*' (Matt 28:19) and therefore he has received '*the name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, ... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*' (Phil 2:9-11). Our Saviour gave everything now he has received everything.

Believers

Though the saying of Jesus, '*It is more blessed to give than receive*' (Acts 20:35), is not actually recorded in the gospels it does epitomise the essence of a believer's life - a life of giving. But, giving does not refer only to worldly goods but the giving of ourselves to God. The Macedonians were a great example of giving because they gave during affliction, in spite of poverty, freely and with great joy. However, they first gave themselves to the Lord and then to others (2 Cor 8:1-5). We need to cultivate the grace of giving, first by giving ourselves to the Lord, and then using our time, talents, energy and resources as an expression of our love for him and others.

As we give, lovingly and sacrificially, so our giving becomes '*a sweet smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God*' (Phil 4:18). What joy we receive as we obey and emulate our risen Lord knowing as we give, as our Saviour did, we please him (2 Cor 5:9-10).

As disciples of Christ, we are constantly encouraged to do good and share. Paul writes that believers are to '*do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share*. In so doing they are '*storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold of eternal life*' (1 Tim 6:18-19). A believer's daily life of loving Christ-like giving builds a good foundation for all eternity. Is that not worth receiving?

Peter in teaching about the heavenly inheritance that all believers will receive states that '*Though now you do not see Him (Christ), yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith - the salvation of your souls*' (1 Peter 1:8-9). May God help us to **receive this precious gift of salvation** by our willingness to trust him and be conformed to the pattern of giving that our Saviour has so lovingly manifested.

RS

DONATIONS

During the last month gifts have been sent (or are awaiting being sent), from those received for the work and from church funds, as follows:

Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£13
Grace Baptist Mission (to support Andrzej Kempczynski in Poland)	(from gifts)	£25
European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) – in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25

Thank you for your gifts, please continue to pray for all those we support.

INFORMATION

Bookshop Refurbishment - the Big Move

By the time you read this, John & Bev with a team of volunteers will have moved the entire contents of the bookshop into the Church Hall so thank you to all those who were able to assist.

The whole process will need to be reversed on either Saturday 15th of August or Monday 17th so please try and keep a few hours free on those dates and let John know when you might be available.

Summer Reading

If you still need a copy of the summer reading book (Stuart Olyott's "Something must be known and felt") a few copies are available on the table in the foyer. If they have all gone please sign on the list.

REPORTS



The photo is of the group that went on the Christian Heritage London walk around Newington Green and Stoke Newington led by Keith Berry on Saturday 11th July 2015.

We are standing in front of the memorial to Isaac Watts in Abney Park (Non-Conformist Burial Ground).

It was a great day and a very informative walk about the early non-conformist history in the area.

Peter Woodruff

Pilgrim Friends Society Coffee Morning Report - Friday 17th July

We were blessed again with another dry, sunny but not too hot morning. A good crowd of around 50 folk attended, including nearby neighbours and friends from local churches. Visitors enjoyed rummaging through the many bargains displayed in our back room. Our jam packed kitchen tables overflowed with bread, cakes, other baked goods, marmalade and jam plus some seasonal vegetables.

At closing time, sadly, little was left for us to consume. Perhaps that was a good thing! Coffee and cold drinks were consumed in the glorious sunny weather, and dramatic entertainment was provided, when an uncontrollable runaway live steam engine derailed at high speed on a sharp curve. Thankfully, the driver was not too badly injured, but the engine has had to go into the repair shop at Wilstead. I am pleased to report that Alan Battson, our company engineer, has now restored the engine to running order. Apart from this unexpected happening, everything went well and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. We are very pleased to say that £600 was raised for Dorothea Court Bedford, Pilgrim Home. Thank you all who supported and helped with this annual event.

John and Elaine

We recently received this letter from Brian Edwards concerning the work of CPR (Christian Prison Resourcing). Our Church has signed up as a partner Church and we have been asked to distribute this to you all. The standing order form will be available in the foyer or ask one of the deacons.

Dear Supporters

The major growth strategy for CPR is to reach into as many prisons and detention centres as possible with a target of 'all of them'. The way we plan to do this is through 'Sessional Workers' who each do a four hour 'session' per week. Most prisons are available to us and we have many candidates to train and employ in this task. Each costs a modest £2500 per annum.

Our leaflet "How Can I Help?" will explain more about our Sessional Workers and the need we have.

Individual donors are the largest single regular source of funding for CPR.

We have recently introduced 'Partner Churches' with reciprocal commitments and benefits. We want to extend this concept to a 'Partners' Club' with a target of 500 members to replace the old 200 Club.

Will you consider joining with a modest contribution of £10 per month and tell your friends about CPR?

The mutual commitments between members and CPR are set out below.

Members will receive from CPR:

- The Annual Report
- On request, any financial or activity reports that are available to the partner churches.
- On request, any strategy or plans with an invitation for you to comment.
- Regular newsletters and prayer items.
- Invitations to various open meetings.

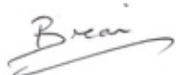
Members commit to:

- Praying for and giving regularly to the ministry of CPR.
- Wherever possible attending open meetings.
- Making the work of CPR known to friends and family as well as to your church.
- If possible, helping to recruit workers and volunteers.

Remember, every day CPR is offering life-support to prisoners.

Please also pass this invitation on to your family and friends and ask them to consider joining with us. Email us at: admin@cprministries.org.uk and/or complete our Standing Order form. If you are able to gift aid your donations, please consider completing the Gift Aid section on the form to enable your gift to go even further (please return completed forms to our PO Box address).

Thank you once again.



Brian H. Edwards
Chairman

The Good Society 'War on local Poverty' Conference

On Saturday 27th June I met with others from churches in Central Bedfordshire to be challenged and inspired by 'National' Speakers, and to be encouraged by those in our churches, who are all working to help those affected by poverty.

Ed Boyd (Centre for Social Justice) began by asking us to think more about some of the root causes of poverty including debt, addiction, family breakdown, education failure and continual joblessness. Poverty can also

seriously limit people's horizons and social, entertainment and travel opportunities which will exclude them from most of the pleasures we take for granted.

Captain Elizabeth Haywood (Salvation Army Director of Community Service for UK and Ireland) then challenged us to think particularly about the increasing use of food banks, and the danger of creating a dependency on them. Help should be given at the top of the cliff, not when people have already fallen deep into trouble. Is the fence at the bottom of the cliff? How else can our churches help?

Natalie Williams (Jubilee + and author of "The Myth of the Undeserving Poor") then prompted us to examine our own attitudes towards the poor. Are we too judgemental? Do we have a cut off point?

Concern for the poor is not optional for Christians, we must follow the Bible and not the Media. The Old Testament laws provided a social system with provision for the poorest, and with a social re-evaluation (Lev. 25). We must see every person made in the image of God. How can we show His grace to others?

His mercy extends across the whole of humanity so we should not only give to those who respond with gratitude or faith.

The morning session finished with Sue Tyler (Central Beds) informing us of the work the Local Council is doing to develop an anti-poverty strategy at a time when Central Government is withdrawing funding support and they are having to draw upon their own reserves. She highlighted the 21% of the county that will be especially affected by the Welfare Reforms that were going ahead, and she was already working with other Council departments and

local stakeholders to alert them to future changes. Where possible they are helping people to acquire a qualification that could help them into work, but there is a lot of competition even for the most basic jobs.

In the afternoon we heard Colin Kayes speak of his "God's Warehouse" work. From small beginnings he now has eight large warehouses and a 70 acre farm in Leighton Buzzard where he is able to employ unskilled people and to give them experience and skills which will enable them to find other work. As well as growing food crops he is also given excess supplies that would otherwise go to landfill, and he regularly sends out containers to help the the poor in Bulgaria. He is also given household items, clothes and toys to distribute. Our local food bank is run from one of his warehouses. God willing, he is now seeking to expand his work by contracting to supply meals to the Social Services in Beds and Bucks. This will then increase his revenue stream and enable him to put more profit into the local community.

Following this I attended a small group with Scott Gamble (Aragon Housing Association) who spoke about his work with churches helping them set up Job Clubs and Community Cafés offering education and skills training.

All in all I found this was a very challenging day which provoked me especially to pray for the very needy in our community that we might know how best to help them, and more particularly to pray for the spiritual good of all our community whether poor or rich.

Sarah Woodruff

News from the Foodbank

Collections

Firstly a big thank you to all of you who helped out with the Tesco collection on Saturday, 4 July. We collected 980 kg of food. Current stocks remain very healthy at a 7268 kg . We have plenty of cereals and really do not need any more for the moment! We are hoping not to need to mount any more big supermarket collections until the next Tesco one at the end of the year, but this of course means that we need to continue to rely on the high levels of donations through our fixed collection points. The amount of food distributed remains relatively stable with big peaks and troughs in demand.

Mike Pittam

Operations Manager

YOUNG PEOPLES HOLIDAY 2015 WAREHAM

Final arrangements are being put into place for this year's YP holiday. We are looking forward to spending a week at a new venue for us – the Purbeck School in Wareham, Dorset. It's a return to the area of our first three holidays when we stayed on the outskirts of Swanage way back in the early 1990s. It is an excellent venue and we are looking forward to a brilliant week.

Our talks this year are being lead by James Kight. Please remember him in your prayers.

Our holiday runs from August 8th to the 15th. We would value your prayers for us while we are away. Please pray for good weather, good travelling, good fellowship, good fun and above all, God's blessing on the week.

It's not too late to sign up if you want to come too. I promise to fit you in!

Finally, we would be grateful if you could do for us what you do every year which is to provide us with pies, cakes, crumbles and other tasty delicacies for the week. If you can help, please let Dawn or me know!!



Many Thanks

Jeff Hewitt

Church Holiday 2015 Sizewell Hall

Just a brief update about the arrangements for this year's Church Holiday. Things are now beginning to pick up pace, rooms are allocated and meals being planned. As I have previously mentioned, all places are now filled and we have a waiting list should anyone have to drop out before we go. For those of you who are coming, here are a few updates;

- The cost has now been finalised at £95, all inclusive, per person, with a discounted price of £60 for those aged twelve and under
- Flights have been booked for Ivan Watson and his family who are coming over from Ireland to bring us Gods word
- I have been able to arrange another 'sea blast' on the Coastal Voyager at Southwold on the packed lunch Wednesday. Let me know if you want to reserve a place. I have 48 booked and they are going fast – literally

I will be sending emails and letters out very soon explaining how to pay and how to sign up for the boat. Thank you to those who have already paid in full as this has enabled us to do much of the planning and organising earlier than usual.

This has been a brilliant holiday in the past and has been greatly blessed by the Lord. Please pray that this will be so again this year. If you want to be added to the waiting list, do let me know. For more information, ask Ruth, Steve or me.

Jeff Hewitt

DBC DIARY DATES - GOD WILLING

2015 AUGUST		
Sun 2nd	am & pm am 5.20pm	Tom Sweatman Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate
Tues 4th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: James Kight
Sat 8th— 15th		Young Peoples Holiday
Sun 9th	am & pm	David Green
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Sun 16th	am & pm pm	Andrew Kight Communion
Tues 18th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Sun 23rd	am pm	Steve Burton John Keble
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Trevor Thomas
Sun 30th	am & pm	Martin Loughbrough
Tues 1st	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Church Members Meeting
Sat 5th	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 6th	am & pm am 5.20pm	Arthur Bentley -Taylor Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

4th	Scott Mitchell	LTS
11th	Tony Townley	YP Holiday
18th	Mike Power	OAM (Steve Burton)
25th	Frank Taylor	Sunday School (Hilary Green)

Please forward items for the
SEPTEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER
 to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
 by SUNDAY 23rd August
 Thank you.

'PRAY FOR US'

Members preaching in other churches

AUGUST		
1st — 7th	Andy Banton Steve Burton	Tenby Beach Mission Weymouth Beach Mission
2nd	Rex Andrews Andy Banton	Hatfield BC (am) Bethel BC Pembroke (am) Zion Free Pembroke (pm)
9th	Rex Andrews	Hatfield BC (am)
16th	Rex Andrews Steve Burton	Hatfield BC (am) Rugby EC (all day)
23rd	Rex Andrews	Stony Stratford (am)
30th	Andy Banton	Little Hill, Leic (all day)

AUGUST ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

2nd Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming
 9th Brian Rigby & Sarah Woodruff
 16th Bethany Hewitt & Alex Marvin
 23rd Scott Mitchell & Sarah Cooke
 30th Frank Barnachea & Joy Broughton

Cleaning

3rd Em & Beth & YP
 10th Brian & Margaret Rigby
 17th Scott & Rachel Mitchell
 24th Martin & Marie Dawkins
 31st Christine Wild & Caroline Norman

Security

2nd Brian Rigby
 9th John Snuggs
 16th Frank Taylor
 23rd David Weedon
 30th Matt Woodruff

Flowers

2nd Sarah Woodruff
 9th Jenny Jacquier
 16th Marie Dawkins
 23rd Dawn Hewitt
 30th Ann Weedon

Creche

2nd Janette & Dawn
 9th Elaine & Ann
 16th Caroline & Beverly Kingham
 23rd Sarah & Marie D
 30th Margaret & Bev

Refreshments

9th Christine & Marie D
 16th Julia & Elaine
 23rd Dawn & Michele
 30th Caroline & Mina