

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



*For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a Saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11*

NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 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 (years 1-6)
- 7.30pm Ladies Bible Study – 3rd in month

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

- 1.00pm Bumps & Babes (fortnightly)

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

FRIDAY

- 7.30-9.00pm Focus (years 7-13)

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,

A number of years ago a Christian company produced a cartoon depicting a frenetic high street scene with crowds carrying a variety of Christmas goods. A Christmas banner hung over the street with the words 'GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST' except the 'E' in HIGHEST had fallen off now reading HIGH ST.

As Christians, whilst it is good to enjoy seasonal traditions, such as buying and giving and receiving gifts and Christmas cards and meeting with family and friends for a special meal, these are secondary to the essence and true meaning of Christmas.



E. Linbeck © ".... and on earth peace, goodwill toward men"

One of the qualities that should epitomise a Christian is thankfulness. We would be thought to be very rude if we failed to thank a family member for a gift. How more profoundly offensive to our heavenly Father, who has given us *'Every good gift and every perfect gift'* (James 1:17), if we fail to thank him for all his many gifts and pre-eminently for the *'His indescribable gift'* of his Son, the Lord Jesus' (2 Cor 9:15).

Saying thank you, however, is not the same as being thankful. Thankfulness is something we feel inside that produces a deep sense of gratitude evidenced by the quality of our worship and obedience to God. However, we should not only be thankful to God for his many gifts but thankful also for who he is.

The Nature of God

Isaiah reminds us that God *'inhabits eternity'* (Isaiah 57:15). Because *'God is a Spirit'* (John 4:24) he is present everywhere at the same time (Psalm 139:7-11). Hence, he is infinite in knowledge and comprehends all things (Ps 147:5; 139:1-6). Since God is all-powerful (Rev 19:6) and holy (Isa 6:3) there is nothing that he cannot do except that which is contrary to his holiness. We read that God is love (1 John 4:8,16) and that he is three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19). Also God never changes *'I am the Lord, I do not change'* (Mal 3:6).

As we reflect on the glorious aspects of God's nature we can worship, adore and thank him for the wonder and perfections of his Being and also that in this world of instability and uncertainty we have a Sovereign God who never changes.

Glory To God In The High(e)st

In the cartoon above two boys are looking at the banner with the 'E' missing. One is saying to the other 'perhaps that's how God meant it to be.' But, God did not mean that his glory is displayed in shopping centres where many will overreach themselves in purchasing gifts and Christmas food and drink. His glory is not revealed in the excesses of Christmas but in his Son the Lord Jesus

Under the cartoon we read the following words not hung over the street *'and on earth peace, goodwill toward men'* (Luke 2:14). This promise of peace (Luke 1:79) and goodwill comes to those who will receive the gift of God's Son and all he achieved through his life, death and resurrection.

Let us all enjoy Christmas but let us all receive the gift of God's Son and glorify God in our hearts and lives for all that he is and all that has given to us in Christ.

RS

Grace Baptist Women's Association Conference 20th-22nd November

Time for the bi-annual weekend conference of GBWA when three ladies from DBC and four from Edlesborough set off to High Leigh Conference Centre (Hoddesden) anticipating a great weekend and we were not disappointed. Excellent ministry, great fellowship, no cooking or washing up – what could be better?

The ministry this year was from Linda Allcock, a pastor's wife now serving God with her husband Jonty, in a new church plant in London. In six sessions we were taken through the book of Amos and what a challenge it was to face up to the reality of how we are living our Christian lives day by day. Do we have a God of our own making or do we know the God of the Bible and live the way He wants us to? Serious stuff brought to us in a very helpful and relevant way by Linda, who God has obviously gifted for teaching women.

Saturday afternoon there were seminars and workshops – team leading, changes in family situations, depression, wise choices in retirement, craft activities, line dancing, hand therapy and singing. The morning snow had given way to blue skies and sunshine (albeit still very cold) so prior to a couple of workshops, we ventured outside and had a lovely walk around the grounds, which gave us time to reflect on some of the challenges brought about by the ministry. Once again it was a very worthwhile conference, another opportunity to learn from God's word, spend time with Christian friends, to praise God for His goodness and to hear testimonies of God's upholding through very difficult circumstances.

Joy and Margaret

It has been a busy term so far at Christ Church Mayfair. In September and October we have the privilege of welcoming lots of new people into London, particularly students and those who have moved jobs. There are many people trying to find a new church and so we get a number of new people through the doors. Do give thanks for the way that our church staff have been sustained through this busy time and for the new people who have joined the church. Also, give thanks for the new staff and apprentices who have joined the team.

Some of you will know that for my second year as an apprentice my role has slightly changed. This year I'm no longer involved with the student ministry. Instead, on Sunday mornings I lead the children's ministry, which involves training and leading our team of leaders across the four children's groups, as well as specifically being involved with teaching the 7-11 year olds.

It is a real privilege and responsibility to be caring for the 35 or so children on Sunday mornings, and supporting their parents as they take responsibility for training their children in the Lord. Please would you pray that I would be a servant-hearted leader, as well as praying that each of these children would grow up to trust the Lord.

My other new role is co-leading one of the evenings where our midweek Bible study groups takes place. This means that my co-leader and I, prepare all the other group leaders to lead their Bible study groups. Last weekend we enjoyed a weekend away, down in Horsley Park with most of the groups. We got a chance to listen and discuss some talks on 'What it means to be human'. This was particularly useful given the overwhelming trend in our culture towards encouraging same-sex relationships, as well as issues of gender identity. We're thankful to God for a good weekend, and we trust that everyone went away better equipped to defend the faith in their workplaces.

Also starting this term is a new evangelistic course that we're running called Honest Questions. This is a course, similar to Christianity Explored, but geared particularly for the type of people we get coming along at Mayfair. Our Senior Minister Matt Fuller had a sabbatical over the summer where he spent some time putting the course together, and it has been running for the past few weeks. It gives people the chance to hear how the gospel makes sense of some of the big questions people have about the world. The last couple of weeks we've been thinking about questions 'How do you live in a world full of pain?' and 'Why are we so mean to one another?', and there have been a fair number of non-Christians listening. Please pray that the Lord would use this to bring many people to trust in Jesus!

On a more personal note, even though our church year seems like it has only just begun, I've already had to begin thinking about what I'll be doing next year when I finish as an apprentice. Please pray that the Lord would give me wisdom, and good counsel from others as I discern the next step. As always, I am very thankful to God for the way that you continue to support me financially and in prayer. I hope to see you all over Christmas.

Every blessing,

James

Update on the building refurbishment

CHURCH HALL EXTENSION



NEW KITCHEN



KITCHEN NEW SERVING HATCH



NEW DOORS

BUILDING UPDATE

Church Hall Extension

Work is progressing ahead with the building refurbishment as the builders work to complete the internal refurbishment of the church hall, kitchen and toilets.

All of the external works have been completed, along with the new path and new garden area to the rear of the church building.



The end is in sight with the church hall refurbishment as the second fix and finishes are now being installed. The extended church hall has now been re-plastered and decorated ready for the new flooring to be laid. The new kitchen has been plastered, decorated and all the electrics installed.

The new vinyl flooring has been laid in the toilet areas, Wolf Grey is the colour and the plumber is installing the new toilet sanitary ware. We should have these new toilets in use soon. We shall have a disabled toilet area, ladies with three WCs and a gents. There will be three Margrini baby changers mounted on the walls.



Small details are beginning to emerge as work progresses, like the new conservation light in the kitchen roof. This window provides natural light to what would be a dark corner of the new kitchen and provides light to the cooker and serving hatch. This window opens up a lovely view of the chapel facade and hopefully, the blue sky.

The end is in sight with the church hall refurbishment as the second fix and finishes are now being installed.

All of the structural steelwork has been hidden behind the new fire proof plaster boards and plaster. This steelwork allows the church hall to open up to its maximum size and provides a great usable space.

The central heating is now back in use with a new boiler room housing the boilers and heating controls. The thermostat for the church is now on a wireless system allowing us to have separate heating on in the church and the church hall.

New Church Hall Layout

The new church hall layout is showing it's full potential with the new enlarged hall space. We have two new store rooms: one for the table and chairs and one for the Toddlers/Youth clubs. This storage will allow the church hall to remain uncluttered and provide maximum space for any activity.

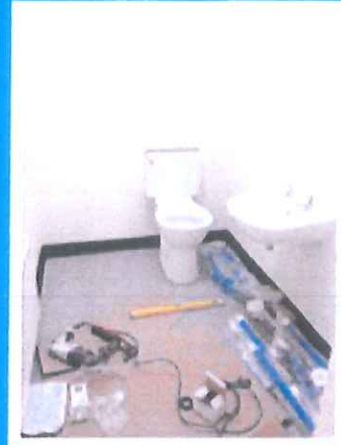
The portable room dividers will allow the hall to be divided up into smaller intimate areas for small groups. The new steelwork opening allows us the potential to install a bi-fold dividing partition and provide two distinct rooms for Sunday School or for small groups.

The serving hatches are built and the new kitchen units are being installed. These hatches will have roller shutter doors installed with a push button electric roller shutter, allowing anyone to raise or close the shutters without too much effort - just touch with your finger.



The carpet tiles will be installed soon once the old ladies toilet is demolished and the remaining ceiling is re-plastered. The church hall floor will be smoothed out and the new carpet installed - the colour has been chosen and carpet ordered.

New Toilets



FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS are sorry they won't be having a Christmas Lunch this year due to the building works, but are looking forward to a visit at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 10th December (note amended time) from pupils of Ashton St. Peter School for a Christmas Programme.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. A very warm welcome to anyone who wants to join with us on this occasion.

Legacy

During the last month we received a legacy of £5,000 that our brother Bill Goode left to the Church. We are extremely grateful for his generosity.

For your diaries!

The date for the Holiday Club next year will be the 6th and 7th April so if you need to give plenty of notice at work for your holidays please consider doing so now. We would like to encourage as many members to take part as possible allowing us to invite more children.



On a similar note, the Bible Exhibition will be held from the 3rd – 7th October.

Christmas Cards

This Christmas, instead of giving individual cards to others in the church, you are invited to sign on the large 'Card' on the Table or the Notice Board (when available) or pin up a card of your own. It is suggested that the money that would have been spent on cards, could instead be donated for the work of Caring for Life based in Leeds. The gifts can be placed in the box by the door (please use one of the small brown envelopes marked with CFL).

DBC Christmas Invitation Cards

This year we are again producing a DBC Christmas Card with an evangelistic message and an invitation to all our Christmas meetings and services. We will be printing them on request, so please use the form on the vestibule table or Notice Board (when available) to order as many as you are able to deliver to your neighbours and local roads. Please indicate against your name the number you want and the roads you will deliver to.

Help us to give this Christmas message and invitation to as many people in Dunstable as we can. Thank you.

Shoebbox Appeal

42 shoe boxes were collected by Blythswood on Tue 17th November.

A huge thank you to all who supplied a box or in some cases, several boxes!!!



Many thanks

Steven Dawkins

Year book and rotas

Please let me know if any of your details need changing for the 2015 Year book.

Also, thank you for all who have been involved in any of the many rotas during this past year. I trust that I can count on your support again for the coming year and if anyone else could volunteer I would be very grateful.

There is always a need for stewards, security men, car drivers, prayer time leaders, tea ladies, flower providers, cleaners – is there a spot that YOU could fill?

Brian

Cleaning Rota

Thank you to everyone involved in church cleaning. If anyone would like to join the cleaning rota (or leave it), please could you let me know before the new rota starts in January. Once the new facilities are up and running, we shall have more to keep clean, but shall split the duties up to keep things manageable!

Many thanks,

Caroline

Prayer Points from Missions we support

PORTUGAL Sines Rogério Ramos: "Our Christmas Carol evangelistic meeting will be on 20th December. There will be a meal after the service and non-Christian guests will be coming. Please pray for this.

Continue to pray for the health of: Silvério, Maria do Céu, my wife Sónia and her mother. Also remember Marcio as he is not able to come to the meetings due to his work schedule. Pray for his wife Catia Sofia as well, please."

Andrzej & Monika Kempczynski

- For their move to new accommodation
- Mateusz's eye problems
- Salvation of Marcin

EMF SCHOOL Jörg Müller: "It seems that it is going to be more difficult for visa students to get their visa. Pray for Wendy Sheehan as she helps students fill in their forms. Please pray for God to overrule."

PORTUGAL Sines Rogério Ramos: "On 12th December some of us from church are going out together to speak to people in the town and to distribute Christian tracts. We will be inviting them to our Christmas services. Please pray that we will have good conversations."

DBC DIARY DATES—GOD WILLING

2015 DECEMBER		
Tues 1st	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Martin Loughbrough
Wed 2nd	7.30pm	Leaders meeting
Sat 5th	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 6th	am am 5.20pm pm	Tony Townley Communion Prayer Meeting for Pastor David Chapman (Tring)
Tues 8th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Thurs 10th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours
Sun 13th	am & pm	Andrew King (Highbury)
Mon 14th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study
Tues 15th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Steve Burton
Sat 19th	8am	Men's Prayer Meeting
Sun 20th	am pm	Andy Banton Andy Banton(Carol Service)
Tues 22nd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Ron Shipton
Fri 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Service: John Keble
Sun 27th	am & pm pm	Martin Hare (Westoning) Communion
Tues 29th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Short Bible reading
Jan 2nd	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Jan 3rd	Am 5.20pm pm	Glynne Hampson (Limes Ave) Communion Prayer Meeting for Pastorate Alan Harvey

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

1st	Frank Taylor	SASRA	
8th	John Keble	Ladies Bible Study	Caroline
15th	David Woodruff	GBM Prayer Waves	
22nd	Brian Rigby	CFL	
29th	General Prayer meeting		

'PRAY FOR US' Members preaching in other churches

DECEMBER		
3rd—6th	Steve Burton	Lincoln Market
6th	John Keble Rex Andrews	Langdale (am) Wootton (pm)
13th	Rex Andrews	Piddley BC (pm)
20th	Steve Burton	Hitchin Grace (am)

DECEMBER ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

6th	Ray Marvin & Beverly Kingham
13th	Scott Mitchell & Barbara Shipton
20th	Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming
27th	Brian Rigby & Sarah Woodruff

Cleaning

30th	Jeff & Dawn Hewitt
7th	Sarah & Matt Woodruff
14th	Marie C & Winnie
21st	Frank & Tess Barnachea
28th	Em & Beth + YP

Security

6th	John Snuggs
13th	Frank Taylor
20th	David Weedon
27th	Matthew Woodruff

Flowers

6th	Elaine Snuggs
13th	Christine Wild
20th	Ann Weedon
27th	Ann Weedon

Creche

6th	Margaret & Bev
13th	Ruth & Emily
20th	Janette & Dawn
27th	Winnie & Julia

Refreshments

13th	Christine & Marie D
20th	Julia & Elaine
27th	Dawn & Michele

Please forward items for the
JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER
Thank you.