

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 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 Friday club for (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,

Why do we have church leaders?

The church is not a man-made organisation, but an organism— a living thing— which was brought into being by Jesus Christ and whose life is sustained by him. Christ alone is its head, and he is the head of every local church (see the letters to the seven churches in Revelation 2–3). Within the church there is no difference in status among those saved through faith in him (Gal 3:26–28). All Christians enjoy the same access to God through him (Rom 5:2; Eph 3:12), and so we can speak of a priesthood of all believers, based on 1 Peter 2:9. Why then do we have church leaders?

Living bodies work properly because they are orderly and structured. Like the various parts of a body, different kinds of gifts are given by the Holy Spirit to different people within the church, for the healthy functioning of the whole (not for the benefit of the individual with the gift, 1 Cor 12). Among these gifts are gifts of leadership (v. 28). When the risen Christ ascended, he gave gifts of leaders to his church to enable the whole church to grow and become strong and Christ-like (Eph 4:7–12). So when a local church appoints leaders, it is recognising that certain individuals have been given the necessary gifts by God to lead the church. Part of church life is recognising and encouraging those with gifts from God to use them to build up the church.

To begin with, the early church was led by the apostles, those appointed by Jesus as eye-witnesses of his resurrection. As the church grew and spread it became necessary to set other people apart as leaders. First of all, seven leaders were appointed in Jerusalem to distribute financial relief (Acts 6). Their work was not just practical, but also pastoral, and vital for the preservation of the unity of the church. Their supporting role seems to have been similar to that of the 'deacons' we read of later in the New Testament. Soon in Acts, we also encounter elders (Acts 11: 30), as new local churches were planted and men were appointed to spiritual oversight in the absence of the apostles (Acts 14:23). Whereas the office of apostle did not outlive the first generation of the church, the office of elder or overseer remains for the church today. Although a host of other titles and roles have developed over the subsequent 19 centuries (like bishop, dean, cardinal, parson), elders and deacons remain the church leaders envisaged by the New Testament. Why then do we appoint ministers or pastors to lead our churches?

The New Testament teaches that the spiritual oversight of the local church is the responsibility of elders, who exercise a leadership and teaching role, under the authority of Christ. A group of elders, rather than one, seems to be the pattern. At the same time, Paul seems to distinguish those who labour (spend themselves) in the word and doctrine (1 Tim 5:17), and urges that these men deserve special respect and ought to be paid since they have no time to earn a living (v. 18, see also Gal 6:6; 1 Cor 9:9–14; Mt 10:10 || Lk 10:7). These may be the 'pastor-teachers' of Eph 4:11 and possibly the 'angels' of the churches in Revelation 1–3. Such a leader must operate as 'one of and one with the elders,' but will inevitably give direction and vision to the church through his preaching and teaching ministry. He is not simply someone paid to work for the church; he is appointed to lead. As church members, it is in our interest to ensure that he and the other leaders can do so with joy (Heb 13:17).

David Green

Extension update

As you will probably have noticed work on the extension is still ongoing. The builder has been badly let down by some of his suppliers, particularly with the steelwork which will open up the new hall. This unfortunately will affect the lunch on Thanksgiving Day on the 18th though we still intend to have fellowship in the afternoon and details will be sent out closer to the time.



Shoebox Appeal

It is the time of year again for the Blythswood trust shoebox appeal. If anyone needs an empty shoe box there are some in the porch so please take what you need. The leaflets which are on the table, explains what is to be included inside the boxes. The leaflet should be secured to the top of the box, which should then be secured with elastic bands. When you have filled a shoebox please leave it under the table in the porch.

Steve Dawkins



YOUTH SQUASH DATES 2015/16

The dates in the previous newsletter were incorrect.

Please keep an eye on the noticeboard as the evenings will be advertised each month.

If you are at secondary school and want to go along, please contact Steve Burton.

Oct 17th	Aylesbury
Nov 14th	Chesham
Jan 23rd	Edlesborough
Feb 6th	Aylesbury
March 12th	Dunstable
April 16th	Gadebridge
May 14th	Chesham
June 25th	Tring
July 8-10th	Oakwood Youth Challenge
July 16th	Aylesbury



Anniversaries

Andy and Ruth would like to say a big Thank You to the church for the beautiful bouquet of flowers that was delivered to us on our 25th Wedding Anniversary.

Thank You also to all those who celebrated with us, and for all the lovely cards and kind presents that we were given - we felt truly blessed!!

Love Andy and Ruth



Our congratulations also go to David and Sarah Woodruff who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary during September.

AUTUMN MISSIONARY CONFERENCE
Friday 9 - Sunday 11 October 2015

Meet EMF missionaries from Italy,
Portugal and Spain



Missionaries to include Stefano & Jenny Mariotti (Italy), José & Virtudes Moreno (Spain), Antonio de Noia (Italy) and Filipe Rodrigues (Portugal).

Friday 9 October 7.30pm

This meeting will include reports from various countries and will be held at EMF Headquarters (Guessens, 6 Codicote Road, Welwyn AL6 9NB) and will be followed by light refreshments.

Saturday 10 October 11.30am and 2.30pm

Guest speaker: José Moreno - Saturday 2.30pm

Venue: Welwyn Evangelical Church, Fulling Mill Lane, AL6 9NH

Bring a packed lunch, light refreshments available

Sunday 11 October 6.30pm

At the evening service at Welwyn Evangelical Church, Stefano Mariotti will be preaching

FINANCE

DONATIONS

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

Barnabas Fund – support for Safe Havens	(from gifts)	£1,128
Barnabas Fund – support for Safe Havens	(from church funds)	£500
Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£60
Christian Witness to Israel	(from church funds)	£100
European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
Grace Baptist Mission – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski in Poland	(from gifts)	£25
University of Bedfordshire Christian Union – Bibles and Booklets etc	(from church funds)	£111

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

HARVEST THANKSGIVING GIFTS

As an expression of our thankfulness for the continuing faithfulness of our God in providing for all our needs, we want to send monetary gifts at this harvest thanksgiving period for the work of **Caring for Life (CFL)**. Tim Snuggs and John Woodruff are on the staff.

Can we encourage you to support CFL **generously**. Please place your gifts in the envelopes provided (near the offering boxes) with 'CFL' on them and place them in one of the boxes during the next two months.

CFL is under some financial pressure at this time. They would appreciate extra help.

CUBAO DROP IN CENTRE CAMP

The Cubao Reformed Baptist Church will again be running a Drop In Centre Camp for the street people from 21st to 23rd October. This work was started by Matt Gamston and we have supported it for a number of years. There are 5 churches sharing the support each contributing £500.

Please pray for this camp: for safety, for no problems of any kind, for clear messages and above all for the work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of those who will be there.

DONCASTER RACES 2015



We thank the Lord so much for the many encouragements we received at Doncaster Races (9th - 12th September). There were six members of the team (Jim Henry, Steve Burton, Allan Peel, Roger Oldfield, Sue Drury and myself, Andy B), and all worked really well together. We were based at Doncaster Gospel Hall, which was within easy reach of both the town centre and the racecourse. As you will see from the record of people who were spoken to, we were in the town centre each afternoon (between noon and 3pm), then outside the racecourse (5-6.30pm).



Although the latter venue can be a very tough assignment, we all felt that there were some particularly blessed encounters, especially Kathy who spoke with Jim on the Friday. Many hundreds of tracts were also given out to the huge crowds as they left the course, (some rather worse for wear!), and it was encouraging that a few individuals stopped and asked questions about God and the Bible.



Apart from a few brief showers on the Saturday the weather was very good. There were many encouragements in the town centre, with lots of profitable conversations taking place. The most notable was with Tiana, who listened to at least two of the preachers, both on the Friday and again on the Saturday.



She also spoke for a long time to Allan on both days and seemed to be thinking things through very seriously.

We are very grateful for the support and fellowship of both Doncaster Gospel Hall and Doncaster Evangelical Church and we look forward to renewing that fellowship with them again next year, God willing.



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News from the foodbank (selected items from the Sept newsletter)

Stock levels

We are very well stocked with cereal and soup but do need more sponge puddings, sardines, sugar, and sweet and savoury treats.

Bags

I believe most of the major super-markets are either charging or about to introduce charges for carrier bags. When we distribute food from our distribution centres clients are given the food in carrier bags as for many of them it's the only practical way of getting the food home. At the moment we have a reasonable supply of carrier bags but this may become more difficult over the next few months. I suspect that, like us, many of you have stocks of carrier bags at the back of the cupboard. May I encourage you to donate some of these along with your regular food donations.

Tesco Collection

We have heard that the next Tesco collection will be on Saturday, 5th December.

Give as you live

We have recently joined this scheme - Please see details below. We would encourage as many of our supporters as are able to join the scheme to raise additional funds for us.

Raise a free donation for us when you shop instore at Sainsbury's!

@Give as you Live has partnered with Sainsbury's to bring you the prepaid Everyday Shopping Card - simply top it up online, shop at your local Sainsbury's and 4% of your upload will be donated to us without costing you a penny!

To request your prepaid Everyday Shopping Card visit:

<https://www.raisewithsainsburys.com/?cid=178842>

Caring For Life Supporters Day *Saturday 12th September*

By 10.30am with intermittent rain outside, the draughty agricultural barn was almost full as over 700 supporters from all over the UK gathered for a service. Led by Jonathan Parkinson, the CEO, it was a time of thanksgiving and praise, and included greetings from the numerous churches represented, and short reports from senior staff. Award certificates were presented individually to the beneficiaries and Pam Parkinson gave special thank you certificates to young fundraisers – some of them very young! Gayle, the Pastoral Director, highlighted a pressing problem; despite more people than ever on the farm projects there are three dozen needy people who cannot be helped at the moment. The purpose of CFL could not be more clearly stated – Sharing the love of Jesus is their only reason for existence. Unlike many other similar charities, CFL receive no government money, so they are completely free to promote a clear Biblical message in all their work. It was emphasised that without the prayer and sometimes sacrificial giving of its loyal supporters, CFL ministries could not continue.

During the sunny afternoon we were able to see and speak to the staff and beneficiaries as they worked on their projects. These included Art, Drama and Music, Equestrian activities, woodwork demonstrations, car mechanics, computer and media, amongst many other activities. We learnt all about what makes a healthy sheep! That was with a "sheep showing demonstration" – the agri team have started attending some agricultural shows, and have had the encouragement of winning rosettes. We discovered what was happening in the 'state of the art' greenhouse, and John Woodruff was enthusiastically taking money off as many people as he could!

It was a very encouraging day, when we as supporters, also felt a part of the amazing Caring for Life family. It was good to come together and again reflect and give thanks for what God has done at CFL during the past 28 years, and to seek His face to supply all their current and future needs

Book the date in your diary for next year, God willing - Saturday 10th September 2016.

Dunstable CFL Support Group. Our group is one of 43 spread all over the country. We meet once a quarter and the highlight is the informative and moving DVD produced especially for the meeting, which takes us "behind the scenes" and gives a special insight into the work. Everyone is warmly invited to join us. Our next meeting is Wednesday 11th November at 7.30.



Weymouth Beach Mission 2015

We thank God for all those who supported and helped with Weymouth Beach Mission this year. Over the two weeks we had a total of three staff members, sixteen volunteers – plus four children - working hard to reach out to holiday makers on the beach of Weymouth. We had great opportunities to share the good news on the beach, in the town, and inside four walls!

On the Beach!

We thank God that we were able to be on the beach every day, despite some days being overcast and even wet. Our highest number was 45 children our lowest number was 3 children. Whatever the numbers it was good to be able to be there to make friendships with the children and families whatever the numbers.



Mid-week of the first week of mission, while eating our lunch, we noticed a big crowd of Muslims coming onto the beach. Happily the Muslim children joined onto the tug of war and then they all came to our Holiday Special and stayed throughout the meeting. The story that afternoon was the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. We taught them that God will justify the sinner who looks to him by faith not the person who trusts in their own religious efforts. One of the team afterwards spoke to one of the children:

"H_____ is a boy from Redcliff, who joined us in the afternoon on the beach, after the activities he chatted. He had heard of Jesus, and I was able to explain that the bible is true and has not been changed, and that forgiveness can come through faith in Jesus's death on the cross paying the price for our sin."



When we could the team tried to go back to the families of the children who attended our meetings to build friendships with them. The efforts of the team paid off with various families coming back over the two weeks. One woman arrived at the end of week one with her daughter and was setting up near our pitch. She was struggling to set up a tent on the beach until one of the team went over to invite the

little girl to play and stayed with mum to help set the tent up. After then we saw the mum and daughter most days on the second week. By the end of the second week mum was joining in the quizzes and competitions with loads of enthusiasm!

One evening a week we have tried reaching out to the teenagers on the beach by going down and playing volleyball with anyone down there. After the match the team sought to get into spiritual conversations with the teens. Over the two weeks we built friendships with some German teens:

"...five German school kids aged 12-14 who joined in with our evening volleyball game on the beach. They were willing to chat for a bit afterwards, and are in England for two weeks with their school. Four of them left with OAM cards with the web address on so they can access Ultimate Questions in German."

In the town and on the prom!

Some evenings we were joined by local believers on the prom for open-air preaching. Though the first week was quiet on the sea-front, on the second week it was busier and we were able to have some good conversations.

One particularly good conversation wasn't during the open-air witness on the prom but in the town one morning. A lady stopped to listen to the preaching and spoke with the preacher afterwards:

*"In the morning open-air I spoke to **S_____** whose big question was, 'Why does God let good things happen to bad people?' We read Psalm 73 together and talked about the eternal destiny of the wicked. She opened up to me that she had been a victim of some horrible things in the past and felt that God was very distant from her. I shared with her about the woman with the bleed who had been hurt by the so called doctors of her day and how she was made whole by Jesus Christ and told Him her whole story. She admitted that she had never told the Lord Jesus her whole story but would go home and do it."*

In Doors!

Another opportunity the team is given over the two weeks is to help Bethany Hall with their weekly coffee morning outreach. The hall is located on the edge of the town centre and makes a good time to invite shoppers in for a coffee and chat. On the second week the team had some fantastic conversations with people who came into the building. One example is below:

*"**An older man** came into the hall for a lengthy time. It had been a year since his wife had died and he was obviously looking for company. He shared that he had once been in the Salvation Army as a young man but he left because he didn't that they said he shouldn't go to the cinema, etc. He shared about his beliefs in the spiritual world and we sort to speak to him about life after death and how the Lord Jesus Christ came to save us. He took a Sure of Heaven CD."*



Thank you again for your prayers and support. I would ask you to continue to pray for all those who came either to our beach meetings, coffee mornings, or who stopped at the open-air preaching. The seed has been sown and I simply ask you to engage in the hard work of praying over that seed!

CHURCH HOLIDAY Number 10

SIZEWELL HALL – 2015

Way back in 2006, it was decided that it would be good for the church to have an all age holiday. It would be an opportunity for the people of the church, plus their friends and families, to enjoy a time of fellowship, fun, learning and relaxation. I think it is fair to say that looking back to that first trip, it is amazing how much the holiday has changed and developed but also how so much of it has kept to the original idea and ethos of the holiday. That it would be a time when we could grow closer in our fellowship with one another and, above all, our relationships with God.

Over the years we have enjoyed some wonderful times together and I feel the Lord has greatly blessed this work in many ways. There have been lots of highlights down the years, far too numerous to mention, and the Holy Spirit has worked in the lives and hearts of many of those who have attended. As we set off on our tenth holiday at the end of the month we hope and pray that, once more, God will use this time to challenge us, to bring us closer in our walk with Jesus and unite us in our fellowship with one another.

Back in 2006 we went to the now defunct Herne Bay Court in Kent. Forty one people attended. Some endured the luxury of full board accommodation, and the best panacotta I have ever tasted, while others enjoyed the great outdoors and camped in the Courts grounds. We had a lovely time. The camping option has since been dropped and, in an attempt to keep the cost of the holiday down, we now try to book self catered accommodation. This not only means more people are able to come, it also means we can join together in preparing food as teams and in serving one another. It has become a real blessing to see our folk working together and I am hugely grateful to those who have prepared food and for organising and running the teams.

So, on Monday October 26th, a party of 68 will set off to Sizewell Hall in Suffolk and enjoy another opportunity for fun, teaching, a bit of work and a lot of fellowship just yards from the beach in a lovely old house with views of woods, deer and the sea. Our guest speaker is our former Pastor Ivan Watson and we look



forward to hearing him share the Word of God and meeting up again with Carol, Daniel and Anna. Sadly Peter is at University in Dublin so won't be able to join us.

Please remember us in your prayers, that we would have a real and true sense of the Lords guidance and blessing. That hearts would be challenged and lives changed.

Just going back to the number we have coming away with us, we originally had 80 people signed up and a waiting list as well! Sadly, quite a few people have had to drop out and replacements didn't materialise, therefore we can take up to a dozen more people. So, if you want to be the 69th person to come, let me know as soon as possible. I should be able to squeeze you in.

For more information, see either me or my fellow workers, Ruth Banton and Steve Burton.

Jeff Hewitt

DBC DIARY DATES - GOD WILLING

2015 OCTOBER		
Sun 4th	am & pm am 5.20pm 7.30	Ross Knight Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate YP at the Hewitts
Mon 5 —9th		Bible Exhibition
Tues 6th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Peter Jolly (Luton)
Wed 7th	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting
Fri 9th	1.00pm	Bumps & Babes (from Wed)
Sun 11th	am & pm	Trevor Thomas (Coventry)
Tues 13th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Rex Andrews
Wed 14th	7.30pm	Church members meeting
Thurs 15th	10.00am 2.00pm	Ladies Prayer Meeting Friends & Neighbours —Travels through America (Woodruffs)
Sat 17th	8.00am 7.30pm	Mens Prayer meeting Youth Squash (Aylesbury)
Sun 18th	am & pm pm	Phil Hill Thanksgiving
Mon 19th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study; Humanity Start of Life, When does life begin?
Tues 20th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: John Lodge (MERF)
Sun 25th	am & pm pm	Trevor Rimes Communion
Mon 26th — 30th		Church Holiday: Sizewell Hall
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: David Kight
Sat 1st	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 1st	am & pm am 5.20pm	Ian Flanders (GBM) Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Church members meeting

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

6th	Brian Rigby	UFM (speaker)
13th	Tony Townley	Friday Club (Scott)
20th	Rex Andrews	MERF (speaker)
27th	Peter Woodruff	Prayer Waves
3rd	Steve Burton	Roundwood Trust (Elaine)

Please forward items for the
NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 1st November
(Due to Church Holiday)
Thank you.

<p>'PRAY FOR US' Members preaching in other churches</p>

OCTOBER		
11th	Rex Andrews	Providence BC Bedford (am)
18th	Rex Andrews	Renhold BC (pm)
25th	Rex Andrews	Pidley BC (pm)

OCTOBER ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is
not convenient

Door

4th	Brian Rigby & Barbara Shipton
11th	Sarah Woodruff & Julia Ming
18th	Scott Mitchell & Matthew Woodruff
25th	Bethany Hewitt & Alex Marvin
1st	Scott Mitchell & Brian Rigby

Cleaning

5th	Jeff & Janette Cooke
12th	Bev & John Keble
19th	Hilary Green & Julia Ming
26th	Andy & Ruth Banton
2nd	Mike & Mina Power

Security

4th	Charlton Barnachea
11th	Andy Banton
18th	Jeff Cooke
25th	Jeff Hewitt
1st	John Keble

Flowers

4th	Janet Tucker
11th	Ann Weedon
18th	Barbara Shipton
25th	Marie Dawkins
1st	Sarah Woodruff

Creche

4th	Caroline & Beverley Kingham
11th	Margaret & Bev
18th	Sarah & Marie Dawkins
25th	Ruth & Emily
1st	Winnie & Julia

Refreshments

11th	Christine & Marie D
18th	Julia & Elaine
25th	Dawn & Michelle