

# 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

ST. MARY'S GATE  
DUNSTABLE  
BEDFORDSHIRE  
LU6 3SW

[WWW.DUNSTABLEBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.DUNSTABLEBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG)

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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
- 2.30pm 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](http://www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org)

## CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Monday to Saturday open 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Telephone 01582 601945

Email [books@christianbooks.uk.com](mailto:books@christianbooks.uk.com)

Website [www.christianbooks.uk.com](http://www.christianbooks.uk.com)

## Dear Friends

The December 'Dear Friends' article usually focusses on the birth of the Lord Jesus, and quite rightly so as this is the month when most of us celebrate the incarnation of our divine Saviour. However, on this occasion we are going to think very briefly about December being the end of the year.



Have you said to anyone yet, *'I can't believe we're in December already!'*? Or maybe, *'Can another year really have almost come to an end!'* Most of us will say something similar to this, as we usually feel that the years do seem to fly by, even to the extent that each one seems to pass more quickly than the one before. Of course, one of the positive things we can do at the end of the year is to look back and evaluate what kind of a year it has been, even if that may be a painful thing to do. We can ask ourselves a number of searching questions. Have we things for which we owe special thanks to the Lord? Have we known joys and sorrows? Have there been victories and defeats? Are there regrets and even feelings of shame? What has been really important to us through the year? And most importantly of all, where are we in our relationship with the Lord and in our service for Him?

A phrase that has often been in my mind recently is the last part of Genesis 6:9, "**Noah walked with God**". Not very seasonal perhaps, but nonetheless this is a phrase that is very appropriate and very challenging for all of us to think about. These words speak of Noah's relationship with God, which was a close one, and his service for God, which was wholehearted. Whatever others were doing or not doing, and most were living utterly vile lives, Noah had come to know the Almighty, and he experienced fellowship with Him.

As we look back at our own lives during another year that has almost passed, can we say the following, *'In 2016 I walked with God'*. Perhaps we can say that we did, but perhaps too we know that neither our devotion nor service was what it ought to have been. Was our love for Him so faint at times, and was our zeal for Him so lacking? Were there opportunities for witness and service that were missed? Maybe these are the questions that haunt us at the end of every year. And maybe we can't help wondering how many more years we will have to love and serve the Lord anyway.

Let us all be encouraged to remember that we have a very forgiving, loving and patient Heavenly Father. He wants to encourage us on, not to leave us in the doldrums. He wants us to know Him better and to serve Him better too. So however we view our pasts, let us determine, with the Lord's, help, to make full use of our futures, be they long or short. We can do very little about the quantity of our lives. Only the Lord knows how long we have left in this veil of tears. However, we can be very much involved in the quality of our lives. In fact, every new day we awaken is an opportunity to live as Noah did, and love, worship, obey and glorify the God who has called us to walk with Him. So may our prayerful desire for 2017 be just like Noah of old - we will walk with God! What a privilege that will be, and what a responsibility that will be too. And just in case there is anyone reading this who hasn't started to walk with God yet, can I urge you to turn from your sin and trust in God's wonderful Son, who came to this earth to die in the place of sinners just like you! Then you too will be able to walk with God in 2017.

*Andy Banton*

## Book Discussion

The next book that we will be using for discussion on Feb

14th is "A Faithful Church Member" by Joel Beeke. It is only a short book but very helpful, in which we are reminded from Ephesians 4: 10 - 16 that membership in the church is all about Christ and the 5 chapters deal with Christ's Word, His person, His people, serving for Him and growing in His image. There are also three questions at the end of every chapter which examine what it means to be a faithful member of the body of Christ in each of these areas in the (i) personal, (ii) public, and (iii) practical dimensions of our lives.

Twenty five books will be available in the foyer shortly and the bargain price is £2.50 for the first 25 takers.

There are other books with a similar theme which you could put on your Christmas list - for example:-

What is a Healthy Church Member? (9Marks series)  
Priority One by Josh Hooker (recommended recently by Mostyn Roberts)  
From Embers to a Flame by Harry Reeder

Why not spoil yourself this Christmas?

Thanks

Brian

Mary Coleman's new address will be

Flat 15, Priory View  
Church Street  
Dunstable  
LU5 4FG

Mary's phone number will be changing



PILGRIMS'  
FRIEND  
SOCIETY

Join us for a  
**Christmas Coffee Morning**  
on: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
at: 23 Hillson Close  
Marston Moretaine MK43 0QN  
10:00 - 12:00 01234 768758

### Grace Baptist Mission Annual Meetings – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016

David and I went to represent Dunstable Baptist Church, and it was good to meet with so many of the people we know from other churches. We attended the business meeting when the Council, Officers and Trustees were elected, and the Annual Report was presented by Daryl Jones. He stressed that we were in uncertain times, but reminded us to be encouraged that in all ways and at all times our God is sovereign. We remembered the passing into Glory of the missionary Roger Cook. Apart from Keith Charlton working with UFM OneHundredFold, no new missionaries were introduced to the churches. It was also a concern to us to hear that, with annual income reducing, the reserves were being relied on to cover the budgeted expenses.

After lunch we went to attend some of the small meetings when the different missionaries gave presentations of their work. David went to hear Keith Charlton and Andrew Cook of the Radio team; and also to hear Nicola Edkins working among the Asian communities in North West England. I heard Paul Guttridge speak of his work, as the General Secretary of the IFES movement, with students in Kazakhstan. At present there are small teams in only three cities in this vast country, and many cities do not have a student CU. He was encouraged to have two new student workers this year. Please pray for God's sustaining grace for him, his wife Solveig and their two young boys as family life is hard when the temperature drops to -28°. I also heard Aries Liboro who is a pastor in Valenzuela City, Metro-Manila in the Philippines. Working amongst the poor communities of Malinta in northern Manila, he spoke of his great encouragement that 100 children regularly attended their vacation Bible school, but it was then really discouraging when church members, who were beginning to grow spiritually, left to seek a better life abroad. Please remember Aries, Jodith and their two young children in prayer.

During the final meeting we heard from two pastors of their church experience in sending missionaries and supporting them in their work. Jason Murfitt, working along the Amazon River in Brazil, said that we were all either "goers" or "senders" joined by prayer. GBM is a family of churches partnering together to support missionaries in world mission. Closing a challenging day, Luke Jenner, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Halifax, spoke from 2 Timothy 2:1-10 and the realities of saying to God "Here am I, send me." A real commitment to hardship was required as well as spiritual strength and faithfulness. All of us, where ever we work for God, will get hurt and tired because God has something better for us. Remember the glorious present status of Jesus – risen from the dead. Jesus sustains and reigns. He has more than enough resources for us.

Sarah Woodruff

## ***DROP-IN CAMP 2016***

Every year, by God's grace, the benevolent ministry of Cubao Reformed Baptist Church (CRBC) – Christian Compassion Ministries (CCM) – together with all its partners, conducts a Drop-In Camp intended especially for the street people who regularly attend at CRBC for the Drop-In Centre meeting every Thursday evening, and Bible Study every Monday evening.

The 2016 camp was held from October 19-21, and we are thankful to the Lord for inspiring us and teaching us through His Word during this camp. We went this year to Jala-Jala in the province of Rizal, far away from the crowded streets of Cubao in which most of our campers reside. We had 83 campers, including families and children, and excluding the 29 volunteers from CRBC, Grace Ministerial Academy (GMA) and other CCM staff.

On the whole, the three-day camp went well, with full participation from the campers in each activity we facilitated. The camp committee made renewed efforts to be innovative when it came to the camp programs and activities, with the aim being that the camp would be exciting and engaging for the campers, and bring glory to God. The campers enjoyed the serenity of the place, appreciated Creation around them, and enjoyed the food and activities provided. They were eager to participate in every activity – the preaching sessions, workshops, outdoor and indoor games.

One severe incident did occur only a few hours into the camp on the first day which was upsetting to all.



**Ronaldo Palmere**  
pictured prior to leaving  
Cubao for the campsite

One of our campers, **Ronaldo Palmere**, became very suddenly ill, fighting for his life. We brought him to the hospital immediately, but despite the best efforts of doctors and accompanying health professionals, he did not recover and was pronounced dead the next day, October 20, 2016. The cause of death was given as cardiogenic shock. Those volunteers who rushed him to the hospital were very much affected, but we know it is the Lord Who gives life and takes away according to His good purpose; and His providence and sovereignty is over all.

Despite Ronaldo's sudden death, the camp needed to go on. As above, most campers were sad after hearing the news of Ronaldo's death, especially those who had known him for a long time. We looked to



**Team Moses**

God for strength and support, and every group leader reminded those in their group during devotion that our life here on Earth is temporary, and of the need to come to God in repentance through Jesus Christ while there is time.

The camp was blessed of God, and we are thankful to Him for His powerful Word, and His grace and mercy. One of the campers, a 64yo lady, provided an encouraging answer to a question asked during group devotion. The question was, 'Who is Jesus Christ?' This lady answered, 'He is our Saviour from hell'; and she went

on to emphatically emphasise, 'We are sinners, need repentance and the only way to God is Jesus Christ.'

One of the camp activities was our Fun Night – this was a time for the showing of talents and creativity in various arts and disciplines. The campers were guided by their leaders to be able to deliver good presentations during the evening – everyone was surprised by the unexpected talents of some campers. The singing, dancing and acting talents on display were thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Our theme for this camp was **'The Grace of God Has Appeared'** (Titus 2:11- 13). During the preaching sessions, our speaker emphasised the grace of God in every aspect of human life. Special focus was given to sinners' need for salvation from the coming judgement intended for those who do not repent of their sins.



**Team Luke during Fun night**

From the bottom of our hearts we are thankful for the partners who support and have supported this ministry. Only God can repay you for your endeavours, various supports and your prayer.

As we seek to fulfil our Lord's Commission to bring the Gospel to all people, we hope and pray that this group of marginalised street people in our community will come to knowledge of Christ for themselves, repent of their sins and receive the gift of salvation through the mercy of our

Sovereign and Heavenly Father, and store up for themselves eternal treasure.

### **SOME PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN DURING CAMP**



**INSPECTION OF PERSONAL BELONGINGS FOR SECURITY PURPOSES**



**AWAITING THE ASSIGNMENT OF SEAT NUMBERS**



**INSIDE THE BUS**



**CHILDREN'S ORIENTATION TO CAMP**

Prepared by:

Frederick Gudin  
Social Work Assistant

## **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.

## **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 (except for those for the four missions we support which will be reported in January):

Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£90
European Mission Fellowship (EMF) in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
Grace Baptist Mission – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski in Poland	(from gifts)	£25
Grace Baptist Mission – General Fund	(from church funds)	£125
Support for the North West District Squashes for 2016-2017	(from church funds)	£125

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

# DBC DIARY DATES—GOD WILLING

2016 DECEMBER		
Sun 27th	am & pm	Robert Strivens
Tues 29th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Robert Lightowler (CPR)
Wed 30th	1.00pm	Bumps & Babes
Thur 1st	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting for Pastor (Snuggs)
Sat 3rd	11.00am 7.30pm	Open air in The Quadrant Youth Squash (Dunstable)
Sun 4th	am am 5.20pm pm	David Green Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate Barry King
Tues 6th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Mark Knight
Wed 7th	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting
Thur 8th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours; Ashton St Peter's School visit
Fri 9th	2.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Pastor (Broughton)
Sun 11th	am & pm	Martin Loughbrough
Tues 13th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Andy Banton
Wed 14th	1.00pm 8.00pm	Bumps & Babes Prayer Meeting for Pastor (Rigby)
Thurs 15th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 17th	8.00am	Men's Prayer meeting
Sun 18th	am & pm pm	Andy Banton Carol Service (AM) Communion
Mon 19th	2.30pm 7.30pm	Prayer Meeting for Pastor (Townley) Ladies Bible Study
Tues 20th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Sun 25th	am pm	Steve Burton Tony Townley
Tues 27th	7.30pm	General Prayer Meeting
Sun 1st	am & pm am 5.20pm	Barry King Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate
Tues 3rd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Sat 7th	11.00am 3.00pm	Open air in The Quadrant Church Social

**'PRAY FOR US'**  
**Members preaching in other churches**

DECEMBER		
11th	Rex Andrews	Pidley BC Carol Service (pm)

## DECEMBER ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

### Door

27th Brian Rigby & Barbara Shipton  
4th Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming  
11th Sarah Woodruff & Scott Mitchell  
18th Brian Rigby & Scott Mitchell (am)  
25th John & Bev Keble

### Cleaning

28th Barnachea / Keble  
5th Snuggs / Banton  
12th Power / Mitchell  
19th Hewitt / Christine & Caroline  
26th Marie & Winnie / Woodruff

### Security

27th Frank Taylor  
4th David Weedon  
11th Matthew Woodruff  
18th Martin Wild  
25th Rex Andrews

### Flowers

27th Sarah Woodruff  
4th Dawn Hewitt  
11th Elaine Snuggs  
18th Janet Tucker  
25th Janet Tucker

### Crèche

27th Dawn & Barbara  
4th Ruth & Emily  
11th Caroline & Beverley  
18th Sarah & Elaine  
25th Margaret & Bev

### Refreshments

27th Winnie & Michele  
11th Ann & Janette  
18th Emily & Michele  
25th Christine & Tess

## Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

29th	Frank Taylor	CPR
6th	Tony Townley	Roundwood Trust Elaine Snuggs
13th	David Woodruff	GBM Prayer Waves
20th	Peter Woodruff	EMF

Please forward items for the  
JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER  
to Scott Mitchell  
[dunstablebaptist@gmail.com](mailto:dunstablebaptist@gmail.com)  
by TUESDAY 27th DECEMBER  
Thank you.