

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 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,

Image plays a big part in the attitudes of some people (and not only young people). What do I look like? Is my clothing and footwear in keeping with the latest fashion? How about my hair style? Is my outward appearance acceptable with my friends? Whilst it is right to be smart and modern what we look like is only part of the story. What about the 'inner man' seen only by God?

Man the Image of God

'Then God said "Let Us make man in Our image"' (Gen 1:26-27). The pronoun 'our' can be translated by the adverb 'as'. Man was to be as a living symbol of God to represent him in his power and glory as vice-regents on earth. He also was to love and obey God and reflect his moral, ethical and intellectual attributes. To do this, without compulsion, God gave Adam and Eve 'free will' - the ability to love and obey him freely and willingly.

Man the Damaged Image of God

Our first parents, enticed by Satan, sinned willfully by rejecting a wise command of God (*Gen 2:16, 3:1-6*) with catastrophic consequences for mankind. They lost the joy of their spiritual union with God and faced physical death (*Ezek 18:20*) and the harsh realities of life as 'fallen' people. A state that has passed to all mankind (*Rom 5:12*). Man's image as God's representative, was badly damaged, but not irretrievably. God had planned the restoration of his image in his fallen creature.

Christ the Image of God

The only way for men and women to be reconciled to God is through the giving of a perfect sacrifice 'to pay the price of sin' (*1 Cor 7:23*). Christ came as that perfect image of God (*Heb 1:3*), the only perfect man, in order to achieve God's wise, holy and loving purposes. The price to be paid was for Jesus to suffer the penalty for sin and disobedience by dying on the cross of Calvary. Now it is possible to be forgiven and reconciled to God by faith in Christ and all that he accomplished for those who trust him as Lord and Saviour (*Col 1:14*).

Man the Restored Image of God

It is God's purpose for believers to grow in the image and likeness of his Son - to become more like Jesus (*2 Cor 3:18; Rom 8:29*). Believers, by all the means God has given, are to '*put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him*' (*Col 3:10*). This putting on involves a personal walk with the Lord, to love, obey him and please him.

Ultimately, all true believers in Christ, one day, will be conformed to him for '*as we have born the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man*' (*1 Cor 15:49*). What joy to know that we shall be like our Lord - physically and morally (*1 Cor 15:50-57*). In view of this truth let us obey Paul's words, '*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord*' (v. 58). **By the way**, what image will you bear at the return of Christ 'the man of dust' or 'the Man of heaven'?

Giving for Missions and Relief in 2014

The gifts sent for missions and relief work during 2014 were as follows:

	Church Donations	Gifts + Tax
Andrzej Kempczynski in Legionowo with GBM	600	1843
Matt Gamston in Manila & Drop-in Camp with GBM		240
Roundwood Trust (Literature for E. Europe)	1,000	1908
Open-Air Mission	1,000	1871
EMF ISO Rogério Ramos	1,100	2071
Albanian Evangelical Mission	500	
Biblical Creation Ministries	500	
Christian Books	7,000	
Christian Witness to Israel	500	
ISO Tom Copperwheat in LA Avlesbury training	3,000	
CPR Ministries	500	
EMF - General Fund	500	
EMF ISO Emanuel Ralevic	100	
EMF Sines Church Painting	600	
EMF Sines Relief Fund	700	
Gaius Trust	500	
Gideons	500	
GBM - General Fund	500	244
GBM - Legionowo Rent	500	
GBM - Murfitts River Ministry	100	
GBM ISO Zimbabwe visits	100	
Grace Baptist Partnership	500	
ISO James Knight in London training	1,000	
London Theological Seminary (LTS)	740	
LTS - Robert Sheehan Fund	600	525
MERF	500	
Open-Air Mission - Bible Exhibition 2014	360	
Pilgrim's Friend Society	500	31
Pilgrim's Friend Society IMO Doris Tibbett		367
SASRA	500	115
UFM Worldwide - Jollys	500	
Wycliffe Bible Translators - Yaru Project	980	
Barnabas Fund - General Fund		30
Barnabas Fund - M/E children	500	
Barnabas Fund - Relief for Ebola	500	516
Caring for Life - General	600	1423
Caring for Life - ISO Tim Snuggs	1,000	
Christian Institute	800	
Foodbank Dunstable	660	
Affinity - 2014	200	
AGBC(SE) NW District	135	
Grace Baptist Trust Corporation	125	
TOTAL	30,500	11,184
GRAND TOTAL		41,684

Thank you for your gifts. We thank the Lord for His generosity to us and in particular for enabling us to give to help others. Let us praise Him and thank Him and look to Him both in our times of need as well as on behalf of others with greater needs than ourselves.

Finances for 2014

The overall situation for the Church finances in 2014 was as follows:

Income	£69,433
Expenditure	£66,141
Excess	£3,292

We thank the Lord for His help during the year. Our ministerial expenses were significantly lower again this year, and we made increased gifts to missions and relief during the first part of the year. We have the anticipated expense of an extension to our hall, incorporating refurbished toilets, as well as the expense of a pastor that we would like to be led to and appoint.

One of the factors that has helped our income in recent years is Gift Aid (£9,211 received in 2014 including claims from cash gifts of £20 and less, eligible under the new Small Donations scheme). It is now easy for you (if you are a tax payer) to give and for the Church (and other charities) to benefit from the tax you paid on your gift. If you have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration for your giving to the Church, and are able to do so, please speak to David Woodruff (in confidence).

If you give regularly via your bank or building society you may not have reviewed your level of giving for a while. Please prayerfully assess whether you need to make a change to your giving in line with how the Lord has provided for your income over recent months. This may be to increase it or decrease it. Gift Aid can be used in a flexible way.

We would thank all who have made donations over the last year to the work of the Church and would thank the Lord for all that He has given to us. We pray that He will continue to provide for all our needs, spiritual and material, for the Lord's work here in Dunstable, over the coming year.

Other Donations

During the last month the following amounts have been sent (or are about to be sent) from gifts received for the work and from church funds, as follows, with thanks to all those who gave:

EMF – in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
GBM – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski	(from gifts)	£25



REPORTS

Church Social 2015

I have been coming to the church social for thirty years and over that time although my circumstances change, one thing always remains the same, I have fun! I believe our God wants us to have fun.

It is an event I look forward to, perhaps it's simply that I like silly games, but I think it runs a bit deeper than that. For me it is a chance to play fun games without crudity, food and drink without booze, and fellowship with others who like to have fun too, but not in the way the world so often associates with fun.

I have attended many times with the eager anticipation of young children accompanying me, this year I came alone, but then we are never too old to laugh.

Scott did us proud and provided a lovely variety of games and quizzes, Rachel provided tasty food - thank you to you both from all of us who were there.

Christine

Dear Friends

I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to you all, for the love, good wishes, cards, gifts and kindness shown to me on the occasion of my 90th Birthday.

I was quite overwhelmed by it all - and give a particular thank you to my dear friends David and Ann, who made much of it possible by providing the meeting place, and wonderful food for many of my Christian Friends.

It is a great blessing to me, to be a part of such a loving, caring Christian family.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Old Eric Eustace

INFORMATION

AMENDMENT TO THE CHURCH YEAR BOOK 2015

Please note that the phone number in the yearbook for the Barnachea's is incorrect. Their correct number is 01582 533663.

GBM Hothorpe Mission Holiday 2015

The holiday begins with an evening meal on Sunday 2nd August and finishes with coffee on the morning of Friday 7th August. Although there are some changes to previous years, we will still be having the usual morning Bible studies, which this year will be led by Geoff King from Bury, evening missionary meetings with time between for fellowship, trips out and a game or two. All meals are provided as usual.

Easter Holiday Club

We are planning to run the usual two full-days Club (Crafts & Football training) on Monday 30th & Tuesday 31st March. Steve will be leading the older Group & Andy will be leading the younger ones. We will be looking at the following this year:

- 1) The Trial(s) - People who Hated Jesus.
- 2) The Crucifixion - People who murdered Jesus.
- 3) The Resurrection Part 1 - People who Saw Jesus (Disciples).
- 4) The Resurrection Part 2 - People who Doubted Jesus (Thomas).

Please email Andy & Ruth asap if they are willing to help for either one or both days, & kindly say if you would prefer to help with crafts or football. It would be really great if you were willing to give up your time to serve the Lord in this way. It is a terrific gospel opportunity, and also, many hands make light work. Many thanks.

The accommodation will be in the new 'Woodlands' complex, with a small number of overflow bedrooms in the main building if required. You will see from the enclosed flyer that the 'Woodlands' comprises a main building which includes lounge, meeting and dining rooms with the bedrooms in lodges and snugs surrounding the main 'Woodland' building. All bedrooms are en-suite. The snugs contain two double bedrooms with a shared lounge (with a possible sofa bed) and kitchenette. The lodges consist of 6 en-suite double/family bedrooms. Please note that single bookers will need to be willing to share a room as all the single occupancy rooms are already booked.

See the noticeboard for more information on the venue and prices

Foodbank update

On Saturday 21st February the first collection of the year is due to take place at Sainsbury's Dunstable. As usual I intend to break this down to 2 hour sections starting at 10.00, 12.00 and 14.00. Could you please let me know if you are available for this collection.

I have two other dates for collections which are 28th March and 30th May. Could you please mark these dates in your diary.

Ian Ellis (i_s_ellis@hotmail.com)

December

We have been very busy in December, supplying just over 4000 meals in the month. We were particularly busy in the weeks starting 8.12 and 15.12. Overall we are running at 21% above the equivalent numbers for last year. In addition to our normal food boxes we have given out toys and Christmas extras

We have given a van load of food to the Salvation Army in Dunstable to go towards their hampers for local people and we have sent a shipment of cleaning and hygiene products to the Leighton Buzzard Homeless Shelter.

We are very grateful for the extra hard work you have all put in to allow us to keep the service running over this very busy period.

Stock

Our current total stock remains healthy at 7920kg - largely as a result of the December Tesco collection and a number of Christmas donations.

Shortage items are: Tinned Tomatoes and Small Packets of Instant Mashed Potato.

NEWS FROM ROGERIO RAMOS IN SINES, PORTUGAL

Dear All,

Subjects for prayer:

- On February 14 we will have a lunch to celebrate the beginning of the year, where some people will be invited, is always an opportunity to evangelise.
- Continue to pray for Pedro Silva and his wife while away from our congregation. We continue to cherish them so much. Pedro and Paula are addicts in drugs and are cooling in faith; it seems that this is one of those moments that they are back to drugs.
- Our request for a room to make the conference was accepted. We have the confirmation of the preachers. Pray that we may have the human and monetary resources so that we can run the conference. We need people to help us with this conference. Pray that such support can appear. The conference will be on 6 June, the theme will be "The God that doesn't exist".
- The outside works of the church began. We've had some difficulties with the council. Some situations are not safeguarded for the best of the church. Pray that in the end all is well.

Christian Greetings,

Rogério

New Care Co-ordinator - Sarah Woodruff

Please let me know whenever you would like to share the need for help with care and support for yourself or for any others in our church and congregation, or for those who are family or friends. Also please tell me if you are regularly visiting anyone so that you can be our first call for information should a concern for that person arise. I will also be co-ordinating Hospital and Care Home visiting. If you would like to be more involved with any aspect of our church's care work please get in touch with me. I will share information you give me with Ron and, only if requested, with those at the Tuesday prayer meeting or via a 'Care Co-ordinator's Update' which will be e-mailed or hand delivered to church members. "Thank you" to Barbara for all her excellent work overseeing our church's care and support needs for many years. I hope to be able to draw on her experience.

DBC DIARY DATES - GOD WILLING

2015 FEBRUARY		
Sun 1st	am & pm am 5.20pm 7.30pm	James Cater (Reading) Communion Prayer Meeting for Pastor YP at the Hewitts
Tues 3rd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: John Keble
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Leaders meeting
Sat 7th	11.00am 7.30pm	Open air in the Quadrant Youth Squash (Aylesbury)
Sun 8th	am & pm	Tim Martin (Wolverton)
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: David Green
Thu 12th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours—John Crawley (Dunstable in Bloom)
Sun 15th	am & pm pm 7.30pm	Derek French (Abingdon) Communion YP at the Kebles
Mon 16th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study Study 21 1 Cor 13:1-13
Wed 18th	7.45pm	DFEC Joint Prayer Meeting Langdale
Sat 14th	8.00am	Men's Prayer Meeting
Sun 22nd	am & pm	Daryl Jones (GBM)
Tues 24th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Thu 26th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link Steve Burton
Sun 1st Mar	am & pm	David Chapman (Tring)
Tues 3rd Mar	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Rex Andrews

'PRAY FOR US'		
Members preaching in other churches		

FEBRUARY		
1st	Rex Andrews	Providence BC (pm)
15th	Rex Andrews	Renhold BC (pm)
	Steve Burton	South Craven
1st Mar	Steve Burton	Castlefields (Derby)

FEBRUARY ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

1st Frank Barnachea & Joy Broughton
8th David & Ann Weedon
15th John & Elaine Snuggs
22nd Winnie Jacques & Dawn Hewitt
1st Ray Marvin & Beverly Kingham

Cleaning

C 2nd Christine Wild & Caroline Norman
H 9th Jeff & Dawn Hewitt
C 16th Sarah & Matthew Woodruff
H 23rd Marie Casey & Winnie Jacques

Security

1st CJ Barnachea
8th Charlton Barnachea
15th Andy Banton
22nd Jeff Cooke
1st Jeff Hewitt

Flowers

1st Jenny Jacquier
8h Joy Broughton
15th Bev Keble
22nd Mary Coleman
1st Rachel Mitchell

Please forward items for the
MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY
Thank you.

TUESDAY PRAYER TIME LEADERS & SUBJECTS

3rd Rex Andrews Gideons (Jenny Jacquier)
10th Brian Rigby TNT (Steve Burton)
18th DFEC Meeting Langdale 7.45pm
24th Scott Mitchell GBM Prayer Waves
3rd(Mar) John Keble LTS