

# Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2016

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
- 2.00pm 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](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)

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Dear Friends,

### **Amazing achievement**

There has been considerable excitement among the scientific community at the recent arrival of Major Tim Peake at the International Space Station (ISS). What an amazing achievement to build a space station that is orbiting 250 miles above the earth and that supports human beings who are able to 'space walk', and in such a hostile environment. We have seen the beauty and wonder of the stars and the Earth, the 'blue planet' rotating on its axis, beamed to us from the station to our TV's.

Undoubtedly the building of the space station, populated by human being, and the ongoing discovery of amazing information about the universe is indicative of the power and intellect our Creator has given to us. This is true, also, of many other scientific achievements.

### **Awesome achievement**

Whilst all man's accomplishments are to be admired they pale into insignificance when we consider what our Creator has 'achieved' through his infinite power, wisdom, knowledge and understanding (*Psalm 147:5*). The Genesis account of creation provides a powerful witness to the attributes of God when we read how he created all things, including the Sun and the Moon. In a succinct phrase the writer states that the Creator '*made the stars also*' (*Gen 1:16*). This is a simple and massive understatement when we consider the extent of the universe and the billions of galaxies containing trillions of stars. God knows not only the number of stars but he has named them all (*Psalm 147:4*). Surely we can say with the Psalmist '*The heavens declare the glory of God*' (*Gen 19:1*).

Everything in the universe; its immensity, beauty and wonder, has the signature of a great Designer. All the laws of physics and chemistry and the properties of the cosmos including our own solar system indicate powerfully that life on earth did not happen by itself but was planned.

At the end of the age all who have refused to acknowledge the existence of the Creator will be objects of his wrath and judgment, for creation itself is a profound witness to his power glory and wisdom - powerful evidence that should cause people to seek after God.

*'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so they are without excuse'* (*Rom 1:18-20*).

Paul continues to warn those who wilfully reject God and suppress the truth concerning him in the face of such an overwhelming manifestation that creation provides of his existence (*v.21-23*).

Whilst we admire the accomplishment of men let us also believe in the existence of the God who has made these endeavours possible by granting us the intellectual capacity to apprehend just a small part of his amazing universe. May God also, in the light of creation and our own deep spiritual needs, grant us the grace to seek after him with all our hearts (*Psalm 27:4*), for those who truly seek after him will surely find him (*Mat 7:7*).

**RS**

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## *The Church Social*

On Saturday 23rd Jan a number of us met for the church social. This was an afternoon of fun and games and much laughter conducted in the chapel. We wrestled with balloon towers (who could make the tallest free standing structure); a game which some refused to give up on even though the end had been declared! We frantically searched through the local newspaper to be the first team to find a desired article, tested our brain cells to the limit with assorted cryptic written teasers, stretched our vocal cords coming up with songs with a designated word contained within them, (some of us pushed and shoved each other in the true spirit of competition in order to be the first!) and we stood in lines with our eyes closed squeezing each other's hands in an effort to get our squeeze down the line before the opposing team. After all this strenuous activity we enjoyed a pie and mushy peas tea followed by some scrumptious deserts. A huge Thank you to Scott and all those involved in organising a most enjoyable afternoon.

Marie Dawkins

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## *A letter from Rogerio Ramos, Sines, Portugal who sends his greetings to the church*

This last months have been very difficult for us as family. Sonia health problems and now my young boy Lucas. I'm sending some prayer points that also already send to EMF.

Prayer subjects:

- We are still struggling with all the difficulties that we have to count in this life. Sonia Back are still a problem, there are days she cannot do much. Se also waiting to receive other exams but is nothing to do with her back. Can be other complication. We hope in the Lord that will be nothing to hurry. As for my youngest boy Lucas we came to knowledge that he have a small problem in his heart, the doctor said is nothing for us to be hurry, he will be also doing some exams to see what it is. Is has been some difficult mouths, but we are grateful for God's love and for your prayers.
- I'm in contact for a place for our next conference in June the 4th. The theme this year will be "Imitators of Christ". Do pray that we can arrange a place, also pray for all the financial support need to do this conference. This year will have someone coming from the Azores.
- João a young man form Angola as come regular on Sundays meetings and also as brought 2 young women with him and little children. João is studying and Portugal and next year will be back to Angola.
- We are know some people that in the past we not so involved in the church. Odete is more present in church activities. She wonderful Lady. Do pray for her, she dealing with some vision problems, she waiting for surgery.
- In March a group from the church will be to the "Fiel Conference". Last year we had a good time there. This year I hope to take with me 10 people.
- Silverio went out of his position of elder in the church because of his health problems. Pray for him and his wife Flora.
- With all the doctor bills, and the new school of Marcos do pray that we able to have financial support to deal with all of this.

Christian Greetings;  
Rogério



### *An insight on the holiday experience in the Philippines 2015-2016*

Dear all,

Brothers and sisters in the Lord,

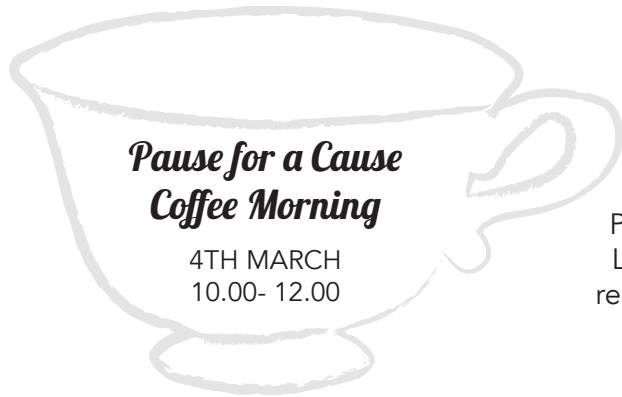
This was something new as I have not been back there in the Philippines for a Christmas and new year festive celebration.

My last recollection of this festive season was in 1979 and I was just 15 years old. I've been back before on different occasion mainly some sad passing away of relatives. I sort of knew what to expect but the intensity of it all overwhelmed me, and I'm sure it was not just me but the rest of us, Tess, Charlton and Chermagne. When we arrive we thought the best idea was to eat and have some the well known (Halo-Halo). No its not the game "halo", this was some ice cold fruity desert served in a glass with jellies and sweetened fruit and sweet paste yam, beans, banana slices topped with ice cream and evaporated milk poured on the top. This was a meal in itself, at 4am half an hour after arrival in Manila. We felt this was necessary so that we could cool off after being hit by temperatures that feels like after a winter walk then you go in a house fully heated and you're dying for a cold drink. I was tempted to say, I'm home at last (Philippines) but it didn't feel that way at all, hours later I felt like going back to England, I was home sick (weather wise).

We were able to visit CRBC and met pastor Brian and Nocy Ellis that was on the last Sunday that we were there, that was the third week. Our first week was with family and relatives, second week recovery period high blood pressure and other illnesses like coughs that myself, Tess still suffers from, although I believe it is now clearing up. CRBC is a big place it can probably take 200 people comfortably it is set at a higher level than the road which means they are safe when the rainy season floods the road level, and they have a large eating area in the lower part of the building to the side a it has roof to shade them from the soaring heat of the Sun. Access to CRBC is good since they are near the main road and there are sign pointing as to where it can be found, once your in the road where it is, it can't be missed it's bigger than DBC. But of course it is the word preached that matters and not the size of the building and yes the Gospel is preached at CRBC.

The festive experience was good, although I wish it was a wee bit cooler, 20'c to 30'c in the morning and a little bit more after noon time, now is it hot or is it really hot? Well that's not even summer time! I need to be a bit fit and not fat next time I go.

Frank Barnachea



## *Pause for a Cause Coffee Morning*

4TH MARCH  
10.00- 12.00



Please join us at 37 Norcott Close, Dunstable LU5 4AH. During the morning we will show a recent DVD of their work. Do bring your friends along. Donations will be very welcome.

***John and Elaine***

## Christian Prison Resourcing

### Supporters Day

16th April • 3pm - 6pm

Buffet tea & refreshments included  
Elmstead Baptist Church • BR7 5EW

## *Banner Youth Conference University of Leicester*

*8-11 April 2016*

### Believing and Doing

Speakers: Paul Levy, Jeff Kingswood, Ian Hamilton

This excellent weekend conference is open to Young People over the age of 16.

Please see Peter Woodruff about a church special offer and more information. More

details can also be found at:  
[www.banneroftruth.org/uk/events/2016-uk-youth-conference/](http://www.banneroftruth.org/uk/events/2016-uk-youth-conference/)

## *EMW TimeOut Weekend Bryn-y-Groes, Bala*

*4-6 March 2016*

This weekend has been organised by the EMW (Evangelical Movement of Wales) Aber TimeOut group for anyone aged between 25 and 45. This will take place at the EMW Bryn-y-Groes Conference Centre in Bala, North Wales.

The speaker is James Sercombe (Crickhowell Evangelical Church).

More details and booking arrangements can be found at:

[www.emw.org.uk/events/holidays/timeout-weekend/](http://www.emw.org.uk/events/holidays/timeout-weekend/)  
&

[www.facebook.com/timeoutaber](http://www.facebook.com/timeoutaber)

Please speak to Peter Woodruff for more details and travel arrangements.

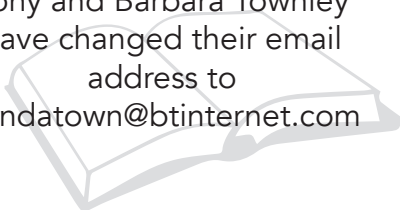
You may also be able to stay over until Monday, if that is more convenient.

Peter Woodruff

# INFORMATION

## *Update to Address Book*

Tony and Barbara Townley have changed their email address to  
[bandatown@btinternet.com](mailto:bandatown@btinternet.com)



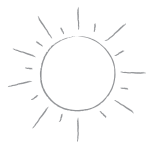
## ***Church Heating***

A new heating controller has been installed, which is now being programmed by John Keble rather than Peter Woodruff. Please speak to John about any heating requirements.

## ***Congratulations...***

...to Beth & Allan who got engaged on the 29th December





## CHURCH HOLIDAY • LETTON HALL

The Church holiday for 2016 is now confirmed for Letton Hall in Norfolk. For those of you who aren't aware of it, some of the holiday details are as follows;

- We are returning to the lovely Letton Hall, Norfolk – a big old country house with lovely grounds and its own go kart track!!
- We are going from Monday May 30th to Friday June 3rd. This is half term week and the schools are closed so we will be able to accommodate all families
- Everybody is welcome to come. There are no age restrictions. As in the past, guests from outside of DBC are welcome
- We will have our usual mix of fellowship, teaching and fun
- We will be looking after ourselves again so there will be copious amounts of excellent food, lovingly prepared by teams of hardworking holiday makers. This year we intend to reduce or possibly even eradicate the amount of work done by our senior residents
- You will have plenty of time to explore the beautiful Norfolk countryside and we have already arranged for two sessions of karting
- We are due to announce our guest speaker in the next week or so
- For something different, we are going to have no work for the over 70's!!

The cost will be £95 each with a concession price of £47.50 for those aged 4 to 12. If you are under 4 you go free. You will need to make your own way there and we will operate a car pooling system to help those without transport. You will have to pay for the karting if you take part.

Letton Hall apply a minimum number of 46 full paying adults. The maximum we can take is 72 although this is reduced due to fitting families into the rooms available so if you want to come, let me know as soon as possible. I will also need a £20 deposit per person as we have had to pay a large deposit to Letton and will also need further payments in the next month or so.

For more details please speak to Ruth, Steve or me.

Jeff Hewitt.

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### *Greetings from Cromer*

Thank you for the flowers and many cards wishing us well in our new home.

Bedfordshire to Norfolk, not far, but so different in character. Life has a lot slower pace here and at present the town is quiet. We have discovered the coastal effect: Cromer can have different weather from villages just a little further inland.

Walking to Cromer Baptist Church on Sunday is a joy, only 6 minutes away, and in the company of others going to the evangelical C of E. The congregation at the Baptist Church is small, but very friendly.

Byways, our home, needs attention and we have been busy arranging visits of various professionals to replace the bathroom, level the floors, build wardrobes, remove trees and build a garage. After many calls we were able to arrange for BT to connect our line to the exchange. Our number is 01263 512019.

Please to see you if you are in the area.

Chris and Jenny Jacquier

# FINANCE

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## **Giving for Missions and Relief in 2015**

The gifts sent for missions and relief work during 2015 were as follows:

	Church Donations	Gifts + Tax/SDS
Andrzej Kempczynski in Legionowo with GBM		1870
Roundwood Trust (Literature for E. Europe)	100	1582
Open-Air Mission		1773
EMF ISO Rogerio Ramos		1870
Albanian Evangelical Mission	100	
Christian Books (donation to cover their 2014 deficit)	6,250	
Christian Witness to Israel	100	
CPR Ministries	400	
CU Mission Support	50	
EMF - General Fund	100	
Gaius Trust	100	100
Gideons	100	160
GBM - General Fund		100
GBM - Legionowo Rent	500	
GBM - ISO Andrew Cook - Radio Ministry	100	
GBM - ISO Ian Flanders - Radio Ministry	100	
GBM - ISO Daryl Jones - Mission Coordinator	100	
ISO James Kight in London training	3,000	
London Theological Seminary (LTS)	240	
MERF	110	125
Open-Air Mission - Bible Exhibition 2015	360	
Pilgrim's Friend Society		128
SASRA	100	213
UFM - ISO Peter & Carolyn Jolly	100	
University of Bedfordshire Freshers Outreach	111	
Wycliffe Bible Translators - Yaru Project	980	
Zimbabwe Partnership Trust - Training Visit Support	100	
Barnabas Fund - Nepal	500	937
Barnabas Fund - Safe Havens	500	1127
Caring for Life - General		1283
Caring for Life - ISO Tim Snuggs	1,000	
Christian Institute	300	
Cubao Reformed Baptist Church Extension	500	
EMF Sines Relief Fund	500	
Foodbank Dunstable	660	
Keech Hospice	200	
Local Charity	20	
Affinity - 2015	200	
AGBC(SE) NW District	125	
Grace Baptist Trust Corporation	130	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>17,836</u>	<u>11,268</u>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b><u>29,104</u></b>



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 2015**

The overall situation for the Church finances in 2015 was as follows:

Income	£57,108	
Expenditure	£100,432	(includes £64,474 payments for building work)
Net Payments	£43,324	

We thank the Lord for His help during the year. Our ministerial expenses were significantly lower again this year. We have had the expense of an extension to our hall, incorporating refurbished toilets and a new kitchen, with costs still to be paid at the year end. Also we anticipate 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 (£8,317 received in 2015 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:

Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£166
Christian Prison Resources – booklets for prisons*	(from church funds)	£260
EMF – in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
GBM – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski	(from gifts)	£25
Wycliffe Bible Translators Aru Project	(from church funds)	£125
Wycliffe Bible Translators Aru Project	(from gifts)	£187

\* In a letter from Brian Edwards we were invited to make a donation to supply a box of "Is it True? – Evidence for the Bible", a 44 page A6 booklet, for use in prisons.

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# DBC DIARY DATES - GODWILLING

2016 FEBRUARY		
Tues 2nd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting
Sat 6th	11.00am 7.30pm	Open air in the Quadrant Youth Squash (Aylesbury)
Sun 7th	am & pm am 5.20pm	Ray Peel Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate
Tues 9th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Wed 10th	1pm	Bumps & Babes
Thu 11th	2.30	Friends & Neighbours: Mark Knight
Sun 14th	am & pm	Allan Peel
Mon 15th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study: End of Life
Wed 17th	7.45pm	DFEC Joint Meeting: Langdale
Thu 18th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 20th	8.00am	Men's Prayer Meeting
Sun 21st	am & pm pm	Gary Brady Communion
Mon 22nd	7.30pm	Bookshop Committee Meeting
Tues 23rd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Keith Berry
Wed 24th	1pm	Bumps & Babes
Thur 25th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: Steve Burton
Sun 28th	am & pm	John Rimes

## TUESDAY PRAYER TIME LEADERS & SUBJECTS

2nd Scott Mitchell Gideons  
9th Mike Power Focus  
23rd Brian Rigby GBM Prayer Waves

Please forward items for the  
March 2016 NEWSLETTER  
to Scott Mitchell  
[dunstablebaptist@gmail.com](mailto:dunstablebaptist@gmail.com)  
by SUNDAY 21st Feb

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

FEBRUARY		
1-13th	Steve Burton	South Craven Bible Exhibition
1st	Andy Banton	Ashton Middle assembly
3rd	Andy Banton	Alexandra Road
4th	Andy Banton	Providence, Bedford
8 & 29th	Andy Banton	EMF
14th	Andy Banton Rex Andrews	(am) Potton BC (pm)
22-25th	Andy Banton	Deputation mtg, S Wales
28th	Steve Burton	Kings Langley

## FEBRUARY ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

### Door

7th Winnie Jacques & Dawn Hewitt  
14th Ray Marvin & Beverley Kingham  
21st Brian Rigby & Barbara Shipton  
28th Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming

### Security

7th Andy Banton  
14th Jeff Cooke  
21st Jeff Hewitt  
28th John Keble

### Flowers

7th Tess Barnachea  
14th Dawn Hewitt  
21st Caroline Hewitt  
28th Janet Tucker

### Refreshments

14th Christine & Marie D  
21st Julia & Elaine  
28th Dawn & Michele

### Cleaning

1st Andy & Ruth / Mike & Mina  
8th Scott & Rachel / Martin & Marie  
15th Christine & Caroline / Jeff & Dawn  
22nd Sarah & Matt / Marie & Winnie  
29th Frank & Tess / Em & Beth + YP

### Creche

7th Ruth & Emily  
14th tbc  
21st Janette & Dawn  
28th Caroline & Beverley