

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
APRIL

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

9.45 a.m.	Bible Class
9.45 a.m.	Prayer Meeting
10.30 a.m.	Morning Service + Sunday School (term time)
6.00 p.m.	Evening Service

Note: a crèche for under 5s is available during the morning sermon.

Refreshments are served after the morning service except 1st Sunday.

Communion – after the 1st Sunday morning and 3rd Sunday evening services.

7.15 p.m.	Church Fellowship Meeting (as announced)
7.45 p.m.	Young Peoples' Fellowship (1 st in month in home)

MONDAY

6.00 - 7.00 p.m.	Monday Kids Club (years 1-6)
7.30 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study (3 rd in month)

TUESDAY

9.15 - 11.00 a.m.	Toddlers
7.30 p.m.	Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

10.00 a.m.	Ladies Prayer Meeting in Home (3 rd in month)
2.30 p.m.	Friends and Neighbours (2 nd in month) (2.00pm in summer)
2.30 p.m.	Friends and Neighbours Link (4 th in month)

FRIDAY

7.30 - 9.00 p.m.	Focus (club for years 7-13)
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SATURDAY

8.00 – 9.00 a.m.	Men's Prayer Meeting (3 rd in month)
11.00 a.m.	Open-Air Ministry (1 st in month)
7.00p.m.	Social Group (as announced)
7.30p.m	Youth Squash (as announced)

OTHER MEETINGS – AS ANNOUNCED

For further information contact:

Church Secretary: Scott Mitchell (01582 703875)

CHURCH WEB SITE – www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org

CHURCH email – dunstablebaptist@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Mon. to Sat. 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Tel: 01582 601945

www.christianbooks.uk.com

email: books@christianbooks.uk.com)

Dear Friends

The Three Days of Easter

There used to be a programme on BBC 2 called 'Days that Shook the World'. The three days of Easter— Good Friday to Easter Sunday— are the most earth-shattering three days in history. If we think of Jesus' life on earth as a target, then his becoming a man is the outer ring, his ministry of preaching and doing miraculous signs is the next ring in, but his death and resurrection are the bullseye at the very centre. It is worth reminding ourselves why these events matter so much, not just in history but in our lives as Christians.

Friday: Hell on the cross

The authorities in Jerusalem did not want Jesus' crucifixion to spoil the Passover celebrations (John 19:31). Many people today won't want Jesus' crucifixion to spoil Easter. But Easter means nothing without the death of Jesus, however horrific the details. On the cross Jesus endured condemnation and punishment; physical and emotional agony; darkness (the sun stopped shining for 3 hours); abandonment by God (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). Beyond the indescribable physical suffering, Jesus experienced Hell itself: a place of punishment, anguish and separation from God, the blackest darkness. This is what our rebellion against God deserves, and this is what Jesus went through in our place. Golgotha is the place where we must face the consequences of our rejection of God, but it is also the place where we can find grace and mercy from God.

Saturday: A Day in Paradise

Jesus really died (Luke 23:46). His body was placed in a tomb (v. 53), but where did his soul go to? You may have heard it said that he 'descended into Hell,' but the opposite is true: he went to Paradise (Luke 23:43, 46). He went there because his work of atonement was finished (John 19:30). Just as God rested on the seventh day after His work of Creation, now Jesus rested on the seventh day after his work of Redemption. He did not need to go and rescue people from Hell because he had already done that. Those like the dying thief who have faith in Jesus go straight to be with him in Paradise. There is no Purgatory or Limbo after death, where we earn salvation, and there are no second chances after death for those who do not believe in this life: now is the day of salvation. But 'Paradise' is not quite heaven: there is more!

Sunday: Heaven on Earth

All four gospels begin their accounts of Jesus's resurrection by stressing that it was the 'first day of the week'. This signifies the beginning of a new era and points forward to the new age that will be ushered in when Jesus returns in glory. Jesus's soul was reunited with his body. It was the same body, but wonderfully changed: no longer the lacerated, pierced and irreparably damaged corpse that had been placed in the tomb, but a perfect body. It was transformed into an immortal, incorruptible body with new properties (see Luke 24:16; 31; 36, 39). This tells us what to expect in the next age if we have faith in Christ now. When we die, like the thief we go to be with Jesus in Paradise, but when Jesus returns, our bodies will be raised and wonderfully transformed like his (1 Cor 15:35-57). That day will usher in a new era, a new world without sin, sickness, sadness or death (Rev 21:1-4) and that is heaven.

The whole of space and time are compressed into the three days of Easter. In Jesus on the cross, we see how God regards sin and how he deals with it. In Jesus' resurrection, we catch a glimpse of what heaven will be like. In the experience of the dying thief, we also see how to escape Hell and to enter Heaven. Faith in Jesus is all we need (John 14:4-6). These are huge ideas. Easter presents us with the deepest imaginable suffering as the means to the highest joy and hope. So we can't really wish each other a 'nice' Easter, but we can wish each other a life-changing, terrible and yet wonderful Easter, full of life and hope, in Christ.

David Green



PAUSE FOR A CAUSE COFFEE MORNING

Around 35 people squashed into our house for our recent CFL Pause for a Cause Coffee morning, including a good number from other churches. This year is rather special as CFL are celebrating their 30th birthday.

We watched 2 DVDs, gave a short update on the work, and otherwise coffee, chat and biscuits were the 'order of the day'. Gifts given for the ministry of CFL amounted to £925, for which we are extremely thankful.

NEXT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Wednesday 19th April

7.30pm at Dunstable Baptist Chapel

Come along and see the latest supporters' DVD, enjoy sharing fellowship, prayer and information regarding Caring For Life's work with homeless and vulnerable people in Leeds.

BAFFLING BYGONES EVENING

To support the work of Caring for Life

Saturday 22nd April 2017 at 6.45pm

at Dunstable Baptist Church

with a Finger Buffet during the interval

plus a short Caring for Life DVD

A selection of puzzling and fascinating items

from the past – what were they used for?

Tickets are £6 per person and need to be purchased in advance

Available from Elaine Snuggs, 37 Norcott Close,
Dunstable, Beds LU5 4AH

Tel 01582 665188 or email
john.snuggs@btinternet.com

Ticket numbers are limited so book early whilst they are still available

Gifts Received and Sent During the last Month

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:

Barnabas Fund – relief for E Africa Famine	(from gifts)	£145
EMF – in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
GBM – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski	(from gifts)	£25
GBM – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski	(from church funds)	£125

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

David

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Dunstable Baptist Church
St Marys Gate
DUNSTABLE
LU6 3SW



An Aru village

March 2017

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your partnership with the Aru Bible translation project. We are currently trying to raise funds for this project. I am sending the following information to all our supporters in the hope that many will pray for this project and some will give financially too. I have decided to send it to you, too, because I would appreciate your prayers as we try to raise this money. Please do not feel at all pressured to give extra gifts to this project – though if you would like to we would of course be very grateful.

Picture an island in eastern Indonesia where daily life is dominated by the seasons and this month's west monsoon winds render travel difficult. **Schoolteacher Nus translates the Bible into his mother tongue, Kola.** He is one of several translators on the Aru Islands whose lives are given to translating God's word into some of the 17 local languages.

Although many Aruese claim to be Christian, most still cling to their traditional beliefs and practices. Unlike their traditional beliefs, Christianity has historically been practised in official languages. Many see it as irrelevant to their everyday lives and haven't been able to fully understand the message of the Bible.

But bit by bit over the past few decades, God has raised up local people like Nus to translate the Bible with support from Wycliffe. **The translation of the Bible into local languages is bringing God's word into the realm of everyday life.**



Aruese children

Nus was brought up a Christian, yet the very portions of Scripture he has translated speak to his heart in a way that Scripture in other languages simply cannot. **The translation project he leads has experienced a number of challenges since beginning in the 1980s,** including one Kola translator even dying during the translation work.

The most recent disruption came about in 2015, when Nus was sent to prison for a year because of a boat accident during a school trip he was leading. He shared his story of how God worked through his time in prison:

PTO



Nus, Kola translation team leader

When I was first held on remand, I felt that even if the electricity and water were running all the time, I would not be able to bear the experience. I spent the first two months in a cell without ever going outside and with the door always locked. Only occasionally were we able to feel the sun's rays on us. The only kind of music we could listen to was the ceaseless buzzing of mosquitoes in our ears. At night, all I had was a 1½ metre-long piece of brown linoleum to sleep on, and a small pillow.

So, what could I do to keep myself from having unhelpful thoughts in these conditions? I could pray and read God's word. Above all other books, the book that I always had to hand was the Bible. I also had a booklet in my own language, Kola, with the story of Joseph from Genesis. This was so helpful to me, and kept me calm, as I read of how Joseph faced his imprisonment. I was motivated by how Joseph ministered to his jailors. I also wanted to do something while in prison to help my fellow prisoners. But how? I prayed that the Lord Jesus would show me, and that he would make it possible. Then the Lord Jesus answered me.

King Jesus gave me a very clear thought: invite all the prisoners to pray and worship together every Saturday. This invitation was well-received by all my fellow prisoners, and I was asked to share the word of God and to lead discussions on it. This was beyond my expectations. I didn't know how I would be able to do this, but King Jesus always helped me and showed me how to do it.

So, was this the only opportunity I had to minister in prison? No. I was motivated by how the Apostle Paul used his time in prison. When he was in prison he always continued the work and ministry that had been given him by Jesus by means of his wise writings and his hope in the Lord. With this in mind, I asked my Kola Bible translation team mates to print out the drafts of 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, and I worked on them while I was in prison.

By means of these opportunities for ministry, and my routine of daily reading of God's word and prayer, I began to feel calm and ready to face the difficulties that presented themselves.

As we have shared in previous letters, Bible translation work often hits roadblocks. **There is frequent spiritual opposition to the work** and often the roadblocks only budge in response to prayer. Please pray that God would sustain Nus and all who are involved in this work and that he would continue to use their lives for his kingdom purposes.

The Kola translation team, along with the neighbouring Dobel translation team, require funding for their work to be possible. Simple things like computers or travel need to be covered by financial partners, along with the cost of training and salaries for local people involved in this work. The current need for 2017 is £20,000. **Please pray that this need would be met, and, if you feel able and would like to give, we know the Aru teams would be very grateful for your support.**

Hearing from Nus is such an encouragement. **Despite experiencing many trials over the years, Nus testifies to God's faithfulness. In his words, 'with the Lord, there is always an answer.'**

Thank you so much for your prayers and gifts.

With every blessing in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Graves".

Sarah Graves
Partnerships Coordinator



Kola translation team.
Left to right: Omi, Aca and Nus

PS I've included a prayer card, which I hope will be a helpful prompt to pray for this work.



On Saturday 18th a team of trivia buffs made their way to Bedford to pit their wits against a number of other teams from around Bedfordshire in aid of Pilgrims' Friend. As we have done in previous years our tactics were discussed on the car journey and Janette had revised some of the more common type of question that seemed to have appeared over the years we have been going (it's always worth looking up the current Chinese New Year). The 'hard' work was justified as that turned out to be one of the questions. Each round was a group of 10 questions on various grouped topics of general knowledge. We laboured over which round to play our joker for double points and as usual ended up picking one of our lowest scoring rounds. Despite this, our competitive spirit was fed with us appearing in the top 3 for much of the evening but we never quite reached the heights of being the top team. That of course wasn't the main aim of the evening and a total of £612 was raised for their funds along with having a thoroughly enjoyable evening. The journey home was as usual full of 'what ifs' and perhaps next year we'll pick a better round for the joker!

Scott

CHURCH HOLIDAY – 2017

SIZEWELL HALL

The Church holiday for 2017 has been confirmed and booked for Sizewell Hall in Sizewell in Suffolk. For those of you who aren't aware of it, some of the holiday details are as follows;

- We are returning for the fifth time to the wonderful Sizewell Hall, Suffolk – a big old country house sitting literally a stone's throw from its own beach
- We are going from Monday October 23rd to Friday 27th. This is half term week so the schools should be closed
- Everybody is welcome to come, there are no age restrictions
- The cost is £100, all inclusive, per person, with discounts for those aged ten and under. You will just need to get yourself there.
- We will have our usual mix of fellowship, teaching and fun
- We will be using our tried and trusted, self-catered system that works so well so we can promise you copious amounts of excellent food, lovingly prepared by our teams of hardworking holiday makers. Those 'above a certain age' will be exempt from this

You will have plenty of time to explore the beautiful Suffolk countryside

We need to take a minimum of 65 people with us but Sizewell Hall can accommodate a maximum of 90. I have had verbal agreements from a good number so far so if you want to come but I need to know as soon as possible. I also need to collect an initial £20 for each person coming. You can also pay in full if you want. We hope to confirm a speaker for the week in the next few days.

This has been a brilliant holiday in the past and has been greatly blessed by the Lord. Why not come along and join in as well. If you're not sure about it, ask Steve or me.

Jeff Hewitt

Visit to Sines and Lisbon, Portugal



I was pleased to be able to visit Rogério, Sonia, Marcos (16) and Lucas (12) Ramos in Sines, Portugal recently. They are supported by EMF (European Mission Fellowship) and are one of the missionaries that we particularly support as a church at Dunstable.

I set out on Thursday 9 March on the journey by train to Portugal by taking an early Eurostar from London St Pancras to Paris Gare du Nord. I crossed Paris by Metro and boarded a TGV from Gare Montparnasse all the way to the Spanish border at Irun, passing through Bordeaux en-route. After a quick change of trains across the platform, I boarded the Sud Express overnight sleeper train to take me all the way to Lisbon. I arrived in Lisbon on a lovely warm sunny morning and after a short

train journey, I caught a coach to Sines which crossed the River Tagus by the big 25 de Abril suspension bridge. I was met in Sines by Rogério about mid-day and we went back to their apartment for lunch. In the afternoon, Rogério showed me around the church (where the council has recently installed a paved area around the building) and part of the town, including meeting his father mending the nets in one of the fishing boats in the harbour. On Saturday morning, I went with Rogério for a walk around Sines, and visited the Castle and town museum. After Rogério and Sonia south along the coast lovely seaside village.

I attended the Sunday services and it was members of the congregation (who visit a few years ago), although it was Portuguese. We went to Rogério's collected some Angolan students from Santo André prior to the evening service.

After leaving Rogério, Sonia, Marcos and Lucas on Monday morning, I caught the coach back to Lisbon, where I stayed for five days to explore the city. Some of the places that I visited included, São Jorge Castle, Belém, riding the old trams and Elevadores (Funicular Railways) and the Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga (National Museum of Ancient Art). I also made a couple of longer trips



to Sintra to visit the excellent National Palace and Park of Pena (see photo), and to the National Railway Museum at Entroncamento. I flew back to Luton Airport on Saturday 18 March at the end of a very interesting and enjoyable holiday, even though I only managed to learn a few words in Portuguese. It was certainly good to be able to visit Sines and get to know Rogério and Sonia better, as well as meet Marcos and Lucas and see something of the work that they are leading.

Rogério, Sonia, Marcos and Lucas pass on their regards to all of us at Dunstable Baptist Church. The Ramos family are planning to take a break over the summer for some much needed rest and refreshment, and may visit Dunstable during this time.

Would you be interested in making a visit to Sines? Perhaps a group of us could go for a week to help out the church, and assist with open air evangelism and children's activities on the beach?

Peter Woodruff



lunch, I went with to Porto Covo, which is a

good to meet other remember John Keble's challenging to follow the parents for lunch and

OAM Weymouth Beach Mission (Week 1: Aug 5-12, Week 2: 12-19 Aug)



For many years now The Open Air Mission has been running a beach mission on the packed beach at Weymouth each summer.

We are all booked into the Baptist Church (from which the teams will operate) literally 100 yds from the beach + prom. We run Games in the morning with a short Bible spot, then our main gospel meeting – the Holiday Special in the afternoon; both on the beach in the midst of the crowds of holidaymakers. We then go onto the Prom in the evening to share the gospel with mainly adults walking past. We are dependent on two teams of mainly young people to run this great opportunity at Weymouth

– would YOU be willing to come and help us?

We are very short of team members at present. It does not matter that you have not done children's work before, as long as you know the Lord, and are willing to serve Him by joining one of our two teams.

Would you pray about it and if you are willing, apply to OAM via their booking site for Beach Missions at www.oamission.com or contact us by email on oamission@btinternet.com or by phone on tel 01582 841141

if you wanted to talk about the work do contact me (John Hawley) tel 01235 223348 or johnhawley@ntlworld.com

Reformanda Initiative

Reaching Catholic Europe today

Why the Reformation still matters

Thursday 11 May 2017

10:30am - 4:00pm

at Abbey Baptist Church

Checker Walk, Abingdon, OX14 3JB

A day conference with **Leonardo De Chirico** exploring how we proclaim the gospel to Roman Catholics



Organised by Grace Baptist Mission in partnership with the Reformanda Initiative
www.gbm.org.uk reformandainitiative.org

CPR

CHRISTIAN PRISON RESOURCING

You are warmly invited to:

'A Day in Prison' with CPR

Saturday 22nd April

2pm - 5pm

(Refreshments from 2pm, Main event 2.30pm, a light buffet tea included)

at Elmstead Baptist Church

Elmstead Lane, Chislehurst, Kent, BR7 5EW

(nearest train station - Elmstead Woods, zone 4)

- BE INSPIRED by what the Lord is doing in prisons and detention centres across the country.
 - BE INFORMED about the work and the challenges in order to pray more specifically about this ministry.
 - BE ENCOURAGED by meeting the ministry volunteers in person and hearing first hand their powerful testimonies to the power of the gospel.
- Come and join us. Our CPR bookstall will also be available on the day.

For catering purposes, could you please let us know if you are planning to attend and how many are in your party.

admin@cprministries.org.uk or tel. 07749373185

Christian Prison Resourcing, PO Box 61685, London, SE9 9BL www.cprministries.org.uk

DBC DIARY DATES—GOD WILLING

2017 APRIL		
Sun 2nd	am & pm am 5.20pm	Martin Leech Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate
Tues 4th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Sun 9th	am & pm	Ali McLachlan Fellowship Lunch
Tues 11th- Wed 12th		Holiday Bible Club
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Wed 12th	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting
Thurs 13th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours: Ann Ledger "The Great War—Animals, the forgotten heroes"
Fri 14th	6.30pm	Good Friday Service: Barry King (translation into Polish)
Sat 15th	8.00am	Mens Prayer meeting
Sun 16th	am & pm pm	Barry King Communion
Mon 17th	☞	No Ladies Bible Study
Tues 18th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Wed 19th	7.30pm	CFL Supporters Meeting
Thur 20th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 22nd	6.45pm	CFL Bygones Evening
Sun 23rd	am & pm	Steve Burton
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: SASRA
Wed 26th	7.30pm	Church Members Meeting
Thur 27th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: Trevor Rimes
Sat 29th	am 7.30pm	Spring Clean Youth Squash (Tring)
Sun 30th	am & pm	Ryan King
Tues 1st	7.45pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King

'PRAY FOR US' Members preaching in other churches

APRIL		
1st/2nd	Bookshop	Saved 2 Serve Youth Conference
2nd	Rex Andrews	Providence BC (pm)
9th	John Keble Rex Andrews	Potton BC Gt Whyte BC
30th	Rex Andrews	Barton Mills BC, Suffolk

APRIL ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

2nd Ray Marvin & Beverly Kingham
9th Brian Rigby & Barbara Shipton
16th Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming
23rd Scott Mitchell & Sarah Woodruff
30th John & Bev Keble

Cleaning Church / Hall

3rd Banton / Power
10th Mitchell / Hewitt
17th Christine & Caroline / Winnie & Michele
24th Woodruff / Rigby
1st Barnachea / Keble

Security

2nd Matt Woodruff
9th Rex Andrews
16th Frank Barnachea
23rd CJ Barnachea
30th Charlton Barnachea

Refreshments

-
Julia & Elaine
Dawn & Michele
Caroline, Winnie & Mina
Christine & Debbie

Flowers

2nd Tess Barnachea
9th Mary Coleman
16th Ann Weedon
23rd Elaine Snuggs
30th Janet Tucker

Creche

Winnie & Julia
Dawn & Barbara
Caroline & Beverly
Elaine & Sarah
Margaret & Bev

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

4th	Rex Andrews	Easter Holiday Club
11th	Steve Burton	Pastorate
18th	John Keble	GBM Prayer Waves
25th	Scott Mitchell	SASRA

Please forward items for the
MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 23rd APRIL
Thank you.