

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
JULY 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,

If you watch the TV or listen to the radio it won't take you long to notice the frequent misuse of the Lord's name. The nine o'clock watershed seems to make no difference where this is concerned. Likewise, whenever you venture out to a public place you will hear people blaspheming the Lord's name. How it grieves us that even young children are misusing the name of God, just as much as adults do. Blasphemy has gradually slipped into the nation's vocabulary over recent years, so that today it has become the thoughtless norm of most people.

Scripture explains why this is the case. In Romans chapter three Paul quotes from Psalm 36:1 and says, "**There is no fear of God before their eyes**". There is no fear because there is no knowledge. In Hosea 4:1 the Old Testament prophet describes the people of his day, "**There is no truth, or mercy or knowledge of God in the land**". How like our present generation this is, and what an indictment it is upon the church of Jesus Christ, in that we have been guilty, to a great extent, of keeping the truth about God to ourselves. Ignorance of God has fostered blasphemy.

How many people today would be able to list the Ten Commandments? Not many could recite the words of the third one, "**You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain**" (Exodus 20:8; Deuteronomy 5:11). So many today would not even have heard of the commandments of God. Those laws that He gave to His people, and for a number of vital reasons: to keep His people safe in the midst of an unsafe world, to reveal His perfect character and standards, to show them that they were incapable in and of themselves of meeting His standards, and therefore, to help them realise why they needed a perfect Mediator and Saviour, who could represent them before Him.

There are at least three general ways in which people take the Lord's name in vain. The first is by using it as a swear word. Or more commonly today, as a replacement for a swear word. 'Oh my...' is the first thing on so many lips when they receive a surprise, become annoyed or feel pain. How ironic it is, that in those moments when the words 'God' or 'Jesus' are used in this way, the person using them is actually giving no thought whatsoever to the One of whom they are speaking. If they were, they wouldn't dare to speak of the Lord in that awful way.

Secondly, people sometimes blaspheme by way of a joke. For most comedians today it seems that Christianity is very much regarded as fair-game, and furnishes them with plenty of material for their so-called humour. I wonder how many who joke about God realise that the reason they are able to get away with what they do, is because God is very gracious and patient. Would that those entertainers realised that they are making fun of their Creator and Judge.

Thirdly, and this may come as a surprise to us, people use God's name in vain when they are being hypocritical. In Jeremiah 12:2 the prophet is talking to the Lord and describing the people of Judah, "**...You are near in their mouth, but far from their heart**". So in the professing church there are many who are blaspheming the name of God. They should know much better of course, but they don't. No wonder someone has written, *'The profanity of the church is infinitely worse than the profanity of the street'*. They are speaking the right words to try and impress God in church, or impress others who are with them in church, but they are really just actors. They are playing a part, not living a life. They are not living a real Christian life where God is both 'the desire' of their heart and 'the king' of their heart. As members of Dunstable Baptist Church, how we all need to ensure that we are not taking the Lord's name in vain, for any of the three reasons that have been briefly described above. Instead, how we should be seeking to live and speak, as those who honour, magnify and glorify the Lord's powerful and wonderful name!

Andy Banton

FINANCE

MISSION GIVING

After our recent Mission Giving during May the total donations (with Gift Aid tax received) amounted to the following:

Grace Baptist Mission (to support Andrzej Kempczynski in Poland)	£898
Roundwood Trust (literature for Eastern Europe)	£855
Open-Air Mission	£945
European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) – in support of Rogério Ramos	£898

We thank all who gave and would encourage everyone to continue to pray for these missions.

OTHER 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:

European Missionary Fellowship – General Fund	(from church funds)	£100
Open-Air Mission – support for Beach Mission	(from church funds)	£25
Pilgrims' Friend Society	(from gifts)	£90

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

INFORMATION

Mary Janes and family would like to thank all the friends at Dunstable who showed such kindness and for all the sympathy cards and kind messages. After a long slow deterioration of health Philip died peacefully at home on 29th May 2015.

EVENTS



Christian Heritage London Walk
Saturday 11th July 2015
2.00pm start

Would you like to join **Keith Berry** on a Christian Heritage London guided walk around the Stoke Newington area to explain the fascinating Christian history of this area of London? Learn about Hudson Taylor, China Inland Mission, Dissenting Academies, Isaac Watts, William Booth ...and more!

Start: Newington Green at 2pm; Duration: 2-3 hours; Cost: £8 per person.

Optional Morning visit to the Christian Heritage London Visitor Centre at St Botolph-without-Aldersgate. Please see **Peter Woodruff** for more details and, **add your name to the list in the Vestibule**, if you would like to join us.

There are leaflets giving more details about Christian Heritage London available or check the website (www.christianheritagelondon.org)

Peter Woodruff



COFFEE AND CAKE MORNING

Bring and buy sale and Gift Day

Friday 17th July 2015

9.30am - 12 noon

37 Norcott Close, Dunstable, LU5 4AH

ALL ARE WELCOME

Please bring your home made cakes, pies, marmalade, jams or anything else.
Plants and some home grown vegetables should be available.

Norcott Garden Railway will be operating
weather conditions permitting

Contact John and Elaine for further info:
tel 01582 665188 or email john.snuggs@btinternet.com



Next Support Group Meeting

Wednesday 22 July 2015

7.30pm

Dunstable Baptist Chapel

All are welcome to come along and see the latest supporters' DVD.
Enjoy sharing fellowship, prayer and the latest information regarding
Caring For Life's work with homeless and vulnerable people in Leeds.
John and Elaine Snuggs

REPORTS

We were blessed with a beautiful day for the Caring for Life Cake and Coffee morning on 5th June. Our visitors were able to enjoy the warm sunshine whilst they sat chatting in the garden, sampling the delicious array of homemade cakes, and watching the Norcott 'Express' chug through the flower beds.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Besides those who came from DBC, we had visitors from six other churches.

We are very thankful to the Lord that £592 was donated for the ministry of CFL.
John and Elaine



Update on the building refurbishment

CHURCH HALL EXTENSION



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION



CHURCH HALL EXTENSION FOUNDATIONS



BRICKWORK TO EXTENSION

BUILDING UPDATE



Church Hall extension

After a slow start due to the Archaeological Investigation (more of that later) Nick Wilson Building started work on site in early May. The church hall extension is now well underway with the brickwork almost complete. The new extension will give the church much needed space for the hall, extra storage rooms and compensate for the loss of floor space once the new toilet facilities are installed. Because the building is located next to a Grade II listed church, we are working closely with the Listed Buildings Conservation Officer in matching the bricks, windows, doors, roof slates and gutters to ensure the new build is in sympathy with the existing. The builder is working the new roof using reclaimed Welsh roof slate to satisfy the Listed Building Planning consent.

“The level of workmanship & craftsmanship is of a high standard and complements the existing building”

Archaeological Investigation

One of the many planning conditions that we have to meet, to ensure approval from the Central Bedfordshire planners, is that we conduct an Archaeological Investigation on the site of the proposed church hall extension. DBC employed Headland Archaeology of Wrest Park, Silsoe to conduct the investigation on our behalf. The proposed church hall extension sits in an area of interest to Archaeologists due to the connections to medieval and Roman history.

When the builder started excavating for the foundations of the new extension, we were obliged to have an archaeologist on site to monitor anything of note. The Archaeologist found remains of medieval housing within the chalk layer and the human remains of a young adult. These remains were exhumed under licence granted to us by Ministry of Justice, London and the remains been taken off site to be examined and dated by Headland Archaeology

We as a church were then the focus of the local newspaper, Dunstable Gazette, with the human remains featuring on the front page of the Gazette and online (DunstableToday).



A skull, shoulders, arms and ribs were uncovered along with nails from a coffin by an archeologist while builders dug the footing for an extension to Dunstable Baptist Church, on St Mary's Gate. Evidence suggest that the remains, which were situated away from the church's burial ground, originate from the post medieval period between the 16th and 18th centuries."

The online headline for the Gazette reads:

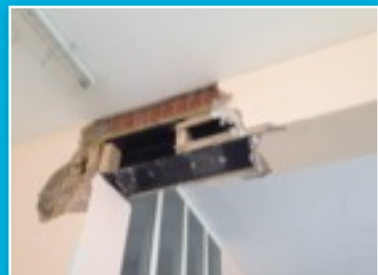
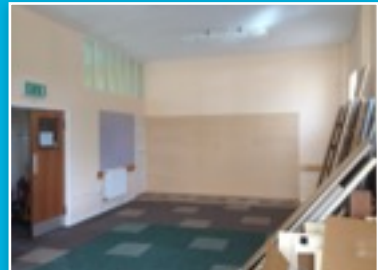
Church stunned as child's bones are dug up

"The remains of a child which could date back 500 years have been unexpectedly discovered in the grounds of a church, the Gazette can exclusively reveal.



The human remains will be reburied, with dignity, within the chapel grounds as a requirement of the exhumation licence granted to us.

Structural work is underway within the church hall



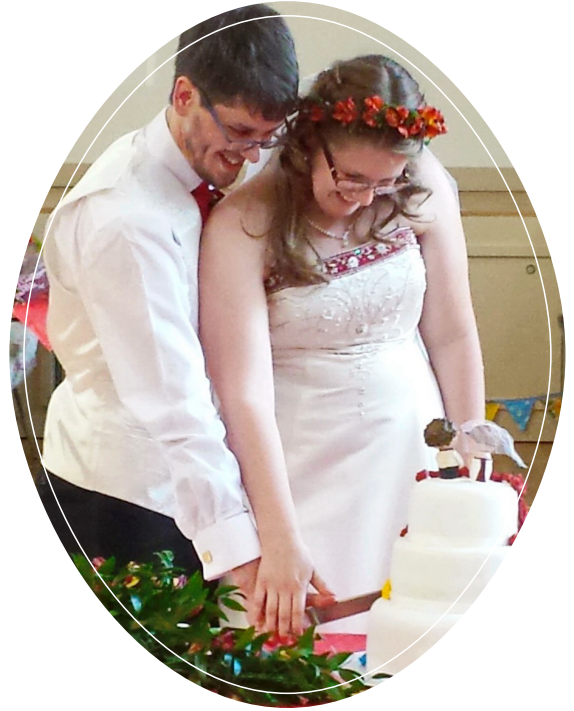
Part of the building refurbishment involves structural alterations to the church hall to accommodate a bigger hall. This will involve installing a large span steel beam, steel columns and concrete foundations to allow internal walls to be demolished. This will allow the church hall to be opened up with a large hall space.



Wedding

Chris and Tania Jacquier were married on 6 June 2015 in Great Dunmow.

We thank those who sent him congratulations and prayed for him and the rest of our family over the years. The service was not lengthy but reverently conducted with excellent prayers and hymns as befitting a true marriage before God. The wedding arrangements and reception were all 'home-brew,' being made by friends and family with so many surprisingly personal touches that made the occasion quite special. The hog roast and ice cream were perfect for the weather - warm and breezy in the sunshine and warmer in the hall - and the speeches were suitably entertaining and informative. At the evening barn dance, nearly all the 150 or so guests joined in the dancing at some time or other, even Jenny, me and John.



God has truly blessed us.

Chris Jacquier

Chris and Tania's new address is 54 Cross Lane, Huddersfield, HD4 6DJ

Saturday 27th June was the occasion of the Annual Thanksgiving Service for LTS.

It was a privilege and joy to be able to attend this occasion and to hear testimonies from 9 of the students. Some have been called to pastoral positions either in the UK or overseas and some are to do further study at the John Owen centre.

Due to the absence of Sinclair Ferguson through illness, a message from God's word was brought to us by Mark Johnston (Cardiff) entitled Counter-cultural model for Ministry, based on what the bible says in 1Thessalonians chap. 2 and using four headings - Motivation behind ministry, Sacrifice involved in ministry, Truth proclaimed in ministry and Fruit borne out in ministry.

At the conclusion of the service we were able to go out into the grounds and partake of an excellent buffet tea and spend time talking with students and others.

Please continue to pray for LTS in their work of training preachers and pastors, for more men both from the UK and overseas to apply for theological training, for Robert Strivens and David Green (and the many other lecturers), as they seek to train and encourage the students, and for the students themselves, that they would know God's help as they study and prepare for future ministry.

Margaret Rigby



OAM Epsom Races Report

June 4 - 6 2015



As usual Epsom Downs was heaving with people, especially for the Derby on the Saturday. We had our usual spot on the corner right in the middle of the huge open market which was buzzing all around us.



Our team was three OAM men, plus several supporters coming for all our part of the witness to the race-goers. Two of us went around the Gypsy field on the quieter Friday, and Clive did his usual visit around the fairground meeting with Showmen running the rides and the stalls he has got to know over the years (see comments on the other side).



As usual many Travellers come to Epsom Races, so many profitable conversations were had with these folk. Many will have relatives who they tell you are 'born again', but sadly as many cannot read their commitment and growth in the Lord can be somewhat shallow. As usual we struck up a good rapport with a nearby muslim trader opposite us called Mohamed selling clothes. He spoke with various of our team, and went away with a Pilgrimage booklet. He certainly heard the gospel for several hours – do pray that the Lord will apply what he heard to his heart.



Three or four men we met with were quite open that they could not become a christian as they did not want to give up their life of sin. At least they recognized what was keeping them from God, more than the self-righteous folk we often meet who deny they are sinners.



We are very aware that we are may be links in a chain with many people we meet. It was good that our gypsy friends have had some connection with the gospel before. A husband and wife one of the team chatted with at the table said they were becoming more interested in christian things.



Andy who we have met many times before turns up regularly for a friendly chat, but I feel a little that he tends to want to come to God on his terms – do pray for him.



The Grace Baptist Church Epsom kindly put us up again and are right behind us in the work. We had one or two from other churches to our Deputation meeting on the Thursday evening sharing about the work of OAM generally and the work on the Downs during these two days of horse racing. Much literature was given out including many John's Gospels. Do pray that the many CDs given out will also be listened to and shared around, particularly amongst the Gypsy community.



Next year's Epsom Races dates are 2-4 June; it would be good if local believers were able to join us for any part of these dates. Thank you so much those who prayed for us and the witness done on the Downs with so many this year.



In our Saviour's Name - John Hawley

DBC DIARY DATES - GOD WILLING

2015 JULY		
Sun 5th	am & pm am 5.20pm 7.30pm	Geoff Cox (OAM) Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate YP at the Hewitts
Mon 6th	3.00pm	Thanksgiving service for the life of Bill Goode
Tues 7th	7.45pm	Joint DEFC Prayer Meeting: Christ Church
Wed 8th	7.30pm	Church Members Meeting
Thur 9th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours: Stockwood Park
10 –12th		Youth Squash Camp
Sat 11th		London Heritage Walk
Sun 12th	am & pm	Trevor Thomas (Coventry)
Mon 13th	7.30pm	Bookshop Committee Meeting
Tues 14th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Steve Burton
Thur 16th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 18th	8.00am 7.30pm	Men's Prayer Meeting Youth Squash, Chesham
Sun 19th	am & pm pm	Bob Mahoney Communion
Mon	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study Study 26: 1 Cor 16:1 -24
Tues 21st	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Martin Loughbrough
Wed 22nd	7.30pm	CFL Support Meeting
Sun 26th	am pm	Alan Harvey (Limes Ave) Clement Tang
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Paul Davies (AEM)
Sun 2nd	am & pm Am 5.20pm	Tom Sweatman (Kingston) Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate

'PRAY FOR US'

Members preaching in other churches

JULY		
5th	Rex Andrews	Providence BC (pm)
26th	Rex Andrews	Pidley BC (pm)

JULY ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

5th John & Elaine Snuggs
12th Winnie Jacques & Dawn Hewitt
19th Ray Marvin & Beverly Kingham
26th David Kight & Barbara Shipton
2nd Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming

Cleaning

6th Hilary Green & Julia Ming
13th Andy & Ruth Banton
20th Mike & Mina Power
27th Frank & Tess Barnachea
3rd Em, Beth & YP

Security

5th John Keble
12th Ray Marvin
19th Jeff Cooke
26th Mike Power
2nd Brian Rigby

Flowers

5th Mary Coleman
12th Barbara Shipton
19th Rachel Mitchell
26th Bev Keble
2nd Sarah Woodruff

Creche

5th Caroline & Beverley Kingham
12th Margaret & Bev
19th Ruth & Emily
26th Winnie & Julia
2nd Janette & Dawn

Refreshments

12th Winnie & Sarah
19th Ann & Janette
26th Beth, Jess & Em

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

14th David Weedon Friends & Neighbours
21st Peter Woodruff GBM Prayer Waves
28th Rex Andrews AEM

Please forward items for the
AUGUST 2015 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 26th July