

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
MARCH 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,

There are many paradoxes in life. Put simply a paradox is an apparently self-contradictory statement that is in fact true. The Bible contains paradoxes that are instructive for believers. For instance we read of 'strength through weakness,' 'receiving through giving,' 'freedom through servitude' and 'exaltation through humility.' We shall consider one of these each month I write Dear Friends.

Strength through Weakness

Paul modestly presented his amazing experience of receiving '*visions and revelations of the Lord*' and of being '*caught up to the third heaven ... and (hearing) inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*' (2 Cor 12:1-4), as if it had happened to someone else - '*I know a man in Christ*' (v.2). Paul was reluctant to 'boast' about his revelations but to counter claims by false '*apostles of Christ*' (see 2 Cor 11:12-15) he felt compelled to write about his '*abundance of revelations*' (v.7). Paul had been granted many profound and unique revelations from his Damascus road experience of Christ (Acts 9:1-9) to the visions and revelations he describes in his letter to the Corinthian believers.

Because of the many revelations that the apostle received he also experienced '*a thorn in the flesh*' from Satan '*lest (he) should be exalted above measure*' (v.7). Though Paul prayed that he might be free of this 'thorn' the Lord said to him '*My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness*' (v.9). Paul acknowledges this truth - '*For when I am weak, then I am strong*' (v.10).

God permits situations to arise in our lives to help us to see that our daily strength is to be found only in him, and his wise and holy purposes. The case of Job furnishes a helpful parallel. We learn that God permitted Satan to 'buffet' Job. However, even the work of Satan was overruled ultimately by God.

During his life and ministry Paul found something better than having the thorn removed and that was to know in his human weakness that the strength of God was sufficient. This was the secret of Paul's strength - a secret that was misunderstood by his boastful rivals who derided and ridiculed him as they declared '*his bodily presence is weak, and his speech contemptible*' (2 Cor 10:10).

The Paradox of Grace

The paradox of grace is based on the principle that to have effective Christian lives is to acknowledge and understand that we serve God in '*earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us*' (2 Cor 4:7). This is a hard lesson to learn, for some, but we can be encouraged to know though we cannot accomplish anything in our own strength mountains are moved by weak men and women who trust in the power of Christ. We need constantly to remind ourselves that God has chosen weak vessels to serve him - those who do not count for much in the eyes of the world but who have found grace in the eyes of God - '*that no flesh should glory in His presence*' (1 Cor 26-31).

We must pray that our lives will emulate the life of Paul and pre-eminently the life of Christ who though Lord of all was crucified in weakness so that God's 'strength' might be revealed in the salvation of countless millions. What joy to know that as we feel our weakness we can play some small part in furthering God's will in the salvation of sinners and the establishment of his kingdom knowing that our Saviour's '**strength is made perfect in weakness.**' What a glorious paradox.

REPORTS & INFORMATION

Thank You

Thank you so much for all the encouraging cards, e-mails and phone calls that Barbara has received from friends and members before and after her surgery. We thank you for your expressions of love and also for your prayers. We, and especially Barbara, were conscious of the presence and peace of the Lord.

Please continue to pray that healing will progress and that as Barbara faces radio therapy for about four weeks, in about 4-6 weeks time, she will be completely free of the cancer.

RS

Grace Baptist Trust Meeting

The Grace Baptist Trust Corporation is expecting to hold its Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving Service at Zion Baptist Church, Bedworth on Saturday 25th April at 3pm. Mr Nigel Graham of Grace Baptist Church, Warboys, is to be the preacher.

Please remember this meeting in prayer, and indeed the ongoing work of the Corporation. We would be delighted to see not only friends who are our regular supporters but also those who have never been able to come to any of the previous meetings! Following the meeting refreshments will be served where there will be opportunity to meet with one another on an informal basis.

News from the Foodbank

A brief update on the collection on Saturday 21st February at Sainsburys. The collection brought in over 860 Kg of food. Thanks to all who helped.

The next collection is on May 30th again at Sainsbury's.

Ian Ellis

Donations for the Support of Steve Dennis at Edlesborough

Some have asked if personal donations can be made for the support of Steve Dennis at Edlesborough.

Donations can be made to Grace Baptist Partnership (either by cheque, bank transfer or standing order) and earmarked for the support of Steve Dennis at Edlesborough.

They can either be one-off or ongoing gifts and they can be sent before he starts on 1st June.

A Gift Aid form is available (see Scott Mitchell). Cheques and Gift Aid forms can be sent to Grace Baptist Partnership at 12 Moor End Close, Edlesborough, LU6 2HP.

DO YOU HAVE A SMART PHONE BUT ARE NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO GET IT TO BE SMART?

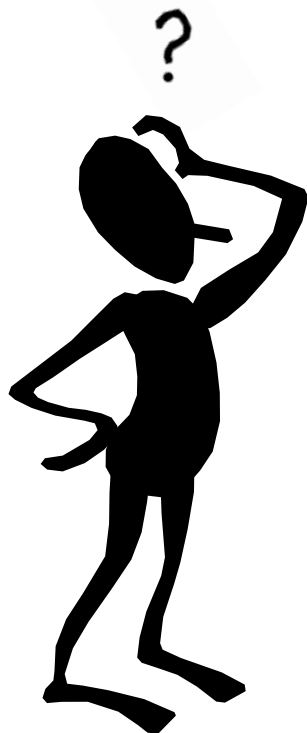
Recently I discovered PrayerMate which is a free app for smart phones that helps to organize prayer needs. It's available on both Apple and Android.

Using the settings I can create categories such as 'My Family' or 'My Church' and then add people or topics to each section. PrayerMate selects in turn a series of index cards every day to show me from my categories that I am able to swipe between and pray for. When my Aunt visited I asked her about my family in Canada. As she talked I was able to add little details under their names which are then flagged up when I come to pray for them. I promised to pray for each one and their needs and I can be sure that I will remember to now.

Another good thing about the app is that many national organizations such as Open Doors, Christians in Sport, Christianity explored, United Beach Missions, and many more have online diaries that you can subscribe to. A good diary to subscribe to is Operation World as it has a 'country of the day feed'
Rachel Mitchell

Bills 100th Birthday!

One of our members, Bill Goode, who was also a former Pastor of the church from the late 60's and through the 70's, celebrated his 100th birthday on the 22nd of February. Bill is now in a home near to Gloucester and about 30 family and friends were able to join with him to celebrate the occasion. There were photographic memories covering much of the 100 years, including one showing Bill preaching from the Dunstable pulpit. We are thankful to the Lord for the years granted to Bill, for the fond memories of his fellowship and ministry over many years and trust that God will continue to bless him in coming days.



**PILGRIMS'
FRIEND
SOCIETY**

**QUIZ NIGHT
SATURDAY
14TH MARCH
2015**



Back for the fourth year running, teams of six from local churches or Christian groups are invited to take part in a general knowledge quiz.
Venue: Goldington Academy, Haylands Way, Bedford, MK41 9BX
Time: 7pm prompt £4.00 per person (suggested donation)
Contact Scott Mitchell if you want to be part of a DBC team



PAUSE FOR A CAUSE
COFFEE EVENT 2015

PLEASE JOIN US AT
VENUE: 37 NORCOTT CLOSE

DATE: FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

TIME: ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 - 12

During the morning we hope to show a recent DVD of their work. All donations will be very welcome. Caring for Life is a Christian charity sharing the love of Jesus with vulnerable people.
John and Elaine



All proceeds go to Caring For Life - Crag House Farm, Otley Old Road, Cookridge, Leeds, LS16 7NH.
www.caringforlife.co.uk - Charity Reg no: 519138

MEN'S PRAYER MEETING REPORT

The men of the church continue to meet on Saturday mornings for the privilege of praying to God for matters concerning us all, in and outside our church. We meet at 8am on the third Saturday of the month until 9am. We start with a warm drink, a short Bible reading and then discussion about subject for prayer before praying to God. If you can't make it for the full hour you are still welcome so don't be embarrassed if you have to come late or leave early.

We would love for more of the men of the church to join us, especially some of the younger ones, so please try and join us at our next meeting on the 21st of March; who knows what amazing things God will do in answer to our petitions.

Frank Taylor

The Banner of Truth Youth Conference 2015 - *Firm Foundations*
Friday 10 – Sunday 12 April - University of Leicester

Subjects

Getting the Basics Right:	The Holy Bible (Matt. 5:17-20)	Kevin DeYoung
	A Holy Life (Heb. 12:12-17)	
	His Holy Death (Lev. 1)	
Faith:	Where it Leads us	Mark Johnston
	What it Costs us	
	How it Gets us There	
Why Read John Newton?		Jonathan Watson

Speakers

Mark Johnston Pastor of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Cardiff and author.
 Kevin DeYoung Pastor of University Reformed Church in East Lansing, Michigan, USA and author.
 Jonathan Watson General Editor of the Banner of Truth Trust since 2004. Previously he pastored churches in Northern Ireland and Jersey.

Special Church Offer

First two to apply: £25

All others: Only £45

Normal Rate: £95

The conference is intended for young people over the age of 16, and commences with Dinner on Friday and continues through to Dinner on Sunday. It is an opportunity to find out why the Christian life is the most serious, but also the happiest life, and to have the opportunity of meeting many young people who hold that belief from churches across the UK and beyond. Full-board accommodation is provided in single rooms within the Leicester University Halls of Residence. There is spare time on Saturday afternoon, when you can join in with sporting activities.

I have attended several of these weekends and always found them to be very profitable with excellent teaching and made a number of good friends who I have kept in contact with. I strongly recommend them to you.

Venue Address: University of Leicester, Stamford Court, Manor Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 2LH

Please see the Banner of Truth website (<http://banneroftruth.org/uk/events/2015-uk-youth-conference/>) for further details and booking information. Book online and speak to **Scott Mitchell** to apply for a church rebate.
 Peter Woodruff

FINANCE

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:

Affinity	(from church funds)	£200
Bangor CU Mission	(from church funds)	£50
Caring for Life (General)	(from gifts)	£25
Caring for Life (to support Tim Snuggs)	(from church funds)	£1,000
EMF – to provide a relief fund for Sines church	(from church funds)	£500
EMF – in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
GBM – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski	(from gifts)	£25
GBM – in support of Daryl Jones	(from church funds)	£100
GBM – in support of Legionowo rent	(from church funds)	£500
Keech Hospice Care	(from church funds)	£200
Zimbabwe Partnership Trust	(from church funds)	£100

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

DBC DIARY DATES - GOD WILLING

2015 MARCH		
Sun 1st	am & pm am 12.30pm 5.20pm 7.30pm	David Chapman (Tring) Communion Fellowship lunch Prayer Meeting for Pastor YP at the Hewitts
Tues 3rd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Rex Andrews
Sat 7th	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 8th	am & pm	Brian Edwards (Surbiton)
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tom Copperwheat
Thur 12th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours: Pauline Richards (Life as a Farmers Daughter)
Sun 15th	am & pm pm 7.30pm	Brian Edwards (Surbiton) Communion YP at the Kebles
Mon 16th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study Study 22 1 Cor 14:1-40
Tues 17th	7.45pm	Bible Study & Prayer: David Kight
Thur 19th	10am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 21st	8.00am 7.30pm	Men's Prayer Meeting Youth Squash (Tring)
Sun 22nd	am & pm 7.00pm	Stan Evers (Potton) CFM: Gideons
Tues 24th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Thur 26th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: The Gideons
Sun 29th	am & pm	Ian Cooper (Redhill)
Mon 30th- Tues 31st	9.30am- 3.30pm	Holiday Bible Club
Tues 31st	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Roger March
Wed 1st	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting

'PRAY FOR US' Members preaching in other churches

	MARCH	
1st	Steve Burton	Castlefields, Derby
8th	Steve Burton	Heath End, Nuneaton
22nd	Rex Andrews	Pidley BC (pm)

MARCH ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

1st Ray Marvin & Beverly Kingham
8th David Kight & Barbara Shipton
15th Scott Mitchell & Julia Ming
22nd John Jacquier & Sarah Woodruff
29th Bethany Hewitt & Alex Marvin

Cleaning

C 2nd John & Elaine Snuggs
H & G 9th Jeff & Janette Cooke
C 16th Bev & John Keble
H & G 23rd Hilary Green & Julia Ming
C 30th Frank & Tess Barnachea

Security

1st Jeff Hewitt
8th John Keble
15th Brian Rigby
22nd Ray Marvin
29th Scott Mitchell

Refreshments

8th Winnie & Sarah
15th Ann & Janette
22nd Beth, Em & Lydia
29th Christine & Marie D

Flowers

1st Rachel Mitchell
8th Marie Dawkins
15th Christine Wild
22nd Dawn Hewitt
29th Julia Ming

Creche

1st Winnie & Julia
8th Janette & Dawn
15th Caroline & Bev Kingham
22nd Elaine & Ann
29th Margaret & Bev Keble

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

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

3rd John Keble LTS
10th Mike Power Ignite Scott Mitchell
17th Ron Shipton GBM Prayer Waves
24th David Woodruff Bookshop John Keble
31st David Weedon Holiday Club Steve Burton