

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
MAY 2016

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 (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

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,

Hebrews was addressed, principally, to Jewish Christians who were demoralised and discouraged. After following centuries of tradition, Christianity was proving radical and difficult. The uncharted waters of faith, as opposed to the familiar life of works and moral effort, presented real challenges to the believers.

Challenges. Though we do not face the same challenges as the Jewish believers did we still face discouragements to our faith. Satanic forces are still abroad seeking to undermine the faith of believers. Peter's words have always been true. *'Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith' (1 Peter 5:8-9)*. Satan takes pleasure in distressing Christians and especially when things appear to go wrong and they doubt God's purposes for their lives or even doubt if they are true believers.

Encouragements. We need to believe what Paul teaches about God's love for his people. He was persuaded there is nothing that *'shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord' (Rom 8:37-39)*. God will always answer our prayers in the best way possible. However, though we might not understand our circumstances we do need to be patient and trust the Lord that his ways are best, knowing he will always answer the believer's sincere prayer, *(Jer 33:3; James 5:16-18)*.

Let us remember also that no matter, at times, how weak our faith is it is not our faith that saves us but the object of our faith. It makes no difference to people on a bridge whatever their level of faith might be in the structure once they are on the bridge their faith does not hold them up, but the bridge. It is true those with stronger faith will feel more secure. This principle illustrates the Christian's faith. Sometimes our faith is weak and at other times strong, but it is Christ who will keep us throughout our lives.

The other valid and important point is that it is only those who have faith in Christ that Satan attempts to undermine. Unbelievers are not tempted to lose faith, for they have none.

Strengthening. God has not left us to our own devices to live our lives but has graciously provided many means of grace to strengthen us in our walk of faith with him. The following are some examples.

- a) The 'old fashioned' quiet time is vital in maintaining a living faith in Christ. Setting aside time each day, in a quiet place (*Matt 6:6*), for personal worship of God and prayer and reading the Scriptures is so important and more so when we are downhearted or feel our faith is under attack.
- b) When faith is low we need to continue meeting with God's people to worship the Lord and hear his Word ministered (*Heb 10:25*). The fellowship of God's people is vital to strengthen faith.
- c) We need, constantly, to examine our hearts and confess our sins. Sin has a debilitating effect on faith. God has promise to forgive sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness (*1 John 1:9; Psalm 34:18*). Confession must lead to truly turning away from sin.
- d) How is our relationship with others? If we hold any roots of bitterness or resentment against another believer this can undermine our faith. We need to forgive one another, for Christ's sake, and if necessary deal with those we believe have offended us in a biblical way (*Matt 18:15-17*).
- e) Share your concerns with trusted friends (*Gal 6:2; Prov 27:17*), and pray together.

Testing. At times the Lord tests our faith and difficult situations can be used by God as a tool to refine and purify our faith, producing patience and endurance (*James 1:2-8*).

Faith is God honouring. *'But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him' (Heb 11:6)*.

May God help us to remember he is a wise, gracious and loving Father who wants us to trust him in all the circumstances of our lives knowing that *'He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him freely give us all things? (Rom 8:32)*. **What a promise.**

RS

A visit to the DBC

It should always be an encouragement to know that children have visited our church. Well, a class of twenty nine 7-year olds from St Augustine's Primary School recently came and spent a very happy hour looking around our building, and hopefully learning a number of important things about Christian worship. The visit came about because six weeks before I had been invited into the school to be interviewed by the class on what it means to be a Christian. Umpteen questions were fired at me for around 50-minutes. It was a lovely opportunity! During the interview I mentioned that we were having a new part built onto our church and the class teacher immediately said that it would be lovely for them all to come down and see it. The visit was duly arranged and the class happily walked all the way from Downside on a sunny Thursday morning.

We started outside the front of the building, so I could explain something of how long the Baptist Church at been in Dunstable. We then headed into the foyer where the children took off their coats and I then showed them our hymn book and then a Bible, explaining that God's Word was central to everything we did as Christians.

We then went into the church and I described a typical order of service. When mentioning that we always have a special talk for the children, I took the opportunity to do a 10-minute gospel talk for them, using a few pictures. I then invited the children to go carefully up into the balcony so they could look down and see the baptistery, which I had opened up earlier on. I was a little nervous about the children being up there, but the group had four adults with them, so they were carefully shepherded. Once the children were sat down I explained about Believers' Baptism and invited questions. It was clearly quite a novelty to see a baptistery for the first time.

We then moved into the hall where I explained how useful an enlarged space was going to be for all the different activities we run as a church. The children then sat down at the far end, as the ABCD chorus was on the overhead ready for the children to sing. They all joined in very enthusiastically and seemed to enjoy the song very much. The children were then given a drink and a biscuit. After that we moved down to the other end of the hall where a quiz (Tin Can Alley quiz) was waiting for them on the magnetic board. This was a very lively time, as we played boys against the girls. The quiz provided a good opportunity to reinforce everything they had heard so far.

Following the quiz we went back to the foyer for the children to put their coats back on and then we went into the bookshop, where John kindly gave a short talk on what the purpose of the shop was and how useful the extension had been. Finally, the children were given a sheet of stickers and a pencil each, as a souvenir of the visit. The class teacher said they would use the pencils when they did special writing in class. With that they began their long walk back to school, but all seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

A week later a pile of letters from the children were dropped off at the bookshop. It was lovely to read the appreciation of the children. It was amusing to read one of them say how interesting it was to be shown 'your Christian bath tub'. Please thank the Lord for this lovely opportunity and pray that others may follow in the future.

Andy

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

We're thankful to God that we could hold another Holiday Club in early April. Just over 40 children came to the club over 2 days where they had a choice of either craft in the hall or football on Bennet's Rec. In between the activities the teaching took part in the church led by Steve and Andy ably assisted by a number of helpers with songs, memory verses and quizzes to help open God's Word to the youngsters.

The parents listened closely on the second day when we invited them back early before taking their children away, but pray for the parents and children that through what they heard God may draw them closer to Him. Thank you to all of those who helped over the two days.



While we were away we visited Chris and Jenny in Cromer and had a lovely time with them. They have settled in well in their new home but have a few projects in hand. Jenny said the sea air has made a big difference to her health. They send their love to all at DBC.

We attach a photo of them taken in their garden.
Ron and Barbara

Baffling Bygones

Caring For Life's Baffling Bygones evening lived up to its name with most of us struggling to identify what 30 objects from the past had been used for, from an array of all too plausible possible answers. Just as well we were working in small groups and could pool ideas, which led to much lively discussion and debate! The meeting started and ended with a Caring For Life DVD and during the interval we enjoyed a delicious buffet.

A big thank you to all who came and contributed in any way. The evening attracted over 70 folk, which included groups from several other churches. We give thanks to the Lord that the wonderful amount of £960 has been raised for CFL's ministry.
John and Elaine

Thanksgiving Date for your Diary

We will hold a thanksgiving service for the completion of the building works at 3.30pm on Saturday 2nd July with a tea afterwards.

Ladies' Bible Study

Having completed our series on The Human Journey, we shall be starting a new series of 10 Bible studies in 1 Peter. All ladies are very welcome to join us monthly, at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. The first study is on Monday 16th May. Please let me know if you would like a study guide (available from the bookshop). Also, if anyone would like to borrow The Human Journey DVD or book, please ask. These materials are produced by the Christian Medical Fellowship as an introductory course helping us develop a biblical worldview about health issues under the 8 topics humanity, start of life, marriage and sexuality, end of life, physical illness, mental illness, new technologies and global health.
Caroline Norman

Church Holiday – Letton Hall

Monday 30th of May sees the start of our 2016 Church Holiday!! We are off to Letton Hall in Norfolk. So far we are short of the minimum number required for the holiday but the staff at Letton enjoy us coming and so they have reduced their usual figure. However, we are still a few short of that number so if you can come, please do. It would be a shame having to pay for people who are not there. 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 have booked karting sessions on the Tuesday and Thursday
- 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 the Church are welcome
- There will be our usual mixture of fellowship, teaching and fun
- We are pleased to announce that our speaker for the week is Graham Nash from Cornerstone, Luton. He will be taking the meetings in the evenings and leading related mornings studies too
- We will be looking after ourselves again so there will be copious amounts of excellent food, lovingly prepared by teams of hardworking holiday makers. As promised previously, holidaymakers of a certain age and above will be exempt from duties this year. We thought it would be good to give you a rest
- You will have plenty of time to explore the beautiful Norfolk countryside and we have already arranged for two sessions of karting

The cost is £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. Financial assistance is available if the cost is a problem. You will also have to pay for the karting if you take part.

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

Jeff Hewitt

I'M DOING A SPONSORED SKYDIVE!

On the 14th May, I will be jumping out of a plane at 13,000ft in aid of the emotional wellbeing charity CHUMS. They support children and young people affected by bereavement and traumatic events

PLEASE HELP ME TO ACHIEVE MY TARGET OF
RAISING £500 BY DONATING THROUGH MY
JUST GIVING PAGE

www.justgiving.co.uk/Ruth-Banton

Or see me to sign the sponsor form

Thank you!



EMF SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES OPEN DAY

Saturday 14th May _ 11.30am & 2.30pm
Welwyn Evangelical Church, Fulling Mill Lane,
Welwyn, AL6 9NH

Discover how EMFschool trains and equips for ministry as we train men and women passionate about the Gospel and the Great Commission. We not only want to entrust the students with a deeper understanding of the Gospel but also a deeper confidence in the gospel as they seek to reach the most secular continent on earth.

Join us for the day and meet this year's students:

Samuil (Romania / UK), Débora (Spain), Dushan (Serbia), Ewelina (Poland)

Hear their testimonies; find out more about their studies at EMFschool and their visions for the future.

Day's Special: Insights from the Old Testament (morning and afternoon)

Dr. David Green

David was minister of Bishopdown Baptist Church in Salisbury for ten years before his appointment as Vice-Principal of the London Theological Seminary and faculty member for Old Testament. *He lectures on Historical Survey of the Old Testament at the EMFschool of biblical studies.*

He has spoken widely on aspects of contemporary culture, postmodernism and consumerism and, has published journal articles and conference papers. He also contributes a regular column to Grace Magazine and runs Hebrew Study Days for the John Owen Centre.

Lunch at Guessens (EMFschool). Please bring your own packed lunch. Soup and hot drinks served. Afternoon Tea & Coffee served at church.

For more information: 01438 716398 or contact@emf-welwyn.org

INFORMATION

News from the Foodbank

The first relates to food stocks; although our total weight of food in the warehouse remains adequate we are very short of a number of items and may even need to buy some of them if donations of these items do not increase. The specific shortages and items we always need are listed below. We are overstocked with a number of items and for the moment do not need any more tinned soup, baked beans, pasta and spaghetti and cereals.

Shortages:

UHT Milk,
UHT Fruit Juice
Jam
Sugar
Small Tins of Ham, Pork etc

We Always Need:

Tinned Fruit
Tinned Sardines
Tinned Vegetables
Sponge Puddings
Savoury Treats
Sweet Treats
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Snack Noodles / Pasta / Rice

Secondly, the next Tesco food collection is due on Saturday, 2 July. It's a struggle to get enough volunteers for these collections and anyone who could give a couple of hours between 9 and 5 please get in touch.

Week of Prayer venues

Mon 9th	Weedons	286 Common Road, Kensworth	7.30pm
Tues 10th		Church	7.30pm
Wed 11th	Townleys	9 Wellhead Road, Totternhoe	2.30pm
Thu 12th	Siptons	29 Elliot court, High Street North	7.30pm
Fri 13th	Woodruff	10 Priory Road, Dunstable	7.30pm
Sat 14th	Ming	10 Hawthorn Crescent, Dunstable	7.30pm
Sun 15th	Hewitt	83 Farley Hill, Luton, YP	8.00pm

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Thursday 12th May - MYSTERY RIDE 'PLUS' - Meet outside Church at 2.00 p.m.

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS LINK

Thursday 26th May at 2.30 p.m. Speaker: Steve Burton (DBC)

Finances for the First Quarter of 2016

For the first quarter of 2016 the Church finances were as follows:

Income	£13,285
Expenditure	<u>£61,650</u>
Shortfall	<u>(£48,365)</u>

The main reason for the shortfall was that we paid out £49,338 in connection with the Hall building works. During the quarter we benefited from the receipt of tax reclaimed (£430) on Gift Aid gifts given in the last quarter of 2015 and also from the receipt of tax reclaimed (£861) on Gift Aid gifts given over the early part of the quarter.

We thank all who have given to the work of the Church, over the last quarter, and we would record our thanks to the Lord for all He has provided for us. We pray that the Lord will continue to supply all our needs, spiritual and material, for all we seek to do in the Lord's name in Dunstable.

Mission Giving

May is one of our 'Mission Giving' months. Twice a year everyone attending has an opportunity to give specifically to the four Missions which we support, which are:

- (a) *Andrzej Kempczynski with Grace Baptist Mission (GBM) – involved with church planting in Legionowo in Poland. £500 of our Grace Baptist Mission support is set aside this year for the expenses of the Drop-in Camp linked to the Cubao Reformed Baptist Church, which is held in October.*
- (b) *The Open-Air Mission (OAM) – with whom Andy Banton, is involved as General Secretary; Steve Burton works as an Evangelist and Frances Burton works in the OAM Office.*
- (c) *Christian literature for Eastern Europe via the Roundwood Trust.*
- (d) *European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) – to support Rogério Ramos in his work in Sines, Portugal.*

During May please collect an envelope from the rack beside one of the collection boxes and consider prayerfully how you can assist in giving towards the financial needs of the above. Do remember every gift helps however insignificant you think it is. If you do not mark your envelope your gift will be divided equally between the four missions. If, however, you wish to designate your gift, please mark your envelope with the name or names of the work you wish to support and specify how you want the gift divided. Please return your envelopes, via the collection boxes, by the end of May. Tax can be claimed on your mission gifts given by cheque (from those who have signed one of our Gift Aid forms) unless you mark your envelope to the contrary. If it is more convenient for you to spread your giving to these missions over the year then you can do so in the same way as described above; ask for the mission giving envelopes or mark up your own.

Once a year in May we are also inviting additional gifts for the General Fund of the Pilgrims' Friend Society. Please use one of the Mission envelopes and mark it 'Pilgrims' Friend Society'. The same comments about Gift Aid apply.

In addition some may be interested in supporting the General Fund of the Grace Baptist Mission which helps those workers without fully designated support and the office staff at Abingdon. Please mark any gifts given for this purpose.

Over and above financial support, all of those mentioned need everyone's support in prayer, so please bring them before the throne of grace regularly – at home, and at our weekly prayer meetings. There are usually copies of their prayer / news letters in the vestibule, and news from some of these letters is put in

the Newsletter from time to time. Please ask Christine Wild (christinewild50@gmail.com), our Mission Secretary, if you want to know more or would like a prayer letter emailed to you. When we have mission speakers talking about their work do try and come to show your support. It will then be a greater encouragement to them in their work for the Lord as well as a help to you in your prayers.

Gifts Received and Sent During the last Month

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:

EMF – in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
GBM – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski	(from gifts)	£25
ReachAcross in support of Steven Green	(from church funds)	£125
SASRA	(from church funds)	£125
UFM Worldwide in support of Robert Lightowler	(from church funds)	£125

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

Ways to give tax effectively to the Church (incl. Mission Giving)

Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer, using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, the Church gets an extra 25 pence from the government, helping your donation go further. On top of that, if you are a higher rate taxpayer you can claim further tax relief on the donation in your annual tax return.

So next time you want to give to the Church, tell David Woodruff you want to Gift Aid it and he will do the rest (confidentially). You only need to sign a simple Gift Aid form and make your gift by cheque or through your bank.

Payroll Giving

If your employer runs a Payroll Giving scheme you can donate to your chosen charities (including the Church) from your salary before tax is deducted, so you get tax relief straight away. For example, if you are a standard rate taxpayer and you give £100 per year it only costs you £80.

Find out from your payroll department if your employer is one of the many offering a Payroll Giving scheme. If they don't, why not suggest that they set one up?

Church Finance and the Building Work

As we come to the end of the building work it is clear that the church reserve funds have dropped more than expected because of the number of extra costs involved. This was mentioned at the recent church meeting and donations were invited to cover these costs via the collection boxes. We are thankful for a donation already received and we did receive one for the building work last year. If anyone else is able to make a donation – large or small – it would be appreciated, as we anticipate other expenses in the coming months not related to the work on the Hall.

DBC DIARY DATES - GODWILLING

2015 MAY		
Sun 1st	am & pm am 5.20pm	David Green Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate
Tues 3rd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Andy Banton
Wed 4th	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting
Sat 7th	11am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 8th	am & pm	Stan Evers (Potton)
Mon 9th— Sun 15th		Week of Prayer (see inside for venues and times)
Tues 10th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Week of Prayer
Wed 11th	1.00pm	Bumps & Babes
Thur 12th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours: Mystery Ride 'Plus'
Sat 14th	7.30pm	Youth Squash: Chesham
Sun 15th	m & pm pm 7.30pm	Ian Flanders (GBM) Communion YP at the Hewitts
Mon 16th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study: 1 Peter
Tues 17th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: J P Earnest
Thur 19th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 21st	8.00am	Mens Prayer Meeting
Sun 22nd	am pm	Trevor Rimes Rex Andrews
Tues 24th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Martin Loughbrough
Wed 25th	1.00pm	Bumps & Babes
Thu 26th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: Steve Burton
Sun 29th	am & pm	Steve Burton
Tues 31st	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

3rd	Scott Mitchell	Toddlers	Ruth Banton
10th	WoP		
17th	Mike Power	GBM	Prayer Waves
24th	Brian Rigby	Church	Holiday
31st	Ron Shipton	Roundwood Trust	Elaine Snuggs

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

'PRAY FOR US' Members preaching in other churches

MAY		
4-11th	Steve Burton	Tissington Well Dressings
4th	Andy Banton	Ashton Middle
5th	Tony Townley	Luton Central Methodist
6th	Andy Banton	Blunham Grace BC
8th	Rex Andrews Andy Banton	Pitsone (am) Wappenham EC
11th	Steve Burton	Castlefields (Derby)
15th	Rex Andrews	Little Staughton
22nd	Andy Banton	Langdale EC (am)
29th	Rex Andrews	Hatfield (am)

MAY ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

1st	Brian Rigby & Barbara Shipton
8th	Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming
15th	Scott Mitchell & Sarah Woodruff
22nd	Bethany Hewitt & Scott Mitchell
29th	John & Bev Keble

Cleaning (A/B)

2nd	Rigby / Snuggs
9th	Keble / Caroline & Julia
16th	Banton / Power
23rd	Mitchell / Dawkins
30th	Christine & Caroline / Hewitt

Security

1st	Rex Andrews
8th	Frank Barnachea
15th	CJ Barnachea
22nd	Charlton Barnachea
29th	Andy Banton

Refreshments

-	Julia & Elain
	Caroline & Mina
	Winnie & Michele
	Beth & Emily

Creche

1st	Sarah & Bev
8th	Marie & Margaret
15th	Winnie & Julia
22nd	Ruth & Emily
29th	Janette & Dawn

Flowers

	Margaret Rigby
	Bev Keble
	Ann Weedon
	Mary Coleman
	Rachel Mitchell