

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2014

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
Home Groups – 1st Tuesday in month

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,

We live in a day when there are many uncertainties - economic, social, political, national and international. The world has become a more dangerous and unstable place to live in. There has been a shake up of the moral structures of society that has produced changing attitudes particularly in terms of human relationships. The Arab spring has not brought about the freedoms from tyranny hoped for but rather it has only produced war, bloodshed and instability. However, though as Christians we are deeply concerned about these things, we can be encouraged by the things that cannot be shaken.

We know that the throne of God cannot be shaken. We are reminded by the psalmist *'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever'* (Psalm 45:6; Lam 5:19). The eternal, unchanging God (Mal 3:6) is still and always will be on the throne ruling the universe.

We know that the word of God cannot be shaken. Peter encourages us to love one another sincerely, fervently and with pure hearts because we have *'been born again ... through the word of God which lives and abides forever'* (1 Peter 1:22-23). The promises of God in the gospel are sure and steadfast for all who trust in Christ (John 3:16-17).

We know that the true child of God cannot be shaken. Though many things in the world disturb us we are convinced as Paul was *'If God is for us, who can be against us'* (Rom 8:31). He continues to teach that the assurance we have is because God gave *'His own Son, (and) delivered Him up for us all'* (v.32) and as a result there is absolutely nothing in this life and the life to come that *'shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord'* (v. 39).

We know that our heavenly inheritance cannot be shaken. God has given us an inheritance. Peter reminds us that it is *'an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you'* He continues by giving the reason for this assurance is because we *'are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time'* (1 Peter 1:4-5).

We know that at the return of Christ the heavens and the earth will be shaken. The Scriptures teach that though we live in a world where things are constantly being shaken and changed by the actions and plans of people the day is coming when not only things on earth but also things in heaven will be shaken by God himself. This will occur when our Saviour returns to this earth *'the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heaven will be shaken'* (Matt 24:29). Peter teaches that both heaven and the earth will be truly shaken and *'burned up'* and there will be a *'new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells'* (2 Peter 3:10-13).

'Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire' (Heb 12:28-29). This means not only should we have hearts full of gratitude to God for all the unshakeable things he has graciously given us but belonging to his kingdom will also inspire us to worship and serve him with reverence and godly fear.

RS

HOME MADE JAMS AND MARMALADE FOR SALE

We have home made jam and seville marmalade to sell at £1.40 per jar.

All monies will go to CARING FOR LIFE.

The jams are Strawberry, Gooseberry and Red Currant
and are all made with our own organically grown fruit.

John and Elaine

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2014

This is the 21st anniversary of Blythswood Care running the shoe box appeal and over 1.7 million boxes have been donated and distributed through the years.

This year boxes will go to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania and Serbia. Please consider filling a box for someone who has so little. Leaflets are now in the foyer giving all the details, including suggested items – please note all items must be new.

Please bring your box to the church foyer by *Friday 7 Nov.*

There are some empty shoeboxes in the foyer if you would like to fill one.

To watch a 5 min video about this year's appeal go to www.blythswood.org/shoebox and click on the YouTube video (Pesto's Box).

Thank you,

Steven Dawkins



LETTER FROM TOM & ABI

Dear Friends at DBC

Firstly we would both like to say a big thank you to all those who attended our wedding and have given us gifts. We had a very special day and it was great to share it with so many of our friends.

Abi and I are setting in well to our new house here in Aylesbury. Abi as I'm sure you know is now working full time at a private hospital here in Aylesbury as an Occupational Therapist, which she is really enjoying and learning lots at.

For myself, I have now finished my time at Limes Avenue Baptist Church as a ministry trainee. The church asked and has voted for me to become the pastoral assistant. My new role involves a lot more of visiting people and spending more time with Pastor Alan, looking at church life from the Pastor role.

Long term wise we really don't know what the Lord has in store.

We would really value your prayers as we consider in the coming months where the Lord is leading us. Also please pray as we start married life together we will set a good foundation as we pray and read God's word together.

We think of you and you are in our prayers

With love

Tom and Abi

It is 100 years since the beginning of WW1.
'The Great War' usually conjures up grim thoughts in our minds.
Did you know the Lord did 'great things' during 1914-18?



AN O.A.M. MISSIONER WITH SOME OF KITCHENER'S ARMY AT ST. ALBANS

On Tuesday 18th November at 7.30pm Andy will be giving visual presentation of the work of the Open-Air Mission during the war and the Lord's incredible blessing on it.
Please come if you can. All ages are welcome.



STUART OLYOTT

PREACHING

pure and simple

Thursday, 4th December 2014

11:00am - 4:00pm A day with Stuart Olyott for pastors and preachers. Lunch and free book included.	7:30pm Open meeting with Stuart Olyott preaching.
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Grace Baptist Church Edlesborough, Moor End, Edlesborough, LU6 2HN.

Image: <https://lic.kr/p/9t1gsk6>

Thanksgiving Day

We had a day of Thanksgiving on Sunday 19th October. Paul Watts from Coventry preached on the importance of the Gospel from Romans 1 in the morning.. After lunch we had a pleasant walk around Dunstable in the autumn sunshine returning to the church to hear some reports on the different church activities interspersed with singing. Then it was time for tea and then the evening service where Paul Watts spoke on growing in Godliness from 2 Peter. He also gave us encouragement for our building works by updating us on the recently completed far more extensive renovation work at Lower Ford Street Baptist.

A very big thank you to everyone who organised and helped with the arrangements for the day and we can be thankful to the Lord for his provision.

The Bible Exhibition – October 6th – 10th

The Bible was brought to life for children in Dunstable at the recent Bible exhibition. More than 380 children aged between 7 – 11 from 4 different schools and a home school group attended. The children were taken back in time to see the events described in Acts. As the narrator described the events using story boards every so often a character would ‘come to life’ and give a first hand account of their Biblical experience.

Observers were introduced to Mary Magdelene, Peter, Dorcas, Paul, Lydia, the Philippian jailor and King Agrippa. Each one pointed to Jesus as the only means of salvation.

The characters had fun dressing up in the costumes and deciding how best to tell ‘their’ story. One of the best loved characters was the Philippian jailor played by David Weedon. The children enjoyed his clanking bunch of oversized keys and David enjoyed making them jump with his re-enactment of the earthquake. The jailor had a set of stocks and two children were chosen to be ‘locked’ in each session. This was a highlight for many of the children.

Each class were accompanied by a teacher and assistants and / or parent helpers. Due to this many adults also heard the gospel including some that had had connections with the church before through mothers and toddlers and a Muslim teacher. Some adults even took free literature for themselves. Please continue to pray that the seed of God’s Word sown in each of these hearts may continue to grow and that some may be saved. Remember especially the teachers at Ashton Middle School as they deal with the consequences of its planned closure.

Many thanks to Jeff Hewitt for organising this years exhibition, to Andy and Steve for their narration and especially to all those who gave up their time to play characters or help with the refreshments.

Rachel



Lower Ford Street Coventry - Saturday 12th October

It was a joy and privilege to attend the Thanksgiving service for the refurbishment of the church building. Pastor Paul Watts welcomed everyone and commenced the service by reading from Psalm 115 v1 'Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to your name give glory'

Reports were given outlining details of how the Lord had provided for all their needs and using new wall screens we were given a video presentation of various stages of the work.

Many people from near and far were at the service and opportunity was given to say which churches were represented.



A very encouraging message from Matthew 16 v 17-20 was given by John Stevens, President of the FIEC. He reminded the church that although it is a case of Mission Accomplished as far as the building is concerned, that is not the case with the need for proclaiming the gospel in the Coventry area. It is easy to get discouraged in this work but we can –

Be confident because of Jesus' promise that He will build his church

Be faithful because is the only foundation and therefore the church is very secure

Be bold because Jesus has given us authority to preach the gospel

Sacrificial giving was involved for the refurbishment to take place but sacrificial giving must go on for the gospel work to continue. The cost for Christ in establishing His church was the Cross and we need to be willing to sacrifice everything by putting Christ first.

After the conclusion of the service and before the buffet tea, there was time to look around the building, which by putting in a lower ceiling now incorporates a second floor, increases the floor space by 70% and comprises several rooms of various sizes, plus another kitchen. We pray that Lower Ford Street Church will have many opportunities to use their new facilities to the full in sharing the gospel with unbelievers in Coventry.

Woodruffs/Rigbys



Manchester Report 2014

Thank you for your prayers and support regarding The Open-Air Mission's annual team event in Manchester. We had a happy team of 5 full time workers, 4 associate workers, 5 volunteers, and 3 cooks! Of course the team grew at times with local believers joining us throughout the week at open-air meetings which were held in the city centre from

Monday to Friday. The team split up on Saturday in order to have a witness in both Chorlton and Oldham. We also split up on Sunday with the team spreading themselves across various different churches to update them in the work and serve them by providing ministry. We thank all the local churches who partnered with us in the gospel and hope this report and the attached conversations sheet will be a great encouragement for all who prayed and supported.

Some lively moments!

As always in Manchester there were some very unpredictable and lively moments as the men preached. We were so happy to have Andy Robertson joining us on the team after his health issues and the Lord really helped him in one situation that arose. As he preached he was heckled by Steve, who was *'good at talking but not at listening'*. But Steve was then joined by George – a regular Manchurian heckler – whose main argument was that he believed the Bible has lots of contradictions. Then, further to the two main hecklers, a man called

Trevor also heckled quite aggressively regarding evolution. At one point it looked as though the entire meeting would be hijacked but, by God's grace, Andy was able to softly bring the crowd that had gathered back under control to hear his personal testimony of what God had done in his life. Afterwards, a number of conversations ensued.



On another day Douglas Young was preaching about the Lord Jesus and the two thieves on the cross. As he spoke about the Lord Jesus' sufferings a drunk and deeply upset man approached the preacher saying that he was bigger than Jesus because he had more holes in his body. He then proceeded to strip off his coat, t-shirt, and hat revealing a very scared body. The scene caused many people to stop and watch, thinking a fight may begin. However, Douglas kept very quiet and spoke to the man quietly. In that moment all of Market Street seemed to come to a quiet hush as Douglas spoke to the man. Shortly the police arrived and escorted the man away and as this happened a number of conversations again took place with many people commenting that they were impressed with the way the preacher and the team had reacted so kindly to this abusive man.

Divine Appointments!

It was interesting to see how various conversations took place with those from overseas. Many came across our meetings who were, in God's providence, only in Manchester for a day or a week.

Christopher was a nurse doing a one week research project from Bavaria in Germany. He had stopped and listened to Andy Banton preach on one day and spoke to Adrian Dilley afterwards. However, Christopher came back the following day and asked many questions which were carefully dealt with by Andy over a cup of coffee. As the conversation progressed it seemed that Christopher came to understand that salvation is by faith alone in Christ. They spoke about many other things regarding suffering and homosexuality but at the end of the conversation Andy urged him to make it a priority to seek the Lord for himself.



Again Andy Banton had an encouraging conversation with a man called Pavel. He was visiting from Poland for just the day and met our team. He was Roman Catholic and started very suspicious of us thinking we were a cult. However, he was reassured that we were Bible believing Christians and he took away with him an *Ultimate Questions* booklet in his own language.

Dimitrius was on his way home from England to Greece. He stopped to talk and again he took an *Ultimate Questions* in his own language.

Near the kingdom!

There were many, it seems, whom we spoke to who were near the kingdom of God. This was a big encouragement to us.



Vashnita was an Indian woman who told Steve Burton that she believed she was going to hell. She had held this belief for 10 years and claimed that no-one had ever told her how to be made right with God. She listened as Steve explained the gospel to her and he urged her that it would be a very foolish thing to go home and not now call on Jesus Christ for salvation. She went away saying she would do what was suggested.

As associate worker Paul Linnell finished preaching a young girl came to receive a gospel from him. As she took the gospel she seemed very sincere and said, "My boyfriend is a born-again Christian and is trying to convert me".

Shazard was a young Muslim man who unusually admitted that he was beginning to believe that Jesus was God. This came at the end of a conversation where Scripture was shown to him and explained so he could understand. He took a John's Gospel promising to read it.

There are many other encouragements and conversations to share. But it is perhaps best to conclude the report by mentioning that all the workers went away thoroughly encouraged by the week. One evangelist suggested it was "the best week we've had at Manchester." And another member of the team said, "The Manchester week is such a blessing in every way – we give thanks to the Lord for his goodness."

Open Air Mission Annual Meeting - Saturday 18th October

A large number of people meet at the spacious accommodation of the Samworth Enterprise Academy in Leicester to give thanks to God for his goodness to the OAM over the past year.

During the morning session a number of the evangelists, full time (and associates), gave reports of their work that include not only preaching in the open air, in their own general localities, and team events in major cities but beach missions, Bible exhibitions, race meetings and school assemblies. A considerable amount of literature - tracts and gospels, was distributed over the year and many people spoken to about their need of the Saviour.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow was a particularly fruitful time. A number of the evangelists, working with other Christian groups, were able to preach the gospel to many athletes and visitors, from different countries, many personal conversations were had and much literature given out.

It was good to hear how God had answered prayer for the London Week by enabling two teams of men to preach the gospel at different location as previously only one team was available. We have been asked to pray for even more teams for next year's London week.

It was a great joy to hear of adults and children being challenged with gospel truth and of those who have come to trust Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and are going on with him. We heard of those who ridiculed and heckled the preacher in the open air and how, even in difficult situations, God often gave the evangelists wisdom to turn, what could have proved a disruptive and awkward moment, into an effective preaching opportunity. Sometimes, on these occasions, people listening 'sided' with the preacher or the heckler actually drew more people to listen. It was good to hear of some of those who ridiculed coming back later to apologise for trying to unsettle the preacher and disrupt the ministry.

After a lovely buffet lunch more evangelists spoke at the afternoon session. The General Secretary (Andy Banton) gave a brief overview of the work and council member and pastor, David Fielding, gave a helpful and encouraging exposition from the Book of Ruth.

He emphasised God's sovereignty and providence over the lives of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz even to the fact that something as simple as Ruth gleaning some barley from Boaz' field was used by God for his ultimate purpose of bringing Jesus into the world. David applied it to the lives and ministry of the OAM workers. They preach the word in all kinds of situations in human weakness, and sometimes fear and trembling, but God gives the increase for his glory, the salvation of sinners and the blessing of his people.

Please continue to pray for the work of the OAM and please obtain a copy of the OAM magazine *The Master of the Multitude* for more information on the evangelists and ministry of the Mission in order to pray effectively for the great work God is doing through the OAM.

RS

FINANCE.

Finances for the Third Quarter of 2014

For the third quarter of 2014 the Church finances were as follows:

Income	£13,722
Expenditure	<u>£10,934</u>
Surplus	<u>£ 2,788</u>

During the quarter the general fund has benefited from Gift Aid tax reclaimed (£1,246) on gifts given from early June to early August 2014. If you want to know more about Gift Aid please speak to David Woodruff in confidence.

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

Mission Giving

November 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. Currently these 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 was held recently in October.*
- (b) *The Open-Air Mission (OAM) – with whom Andy Banton, is involved as General Secretary; Steve Burton works as an Evangelist and Linda Lumley, Ruth Banton and Chris Jacquier work 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 November please collect an envelope from the rack by 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 if you want it to be other than an equal division. Please return your envelopes, via the collection boxes, by the end of November. 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.

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.

As well as financial support, all of the above 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, our Mission Secretary, if you want to know more or would like a prayer letter emailed to you. When we have Meetings linked with 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.

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:

AGBC (South East) NW District squashes	(from church funds)	£135
Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£853
European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
Grace Baptist Mission – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski in Poland	(from gifts)	£25
Grace Baptist Mission – in support of Jason & Andrea Murfitt	(from church funds)	£100
Grace Baptist Trust Corporation	(from church funds)	£125
Open-Air Mission (for help with Bible Exhibition)	(from church funds)	£360

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

DBC DIARY DATES - GOD WILLING

2014 NOVEMBER		
Sat 1st	11am	Open air outreach
Sun 2nd	am & pm 5.20pm pm	Allan Mac Donald Prayer meeting for Pastor YP at the Hewitts
Tues 4th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tony Townley
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting
Sun 9th	am & pm am	Nigel Hoad (Bromley) Communion
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Thur 13th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Talk: Blitz Baby
Sat 15th	8.00am 7.30pm	Men's Prayer meeting Youth Squash, Chesham
Sun 16th	am & pm pm pm	James Chittenden Communion YP at the Kebles
Mon 17th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study Study 18: 1Cor 11:2-16
Tues 18th	7.30pm	DFEC joint meeting: OAM in WW1, Andy Banton
Thur 20th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Thur 21st	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: Rex Andrews
Sun 22nd	am & pm pm	Jonathan Parkinson (CFL) CFM
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: David Green
Sun 30th	am & pm	Mostyn Roberts (Welwyn)

TUESDAY PRAYER TIME LEADERS & SUBJECTS

4th	Brian Rigby	EMF
11th	Scott Mitchell	Toddlers (Ruth Banton)
18th	Joint DEFC Meeting	
25th	Mike Power	GBM Prayer Waves

'PRAY FOR US'

Members preaching in other churches

- 9th Rex Andrews Little Staughton BC am & pm
16th Rex Andrews Salem BC, Ramsey am & pm
30th Rex Andrews Potton BC pm

NOVEMBER ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient.

DOOR

- 2nd Chris Jacquier & Dawn Hewitt
9th David Kight & Barbara Shipton
16th Matthew Woodruff & John Jacquier
23rd Brian Rigby & Sarah Woodruff
30th Ray Marvin & Beverly Kingham

CLEANING

- 3rd Christine Wild & Caroline Norman
10th Jeff & Dawn Hewitt
17th Frank & Tess Barnachea
24th Marie Casey & Carolyn Kight

SECURITY

- 2nd John Keble
9th Ray Marvin
16th Scott Mitchell
23rd Mike Power
30th Brian Rigby

FLOWERS

- 2nd Marie Dawkins
9th Christine Wild
16th Dawn Hewitt
23rd Caroline Norman
30th Barbara Shipton

CRÈCHE

- 2nd Julia, Rachel
9th Jenny, Beth
16th Caroline, Comfort
23rd Elaine, Jess
30th Dawn, Mina

REFRESHMENTS

- 2nd Jo & Sarah
16th Christine & Marie Dawkins
23rd Julia & Elaine

Please forward items for the
December 2014 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 23rd November
Thank you.