

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER

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
- 2.30pm 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

A Healthy Body and a Sound Church

At times the church may look and behave like an organisation, similar to other clubs and societies. The Bible teaches, however, that the church is an organism: a body in which inter-connected individuals share a common life. The church is the body of Christ (Eph 1:23; 5:30; Rom 12:5; 1 Cor 10:16; 12:12-30 etc.), made up of members who share new life in Christ. This means more than that the church is 'like a body' or 'can be compared to' a body. *It is* a body and therefore functions like a body.

We call a body which functions properly or well 'healthy.' Sometimes churches are healthy and sometimes they are unwell. In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, we are presented with seven churches in varying degrees of health and sickness. One is even described as 'dead' (Rev 3:1), meaning it is on the point of dying (v. 2). Strong remedies were needed to bring it back to health. As with the health of the body, prevention is better than cure, so it is worth asking how we can stay healthy. What makes for a healthy church? As with any body, it needs good diet, and exercise but not overwork.

What is good diet for a church? Good teaching is often described as spiritual nourishment in the New Testament (e.g. 1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:14). In Titus 2:1, Paul refers to 'sound' teaching. The word he uses does not mean what we usually think of as 'sound.' He does not mean doctrinally orthodox, but health-giving. Of course, heresy cannot promote spiritual health, but doctrinally orthodox or correct teaching is not what Paul has in mind, nor does teaching that is simply correct necessarily promote spiritual health for the individual or the church. We need teaching that encourages spiritual growth and development in Christian grace. As we all know, some of the most appealing food is not the most healthy. Similarly, the fact that we enjoy a particular kind of teaching does not necessarily make it good for us. We may like to hear our favourite topics covered in preaching, or for the preacher to criticise certain groups or individuals. We may enjoy having our emotions stirred or hearing interesting and amusing anecdotes. We may feel content if the correct doctrinal words or phrases are used. And yet, has it promoted the spiritual well-being of the individual or the church? We also know that a good diet is only half the story. We also need to exercise, otherwise even the healthiest food will not benefit us as it should. An active church is a healthy church.

What is secret of church growth? If the church is a body, we can say that health produces growth. A healthy church will grow. An unhealthy church will dwindle. The key to church growth is to promote spiritual health. What are the signs of a healthy church? This could be answered in many ways, but a quick health check is to compare our church with the description of church life in Acts 2:42. Attention to the teaching of the apostles, fellowship, breaking bread and prayer should be the core activities of any church. These are not the only activities a church is involved in, nor can the health of a church be gauged simply by how many meetings it holds, but whether these are its core activities – the things which are indispensable and essential.

If we understand the church as a body, this helps us also to know what to expect from it and how to look after it. It also reminds us that, as parts of a body, we all matter, that we are inter-connected, and that our individual spiritual well-being is best served by working to promote a healthy church.

David Green

Date and Time	Location/Host
Thursday 3 rd November – 8:00pm	Rigbys
Lord's Day 6 th November – 5:20pm	Church Hall
Monday 14 th November – 8:00pm	Weedons
Wednesday 23 rd November – 10:30am	Shiptons
Thursday 1 st December – 8:00pm	Snuggs
Lords' Day 4 th December – 5:20pm	Church Hall
Friday 9 th December – 2:30pm	Joy Broughton
Wednesday 14 th December – 8:00pm	Rigbys
Monday 19 th December – 2:30pm	Venue to be confirmed
Lord's Day 1 st January – 5:20pm	Church Hall

Some more dates have been arranged where we can meet to specifically pray for the Pastorate and future leadership of the church. We do encourage as many to attend as who are able.

Youth Squash Dates 16/17

Saturday, 19 Nov 2016	Chesham
Saturday, 03 Dec 2016	Edlesborough
Saturday, 28 Jan 2017	Tring
Saturday, 04 Mar 2017	Chesham
Saturday, 25 Mar 2017	Dunstable
Saturday, 29 Apr 2017	Tring
Saturday, 20 May 2017	Dunstable
Saturday, 17 Jun 2017	Aylesbury

Church Holiday 2017

We are provisionally booked into Sizewell Hall next October half term. Please let Jeff Hewitt know if you are planning to go as we need to confirm numbers as soon as possible



Our congratulations go to Allan & Beth for their wedding at DBC on the 8th October. We do pray God will bless their new life together.

Allan & Beth would like to thank everybody for the prayers, love & support shown to them over the last few months. They married on the 8th October & Beth moved to Liverpool on the 24th. They are looking forward to setting up home & settling into a new church together.

Their new address is:
 Flat 2,
 2 Somerset Place,
 Tuebrook,
 Liverpool,
 L6 4BE



Andy Banton takes a group of children through the Bible exhibition which took place at the beginning of October. The children were guided through the whole Bible with characters such as Noah (David Weedon in the picture) helping to illustrate. Over 400 children saw the exhibition along with a number of leaders over the 5 days.

Children and adults who came and saw the exhibition and for Andy as he takes assemblies in the schools. We do thank God for this opportunity to evangelise to the children of Dunstable.

From Andrzej & Monika Kempczyński 's prayer letter; GBM missionaries in Poland

Last month we had a chance to meet a new missionary couple who started working in Warsaw - Dariusz and Brooke Bryæko. It's a Polish -American couple who is sent to Poland by a Presbyterian church from the USA. Dariusz is Polish and he is PhD. At the end of this month they are opening a Reformation Study Centre in Warsaw where you can go and read Christian Reformed literature, and drink tea or coffee. They came to our Sunday service and we could also spend some time with them talking and learning about each other by a dinner. Later, it is not specified when, they would like to start a Presbyterian church in Warsaw. Please pray for them. We also had a special visit from Maggie and Geoff King. Last year, when we attended Hothorpe, we started talking about Geoff coming to Poland to lead a preaching workshop. So it happened. Around eighteen people attended the workshop. We have received a very good feedback. So we praise God for that. Additionally we were able to spend some time with Maggie and Geoff and that was a great encouragement to us. We hope that Geoff will be able to visit us again next year.. So please pray that the Lord would make his visit possible. This coming Saturday we will have a second meeting of School of Systematic Theology. Andrzej will be lecturing the doctrine of God. Please pray for him and all people that will attend that the Lord would bless this event. Andrzej plans to visit Marcin, who is in prison in Warsaw. It can only be done on Thursdays. Last Thursday Andrzej was there but the authorities did not allow him to meet with Marcin.

From the Foodbank

Hi Everybody:

Firstly a big thanks to everybody who helped us replenish our depleted stocks. As a result of generous harvest donations and donations from a gig held by "We shall overcome" in Luton we now have enough food to meet our current demands.

The collection at Tesco is due to be held on Friday 2nd December and Saturday 3rd December.

Advance notice: We will be holding our annual meeting for volunteers at the Salvation Army on Friday 10th February at 17.00.

With thanks for your continued support and best wishes

Mike Pittam Operations Manager Dunstable Foodbank



Christian Books



Christmas

we are coming around to that time of the year again when we shall be ultra-busy as a bookshop serving churches and customers all things Christmas. We shall be busy travelling to like-minded supportive churches to host a number of Christmas bookstalls, we have ten bookstalls organised so far. We anticipate travelling over 650 miles between all the churches in order to host these bookstalls. These bookstalls are a life line to the bookshop as so many bookshops struggle to keep going in a tough retail environment and many folk buy online so easily.

We would value your prayers for safety in travel and that good books would be bought as presents to encourage believers and as presents for non-believing folk.

2016 Christmas Bookstalls: 9:30am – 1pm lunch time

- Saturday 22nd October - Welwyn Evangelical Church, Welwyn
- Saturday 29th October - Five Ashdown Bookstall, East Sussex
- Saturday 5th November - Limes Avenue Baptist Church, Aylesbury
- Thursday 10th November - Alexandra Road, Hemel Hempstead
- Saturday 12th November - Great Whyte Baptist Church, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire
- Friday 18th November - Potton Baptist, Potton
- Saturday 19th November - West Row Baptist Church, West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk
- Saturday 26th November - Newtown Evangelical Church, Chesham
- Saturday 3rd December - Gadebridge Baptist Church, Hemel Hempstead
- Saturday 10th December - Flitwick Baptist Church, Flitwick

Christian Books 01582 601945
St. Mary's Gate, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, LU2 5W

Special Church Invitation

CHRISTIAN BOOKS **15%** OFF ALL ITEMS

Christmas Shopping Nights

Monday 21st November
Monday 28th November
Wednesday 30th November
6pm - 9pm

We are delighted to invite you to a special evening of Christmas shopping at Christian Books. Tea/coffee, biscuits, mince pies, Christmas cake and FREE church services, primary. We look forward to seeing you. **John & Bev Hobbie**

Children's Books
Christian Life
Bibles
Bibles
Christmas Gifts
Christmas Cards
2017 Calendars
New Fiction

2016 Christmas Shopping Nights

we shall be holding three shopping nights in the bookshop for those from local supportive churches in Dunstable to visit the shop for Christmas shopping. We shall be offering a 15% discount for all items bought on the night. Look out for the invitations.



1. Monday 21st November
2. Monday 28th November
3. Wednesday 30th November

Advent & Christmas

New items instore this year include the Meaningful Chocolate Advent calendar from the company that manufactures the Real Easter Egg. Each advent calendar has a booklet to explain to children the real meaning of Christmas, the wonderful birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

THE REAL ADVENT CALENDAR



Give your tree a meaningful makeover!

These Meaningful Chocolate tree decorations are a great way to share the Christmas story. Each box contains six solid chocolate angel decorations, a Christmas story activity poster and a sticker set, explaining the good news of the arrival of the messiah as the heavenly hosts proclaimed to the shepherds in Luke 2.



Christmas Books

we have some new books for Christmas, ideal for sharing or giving away to family, friends and neighbours.

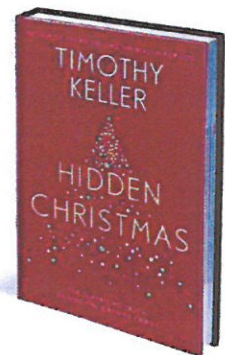


Christmas Playlist by Alistair Begg – Good Book Company

A short, engaging, evangelistic book, perfect for giving away to non-Christian friends, family and church guests.

Hidden Christmas by Timothy Keller (Hardback) – Hodder

In his new book Timothy Keller takes readers on an illuminating journey into the surprising background of the Nativity. By understanding the message of hope and salvation within the Bible's account of Jesus's birth, readers will experience the redeeming power of God's grace in a meaningful and deeper way.



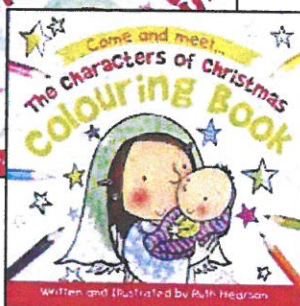
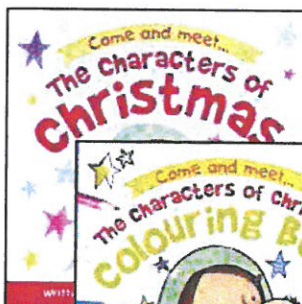
Child in the Manger by Sinclair B. Ferguson – Banner of Truth

The True Meaning of Christmas.

Christmas is a very elusive thing, isn't it? We may look forward to it. But what exactly is 'it'? 'A time for children'; 'It's about peace'; 'It's about family'; 'It's about gifts, but it's a pity it has become so commercialised' – these are a few of the popular answers to the question, 'What does Christmas mean to you?'

The Characters of Christmas by Ruth Hearson – 10 Publishing

a book, board book and colouring book, great for small children and toddlers, great for giving away for toddler groups.



Are you ready for Christmas? By Roger Carswell – 10 Publishing

small evangelistic book + tract. Tells the story of God's Christmas plan, and explains how He can help us to be ready for Him today. You'll discover how the baby whom God sent that first Christmas is still His message of hope.

Finances for the Third Quarter of 2016

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

Income	£15,776
Expenditure	<u>£22,402</u>
Shortfall	<u>£6,626</u>

The reason for the shortfall is that we have paid out £10,533 final bills in connection with the work carried out on our buildings earlier in the year. We are thankful that the Lord provided the resources for us to carry out this work.

We have also had the initial expense of employing Steve Burton amounting to £569 for the last month of the quarter. If there is anyone in the church who would like to contribute towards this expense please bear this in mind when giving to the Church.

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:

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.

The Open-Air Mission (OAM) – with whom Andy Banton, is involved as General Secretary; Frances Burton works in the OAM Office.

Christian literature for Eastern Europe via the Roundwood Trust.

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 (christinewild50@gmail.com), 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:

Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£471
European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
Gaius Trust – in support of Stephen Bignall working with AIM	(from church funds)	£125
Gideons	(from gifts)	£100
Grace Baptist Mission – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski in Poland	(from gifts)	£25
Grace Baptist Trust Corporation	(from church funds)	£135
Open-Air Mission (for help with Bible Exhibition)	(from church funds)	£370

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

Kitchen Noticeboard

If you become aware that there is a shortage of anything pertaining to kitchen/cleaning requirements, would you please make a note of it on the list that will be displayed on the kitchen noticeboard in order that replacements can be purchased as soon as possible.

Margaret

Yearbook

If any changes have been made to your personal data since the current Year book, such as email address, please let me know so that the correct information can be available for 2017. Thank you
Brian

Just a note to say **thank you** for your support as I made a very difficult decision to leave the Open-Air Mission, a society I love and owe much to, so that I could serve at Dunstable and Leagrave while training for church-based ministry at London Seminary. I have been touched by the churches kindness in different ways. If you were unable to come to the members meeting you missed me outline what a normal week looks like for me during term time. So below is a rough look of my week but I must say that it is very flexible and changes according to needs:

Monday – I work at Dunstable and help with the Monday Kids Club. On this day I try to do hospital visits to members in need and once a fortnight I meet a member to give youth work training and mentorship.

Tuesday – London Seminary. I start my morning with Hebrew and then, depending on whether it is week A or B I will have Old Testament theology or Systematic Theology classes all day.

Wednesday – London Seminary again. I start the morning with Hebrew again and then have either Preaching or Mission and Evangelism classes. In the afternoon I have voice production lessons.

Thursday – I usually meet Barry King in Leagrave and we do some evangelism. I sometimes also meet Andy Little to do some open-air work. However, I am able to make myself free time and again to help speak at Friends and Neighbours at DBC in the afternoon. It's usually on this day, also, that I meet up with another DBC member to study the Bible.

Friday – I'm working at Dunstable and every other week I meet with Ron Shipton, who is mentoring me, and we study some theology and I shadow him as we go to visit some of the older church members. In the evening I'm usually at the Focus Youth Group.

Come the New Year I will be preaching at Dunstable once a month, on average, during term time. And every three months I will be preaching at Edlesborough/Leagrave, on average. I still volunteer for the monthly DBC open-air and will no doubt be doing other things as I settle in to the role at Dunstable. I hope to be producing a prayer letter in the New Year to update people about how things are going with news for you to pray. For now, thank you again for your prayers and encouragement.

If you would like to see my job description please speak to David Woodruff who will happily give you a copy. I haven't put everything on it in this note.

Steve Burton

DBC DIARY DATES—GOD WILLING

2016 NOVEMBER		
Sun 30th	am pm	Glynne Hampson Alan Harvey
Tues 1st	7.45pm	Joint DFEC Meeting (DBC) David Green
Wed 2nd	1.00pm 7.30pm	Bumps & Babes Leaders Meeting
Thur 3rd	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting (Pastorate) (Rigbys)
Sat 4th	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 6th	am & pm am 5.20pm	Jim Sayers (GBM) Communion Prayer Meeting for Pastor
Tues 8th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Thur 10th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours: Denise Chennels: Once a teacher, always a teacher
Sun 13th	am & pm	John Hawley
Mon 14th	8.00pm	Prayer Meeting (Pastorate) (Weedons)
Tues 15th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Rex Andrews
Wed 16th	1.00pm	Bumps & Babes
Thur 17th	10am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 19th	8.00am 7.30	Men's Prayer Meeting Youth Squash (Chesham)
Sun 20th	am & pm pm	Allan Huxtable Communion
Mon 21st	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study
Tues 22nd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Mostyn Roberts
Wed 23rd	10.30am 1.00pm	Prayer Meeting (Pastorate) - (Shiptons) Bumps & Babes
Thur 24th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: David Chapman
Sun 27th	am & pm	Robert Strivens
Tues 29th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Robert Lightowler
Wed 30th	1.00pm	Bumps & Babes

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

8th	Mike Power	Focus
15th	Brian Rigby	SASRA
22nd	Ron Shipton	GBM Prayer Waves
29th	Frank Taylor	CPR

'PRAY FOR US' Members preaching in other churches

NOVEMBER		
6th	Rex Andrews	Wooton BC
15th	Andy Banton	Napier Road GBC, Tottenham
20th	Rex Andrews	Little Staughton
22nd	Andy Banton	Bradfield St George Gospel Hall
25th	Andy Banton	St Augustines Primary
27th	Andy Banton	Castlefields, Derby
29th	Andy Banton	Lower Ford Street, Coventry

NOVEMBER ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

6th	John & Elaine
13th	Winnie & Dawn
20th	Ray & Beverley
27th	Brian & Barbara

Cleaning (A/B)

7th	Mitchells & Ming / Hewitt
14th	Christine & Caroline / Marie & Winnie
21st	Woodruffs / Rigby
28th	Barnachea / Keble

Security

30th	Scott Mitchell
6th	Mike Power
13th	Brian Rigby
20th	John Snuggs
27th	Frank Taylor

Creche

30th	Caroline & Beverley
6th	Elaine & Sarah
13th	Bev & Margaret
20th	Winnie & Julia
27th	Ruth & Emily

Flowers

Tess Barnachea
Mary Coleman
Dawn Hewitt
Caroline Norman
Sarah Woodruff

Please forward items for the
DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 20th NOVEMBER