

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 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,

The backdrop for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro is the the stunning vista of the surrounding mountain range. The city is dominated by the statue of 'Christ the Redeemer' some 130 feet high (including pedestal), with outstretched arms, set on Corcovado Mountain.

It has been absorbing to witness the athletes engaged in their various disciplines. There has been a powerful display of the strength, determination, courage and dexterity of the athletes, as well as sacrifice, to obtain the prize. Though engaged in different sports all the competitors have properly trained, expressed outstanding personal qualities and received constant guidance from their trainers. Training, determination and guidance are also essential for the Christian life.

Training. Paul draws a comparison between an athlete competing in the Isthmian Games at Corinth, and the Christian life (1 Cor 9:24-26). The contestants for these Games spent ten months of arduous training without which entry to the games was forbidden. The focal point of the Games was a long distance race. Only one competitor could be the winner. Once the race began no further training was permitted. However, the Christian life presents an opportunity for many to become winners.

Believers are given the unique opportunity to continue being trained until the heavenly prize is gained. The whole point of training, for a Christian, is to be more like our Lord and to be made ready for heaven by following his example and obeying his teaching. The Lord taught 'A *disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly **trained** will be like his teacher*' (Luke 6:40).

Determination. Without determination and commitment even the best-trained athlete will not achieve the desired goal of winning the prize. A definition of determination is - direction to a certain end, resolution, fixed purpose and character. Daniel's resolve not to be defiled by the king's delicacies (Dan 1:8) was the reason why he was so blessed by God. He was determined to serve the Lord regardless of the consequences – even being thrown into a lions' den (Dan 6:1-23).

Paul did not run his race with uncertainty as one with no fixed purpose. Nor was he like a boxer punching the air and not his opponent, which he considered to be his own body. He disciplined his body with its desires and lusts to bring it under subjection (1 Cor 9:24-27). As Christians we cannot be self-indulgent and lack determination if we are to gain the prize of our heavenly calling in Christ. We cannot live presumptuously for even the great apostle Paul, though he preached to others, was fearful of being disqualified because of indiscipline and lack of determination (v. 27).

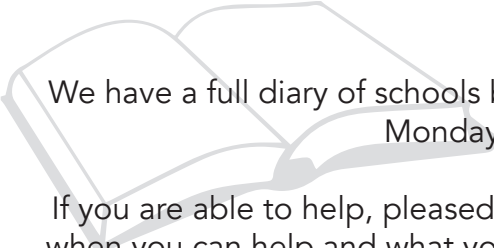
Guidance. No matter how impressive the concrete and stone statue overlooking the Rio Olympic Games is it cannot help or guide the competitors in their events. In contrast, the Christian has a living and powerful Saviour, 'Christ the Redeemer', whose arms are outstretched to save and guide all who come to him in faith.

As athletes are in constant contact with their trainers, in order to improve their performance, so Christians must have a daily spiritual relationship with their Lord – to learn from and be trained by him. Even when the Lord disciplines us it is that it may '*yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been **trained** by it*' (Heb 12:11b).

Not all necessarily enjoy the Olympics but surely Christians can all learn something from the athletes as they seek to gain an earthly prize and for us to be like the apostle Paul as he declared '*I press towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*' (Phil 3:14).

May God help us to press on with determination in the race we are all running and '*lay aside every weight and sin which so easily ensnares, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith*' (Heb 12:1-2). Almost the last words Paul ever wrote were '*I have fought the good fight, I have run the race, I have kept the faith. Finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing*' (2 Tim 4:7-8). Is this not a prize worth every effort and sacrifice to 'win'?

Bible Exhibition



We have a full diary of schools booked in for this year's Bible Exhibition. The dates are from Monday October 3rd to Friday October 7th.

If you are able to help, please let us know by signing up on the list on the notice board of when you can help and what you can do. Alternatively, let either Andy or I know and we will sign up for you.

Jeff H

Young People's Bible Class

The Bible Class has been in suspense for the last few months but there is good news on the horizon. We have had people stand up and offer to help which is brilliant. Therefore I intend to re-launch it again very soon, preferably in October. I will contact all those who have volunteered to help over the next few weeks. I will also speak to those who it's aimed at as well. Please pray for this, that the momentum we had will not have been lost and that there is a desire amongst our YP to study God's Word together.

Jeff H

FINANCE

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:

Christian Books	(from Church funds)	£3,750
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

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

Harvest Thanksgiving Gifts

As an expression of our thankfulness for the continuing faithfulness of our God in providing for all our needs, we want to send monetary gifts at this harvest period for the work of *Caring for Life (CFL)*. Tim Snuggs and John Woodruff are on the staff.

Can we encourage you to support CFL **generously**. Please place your gifts in the envelopes provided (near the offering boxes) with 'CFL' on them and place them in one of the boxes during the next two months.

CFL is under some financial pressure at this time. They lost their local government grant in April 2012 and they would appreciate extra help.

YP Holiday Leiston 2016

They say that good things come in small packages. This year's holiday was definitely small. So small it nearly didn't happen but thankfully, with a few changes and tweaks, together with the help of Mandy Scripps from Alde Valley Academy in Leiston, we were able to arrange a shorter holiday with fewer members than usual and, as so often happens, we had an amazing time which was greatly blessed by God as it has been so often in the past.

We visited the infamous Sizewell beach, sunned and sailed at Southwold, rowed boats at Thorpeness (thank you Bob), worshipped at Leiston Baptist Church with their new pastor (from Luton!), mixed in sports and games, walked a bit, rested rarely, ate extremely well and generally had a great time. Despite low numbers, some of those on the holiday said it was one of the best they had been on.

Big thanks go to Steve who spoke so well about Abraham and led the meetings. To Dawn and Beth who headed up the catering. To Tom Copperwheat who stepped in late to make the holiday viable and was his normal brilliant self. To Michele who joined us for the first time, fitting in amazingly, who wondered why she had never done it before! Also, big thanks to Alex Mitchell who was absolutely fantastic, helping out, playing music, doing what we asked of him and coming alongside some of the younger young people. Well done.

Please continue to pray for all those who were away, that God's Word would work in due time. We really felt His presence.

YP Holiday 2017?

So now, what does the future hold for the YP holiday? This was number 24 and it would be very sad if it was our last one, if we didn't make it at least to 25. Please pray for it. It has been a great blessing to so many of our YP down the years and therefore a huge blessing to all at DBC. The intention is that it continues. The hope is that this is the case so planning for 2017 will start very soon.

Also, it is hoped that there will be some sort of 'reunion, celebration or commemoration' next year for all those who have been on this holiday down almost a quarter of a century. Members past and present have been sounded out and I will be asking others, especially former leaders, for their thoughts and opinions in the next few weeks.

Jeff H



Mr & Mrs Tagamori

Rapha and Jess got married at Dunstable on July 9th. They thank everyone for the love and prayers shown to them. They are now living in Ickleford & attending church in Hitchin.

Their new address is:

2 Raymond Cottages,
Ickleford,
SG5 3YE

Tenby Beach Mission 2016 - Week 2



Thank you...

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to those who have been praying for our Beach Mission at Tenby, and to those who will continue to pray for the seed sown. Although the weather has been varied, so too have been the opportunities, but we thank the Lord for our team of 14 who made the most of every opportunity. 'Plan A' is to run a full programme on the beach each morning and afternoon along with an open-air in the town centre. Thankfully we were able to achieve this Wednesday - Friday. 'Plan B' is to operate in the open-air when the weather prevents any beach work. Tuesday was a 'Plan B' day, and we thank the Lord for many wonderful conversations which took place. 'Plan C' is to open up a local chapel and offer free tea/coffee seeking to get into conversation with folk that come in. Monday saw us put 'Plan C' into action, and we were thrilled with a good number of folks in. One significant contact was a lady called **SUE** who spoke with two team members. Sue is clearly searching and has expressed a desire to attend church and find out more. We pray that she would read the literature that she received, and go along to the church.

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
AM					
PM					

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On the beach...

Over the three days that we were on the beach we saw encouraging numbers attending each morning and afternoon, with around 40 children, plus adults at the 'Holiday Special'. Wednesday afternoon saw the team resume their position as 'tent-posts' for the parachute as a brief shower swept across the beach, but even then a dozen children plus parents stayed to listen to the story. A major encouragement this year has been the **couple** who come regularly each year. After many years of witnessing and seeing a softening towards the gospel, how wonderful to see them at Church on the Sunday evening. Oh how we pray for their salvation! Also, another encouragement was to meet a non-Christian **family** from Cwmbran who remembered attending the OAM Bible Exhibition visiting their school a few years ago.

In the town...

We enjoyed 5 good open-air in Tenby's Tudor Square, with several listening at times and receiving literature. **JANE** stood listening to the preaching and then received a gospel of John from the preacher as he concluded. In talking to one of the team afterwards, Jane explained how she desires to know more about the true God. Praise God for around 1,000 gospel tracts have freely distributed in the open-air!



Elsewhere...

Other opportunities included the usual children's meeting on the local gypsy site and also a Guest BBQ down by the harbour. As a signing group sang 'Have you heard the voice of Jesus...?' and later as the message was given, it was lovely to see others drawing in to listen. May God bless His Word sown this week!



United Beach Mission

Matthew spent 2 weeks at Llandudno with the United Beach Mission team. You can check out their website at www.ubm.org.uk for latest news and prayer details.

Praise: Lots of kids everyday listening hard and joining in including regulars from previous years.
Good attendance at the open-air on the promenade every evening.
Only a few wet days when we could not go on the beach.
Super teams of workers - 20 on the first week and 23 on the second week.

Pray: That all who heard the Gospel will come to know Jesus for themselves.
That more people will join the Beach Mission teams next year.

The minimum age for Beach Mission is 15 years with no upper limit (as long as you consider yourself fit enough)

Matt Woodruff

Aber 2016

Every August for more than 50 years Christians have come together for a week on the beautiful west coast of Wales to be refreshed by the Word. Organised by the Evangelical Movement of Wales the Conference which is on the Aberystwyth University Campus has grown to accommodate more than 1,500 people. And so it was that a group from Dunstable set off on Saturday 6th August looking forward in anticipation to the week ahead. We soon settled into the student accommodation allotted to us and it was good to meet up with Philip and Sheila Parsons once members of DBC before moving 'Up North'. They send Christian love to all who remember them from their Dunstable days.

As the opening meeting did not begin until the Monday evening we had time to enjoy the stunning scenery along the coast over the weekend and during the weekday afternoons relax and put our skills to the test on the putting green, visit a country park to see the red kites being fed, go on a behind the scene tour of the National Library of Wales, spend time round the missionary exhibition, and generally explore the seaside town of Aberystwyth.

The week can be as full or relaxed as you wanted to make it, it's up to you! – Morning preaching meeting, Seminars in the afternoon, Evening Services, Extra Time meetings for 16-25 year olds, Time Out meetings for those not quite young enough to join the under 25's and Prime Time meetings for the rest of us (but beginning at 9.30 pm. a bit too late for us oldies), sports, a beach barbeque and other activities for young people, Tiny Tots, Holiday Heroes, and Jaber for children, Open Airs organised by OAM. -One need never be at a loose end!

It was with some trepidation (on my part anyway), that I entered the Great Hall that Monday morning for the first of the four Bible Reading meetings because Joel Beeke from Michigan USA was preaching on God's Great Last Words in the final four chapters of Revelations and I wondered How my brain would cope with all they contained however God's Holy Spirit enabled me to grasp **some** truths of the visions given to John that I had not understood before. (Not **all** I would hasten to add - I need more time to take it in than a week)! His headings were: **The Great Marriage and the Great King's Return – (Rev.19); The Great Millennium and the Great White Throne (Rev.20), The Great Life in the New Jerusalem (Rev.21) and The Great Saviour's Imminent Coming and His Great Invitation (Rev.22).**

Phew!!! Some subjects!!! and it is not possible to sum up those chapters in these few words. One of the things that struck me most forcibly was the consequences of ignoring Christ's Great Invitation and the urgency there is for the Gospel to go out Time may be short. We have nothing to offer our Bridegroom (Jesus), we are an unequal match and so in debt to Him but in His great love He is willing to take us as we are to be His Bride. The challenge is that just as a bride prepares for her wedding we should be preparing ourselves so we are in a state of readiness for our Bridegroom's coming and the Great Marriage Feast when we will be with Him forever in the New Jerusalem.

We shall long remember ABER 2016 and the privilege of hearing ministry from such able Godly men (Joel Beeke, Bill Bygroves, Mike Reeves and Paul Yeulett), the swell of so many voices singing, and the thrill of seeing several hundred young people attending.

ANN W.

DBC DIARY DATES—GOD WILLING

2016 SEPTEMBER		
Sun 28th	am & pm	Martin Loughbrough
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Tim Martin
Sat 3rd	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 4th	am am 5.20pm pm	Tony Townley Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate Mark Lawrence
Tues 6th	7.30pm	Book Discussion: Enough
Wed 7th	1.00pm 7.30pm	Bumps & Babes Leaders Meeting
Thurs 8th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours: Garden Centre visit
Sun 11th	am & pm	David Chapman
Tues 13th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Andy Banton
Thurs 15th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sat 17th	8.00am	Mens Prayer meeting
Sun 18th	am pm pm	Rex Andrews Communion Gareth Mitchell
Mon 19th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study
Tues 20th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: J P Earnest
Wed 21st	1.00pm	Bumps & Babes
Thur 22nd	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: John Keble
Sun 25th	am & pm	David Butler (EMF)
Tues 27th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Paul Davies (AEM)
Sat 1st	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 2nd	am & pm am 5.20pm	Andrew Wheeler Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate

'PRAY FOR US'
Members preaching in other churches

SEPTEMBER		
25th	Rex Andrews	Stevington BC

SEPTEMBER ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

4th Winnie & Dawn
11th Ray & Beverley
18th Brian & Barbara
25th Matthew & Julia

Cleaning

5th Sarah & Matt / Brian & Margaret
12th Frank & Tess / Bev & John
19th John & Elaine / Andy / Ruth
26th Mike & Mina / Scott & Rachel

Security

4th Frank Barnachea
11th CJ Barnachea
18th Charlton Barnachea
25th Andy Banton

Flowers

4th Margaret Rigby
11th Christine Wild
18th Bev Keble
25th Rachel Mitchell

Creche

4th Janette & Dawn
11th Caroline & Beverley
18th Elaine & Beth
25th Sarah & Bev

Refreshments

11th Dawn & Michele
18th Caroline & Mina
25th Winnie & Michele

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

6th	Book Discussion	Monday Club	Mike Power
13th	Frank Taylor	Toddlers	Sarah Woodruff
20th	Tony Townley	OAM + Exhibition	
27th	David Woodruff	AEM	

Please forward items for the
OCTOBER 2016 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 25th September
Thank you.