

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH

Church News

February 2013



St. Mary's Gate Dunstable
Bedfordshire LU6 3SW
www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org

Independent Grace Baptist Church based upon the Bible

Our regular meetings are as follows— everyone warmly invited:

SUNDAY

9.45 am Bible Class - Young People
Church Prayer Meeting

10.30am **Morning worship service**
Sunday School is held during the service
A crèche for under 5's 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 People's Fellowship - 1st & 3rd in month

MONDAY

6-7.00pm Monday Kids Club age 5-9
8.00pm Ladies Bible Study - 3rd in month

TUESDAY

9.15-11am Toddlers
7.30pm Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
Home Groups - 1st Tuesday in month

THURSDAY

10.00am Ladies Prayer Meeting in Home - 3rd in month
2.30pm Friends & Neighbours - 2nd in month
2.30pm F & N Link - 4th in month
7-8.30pm TNT club for age 9-12

FRIDAY

8-9.30pm Friday Club age 13-19

SATURDAY

11.00am Open Air ministry - 1st in month
8-9.00am Men's prayer meeting - 3rd in month
8.00pm Young Adults Group - 3rd in month

OTHER MEETINGS AS ANNOUNCED

For further information contact: John KebleTel: 01582 601945

CHURCH WEBSITE www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org

CHRISTIAN BOOKS:

Monday to Saturday - Open 9.00am-5.00pm
Telephone: 01582 601945
email: books@christianbooks.uk.com
website: www.christianbooks.uk.com

Dear Friends

Do you ever have one of those almost eureka moments, when you are reading a passage of God's Word the Bible and something quite literally jumps out at you? It may be a passage you have read many times before, but on a particular occasion you see something truly precious that you have never previously noticed. That doesn't happen to me every day, but it did one morning a few weeks ago. I have been reading through the Old Testament and had come to Psalm 125. It is only a very short Psalm and perhaps therefore easily overlooked. It is one of the psalms which are known as 'a *Song of Assents*'. These were sung by pilgrims, as they made their way to Jerusalem for one of the three main religious festivals each year.



It focusses on the city to where they were headed, which was not just the nation's capital, but the place where God particularly identified Himself. Jerusalem was the home of the temple of the Lord, which had been built by King Solomon. The Psalmist particularly draws attention both to the security of the city and to its spiritual purity.

What 'jumped out at me' from the Psalm were the blessed truths

found in verse 2, which perhaps, unlike me you had noticed before, **"As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people from this time forth and forever"**. The comparison being made here is well worth us dwelling upon. It should calm our fears and warm our hearts, as we appreciate more and more the fact that not only does God give His people wonderful protection, He is that protection. Mountains are awe inspiring and convey to us power, strength, grandeur, majesty and immovability. We are therefore being told that the Lord is like those mountains round about Jerusalem, and we, as His people, are like the city within them. What a blessed position we are in then, as Christians and as a church.

The word 'surrounds' that the Psalmist uses here, speaks of a circuit, which of course goes all the way around something. It speaks of every side being covered so that there are no breaks or gaps. We may sometimes hear of military or police tacticians speaking about putting a ring of steel around something. What they mean is that they are going to do everything possible to ensure that that something is completely safe. What our heavenly Father is reminding us, is that He has in effect, put a ring of steel around His people. In other words, we are completely safe. There are times in our lives when we may feel anything but safe. All may appear uncertain to us. The way forward may look dark and in fact everything may look bleak. Our circumstances may well change and change very much for the worse. But, and here's the glorious thing, the Lord hasn't and doesn't change. He is like a mountain and more than that, He is like a range of mountains and more than that still, He is like a range of mountains that surround us, keeping us safe and secure come what may.

The Psalmist concludes verse 2 with a statement which should be a means of giving absolute reassurance about the Lord's relationship to us and with us, if we are believers. It is an amazing truth for us to take hold of and rejoice in. He says that the sovereign protection we enjoy will last, and it will last, **"from this time forth and forever"**. To borrow the title of an old film, our gracious God is going to be surrounding us, '*from here to eternity*'. This is no temporary privilege, it is forever! Take heart then, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. From this moment on and for every moment that will ever be, whether in this world and in the next, you have the all surrounding presence of the Lord. By His love and His care and His protection, you really are completely secure. There can be no shadow of a doubt about it!

Andy Banton (Elder)



A Charity "Sharing the Love of Jesus" by providing homes, support, therapeutic activities and love

'PAUSE... FOR A CAUSE' CARING FOR LIFE COFFEE MORNING

At our home 37 Norcott Close, Dunstable LU5 4AH
Friday 22 February any time from 10am onwards until 12.00

This is an 'Open House' event designed to increase awareness of Caring for Life's ministry of sharing the Love of Jesus with the many disadvantaged and hurting people in the Leeds area. During the morning we hope to show a recent DVD of their work.

All are welcome, and please do bring along your friends. There will, of course, be an opportunity to give to the work.

Hope you can come - John and Elaine

Year Book correction – Week of Prayer
The week of prayer will now be from Monday May 20th to Sunday May 26th and the subject is "The persecuted Church".

Street Pastors Co-ordinator for Dunstable & Houghton Regis

Dunstable and Houghton Regis Street Pastors is looking to appoint a part-time Street Pastors Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator will be responsible for the promotion, management and co-ordination of the Street Pastors initiative in Dunstable and Houghton Regis. The Co-ordinator must be an active participant in a Christian Church and must either already be a Street Pastor or be willing to train as one.

The salary will be £10,400 per annum and the working hours will be 20 per week.
Some flexibility in working hours will be required to meet the demands of the job.

Dunstable and Houghton Regis Street Pastors is an equal opportunities employer.

If you would like to be considered for this role please contact Mr Clive Cook on 07708663032 or at clive@dcc.org.uk for an Application Pack.

The closing date for applications is 17 February.

Dunstable and Houghton Regis Street Pastors - Charity Registration No: 1144472



Giving for Missions and Relief in 2012

The gifts sent for missions and relief work during 2012 were as follows:

	Church Donations	Gifts + Tax
Matt Gamston in Manila & Drop-in Camp with GBM		1819
Roundwood Trust (Literature for E. Europe)	100	1850
Open-Air Mission	1000	2351
EMF ISO Rogerio Ramos	100	2094
Pilgrim Homes - St Albans Fund		
Christian Books, Dunstable	5000	
ISO Tom Copperwheat in LA Aylesbury training	1000	
Coventry, Lower Ford St support for Bldg Work	200	
CPR Ministries	100	165
Support for CU Missions (4)	200	
EMF - General Fund	200	80
EMF - Sines Relief	300	
EMF - Hungarian Bible Outreach		94
EMF - ISO Jan Habl & M Franco	200	
Foodbank, Dunstable	885	
Gaius Trust	100	219
Gideons		50
Grace2London	100	375
GBM - General Fund	100	419
GBM - ISO A Kempczynski	100	
Grace Baptist Partnership	100	80
London Theological Seminary		250
LTS Fees - Nathan Xiques	3040	
LTS Travel - Nathan Xiques (£1,000) & Antony Coles (£1,050)	2050	
MERF		50
Open-Air Mission - Bible Exhibition 2012	350	
Pilgrim Homes - General Fund		138
Pilgrims Friend Society		113
SASRA	100	164
UFM Worldwide - Hills	100	165
Veritas College International - ISO Keith Berry		50
Wycliffe Bible Translators - Yaru Project	980	
Barnabas Fund - General Fund		700
Barnabas Fund - Relief to Syrian Christians	500	770
Caring for Life - General		1657
Caring for Life - ISO Tim Snuggs	1000	31
Caring for Life - ISO TFJ volunteer (EK)	2740	
CCM Philippines - General Fund	100	242
CCM Philippines - Relief Fund	500	440
Christian Institute - General	300	250
Affinity - 2012	185	
AGBC(SE) NW District	100	
Grace Baptist Trust Corporation	120	
TOTAL	<u>21,950</u>	<u>14,616</u>
GRAND TOTAL		<u>36,566</u>

Thank you for your gifts. We thank the Lord for His generosity to us and in particular for enabling us to give to help others. Let us praise Him and thank Him and look to Him both in our times of need as well as on behalf of others with greater needs than ourselves.

Finances for 2012

The overall situation for the Church finances in 2012 was as follows:

Income	£55,586
Expenditure	£44,186
Surplus	£11,400

We thank the Lord for His help during the year. Our ministerial expenses were significantly lower again this year, but we did make increased gifts to missions and relief. We still have the anticipated expense of an extension to our hall, incorporating refurbished toilets, as well as the expense of a pastor that we would like to be led to and appoint.

One of the factors that has helped our income in recent years is Gift Aid (£7,580 received in 2012). It is now easy for you (if you are a tax payer) to give and for the Church (and other charities) to benefit from the tax you paid on your gift. If you have not signed a Gift Aid Declaration for your giving to the Church, and are able to do so, please speak to David Woodruff (in confidence).

If you give regularly via your bank or building society you may not have reviewed your level of giving for a while. Please prayerfully assess whether you need to make a change to your giving in line with how the Lord has provided for your income over recent months. This may be to increase it or decrease it. Gift Aid can be used in a flexible way.

We would thank all who have made donations over the last year to the work of the Church and would thank the Lord for all that He has given to us. We pray that He will continue to provide for all our needs, spiritual and material, for the Lord's work here in Dunstable, over the coming year.

Dunstable Foodbank

The Foodbank has been in operation since last September. Over the 3 months October to December 3,500 meals were given out.

However, although there are sufficient volunteers at the distribution points such as The Way there is now an **URGENT** need of additional volunteers who are able to firmly commit some time to help at the warehouse in Leighton Buzzard and with occasional collections at supermarkets. In mid February they need a lot of help to do some cleaning/painting and moving their storage to a different building on the site. At times when collections from customers at supermarkets take place they also need a lot of help – at the supermarkets (giving out the list of items and receiving donated food) and back at the warehouse when up to 2 tonnes of food will need to be sorted – all in easily handled quantities.

If the warehouse cannot operate, then the Foodbank cannot operate.

Please help if you can and pray for the help to become available as without it this much needed work will grind to a halt. Please continue your donations of food. If anyone can help or if you need more details please see Brian Rigby, myself or Sarah. The following is an outline job description of their main need as well as some other positions that need to be filled.

Warehouse Volunteers : (several people needed)

They **urgently** need several volunteers responsible to the warehouse manager &/or team leader to **firmly commit** to ½, 1 or 2 days (10 am ~ 4 pm) per week to work in the warehouse facility at Leighton Buzzard.

Two teams of 4 or 5 will, on a rota basis, cover Monday to Friday and will be responsible for taking in donated food, logging the weight, checking all tins, jars, packets, etc. for 'use by' / 'sell by' dates, ensuring that tins are not 'blown' or rusty in any way. All food is then stored on shelving prior to packing into boxes for distribution to the Foodbank centres, such as the Way.

In addition, they need volunteers to go on a standby list who will be able to help with these tasks at short notice or when the regular teams are particularly busy and require additional assistance, such as after a Supermarket collection.

Operations Manager: (1 position)

Fundraising Coordinator: (1 position)

See the Notice Board for outline details

Volunteer Coordinator: (1 position)

All positions are on a voluntary basis.

GRACE BAPTIST MISSION

January 2013

Prayer Waves

In response to feedback at last year's *Engage Forums*, the format of what was *Hot News* has been reviewed. *Hot News* has operated for perhaps 30 years in much the same format and we agree that it's time for a change. The result is *Prayer Waves*. This will continue as a monthly audio prayer bulletin but the format will be less studio based and more of a report on the ground. We hope that this gives it a freshness to stimulate new interest in prayer for GBM. A video version will be produced on an occasional basis.

Summer Holidays - see the leaflets in the Church Foyer

Our GBM summer holiday at **Hothorpe Hall** from the 10th-17th August is now getting booked up and we encourage you to book early to avoid disappointment. It promises to be an excellent week of ministry and fellowship in a beautiful setting. David Ellis from Hinckley will be bringing the ministry each morning and we hope to have David and Ivy Kneale with us from East Asia.

Roothill Youth Camp is now open for bookings. The camp runs from 24th-31st August and the main speaker is David Sprouse from Cuckfield. It's an excellent week of ministry for young people challenging them to think about how to live out their faith in a hostile world. It's also a very reasonably priced holiday in the beautiful Surrey hills.

Week of Prayer 2013

This year our week of prayer runs from Sunday 9th to Sunday 16th June. Resources will be available including videos. So make a note to join in a specially focussed week of prayer for the needs of the work.

Annual Meetings 2013

The next Annual Meetings are booked for Saturday 26th October 2013, and this year they will take place at the Renewal Centre in Solihull. The main preacher will be Julian Hardyman of Eden Baptist Church, Cambridge. Book this date in your diary now and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you for your prayers and for your fellowship in Mission. This year promises to be a year of significant changes for the Mission. Please pray that God will guide us in the appointment of a new Mission Coordinator. Please also pray for the missionaries who are working in Kenya where the situation continues to be volatile as we approach elections at the beginning of March.

Yours in Christ

Jim Sayers

Deputy Mission Co-ordinator.

Onto something **BIG ...**

9th February 2013, 7.30pm

LOVE

The Big ...

Venue: akeman street Baptist Church, Tring

The Banner of Truth Youth Conference 2013

Friday 12 – Sunday 14 April

University of Leicester, Gilbert Murray Hall, Manor Road, Leicester, LE2 2LG

Subjects

God at Work Despite Samson	Dan Peters
The Spirit of Christ	Sinclair Ferguson
God at Work in Sampson	Dan Peters
Church History: Not Just a Thing of the Past	Jonathan Watson
God at Work through Sampson	Dan Peters
The Spirit of Adoption	Sinclair Ferguson
Walk this Way	Jonathan Watson

Speakers

Sinclair Ferguson	Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina and Professor of Systematic Theology at Redeemer Seminary, Dallas, Texas. He has authored several books published by the Banner of Truth Trust.
Dan Peters	Pastor of Newcastle Reformed Evangelical Church. He studies at the Free Church College in Edinburgh and assisted Rev Ian Hamilton in Cambridge Presbyterian Church before taking up this, his first pastorate.
Jonathan Watson	General Editor of the Banner of Truth Trust since 2004. Before this, he pastored several churches in his native Northern Ireland and on the Channel Island of Jersey.

Special Church Offer

**First two to apply:
£20**

All others: Only £40

The conference is intended for young people over the age of 16, and commences with dinner on Friday and continues through to dinner on Sunday. It is an excellent opportunity to study God's Word and to meet many young people from other parts of the country. Full-board accommodation is provided in single rooms within the Leicester University Halls of Residence. There is spare time on Saturday afternoon, when you can join in with sporting activities. I have found these to be very profitable weekends and I strongly recommend them to you. You will not be disappointed.

Please see **Peter Woodruff** for further details and booking information.

EMW Aberystwyth Conference 2013

Saturday 10th – Saturday 17th August

Conference Addresses (Tuesday – Friday)

Speaker: Alistair Begg, Senior Minister, Parkside Church, Ohio, USA (originally from Glasgow)

Evening Preaching Services (Monday – Friday)

Iain D. Campbell, Vaughan Roberts, Ian Parry and Bernard Lewis

If you would like to go, please see **Peter Woodruff** for further details and booking information. Accommodation (self-catering or part-board) can be booked through the EMW (Evangelical Movement of Wales).

Bookings taken from 5th February 2013.

Church Walk – Ridgeway Path (Wendover to Princes Risborough)

I am planning another church walk, for those interested in longer walks. This walk is intended to take place on a Saturday during spring, and will follow the third part of the Ridgeway footpath from Wendover to Princes Risborough station (approx. 7.4 miles). We will probably drive over to Wendover and then return to the car park by train from Princes Risborough. Please let **Peter Woodruff** know of your availability or add your name to the list in the vestibule, if you are interested in joining this walk.

London Tours

Tour of the Palace of Westminster and Elizabeth Tower

I am planning to arrange tours of the Houses of Parliament and Elizabeth Tower, which houses Big Ben. These tours will probably take place on a weekday, although we will try to arrange these tours for the same date, this may not be possible. Some of us went on a tour of the Houses of Parliament several years ago led by our MP Andrew Selous, which we found very interesting.

British Museum

I am also planning to organise a tour of the British Museum looking at artefacts relating to the Bible led by Keith Berry. This will hopefully take place on a Saturday.

So if you are interested in joining any or all of these trips, please let me know or put your name on the list in the vestibule. More details later.

Peter Woodruff

Church Social January 2013

I've always been a huge fan of the annual church social, so when the day dawned I was one of the first to arrive. Only a few others were there, and I confess I felt a little disappointed. However, I needn't have worried, more folk gradually rolled in and we ended up with about 50 of us altogether. If everyone enjoyed it as much as me, then it was an unmitigated success. Scott, you did brilliantly. Thank you so much for all your hard work and preparation, there were sound quizzes, picture quizzes, dingbats quizzes, run round and decide quizzes and even head scratching quizzes. There was even a newspaper game for the more energetic. All mixed together with the usual splash of DBC camaraderie and cheating!

Tea was good, plenty for everyone and the usual extravaganza of desserts. Thank you to all who helped provide the food and organise the cooking and serving of it.

After tea, we had musical entertainment performed by various members of the church, thank you to our musicians, followed by a drum workshop led by Mike.



It's not easy to have a social event that caters for all ages, but I reckon the organisers succeeded admirably. So thank you very much, it was much appreciated!

Christine Wild

February Tuesday Prayer Meetings

5th Home Study Groups—Study 1 (A life of love) John 13:31 - 14:4. **Questions 1-5.**
 12th Tony Townley Pastorate & TNT Club
 18th Steve Burton GBM Prayer Waves
 26th Peter Woodruff Friday Club

DBC Diary God willing

February 2013		
Sat 2nd	11.00am	Open Air Ministry in The Quadrant
Sun 3rd	am & pm	Andrew Lolley (LTS) Communion YP @ the Hewitts
Tues 5th	7.30pm	Home Bible Study Groups Study 1 (A life of love) John 13:31 - 14:4. Questions 1-5.
Wed 6th	7.30pm	Elders & Deacons meeting
Sat 9th	7.30pm	North West District Youth Squash at Tring
Sun 10th	am & pm	Geoff Cox (Birmingham)
Tues 12th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer Andy Banton
Thurs 14th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours What goes on at Sainbury's
Sat 16th	8-9.00am 8.00pm	Men's Prayer Meeting YAG
Sun 17th	am & pm	David Chapman (Tring) Communion YP at the Kebles
Mon 18th	8.00pm	Ladies Bible Study—Study 2 1 Cor. 1:10-17
Tues 19th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer
Thurs 21st	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Sun 24th	am & pm	Steve Palmer (Oxford) CFM: OAM Steve Burton
Tues 26th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer Tony Townley
Thurs 28th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link Speaker: Steve Burton
March		
Sat 2nd	11.00am	Open Air Ministry in the Quadrant
Sun 3rd	am	Family Service - 'Can I really believe God allows suffering?' Communion YP @ the Hewitts
	pm	

Editors Note:

Please forward any items for the **March** Newsletter **by Sunday 24th February** to coleman29@talktalk.net
Thanks to Ellie Kingham for setting out this month's newsletter.

Members preaching in other churches February 2013		
Fri. 1st-Mon. 4th	Andy Banton	Missionary Exhibition, Lisburn
Sun 3rd	Andy Banton John Keble	Emmanuel Baptist Church, Lisburn (am) Langdale Church am)
Mon 4th	John Keble	Ashton Middle School Assembly
Wed 6th	Andy Banton	EMF (am)
Sun 10th	Rex Andrews Ron Shipton Steve Burton	Wootton B.C. (pm) Renhold B.C. (am) Stevington B.C. (am)
Thur 14th	Andy Banton	EMF (am)
Sun 17th	Tony Townley	Potton Baptist Church (am)
Sun 24th	Rex Andrews Andy Banton Steve Burton	Hatfield B.C. (am & pm) Langdale Church (am) Limes Ave B.C. Aylesbury

ROTAS for FEBRUARY 2013

Door Rota

3rd Frank Barnachea & Joy Broughton
10th David & Ann Weedon
17th John & Elaine Snuggs
24th Chris Jacquier & Dawn Hewitt

Security Rota

3rd Frank Taylor
10th David Weedon
17th Martin Wild
24th David Woodruff

Creche Rota

3rd Janette & Linda
10th Margaret & Bev
17th Tess & Mary
24th Julia & Rachel

Cleaning Rota

4th Comfort & Marie Casey
11th John & Elaine Snuggs
18th David, Sarah Woodruff & Jenny
25th Brian & Margaret Rigby

Flower Rota

3rd Tess Barnachea
10th Julia Ming
17th Janet Tucker
24th Barbara Shipton
3rd March Elaine Snuggs

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient.