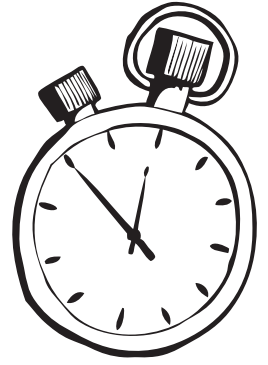


Dear Friends,

It was a very hot day and we were out driving, with all the windows open, when without warning we were assailed by a plague of locusts. The car filled with the creatures much to the alarm of the ladies and the concern of the driver. We continued driving through the swarm and after what seemed an eternity (minutes) we drove out to freedom and stopped to extricate the dead and dying insects from various corners of the car where they had become lodged. We were thankful that in Australia the plagues are not of biblical proportions nor are the creatures as large as those that rampage around parts of Africa. This experience reminds us of the words of the Lord Jesus when he answered the question the disciples asked him concerning two momentous events: the destruction of Jerusalem and the end of the age – both occupied by plagues. They thought that the destruction of the temple and the end of the age would occur together. The Lord, however, separates the two events but there are parallels.



The destruction of Jerusalem

The Lord predicted the approaching catastrophe of Jerusalem as a type of universal tribulation at the end of the age (Matt 24:3-31). After much provocation from brutal and incompetent Roman procurators the Jews revolted and in AD 66 gained a notable victory against a Roman legion. However, in AD 70 the city fell to the Roman army, under Titus, and the temple was utterly destroyed (24:2). Leading up to the destruction of the city many Jews died in battle or were brutally put to death (usually crucified) trying to escape. Afterwards many thousands of Jews died because of retribution, starvation, pestilence (plagues) and disease and the people were scattered. The whole land was devastated. The Lord refers to the desecration of the temple, by Titus, in terms of 'the abomination of desolation' (24:15) expressed by Daniel (11:31; 12:11) that occurred when Antiochus Epiphanes in 168 BC erected an idol to Zeus in the temple and sacrificed a pig on the altar of the Lord. Just as the holy place of the Lord was desecrated in the past so it was, as the Lord foretold in AD 70. The temple has never been rebuilt and never will be. The old covenant has been superseded by the new.

The end of the age and the signs of Christ's return

In his answer to his disciples concerning the end of the age, and his coming again, the Lord points to a number of elements that will precede the final events such as many false Christs and prophets, wars and rumours of wars, famine, plagues, earthquakes, lawlessness and the love of many growing cold. These will continue (perhaps in growing intensity) till the appearance of the Lord. However, there are other important signs – the gospel will be preached to all the nations (are we playing our part), great tribulation will come upon the earth, celestial disturbances and finally the sign of the Son of Man appearing in the heavens. The holy angels will draw together all the elect of God and so we 'shall meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord' (1 Thess 4:17).

Watch and pray

The Lord teaches that the time of his coming is not known by anybody but the Father (24:36). Many prophetic pundits, over the years, have made fools of themselves by predicting the time of the Lord's return, with utter failure. The importance of the Lord's teaching concerning his return, whilst giving clear indication of preceding events, is primarily to encourage his people to watch and pray and always be ready for his coming. Of course we must be always ready to meet the Lord for none of us knows, if he delays his coming, when he will call us to himself at the end of our lives. The biblical maxim of the SASRA (Scripture Readers) is 'Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him' (24:44). Are we ready?

Believers can be so involved with the things of the world that they rarely consider the return of Christ or that he might call us to his heavenly kingdom sooner rather than later. We are not to love the world or the things of the world for the things of the world are passing away 'but he who does the will of God abides for ever' (1 John 2:15-17). Is our love for the world clouding our love for the Lord? Do we long for our Saviour's appearing so that he will be exalted among the peoples of the world (Phil 2:9-11). There is a crown of righteousness laid up for 'all who have loved his appearing' (2 Tim 4:8). Are we amongst those who are waiting and watching for our Lord's return while also worshipping and working for him?

RS

Onto something **BIG**...

'The Big Shock'

16th March 2013

7.30pm

**Venue: Newtown
Evangelical Baptist Church,
Chesham**

www.youthsquash.org.uk/venues.php



NEXT
SUPPORTERS
GROUP MEETING:

Wednesday 20th
March at 7.30pm
All are welcome
to hear up to date
information about
CFL's ministry and
pray for their work.

CHURCH WALK - RIDGEWAY PATH

(WENDOVER TO PRINCES RISBOROUGH)

SATURDAY 6TH APRIL 2013

As previously advertised, we are planning another church walk following the third part of the Ridgeway footpath from Wendover to Princes Risborough station (approx. 7.4 miles).

We plan to drive from Dunstable to Wendover (meeting outside the Chapel at 9:30am) and return to Wendover by train. Thank you to those who have already expressed interest in joining this walk. Please let Peter Woodruff know or add your name to the list in the vestibule, if you are interested in coming as well. There will be a break for lunch along the route, so please bring a packed lunch with you.

The parking charge at Wendover is £4.00.

>>DON'T MISS OUR TWO DAY EASTER SPECIAL<<



>> OPEN TO ALL CHILDREN FROM YEAR 1 - YEAR 6 <<

>> AGE RELATED BIBLE TALKS AND QUIZZES <<

>> FREE ADMISSION <<

>> BRING YOUR OWN PACKED LUNCH <<

WHEN: TUESDAY 9TH APRIL &
WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL
9.30AM - 3.30PM

WHERE: DUNSTABLE BAPTIST CHURCH,
ST MARY'S GATE,
LU6 3SW

Places are limited so pre-registration is essential.

A note to Parents / Guardians:

Our club is run by members of Dunstable Baptist Church who have been trained in accordance with our Child Protection Policy. If you would like to register your child, or have any questions, please contact Andy or Ruth Banton using the following details.

✉ 16 Drovers Way, Dunstable, LU6 1AN

☎ 01582 511371

@ andyruth.banton@ntlworld.com

.....
● **QUIZ NIGHT FOR 'CARING FOR LIFE':**

● **AT:**

● **STARTING:**

● **TICKETS:**
.....

Saturday 20th April

Dunstable Baptist Church

6.45pm, with finger buffet during the interval

£6 (must be purchased in advance, either singly or in teams of six ((Ages 15+)) Numbers are limited so we would advise early booking - please see Elaine

EVENTS.

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
- The Spirit of Christ
- God at Work in Sampson
- Church History: Not Just a Thing of the Past
- God at Work through Sampson
- The Spirit of Adoption
- Walk this Way

Dan Peters
Sinclair Ferguson
Dan Peters
Jonathan Watson
Dan Peters
Sinclair Ferguson
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.

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.

GRACE BAPTIST
ASSEMBLY
2013 Conference
Tuesday 30th April - Thursday 2nd May

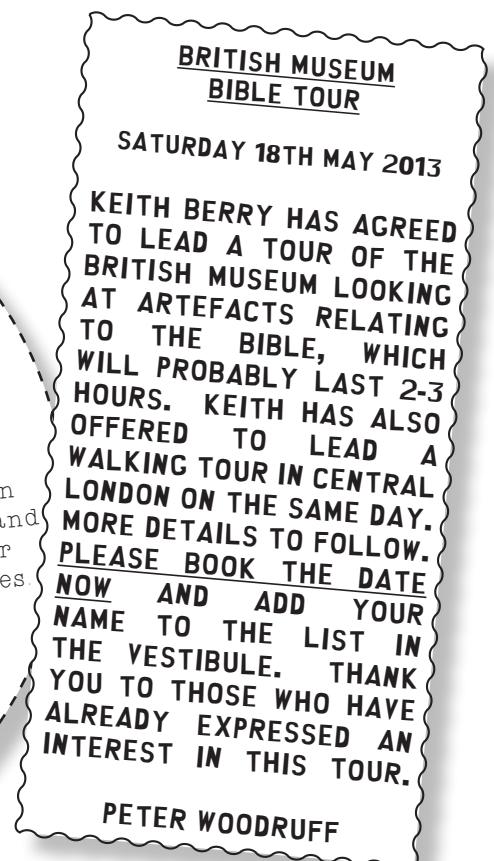
"ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN?"

Venue: The Hayes Centre Swanwick, DE55 1AU
Host & Hostess: David & Barbara Ellis
Speakers: Tim Mills, Stephen Rees, Paul Brown,
Jeremy Walker, Phil Heaps

The object of the Grace Baptist Assembly is to provide fellowship in which churches of common faith may find mutual encouragement and counsel. It provides opportunities for sharing information and for consultation on a national level on issues of concern to the churches. The doctrinal standards of the Assembly are the London Confession of 1689 and the Baptist Affirmation of 1966.

Our bookshop, Christian Books, will again be taking and running the bookstall for the event.

If you would like to book please see John Keble - Booking forms in the Church Foyer



EVENTS.

EMW Aberystwyth Conference
Saturday 10th – Saturday 17th
August 2013

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 now open.

Tours of the Palace of Westminster and Elizabeth Tower

Thank you to all those people who have expressed
interest in these tours. Both tours will be on weekdays and
will take place on different dates, due to the difficulty of
finding a common date. I am in contact with our local MP
Andrew Selous who is booking these tours. I have just heard
that the **Palace of Westminster Tour** has been booked for
Thursday 6th April 2013 with a start at 11:20 and 11:25,
which is during the Easter School Holidays. **Please book this
date now.** The tour last 75 minutes and is **free of charge**
(apart from travel costs), with a maximum of 20 people in
each of the two tours (i.e. 40 in total). There will be time for
something else after lunch. The plan is to try to arrange for
the Elizabeth Tower (housing Big Ben) tour to take place
during the summer school holidays. Please note that the
under 11s are not permitted on the Elizabeth Tower tour. So
if you are interested in joining either of these tours, please
let me know or add your name on the list in the vestibule.

More details later.
Peter Woodruff

YP HOLIDAY 2013 BACK TO LEISTON

I am pleased to announce that I have had confirmation
today that we are able to return to Leiston in Suffolk for
our Young People's holiday for 2013. We will be going
from August 10th to 17th and will have the usual mix of
fun and fellowship. However, if you're expecting us to be
staying at Leiston High School, you're in for a
surprise! We're staying at Alde Valley School instead!! But
don't expect it to be different. They've just had a name
change so it's the same school but with a new title.

For those who have been on the holidays before, I will be
sending out application forms in the next few days by email
but for first timers, newcomers and those who
might have slipped off my address box, I will be putting
forms in the racks by the front doors for you to fill in and
return to me. I expect the cost to be in the region of
£95, all inclusive, for the week. We can help with the cost
if it a problem to anyone who wants to come.
There will also be discounts for your third child -
if you have one. Let me know if you want more information.

Jeff Hewitt

TUESDAY PRAYER TIME LEADERS & SUBJECTS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 5th | Home Study groups:
Study 2 |
| 12th | DFEC Prayer meeting,
Langdale Church, 7.45pm |
| 19th | Antony Coles:
GBM Prayer Waves CD |
| 26th | CJ Barnachea:
Bookshop, John Keble |

BILL GOODE

Barbara and I recently visited Bill in his new home near Oxford. The home, which is not specifically Christian, is very well appointed and has specialist staff and facilities for caring for people suffering from dementia. He had no idea that he had actually moved from Framland Pilgrim's Home in Wantage. Bill was pleased to see us but he had some difficulty in recognising us at first. He has no recollections of Dunstable though he was able to speak about the people in his display of family photographs in his room. Bill, who is physically well for a 98-year-old man, is in a caring environment and supported well by members of staff.

Brian and Margaret were able to visit him on his birthday (22nd Feb). Bill does like having visitors and though he quickly forgets who has been to see him he certainly enjoys the time they are with him. If anyone would like to visit Bill his address is;

The Close Care Home
Abingdon Road
Burcot
OX14 3DP

01865 407343

Ron

Toms Corner

I apologize that I have not given you an update in a little while, but here are some of things I've been involved in over the last few months.

A few weeks ago, another ministry trainee joined the work at Limes Avenue called Elsy Brown who is from Columbian missionary family. Elsy will be involved in a lot of pastoral care and children's work.

My Prepared For Service course is going well - I have been there for a quarter of the course, which seems scary how quickly time is going! I am currently working of an essay looking at the consequences of sin on mankind. I've been getting some really good results for my assignments so I am glad about that!

During this month, I have been away in Hertfordshire doing a week of schools work with Pastor Steve's Dad who is a full-time schools worker. I did some assemblies on the book of Jonah, and in the afternoon at different after school clubs, I did a few talks on Jesus being the good Shepherd. At their midweek meeting, I gave my testimony and a talk on Psalm 28 looking at God being our strength and shield in times of hardship. It was a great week and it was really interesting to understand what is involved in full time school works.

The Christian Union we do at a local secondary school is also going really well. We have just finished at 6 part series looking at the book of Ecclesiastes we have had around 16 students coming each week, which is great. It was really encouraging to see David and Valerie who came over to Aylesbury to visit on Sunday evening. I hope all is well at DBC. I continue to pray for you all. I am grateful for your prayers for me and the financial support you are giving me over these 2 years. I am really enjoying my work here and I am learning daily so much about the bible, church work and above all what an incredible God we serve.

With Love

Tom Copperwheat

Toddlers

For the past 9 weeks or so, it has been really encouraging that the Toddlers leaders, together with 2 or 3 mums have been going through the Christianity Explored course.

Once Toddlers is over and the other parents/carers and children have left, we set up the hall with the DVD player up one end and some toys - normally the train track, which is very popular - up the other end. Jenny and I sit with the ladies and watch the DVD and answer the questions in the book, while Sarah and Valerie play with the few children that remain. Jenny usually makes a cake which also helps to keep the little ones amused (and the adults)!

The whole session lasts around an hour and some very serious and deep questions have been asked - and we have endeavoured to answer them!! All the ladies have been keen to learn, and with a broad spectrum of knowledge, some great discussions have been had! Please pray for our small group that the Holy Spirit would work in their hearts and show them the truth. We only have one session left in the Christianity Explored series, but we may use some other Bible study material once we have finished if they are keen to study.

Ruth Banton

REPORTS.

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GRACE BAPTIST MISSION
PRAYER WAVES – FEBRUARY 2013

Tamil Baptist Churches – South India:

Andrew Cook reported on his visit with John McDonald and Norman Hopkins to churches in southern India with whom GBM has a long-standing relationship. After speaking in different churches in Chennai they travelled south to Madurai for the convention of the Association of Baptist Churches.

David Barnabas – Convention organiser / Baptist pastor (Madurai):

- The Association was formed 14 years ago as a response to the churches suffering a lack of teaching. Many have since been blessed, with churches growing and some starting to support their own pastors
- The aim of the conference was to teach that we have to suffer with Christ and at the same time rejoice in suffering

Boaz Garnesan – Tamil missionary in Orissa (north India):

- Please pray as Boaz and others seek to bring the gospel to an un-evangelised area
- 2 people have recently been baptised and a believer has provided the land for a church to be built but unbelievers around try to prevent the work from going ahead. Pray

Sam Devenesam – Kilpauk Baptist Church (Chennai):

- Recent encouragements : 11 people were baptised in October and the Young People's Ministry is going well. Pray
- 2 new church plants (45 km north of Chennai): in one of these there are 12 families and a small chapel is being constructed. This will be a real testimony to the villages around. Pray
- There is a need for an assistant pastor in the church at Kilpauk. Pray that the Lord will lead as one man feels God's call to this role. God willing, he should take up his post in June / July and this will greatly enhance the church's ministry

Ebi Paul – New Life Baptist Church (Sendamangalam)

- Ebi is greatly burdened to reach evangelistically into the local community.
- Please pray for wisdom in seeking to build relationships
- Many pastors lack the basic training needed to teach the church and there is an urgent need to identify and train the next generation of leaders. Pray
 - Please pray as leaders seek to take people back to the Bible in order that they learn biblical values to implement in their own lives
 - Please pray for the Tamil Baptist churches as they seek to further the Kingdom of God, and pray for us that we may know how best to support our Indian brothers and sisters.

The video version for February is available for download from Vimeo and can be found at the link:
<https://vimeo.com/59238565> The password is: Marea

PAUSE FOR A CAUSE...
CFL COFFEE MORNING - 22 FEBRUARY

Thank you for all who supported our recent coffee morning. It was good to see nearly 40 people crammed into our house - many from DBC, but at least seven other churches were represented. We are very thankful to be able to send about £600 to Caring for Life.

REPORTS.



FRIDAY CLUB

Friday club is the club we run for children of upper school age, between 13 and 18. The name gives away the day we meet and the five of us who lead; Beth Hewitt, CJ Barnachea, Jo Coleman, Sarah Cooke and myself share the combination of Bible teaching and activities.

We spend about 20-30 minutes looking at a Bible based subject which quite often takes the form of a discussion. We're currently working through a book on 1 John which looks at how Christians are different which we combine with the truth of the Gospel. Then we spend the rest of the time on a variety of activities such as lego, quizzes, games, cooking and baking to name a few. Some sort of food is always involved even if it is just from the tuck boxes. Every half term ends with a 'special' which might be bowling, a movie, Quasar or ice creams on the Downs which we encourage the regulars to bring their friends.

We encourage you to pray for both the leaders and the children that attend, especially that the children start to understand what being a Christian is all about. If you want to find out a little more ask one of the leaders or even better one of the younger ones who attend as they will give you a better insight into what goes on each Friday evening.

Scott Mitchell



UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN UNIONS.

University of Warwick CU
Abi Kight writes...

We had our CU mission week a couple of weeks ago, and give thanks for the amazing opportunity we had to share the gospel with our fellow students on campus, it was a really encouraging week. Lots of people came along to all the events, and many heard the gospel for the first time, as well as people asking lots of good questions and just wanting to find out more. There were people who said they'd become Christians during the week, which is also encouraging, and it would be good to pray that they would be real conversions, and that these people's lives would be truly changed. We have started an alpha course as a kind of follow-up to mission week, for people who were interested in finding out more, so pray that people would go along to that, and that God would be working in people's lives there.

Imperial College CU
James Kight writes...

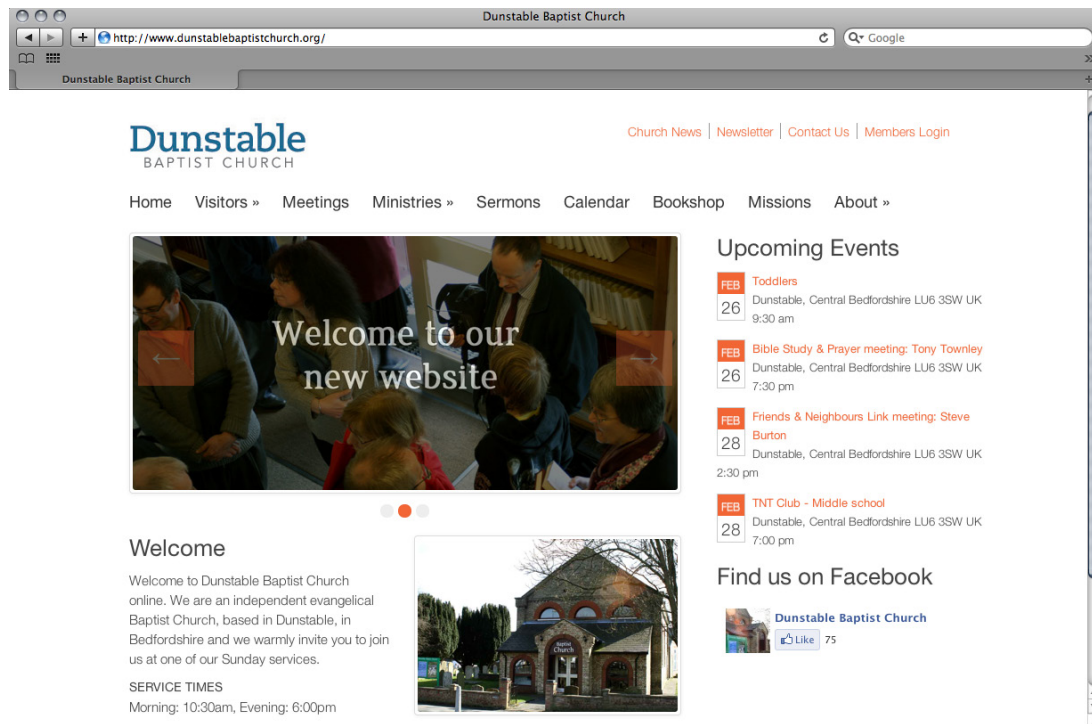
There is much to be thankful to God for after Imperial College CU's mission week. After a week of evening talks for all the central London CU's, Imperial had its own week of talks and events, the main feature being talks each lunchtime, given by Andrew Sach (St. Helens Bishopsgate). The topics considered were the historical reliability of the gospel account of Luke, the ability of the Christian faith to make sense of suffering, the significance of Jesus' death, and the significance of Jesus' resurrection. Praise God that more people came to the talks than have done for a few years, and that people seemed to be engaging with what was said. Praise God that lots of Luke's gospels were taken away by people, and that some signed up to do the Uncover course afterwards. This is a course that encourages people to read through the whole of the gospel of Luke, whilst having some studies on particular sections (similar to Christianity Explored). Please pray for all those who came to the talks; that they would not be able to let go of what they heard. Also, for those who are currently going through Uncover; that they would have their eyes opened to the truth of the gospel so that they would repent and believe. The whole of the CU would value prayer for a continuing passion to make the gospel known at Imperial. Thank you for your prayers and support, it is greatly appreciated.

Reading University CU
Sarah Norman writes...

We had our Mission Week at the University of Reading from 4-8 February. We were really blessed to have Lindsay Brown and Michael Green as our speakers as well as about 10 guests from all over the world. We had people from Russia, Kazakhstan, Australia, France, China and Bosnia! God really answered our prayers during the week and we were encouraged that at least 6 people professed faith, including 3 after a powerful testimony given by Slavko Hadzic, a Bosnian pastor who used to be in the mafia. Please pray for these people, that they won't fall away but that we can disciple them in their new faith and help them find a local church to get involved in. Please pray also for the people who came along to the talks and signed up to find out more, that they will come along to one of the three follow-up courses that are running now and that ultimately they will put their trust in Jesus Christ. Thank you so much as a church for supporting us in prayer and also for your generous financial gifts. My favourite part of the week was the 8am prayer meetings each morning which were attended by about 30 people; it was so encouraging to commit the day to God and also to hear about all the answered prayers from the previous day!

University of Northampton CU
Abi Banton writes...

Our missions week begins w/c 11th March which is really exciting. The new committee has just started so plans are under way! Some of the events we plan to put on are Lunch Bars, text-a-toastie/treat, question boards etc. Thank you for your support as a church - a few things you could pray for is 1) that plans would come together for God's glory and 2) we would be able to share the gospel with our fellow students on campus and 3) for the new committee, of which I am a part of this year as Worship Coordinator.



NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

Just a note to remind everyone that the new church website is up and running, and the website address is www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org

The website has all the information for the church with the following special features:

- Church News – see what is planned for the forthcoming year and check dates for any special meetings, Church outings, picnics and Church meetings.
- Newsletters – you can access all the church newsletters in pdf format and access past newsletters
- Facebook feed – see daily and weekly posts where we will post any last minute changes to meetings or feature any special event.
- Calendar – this has all the planned church activities and the preachers booked right through to 2014 and beyond. This includes all the Tuesday night Bible studies and Church Fellowship Meetings.
- Sermons – we upload each week the Sunday sermons, so you can catch up on anything you missed. You can search by preachers name or by the service type or by series or by passages of scripture, i.e. any sermons in Luke's gospel, etc.
- Members – this is a member's only page where you can read the latest Newsletter, church minutes, church annual accounts, Beliefs Practice and Covenant and Church members yearbook. See John Keble for the member's password.
- Visitors – here we give all the relevant information to anyone looking for a church or just visiting.

We shall be upgrading the website with promotional banners on the front page to highlight any special event or a new preaching series. We plan to create a photograph gallery page so we can upload photo's from church events like the Church Holiday, picnics, rambles and ministry work.

Webmasters are: John Keble and Jo Coleman, so if there is something you would to appear on the new website please let John or Jo know.

Thanks and enjoy visiting for regular updates

John Keble

INFORMATION.

Gifts Received and Sent During January and February 2013

During January and February 2013 gifts have been sent (or are awaiting being sent), from those received for the work and from church funds, as follows:

Affinity (from church funds)	£190
Caring for Life (General) (from gifts)	£40
Caring for Life (to support Tim Snuggs) (from church funds)	£1,000
Christian Compassion Ministries, Cubao, Philippines (from gifts)	£31
Christian Compassion Ministries, Relief Work (from gifts)	£51
6 CU Missions (Huddersfield, Imperial, Northampton, Reading, Royal Holloway, Warwick) (from church funds)	£300
EMF – to provide a relief fund for Sines church (from church funds)	£500
EMF – to support Rogério Ramos in Sines (from gifts)	£56
GBM in support of Matt Gamston (from church funds)	£100
GBM in support of Matt Gamston (from gifts)	£40
GBM in support of Andrzej Kempczynski (from gifts)	£25
London Theological Seminary (from church funds)	£20/month
UFM in support of Peter and Carolyn Jolly (from church funds)	£100

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

Pam Smith
It was lovely to see Pam back at church with us. We thank God for answers to prayer over the last few months while she has been so ill and continue to pray for His help as she gets used to being at home and looking after herself – and her new budgie!

Doris Tibbett
Since going home just before Christmas, after a prolonged stay in Hospital and a variety of Care Homes, Doris has settled well and is now better than anyone could have expected. She has a friendly team of carers who work on a rota system to visit her four times during the day – to help her get up and give her breakfast, her lunch, her tea, and to help her get to bed. Doris obviously finds it frustrating staying all the day in her chair in the living room, but she brightens up when she sees anyone and is always encouraged to hear the Scriptures read and enjoys times of prayer. Doris sends this message to the church: “Many thanks for the visitors who come to see me. I will be grateful for many more to visit me when they can. I don’t see anyone after 5.00pm, but you will have to see Sarah to make arrangements. I am remembering in prayer your need for a Pastor.”
Sarah Woodruff

Use of Church Hall

If anyone would like to use the Hall for an extra meeting then please book the date with Valerie Coleman (664990 or coleman29@talktalk.net).

If the Hall needs heating then please speak to Peter Woodruff as well