

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2015

ST. MARY'S GATE
DUNSTABLE
BEDFORDSHIRE
LU6 3SW

WWW.DUNSTABLEBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG

INDEPENDENT GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH BASED UPON THE BIBLE

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH

Our regular meetings are as follows - everyone warmly welcome

SUNDAY

- 9.45am Young Peoples Bible Class
Church Prayer Meeting
- 10.30am Morning worship service
Sunday School is held during the service
A crèche for under 5s is available during the sermon
Refreshments are served after the service
- 6.00pm Evening Service
- 7.15pm Church Fellowship Meeting – once a month
- 7.30pm Young Peoples Fellowship – 1st and 3rd in month

MONDAY

- 6-7.00pm Monday Kids Club (age 5-9)
- 7.30pm Ladies Bible Study – 3rd in month

TUESDAY

- 9.15-11.00am Toddlers
- 7.30pm Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
Home Groups – 1st Tuesday in month

THURSDAY

- 10.00am Ladies Home Prayer Meeting – 3rd in month
- 2.00pm Friends and Neighbours – 2nd in month
- 2.30pm Friends and Neighbours Link – 4th in Month
- 7-8.30pm 'TNT' club for age 9-12

FRIDAY

- 8-9.30pm 'Ignite' club for age 13 – 19

SATURDAY

- 11.00am Open Air Ministry – 1st in month
- 8-9.00am Mens Prayer Meeting – 3rd in month
- 7.00pm Social Group (as announced)

OTHER MEETINGS AS ANNOUNCED

For further information contact Scott Mitchell – 01582 703875

CHURCH WEBSITE

www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org

CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Monday to Saturday open 9.00 am to 5.00 pm

Telephone 01582 601945

Email books@christianbooks.uk.com

Website www.christianbooks.uk.com

Dear Friends,

God's forgiveness

It is somewhat unnerving to know that God in his omniscience knows intimately all our thoughts, words and deeds. Nothing is hidden from him (*Psalms 139:1-12*). We would be very embarrassed and perhaps even reluctant to meet people if we believed they knew what we were thinking (especially about them). The world says 'what we eat, is what we are.' The Bible teaches 'What we think, is what we are.' As the Proverb states '*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he*' (*Prov 23:7*).

David asked God to try his mind and heart (*Psalms 26:2*). We too should pray that God will examine us through his Word and Spirit (*Heb 4:12-13; Psalms 139:23-24*), and grant us grace to see our sins - those things that include not only our actions and what we say but what we **think** that are displeasing to God, harmful to others and undermines our fellowship with him and them.

John exhorts us to confess known sin, including our wrongful thoughts (*1 John 1:9-2:2*). We thank God that if we come in humble confession even those things that elude our memory will be forgiven (*v.9*). What joy we can experience, knowing we can be forgiven and reconciled to a holy God because '*the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses from all sin*' (*v.7*). But, we must not sin presumptuously and continue in sin simply because God has graciously provided forgiveness in Christ. This will only bring God's discipline and displeasure on us.

God's power

God not only has power to forgive but he has power also to enable us to grow in holiness and love for himself and others. Though it is incumbent on us all to serve God with the gifts that he has given us the Bible emphasises that the essence of the Christian life is love (*1 Cor 13*) and holiness. Regardless of what outward conduct we manifest if it is not done in love '*it profits ... nothing*' (*1 Cor 13:3*). Paul chose the Greek word *agape* to define love, which describes a love based on the deliberate choice of the one who loves rather than the worthiness of the one loved. It is a Christ-like love; selfless, compassionate, long suffering and kind, '*not puffed up*' or '*behaves rudely*' (*1 Cor 13:4-5*).

In view of the promises concerning our relationship with God and his redemptive purposes in Christ believers are exhorted to '*cleanse ourselves ... perfecting holiness in the fear of God*' (*2 Cor 7:1*). This we can do, by the power of God, by being '*transformed by the renewing of (our) minds, that (we) may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*' (*Rom 12:2*). We need constantly to have our minds renewed by prayer and the serious study of the Bible and its application to our lives.

May God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, enable us in 2015 not to repeat those things that have displeased him in 2014 and may each one of us make it our aim in all that we think, say and do to be pleasing to our Lord (*2 Cor 5:9-11*). Though '*it is God who works in (us) both to will and do his good pleasure*' let us remember we need to '*work out (our) salvation with fear and trembling*' (*Phil 2:12-13*).

God is at work in our lives seeking to change us into the image of his Son (*Rom 8:28*) - into his love and his holiness. Yes, let us '*serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear*' (*Heb 12:28*), in this coming year, but let us remember also that to serve God acceptably is to love him, and each other fervently (*1 Peter 1:22*), and to grow in holiness in every area of our lives, especially our thought life.

Ron Shipton

Mission Giving

For our Mission Giving from November to early December the total donations amounted to the following (including Gift Aid):

| | |
|--|------|
| Andrzej Kempczyński (GBM) in Legionowo (plus Cubao Drop-in Camp support) | £904 |
| Roundwood Trust (literature work in Eastern Europe) | £979 |
| Open-Air Mission (with Andy Banton and Steve Burton) | £891 |
| European Missionary Fellowship in support of Rogério Ramos | £891 |

We thank all who gave over this time and would encourage everyone to continue to pray for those involved with these missions.

Other Donations

During the last month the following amount has been sent (or is about to be sent) from gifts received for the work, as follows, with thanks to all those who gave:

Caring for Life (from gifts) £238



REPORTS

Friends and Neighbours - Christmas

On Thursday 18th December, thirty nine 'Friends and Neighbours' sat down in the Church Hall to partake of a scrumptious Christmas dinner. Turkey, gammon, stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast/mashed potatoes, carrots, brussels, peas, and this was followed by Christmas pud or trifle to complete the menu. The meal was prepared and served by ladies from the church and our grateful thanks go to them for all their hard work.

After the meal, we moved into the chapel where we were delightfully entertained by musicians from Ashton Middle school and they also gave us an opportunity to join in with some carols. At the conclusion of their performance, Andy Little from the Open Air Mission spoke to us about the Christmas truce that took place during WW1. On that occasion a reconciliation took place that only lasted a short time but Andy explained that if we have reconciliation with God through the death of The Lord Jesus, it will last forever.

Following the talk the children were given some refreshments in the hall and the 'Friends and Neighbours' were provided with mince pies and a cuppa.

It was an excellent afternoon, enjoyed by all, and the next meeting will be our New Year Special. This will take place on Thursday 8th January when we will have puzzles/quizzes, a slide show of photos taken during our Summer outings, an epilogue and our usual afternoon tea to follow.

Oldies v Middle Agers

Greetings

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

We wish you a very blessed holiday season! May you experience peace and joy in this time of celebrating our Savior's birth and may our Lord who can give and do more than all that we could ask or imagine, bless you now and in the coming year.

Please continue to pray for our Church and Theological Seminary as we face new year, new challenges, new blessings, and may we face it all by the strength of our Lord Jesus Christ who has brought us thus far and will continue to lead us His ways!!

We continue to pray for you too!!

God bless you all

Sincerely yours in Christ

On behalf of Baptist Church of Nis and Balkan Theological Seminary,
Emanuel Ralević

The frosty mornings had gone and so ground conditions were perfect for the usual DBC new years day football match though the winds seem to have put off the usual group of followers who come along to laugh at the skills on offer from some of our older participants. 17 of us had fallen out of bed in time to make a game of it and so the sides were picked after a brief warm up. Old vs young was abandoned again (Jeff and Scott vs the rest may have been a challenge too far) in favour of the schoolyard favourite of '2 captains picking' so both sides had a fair spread of age. However, one captain clearly went for the benefit of experience over youth so the two oldest (by quite a way) were on the same side. We shall for clarity call them the oldies though they also had the youngest player there.

The wind and slope clearly helped as the oldie team quickly went 3-0 up. Only the heroics in goal of Scott and especially Steve B kept the 'middle agers' at bay with Tom 'the poacher' Copperwheat being denied repeatedly. They couldn't hold on for the whole half though and goals from Alex and Jamie brought the middle agers back into the game to finish the half 4-2.



Tom said not to mention half time, so I won't, but the change of ends clearly helped the middle agers as they pressed and clawed their way back to 5-5. One goal worthy of note in the second half was the combination of the 2 oldies - the one who can't run crossing to the one who can't see who headed a marvellous goal (think Keith Houchen for Coventry in the 87 cup final) to open a bit of a gap for the oldies. Further heroics from Steve 'the cat' Burton in goal for the oldies kept the middle agers at bay and some of the younger oldies took advantage on the break to stretch the score to 9-6 where it remained. There was a difference of opinion in the Mitchell household as to the score so it could have been 9-7 or even 9-8 but there was no doubt the oldies took the honours.

INFORMATION

AMENDMENT TO THE CHURCH YEAR BOOK 2015

Please note that Ron and Barbara Shipton's e-mail address should be rbjshipton@sky.com

CONGRATULATIONS!

Eric Eustace celebrates his 90th birthday on Wednesday 14th January. We thank God for his goodness over many years.

Ladies' Bible Study

We have had some very profitable times studying 1 Corinthians each month, although some of the passages we have encountered have been quite difficult and challenging. We have sought to apply to our lives the lessons we have learned and recognise the necessity of keeping Jesus Christ at the centre of our lives. We have enjoyed some good fellowship and sought to encourage one another in the Lord. Our final study for 2014 was centred on The Lord's Supper, 1 Corinthians 11 : 17-34, with the aim of partaking in a worthy manner. We would like to share the following helpful quote which comes from a Day One Publication entitled 'Opening up 1 Corinthians' by Derek Prime -

"The word 'look' provides a helpful way to remember and recall the significance of the Lord's Supper.

We should look back – in remembrance (vv 24, 25).

We should look up – in thanksgiving to God (vv 24, 25)

We should look round – to make sure we are in a relationship of fellowship and love with God's people (vv 17 -22)

We should look in – in self examination (vv. 27-34)

We should look forward – to our Lord's coming again (v 26) "

Our next meeting will be on Mon. 19th Jan at 7.30pm when we shall be studying 1 Corinthians 12, looking at the variety of spiritual gifts that God gives to His church for edification. All ladies are welcome.

Our son Chris is off to Huddersfield at the beginning of January. He will be staying with a Christian family who are members of the church that Chris and Tanya attend. Chris will be looking for full time work while Tanya continues with her studies. They will be married on the 6th of June 2015 God willing.

We give thanks to God for the support and prayer that the church has given Chris over the years. Thank you too for those who worked hard to provide a Church Youth Camp for young people to spend time with their peers praying, learning from God's word and having good fun.

Thank you for all your prayers,
Chris & Jenny Jacquier.



Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the special members meeting on December 13th. I hope you found it useful and challenging. I will try to précis it all over the next few days and send out a report of what happened and the ideas that came from it.

Many thanks

Jeff

EVENTS

THE CHURCH SOCIAL

Come and join us for our annual afternoon of fun and games on Saturday 10th January with tea provided. We start at 3pm in the Church and will have a selection of quizzes and games for all ages to enjoy followed by tea in the hall. Please sign up on the noticeboard so we can organise the catering.



CARING FOR LIFE

Next Supporters Group Meeting
Wednesday 29th January 2015 - 7.30pm
Dunstable Baptist Church Hall

Come along and see the latest supporters' DVD.
Enjoy sharing fellowship, prayer and the latest information regarding
Caring For Life's work with homeless and vulnerable people in Leeds.
John and Elaine Snuggs



SAVE THE DATE - 2ND EUROPEAN HUDDLE

10 – 12 JULY 2015 IN WELWYN, UK

Main speaker: **PhDr. Jan HÁBL, Ph.D.**

Pastor of Církev Bratrská Free Evangelical Church and lecturer of Philosophy of Education at the faculty of pedagogy of the University of J. E. Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem.

"What a great weekend. Great people, amazing atmosphere, edifying and equipping. What a great first Huddle!" - **Rachel**

"My expectations were met tenfold! I was able to engage, encourage and learn from other people who were from around Europe (and the World!)." - **Stuart**

We want to explore how to share our faith better, how to be people who live contagious lives and communicate the Gospel. Don't miss the next Huddle.



Follow us on Twitter @EUROPEANHUDDLE



DBC DIARY DATES - GOD WILLING

| 2015 JANUARY | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Sun 4th | am & pm am 5.20pm 7.30pm | Steve Burton Communion Prayer Meeting for Pastor YP at the Hewitts |
| Tues 6th | 7.30pm | Bible Study & Prayer: Alister King |
| Wed 7th | 7.30pm | Leaders meeting |
| Thu 8th | 2.30pm | Friends & Neighbours - New Years Special |
| Sat 10th | 3.00pm | Church Social |
| Sun 11th | am & pm | Trevor Thomas (Coventry) |
| Tues 13th | 7.30pm | Bible Study & Prayer: Tom Copperwheat |
| Thu 15th | 10.00am | Ladies Prayer Meeting |
| Sat 17th | 8.00am 7.30pm | Men's Prayer Meeting Youth Squash (Dunstable) |
| Sun 18th | am & pm pm 7.30pm | Alan Harvey (Limes Ave) Communion YP at the Kebles |
| Mon 19th | 7.30pm | Ladies Bible Study Study 20 1 Cor 12:1-31 |
| Tues 20th | 7.30pm | Bible Study & Prayer: Roger March (Wolverton) |
| Wed 21st | 7.30pm | CFL Supporters meeting |
| Thu 22nd | 2.30pm | Friends & Neighbours Link |
| Sun 25th | am & pm | David Green |
| Tues 27th | 7.30pm | Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King |
| Wed 28th | 7.30pm | Members meeting (AGM) |
| Sun 1st Feb | am & pm am 5.20pm | Jamie Cater (Reading) Communion Prayer meeting for Pastor |
| Tues 3rd Feb | 7.30pm | Bible Study & Prayer: Alister King |

| 'PRAY FOR US' | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Members preaching in other churches | | |

| JANUARY | | |
|---------|-------------|----------------------|
| 4th | Rex Andrews | Over B C |
| 18th | John Keble | Wilstead (am) |
| | Rex Andrews | Potton B C (pm) |
| 25th | Rex Andrews | Stevington B C(am) |
| | John Keble | Potton B C (am & pm) |

JANUARY ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

DOOR

4th Matthew Woodruff & Julia Ming
11th John Jacquier & Sarah Woodruff
18th Beth Hewitt & Alex Marvin
25th Scott Mitchell & Sarah Cooke

CLEANING

C 5th Martin & Marie Dawkins
H 12th Mike & Mina Power
C 19th Scott & Rachel Mitchell
H 26th Andy & Ruth Banton

SECURITY

4th Matthew Woodruff
11th Martin Wild
18th Rex Andrews
25th Frank Barnachea

FLOWERS

4th Janet Tucker
11th Janet Tucker
18th Margaret Rigby
25th Sarah Woodruff

REFRESHMENTS

11th Beth & Em
18th Sarah Cooke
25th Christine & Marie D

Please forward items for the
FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by **SUNDAY 18th JANUARY**
Thank you.

TUESDAY PRAYER TIME LEADERS & SUBJECTS

6th Frank Taylor F&N (David Weedon)
13th Tony Townley Sunday School (Hilary Green)
20th Steve Burton GBM Prayer Waves
27th Peter Woodruff Monday Club (Mike Power)