

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
MAY

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

9.40 a.m. Bible Class
9.45 a.m. Prayer Meeting
10.30 a.m. Morning Service + Sunday School (term time)
6.00 p.m. Evening Service

Note: a crèche for under 5s is available during the morning sermon.

Refreshments are served after the morning service except 1st Sunday.

Communion – after the 1st Sunday morning and 3rd Sunday evening services.

7.15 p.m. Church Fellowship Meeting (as announced)
7.30 p.m. Young Peoples' Fellowship (1st in month in home)

MONDAY

6.00 - 7.00 p.m. Monday Kids Club (years 1-6)
7.30 p.m. Ladies Bible Study (3rd in month)

TUESDAY

9.15 - 11.00 a.m. Toddlers
7.30 p.m. Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

THURSDAY

10.00 a.m. Ladies Prayer Meeting in Home (3rd in month)
2.30 p.m. Friends and Neighbours (2nd in month) (2.00pm in summer)
2.30 p.m. Friends and Neighbours Link (4th in month)

FRIDAY

7.30 - 9.00 p.m. Focus (club for years 7-13)

SATURDAY

8.00 - 9.00 a.m. Men's Prayer Meeting (3rd in month)
11.00 a.m. Open-Air Ministry (1st in month)
7.00p.m. Social Group (as announced)
7.30p.m. Youth Squash (as announced)

OTHER MEETINGS – AS ANNOUNCED

For further information contact:

Church Secretary: Scott Mitchell (01582 703875)

CHURCH WEB SITE – www.dunstablebaptistchurch.org

CHURCH email – dunstablebaptist@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN BOOKS

Mon. to Sat. 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

Tel: 01582 601945

www.christianbooks.uk.com

email: books@christianbooks.uk.com)

Dear Friends,

Throughout the Scriptures there are numerous references and exhortations concerning our responsibilities to those who are in authority over us, and also to all men and women.

We are commanded to pray for those in authority

How often do we pray for all men, in general, and in particular those who govern the nations, and especially our own government? Paul writes, '*Therefore I exhort that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth*' (1 Tim 2:1-4). We are to give thanks to God for all men including kings and all in authority and in view of the universal scope of the gospel pray also for their salvation. Paul gives reasons for this,

- a) that we may lead quiet and peaceful lives.
- b) that we may lead godly and reverent lives.
- c) because it is good in the sight of God.
- d) because it is acceptable (pleasing) to God our Saviour.
- e) because God desires all men to be saved.

It has been remiss of the church that we have not prayed as often as we should for our own MP, let alone our government, and those in authority over other nations.

We are commanded to obey those in authority

Without some form of ruling authority society will (and has at times) descended into anarchy. This is why Paul writes, '*Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ...*' (Rom 13:1-7, read 1 Peter 2:13-17).

Paul wrote this exhortation at a time when Christians were being persecuted by the Roman, as well as Jewish authorities. However there are good reasons to obey those in authority,

- a) because all authority is from God.
- b) because obedience is the will of God
- c) because obedience honours God.
- d) because resisting authority is resisting God.
- e) because disobedience will be punished.
- f) because praise will be given to those who obey.
- g) because obedience engenders a clear conscience.

A few years ago in a city in America the police went on strike. Within a few hours anarchy prevailed with shops and property being looted, cars stolen, fires started and firemen being shot at by looters. This behaviour, by some citizens of the city, prevailed until the grievances the police had with those in authority was dealt with.

Every believer is to be subject to national and local authorities even if they are evil, such as Nero in Paul's day. Bad authority is better than no authority. However, if those in authority or laws forbid believers to act according to the Word of God it is paramount, even as Peter and John declared when forbidden to preach the gospel, to obey God rather than man (Acts 4:18-22). But there was and are consequences for disobedience even to laws that deny Christian liberty - that is why so many Christians have suffered and still do today.

May the Lord enable us to be obedient to his Word and pray for those in authority, and indeed all men, with thanksgiving, but also to be salt and light in the world (Matt 5:13) as we obey God given authority and laws that are not contrary to his Word and will.

RS

Finances for the First Quarter of 2017

For the first quarter of 2017 the Church finances were as follows:

Income	£15,706
Expenditure	<u>£14,581</u>
Excess	<u>£1,125</u>

During the quarter we benefited from the receipt of tax reclaimed (£113) on Gift Aid gifts given in the last quarter of 2016 and also from the receipt of tax reclaimed (£1,420) on Gift Aid gifts given over the early part of the quarter.

We thank all who have given to the work of the Church, over the last quarter, and we would record our thanks to the Lord for all He has provided for us. We pray that the Lord will continue to supply all our needs, spiritual and material, for all we seek to do in the Lord's name in Dunstable.

Mission Giving

May 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, which are:

- a) *Andrzej (and Monika) 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 is held in October.*
- b) *The Open-Air Mission (OAM) – with whom Andy Banton, is involved as General Secretary; and Frances Burton works in the OAM Office.*
- c) *Christian literature for Eastern Europe via the Roundwood Trust.*
- d) *European Mission Fellowship (EMF) – to support Rogério (and Sonia) Ramos in the work in Sines, Portugal.*

During May please collect an envelope from the rack beside 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. Please return your envelopes, via the collection boxes, by the end of May. 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.

Once a year in May we are also inviting additional gifts for the General Fund of the Pilgrims' Friend Society. Please use one of the Mission envelopes and mark it 'Pilgrims' Friend Society'. The same comments about Gift Aid apply.

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.

Over and above financial support, all of those mentioned need everyone's support in prayer, so please bring them before the throne of grace regularly – at home, and at our weekly prayer meetings. Please ask Christine Wild (christinewild50@gmail.com), our Mission Secretary, if you want to know more or would like a prayer letter emailed or passed to you. When we have mission speakers talking about 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.

Gifts Received and Sent During the last Month

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:

Barnabas Fund – relief for E Africa Famine	(from gifts)	£250
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Caring for Life	(from gifts)	£119
EMF – in support of Rogério Ramos	(from gifts)	£25
Gideons International	(from gifts)	£100
GBM – in support of Andrzej Kempczynski	(from gifts)	£25

During the last month the following amount has been received by personal cheque:

Barnabas Fund – relief for E Africa Famine	£250
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Thank you for your gifts, please continue to pray for all those we support.

Ways to give tax effectively to the Church (incl. Mission Giving)

Gift Aid

If you are a tax payer, using Gift Aid means that for every pound you give, the Church gets an extra 25 pence from the government, helping your donation go further. On top of that, if you are a higher rate taxpayer you can claim further tax relief on the donation in your annual tax return.

So next time you want to give to the Church, tell David Woodruff you want to Gift Aid it and he will do the rest (confidentially). You only need to sign a simple Gift Aid form and make your gift by cheque or through your bank.

Payroll Giving

If your employer runs a Payroll Giving scheme you can donate to your chosen charities (including the Church) from your salary before tax is deducted, so you get tax relief straight away. For example, if you are a standard rate taxpayer and you give £100 per year it only costs you £80.

Find out from your payroll department if your employer is one of the many offering a Payroll Giving scheme. If they don't, why not suggest that they set one up?

Ladies' Bible Study (3rd Monday in the month)

We shall be starting a new series of 10 studies on Mon 15 May at 7.30pm in the church hall. All ladies are welcome to join with us. The studies are based on New Testament characters, starting in Luke 2:21-40 with Anna and Simeon. Study guides are now available at the discounted price of £3.60. Please ask if you would like more info.

Caroline

Baffling Bygones Evening

Over seventy gathered for another Caring For Life evening of Baffling Bygones, presented by Jeff and Rosemary Nicholls. The local churches were well represented with people from Langdale, Christchurch, Edlesborough, Kensworth, Leighton Buzzard, Chesham, Westoning, Wolverton, Luton, DBC & even someone from Glasgow!



As usual Jeff often had us foxed in deciding what the objects had been used for, even though we were given a range of answers to choose from. Items included a needle hidden in a brooch worn by a nanny to cope with emergency sewing repairs with her young charges. Our favourite was a small capsule which was propelled through tubes around shops in the 1950's. It took money from the payment desk to a central till, and then returned with the receipt, and travelled really fast!

The evening began & finished with showing CFL DVDs & a delicious buffet was consumed part way through. Thank you to everyone who supported this event & who helped in any way. It was a good opportunity to introduce the work of CFL to more people and we give thanks to God for the huge sum of £850 raised for their ministry.

John & Elaine Snuggs

Holiday Club

Easter holiday club saw two days of very exciting activities for the children in the Craft section. After making a name badge there was a starter game to get the children mingling and talking to each other until everyone had arrived. On the first morning the main task was to paint, decorate and varnish a plant pot. A few messy fingers as you can imagine and a few blobs of paint on clothes but easily washed off. While the pots were drying there were other activities to occupy the children and then time to let off steam with some games in the church before mid-morning drink and biscuit. Craft and Football groups then joined together to have their Bible time, consisting of singing, story, memory verse and quiz. Packed lunches were eaten in the church before the afternoon session began.



This time the children were making a mosaic coaster from pre-cut tiles and had to choose a pattern before sticking on the tiles in whatever colour formation they preferred. Whilst these were drying, it was time to fill the decorated plant pots with compost and complete the job by planting a pansy. It was then back to the tiles and an experience of grouting. A further session of games in the church, another drink and biscuit break together with the Footballers, was followed by the second Bible time. Parents then collected their offspring and some very delighted children were able to take home their handiwork of the day.

Day two followed the same format with the morning session given to making Easter biscuits. All the ingredients had been weighed and prepared beforehand and once the children had mixed them together, they rolled out the biscuit dough, shapes were decided from the various cutters available and then the biscuits were cooked. Whilst cooking took place, the children made and decorated a box ready to carry home the biscuits, once the final task of icing them was complete. A printed recipe was included in the box should they want to make some more at home. A 3D Easter card, painting/decorating glass jars and a bookmark were some of the other activities available keeping the children well occupied at all times.



Parents were invited in following the final Bible time to hear what had happened during these sessions and what the children had been learning about Easter.

We trust the Crafts will remind the children of the happy time they obviously had making these things, that they will read the book given to them about the Easter story and pray that they will remember the things they learned from the Bible time sessions each day, when they heard the real meaning of Easter as told by Andy and Steve through the stories of Barabbas, the Centurion, Mary Magdalene and Thomas.



Out on Bennetts Rec the football group were blessed once again with another 2 dry days. We didn't have the use of the pavilion this year due to construction of the new splash park but that didn't cause any problems. Each session started with a warm up for all of the 18 or so boys before we split into 2 smaller groups where there was a mixture of coaching and matches. In between the sessions we do get a few older children who have been watching what we've been doing asking if they can use a ball and the goals. That's an additional opportunity to tell them why we are there. We're thankful again for no serious injuries during the time playing football.

From the Gaius Trust

Dear Gaius supporters,

We are very grateful for your support of the work of Stephen and Fiona Bignall in Australia, through the Gaius Trust. The generosity of your support has meant that we have been able to provide significant support month by month to the Bignalls. As well as helping to provide them with the income that they need, it is a great encouragement to Stephen and Fiona to know that so many brothers and sisters in the UK are so interested in and supportive of their work. Due to the fall in the value of the pound over the past months, we have had to increase the sterling amounts going out to Stephen and Fiona by about 20% in order to provide them with the same level of support in Australian currency. We are thankful to report that we have so far been able to maintain this level of giving. Please continue to remember in prayer Stephen and Fiona's work with the indigenous peoples of Australia, seeking to bring the gospel to bear upon lives there. As for all of us, the only hope lies ultimately in Jesus Christ - his death and resurrection.

We wanted to bring you news of some developments in the mission organisation with which Stephen is associated in Australia, which is Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM). For some time, AIM have been considering how best they can take their work into the future and the decision has recently been taken that the work of AIM will become part of Pioneers of Australia, an evangelical mission organisation with a similar focus to AIM. Steve has played an active part in the planning for this new arrangement and believes it will benefit the work that he is engaged with. Please pray as all the necessary arrangements are made to bring this new situation into being. We believe that the involvement of Pioneers will make no difference to the way in which Steve receives support through the Gaius Trust, so please continue to send donations to the Gaius Trust, which we can pass through to him for his work.

Please remember too that we recently launched a special fund to help indigenous pastors with whom Steve works with the cost of fuel for their ministries. The huge size of Australia means that pastors tend to spend a lot of time on the road and fuel costs escalate. Please consider making either an occasional or a regular donation to this fund. Simply let us know when you send a donation or standing order form that it is for the Fuel Fund.

Finally, we expect to be at the Evangelical Movement of Wales conference in Aberystwyth, 14-19 August. If you are there, do come and see us at the Gaius stand in the conference Missions Exhibition.

We thank you again for all your support. Please continue to pray for Stephen and Fiona and their family.

Yours in the Lord Jesus Christ,

Robert Strivens
Chairman of the Gaius Trust

DBC DIARY DATES—GOD WILLING

2017 MAY		
Sun 30th	am & pm	Ryan King
Tues 2nd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Wed 3rd	7.30pm	Leaders Meeting
Sat 6th	11.00am	Open air in the Quadrant
Sun 7th	am & pm am 5.20pm 7.30pm	Barry King Communion Prayer meeting for Pastorate YP at the Hewitts
7th—13th		Week of Prayer (see leaflet)
Tues 9th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Wed 10th	7.30pm	Church Members Meeting
Thu 11th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours: Mystery Ride + Picnic
Sun 14th	am & pm pm	James Chittenden (Robert's Baptism am) Members Meeting + tea (tbc)
Mon 15th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study: Luke 2; 21-40 Anna and Simeon
Thu 18th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting (Priory View)
Sat 20th	8.00am 7.30pm	Men's Prayer Meeting Youth Squash (Dunstable)
Sun 21st	am & pm pm	Chris Davies (Welwyn) Communion
Tues 23rd	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Thu 25th	2.30pm	Friends & Neighbours Link: Roger March
Sun 28th	am & pm	Steve Burton
Tues 30th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

2nd	Brian Rigby	Ladies Bible Study	Caroline Norman
9th		Week of Prayer	
16th	Ron Shipton	Pastorate	
23rd	Frank Taylor	GBM Prayer Waves	
30th	Tony Townley	Roundwood Trust	Elaine Snuggs

Please forward items for the
JUNE NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 21st May

'PRAY FOR US' Members preaching in other churches

MAY		
2nd	Andy Banton	Rugby EC (Seminars)
10th	Andy Banton	Watling School
11th	Andy Banton	St Peters School
14th	Andy Banton	Ramsey BC
20th	Andy Banton	Thundersley EC (seminars and open air)
23rd	Andy Banton	Bradfield St George Gospel Hall
24th	Andy Banton	St Augustine School
28th	Rex Andrews	Renhold BC (pm)

MAY ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

7th	Frank Barnachea & Joy Broughton
14th	David & Ann Weedon
21st	John & Elaine Snuggs
28th	Winnie Jaques & Dawn Hewitt

Security

7th	Andy Banton
14th	Jeff Cooke
21st	Jeff Hewitt
28th	John Keble

Flowers

7th	Janet Tucker
14th	Christine Wild
21st	Sarah Woodruff
28th	Margaret Rigby

Refreshments

14th	Ann & Janette
21st	Julia & Elaine
28th	Dawn & Michele

Cleaning Church / Hall

1st	Barnachea / Keble
8th	Snuggs / Banton
15th	Power / Mitchell
22nd	Hewitt / Christine & Caroline
29th	Winnie & Michele / Woodruff

Creche

7th	Ruth & Emily
14th	Julia & Winnie
21st	Dawn & Barbara
28th	Caroline & Beverly