

Dunstable

BAPTIST CHURCH



NEWSLETTER
JULY

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

We are living in immensely difficult times. We are all deeply saddened and distressed at the loss of so many lives and many more injured in recent terrorist attacks on our fellow citizens. Our hearts go out to those who are grieving and suffering because of these attacks and we continue to pray that God will be gracious to all who have been affected. Living in a free and open society makes us vulnerable to such attacks. As I wrote in my last letter we must continue to pray for those in authority over us that God would grant them wisdom as they seek to prevent such atrocities.

Though it is heart warming to see the sense of solidarity displayed after these attacks, such as in Manchester recently after the incident at The Arena, there is a growing sense also of hopelessness and despair that these atrocities keep on happening.

However, in the midst of all that is happening, we can be strengthened by the assurance that God in his wisdom is working out his eternal purposes. Whilst we are rightly disturbed about the suffering of people, here and throughout the world, we should hold firmly also to the hope we have in Christ.

A perfect hope

The psalmist writes '*happy is he whose hope ... is in the LORD his God*' (Psalm 146:5). The only true hope; the confident expectation that what God has promised he will fulfil, is rooted in his faithfulness and love. Concerning the Lord Jesus Paul writes that he is our hope (1 Tim 1:1). The objective guarantee and hope of redemption is rooted in the Saviour's triumph over the power of sin, death, hell and Satan. As God is the architect of salvation, so Christ is the embodiment of the believer's hope.

Concerning the death of a believer Paul writes that disciples of Christ should not '*sorrow as others who have no hope*' (1 Thess 4:13). Why? Because God has promised that all who trust in Jesus as Lord and Saviour will ultimately be with him. The Christian can cope with human sin, failure and sorrow without despair, because he trusts in '*the God of hope*' (Rom 15:13). The fulcrum for hope in Christ is his resurrection and ascension. This is the objective truth of hope, but we have also the reality of '*Christ in you, the hope of glory*' (Col 1:27) and the subjective experience of the joy and blessing his presence can give.

A false hope

Though there are times when our hopes are realised in this life there is also a false hope. In his teaching on the perfect hope we can have in Christ Paul speaks also about a false hope. '*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men*' (1 Cor 15:19 - NIV). There are those who believe that Christ was a real person, who lived an exemplary life and was a great teacher (e.g. Gandhi), but have no hope concerning eternal life. But, there are many also who believe and hope that they are good enough to enter heaven when they die and fail to acknowledge that in the sight of God they have sinned against him and fallen short of his just demands (Rom 3:23).

None can enter heaven with the pollution of sin clinging to them, we need the cleansing power of the '*precious blood of Christ*' (1 Peter 1:19) and understand that Jesus not only died on the Cross to pay the price of sin (1 Cor 6:20; 7:23) but he has also '*risen from the dead*' (1 Cor 15:20), a living and soon coming Saviour (John 14:1-4).

In this world of instability, distress and false hopes may God enable us to know the reality and power of Paul's prayer for the Roman believers '*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit*' (Rom 15:13). A living hope that is manifested in lives that rejoice in our God our Saviour and that honour, exalt and please him. And let us continue to pray that many, in these challenging days, will come to know and love the One who gave his perfect life in order to give perfect hope to all who trust him.

Fire Safety

Following the dreadful fire in London last month we are including in the newsletter details of DBC's evacuation procedure should a fire breakout during any of our meetings or services. These details now are posted permanently throughout the chapel as well. Whether you are young or old, member or visitor, it is vital that you familiarise yourselves with what to do in the event of an emergency. It is worth working out in your own minds what you would do, how you would react, should a fire start. This is especially important where you are leading a group or meeting and when you might have vulnerable people in your care.

We held a Fire Safety Training Session at the end of April. It was designed for all involved in running or leading groups. All the activities we run were represented that day so you should have had feedback from at least one of the people you work alongside as to what your group would do. If your team hasn't worked out how to respond, you need to do that immediately! If you missed the training and want me to run another session I am happy to do that too.

I am hugely grateful that John Keble has now taken on the responsibility of DBC's Fire Safety Person. He has so much knowledge about fire safety issues as they relate to our building and also the bookshop. I will act as his assistant. If you have any questions, do please contact either of us.

And finally, a warning. We have carry out a practise evacuation annually. This must be unannounced and during a general meeting. When we have one, everybody must join in and treat it with the respect required had it been a real fire. Please also continue to pray for the families affected by the Grenfell fire.

Many thanks, Jeff Hewitt.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

Assembly Point

by Wilkinson's wall, adjacent to the disabled car park
use the pavements and do not attempt to walk across the car park

Action on discovery of a fire

raise the alarm – shouting fire, fire, fire until all are aware is the easiest method

Action on hearing the alarm

leave the building by the nearest safe exit or fire exit
do not pick up your belongings
close fire doors behind you
where possible, switch off the electricity supply if the fire is started by electronic equipment
do not re-enter the building
report to the assembly point
call the fire brigade on 999 on leaving the building. The address of DBC is St. Mary's Gate, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 3SW
liaise with the fire brigade on arrival
do not panic or run
do not put yourself or others at risk
do not attempt to tackle a fire unless it is small and you have received basic training and are aware of which extinguishers are appropriate for the fire

Visitors

ensure all visitors are taken to the assembly point
assist persons and children with their evacuation where necessary
again, do not put yourself or others at risk

For more information speak to either John Keble (Fire Safety Person)
or Jeff Hewitt (Assistant Fire Safety Person).

News from the Bookshop

We were recently privileged to host a bookstall at the 2017 Ladies Day held at Flitwick Baptist Church. Approximately 60 ladies attended this annual event and ministry this year was provided by Sarah Angell, (Pastor's wife from Providence Baptist Church at Clifton.) Sarah brought messages from the book of Colossians, What is the Gospel and Knowing the Gospel in the morning session and Preparing ourselves for Sharing the gospel in the afternoon. Between the two sessions a delicious lunch was provided by the ladies at Flitwick and there was opportunity to fellowship with members from other local churches. The ladies were very grateful for the provision of a bookstall and took advantage of the many books and gifts we had taken over. Please continue to pray for the work of the Bookshop and may God be pleased to use these opportunities for His glory.

From our friends at London Seminary

Públio from Brazil would very much like to come to study at London Seminary from September, in order to train for gospel ministry, but needs a bursary from us in order to do so. The same is true of Rocco from Italy, a brother from France, and several men from the UK. In all, there are seven men seeking bursary help from us, who wish to start their studies here in September.

Our bursary funds are currently at a low level, despite generous gifts in recent years, as we have been supporting a considerable number of men on full or part bursaries over the last two years.

I am therefore writing to all our supporters to ask for your help. To fund seven bursaries, at £14,000 each for the full two-year course, we need a total of £98,000. We have unallocated funds and pledges of support so far amounting to £28,500. We are thus hoping to raise a further £69,500, in order to support each of the men referred to above over the full length of the two-year course.

If you are able to help in any way at all, we would be very grateful indeed, as I know the men would be whom we are seeking to help. The men concerned desire to come to London Seminary to help prepare for ministry in their home countries. For those who come from other countries, it is a condition of the bursaries that they return to their home countries after finishing at the Seminary, to minister there.

We would be most grateful for any gift, small or large, that you are able to make. If you are able to give an amount regularly to our bursary funds for these men, that would also be very helpful. A pledge of an amount or amounts for the future, over the next two years, would also be very gratefully received. Gifts can be made to the Seminary via our website or direct to the bank (account details are shown on the **Bursary Support Form**). Alternatively, please complete and return the **Bursary Support Form** with any gift. If you are able to use Gift Aid, please indicate this on the form - this adds a further 25% to your gift through tax relief. The form can also be used if you wish to set up a standing order - again, please return it to us when completed.

Thank you very much for reading this and for any support you are able to give. Please do continue in prayer for us and for the men concerned.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Robert Strivens
Principal

The Bursary Support forms are available in the Foyer if you need one

New Members - contact details

Robert Davies

22 Loring Road
Dunstable

LU6 1DZ

Tel. 07519660808 / 01582 671669

email robertmark5360@gmail.com

Debbie Rigby

Flat 1, 47-53 Bute Street

Luton LU1 2EP

Tel 07470159870

email -



CARING FOR LIFE

Next Support Group Meeting

Wednesday 12th July 2017 at 7.30pm
Dunstable Baptist Church

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



We give thanks to God for the wedding of John and Becky Woodruff on the 24th June at Caring for Life in Leeds. A number of members were present and we pray that God blesses their future together.

From Andy Banton, Open Air Mission

Dear Friends

Greetings in the Lord's worthy name!

Please accept our grateful thanks for the kind gift of £935.94 from the fellowship at Dunstable Baptist Church. We do appreciate your help and encouragement so much.

You may well be aware of the fact that last year we lost five of our full-time workers. Keith Bullock went to be with the Lord, Geoff Cox and Clive Williams retired, Andy Robertson retired due to long-term poor health and Steve Burton moved on to serve the Lord in a more church-based role. Although we miss these dear brothers greatly, it does mean that we have to look forward as well as back. With that in mind the Mission urgently wants to recruit new evangelists. The Mission Committee decided a couple of months ago to advertise in the Christian press and on Facebook and we have been very encouraged to have received over a dozen enquiries. Among these are a couple of men who may possibly be suitable, and currently we are seeking to gently move these enquiries forward. I know the Committee would very much value your prayers in this matter, so that ultimately the right men would be appointed to this vital front-line evangelistic work

We would also value prayer for the various Team Events that are getting under way at the moment. Between now and the end of September the evangelists will be particularly busy and most will be away from home on a regular basis during this period. May the Lord make them really fruitful as they preach the gospel in various situations around the country!

Thank you again very much indeed for your stand with us in the work of the gospel in our needy land.

CHURCH HOLIDAY – SIZEWELL HALL 2017

Plans for the DBC Church Holiday for 2017 to Sizewell Hall in Sizewell, Suffolk are now beginning in earnest. I'd just like to bring you an update on how things are going. Latest details are as follows;

- We are going from Monday October 23rd to Friday 27th – half term week
- Everybody is welcome to come, there are no age restrictions
- Costs are now set at £30 for under fives, £65 for 6-12 year olds and £100 for those aged over 13. This is an all inclusive price. You will just need to get yourself there
- We will be using our tried and trusted, self-catered system that works so well so we can promise you copious amounts of excellent food, lovingly prepared by our teams of hardworking holiday makers. Those above a certain age will be exempt from this
- Our speaker for the week is Chris Davies – pastor of Campus Church, Welwyn Garden City. We are very pleased that he has agreed to come and join us.
- **If you want to come I will need to know as soon as possible.** I also need to collect an initial deposit of £20 for each person coming. You can also pay in full now if you want to.

Jeff Hewitt

Coffee Morning & Gift Day
in aid of Pilgrims Friend Society
supporting Dorothea Court at Bedford

Friday 21st July
9.30am to 12.00 noon
37 Norcott Close, Dunstable LU5 4AH

ALL ARE WELCOME

We would appreciate contributions of home made cakes, pies, marmalade, and jams .
Plants and some home grown vegetables should also be available. Please note that this year we are not wanting any other items for sale.

Norcott Garden Railway should be operating weather conditions permitting
Contact for further info 01582 665188
or email john.snuggs@btinternet.com

CD Recordings

Due to the lack of our future availability we are sorry that we are no longer able to take orders for CDs of any of our recordings except for very special circumstances when members are no longer able to attend any of our services. Unless the preacher requests us not to, all Sunday sermons are placed in the public area on our web site and can be heard or downloaded. Likewise, Tuesday Bible Studies are now added to the Members' area. Where possible, outstanding orders will be honoured. We do have a number of returned CDs from recent months available for borrowing.

from the RECORDING TEAM

The Leaders would urge everyone to attend both our services on Sunday as well as the Bible Studies on Tuesday as this will be a benefit to you and an encouragement to us all.

Thank you

MISSION GIVING

After our recent Mission Giving during May the total donations (with Gift Aid tax received) amounted to the following:

Grace Baptist Mission (to support Andrzej Kempczynski in Poland)	£985
Roundwood Trust (literature for Eastern Europe)	£905
Open-Air Mission	£936
European Missionary Fellowship (EMF) – in support of Rogério Ramos	£985

We thank all who gave and would encourage everyone to continue to pray for these missions.

OTHER 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:

Support for Antony Coles	(from gifts)	£205
Gideons	(from gifts)	£200
Grace Baptist Mission - General Fund	(from gifts)	£94
London Seminary Bursaries	(from church funds)	£500
London Seminary Bursaries	(from gifts)	£310
Pilgrims' Friend Society	(from gifts)	£240

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

August Newsletter

Due to holidays, the August newsletter may be shorter than usual. If you do have any items that you would like included, can you please get them to Scott as early as you possible can.

DBC DIARY DATES—GOD WILLING

2017 JULY		
Sun 2nd	am & pm 5.20pm pm	Barry King Fellowship Lunch Prayer meeting for Pastorate Communion
Tues 4th	7.45pm	DFEC Joint Meeting—Christ Church
Wed 5th	7.30pm	Leaders meeting
Sun 9th	am & pm	Jonathan Chell
Tues 11th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Wed 12th	7.30pm	CFL Supporters Meeting
Thu 13th	2.00pm	Friends & Neighbours: Outing to Wooton
Sat 15th	8.00am	Mens Prayer meeting
Sun 16th	am & pm am	Hezron Muwowo Communion
Mon 17th	7.30pm	Ladies Bible Study: A blind beggar
Tues 18th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Wed 19th	7.30pm	Members meeting
Thur 20th	10.00am	Ladies Prayer Meeting
Fri 21st	9.30am	PFS Coffee morning
Sun 23rd	am & pm	Steve Burton
Tues 25th	7.30pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King
Sun 30th	am & pm	Steve Burton
Tues 1st	7.45pm	Bible Study & Prayer: Barry King

'PRAY FOR US' Preaching in other churches

JULY		
2nd	Rex Andrews	Stony Stratford (pm)
9th	Barry King	Bexleyheath (am) Leagrave (pm)
16th	Barry King	Edlesborough (am) Leagrave (pm)
23rd	Rex Andrews Barry King	Westoning (am) Morton BC, Thornbury (am) Buckingham Chapel, Bristol (pm)
30th	Rex Andrews Barry King	Pidley (pm) Coopers Edge BCC, Glos. (am) Eastcombe BC (pm)

JULY ROTAS

Please arrange to swap if the date is not convenient

Door

2nd John & Bev Keble
9th Frank Barnachea & Joy Broughton
16th David & Ann Weedon
23rd John & Elaine Snuggs
30th Winnie Jacques & Dawn Hewitt

Cleaning Church / Hall

3rd Woodruff / Winni & Michele
10th Barnachea / Rigby
17th Snuggs / Keble
24th Power / Mitchells & Julia
31st Hewitt / Christine & Caroline

Security

2nd John Snuggs
9th Frank Taylor
16th David Weedon
23rd Matthew Woodruff
30th Rex Andrews

Refreshments

Dawn & Michele
Julia & Elaine
-
Caroline, Winnie & Mina
Christine & Debbie

Flowers

2nd Julia Ming
9th Caroline Norman
16th Barbara Shipton
23rd Ann Weedon
30th Janet Tucker

Creche

Caroline & Beverly
Sarah & Debbie
Julia & Winnie
Margaret & Bev
Dawn & Barbara

Tuesday Prayer Time Leaders & Subjects

4th	DEFC Meeting	Christ Church
11th	Scott Mitchell	F&N David Weedon
18th	Brian Rigby	GBM Prayer Waves
25th	Ron Shipton	Manshead CU David Norman

Please forward items for the
AUG 2017 NEWSLETTER
to Scott Mitchell
dunstablebaptist@gmail.com
by SUNDAY 18th JULY
Thank you.