

# CROSSTALK

*February / March 09*



*News and Views from  
Kidderminster Baptist Church*

*Franche Road  
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## Having a party? Need a room?

Kidderminster Baptist Church Hall is available for hire.

- ❖ Large Hall with staging area
- ❖ Excellent kitchen facilities
- ❖ Toilet facilities (including those for the disabled)
- ❖ Car parking
- ❖ £5 - £10 per hour
- ❖ Call Roger Wood on 01299 405601 for details

Please note that the premises are NOT licensed

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### Download a sermon from the church!

2009 brings a new feature to our website that will allow users to listen to sermons preached on a Sunday at their leisure.

All sermons from the beginning of 2009 are available in mp3 format and at around 5meg in size can be downloaded by clicking on the 'sermon downloads' link on the site.

In addition to this service, full copies of each service are also available on CD for those who request it.



This facility allows people to listen to any services that they may have missed, and also allows for the increasing trend of people looking for a new church to 'listen first' before they attend for the first time.

Why not try listening yourself?

Log on to - [www.kidderminsterbaptist.com](http://www.kidderminsterbaptist.com)

## Time is flying past!

I can't believe it's February already!  
I can't believe it's 2009 already!  
I can't believe I'm as old as I am already!

I came across the following satirical cartoon from [asbojesus.wordpress.com](http://asbojesus.wordpress.com)



*All empires eventually crumble and die.*

The whole of life seems to rush past us all doesn't it? On the one hand, things can move really slowly when we're stuck in a rut or things seem to be difficult, but then we look again, and we see how time and all the things around us fly past so quickly.

Even now as we are in the middle (or the beginning depending on your outlook) of a dreadful time for people's financial security, time will soon pass, new things will develop, fresh opportunities will emerge, and today will soon be put into the box marked 'history'. Everything has its day. Sometimes it is truly sad when we see some of the most well known businesses closing, but as the caption says, 'All empires eventually crumble and die'.

But what of us? – What will make of our short time on earth? I believe much of it is a choice. Some of our choices are still limited by our circumstance, but even they are still usually far greater than we sometimes realise.

My summary of a great poem in the Bible written by a man who was constantly fighting life's struggles and seemingly always on the run from people who wanted him killed, reads like this –

"Try not to worry about things because like grass and green plants, they all have their time and will soon die down again. Trust in God and do good things. Commit your way to God and trust in him – because that's where you'll find great peace."

*(Taken from Psalm 37:1-11)*

Whatever you face this year, I pray that you can bring it to God and find your own personal peace.

*Simon.*

**Crosstalk** – The Magazine of Kidderminster Baptist Church, Franche Road  
February / March 2009

## Eucharist, Mass, Communion or the Lord's Supper?



Our Friday night housegroup will be sharing together over the coming weeks looking at the Christian tradition of receiving bread and wine.

Different churches do it in completely different ways, sometimes with very different meanings and practices. We will be using a fresh study by Ben Witherington III to try and answer some of the questions around why we do what we do, and what it truly means to take bread and wine in church.

If you would like to join us for these Friday evenings, then please just let us know and you would be most welcome.

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### Where does God fit into the real life?

Our Sunday morning services throughout March will be looking at a little book in the Old Testament called Ruth. It is the story of real-life issues - of deep sadness, of loyalty shown by true friends, of coincidences shaping decisions, of passion, sex, love and marriage - all the types of things you would expect to see in a good book or movie. These are real-life scenarios, but with the underlying question of 'where is God in all this'?

Join us on a Sunday morning at 11am as we walk through an incredibly tense, moving and gripping unfolding drama.

## Is today the day?

There's one in just about every home - on a shelf behind the TV, or up in Grannie's room. It's normally only got out when a crossword clue needs to be solved, or someone's got a question wrong on 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' It may be the world's best-selling book, but if it is, it's the world's least read best-seller. Even regular churchgoers tend to keep it for Sundays, not for the rough and tumble of everyday life.



And that's a pity, because for Christians the Bible is the primary key to understanding ourselves, the world we live in, and our Creator. It is the story of our search for God, and his search for us. Slowly, painfully, and with dawning clarity the picture emerges.

First one tribe, then a nation, record in its pages their experience of God. They don't always get it right, but it's an honest search and God rewards it. Because, while people were searching for God, he was searching for them. That's the Bible's story, which reaches its amazing climax in the coming of Jesus, the Son of God.

See the Bible like that and many of the problems people raise about it are answered. Yes, there's a lot of violence and bloodshed. There are some fairly crazy ideas at times about what men and women thought God wanted them to do. But there is also the thrill of the search and the wonder of discovery - above all, the amazing idea that the One who made us, loves us.

Perhaps the time has come to rescue that copy of the Bible from the bookshelf and take it seriously enough to read it. There are many helps for those who want to start reading the Bible regularly, including daily readings and notes. But the main thing is the intention. Many people will say that they'd like to find out what's in the Bible 'one day'. Well, if it is what it claims to be - the key to the search for truth - then it would be a tragedy to have it in our homes and not even bother to find out what it says. Perhaps 'one day' is now?

All our teaching at Kidderminster Baptist Church is based on text from the bible. If you're interested in knowing more about the bible and its relevance for your life, then either come along to a service on Sunday or contact Simon on the details provided in Crosstalk.

## History explains a lot!

Exactly 400 years ago, in 1609, two people began a new church movement that was in direct conflict with the national church in England. In those days, it was illegal to set up churches outside of the state run national church and so these two men, Thomas Helwys and John Smyth, moved their congregation to Amsterdam. They wanted their new church to be run by the believers themselves rather than by a King or a bishop,

And so they needed to make a decision on who was a true believer and who was not - the true believers could then worship together and run their church together. The decision they took was that anyone who confessed their belief in God through being baptised as a believer could be a member of their new church.

They were subsequently nicknamed by other people - the Baptists.

At Kidderminster Baptist Church, we have recently welcomed in three new members to our community. As history reveals, this year the Baptists will be celebrating 400 years of becoming a church in their own right. Why not come along to one of our services and experience the Baptist Church for yourself? All are welcome.

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### *Women's World Day of Prayer*

*Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009*

*"In Christ there are many members yet one body"*

*Speaker – Cynthia Lies from Rensburg, Germany*

*Place – St Mary's & All Saints Church, Churchfields*

*Time – 10.30am*

*All welcome, men, women & young people*

## Why 'Ash Wednesday'?

Following Shrove Tuesday, or pancake Day as it is more commonly known, Ash Wednesday marks the start of Lent and occurs for 40 days, excluding Sundays, before Easter. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament in the bible.



In the Old Testament, the Israelites often went against God's teaching. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of doing wrong.

This tradition continued throughout the very early Church and Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation in the 1500s, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional but certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead tends to remind people of their mortality.

The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 25<sup>th</sup>. During Lent we will be looking at the Old Testament book of Ruth and how God works behind the scenes even when we don't realise.

Look out for our Easter services that will be advertised in the next issue of Crosstalk.

## Christmas Celebrations

Christmas celebrations at Kidderminster Baptist Church kicked off with our nativity service on 14<sup>th</sup> December. We were able to welcome children from TotsRock musical toddler group, Jack and Jill Preschool and the Brownies to hear the Christmas story told through the opening of presents. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December saw people of all ages gather together for a traditional carol service by the atmospheric light of candles. Christmas Eve saw a quiet and reflective midnight service whilst the Christmas morning family celebration service gave the children chance to bring and show-off their gifts from Santa as well as celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We were also able to gather together with friends and family from both the church and further a field for lunch on Christmas Day.

Overall, we were able to welcome over 100 visitors through our doors this Christmas time. If you were not able to join us this year, then we hope that you find the opportunity to in December 2009.

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## Children and families worker sought!

Kidderminster Baptist Church is now in the process of advertising for a children and families worker to be part of our work in the community for the next three years beginning September 2009. Working part-time at the church, and also studying part-time for a degree, the worker will become involved in bringing a Christian message into local groups, schools and community projects.



We are tremendously excited about this new venture and feel that it is an important area that our church should be involved in. We hope that this new project will serve the community in many diverse ways along with providing opportunities for children and their families to engage in the ongoing story of God.

If you want to know more about this position and all that's involved then please contact Simon on the details given in Crosstalk.

## Fireworks Extravaganza!

On the afternoon of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, eight intrepid volunteers, well padded with layers of clothing and thermals, met on the car park of Kidderminster Baptist Church. As we walked over to Franche Community Primary School to help out at their Christmas extravaganza we discussed what we might be letting ourselves in for and, most importantly, would we be indoors or outdoors?

Those of us who had never been inside the school gates before were duly impressed with the school's facilities (things weren't like that in our day!) and with the scale and organisation of the extravaganza itself. As we were shown to our stalls (outdoors of course) we divided into three catering teams.



*Roger feeding the 5000*



*Chris & Jerry filling the potatoes*

Jane, Peter and Roger were in charge of the hot pork baps with stuffing and apple sauce – a popular choice on a cold day. Chris, Jerry and Simon were kept very busy serving baked potatoes and fillings whilst entertaining the waiting queue and Marion and Jane W were on the bar serving hot drinks and mince pies.

The afternoon flew by and we were all kept fully occupied. Finally there was a spectacular firework display which was a perfect end to an exhausting but enjoyable afternoon. It was a great opportunity and indeed a privilege for Kidderminster Baptist Church to get involved with our local community.



*Jane & Marion satisfying the thirsts*

Here's to next time!

*Jane Walton*

## What's on in February and March?

### February

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Deacons meeting, 7.30pm

Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Communion @ Brookdale  
Nursing Home, 2.30pm

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Monday Afternoon Fellowship,  
2.30pm  
Speaker – Mrs Stringer, Salvation Army

Men's Event – Kidderminster Harriers v Cambridge

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Church Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm  
Church meeting, 8.30pm

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm

### March

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Deacons meeting, 7.30pm

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Women's World Day of Prayer, 10.30am  
St Mary's and All Saints Church

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> Church Extraordinary General Meeting, 7.30pm  
Church meeting, 8.30pm

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm



## A Legend

February 14<sup>th</sup> sees the annual celebration of St Valentine's Day, but how did it all begin and how is it linked to church? One legend of many of the very first Valentine's Day card goes like this;

The Roman Emperor Claudius II needed soldiers. He suspected that marriage made men want to stay at home instead of fighting wars, so he outlawed marriage.

A kind-hearted young priest named Valentine felt sorry for all the couples who wanted to marry, but couldn't. So secretly he married as many couples as he could - until the Emperor found out and condemned him to death. While he was in prison waiting execution, Valentine showed love and compassion to everyone around him, including his jailer. The jailer had a young daughter who was blind, but through Valentine's prayers, she was healed. Just before his death in Rome on 14 February, he wrote her a farewell message signed 'From your Valentine.'

So the very first Valentine card was not between lovers, but between a priest about to die, and a little girl, healed through his prayers.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on this saint's day -14 February - the birds are supposed to pair.



Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations.

Whatever you think - We wish you a happy valentine's day!

# Pray with us through February and March

## February

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Pray for today's family service and that those who come will be made to feel welcome and will enjoy themselves.
- 8<sup>th</sup>** Please pray for the church Annual General Meeting which will be held on 20<sup>th</sup>. Pray that the decisions made will reflect God's direction for our church.
- 15<sup>th</sup>** Please pray for the work of the Leprosy Mission helping people all over the globe to come to terms with the disease.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** Pray against the Apostasy Laws in many Muslim countries that make conversion to another religion punishable by death.

## March

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Pray for today's Covenant Service as we as a church recommit ourselves to God and to each other.
- 8<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Nightstop Charity in Kidderminster. This organisation helps keep homeless youngsters off the street by giving them a place to sleep on a temporary basis.
- 15<sup>th</sup>** Please pray for the Extraordinary General Meeting next Friday. Pray that the decisions made will reflect God's guidance for our church.
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** This is Mothering Sunday. We lift to God in prayer not only our own mothers but also those who have nurtured us throughout our lives.
- 29<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the five Wyre Forest Baptist Churches and their Ministers. Pray for Bewdley (Simon Harry), Milton Hall (Jack Bentham), Far Forest (Kevin Beales), Stourport (Philip Kearney) and our own church (Simon Gudger).

**Come and join us for our services in  
February and March**

**Morning @ 11am**

**Evening @ 6pm**

**February**

1<sup>st</sup> Simon Gudger  
*Family All-age Service*

Chris Lane  
*Communion*

8<sup>th</sup> Sheila Gardiner

Simon Gudger

15<sup>th</sup> Alexander DuPlessis  
*The Leprosy Mission*

Roger Wood

22<sup>nd</sup> Simon Gudger  
*Covenant Service*

Brenda Wood

**March**

1<sup>st</sup> Simon Gudger  
*Ruth 1*

Ray Lewis  
*Communion*

8<sup>th</sup> Simon Gudger  
*Ruth 2*

Chris Lane

15<sup>th</sup> Sheila Gardiner  
*Ruth 3 - Communion*

Roger Wood

22<sup>nd</sup> Sheila Gardiner  
*Ruth 4*

Roger Wood

29<sup>th</sup> TBA

Service at Milton Hall

## Community Groups @ Kidderminster Baptist Church

### Monday

Jack and Jill Pre-School  
9.00am-12.00pm

Jo Hill 01562 754833  
Chris May 01562 632867

Slimming World  
6.30-8.00pm & 8.00-9.30pm

Russell 01562 746265

### Tuesday

Jack and Jill Pre-School

Kidderminster Camcorder Club Mr R Jordon 01562 631475  
7.30-9.00pm

Aerobics  
7.45-8.45pm

Mrs M Lemiech 01562 752830  
07855 996437

### Wednesday

Jack and Jill Pre-School

Studio 4 Dance  
8.00pm-9.00pm

01299 400027  
07968 21660

### Thursday

Jack and Jill Pre-School

Brownies  
6.15-7.30pm

Louise Morris 01562 863158

### Friday

Jack and Jill Pre-School



# Weekly Church Programme

Why not come along and join us on;

## Sunday:

11am Morning worship & Sunday Club  
*Family worship suitable for all ages,  
Activities & supervision for children and youth  
Communion 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning of the month*

6pm Praise & Prayer Meeting  
*Communion 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday evening of the month*

## Monday:

2.30pm Afternoon Fellowship (Fortnightly)

## Tuesday:

10.30am TotsRock

## Friday:

8pm Weekly Housegroup

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## Birthdays

We wish the following people in our fellowship  
a very happy birthday:

### February

15<sup>th</sup> Marion Appleby  
28<sup>th</sup> Nicci Lane

### March

15<sup>th</sup> Jerry Walton



# Useful Contacts

[www.kidderminsterbaptist.com](http://www.kidderminsterbaptist.com)

<b>Minister In Training:</b>	Simon Gudger 01562 822858 minister @ kidderminsterbaptist.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Roger Wood 01299 405601 Secretary @ kidderminsterbaptist.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Chris Lane 01299 401740 Treasurer @ kidderminsterbaptist.com
<b>Deacon:</b> (Premises Steward)	Susan Lane 01562 752097
<b>Deacon:</b> (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)	Marion Appleby 01562 751444
<b>TotsRock Leaders:</b>	Louise Gudger 01562 822858 totsrock @ kidderminsterbaptist.com  Nicci Lane 01299 401740 totsrock @ kidderminsterbaptist.com
<b>Alpha contact:</b>	Simon Gudger 01562 822858 Minister @ kidderminsterbaptist.com
<b>Monday Afternoon Fellowship:</b>	Simon Gudger 01562 822858 minister @ kidderminsterbaptist.com
<b>Sunday Club Leader:</b>	Chris Lane 01299 401740 treasurer @ kidderminsterbaptist.com

## Church text for 2009

"I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the nations,

To open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness."

*Isaiah 42:6-7*