

CROSSTALK

December 09 – January 10



*News and Views from
Kidderminster Baptist Church*

*Franche Road
Kidderminster
DY11 5BB*

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“IS THIS IT?”

If God did exist what would you ask? alpha.org

Asking questions? Looking for answers?

The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed manner over ten, thought-provoking weekly sessions.

It's low key, friendly and fun and there's no cost. It's supported by all the main Christian denominations. Over 2 million people in the UK and 11 million worldwide have already found it to be a worthwhile experience.

The Alpha Course starts early in the New Year at Kidderminster Baptist Church running one night a week for 10 weeks.

7.30pm – Shared pudding together

8pm – DVD addressing one of the key issues to life

9pm – Open discussion time

9.45pm – Close

Call us on 01562 822858 to enquire or book your place or email
mail @ kidderminsterbaptist.com

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life



Christmas – it's great for the kids

I never used to be able to sleep on Christmas Eve! I'd go upstairs with a big plastic bag with a picture of Santa on it (just in case he didn't recognise where to leave the presents). I'd leave this at the top of the stairs and go into my bedroom to try and sleep. The problem was that I also wanted to listen out to try and hear Santa putting my presents into the bag – and that kept me awake for a long time!



Eventually, I'd drift off to sleep, but the excitement of the day itself always worked as an alarm clock in my body, ready to go off at some unearthly time in the morning that would be unheard of any other day.

"Has he been yet?" the excited brothers would ask each other, and one of us would creep out in the darkness to find our bags filled with goodies including a good old satsuma, a monkey nut and a bag of chocolate money!

Reviewing the traditions

When I got married we had to combine our different traditions of where Santa would leave the presents and what we should eat for breakfast (pork pie for breakfast on Christmas Day?). Now, with children, we have had to combine our traditions on where they leave their stockings for Santa. But in some way, we want to preserve the traditions that we enjoyed as children.

Recently whilst doing school assemblies for St Catherine's and Franche Primary, I reminded the children to remember the reasons why we do traditions, and why we celebrate things. I think it's important for us not only to continue celebrating, but to always remember why the traditions started in the first place.

For me, this means not making Christmas a tradition just for children. For, whilst there are traditions and celebrations that are particularly child-friendly, there are also traditions and celebrations that are for adults too, and I think it's important for us not to overlook them.

If you are fortunate enough to spend Christmas this year with friends or family, if you manage a special meal, or some time off work, then just spend a little time revisiting the reason why this tradition continues. The world as we know it changed when Christ was born. This was no 'see the baby meek and mild' event – this was something that has changed history. We can't simply ignore it.

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means, God with us." Matthew 1:23

God with us. For me that's the Christmas message. This event allowed us to have a relationship with God – your response is of utmost importance. Maybe this Christmas will be a time for you to renew your relationship with God, or even begin it for the first time.

Christmas – it's great for the kids – but it can be just as good for adults too! You will find details of our Christmas services in the centre pages – it would be great to welcome you to any of them.

May God bring joy and peace to you this Christmas.

Simon



Sunday 27th September 2009 saw around 3000 churches across the nation make a special effort to welcome newcomers and returners.

The initiative called '*Back to Church Sunday*' now in its fifth year, encouraged thousands of churchgoers to ask their friends and neighbours along to a Sunday service with the special theme of 'come as you are'. The long term view of their visit back to church was that it might lead them to rediscover their local church community.

The concept which began in Manchester in 2004 was based on research which had revealed that three million people (6% of the adult population) would come back to church if they received a personal invitation.

Those that came along to the service here at Kidderminster Baptist Church almost doubled the number of the normal congregation. They were also given a welcome pack which contained various information relating to church including a DVD and fair-trade chocolate bar.

If you would like to sample church maybe for the first time or you would just like an excuse to come back, there is no need to wait until next year. You are most welcome anytime.

Please refer to the information in this magazine advertising our forthcoming services.

comeasyouare    **BacktoChurchSunday**

*I wish a shepherd boy I'd been,
On that first Christmas night,
When angels came down from the sky,
And bathed the fields with light,
Singing, Praising, filled the sky,
Telling of the Saviour's birth,
Loud Hosannas raised on high
Peace and goodwill to the earth.*

*I wish a wise man I had been,
Travelling over lands afar,
For to see my Saviour dear
Guided by a shining star.
Bearing our most precious gifts,
To the stable crude and bare,
There to lay them at His feet
Saviour of the world most fair.*

*But, alas, no shepherd boy,
Nor a wise man I,
No angels singing in the sky,
No wondrous star on high,
Still to the Saviour I may come
No longer in that cattle stall,
My gift would be my heart and soul
And give my Lord my all in all.*

*Bert Wilson (1930-2007)
Church member and greatly missed*

Street Party!!

Saturday 5th September was the 2nd Street Party to be held at Kidderminster Baptist Church. The first in 2008 was part of our 200th anniversary celebrations and was so successful that we decided to hold another!

The day kicked off at 11am when the first of many cars was washed by several hard-grafters who worked their socks off for the full 3hours. A bouncy castle stood on the green between the church and main road and this was surrounded by stalls containing everything from plants, to books to bric-a-brac products. A gazebo provided a little shade for the face painting whilst another gave cover to the cakes and refreshments that stood close to the barbecue.

Although much of the street party was free, many people gave a donation to charity.

Altogether over £300 was raised which went towards the Millbrook Suite Appeal

and 'Operation Agri', a charity which supports rural and urban development projects in three continents, attacking the basic causes of poverty amongst some of the least fortunate people in the world.

The weather however was not as kind this year. Although it remained dry, the sky was overcast and the wind blew a little more than we would've liked. That didn't deter the punters however and it was great for our church to put on an event for the benefit of our local community



Exciting times for children!

In September we appointed a student children & families worker to work part-time with the church. Over the next 3 years, Brent Cairns will be focussing his work on the under 11s and their families in our community. This is a really exciting time for us, as we continue to look to develop our links with the younger ones in our area. More in the next edition of Crosstalk...



An introduction to our new Sunday Club groups...

Due to an increase in the number of children attending Sunday Club, we have now split into 3 groups

Bright Sparks

A great crèche facility for the 0-3's. Bright Sparks gives our young ones the chance to combine fun playtime with the opportunity to follow the topics of *Bubbles* and *Xstream* through bible story, craft and music. What a privilege it is to be able to nurture their understanding of God from such an early age, using Jesus example of placing enormous value on them and using them as a role model for the kingdom of God.

Bubbles

Children aged 3-5 are bubbling with life; everything is new, exciting and just waiting to be discovered. They are in the busiest time of their lives when they will learn more than at any other time and, crucially, when their brains establish learning pathways. They are receptive to God, to hearing him in ways that many of us have lost as we have grown up and to having the sort of faith that Jesus wants us all to have.

XSTREAM

Children aged 5-11 like to have fun! They like to be with their friends and are growing increasingly independent. Most still like the opportunity to play games and to be creative, but they will shy away from anything that feels too babyish. Their capacity to learn is enormous and most begin to read quite well. Feed their imaginations with *Xstream* and allow them space to ask the questions about the things that younger children take for granted. *Xstream* encourages our children to live their daily lives for God.

If you would like your child to attend Sunday Club which runs during our 11am Sunday Service, or for more information, please contact Chris Lane on 01299 401740 or e-mail info@kidderminsterbaptist.com

Sun 13th Dec: 11am – midday

**Children's Nativity Service
Service for all ages**

*Suitable for all ages, facilities provided for under 5s
Refreshments served afterwards*




**Sun 20th Dec:
6pm – 7.15pm
Traditional Carols by
Candlelight Service**

Readings and carols following the
Christmas story
Hot refreshments and mince pies
afterwards

*Suitable for all ages,
facilities provided for under 5s*





**Friday 25th Dec: 10.30am – 11.15am
Christmas Morning Family Celebration**

Celebrate together on the day Jesus was born!

Suitable for all ages, facilities provided for under 5s

**Friday 25th Dec: 12 noon
Christmas Family lunch**

Why not join us for a traditional Christmas lunch?

All welcome.

Donations gratefully received





Take part in shows,
festivals and medals.
Full equity member as
seen on TV shows such
as Torchwood and
Casualty.

**Kidderminster Baptist Church,
Franche Road, DY11 5BB**

Every Friday During Term Time
5pm - 6.30pm
Ages 7 - 11

For more information and booking
contact Lucy Charlotte on:
Home: (01562) 67203
Mobile: 07791307131
Email: lucydancingqueen@yahoo.co.uk

In light of fantastic start to our third year and for everyone's comfort and safety, we have decided to limit new admissions for the foreseeable future. Therefore, booking your place in advance is essential for anyone who would like to come.



We are open to all regardless of gender, ability and ethnic background. If you or your friends and family are eager to join us, use the contact info below and we will take details and advise of the next available session.

We wish to give special thanks to all the parents, carers and children that have made TotsRock the success it has become.

Contact info; Tel; 01562 822858
 Text; 07919 047210
 E-mail; totsrock@kidderminsterbaptist.com

Louise & Nicci

Seeds of Hope

Sunday 4th October was our harvest service here at Kidderminster Baptist. This year we chose to support the work of BMS. BMS World Mission is in the business of changing lives. It works through long, medium and short-term workers, teams and volunteers, as well as a large number of supported national partner workers around the world, providing people, funding, training and expertise. They work in around 40 countries of the world, on four continents. At harvest it's easy to focus just on how much God has blessed us and to forget those whose harvests have failed. *Seeds of Hope* focused on people in It gave us as a congregation the opportunity to reflect on how fortunate we are in the UK compared to many in the world and enabled us to respond to the challenge put before us through prayer and financial giving. Those who came to the service also donated non-perishable food items which were then passed onto local charity. We were also able to enjoy a fantastic Harvest meal after the service of Chicken pie and veg followed by home made apple crumble – delicious!!



Bonfire Bonanza

On Sunday 1st November, Franche Community Primary School held its 2nd most successful Bonfire Bonanza ever.



This year, 7 of us from Kidderminster Baptist Church went to help out – Simon, Jerry, Brent, Chris and Yvonne on the food stall and Jane and Marion on hot drinks. A huge crowd of people came to support the event and were offered a wonderful 2 ½ hours of fun and food. There was a well-stocked sweet stall and brightly coloured glow sticks were available for the children to buy. It was a chilly evening and people gratefully consumed beakers of hot drinks and ate hot pork rolls, hot dogs and burgers, plus beer and cold drinks for the more hardy! The bonfire was lit about 5.45pm with the fabulous fireworks display starting about 6.30pm containing a sparkling range of colour, variety and sound! A great night for all!

Marion Appleby

Pray with us through December & January

December

- 6th** Please pray for those who are grieving for family or friends at this time. Also, that families separated for whatever reason will be able to maintain contact.
- 13th** Please pray for our Nativity service today and that the children in our local community grow up understand the real meaning of Christmas.
- 20th** Thank God for his demonstration of love through the birth of Jesus.
- 27th** As we look back on the old year, let us thank God for the blessings He has given to all of us.

January

- 3rd** Pray that we hold to this year's church text – to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.
- 10th** Please pray for all those people who are homeless and for those who are trying to help. Pray especially for the Nightstop organisation which exists to take young people off the streets as quickly as possible.
- 17th** Pray this week for all our local churches of all denominations as they share a week of 'Prayer for Christian Unity'.
- 24th** Pray for the safety of Christians in Muslim dominated countries. Pray that new converts will find safe fellowship and teaching.
- 31st** Pray for those who are in debt, that they will be able to seek the help they need.

**Come and join us for our services in
December & January**

Morning @ 11am

Evening @ 6pm

December

6 th	Simon Gudger <i>Confession</i>	Chris Lane <i>Communion</i>
13 th	Simon Gudger Nativity Service - Worship	Bernice Darlington
20 th	Simon Gudger <i>Communion - Celebration</i>	Simon Gudger Carols by Candlelight
24 th		Simon Gudger Communion, 11.30pm
25 th	Simon Gudger Christmas Morning Celebration - 10.30am	
27 th	The Deacons	The Deacons

January

3 rd	Simon Gudger <i>Church Text – to act justly</i>	Ray Lewis <i>Communion</i>
10 th	Simon Gudger <i>Church Text – to love mercy</i>	Brent Cairns
17 th	Simon Gudger <i>Church Text – to walk humbly with God</i>	Roger Wood
24 th	Ann Peate	Brenda Wood

Our Church Text for 2010 ***What does God require of you?***

It seems a simple enough question, but results in many answers.

Our January Sunday morning services will be looking at what it truly means to be following God, by using our new 2010 church text.

The prophet Micah, writing in response to the Israelites' questions about how much burnt offerings they should sacrifice to God, responded with simplicity - "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God"

In a society today where some think that doing the right moral thing, or attending church occasionally and taking communion, or just being a nice person to your neighbour is enough to be called 'Christian', Micah's words might just be a wake-up call to what God truly requires - something of our inner heart to love and live for him.

Our church text reads – "What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God", Micah 6:8 (NIV)

Join us at 11am on Sunday mornings in January, you would be most welcome.

Community Groups @ Kidderminster Baptist Church

Jack and Jill Pre-School
Mon-Fri 9.00am-12.00pm

Paula Egan 01562 631211
07786 902235

Slimming World
Mon 6.30-8.00pm & 8.00-9.30pm

Chris May 01562 632867

Russell 01562 746265

Kidderminster Camcorder Club
Tues 7.30-9.00pm

Mr R Jordon 01562 631475

Aerobics
Tues 7.45-8.45pm

Mrs M Lemiech 01562 752830
07855 996437

Studio 4 Dance
Weds 8.00pm-9.00pm

01299 400027
07968 21660

Brownies
Thurs 6.15-7.30pm

Louise Morris 01562 863158

Star Performers
Fri 5.00-6.30pm

Lucy-Charlotte 01562 67203
07791 307131
lucydancingqueen @ yahoo.co.uk



Weekly Church Programme

Why not come along and join us on;

Sunday:

11.00am

Morning worship & Sunday Club

Family worship suitable for all ages,

Activities & supervision for children and youth

Communion 3rd Sunday morning of the month

6.00pm

Praise & Prayer Meeting

Communion 1st Sunday evening of the month

Monday:

2.30pm

Afternoon Fellowship (Fortnightly) – 7th Dec, 11th, 25th Jan

7.30pm

Deacons Meeting – 11th Jan

7.30pm

Alpha Course

Tuesday:

10.30am

TotsRock (Weekly – term time only)

2.00pm

Communion @ Brookdale Nursing Home – 8th Dec, 5th Jan

Thursday:

7.30pm

Deacons Meeting – 10th Dec

8.00pm

Weekly Housegroup

Friday:

7.30pm

Church Meeting – 22nd Jan

8.00pm

Weekly Housegroup

Birthdays

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

January

3rd

Roger Wood

7th

Louise Gudger

10th

Christine Britton

Anniversaries

Many congratulations to those who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries:

December

20th

Chris and Nicci Lane



Useful Contacts

www.kidderminsterbaptist.com

Minister In Training:	Simon Gudger minister @ kidderminsterbaptist.com	01562 822858
Secretary:	Roger Wood secretary @ kidderminsterbaptist.com	01299 405601
Treasurer:	Pete Edwards treasurer @ kidderminsterbaptist.com	01562 630875
Deacon:	Christine Barcouni	01562 751080
Deacon: (Premises Steward)	Susan Lane	01562 752097
Deacon: (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)	Marion Appleby	01562 751444
Children & Family Worker:	Brent Cairns	01562 820005
TotsRock Leaders:	Louise Gudger totsrock @ kidderminsterbaptist.com	01562 822858
	Nicci Lane totsrock @ kidderminsterbaptist.com	01299 401740
Alpha contact:	Simon Gudger minister @ kidderminsterbaptist.com	01562 822858
Monday Afternoon Fellowship:	Simon Gudger minister @ kidderminsterbaptist.com	01562 822858
Sunday Club Leader:	Chris Lane	01299 401740

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