

CROSSTALK

Autumn 09



*News and Views from
Kidderminster Baptist Church*

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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 12th October at Kidderminster Baptist Church and runs every Monday evening

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 book your place or email mail@kidderminsterbaptist.com

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life



September - time for a re-start?

September always seems to be a month for re-starts. Work always seems to re-start as we head into the Autumn following a summer of different people being away. Children all re-start their routines as the schools begin once more. Various clubs and societies all re-start their programmes again. After re-charging our batteries over the summer, we can all re-start our different interests and activities.



For my two boys, Ben & Luke, September begins their new adventure at nursery after over a year at the excellent Jack & Jill pre-school at the church. Their uniform and shoes have all been purchased, name tags have all been put in, and a new start is just beginning.

For Louise and I, just as we seem to have got to the stage where our children are growing up, we are about to re-start once more and have another child which is due in February. Re-starting the bottle and nappy routine is something we're going to have to get back to again quite soon!

A Spiritual re-start

In the Bible, Nicodemus was a man who apparently had everything - wealth, status and much respect. Yet he used an opportunity when Jesus was around to see whether anything in his life needed re-starting. He went to Jesus in secret and asked him, "Is there anything else I need to be thinking about or doing in my spiritual life?"

Jesus surprised him with his answer by telling him that he needed to completely re-start his spiritual thinking, and then for the next year or two, took him on a journey that Nicodemus could never have imagined.

Maybe September is a good time to examine our spirituality also, and to re-start in areas that we want to move forward in.

At the church, we have tried to accommodate spiritual re-starts in the Autumn in a number of ways so that there might be something for everyone.

Two special services, Back to Church Sunday (Sept 27th) and Harvest Thanksgiving (Oct 4th), have been designed to make people feel comfortable about coming into church even with little or no experience of it.

Our Sunday services from 11th Oct will all focus on spirituality and getting closer to God. Meetings in houses in the week will allow for people to follow these themes up and go into more detail and ask more questions.

We also begin an Alpha course on Monday evenings from 12th Oct to allow anyone to ask the most basic or deep questions without fear of sounding silly or out of place.

All details of these things are listed in this magazine. Why not let September 2009 be the month when you not only re-start the usual routines, but also re-start your spiritual quest.

May God be close to you this Autumn.

Simon



HARVEST 09

Seeds of Hope



OUR HARVEST EVENT:

Date: 4th October 2009

Time: 11am – 12 noon

Place: Kidderminster Baptist

BMS World Mission PO Box 491 200 East Street, London E1 1AN Tel: 020 7533 5070 www.bmsworldmission.org/harvest2009

Join us to give thanks for all that we have, and to also remember those who are less fortunate than us.

A family service for all ages.

TotsROCK

A musical toddler group for 1 + 2 year olds

The new term has started!!

10.30-11.30am

Spaces Available.



Please call Louise on 01562 822858 for more details or log onto www.kidderminsterbaptistchurch.com and follow the 'TotsROCK' link.

The Alpha Course – My view!



I attended the most recent Alpha course which began in April. Six of us met for ten Monday evenings in a member's home. Each evening started with pudding (which we took turns in supplying), a cuppa and a chat. This was followed by music (something very different each week) and a short DVD on various topics relating to the Christian faith. There would then follow a general discussion about the DVD with a chance to ask questions and listen to each other's views.

I would recommend the Alpha course to anyone who would like to learn more about Christianity in a relaxed and informal way. I especially enjoyed the Holy Spirit "away day" – so much so that I wanted to repeat it the following morning! (The puddings were good too!) Thanks to Christine for being an excellent hostess, Simon for leading the group so patiently and enthusiastically and to everyone else involved.

Jerry Walton

*'They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them'*



Join us for Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 8th November 2009

10.45am

Getting Close to God in our 21st Century Society

How do we get close to God when all around us is so busy, when many don't seem to need God and, for those that want to find God, he can sometimes seem so distant? It would seem that we have lost the art of getting close to God in our society.

Our Sunday morning services throughout the autumn will focus on a different aspect of spiritual life each week that can draw us back to being close to God. Using Richard Foster's acclaimed book 'Celebration of Discipline' we will be getting practical and expecting to meet God more intimately than ever before - why not come along and join us?

- Sun 11th Oct - Getting close to God - Meditation
- Sun 18th Oct - Getting close to God - Prayer
- Sun 25th Oct - Getting close to God - Fasting
- Sun 1st Nov - Getting close to God - Study
- Sun 8th Nov - Getting close to God - Solitude
- Sun 15th Nov - Getting close to God - Service
- Sun 22nd Nov - Getting close to God - Simplicity

*** Don't forget that you can listen online to any of these services ***



Churchgoers across the Church of England are set personally to invite up to half a million people to services on **Back to Church Sunday, 27 September 2009**, making it one of the largest co-ordinated shared events across the Church in recent history.

Up to 16,000 Church of England churches could be taking part, joining congregations from the Salvation Army, Churches Together in Scotland, the Church in Wales, Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed churches nationwide, Elim Pentecostal churches and Anglican churches in Australia, Argentina, New Zealand and Canada. "The impact of Back to Church Sunday is not just measured in statistics; it is measured by the wonderful impact it has had on numerous individual lives," comments the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield.

comeasyouare

Coming Back to Church: some stories from 2008

Celia Lawton-Livingstone was invited to St Luke's, Colchester, on Back to Church Sunday 2008. Her friend Carole asked her along to the service. Now Celia is attending regularly, has joined the Worship Team, and hopes to be confirmed later this year. She comments: "I was surprised when I got to the church that morning. It was different to what I'd imagined, and the people were very friendly. I didn't feel like they were trying to shove religion down my throat, they let me make up my own mind. It was a very relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, just like one big family. I would recommend it to others: you never know where it could lead you. My whole life has changed completely in the last year."

Debbie Hall, went back to St George's, Glascote, Tamworth on Back to Church Sunday 2007. Juggling life with young children had got in the way of regular church attendance, but she remembers her return fondly: "I'd never turned my back on God, but other commitments were on the forefront on my mind. It was just a normal service, but everyone was so nice and they made me feel really special. I was really pleased to be back." Debbie is now a regular member of the congregation and serves as 'welcomer' for newcomers – and returners!

The Bible – a book we take for granted?

A project to transform a disused church into a new faith heritage centre will take the Bible Society back to its roots in North Wales. £1.8m is needed to refurbish St Beuno's Church in Llanycil, just a few miles from the place where the Bible Society's story begins.

It was in nearby Bala, in 1800, that a 15 year old girl walked 25 miles across the Welsh mountains, just to get a Bible. Mary Jones had saved for six years to buy the book from Methodist preacher Revd Thomas Charles. He was so touched by her determination that four years later he helped to form the Bible Society, which now enables people around the world to read or hear God's Word in their language.



There are now over 3000 different languages that the Bible has been translated to in whole or in part – but this still leaves 4421 languages still waiting for even one book of the Bible!

Currently the worldwide Bible Society is working on over 500 different translation projects which will impact an estimated 4 billion people.

6 – the average number of years to translate the New Testament.

10 – the average number of years to translate the Old Testament.

140 – the number of Bible Societies around the world involved in translation.

Millions – the number of people who will receive the Bible as a result of their work.

At Kidderminster Baptist, we support the Bible Society financially and also held a service dedicated to their work on 16th August.

To donate to or find out more about the work of the Bible Society, log on to www.biblesociety.org.uk or phone 01793 418222

31st October – a trick or a treat?

Halloween dates back to the days of the Celts who celebrated the Festival of Samhain, 'Summer's End'. The priests, or Druids, performed ceremonies to thank and honour the sun. Samhain also signalled the onset of winter, a time when it was feared that unfriendly ghosts, nature-spirits, and witches roamed the earth – so the Druid priests lit great bonfires and performed magic rites to ward off or appease these dark supernatural powers.



When the Romans arrived with their Harvest Festival honouring the goddess Pomona with gifts of apples and nuts, the two festivals slowly merged.

When Christianity arrived and began to replace the Roman and Druid religions, it dedicated 1st November to Christian Martyrs and Saints who had died, calling it 'All Saints Day' or 'All Hallows' Day'. The evening before was used for prayer and preparation and became known as 'All Hallows' Eve', the Holy evening, later shortened to 'Halloween'.

For many centuries, however, the fear of the supernatural remained strong. Animal costumes and masks were common in the Middle Ages to ward off the evil spirits, magic words and charms were used to keep away bad luck. Fortune telling became popular using nuts an apples, hence the terms Nutcrack and Snap-Apple Night.

As Christians we believe that prayer overcomes any supernatural power, and that walking the streets with masks and costumes simply makes light of the reality of what the night signifies.

Today, many churches have 'light parties' on Halloween to help focus our attention on God, who we believe overcomes darkness and fear.

**Come and join us for our services in
September, October & November**

Morning @ 11am

Evening @ 6pm

September

6th

Simon Gudger

Roger Wood
Communion

13th

John Williams

Bernice Darlington

20th

Simon Gudger
Communion

Chris Lane

27th

Simon Gudger
Back to church Sunday

Louise Gudger

October

4th

Simon Gudger
Harvest Celebration

Ray Lewis
Communion

11th

Simon Gudger
Theme: *Meditation*

Brenda Wood

18th

Simon Gudger
Theme: *Prayer*
Communion

Roger Wood

25th

Simon Gudger
Theme: *Fasting*

Chris Lane

November

1 st	Simon Gudger Theme: <i>Study</i>	Chris Lane Communion
8 th (10.45 start)	Simon Gudger Theme: <i>Solitude</i> Communion	Louise Gudger
15 th	Simon Gudger Theme: <i>Service</i>	Ray Lewis
22 nd	Simon Gudger Theme: <i>Simplicity</i>	Brenda Wood
29 th	Richard Mansell & Akik Mlah Birmingham City Mission	



Sunday 27th September 2009

You are personally invited to come 'Back to Church' for a special service at 11am.

This will be a service for newcomers, and a chance for your feedback to us on what you think of church!

Children will have time suitable for them, refreshments will also be served.

Why not use this opportunity and invitation to come 'Back to Church' on Sunday 27th September at 11.00am?

comeasyouare    **BacktoChurchSunday**

Pray with us through September, October & November

September

- 6th** Please pray for the children and teachers at the local schools as they start their new terms.
- 13th** Please pray for the church organisations as they begin their new programmes for the Autumn. Also pray for the community groups using the church premises.
- 20th** Please pray for the forthcoming visit of Subir and Eunok Roy, the founders of the Good News Children's Education Mission (GNCEM) in Calcutta, India. The Babycare Centre that TotsRock supports is part of this organisation.
- 27th** Today is Back to Church Sunday. Please pray for those who haven't been to church for sometime or for those who will be going for the first time today.

October

- 4th** As we celebrate our Harvest Thanksgiving today, please remember those who have less than we do and who are in need.
- 11th** Please pray for the Missionaries, long, mid and short term, working overseas for the Baptist Missionary Society – BMS World Mission.
- 18th** Please remember Simon, our Minister in Training as he undertakes his fourth and final year of study.
- 25th** As 134 Franche Road nears completion; please pray for both the new staff and residents.

November

- 1st** Please pray that as bonfire night approaches, all who celebrate will remain safe.
- 8th** Please pray for both the police, fire and ambulance services as they go about their difficult and often life-saving duties.
- 15th** Pray for the national and international church leaders of all dominations. Pray for integrity and wisdom in their leadership which might lead to peace, unity and stability.
- 22nd** Pray that as we enter into the Christmas period, that we all gain a greater understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.
- 29th** Toy Sunday – Pray for Birmingham City Mission and all the work they do to support the homeless and those marginalised by society.
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An evening with Subir & Eunok Roy from Calcutta, India

7.30pm Tuesday 22nd September

Subir & Eunok run the Good News Children's Education Mission in Calcutta which provides free education for over 3000 children living in the slums.

Join us as they share their story and the challenges faced, and inspire us with the vision that they have for some of the poorest children in the world.

All welcome – not to be missed!



Margaret Sey (28/6/39 – 21/6/09)

July saw the funeral of a much-loved lady from our church. Margaret Sey had joined the church as a child, attending the Sunday School at Church Street and being baptised there in 1954. It was also there that she met and married Don and subsequently enjoyed 50 years of married life.



Margaret was the first 'Brown Owl' of the church, helping set up the Brownies in 1966. Her loving, and caring nature established many friends world-wide, and she will be dearly missed. She is now in a perfect place with God whom she lived for.

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:

11am

Morning worship & Sunday Club

Family worship suitable for all ages,

Activities & supervision for children and youth

Communion 3rd Sunday morning of the month

6pm

Praise & Prayer Meeting

Communion 1st Sunday evening of the month

Monday:

2.30pm

Afternoon Fellowship (Fortnightly)

– Sept 7th, 21st, Oct 5th, 19th, Nov 2nd, 16th

7.30pm

Deacons Meeting – Sept 7th, Oct 8th, Nov 5th

7.30pm

Alpha Course (begins 12th Oct)

Tuesday:

10.30am

TotsRock (Weekly – term time only)

2.00pm

Communion @ Brookdale Nursing Home – Sept 1st

Thursday:

8pm

Weekly Housegroup

Friday:

7.30pm

Church Meeting – Sept 18th, Nov 20th

8pm

Weekly Housegroup

Birthdays

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

September

5th Emily Lane

7th Michelle Walker

15th Brenda Wood

October

3rd Beattie Wilson

5th Ben and Luke Gudge

13th Chris Lane

17th Sheila Gardiner

November

6th Betty Bennett

12th Jane Walton

17th Sophie Kaczor

25th Chris Kaczor

Anniversaries

Many congratulations to those who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries:

September

8th Jane and Jerry Walton



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
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