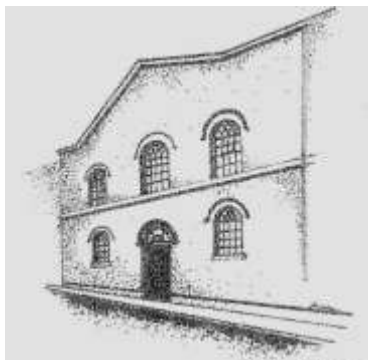


CROSSTALK

May / June 2008



Silver Street, 1808 - 1868



Church Street, 1868 - 1971



Franche Road, 1971 - 2008

200th Anniversary Edition

from

Kidderminster Baptist Church

Franche Road

Kidderminster

DY11 5BB

Website: *www.kidderminsterbaptist.com*

e-mail: *mail@kidderminsterbaptist.com*

Come and join us for our



Sunday 18th May 2008 @ 11am
Followed by lunch

Guest Speaker
Rev Jonathan Edwards
General Secretary of the Baptist Union of
Great Britain

Suitable for all ages, facilities provided for children

To help cater for numbers, please let us know if you would like to join us for the free lunch by calling 01562 822858 or by email to secretary@kidderminsterbaptist.com

200 Not Out!

Welcome to our special 200th Anniversary edition of Crosstalk, the magazine of Kidderminster Baptist Church.

How wonderful to be part of such a significant celebration in Kidderminster. This isn't just a celebration for the church; it is a celebration for the community of this town. In modern day times of things only being around for a few

years, and then gone tomorrow, 200 years of the Baptist church being in Kidderminster is something for us all to own as part of our history of living here. Many of us will have had some contact with this church during our past, either directly or indirectly, through our parents, grand-parents or even further back. This celebration affects us all.



I have been privileged to see some of the church documents dating back to the 1800s, when the weekly congregation was around 500 people. Every Sunday afternoon in the early 1900s, over 1000 men attended 'A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon', a concert or performance laid on in the church. Over 400 children each week were taught in the Sunday School. Throughout the years, thousands of people within Kidderminster have, in some way, been affected by the life of this church. That is something for all of us to celebrate and be proud of.

Even recently, talking to some of the parents of children at our local schools, it has been interesting to find out just how many people have had some association in their younger days with the church, whether it be with The Imps or Sunday School, the Boys Brigade or the Guides and Brownies, or with the Jack and Jill pre-school group that have used the building since it was built in the early 70s. Everyone has a reason to celebrate such an influential part of our community.

All of our documents dating back 200 years can be viewed within the church over the next few months. You can also read our specially produced booklet detailing the history of the church, kindly put together by Roger Wood. Copies can be obtained from the church or downloaded at www.kidderminsterbaptist.com

God is now building this church for the future, I strongly believe that. God is interested in people's lives today, lives that are so different to when Kidderminster Baptist was first founded, but He is still interested in shaping, transforming and bringing real hope and happiness to lives today. What is your role in that future? How about using this celebration of history to think about being part of the church's future and seeing what a difference this 'God of all times' can make in your life?

Finally, may I invite every one of you to be part of our celebration service on May 18th? This day promises to be a real day of celebration both for the church and the wider community. You will be most welcome to come along and share with us at this special time; we look forward to welcoming you.

Wishing you all a pleasant and celebratory spring.

Simon.

"Hope2008 is an initiative of the churches of Britain and Ireland which is helping to demonstrate Christian faith in action and to explain the meaning of that faith in villages, towns and cities throughout the UK"



Hope2008 Kidderminster Walk

For all the Kidderminster Churches and their friends
All are welcome

Saturday May 17th 2008
Starts @ Trinity Methodist Church
Parking by Duke House

Circuit one - 5 ½ miles, 10.30am prompt start
(coffee available from 10am)

Picnic lunch, 1pm approx @ St Mary's Church

Circuit two - 3 miles, leave St Mary's 1.45pm approx, back around 3.30pm

NB. Come for either or both circuits. Regrettably the walks are not suitable for pushchairs or wheelchairs

My memory of our recent church history...



Nicci Lane

My memory is just before last Christmas watching excited children at TotsRock jumping up and down to catch bubbles from the bubble machine while the song "Let it snow" was playing; and squealing as the bubbles landed on their heads! It was also lovely to see the parents' smiling faces as they watched their children.



Christine Barcouni

I remember the hard work undertaken by members of the church as everyone helped to dig foundations for the new extension hall at Franche.

I remember how my father, Chris Kascor, always seemed to be away at the church working as a builder along with Larry, Jim Evans and Don Sey.

Egg-static Easter!

The Baptist Church celebrated this Easter by holding several services over the Easter weekend.

Maundy Thursday saw the local Baptist churches from across the Wyre Forest join together for an evening communion using readings from the bible which gave accounts of the events leading up to Jesus crucifixion.

Although traditionally a day of reflection the theme of this service was about remembering the hope that Easter can bring.



The Easter Day programme contained nearly as many cooked meals as services! A short communion service was held at 9 o'clock followed by a cooked breakfast of sausage, bacon, beans, egg and toast. This was followed by the family celebration service which addressed the question 'Is Christianity untrue, irrelevant and boring?' Next came a fantastic meal of shepherd's pie and vegetables with raspberry pavlova for dessert. The usual evening service was held at 6 o'clock.

If what you've just read has tickled your taste buds, then why not join us for our special 200 year anniversary service on May 18th 2008 at 11 o'clock. There will be a great guest speaker during the service after which the church will be doing one of the things it does best – serving a great meal!

Challenging Lifestyle

We live in a culture that is obsessed by lifestyle: clothes, fitness, slimming, sex, cars etc. But do these things really deepen our relationships, ease our anxieties and fulfil our real needs?

Sometimes, it seems like the odds are stacked against us. So, how can we succeed in relationships and build a secure future for those we care about?

'Challenging Lifestyle' presents some radical alternatives for fulfilled 21st century living. It is a follow-up series to the Alpha course which will be taking place at Kidderminster Baptist Church over the next few weeks.

Ten things.....

A mission worker might carry with them as suggested by the BMS World Mission



1. A bottle of water – many places do not have clean water and drinking it can result in sickness, diarrhoea and other illnesses
2. A torch – lots of power cuts regularly occur and you never know where you might be struck
3. Insect repellent – malaria is one of the major causes of illness and even death overseas.
4. A mobile phone – there is now signal coverage in many unexpected parts of the world.
5. Dry-hand wash – for when you are in countries where you would be expected to eat with your hands.
6. New Testament/Psalms/prepared sermons and prayers – you never know when you may be called upon to preach or even take a funeral (in many countries people are buried immediately)
7. A camera- so that you can document all that you are seeing and experiencing with friends, family and churches back home.
8. Documents – ID cards, photocopies of passport and visa, and anything else that may help you when travelling around as a foreigner.
9. Rope – for tying bundles, securing unexpected parcels/shopping. Or for pulling others out of the mud!
10. A sense of humour

BMS World Mission is a Christian mission organisation, working in around 40 countries on four continents. The organisation is supported by Kidderminster Baptist Church.

Grace

We have just finished an 8-week bible study course on the subject of God's Grace: - **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**

Grace is God's blessing on a totally undeserving people, it is a free gift, and ultimately transforms people into the image of God.

In the 8-week course we looked at how this worked out in the lives of Gideon in the Old Testament and in the lives of the early church in the New Testament.

Gideon was in a survival mode when God called him, gave him assurance and then used him to bring his people out of oppression.

We can experience God's grace through His adoption of us as His children. We can then be transformed from compromising with the world into having the character that helps us stand up to what is wrong in our lives and in the society in which we live.

Grace calls us to forgive those who disagree with us and to serve the community in which we live in order that we might all be able to live better lives.

Roger Wood

My memory of our recent church history...



Going back a long way, in the Church Street days, two of us led a 'Sunshine Corner' for the children from the Horse Fair area. We had about 30 children. I'll never forget one meeting the week before Easter. I'd told how Jesus had suffered and died for us when 3 little girls started crying. They really sobbed their hearts out. At the end of the meeting, all 3 of them asked Jesus into their lives. They weren't the only ones in tears that night. What a great joy it's been over the years to tell children about Jesus.

Ray Lewis

Fathers Day

The idea for Fathers Day was first thought of by Mrs Sonora Louise Smart Dodd in 1910 whilst listening to a sermon in church on Mothers Day in Spokane, Washington. She realised that it was her father who had been the one to make sacrifices for her family since the death of her mother in childbirth. William Jackson Smart, a Civil War veteran, had raised six children single-handedly whilst trying to run a farm



in Washington. Her idea of a Fathers Day celebration drew strong support from the town's ministers and grew to include coverage of the first Spokane observance of this day by some national newspapers. However Fathers day was not as quick to catch on as Mothers Day until 1916 when President Woodrow Wilson and his family personally observed the day. It wasn't until 62 years after its first proposal that Fathers Day was permanently established in the calendar by President Richard Nixon. In trying to identify an ancient precedent for an official Fathers Day, historians have come up with only one notable occasion when the Romans, every February honoured Fathers, but only those already dead! In England we celebrate Fathers Day on the third Sunday of June. The most popular present to give is a tie and the official flower is a rose. Why not join us in celebrating our fathers and grandfathers on June 15th.

My memory of our recent church history...



My special memory of the church is being baptised in the baptismal pool by Pastor John Darlington on 3rd September 1987.

Joyce Short



I really like Sunday club for younger people. My favourite thing is all the activities we do. I also love dancing to the music during the services.

Emily Lane

A profile of Jonathan Edwards

Jonathan graduated from Regents Park College in Oxford aged 23 where he had been studying to go into ministry. He then went to Kerala in South India to work for the Church Missionary Society for a while before returning to the UK in 1982 to become minister of Southgate Church in Suffolk.



During his nine years there the membership of the church quadrupled and in 1991 he moved to Orpington to lead a large, suburban church. Here he helped the church explore how to reach out to others in the local community more effectively as well as help them deepen their prayer life.

Jonathan then became General Superintendent of the South Western Area of the Baptist Union in September 1998. He helped to form one new Association from two smaller ones and created a team that would support the churches of the South West in their mission activities. He was elected as General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain in 2006 (A sort of 'Archbishop of Canterbury' in the Baptist world!) When addressing his first conference he described himself as being passionate about prayer, mission and gracious partnership.

Jonathan has also been a regular speaker at Spring Harvest (a Christian conference held at Easter visited by 1000's of people) for a number of years.

Jonathan will be speaking at our 200yr service on May 18th. Why not join us and hear for yourself what our 'Top man' has to say.

More Celebrations planned!

The celebrations continue throughout the year with other events being planned.

Many of the organisations using the church will be having their own parties over the next few weeks, the Camcorder club are kindly creating a history DVD of the church, and we are currently planning a late-summer bar-b-que and children's fun day at the church.

Look out for more details in future magazines or keep yourself updated by checking details on our website – www.kidderminsterbaptist.com

False pretences

As a church we have been provided with a media release from West Mercia Constabulary who has issued a warning after receiving reports that people in Kidderminster have been approached and asked for money under false pretences.

It is thought that more than one man may be involved in the incidents in or around the town centre over the past few weeks. On each occasion members of the public have been approached by a man claiming that members of his family had been involved in a car crash and he needed to borrow money to visit them.

False assurances have been given that the money would be repaid and incorrect details including wrong phone numbers have been supplied to those handing over cash.

One man was described as white and in his 30's, around 5ft 8 ins tall, with sandy coloured hair and blue eyes. He was wearing a denim jacket and jeans.

Another man believed to be involved is described as white, in his early to mid-30's, of medium height and stocky with very short brown hair.

PC Paul Noke is urging anyone who is approached or thinks they have been a victim of this kind of deception to get in touch by calling the police on 08457 444 888 or ringing Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

The latest community **PACT meeting** held at Franche Community Primary School highlighted regulations allowing the Council to issue penalty notices to badly parked cars, particularly now around our schools. If you have issues with cars parked illegally especially if you are close to a school, then you are encourage to let the council know by calling – 01562 732928. The next PACT meeting is to be held at the school on 30th June – all residents are welcome to attend.

My memory of our recent church history...



I have some very happy memories of the 'Crusader' group for boys and girls aged 7-11, which ran at the church during the 1990's. This was a lively group with about 30 members who all enjoyed a boisterous evening of fun, usually including a bible story, craft activities, refreshments and some very active games.

Jane Walton

What's on in May and June?

May

Mon 12th Monday Afternoon Fellowship
2.30pm
Speaker – Chris Onions from
Worcestershire Association for
the Blind.

Deacons Meeting, 7.30pm

Thur 15th Church Meeting, 7.30pm

Sun 18th 200yr Anniversary Celebration Service @ 11am
followed by lunch @ 1pm

Tue 20th Communion – Brookdale Nursing Home, 2.30pm

June

Mon 2nd Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
'Hymns I love'

Deacons Meeting, 7.30pm

Mon 16th Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Speakers – Mr and Mrs Colbourne
Film – 'A walk in God's Garden'

Tue 17th Communion – Brookdale Nursing Home, 2.30pm

Sat 21st Churches together in Kidderminster
Kidderminster Carnival, 1-4pm

Mon 30th Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Speaker – Merle Robson from Baxter Church



Pray with us through May and June

May

- 4th** Pray for the Crosstalk distribution round Marlpool Place this evening and for the immediate neighbourhood during the coming week.
- 11th** Pray that as we meet together as a church on Pentecost Sunday that the Holy Spirit will come upon us in power. Pray that the Churches Together in Kidderminster Hope2008 walk next Saturday will be a success.
- 18th** As we celebrate 200 years of our church in Kidderminster let us pray for the successful continuation of the church in the weeks, months and years to come.
- 25th** As we enter the school and university exam period, pray for all those taking their exams

June

- 1st** Pray for those in positions of power in the world's governments, that they will be able to confront the current world problems – particularly in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Nepal and Palestine.
- 8th** As 134 Franche Road is about to be demolished, let us pray that the demolition and subsequent construction of a new facility will go ahead safely and that the future residents will be able to live there happily.
- 15th** Pray that many people will visit the Churches Together in Kidderminster 'fun tent' at the Kidderminster Carnival next Saturday.
- 22nd** As we celebrate Fathers Day today let us pray for the involvement of fathers in the lives of children and young people in our community.
- 29th** Let us pray for our local police and CSO's. Thank God for all the hard work and commitment they put in to making our community a safer place to be.

Come and join us for our services in May and June

Morning @ 11am

Evening @ 6pm

May

4th

Ascension Sunday
Sheila Gardiner

Crosstalk distribution
Communion

11th

Pentecost
Simon Gudger
Blessed are the merciful

Roger Wood
Jesus the resurrection and the life

18th

200yr Celebration Service
Rev Jonathan Edwards
Communion

Simon Gudger

25th

Simon Gudger
Blessed are the pure in heart

Brenda Wood
Jesus the way, the truth, the life

June

1st

Simon Gudger
Blessed are the peacemakers

Ray Lewis
Jesus, the true vine
Communion

8th

Simon Gudger
Blessed are those who are persecuted

Bernice Darlington
God – the "I AM"

15th

John Williams
Communion

Simon Gudger

22nd

TBC

Chris Lane

29th

TBC

Sheila Gardiner

Community Groups @ Kidderminster Baptist Church

Monday

Jack and Jill Pre-School
9.00-12.00am

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 Mrs M Lemiech 01562 752830
7.45-8.45pm 07855 996437

Wednesday

Jack and Jill Pre-School

Studio 4 Dance 01299 400027
8.00pm-9.00pm 07968 21660

Thursday

Jack and Jill Pre-School

Brownies Louise Morris 01562 863158
6.15-7.30pm

Kidderminster Audio-visual Mr W Every 01562 822728
Group
(2nd Thurs each month)
7.30-9.00pm

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 3rd Sunday morning of the month

6pm

Evening Worship

Communion 1st Sunday evening of the month

Monday:

2.30pm

Afternoon Fellowship (Fortnightly)

Tuesday:

10.30am

TotsRock

Thursday:

8.00pm

Challenging Lifestyle

Friday:

8pm

Weekly Housegroup

Birthdays

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

May

5th

Avril Gordon

10th

Beatie Smith

25th

Dorothy Milsom

June

4th

Yvonne Gill

5th

Alan Lane

9th

Irene Wheeler

Anniversaries

Many congratulations to those who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries

May

18th

Simon and Louise Gudger



Useful Contacts

www.kidderminsterbaptist.com

Minister In Training:	Simon Gudger 01562 822858 minister@kidderminsterbaptist.com
Secretary:	Roger Wood 01299 405601 secretary@kidderminsterbaptist.com
Treasurer:	Chris Lane 01299 401740 treasurer@kidderminsterbaptist.com
Deacon: (Premises Steward)	Susan Lane 01562 752097
Deacon: (Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)	Marion Appleby 01562 751444
TotsRock Leaders:	Louise Gudger 01562 822858 lou.gudger@btinternet.com
	Nicci Lane 01299 401740 niccilane@talktalk.net
Alpha contact:	Simon Gudger 01562 822858 minister@kidderminsterbaptist.com
Monday Afternoon Fellowship:	Simon Gudger 01562 822858

Church text for 2008

“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls”

Jeremiah 6:16