

CROSSTALK

Autumn 2008



*News and Views from
Kidderminster Baptist Church*

*Franche Road
Kidderminster
DY11 5BB*

Website: www.kidderminsterbaptist.com

e-mail: [mail @ kidderminsterbaptist.com](mailto:mail@kidderminsterbaptist.com)



HARVEST 08

A woman with dark hair, wearing a dark t-shirt, is shown from the side, leaning over a large white sack. She is sorting through the contents of the sack, which appears to be grain, into a smaller woven basket. The background is a blurred field of golden-brown grain under a clear sky.

**For the
least of
these...**

OUR HARVEST EVENT:

Sunday 5th October 2008

11.00am

With a meal following the
service

What a let down!

In England we get used to building up our hopes for things and then being let down. This summer has been no exception. We always build up our hopes for a gloriously sunny summer with plenty of warm weather – but what have we had? – What a let down!



The Olympics this year seem to have been the exception with Team GB achieving way above expectations. The cynics are already wondering if this can be repeated in 2012 – they seem to be wanting to be let down!

I'm a Leicester City football fan so that gives me the ultimate right to share in overambitious hopes for a new season. Following this team? - What a let down! The England football team soon begin a new qualifying campaign for the next World Cup. But it always turns out the same doesn't it? We almost achieve and then...what a let down!

But this also transfers to life as well if we're not careful. Job and promotion hopes, relationship dreams, idealistic family expectations, from who we are to whom people think we should be, life can sometimes appear to be one big let down.

What's the point?

What's the point? Many people, sadly, ask this question. Is this all there is to life – sleep, eat, work, TV, sleep – is this it?

When Jesus was on earth, problems were just the same and supporting Leicester would have still been a let down if they had been formed back then! People came to Jesus and asked for his opinion on why life could be such a let down. His answer was quite simple – people's motives are not the same as God's – we'll always be let down eventually because that's human nature. And then he said,

“But I have come to give you more and better life” (John 10:10, Message translation)

It's worth a thought isn't it? The church can't give you this life, or can I – but we can help you in the right direction.

We've got some fantastic opportunities this autumn for you to see for yourself.

Back to Church Sunday – 28th Sept at 11am – see page 4 for details

Harvest Sunday – 5th Oct at 11am – see the centre pages for details

The Alpha Course – Runs for 10 weeks from Wed 8th October at 7pm

Don't let things be a let down for you this autumn – have a more life and better life.

Wishing you a pleasant autumn season.

Simon.

BacktoChurchSunday



“IS THIS IT?”

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

THE ALPHA COURSE

explore the meaning of life



Let's Pray!



Saturday 12th June saw the first Heart of England Baptist Association (HEBA) prayer morning specifically for the Worcestershire area.



There were four venues across the county, one of which was Kidderminster Baptist Church. The morning began at 10am with singing and prayer together and then people were free to pray around each of four stations within the main church or to spend some quiet time in a reflection room. The four stations guided people to pray on specific topics such as the churches within Worcestershire, HEBA, the global church and our local communities. The reflection room gave people the opportunity to spend some quiet time in whichever way they wished. With relaxing music playing in the background, the room contained a cross, a communion table with bread and wine and a table with candles on for people to light. Altogether around 80 people gathered together across our county to spend 2 hours in prayer specifically for the region we live in and we wait with anticipation to see how God will answer the cries of our hearts.

Children's Service

On Sunday 13th July, Kidderminster Baptist Church invited all local families to join in our first ever children's service. Nearly 50 people attended along with representatives from TotsRock musical toddler group, Jack and Jill pre-school playgroup and the Brownies. The newly released film 'Prince Caspian' provided the theme for the service of how we matter to God irrespective of who we are or what we've done in the past and how he can use the most unlikely of people to make a difference.



The American Dream or the Jesus Dream?

– You decide.

President George Bush's victory speech in 2004 included a 'commitment to advance freedom' in the world, for nations to 'live side by side in peace' with each other, and for nations to 'embrace democratic reforms'.

With the November 4th American elections promising much of the same work towards world peace and an end to poverty, our morning services from October will look at some incredibly similar claims made by Jesus.

Similar to the final decision made by the American electorate, God also calls us to make a decision...the decision is yours.



Sunday Mornings in October & November:

12th Oct – The dream has arrived and is still to come

19th Oct – Great news for those in need

26th Oct – Bad news for the establishment

2nd Nov – Revolutionary relationships across the world

9th Nov – Revolutionary relationship with God

16th Nov – How will the world end up?

23rd Nov – The American dream or The Jesus dream? – You decide

“WHO CARES?” If God did exist what would you ask? alpha.org

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5 Men and a dog!

We met at Kidderminster station on Saturday 19th July: a small but select band of 5, Chris, Roger, Simon and Pete plus Pete's friend David. David was dog-sitting for the weekend and was accompanied by Max- an Old English sheepdog the size of a small pony. (David took the photo!)



The weather looked to be variable as our intrepid band of travellers set off. Max was welcome to travel on the train but needed his own ticket, and £2 seemed quite reasonable. We were not sure what to expect and it was reassuring to find that the train was nearly full with only a smattering of empty seats. For the first leg of our journey our train was pulled by a Diesel which was not quite what we were expecting. The older members of our team reminisced about the carriage décor, and how it was just as they remembered.

We stopped at Highley and got off to visit the recently opened visitor centre, which included a very interesting railway museum. The attention to detail even extended to exhibits which explained some of the restoration processes and was greatly appreciated by all.

Our next leg took us by steam power to Bridgnorth where we took a break for lunch in Hightown. We happened to select a pub that was hosting a wedding reception which had a visiting Morris dance troupe for entertainment. Opinions on their entertainment value was varied!

The return to Kidderminster allowed us to enjoy again the wonderful Shropshire & Worcestershire countryside. We were particularly struck by how different some of the familiar landscapes looked from the perspective of the Railway.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable outing. We look forward to the next event: look out for details, coming soon.

Pete Edwards

TotsRock

Re-starts Tuesday 9th
September

10.30-11.30am



Spaces Available.

Please call Louise on 01562 822858 for more details

“At TotsRock the boys thoroughly enjoyed themselves learning new songs & being given a free reign to 'play' a selection of instruments. I would definitely recommend it as it's a chance for the children to express themselves in music & song, but also for parents & carers to meet & make new friends. I also liked the fact that it wasn't just the same old songs being sung, but a whole lot of new songs & rhymes which made it even better.”

*Alison
Mum of Jacob and Ethan aged 2*

Housegroup BBQ

This past year has seen 2 brand new housegroups being formed. One from the existing prayer group that met on a Friday evening and one from the two Alpha courses that took place in October and January.

Both housegroups came together on Friday 20th July to celebrate their end of year with a barbeque. Fortunately after a very rainy afternoon the weather held out to allow all concerned to venture outdoors and eat rather than have a 'grill' inside. A great evening was had by all, including the 'mozzies' who also seemed to satisfy their appetite!

Hate Incident Partnership

The Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership has joined forces with other partners, including churches Together in Kidderminster, to launch a new scheme which makes it easier for people to report hate incidents.

This is when a crime is motivated by the hatred of features such as an individual's colour, race, gender, disability, age or sexual orientation.

The new scheme, run by the Wyre Forest Hate Incident Partnership, aims to make it easier for anyone to report hate incidents, and means that third parties can report them too.

To report a hate crime you just need to complete a reporting form which can be picked up at the Council's Customer Service Centres. You can also report it online from the council's website or call the Hub on 01562 732928. This can all be done anonymously if you wish.

Once a hate crime is reported, the form is then returned to our Community Safety Team who will use the information to monitor what's happening in the district and identify areas of concern. They will not share information with any other agencies without your consent.



“AM I TALKING TO MYSELF?”

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

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explore the meaning of life



“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 this Autumn at Kidderminster Baptist Church and runs every Wednesday

7pm – Evening meal 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



My Alpha Experience

Ben attended our last Alpha Course in January having never been to church before. This is his story -

“I would thoroughly recommend the Alpha Course to anyone interested in Christianity.

For me personally I had found myself looking for more in life, a meaning and a purpose. I grew more interested in Christianity and found myself on the Alpha Course at Kidderminster Baptist Church.

I remember feeling nervous before my first meeting because I knew very little of the faith and didn't know what to expect!

However, these feelings during my first meeting soon disappeared and I couldn't wait for the next week!

The DVD's were very interesting and easy to follow, there was also no pressure to say or do anything. The discussions after the DVD were relaxed, informal and allowed me to ask my own questions about the religion.

Everyone at Kidderminster Baptist Church has been very friendly and encouraging to me, I have been made to feel most welcome. The Alpha Course really helped me as an 'introduction' to life as a Christian and I would recommend it to anyone.”

“WHO CARES?”

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

THE ALPHA COURSE
explore the meaning of life



Why not try the Alpha Course yourself?

It runs every Wednesday evening from 8th October beginning with a meal at 7pm.

Call 01562 822858 or email: mali@kidderminsterbaptist.com to book your place.



Woman Alive is the only interdenominational Christian women's magazine on the market, and it is doing well. In 2006 it won 'best national religious periodical' at the Andrew Cross Awards. This year it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The Woman Alive success story began in the same year as Prince William was born, the Falkland Islands were invaded by Argentina, the Young Ones first appeared on TV, and legwarmers were the latest fashion accessory. It was 1982, and Christian Woman, as it was then known, was launched in order to offer a positive alternative to the gossip and glamour that were the stuff of ordinary women's magazines.

And so there are profiles of various Christian women living out their faith, as well as the more usual articles on fashion, home cuisine, health, and leisure. Gail Lawther, the first editor, recalls: "We wanted the magazine to be a thought-provoking forum for discussion on Christian attitudes to the world we live in."

Twenty-five years on, the world has changed a lot. For one thing, leg warmers are gone! But the magazine lives on, and its core values remain the same: to produce a good read that will help and inspire women as they juggle their various roles in an increasingly fast-paced and ever-changing world.

So if you enjoy the occasional woman's magazine, why not give Woman Alive a try? The magazine offers real life stories of women living out their faith in the face of various challenges, as well as practical ideas to help Christians 'go deeper' with God. Also included are various lifestyle issues from a Christian perspective, book reviews, and various competitions.

The current editor, Jackie Stead says "We want to ensure that Woman Alive remains relevant to Christian women and continues to provide practical and spiritual support, as well as a challenge. It is our continuing prayer that the magazine will see many more women come alive to Christ in the years to come."

For more details visit www.womanalive.co.uk or send a sae (A4 size) to Wendy Steele, Woman Alive/Parish Pump, CPO, Garcia Estate, Canterbury Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN13 1BW to receive a free sample copy.

Coast to Coast



My brother and I have just completed the C2C - a 140 mile cycle route running from Whitehaven on the west coast of Cumbria to the North East coast at Tyneside (or Sunderland). Many cyclists complete the route every year; it took us 3 days, camping along the way carrying our tent and gear on the bike.

The route starts in the former coal mining and industrial lands of West Cumbria, travels through the stunning scenery of the northern Lake District and heads into Keswick (an excellent place for coffee and cake) before passing through Penrith and the Eden Valley with its valleys and villages. It then starts the climb up to Hartside. We found this really hard and arrived at our campsite quite late after one of the most amazing down hill cycling stretches I've ever done. Then it's onto the unspoilt Northern Pennines - the roof of England. The ride then follows an undulating route through old lead mining villages, such as Nenthead and Rookhope, and down into the Durham Dales where we enjoyed an excellent lunch in the Dales Centre, before entering the old steel town of Consett. From here it's through one of Britain's old industrial heartlands to the North Sea and Tynemouth where we enjoyed excellent fish and chips before having to cycle 10 miles back to Newcastle to get our train.

You can't imagine how amazing it feels to leave the sea on the West Coast and arrive at the sea on the East a few days later. If you want to know more take a look at www.c2c-guide.co.uk

Chris Lane

Chris, our Treasurer and children's Sunday Club leader, ran the London marathon last year before cycling this year – we wait with anticipation for his next project next year!

Dorothy Milsom 1922-2008

Born on the 25th May 1922 in Offmore Road in Kidderminster, Dorothy enjoyed a happy life. She spoke of enjoying her childhood and the schools that she attended. After her schooling she began work in Halls cake shop on Mill Street whilst also taking shorthand and typing lessons so that she would one day be able to work in an office. It didn't take long for Dorothy to put her shorthand and typing skills to work as, at 17, she began work at Cheshire Printing in Coventry Street, but at the outbreak of war she was sent to Albright & Wilson to make Phosphorous bombs. Four years later she moved to Steartite where other essential war work was carried out, and here she stayed after the war eventually becoming secretary to the Chief Engineer. Halls cake shop on Mill Street was to be of great significance for Dorothy, for it was here that she met a young man Tuan, which led to a long and happy marriage on 2nd December 1944 at the Baptist Church in Church Street. In 1948, they set up home together in Cherry Orchard, and there they stayed for 12 years.

Their relationship together led them to enjoy motorbike holidays together on their Francis Barnett and Triumph 500cc motorbikes in Scotland, Cornwall and Wales.

But it was also Dorothy's dedication to her Christian faith that also dominated her life. She rarely missed a Sunday service at the Baptist Church, attended all the church meetings, and also took part in the Christian Endeavour meetings. Her faith in God played an important part in her everyday living.

Dorothy and Tuan eventually moved to Larches Road in 1963 when Dorothy's father died and her mother became seriously ill. There they stayed, looking after her mother, and there they then remained for many years after.

In 1999 Dorothy unfortunately suffered a number of small strokes that resulted in her moving into The Firs rest home in Habberley Road. Dorothy so enjoyed her time there. She was regularly visited by family and many friends from the Baptist Church. She spoke highly of The Firs, and had many enjoyable years there, and this was to be her final resting place.

“IS THIS IT?”

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

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What's on in September, October & November?

September

- Mon 1st Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Speaker - Simon Gudger
Deacons meeting, 7.30pm
- Sat 6th Induction of Rev Simon Harry Bewdley Baptist Church, 2.30pm
- Sat 13th Town Centre Harvest Market Service, 12.00pm
- Mon 15th Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Speakers – Caroline & Andrew Geuter
- Thur 18th Church Meeting, 7.30pm
- Mon 29th Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Speaker – Irene Jackson

October

- Sun 5th Harvest Service and meal, 11.00am
- Mon 6th Deacons Meeting, 7.30pm
- Wed 8th Alpha Course begins, 7.00pm
- Mon 13th Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Speaker – Mrs Stringer, Salvation Army
- Mon 27th Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Hymns you love

November

- Mon 3rd Deacons Meeting, 7.30pm
- Mon 10th Monday Afternoon Fellowship, 2.30pm
Speaker – Bernice Darlington
- Fri 21st Church Meeting, 7.30pm



Pray with us through September, October & November

September

1st Pray about the delivery of 'Crosstalk' to our friends and neighbours within our local community.

8th Pray for the children and staff as they return to school this week. Remember those who are starting new schools / universities for the first time

15th Pray for the elderly and housebound within our neighbourhood.

22nd Pray for opportunities to invite those we know to our church next Sunday for our special Back to Church Sunday service

29th Back to Church Sunday – Pray that those attending churches across the country today will receive a warm welcome.

October

5th Harvest – As we explore our harvest theme 'For the least of these'; let's remember to thank God for all He provides, much of which we take for granted.

12th Pray for the start of the new Alpha course and for all who will be leading, helping and attending

19th Pray for the new building work done at 134 Franche Road, as one building is demolished and another built.

26th Pray for those Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith.

November

2nd Pray for all the children who belong to groups within our community such as Jack and Jill pre-school, TotsRock, Brownies and those at the local Children's Centre. Give thanks for those groups and the support they give to local families.

9th Remembrance Sunday – Pray for all those whose memories past and present make this a difficult time. Pray for those who currently serve in our Armed Forces around the world.

16th Pray for the following community groups that meet on the church premises; Slimming World, Camcorder Club, Aerobics, Studio 4 Dance and the Audio-Visual Group

23rd Pray for the new Wyre Forest Hate Incident Partnership, that this will be effective in its cause.

30th Toy Sunday – Pray for Birmingham City Mission and all the work they do to support the homeless and those marginalised by society.

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

Morning @ 11am

Evening @ 6pm

September

7th Sheila Gardiner
Colossians 4: 7-18

Crosstalk Delivery
Communion

14th John Williams

Roger Wood

21st John Crump
Communion

Ray Lewis

28th Simon Gudger
Back to Church Sunday

Bernice Darlington

October

5th Simon Gudger
Harvest

Brenda Wood
Communion

12th Simon Gudger

Roger Wood

19th Simon Gudger
Communion

Chris Lane

26th Sheila Gardiner

Ray Lewis

November

2nd Simon Gudger

Bernice Darlington
Communion

9th Simon Gudger
Remembrance Sunday

Roger Wood

16th Sheila Gardiner
Communion

Simon Gudger

23rd Simon Gudger

Brenda Wood

30th Birmingham City Mission
Toy Service

Cross Talk Delivery

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 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

Wednesday:

7pm

Alpha Course

Friday:

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 & Luke Gudger

13th

Chris Lane

November

6th

Betty Bennett

12th

Jane Walton

17th

Sophie Kacsor

25th

Chris Kacsor



Anniversaries

Many congratulations to those who are celebrating their wedding anniversaries

September

8th

Jerry and Jane Walton

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 minister @ kidderminsterbaptist.com
Sunday Club Leader:	Chris Lane 01299 401740 treasurer @ kidderminsterbaptist.com

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