

What IS the good news of Jesus Christ?

1. The Problem

The Bible says that God originally made the world a perfect place and created man without sin (wrong-doing). Adam and Eve, the first human beings, decided to go their own way and turned their back on God. From that time on, all human beings have “inherited” a sinful nature. Romans 3:23 says that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (NIV). Since God is holy and pure, He cannot look upon sin and will therefore confine to hell all those who reject Him in this life.

2. The Solution

Doesn't sound much like good news, does it? Well here it comes – “God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16-NIV). Jesus Christ gave up the glory of heaven and came to earth as a man with one purpose – “to seek and to save what was lost” (Luke 19:10-NIV). He died on the cross for two reasons: (1) His body was broken to satisfy God's wrath against sin; (2) His blood was shed to forgive our sins. For “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness [of sins].” (Hebrews 9:22-NIV). But it didn't end there. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day to prove that He had conquered death and the power of sin!

3. The Benefits

Jesus said “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28-NIV). He came to fill the God-shaped hole that is in everyone's life and make them complete in Him. Christianity is not a religion **about** God but a relationship **with** God, an intimate, personal relationship which provides the believer with love, joy, peace, fulfilment and meaning. The rewards quite literally last for eternity and death itself is merely a passing through to the next glorious existence in the very presence of God.

Becoming a Christian is as easy as ABC:

A ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER. You don't need the Bible to tell you this; you know it yourself. Sin is falling short of God's perfect standard and all of us are guilty.

B BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST as the Son of God. Jesus provided many convincing proofs of His divinity, culminating in His spectacular resurrection from the dead. This was the ultimate sign that He was truly one with God the Father and no-one, either before that time or since, has ever come close to matching His power.

C CALL UPON HIM as your personal Lord and Saviour. Many people follow steps A and B and neglect step C, but calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ is the most important part. Romans 10:9 and 13 says that “if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” and “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (NIV).

NIV = New International Version.

Wantage Baptist Church

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An invitation to Wantage Baptist Church



How we got here

THE CIVIL WAR THAT SPLIT ENGLAND in 1642 was partly caused by religious fervour. King Charles I (1625-49) wanted to run the Church along lines that he dictated — but many felt that the ultimate authority in the Church was God.

Some Christians considered they had no alternative but to leave the established church and worship in a different style. One such group of Christians lived in Wantage and they initially decided to worship in their homes. They understood that the act of baptism was performed as and when people were old enough to make their own personal commitment to God as a Christian. By 1649 they had grown in number and that year they invited a young man, Robert Keate, to be their first minister. The Baptist Church had officially arrived in Wantage!

The church first met in homes and then in a rented barn along Garston Lane. Eventually the barn and a field were bought to establish a permanent meeting place, with the field becoming the Wantage Baptist Church graveyard. In 1860 the Baptist gathering moved from Garston Lane to a new church building in Mill Street. The church building cost £1,519. 14s. 3d.



Garston Lane Chapel

Where are we now?

WHILST AS A CHURCH we are rightly proud of our long history, we are not a living museum. The Christian message is as relevant today as it was in 1649 and we seek to proclaim it in our generation, just as our predecessors did in theirs.

We meet twice on Sunday, at 10:30am and 6:30pm, when we worship God, learn what He says in the Bible, and catch up with one another. We have a group of musicians who lead our worship with piano, guitar, bass, flute, saxophone and drums, as well as the traditional organ.



In the morning, we run special activities for the children, including classes to suit different age groups and a crèche for infants. We serve tea and coffee after the morning service each week and this provides

an excellent opportunity for people to mix and get to know one another better.

The Christian life is not just for Sunday though, and we have many activities throughout the week. On Thursday evenings we meet in various locations for Bible study and prayer. Throughout the school term time, there are also teatime and evening clubs for different age groups of children and young people.

Currently, the younger ones meet on Tuesday evening. All sorts of games are played indoors or outdoors (depending on the weather) within a safe environment. We also make crafts of many kinds that the children take home; these crafts are often connected to Bible stories that are conveyed in a variety of fun ways.

The older children meet together on a Monday evening. During this time they enjoy a range of activities including table tennis, snooker, Playstation, table football and crafts. The evening is rounded off



with a short lesson from the Bible. In the lighter summer months, we often take the young people up to Wantage Recreation Ground for rounders and volleyball.

Parents of small children will want to know about our Parent and Toddler group that meets each Thursday morning during term time. This is a great opportunity for parents of young children to get to know one another. In addition, ladies are well catered for with daytime meetings to suit all ages.

Furthermore, the Baptist church enjoys a rich Mission-centred heritage and has supported a variety of Missionary work in places such as Ukraine, South Africa, Kenya and India. The church also regularly contributes to relieving the plight of human suffering through Christian charities such as TearFund.

Why not come along to one of our meetings and find out more about Jesus Christ and the difference He is still making to people's lives today? Times are on our notice board, or you can visit our web-site for up to date information at:

www.wantagebaptist.org.uk

If you wish to contact us regarding any of our clubs or activities then please call 01235 772523. Alternatively, email us on:

ask@wantagebaptist.org.uk