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*Is there more  
to life than  
this?*

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*Real stories. Real hope. Real answers.*



*Pastor Alex Collins*

## **Welcome — Come As You Are**

*A personal welcome from Pastor Alex  
Collins, Duffield Baptist Church*

*" You don't have to be religious or up  
your game before you come to Jesus."*

### ***A Family that welcomes you***

Greetings to you from the congregation of Duffield Baptist Church. For 200 years the Church has been rooted in our village since it was planted by local farmers, and a growing congregation still meets in 'the Triangle'!

We are delighted to join you in celebrating our community Carnival and invite you to worship with us on Sunday mornings at 10:30am. People who come along soon feel more part of a family than an organisation and this is how church should be.

### ***Hope in Troubled Times***

We live in troubled times, and maybe you get weighed down as you read the news, but Christians always take comfort that Jesus said, 'I have overcome the world.' In church we've been looking at Jesus' last words on the cross, and there we see that though the world did its worst to Him, yet in dying at the cross and rising from the dead He brings forgiveness and peace in this life and hope for the next when we come to Him in faith.

## Welcome — Come As You Are

*continued...*

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### *A new start*

In fact, if you feel knocked down and at an end of yourself, that's a good place to find Him, because He is found by those who are humble and empty of themselves. He came not to patch up our old life, but to make us a new creation and give us a new identity in Himself, and though life is not always easy, those of us who have been found by Jesus can say He never disappoints.

### *Everyone Is Welcome*

We don't have all the answers, but we believe that the most important ones are found in Jesus. We invite you to get to know Him yourself. Everyone is welcome to our services whether you believe or not or whatever stage of the journey you are on. We also run courses, like 'Christianity Explored' where the Christian faith can be investigated and questions asked. Whatever age or stage you're at, we'd love to see you sometime.

***" He came not to patch up our old life, but to make us a new creation and give us a new identity in Himself. "***

***— Pastor Alex Collins***

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## From Darkness to Light

Amanda's Story — a personal testimony

### ***Who I Am***

My name is Amanda. I'm 60 and have lived in Duffield for over 20 years. I've been awakened (saved) since April 2023.

### ***A Difficult Season***

In my 40s I hit menopause and was diagnosed with fibromyalgia and arthritis, then later Alzheimer's and insomnia. I was on a lot of medication, rarely left the house and avoided people. I used books as an escape. I smoked for 40 years. I was miserable.

### ***The Night Everything Changed***

I couldn't lie down — I'd broken a rib. Late that night I noticed a man on YouTube talking about the Lord Jesus. I'd always thought Jesus was just for religious people. That night I was emotionally drained, couldn't stop crying and wanted to end things.

### ***I Was Not Alone***

In the middle of my tears my mind cleared and I understood Jesus' sacrifice. I dropped to my knees and begged forgiveness. My tears dried up. For the first time in a long time I was not alone — I couldn't see anyone but I could feel someone. I felt such love and peace.

### ***A New Life***

That night I was freed from the urge to smoke cigarettes and weed. I put them all in the bin and gave whatever time I had left to Him. I go to a wonderful church, love everyone there and am grateful to the Lord Jesus, our heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit.

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**"I am the light of the world.**

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

— John 8:12

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Photo: Mindaugas Vitkus / Unsplash

## The God Who Knows Your Name

*Why the Creator of heaven and earth is closer—and more personal  
—than you ever imagined.*

The stars and the galaxies are vast, yet the Bible suggests that the Creator of heaven and earth is never far from any one of us. There is a standing invitation in the Scriptures:

*“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”*

While the heart may quietly whisper, “There is no God,” the reality is written in your own DNA. This is exactly what we find in Psalm 14:

*“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God.”*

Notice those who have dismissed God do not always say as much—it is a confident, unwritten assumption kept to themselves. If this is you, then you are not alone; most of society thinks the same. But wait— how have you reached that conclusion?

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Other societies recorded in the Bible also ignored God. Jeremiah spoke to the people of Judah for forty years, urging them to heed the living God. But they ignored him. Their viewpoint could not “rub Him out.” He punished them, and they were carried away into exile.

## Silent Witnesses

If we look past these assumptions, we find silent witnesses to God all around us. First, the sky:

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork” (Psalm 19).



“Fearfully and wonderfully made” — Psalm 139 · Photo: Aditya Romansa / Unsplash

Next is the human body. The Psalmist declares:

*“For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” (Psalm 139).*

If you take a careful look at a newborn, you can only wonder at the intricate design of the little one.

### **A Search with a Promise**

Because God is so near, the Apostle Paul urges people to seek Him - telling them He is not far from each one of us. Jeremiah adds a condition:

*“You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.”*

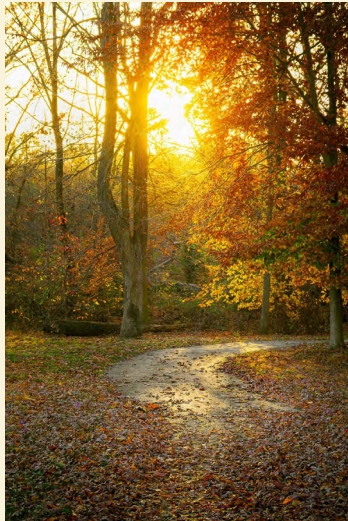
We have to make a sincere search. Has anyone found God? Yes—many people recorded both in and outside the Bible. Nebuchadnezzar, a Babylonian king, is a wonderful example. His honour and brightness returned to him when he found the living God.

### **A Wonderful Transformation**

The Bible speaks of a wonderful transformation when we encounter the living God. The message centres upon Jesus Christ. If we experience the “new birth,” we become someone “in Christ.”

*“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

As you draw near to Him through the Scriptures, you will find He has been waiting for you all along. Hidden within its pages is the most wonderful, life-changing message you could ever imagine.



“All things are become new” — 2 Cor. 5:17 · Photo: Nikolay Loubet / Unsplash

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### **Bob Scothern**

Read Bob's own testimony on our Church website:  
**[www.duffieldbaptistchurch.org.uk/173/Bobs-Story](http://www.duffieldbaptistchurch.org.uk/173/Bobs-Story)**

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## Duffield Baptist Church



### Why not join us this Sunday?

Our morning services begin at 10:30am. We would love to meet you!  
You will receive a warm welcome.

## The Boys' Brigade & Girls Association

*1st Duffield Company · Tuesdays (term time) · 6:00 – 7:15pm*

A uniformed, Christian, faith-based organisation for children aged 4-18.

At 1st Duffield we have an active Anchors section (aged 5-8) and Junior section (aged 9-11).

Activities include games, crafts, baking, world events and community projects, all going towards earning badges. We also take part in Church activities including singing, reading and performing sketches. There is a Summer Camp held each year in Ashbourne.

Find out more at [boys-brigade.org.uk](http://boys-brigade.org.uk).

If you would like to talk to one of the leaders, please contact Brian or Frances on 01773 689983.



Photo: Unsplash

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