



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 2nd December 2018

Mary said: "I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said." *Luke 1:38*

Welcome to our Family Worship with communion led by Rev David Ronco from Hertford.
Please join us afterwards for tea and coffee in the church.
Crèche facilities are available for 0-3 year olds every week.

This Week

Wednesday 5th – 10.00 to 11.25 am, **First Steps** parent/carer and toddler group in the Lower Hall.

Thursday 6th – 10.00 am to noon, **Open Church**, held in the Lower Hall, entrance in Holliday Street. Please come and join us for free tea/coffee and cakes.

Your opportunity to pray, have a chat or ask questions; all are welcome.

The **Men's Group** Christmas meal is at **7.00 pm, Thursday 6th December** at The White Horse, Bourne End.

Friday 7th – 11.15 am service, 12.00 lunch, **Open Door Lunch Club**. Meals must be booked in advance with Gill Goss.

The **Ladies Group** will be making Christmas floral arrangements with Gill Goss on **Friday 7th December** at 7:30 pm in the Lower Hall.

Our **house groups** run weekly and fortnightly. You are encouraged to attend one to share in mid-week fellowship and learn more about Jesus through his word. Please speak to Pat Ginger, Sandra Wotton or Alun Sainsbury if you wish to join or try a group.

Next Sunday

Our 10.30 am **Family Worship** will be led by Paul Tucker from Kings Langley. All are invited and are welcome to come and prepare for worship, with silent or open prayer, in the church office from 10.20am.

Future Events

Saturday 15th December – the **Town Prayer Breakfast** will be held in **St Mary's Church Parish**

Rooms, starting with breakfast at the usual time of 7.45 am.

Carol singing for Christian Aid is on **Saturday 15th December** from 10.30-12 outside Tesco.

Please join us for however long you can. This year's appeal is for world peace.

The **Ladies' Group** Christmas meal is on **Wednesday 19th December** at The White Horse in Bourne End at 6.30pm. Please let Lydia know if you wish to join us.

Notices

Thank you to all who were able to share in my birthday last Sunday. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did! Thank you too for your best wishes and birthday cards and a very special thank you to all who helped in any way towards making the time so special. *Pat G*

Sunday January 27th 2019 will be an All-Age service. We have no visiting speaker and will be doing this service ourselves. Obviously this means we need you to help! Please let Ruth know what you would like to do to contribute to this service.

Our **Gift Day collection** this year raised £3427.80. Half of this sum will be given to the charity in Bangladesh supported by John Carter and Janet Ivin, which provides help to local farmers, in particular by the purchase of cows. The other half is being used to pay for a substantial refurbishment of our Manse, prior to occupation by a new minister. Our grateful thanks go to all who supported this collection. *John Ball, Treasurer*

The **DENS Dacorum Christmas Food Bank list** includes:

- Milk (long life)
- Long life fruit juice
- Tinned cold meat
- Vegetables (tinned)
- Nuts
- Custard
- Chocolate
- Sponge puddings
- Biscuits
- Gravy
- Sweets
- Washing powder
- Toilet rolls
- Sellotape
- Carrier bags
- Men's deodorants

A full DENS list is available at the front of the church.

Audio recordings of our Sunday **sermons** are available; those with internet can access them via: www.berkhamstedbaptistchurch.org.uk/ministry/sermons/ Items for the next news sheet to Fliss Nesbitt by Thursday 6th December, please.

For Your Prayers

- The desperate plight of many migrants trying to reach the UK
- Those with health needs
- Families struggling at this time
- Those who faithfully prepare Sunday services, for us, week by week
- All who are working hard to prepare Christmas events for our church and visitors

UK Staff. Our World Mission Department looks after our mission workers and partners, responding to new opportunities and challenges. Please pray for the team. In Birmingham, we train and equip people called into service, and exercise our ministry of hospitality to visitors. Please pray for Mark and his team. Pray for the members of our Board of Trustees – committed and skilled volunteers carrying a heavy responsibility for planning and overseeing BMS strategy. Pray for the BMS Communications Department, managing our relationships with churches, Baptist unions and individual supporters. In our Finance and Corporate Services team are the people who manage our IT, steward our finances, look after our policies and so much more. Please pray for them. Our General Director Kang-San, supported by his Executive Assistant Steph, leads BMS on a wide range of very significant issues. Please remember them in prayer. We

have a whole range of people from outside the staff team who regularly help and advise us. We love them all, and ask you to pray for them. (*Slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide*)

This week we pray for the London Baptist Association which supports the mission and ministry of over 300 Baptist churches across Greater London. As one of the thirteen regional associations which make up the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Association exists to encourage and equip their member churches as they pursue their own distinct vision and calling to the local communities in which they based. www.londonbaptist.org.uk (*From Baptists Together*)

Almighty God, as we begin this season of Advent remind us again that in the midst of our darkness you are bringing us peace, to calm our anxious spirits and hectic lives. Turn our hearts again toward you. Make us ready to receive your Son our Saviour. Slow our pace, and give us the blessing of feeling your peace in our spirits. For we ask this in Jesus' precious Name. **Amen.** (*From www.re-worship.blogspot.com*)

We have been enriched, O God, in every way through the love which was so beautifully and clearly revealed by Jesus. We give thanks to you for initiating this act of love by entering our human history in the way we all enter it—as a baby born of woman's flesh. We draw our breath in wonder at such a normal yet such a surprising act.

As we wait once more for this wonder-full event to take place, help us never to lose that sense of wonder and mystery which accompanies birth. We pray for those who have lost any sense of wonder because of the stress of just living from day to day: those who are worn out from the effort of making ends meet— from feeding and clothing and keeping alive themselves and their families.

We pray for families where relationships have broken down and where children feel unloved and unwelcome; where family members are forced out of their homes because of violence and abuse.

We pray for all people who are made to feel unwelcome because of their race; their colour; their religion. We pray for attitudes which truly reflect Jesus' commandment to love one another.

We pray for people for whom this Advent season points to a heightened sense of failure rather than any promise of fulfilment; for people who identify this season with lost dreams and for people who know only loneliness and recycled memories. (*From www.re-worship.blogspot.com*)

And Finally

Mary said “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour” *Luke 1:46*