



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A Family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 7th January 2018

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross!

Hebrews ch 12 v 2

Welcome to our Family Worship with communion led by our minister Rev. Stephen Ashby. Please join us afterwards for tea and coffee in the lower hall. Crèche facilities are available for 0-3 year olds every week.

This Week

Tuesday 9th – 9:30am, Leaders' meeting at Ruth's home.

Wednesday 10th – 10:00 to 11:25am First Steps parent / carer and toddler group in the lower hall.

Thursday 11th – 10:00am to 12 noon, Open Church, held in the lower hall, entrance in Holliday Street. Please come and join us for free tea/coffee and cakes. Activities will be available during holiday times. Your opportunity to pray, have a chat or ask questions; all are welcome.

Friday 12th Open Door Lunch Club 11.15am tea/coffee, 12 noon lunch. Meals must be booked in advance with Gill Goss.

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 Stephen Ashby if you wish to join or try a group.

Next Sunday

Our 10:30am will be a Baptismal Service for Veena Terry, with a buffet lunch for all after the service. Lists of food are on the board in the Lower Hall if you can help, please.

All are invited and are welcome to come and prepare for worship, with silent or open prayer, in the church office from 10:15am onwards.

Future Events

Thursday 18th January – 7:30pm, Church Members' meeting, in the lower hall.

Sunday 28th January will, sadly, be Stephen's farewell service with us before his retirement. This is followed with a buffet lunch. Lists of food are on the board in the Lower Hall if you can help, please. *Pat*

Notices

Many thanks to the **Pastoral Care Team** and the **Church Family** for the most welcome gift. Also thank you to the many and some unnoticed people who contributed in so many ways to make Christmas so memorable. May God bless us all in the New Year!

Bobbi

Postage Stamps. Please save your used postage stamps for **BMS World Mission**. Leave a border of at least 1cm. around each stamp. Please hand your stamps to Ruth. Thank you.

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

The **DENS Dacorum Food Bank** list is:

- Fruit juice (UHT)
- Socks & underwear

- Selection boxes
- Vegetables (tinned)
- Gravy
- Cold meat (tinned)
- Custard
- Cleaning sprays
- Washing powder/liquid
- Washing-up liquid
- Hand wash/bar soap
- Deodorants
- Toilet rolls
- Air freshener

Audio recordings of our Sunday **sermons** are available; those with internet can access them via: www.berkhamstedbaptistchurch.org.uk/ministry/sermons/ or ask Stephen Ashby or John Beeley for CD copies.

Items for the next news sheet to **Stephen Ashby** by Thursday 11th January, please.

For Your Prayers

#Children and staff returning to school for the Spring Term

#Church activities starting up after the Christmas break

#Friends who are housebound

#Those with health needs

#Stephen in the final month of his ministry at BBC

On this first Sunday of 2018, give thanks for fellowship and pray BMS World Mission would see fruit from planting strong indigenous churches in 2018. As children go back to school, pray that BMS would continue to make strides this year in bringing education to the poor. Pray that 2018 would be a year of justice.

Pray that God would help BMS workers bringing access to legal justice and awareness of injustice. Our world needs righteous, godly leaders. Pray for God to guide BMS in our strategy to empower and enable leaders across the world this year. Give thanks for employment and support for the unemployed. Ask God to help BMS bring sustainable livelihoods to people in other countries in 2018. The world saw many heart-breaking disasters over the last few years.

Pray that BMS would be effective in responding to new ones in the coming year. Jesus came to heal, and in his name BMS workers bring healing too. Pray that this year our work would see wholeness restored to many. *(slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide)*

The New Year starts off for many with resolutions and promises. We pray for ourselves to

take new steps on our journey with Christ during 2018. Teach us to planned for us; give us a new vision of you, that we may feel your love. May your Gospel flood our lives, infuse our churches with hope. *(from www.baptist.org.uk)*

Creator God

at the start
of this New Year
when thoughts turn again to beginnings
starting afresh
new leaves
and turning skeletons
free from cupboards
be with us
as we gaze into the distance
of fresh mission grounds
of hopes and dreams
opportunities for service
challenges
and uncertainties.
Take our fears
and turn them into strengths.
Take our lack of faith
and empower us
through the Spirit
who breathes life into this world
whose presence is reflected
in the icy chill
of winter's breath
as well as the comforting warmth
of a summer breeze.
Walk with us into this New Year
of opportunity. *(from faithandworship.com)*

Lord, You make all things new.

You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our spirits to be born again.
Thank you for this New Year,
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that, in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name. Amen

(from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

Finally

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us,

Motto text 2018

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith;
Hebrews Ch 12 v2.. (NIV)

fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews ch 12 v 1-3