



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A Family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 4th February 2018

“The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

(1 Samuel 16 : 7b)

**Welcome to our Family Worship, with communion, led by our leadership team.
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

Monday 5th – 10am, our leadership team meets with Geoff Colmer (Regional Minister of the CBA), at Ruth's home.

Wednesday 7th – 10:00 to 11:25am First Steps parent / carer and toddler group in the Lower hall.

Thursday 8th – 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 9th – 11:15am tea and coffee, 12noon lunch, **Open Door Lunch Club**. Meals must be booked in advance with Gill Goss.

Friday 9th – 7:30pm, **Ladies' Evening**, in the lower hall. A meeting to plan social events for the year. Tea and coffee will be served. See Vicky for more info.

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 or Sandra Wotton if you wish to join or try a group.

Next Sunday

Our 10:30am Family Worship will be led by Rev Carol Murray, the CBA Moderator. All are invited and are welcome to come and prepare for worship, with silent or open prayer, in the church office from 10:20am onwards.

Future Events

Friday 2nd March – Women's World Day of Prayer.

Sunday 18th March – Refract, a Berkhamsted Churches Together youth event.

Wednesday 21st March – 7:30pm, **Annual General Meeting**, in the lower hall.

Saturday 12th May – **Baptist Assembly** at Peterborough.

Notices

Thank you so much to all who contributed, in any way, towards helping to make Stephen and Abigail's farewell service so memorable. There were so many unseen jobs that were done which are always appreciated, so a big thank you to all. The church looked beautiful and the wonderful spread at our buffet lunch was there by your love and generosity. Many, many thanks. *Pat*

Dear Friends at BBC,

A huge "Thank you" to all who made our last service at BBC such a special occasion – it was lovely to see and worship with friends from past churches as we celebrated Stephen's retirement. We both found the service deeply moving and memorable in many ways. There are so many things that we are grateful for, that made the day so special – the gorgeous flowers, the delicious lunch, many good wishes, hugs, cards and thoughtful presents. But most of all, the very generous retirement gift, which will be invaluable as we move into our first home, and make it ready to move into. There is also Thanks to God, for our partnership and journey in ministry over the last 8 years. Christ Jesus has been and is the Centre and purpose of all that we do. We hope to share fellowship with you once more before we physically move, and enjoy the new carpet! With richest blessings in the next phase of your

Ministry at BBC in Berkhamsted.

Love and hugs,

Stephen and Abigail

Christian Aid Lent lunches will be held in the Court House on Mondays February 19th and March 19th from 12:30 to 1:45pm. Please note the later time as we cannot access the kitchen before 11:30am. Please come and support us and if anyone would like to help please see me. Many thanks.

Margaret Pike

The **DENS Dacorum Jan/Feb Food Bank** list is:

- Fruit juice (UHT)
- Water bottles (500ml)
- Vegetables (tinned)
- Cereal bars
- Cold meat (tinned)
- Custard
- Cleaning sprays
- Sponge puddings
- Washing powder/liquid
- Washing-up liquid
- Hand wash/bar soap
- Deodorants
- Jams and spreads
- A4 copy paper

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/ or ask John Beeley for CD copies.

Items for the next news sheet to **Chris Hayward** by Thursday 8th February, please.

For Your Prayers

- Thankfulness for a good time of fellowship and a fitting farewell for Stephen and Abigail last Sunday. For Stephen and Abigail in this transition period.
- That we will all prayfully consider what we can do to help the church during the interregnum.
- Leadership Team's meeting with Geoff Colmer on Monday.
- Friends unable to come to church.
- Those with health needs.

Today is the annual **BMS Day of Prayer**. Please pray for all our work – and particularly for our teachers in China. Pray for our workers teaching English in universities and colleges in China, for good relationships with staff and students and daily energy for the task. Pray for BMS partner Weifang Nursing Vocational

College's teaching programme, that it will continue to equip students to provide good care for patients. Pray for David and Jenny, teaching English in a nursing college. Pray for their relationships in the college and in the community. Pray for China's president Xi Jinping and for the Government, for wisdom in governing and policies reflecting a concern for the welfare of all.

Give thanks for the growth of churches in China. Pray for churches to be established in truth, bringing a positive contribution to their communities. *(Slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide)*

Today is **Baptist World Alliance Day**, when Baptists around the world are encouraged to worship together and pray for one another. This year the theme is 'One Family: Sharing the Common Heritage of the Believers' Church'. Give thanks for the diversity within our global family of believers, which reflects the greatness of our God, Three-in-One.

(From Baptists Together)

Lord, help us remember that there are a variety of ways to serve you.

You give different gifts to your people, and different skills to achieve your purpose.

You inspire many and various acts of service, so may all our serving, all our ministering be led by Jesus, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Help us not to be envious of each other, but to delight in the richness of our diversity, to recognise that a variety of gifts is needed as are many ways of serving one another and a world in need.

Help us remember that it is you who gives the gift according to your grace and not through our own merit. Save us from the sin of pride or false modesty, and with humility help us to offer our gift in love.

May we accept the ministry of others without resentment.

Enable us all to use the gifts you give and the activities you empower to serve and encourage each other, to deepen faith in you and to show your power at work in your world.

So may we proclaim that Jesus is our Lord and be a sign of your coming kingdom, for your own name's sake.

Amen

(From Roots for Churches Ltd)

Interregnum Prayer: Heavenly Father we thank you for the ministry of Stephen, our previous minister, and we pray your presence and blessing upon him. We ask now that you will help us to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers. Lord Jesus, guard and grow this church as we serve you together in this period without a minister. Please guide those who are seeking the right minister for us, and those who are seeking the right church for their ministry, that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow. Amen.

(From www.cpas.org.uk)

Motto text 2018: "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." *Hebrews 12 : 2 (NIV).*

And Finally

“Loving Lord, remind us that whoever we are, great or small, weak or strong, you value us equally, each having a place in your purpose.”

*(From More Short Prayers for Public Worship
by Nick Fawcett published by Kevin Mayhew)*