



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A Family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 11th February 2018

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud:
"This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Mark 2:7

Welcome to our Family Worship led by Rev. Carol Murray, Moderator of the Central Baptist Association.

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

Wednesday 14th – NO First Steps this week because it's Half Term.

Thursday 15th – 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 16th – 11:15am community worship, 12noon lunch, **Open Door Lunch Club**. Meals must be booked in advance with Gill Goss.

Next Sunday

Our 10:30am Family Worship, with communion, will be led by Brian Pratt of Croxley Green. 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

Monday 19th February – first Christian Aid Lent Lunch in the Court House, 12.30 to 1.45 pm.

Wednesday 21st February – 7.30 pm, **Men's Group** planning meeting in the Upper Hall: come along with your suggestions!

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

Church Annual Report: if you are producing a written contribution for the church's Annual Report, please e-mail it (preferably as a Word document) to Chris

Hayward not later than **Tuesday 20th February**. Thank you.

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 Dacorom 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 15th February, please.

For Your Prayers

- Thankfulness for everyone who contributed towards the cost of the new carpet
- Carol and her work with the CBA
- For the right moderator for our church
- Leadership Team meeting on Monday and starting work on our church profile
- That we will all prayerfully consider what we can do to help the church during the interregnum
- Signs of spring, the beauty of God's creation
- Members and friends who are unwell

Peru

Give thanks for the students of the BMS-supported Nauta Integral Mission Training Centre who attended the river pastor training programme in January. Jorge and America, supported by BMS, run social and recreational projects and discipleship programmes for children and families in Chincha. The Mahons, a BMS family, are settling into life, language, schooling and ministry alongside local pastors in

Iquitos and Nauta. Please pray for Lima Baptist Seminary (SEBAL) students, travelling on a BMS-supported mission trip during university holidays. Praise God for the first cohort of students on the BMS-supported SEBAL Master's programme concluding their studies; pray also for the new academic year. Hold up in prayer the newly elected leadership of the Peruvian Baptist Convention's Social Action Department, which is supported by BMS. Thank God for Amilcar, Rossmeri and Denise at BMS-founded El Puente Baptist Church, Cusco, and for their ministry. (*slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide*)

Please pray for the Heart of England Baptist Association as they endeavour to stimulate and assist the region's Baptist churches for their God-given task of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ; and nurture values of companionship, generosity, diversity, learning and innovation. www.heart-of-england.org (*from Baptists Together*)

God of love,
hear the cry of those who yearn for love;
fractured families, broken homes,
neglected, unwanted, alone.
God of love,
hear our prayer.

God of justice,
hear the cry of those who yearn for justice;
persecuted and oppressed,
exploited, ill-treated, broken.
God of justice,
hear our prayer.

God of peace,
hear the cry of those who yearn for peace;
in battle zones and broken states,
frightened, fearful, anxious.
God of peace,
hear our prayer.

God of healing,
hear the cry of those who yearn for healing;
physical and spiritual,
hurting, weakened, depressed.
God of healing,
hear our prayer.

God of mercy,
Hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy;
convicted, in need of your Grace,

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).*

contrite, humble, bowed down.

God of mercy,

hear our prayer.

(from www.re-worshipblogspot.co.uk)

And Finally

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”
made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of
the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of
Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6