



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A Family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 11th March 2018

“I prayed for this child, and the LORD has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the LORD. For his whole life he shall be given over to the LORD.” And he worshipped the LORD there.

(1 Samuel 1 : 27&28)

**Welcome to our Mothering Sunday Family Worship led by Ruth Montacute.
Please join us afterwards for tea and coffee in the lower hall.
Crèche facilities are available for 0-3 year olds every week.**

Today

... from 2:30 until 6:00pm the lower hall is booked for a children's party.

This Week

Wednesday 14th – 10:00 to 11:25am First Steps parent / carer and toddler group in the Lower hall.

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 worship, 12noon lunch, **Open Door Lunch Club**. Meals must be booked in advance with Gill Goss.

Friday 16th – 7:30pm, **Ladies' group**; a Games Evening with food, 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 or Sandra Wotton if you wish to join or try a group.

Next Sunday

Our 10:30am Family Worship will be led by Ruth Montacute, with an address and communion led by James and Ruth Neve. 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.

At 6:30pm, **Refract Service**. Youth from our local churches are coming together to lead an evening service. The service is for everyone run by the young people. Please come and support the young people.

Future Events

Wednesday 21st March – 7:30pm, **Church Members' AGM**, in the lower hall. The AGM is a time of giving thanks for the past year and re-committing ourselves in service to God as we serve this church fellowship. It is also an opportunity to re-commit or step down from a particular role, or even do a job swap. There is also a **vacancy** for the Baptist Union **Home Mission Representative**. Please prayerfully consider nominations for **Church Treasurer** and **Church Secretary**; these positions are elected annually and each must have the person's consent. Nominations are also needed for the **Diaconate**. Ruth Montacute is due to retire after two terms of four years but is willing to stand again. Ruth must be nominated and re-elected. Nominations must be made in writing by two members of the church and also with the signature of the nominee. All nominees must have been members of the church for at least six months and potential deacons baptised by immersion. Please see Pat Ginger for a nomination form if you wish to nominate someone. **Forms need to be handed in by TODAY.**

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

Notices

Many thanks to those who supported our first **Christian Aid Lent lunch**. The total collected so far is £218, with much of it Gift Aided. The second Lent lunch will be held in the Court House on Monday 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 March Food Bank** list is:

- Milk (UHT or powdered)
- Jams and spreads
- Fruit juice (1L long-life)
- Carrier bags
- Vegetables (tinned)
- Washing-up liquid
- Meat (tinned)
- Washing powder/liquid
- Custard (tin or powder)
- Cleaning sprays
- Cereal bars
- Toothpaste
- Sponge puddings
- Bath towels

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 March, please.

For Your Prayers

- Mothering Sunday.
- Friends with hospital appointments this week.
- Those with health concerns.
- “Refract” service next Sunday; for the young people and youth leaders as they prepare.
- Increasing numbers at First Steps.
- Church leadership team.

Israel – Palestine Pray for the BMS scholarship-holders and the other 125 Arab-Palestinian students at Bethlehem Bible College, training for ministry. Ask for God’s blessing on the ministry Oussama Kirreh, church planting in Beit Sahour (east of Bethlehem) in Palestine. Pray for BMS partner the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel, that they would, by God’s grace, be

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)*

increasingly fruitful and effective for the kingdom. Ask for God’s blessing on the ministry of Ziad and Randa Farraj, building up the Baptist church in Turaan (in northern Israel). Pray that God would continue to use the ministry of Hanna and Lina Eid, leading the Baptist church in Eilaboun (in northern Israel). Ask for God’s blessing on the BMS supported Nazareth Evangelical College, on its leaders Yohanna Katanacho and Azar Ajaj, and on the students who are training. Give thanks for BMS partner Musalaha, promoting reconciliation between Palestinians and Israelis, among believers and more widely. *(Slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide)*

On this Mothering Sunday we pray:
Loving God, we give thanks for all who care for us, who have encouraged us and helped us grow, who have forgiven us, and cared for us when we were unwell, who have supported us when times were hard, who have challenged us, who have told us about you. Nurturing God, we give you thanks. Amen.
*Prayer from the Diocese of Bath & Wells
(From Baptists Together)*

Heavenly Father, make our homes places of love and growth, welcoming to all who visit them, and accepting and forgiving to all who are nurtured there.
Help us through the quarrels and heartaches and remind us to honour one another as your cherished ones. Amen.
(From 1500 Prayers for Public Worship by Susan Sayers published by Kevin Mayben)

We pray for the disillusioned and depressed and all who have lost their way in life; we pray for those corrupted by evil, trained in hatred and twisted by bitterness. We pray for the transforming of these lives. Amen.
(From 1500 Prayers for Public Worship by Susan Sayers published by Kevin Mayben)

Father, we think of the variety of individuals who make up our church; make us quick to encourage one another

and slow to criticise. Amen.

(Slightly altered from 1500 Prayers for Public Worship by Susan Sayers published by Kevin Mayhew)

And Finally

“When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing near by, he said to her, ‘Woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.”

(John 19 : 26 & 27)