



# Berkhamsted Baptist Church

*A Family following Jesus*

Weekly News for

Sunday 8th April 2018

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

*John 21: 16 (b)*

**Welcome to our Family Worship led by Bob Little from St Albans.  
Please join us afterwards for tea and coffee in the lower hall.  
Crèche facilities are available for 0-3 year olds every week.**

## Today

Ruth is leading worship this morning at Weston Turville Union Chapel.

## This Week

**Wednesday 11th** – No First Steps parent/carer and toddler group - **on holiday** for a second week.

**Thursday 12th** – 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 13<sup>th</sup>** – 11.15 am service, 12.00 lunch, **Open Door Lunch Club**. 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 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 Maureen Finerty from Abbots 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 onwards.

## Future Events

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April – 10.00 am to noon**, an opportunity to meet with our moderator, Rev. Alice

McDermott, and to pray together. Please put this important date in your diary. *Pat Ginger*

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – 8.00 pm, Pastoral Coordinators' meeting** at All Saints' Church, Cross Oak Road. Speaker is Jacqui Sheppard, Dementia Friends Champion with the Alzheimer's Society. Please see Pat Ginger if you would like to attend.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Ladies' Evening:** quiz night with fish and chips. Please let Vicky know if you will be attending.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Baptist Assembly** at Peterborough.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June – the Central Baptist Association Assembly** at Whaddon Way Church, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. The main speaker for the day will be Rev. Dr David Gregory, President of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. All are welcome. Please see Pat Ginger for more details.

## Notices

**New rotas** are now available. Please note there are some significant changes. Thanks for all you do.

*Margaret Pike*

The **DENS Dacorum April 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)
- Custard (tin or powder)
- Cereal bars
- Sponge puddings
- Washing powder/liquid
- Cleaning sprays
- Toothpaste
- 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/](http://www.berkhamstedbaptistchurch.org.uk/ministry/sermons/) or ask John Beeley for CD copies.

Items for the next news sheet to **Chris Hayward** by Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April, please.

### For Your Prayers

- God's peace and comfort for friends in hospital and their loved ones who are anxious about them
- Those who lead our services during the interregnum
- Thanksgiving for God's creation as we see glimpses of spring
- Families going through difficult times
- Those who are grieving

Pray for God's blessing as we seek to grow culturally relevant expressions of Christian community, formed and led by indigenous believers. Pray for BMS and our partner Big Life as we seek to share the lessons from church planting in Asia within a European context. Pray for the Church to grow in Europe. Pray for our partner the Bangladesh Baptist Church as they seek to make God's love known across the country. Pray too for their General Secretary, Ashim Baroi. The mission training centre in Nauta, Peru, is equipping church leaders in the Amazon area. Pray for the BMS team involved in this work. Remember Claire-Lise and David, church planting in France, as they and their family seek to build relationships and share Christ in their community. Pray for our team of church planters in Odisha (formerly Orissa) and West Bengal, as they proclaim the good news of Jesus in challenging times. Helen and Wit are church planting in rural Thailand. Pray for the Lord to open doors for them to make Christ known. *(slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide)*

Please pray for the staff of the six Baptist colleges as they seek to equip women and men for effective ministry and mission in a changing world. Pray for the students as they learn and prepare for their various ministry situations.

[www.baptist.org.uk/colleges](http://www.baptist.org.uk/colleges) *(from Baptists Together)*  
Gentle Shepherd, You guide us in right paths, You lead us in the ways of righteousness, but we have allowed our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others who seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways. Forgive us for not remembering that we are Your sheep, and You are our Shepherd. Forgive us when we have not listened for Your voice and instead have acted in the ways of the world. Guide us back to Your path, to loving You and loving our neighbours. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. In the name of Christ our Shepherd we pray. Amen.

*(from [www.re-worship.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.re-worship.blogspot.co.uk))*

Lord, we ask for the courage of the Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep. We pray for those prepared to suffer and even to die for what they believe in. We pray for those whose lives and rights are sacrificed in the name of power and greed. We pray for those who risk themselves by accompanying others along paths of deep suffering, through valleys of fear and despair. Lord we ask for the compassion of the Good Shepherd who leads his sheep to safe pasture. We pray for those who work to feed and shelter and educate the poor peoples of our world. We pray for those skilled at nursing and healing, those who are suffering or ill in body, mind or spirit. We pray for those who care for the victims of our society, those unable to cope with life, the neglected, the abused. Lord, we ask for the love of the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep by name. We pray for our church, for all in positions of responsibility, and all engaged in pastoral care. We pray for those we know, relatives or friends who are facing difficult times. We pray for ourselves, that we might hear the call from our Good Shepherd

**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](http://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 follow his way of love.

We make all our prayers in Christ's name. Amen.

(from [www.re-worship.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.re-worship.blogspot.co.uk))

### **And Finally**

'Surely goodness and love will follow me... and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.' *Psalm 23: 6*

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Treasurer: John Ball – tel: 01442 863250.

Visit our Church Website: [www.berkhamstedbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.berkhamstedbaptistchurch.org.uk)

Items for inclusion on weekly news sheets need to be given by Thursday (at the latest) to either John Beeley, tel: 01442 866304, e-mail: [john@swinggate.co.uk](mailto:john@swinggate.co.uk) or Stephen Ashby.