



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A Family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 8th October 2017

“Come near to God and he will come near to you!”

(James 4 : 8)

Welcome to our Family Worship 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

Wednesday 11th – 10 until 11.25am, **First Steps** parent / carer and toddler group in lower hall. Please note the new time.

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 13th – 11:15am community worship, 12noon 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 Stephen Ashby if you wish to join or try a group.

Next Sunday

Our 10:30am Family Worship, with communion, will be led by our minister Rev. Stephen Ashby. 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

Saturday 21st October – 7:45 to 8:45am, **Prayer Breakfast** at The Way Inn; please see Pat for details.

Friday 27th October – 7:30pm, **Ladies' evening**: an **Art Night**, in the lower hall. Please see Vicky for details.

Notices

Nick, Fiona and Tom have moved into their new home. The move went well and they hope to visit us soon.

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

- Milk (UHT)
- Fruit juice (long life)
- Peas/vegetables (tinned)
- Tomatoes (tin or carton)
- Cold meat (tinned)
- Potatoes (tinned or inst.)
- Hot puddings (tinned)
- Rice pudding/custard
- Fruit (tinned)
- Cereal bars
- Shower gel
- Washing powder/liquid
- Washing-up liquid
- Hand wash/bar soap
- Deodorants
- Toilet rolls
- J cloths
- Cleaning sprays
- Socks & underwear (men and women)

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 Stephen Ashby or John Beeley for CD copies.

Items for the next news sheet to **Stephen Ashby** by Thursday 12th October, please.

For Your Prayers

- Friends caring for loved ones.
- Those grieving the loss of family members.
- Our Lunch Club for the friendships made and the companionship amongst our members and helpers.
- The plight of the Rohingya refugees, the aid agencies who are helping in relief work. The Bangladeshi Government.
- Those mourning the loss of so many in Las Vegas.

Give thanks that **BMS World Mission** is on track to meet the faith-stretching target of providing life-changing healthcare to 100,000 vulnerable people by 2020. BMS worker Ian Chadwell seeks to increase capacity and ensure quality medical practice within Nepal's public hospital system. BMS workers Judy Cook and Kathryn Smith are providing care for severely ill children and those suffering with HIV in Thailand. BMS-supported volunteer doctors are working on Kolkata's streets in order to provide basic health care for homeless children. Pray for Guinebor II Hospital in Chad. Pray especially for continued safe birthing at the highly valued maternal health centre funded by BMS supporters. BMS workers are involved in palliative care in Tunisia. Pray for growing commitment to best practice end of life treatments in the country. BMS supports work in university medical departments and in tribal mountain areas in sensitive countries in north east and central Asia.

(Slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide)

This week is **Prisons Week**. Pray for prisoners and their families, for prison staff and those who work in the criminal justice system, and for victims of crime and all those wounded by the actions of others.

www.prisonweek.org *(From Baptists Together)*

Father, teach me how to pray,
for I don't know what to say,
sometimes so unsure I barely say a word.
Grant me strength to persevere,
keeping faith that you are near
even though it often seems you haven't heard.

Help me share what's deep inside,
doubts and fears I try to hide,
faults and weaknesses I hesitate to name.
Give me faith to bare my soul,
trusting you can make me whole,
set me free from any sense of guilt and shame.
Help me share my hopes and fears,
joy and laughter, pain and tears,
knowing every part of life is your concern.
And to comprehend your will,
teach me also to be still,
so that through your Spirit's prompting I might learn.
Bid me come because I may,
not because I'm told to pray,
but responding to the welcome you extend -
neither nervous nor in dread
but approaching you instead
as a faithful father, living, loving friend.

(From "A Haven in the Storm" poems to inspire prayer by Nick Fawcett published by Kevin Mayhew)

Let my eyes
be your eyes
sharing compassion
warmth and love.
Let my hands
be your hands
bringing healing
with their touch.
Let my ears
be your ears
listening where
there is need.
Let my words
be your words
bringing comfort
joy and peace.

(From "Ripples" engaging with the world in prayer by John Birch)

And Finally

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

(James 4 : 7 – 10)

Motto text 2017

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light! *Psalm 36 v9. (NIV)*