



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A Family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 3rd December 2017

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate.

1 Thessalonians ch 5 v8

Welcome to our Advent Family Worship with communion 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 6th – 10 until 11:25am, **First Steps** parent / carer and toddler group in lower hall.

Wednesday 6th - 7pm. **Men's Christmas Dinner**
Venue: Felden Lodge Conference Centre. Cost £21.95.
Menus are at the front of the church. Please let Stephen know if you need transport.

Thursday 7th – 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 8th December – 11:15am tea or coffee, 12noon lunch, **Open Door Lunch Club**. Meals must be booked in advance with Gill Goss.

Friday 8th December, 7:30pm – **Ladies' evening** (please note the change of date); **floral arrangements to decorate the church for Christmas** with Gill Goss, in the lower hall. Please can you advise either Vicky or Gill if you are able to come, and bring with you a pair of scissors. Thank you.

Saturday 9th December, 2.30 – 5.30 pm: the Lower Hall has been booked by an outside group.

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 Advent Family Worship will be led by 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 16th December, 10:30am – **Christian Aid** carol singing outside Tesco. Please come and join us, even if for only half an hour. Thank you. *Margaret Pike*

Sunday 17th December – 4pm, our **Christingle service** in the church, with tea, coffee and mince pies to follow in the lower hall. **We would be pleased for your help with supplying mince pies.** Home-made would be good, but if this isn't possible, shop-bought will be gratefully received. Thank you. *Pat*

Sunday, 24th Dec. Christmas Eve, 10.30 am - A **short Nativity Service** for all ages.

Monday 25th December – 10:30am, our **Christmas Day All-Age Celebration**. Young people, do bring a present for us to see!

Sunday 31st December - All-Age New Year's Eve Service led by Ruth Montacute.

Notices

Postage Stamps - Please save your used postage stamps for **BMS World Mission**. Leave a border of at least 1cm around each stamp. Please hand your stamps to Ruth. Thank you.

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

- Fruit juice (UHT)
- Selection boxes
- Vegetables (tinned)
- Christmas crackers
- Cold meat (tinned)
- Mince pies
- Nuts
- Custard
- Gravy
- Christmas puddings
- Washing powder/liquid
- Washing-up liquid
- Hand wash/bar soap
- Deodorants
- Toilet rolls
- Air freshener
- Cleaning sprays
- Socks & underwear

A full Christmas 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 8th December, please.

For Your Prayers

- Thanksgiving for the work Janet and John were able to do in Bangladesh
- Preparation for our Christmas activities and services that we will feel empowered to share the good news of Jesus with everyone
- Those feeling the effects of the cold weather, remembering especially the many homeless people
- The work of DENS
- Friends and family with health needs

Bangladesh has a thriving economy, but many workers endure terrible conditions. **Pray for BMS World Mission** and others as they seek to improve this situation. Give thanks for strong leadership in the Baptist denomination and pray that God will bless them. **Pray for BMS involvement** with the Church in Bangladesh. Pray for the BMS workers in the country, that God may bless them and make them a blessing to those they serve. BMS partner worker Mahananda leads the development wing of the Baptist Church. Pray for wisdom and equipping as they demonstrate good news to the poor. Bangladesh is hugely affected by global warming. Pray for leaders across the world seeking to address this issue.

Pray, too, for BMS creation care work. Pray for new BMS team members to serve in Bangladesh. Pray that God would call and equip passionate Christians. Pray for the protection of Christians in Bangladesh, facing the rising challenges of insecurity in that land. Pray for safety for BMS workers and families. *(slightly altered from BMS Prayer Guide)*

In this Advent of expectation

draw us together in unity,
that our praise and worship
might echo in these walls
and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation

draw us together in mission,
that the hope within
might be the song we sing,
and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation

draw us together in service,
that the path we follow
might lead us from a stable
to a glimpse of eternity.

(from www.faithandworship.com)

In this season of expectation

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah
into the bustle of our lives
and the hard to find moments of solitude.

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah
into our homes and situations
along with friends and families.

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah
into our hearts, and those often hidden parts of our
lives.

We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.
For beneath the surface of your story
is an inescapable fact:

You entered this world
as vulnerable as any one of us
in order to nail that vulnerability to the cross.
Our fears, our insecurities and our sins,
all that can separate us from God,
exchanged by your Grace for Love.

**We cannot comprehend the reasoning,
only marvel that Salvation comes to us
through a baby born in a stable,**
and reaches out to a world in need.

In this season of anticipation
We prepare to welcome Christ Jesus, Messiah.

(from www.faithandworship.com)

Motto text 2017

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

And Finally

Our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Philippians ch 3 v 20