



Weekly News

Sunday 16th August 2026

A family following Jesus

The seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.
Matthew 13 v 23

Welcome to our All-Age Morning Service with communion led by Revd Karen Bugg

Order of Service

Welcome and notices
Call to worship and prayer
Song 1267: Come, people of risen King
Bible reading (mp4): Mark 4.1-20
All-age talk
Questions and activities
Song 1100: Open the eyes of my heart
Hymn 51: Be Thou my vision
Communion
Intercessions
Song 1282: Hear the call of the kingdom
Final prayer and blessing
The grace

Notices

Karen will be on retreat in Worcestershire from this Sunday pm (16th) to Tuesday evening (18th). She will be contactable by email but not phone.

On Wednesday evening we have our opportunity to pray together using Zoom. Do join me if you can. A link will be sent nearer the time. *Karen*

Open Church is on **Thursdays 10.00 am until noon**, but **only on the first and third** Thursdays of the month. Our next two meetings are therefore **20th August and 3rd September**. Do join us for tea/coffee and cake in the Lower Hall.

A big 'thank you' for the cards, prayers, hospital visits, and going to my house to check on Peter and Paul. Thanks to you all, and love. *Sue and family*

There will be **no Meet & Make sessions in August**. The team will be taking a well-earned break.

The Leadership Team has begun exploring how we might be able to offer different ways of helping our local community connect with God and grow in faith. So that the whole church can be involved in seeking God about this, Karen has written a series of daily reflections for each of us to use that she is hoping will help us think about who God is asking us to be and what God is asking us to do in this next season. Most people will receive these via email but if you would like a paper copy please speak to Karen or Fliss.

2026 Daily Reflections

Please use the link below to access written and audio recordings.

<https://www.berkhamstedbaptistchurch.com/2026dailyreflections>

First Steps, our parent + toddler group, has now finished for the summer term. We will be back in September.

Our **Small Groups** meet 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, Sandra Wotton or Alun Sainsbury if you wish to try or join a group.

We are continuing to collect food and other grocery items for the DENS Foodbank; these are delivered to Hemel Hempstead each week. Please leave your contributions in the box in the church entrance.

Their urgent needs include:

- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned peas
- Tinned carrots
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Cooking sauces
- Custard
- Shower gel
- 2-in-1 shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Liquid hand soap
- Laundry liquids/tabs/powder
- Carrier bags

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Prayers

Please pray for

- the Leadership team
- those suffering because of the drought
- our outreach to our community
- those who are unwell

From BMS World Mission

Lift up the nation of Uganda, and especially the general elections. Pray that God will appoint leaders after his own heart.

Dear Father,

I give you this day. May your spirit be at work in me. Clear the mix of dreams and thoughts from my mind and help me to embrace everything that you have for me today. I give you the mental and physical tiredness I can feel and ask for your life to flow through me. May your hope stir in those who are close to me and bring joy into their hearts. May your love cause me to find new energy, ideas and solutions throughout the day. And may your truth allow me to stay on track and walk confidently in all that I do.

Father, I give you this day. Amen.

Prayer courtesy of www.prayerscapes.com

The warmth of the sun's embrace,
the gentle breeze swept in by incoming tide,
the rhythm of seasons,
of new birth,
death and recreation.
All these speak so clearly of your love,
your power

and your beauty.

All are expressions of your creativity,
and more importantly, of yourself.

As an artist might share his personality
within each brushstroke,

so within the myriad colours of a butterfly's wing
you share the exuberance of your love

From <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Shout out his name!

For God is with us,

Our God is with us,

The God of our salvation,

In whom alone we trust.

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Shout out his name!

For God is our Father,

He draws us home,

By streams of living water,

Where we shall thirst no more.

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Shout out his name!

He knows our thoughts,

Understands our hearts,

And enables us to become

The people we were meant to be. Amen

From <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

Lord, we come to you hesitantly,
overwhelmed by your greatness,
yet you welcome us with arms outstretched.

We come guiltily,

crushed by a sense of failure,

yet you pick us up and wash us clean.

We come uncertainly,

our faith weak and wavering,

yet you are always close,

eager to bless us

and lead us forward into new experiences of your love.

So we come –

joyfully, gratefully, reverently,

hungry to worship you –

and once more you are here,

waiting to surprise us with the wonder of your grace.

Receive our praise, in Jesus' name. Amen.

From <https://nickfawcett.uk/>

And finally...

Whoever has ears, let them hear. *Matthew 13 v 9.*

*Items for the next News Sheet to Fliss Nesbitt by
Thursday 20th August, please*

Motto text 2026: So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.
Colossians 2 vs 6 - 7 (NIV)

