



Berkhamsted Baptist Church

A family following Jesus

Weekly News for

Sunday 5th March 2023

Nothing outside a person can defile them by going into them. Rather, it is what comes out of a person that defiles them. *Mark 7 v 15 (NIV)*

Welcome to our Family Worship Service, with communion, led by
our Minister Revd Karen Bugg.

Order of Service

Welcome and notices

Prayer

Hymn 564: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation

Hymn 1086: Light of the world (Here I am to worship)

Prayer

Discussion – traditions

children to leave for their groups

Bible reading: Mark 7.1-23

Talk: Matt Bugg - Why do we do what we do?

Hymn 111: Dear Lord and Father of mankind

Communion

Intercessions

Hymn 937: Thank you for saving me

Blessing

The Grace

Notices

After our service today we will be gathering as a whole church in the Lower Hall. Please do stay if you can as we begin to brainstorm together what we might do in this next season: to worship God, love one another and offer hope to our community and beyond. *Karen*

Open Church takes place every Thursday **10.00 am until noon**. Now the weather has turned colder we are indoors and the main church is a designated 'warm space'. Come and have tea/coffee and cake with us. *Carla and Sue*

A **memorial service**, to which all are welcome, is to be held at Sunnyside Church on **Tuesday 7th March**

at **11.00 am** for dear **Lucy Freeman**, a Lunch Club member who passed away recently aged 99 years.

The **Men's Group** will be gathering in The Crown this **Wednesday 8th March from 6.30 pm** for a meal, drink and catch-up. All men in the congregation are welcome to join us. *Chris Hayward*

Our **Church members' meeting and AGM** is on Sunday 26th March after the morning service. The AGM is a time for giving thanks for the past year and recommitting ourselves in service to God as we serve this church fellowship. It is also a time to elect deacons and church officers, and to commission these and others who take a lead in the various groups of church life. It is also a time to recommit to, or step down from, a particular role. Please pray earnestly regarding these issues.

There is currently a vacancy for one **Deacon**.

Persons nominated must be baptised by immersion and have been a member of this church for at least six months.

Nominations are also needed for Church Treasurer and Church Secretary; these positions are elected annually and must have each person's consent. All nominations must be made in writing by two members of the church and also with the signature of the nominee. Nomination forms can be obtained from Maggie Tomlin (Church Secretary) and must be returned by **today**. Thank you. *Maggie*

Many thanks to those who came to the **Christian Aid Lent lunch** on Wednesday. We raised an amazing £450, much of which was Gift Aided. The second one

is on **Thursday 16th March** from 12.00 to 1.30 in the Court House.
Margaret Pike

Last month a group of ladies met to discuss the restarting of the **Ladies' Group**. Thank you to all those who attended this and shared their thoughts. To help us find the best way forward I asked everyone to pray about what their involvement might be and to think about how the Ladies' Group might work best going forward. Things to consider are: how often will the group meet and when? Who will lead it? What activities would it be good to include? Who would be welcome to be part of this group? We will meet again after the service on **Sunday 12th March** to continue our discussions.
Karen

Open Door are running the **CAP Money Course**, which can teach you budgeting skills and a simple system to manage your money successfully. It is free and there are 3 sessions: 7th, 14th and 21st March, 7.15-9.15 pm. For more information and to book: [Money Management short course \(tockify.com\)](https://www.tockify.com)

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

- Cereal bars
- Rice
- Tinned meat
- Sponge puddings
- Tinned rice pudding
- 200ml juice cartons

Prayers

- Our three Bible study groups
- Those who mourn
- Aid for those affected by the Turkey/Syria earthquakes
- John and Janet in Bangladesh

From BMS World Mission

One of BMS World Mission's ministry priorities is to work among people on the move, those forced to flee their homes because of conflict, persecution, and poverty. We thank God for the many churches in the UK and across Europe that are welcoming their new neighbours and providing places of love, acceptance, welcome and hope.

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,

Motto text 2023: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
Hebrews 12 v 1-2a

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>)

O Lord our God,
source of all goodness and love,
accept the fervent prayers of your people;
in the multitude of your mercies look with compassion
upon all who turn to you for help;
for you are gracious, O lover of souls,
and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
now and for ever. Amen.
(from <https://www.churchofengland.org>)

This world is yours, planned in eternity,
created in a moment of sheer exuberance,
permeated with love,
well made.

This place is yours, in its simplicity,
blue sky and countryside, pure creativity,
painted with care,
well made.

This day is yours, pure generosity,
given for moments of gentle reflection,
in the bustle of a day,
well made.

This moment is yours in its entirety,
a drop of time in an ocean of history,
gifted with joy,
well made.
(from <https://www.faihandworship.com>)

And finally...

(Jesus said) You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. *John 15 v 3 (NIV)*

Items for the next News Sheet to Fliss Nesbitt by Thursday 9th March, please.

