Berkhamsted Baptist Church

# Weekly News

Sunday 22nd November 2026

## A family following Jesus

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'. *Isaiah 52 v 7*

**Welcome to our Morning Service led by Revd Karen Bugg**

## Order of Service

Welcome and notices
Call to worship/prayer
Introduction
**Hymn** (mp4): Come, Thou long-expected Jesus
Good news travels fast
Video clip: Gabriel
Bible reading: Luke 1.26-38
**Song** (mp4): My Lighthouse
Activities
Into the Questions to ponder slide (To follow)
Talk
**Song**: In Christ alone
Intercessions
**Hymn 266**: I cannot tell
Blessing
Grace

## Notices

**Christmas services and events**

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| Sunday 22nd November | Festival of Light |
| Sunday 13th December | Christingle service |
| Friday 18th December | Glee Club concert |
| Sunday 20th December | Carol service |
| Friday 25th December | Christmas Day service |
| Sunday 27th December | Informal service |

This year our **Gift Day Appeal** has raised £2845. A big 'thank you' goes to all those who contributed to this sum.
As agreed by our members, this money will be split between the charity Mercy Ships, to support their fully fitted out hospital ships, and our own church, as we explore different ways to follow God's calling.
*John Ball, Treasurer*

St Mary's Church in Northchurch are holding their **Christmas Tree Festival** 4th - 6th December, in aid of Crisis at Christmas and St Mary's Church Fund. Times and more details are on the notice board in the hall.

The Berkhamsted **Festival of Light** is this **Sunday**. We will be opening the church this afternoon with the dressing-up clothes for photos and for people to bring their crown stones. If you are able to come and help any time from 3.30 to 6.00 pm, please let Karen or Fliss know.

We will be supporting the **Salvation Army Christmas present appeal** to help children in need. If you would like to contribute a gift there is a collection box in the crèche area in church. All gifts should be new and unwrapped. See Kathleen for further information about appropriate toys and gifts. All donations will be taken to the Salvation Army in Hemel Hempstead to be distributed locally.

**Meet & Make** takes place on **Tuesdays, 1.30 – 3.00 pm** in the Lower Hall, using the Holliday Street entrance. Come and join us for a time spent doing arts and crafts or jigsaws and puzzles. All welcome.

**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 **3rd and 17th December**. Do join us for tea/coffee and cake in the Lower Hall.

**First Steps**, our parent/carer and toddler group, is on **Thursdays 1.30 – 2.45 pm**. Please pray for the families and our small team.

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 Sunday School team
- our outreach to our town
- the local emergency services
- our local schools

*From BMS World Mission*
Pray that churches in Uganda will have opportunities to speak out against domestic abuse and violence towards women. Pray that the voice of the Church will be heard and respected in communities.

Precious Jesus, you came
so that we might know
we are yours by choice;
loved, embraced, saved
by your love and grace,
welcomed to your family
and precious in your sight.
You came, so that we
might be made complete,
all we were ever meant to be.
You came, as a Shepherd
seeking every sheep that is lost
so you might bring them home.
And beyond even the cruel Cross
you are still Saviour, Messiah,
to all who would heed your call.
*From https://www.faithandworship.com/*

Breathe your peace within me, Lord,
peace such as only you can give.
When I fret about tomorrow,
when I worry about my loved ones
when I question whether I can cope
when my stomach feels knotted and panic rises within me
help me to hear your still small voice
rebuking the wind and waves
stilling the storm
calming the roiling waves
and in place of turmoil bring tranquillity
in place of chaos, quietness
in place of a troubled, anxious spirit
rest for my soul.
Amen.
*From https://www.baptist.org.uk/*

You are the God who formed us,
The God who knows us,
The God who loves us,
The God who leads us,
The God who feeds us,
The God who blesses us,
The beginning and end
of all that we are,
and hope to be.
Worthy of our praise.
*From https://www.faithandworship.com/*

## And finally…

The angel said to him, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news.' *Luke 1 v 19*

*Items for the next News Sheet to Fliss Nesbitt by Thursday 26th November, 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)