



Weekly News

Sunday 16th March 2025

A family following Jesus

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3 v 16 (NIV)*

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

Order of Service

Welcome and notices
Call to worship
Song 1086: Light of the world
Song 1267: Come people of the risen King
Activity
Song 449: Love divine
Children leave for their group
Bible Reading - video
Talk
Reflective Song: Jesus Messiah
Communion
Intercessions
Song: Jesus, hope of the nations
Final prayer and blessing
The grace

Notices

Notice from Karen

The **season of Lent** has begun. I will be engaging with the Bible Society's Lent Encounter - Through the Wilderness, which is exploring the book of Exodus. If you haven't already found resources to engage with through Lent, I encourage you to join me. Sign up here: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/resources/the-lent-encounter>

We will be having a **Bring and Share lunch** after the service **today, 16th March**, to which everyone is invited. *Kathleen*

Zoom Prayer - Wednesday 19th March, 7:30pm.
This is a great opportunity to pray together for our world, community, church family and ourselves. Do join us if you can. A Zoom link will be sent via email.

The **Ladies' Group** have a Games/Quiz afternoon with nibbles planned for **Friday, 21 March 2025 at 12 noon to 2pm** in the Lower Hall. Please let Margaret Pike know if you will attend and what you can bring to share.

Christian Aid Lent Lunches this year will be on **Thursdays 20th March and 3rd April from noon to 1.30pm** in the Court House. Offers of soup and crumbles would be appreciated, as would offers of help. Otherwise please come and support us on the days. Thanks. *Margaret Pike*

Meet & Make is 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 takes place every **Thursday 10.00 am until noon**. We meet in the Lower Hall. Do join us for tea/coffee and cake.

Help. We have had a couple of volunteers – thank you! – but one more person, helping **fortnightly**, would be welcome. Please contact Carla.

First Steps, our parent + toddler group, meets in the Lower Hall **1.30-2.45 on Thursdays** during term-time. We would love to have more helpers – not necessarily present every week – so please see Karen or Beth if you are able to assist.

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 join or try 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:

- Rice
- Long life juice
- Tinned ham
- Tinned corned beef
- Cooking sauces
- Tinned/packet soup
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned sweetcorn
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned chickpeas
- Jams/spreads
- Long life milk
- Chocolate
- Tinned spaghetti hoops
- Carrier bags
- Toilet roll
- Kitchen roll
- Laundry liquid/tabs/powder
- Washing up liquid
- Baby wipes

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Prayers

Please pray for

- The Open Church team
- A just and lasting peace in Ukraine and the Middle East
- Our outreach to those around us
- Those awaiting surgery

From BMS World Mission

Pray for the Ukrainian Baptist Union, the European Baptist Federation and their partners, courageously persevering in providing shelter, food and care to tens of thousands across the country.

Help us, with simple words,
to explain the warmth
within our hearts
that we experienced

Motto text 2025: 'When you call out to me and come to me in prayer, I will hear your prayers. When you seek me in prayer and worship, you will find me available to you. If you wholeheartedly seek me, I will make myself available to you,' says the LORD.
Jeremiah 29 vs 12-14 (NET)

in that first encounter
with your love and grace -
the Spirit's flame,
still burning bright within -
that others, in their own
journeys of discovery
might reach out and touch
the hand that's always there,
and be embraced by love.

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

How many are your works, Lord!
In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.
There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.
When you give it to them,
they gather it up;
when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.
When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the Lord.
But may sinners vanish from the earth
and the wicked be no more.

Praise the Lord, my soul.
Praise the Lord.
Psalm 104 vs 24 - 35 (NIV)

And finally...

The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. *Galatians 2 v 20 (NIV)*

Items for the next News Sheet to Fliss Nesbitt by Thursday 21st March, please