



Berkhamsted  
Baptist Church

## Weekly News

### Sunday 1st December 2024

#### A family following Jesus

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. *Isaiah 9 v 2*

**Welcome to our Advent Worship, with Communion, led by Ruth Montacute**

#### Order of Service

Call to worship

Prayer

**Hymn 493:** O come, O come, Emmanuel

Advent Candle: The first Sunday of Advent

**Hymn 102:** Come, Thou long-expected Jesus

Bible reading: John 1:1-14

**Hymn 204:** Hail to the Lord's anointed

*Children leave for their class*

Sermon

Video: An Unusual King

Intercessions

**Hymn 414:** Let us break bread together

Communion

**Hymn 602:** Sing we the King who is coming to reign

The Grace

working to make Earth more like heaven. His mission touches every part of life – every place, task, and relationship – and he calls us to play our part in it. In this 25-day Advent devotional journey, you'll get fresh perspective on the familiar Christmas story, and be inspired to follow the down-to-earth Saviour in your everyday life.' To sign up to the devotional, visit: <https://licc.org.uk/ourresources/down-to-earth-a-christmas-devotional-journey/> or speak to Karen.

#### Christmas Services and Events

Sunday 8th Dec 10.30am Advent service with communion

Saturday 14th Dec 7pm Glee Club Christmas Concert (in aid of DENS)

Sunday 15th Dec 4pm Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 18th Dec 3pm "Light in the Darkness" - a reflective Christmas service

Sunday 22nd Dec 10.30am All-Age Christingle

Wednesday 25th Dec 10.30am Christmas Day service

Sunday 29th Dec 10.30am All-Age morning worship

**Karen is on holiday** from Friday 29th November to Monday 2nd December. Please contact the Leadership Team with any church-related issues.

We have restarted **First Steps, our parent + toddler group**. We meet 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.

#### Notices

This Advent our services will be following the theme 'Down to Earth'. There is a great Advent devotional starting on 1st December which follows this theme. Here is some information about it: 'When Jesus was born as a human in an ordinary guest room in the small town of Bethlehem, he upended what the world thought it knew about God. Not distant and untouchable, he became truly down-to-earth – God with us, God living like us, God doing all the everyday things that humans do. His example is one of humility and involvement. Of putting your boots on and getting out there. Of getting your hands dirty,

Come and join us to **sing carols for Christian Aid** at 10.30 on **Saturday 14th December** outside Tesco. You will be very welcome even if you can only come for a short while. We shall be collecting for Shede, who has had to flee her home in Sudan to South Sudan. *Margaret Pike*

The **Quiet Morning** on **Saturday 14th December**, 10am - 2pm, at St Mary's Church, Northchurch is an invitation to come and be still, pause and reflect as we prepare for the busy Christmas season. You are all warmly invited to spend as short or long a time as you can spare. Come and bring a friend; all are very welcome.

**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.

The **Christmas Post Box** is in the lower hall, ready to receive Christmas cards for anyone who attends church (and will therefore collect them personally). Remember to check for post addressed to you!

Our collection of items for the **DENS Foodbank** continues as usual.

## Prayers

Please pray for

- The Sunday School team
- Our Christmas events and services
- Those struggling with finance
- Refugees throughout the world

*From BMS World Mission*

Young people in Cambodia are yearning to hear the gospel. Lift up BMS-supported worker Pastor J, and pray for wisdom and resources to share the good news with university students.

Loving God,  
we thank you for the hope you have given us in Christ, the meaning and purpose, joy and fulfilment you bring us through him. Hear now our prayer for those who find it hard to hope, those for whom life is hard. Reach out to them in their need, and may the light of Christ break into their darkness.

We think of those we label as the Third World – the hungry and undernourished, homeless and refugees, sick and suffering – human beings just as we are,

deprived of their dignity in the desperate struggle for survival.

Reach out to them in their need,  
and may the light of Christ break into their darkness.

We think of those who are caught up in war – overwhelmed by fear and hatred, their homes and livelihoods destroyed, each day lived under the threat of violence. Reach out to them in their need, and may the light of Christ break into their darkness.

We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by life – lonely, frightened, sad, weary – many dreading what the next day might bring. Reach out to them in their need, and may the light of Christ break into their darkness.

Loving God,  
may the message of hope which Advent brings burst afresh into our world, bringing help, hope and healing. And may we, as those who profess the name of Christ, play our part in showing his love, displaying his care, and fulfilling his purpose, so that he might come again this Christmas to all who have lost hope. Reach out to them in their need, and may the light of Christ break into their darkness. For his name's sake.

Amen

From <https://nickfawcett.uk/>

We are not grains of sand upon the shore buffeted by sea and storm, but individuals loved by God more intimately than we could ever know. Though from a distance we seem insignificant and frail, the creating breath that formed us now lives in and sustains us. Thank you, Saving God, made known to us in Jesus Christ not only by his words, but through his sacrificial life. May our lives reflect not only his love, but your glory, and the whole earth sing your praises. Amen  
From <https://www.faithandworship.com/>

## And finally...

We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield. *Psalms 33 v 20 (NIV)*

*Items for the next News Sheet to Chris Hayward by  
Thursday 5th December, please.*