

The Baptist Church, Brierfield

December 2016

We meet in a warm, friendly atmosphere to praise and worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

Please do join us

*Merry
Christmas*



Services every Sunday

10:00am

Prayer Meeting

10:30am

Family Service

6:00pm

Evening Worship

Children and Young People's meetings

Details are announced during the family service, more information is available from:

Rainbows and Brownies	Weekly Meetings	Elizabeth Wellman	01282 690403
Guides	Weekly Meetings	Janice Greenwood	01282 605594
Sunday Club	For boys and girls upto 11 years old	David Leeming	01282 618026
JAM Club (Jesus and Me)	For those in year 6 and above.	Elizabeth Wellman	01282 690403

Mid week meetings for adults as announced

Church Secretary Mr David Leeming, Tel: 01282 618026 or 07811192134
Email: davidleeming1@virginmedia.com

<http://www.brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk>

Christmas is just around the corner and I suppose most thoughts are turning to preparing for this great day.

Christmas day is the day we celebrate God's greatest gift to mankind. It is so nice to think of a Baby being born warm and cuddly, and we all get wrapped up in the Christmas card image of a nice warm stable, shepherds coming to see and wise men in richly adorned clothes bringing gifts.

Sorry to disappoint you.... The baby was born in a dark Smelly cold stable because there was no room anywhere else, His mother had travelled a long journey in discomfort and perhaps fear, the shepherds were the outcasts of society and the wise men probably didn't arrive for almost 2 years.

How can we have got it so wrong.....? People do not want to face facts, this baby did not remain a baby but was the Son of God who died on a cross, a cruellest death, and rose again bringing us hope and confidence of eternal life.

Quite simply re-evaluate your understanding of the Christmas story, perhaps tell the Lord He has room in your life, you acknowledge Him as your Saviour and worship Him

May all have a peaceful and Happy Christmas.

Family Fun Day. Thanks to all who worked so hard. Please continue to pray for the folk not connected to the church and please give them a personal invitation to the Christmas services.

Preachers Plan. This should be available prior to the new year. Please make sure you have a copy.

Flower List 2017. This is now ready. Perhaps you would like to place flowers in the church to celebrate an event, or remember a loved one etc. The list is on the notice board, please enter your name against blank dates and you can put the flowers in or give the money to the flower committee who will see they are put in. The flowers are distributed to the ill and elderly each Sunday and I know the flower group would be pleased to hear of people to whom they can be sent.

Gift Day is on the 19th march, please bear this in mind.

Bible Studies. The dates for December are Monday the 12th and 19th December and the 16th and 31st January. Tuesday evening are on the 13th December and the 10th and 24th January. Please do join us.

In-between group.. The next meeting is the AGM in January on the 11th January at 7.30m p.m. in the primary. New members are always welcome

Heating. The boiler is not working correctly at present, those who know think it is the pump. We are awaiting a new pump to be fitted soon. The pump itself will be about £700. Until it is repaired we will be meeting downstairs. Please bear with us.

Coffee Rota. There will be a new rota on the notice board - please watch out and fill in the dates. Remember no volunteers ... no coffee or tea.

Dates For Your Diary

5th December	7:30pm	Officers Meeting	Church Lounge
11th December	2:30pm	Retirement Homes	
12th December	10.30am	Bible Study	Primary Room
12th December	6:45pm	Young People's Carol Service	Church and Primary
13th December	7:30pm	Bible Study	Church Lounge
19th December	10:30am		Primary Room
17th December	10:30am	Carols at the Tree	
18th December	10:30am	Carol Service and Church Family Party	Church
24th December	6:30pm	Carols by Candlelight	Church
25th December	10:30am	Christmas Day Service	Church
10th January	10.00am	Brierfield Churches	32 Reedley Road
10th January	7:30pm	Bible Study	Church Lounge
16th January	10:30am		Primary Room
23rd January	7:30pm	Cluster Group Brierfield	
24th January	7:30pm	Bible Study	Church Lounge
31st January	10:30am		Primary Room
25th January	7:30pm	Day of Prayer	Methodist Church

Plans for the future. We all know about the secretarial duties being shared out, please pray about this that volunteers may be found. There are also thoughts that new deacons and Elders may be required. Appointing Elders is for the members under God's Guidance to decide. It is a long process and the first step for all members is prayer. Please pray at meetings and on a personal level that the right people may be found and please ensure you attend the next church meeting on the 14th March at 7.30 p.m. People who are not members are very welcome to pray about this also.

The officers Meeting is on the 5th December at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Lounge.

Brierfield Churches. We are going to the retirement homes on Sunday 11th December along with the other Brierfield Churches Please meet at Marsden Heights at 2.30 p.m.

On the 17th December we are singing round the tree at Brierfield centre along with the other churches at 10.30 a.m.

Please do join us for both these events



The Baptist Church, Brierfield



Christmas Services

Young people's carol service.
Monday 12th December at 6.45 p.m.
followed by A bring and Buy stall and Coffee and Mince pies. Proceeds from the Bring and buy are for Shelter

Church Christmas service and Family Party.
Sunday Dec 18th 10.30 a.m Service
Leader Nigel Leeming
Followed by Lunch Games for children and Finishing with Carols.

Carols by Candle Light
Saturday 24th December at 6.30 p.m.
Arranged by Peter l'Anson

Christmas Day service
Dec 25th at 10.30 a.m. Service
Leader: David Leeming
(children please bring one of your presents)

New Year's Day Morning Worship
10.30 a.m.
Preacher: Donal Leeming

Please join us to celebrate the Birth of the Saviour



Prayer Matters:

Christmas is almost upon us again! How soon it comes round again. How will we celebrate it? It may be by having a party; it will most probably be by giving presents to those we love. But in all the festivities, we must not forget the reason for Christmas – remembering that time when Jesus the Lord was born in Bethlehem. And the reason we exchange gifts at this time? Because He was God's gift to mankind. Through His life and witness to us, through His terrible death, He has given us a wonderful gift – the ability for us sinful men and women to approach the most Holy God through His Name. The dividing curtain is swept aside so that we can pray directly to our Heavenly Father. What a gift! Do we make use of it?



Let's pray that

- In all our festivities, we may never forget the 'reason for the season';
- The Lord will open up opportunities for us to tell others of Christ's wonderful gift to mankind;
- The promise of peace to men of goodwill will indeed become a reality in this troubled world in which we live.

Please also pray for:

- Our Missionary Contacts – Irene, The Millns, Rachel, and Natalie;
- That our Church will grow both in numbers and grace as the Lord adds to our number .

May I remind you that if you have an urgent need for prayer, such as sickness, or one of the problems of life, please contact Philip on:

- Email: philip.rowland@virginmedia.com
- or by Mobile Text (please do not ring me): 07546 350 409
- or by phoning Kath on 01282 697005.

Your request for prayer will then be passed on to the other members of the Prayer Chain.

To all our family and friends.

Hello from Dhaka where we are enjoying a fall in daytime temperatures to around 28 degrees and 'cool' night time temperatures of 17/18 degrees. For foreigners November to February is said to be the most productive time, as temperatures and humidity reduce and we feel much more energised. This is just as well for we have a busy three months ahead of us. Since we announced our departure date for the end of February 2017, there has been an increasing number of requests for visits, support with various projects and pieces of work which our friends here want help with before we leave. It is always the same when you move on from a place and a specific work. We are encouraged because these things indicate that we have achieved something here in Bangladesh.

We have just held a three day Leadership Conference, jointly with Precept Ministries International. This week we will have two of our BMS Directors visiting. With the departure of our Regional Team Leader in September, the Directors are coming to re-assure our Bangladesh friends of the continued commitment of BMS and explore some of the potential for further development of the partnership. We shall also be attending the graduation of MA students at the college. This will be a joy, as we have seen them through their full two year course. Then follows a week when there are the scheduled round of committees within the denomination and a wedding to attend. By which time it will be almost Christmas!

We send our love and best wishes to you all as we move through Advent and on to the Christmas celebrations. We hope you have a joyful and peaceful time. For those from supporting churches, please convey our Christmas Greetings to your respective fellowships. We shall spend Christmas in Khulna, a city in the South West of the country and where our German colleagues from Liebenzell Mission live. We are looking forward to spending time with them and visiting this area.

Now our attention is also on arrangements for leaving, thinking and praying about the future. We shall continue to serve with BMS from March until the end of May and look forward to meeting churches and friends during this time. Then Andrew 'officially retires' and at this stage we have no clear indication what and where Gwen will continue to work. We value prayer for this as we have no home as such until we are clear where we might be located. We both feel this is a time for new challenges and are at peace, as well as excited about a new chapter in our lives.

Please pray for all the practicalities of finishing in Dhaka, apartment and furniture to dispose of, the many 'goodbyes' to people who have become such good friends, arrangements for freighting possessions back to the UK, flights back and the acquisition of a car. Please also pray for the continuing work here and that someone will become available to take our place and encourage the church in Bangladesh.

We plan to send our last BMS prayer letter in January and hope we can include more news than about the church and the work here. For now we send you Christmas Greetings and our best wishes for 2017.

Andrew and Gwen

Help us bring Christmas to Chad

They're not getting any snow, but this December you can help patients at Guinebor II Hospital in Chad get something even better.

A Chadian Chaplain serving some of the poorest people in the world has a dream this Christmas. He wants to share the love of Christ with more of the patients and community at Guinebor II Hospital (G2), a BMS World Mission supported hospital near Chad's capital N'Djamena. And he wants you to help him.

UK churches have already done so much to support the life-saving work of G2. The Muslim-majority community is now benefitting from a maternal health centre funded by BMS supporters. Since it was built in 2015, over 5,000 babies have been safely delivered! You've also been supporting the medical team at the hospital, who have been tirelessly treating malnourished children, providing essential medications for patients and performing life-saving operations.

You've helped us support one more thing too – G2's brilliant chaplain Pastor Djibrine. He has a huge heart for the Muslims who come to the hospital for treatment, and he wants to bless them this Christmas. Every year, G2 hosts a Christmas celebration, and this year you can help them make it the biggest and best party yet. Your gifts can have an impact long after Christmas, too. As Pastor Djibrine prays with inpatients, he would love to be able to give those who are interested in Christianity a Bible that they can take away with them. He's also excited to now have a motorbike with which he can make home visits to patients, but he needs some fuel to get

him there.

Could you help Pastor Djibrine get his what's on his wish-list this Christmas?

£22 can pay for food, seating and shelter for ten people at the Christmas celebration

£38 can fuel Pastor Djibrine's motorbike for three months, enabling him to make lots of important home visits

£60 can buy 15 Bibles or 18 memory cards with audio Bible stories on them to give to those who express an interest in the gospel

If you want to support Pastor Djibrine and BMS' life-transforming work in Chad, please donate to our Chad Christmas appeal today. Your gift will make such a difference.

Please pray, too. Pray for Pastor Djibrine and the team at G2 as they organise the Christmas celebration. Pray for those who will attend, that God will prepare their hearts to hear his message of joy and redemption this Christmas. And pray for the ongoing work of the hospital, as it seeks to meet the huge medical and spiritual needs of its community, with limited resources.

You can find out more about the BMS Chad Christmas appeal here.

Thank you.

Any gifts that exceed the costs of Pastor Djibrine's wish-list will be used to support other life-transforming work in Chad.

Details of how to donate and more information on the appeal is available on the BMS World Mission website.

www.bmsworldmission.org

		Preacher	Door Steward	Morning Service Leader
4th December	10.30am	Donald Leeming	Neil Binns	R. Harlley
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>J. Sunderland</i>	
	6.00pm	E. R. Steel		
11th December	10.30am	Rev. G. Hartley	Declan Driver	Sarah Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>Philip Rowland</i>	
	2.30pm	Visiting Care Homes		
18th December	10.30am	Carol Service	K. Hughes	
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>Peter l'Anson</i>	
		This service is followed by the Church Family Party		
25th December	10.30am	David Leeming	Mrs C. l'Anson	
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>Nigel Leeming</i>	
	6.00pm	No Evening Service		
1st January	10.30am	Donald Leeming	S. Dunham	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>P. l'Anson</i>	
	6.00pm	No Evening Service		
8th January	10.30am	Rev. Geoff Hartley	C. Leeming	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>Philip Rowland</i>	
	6.00pm	Philip Rowland		
15th January	10.30am	Kath Rowland	G. Leeming	M. Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>N. Leeming</i>	
	6.00pm	David Livermore		
22nd January	10.30am	Earnest Gorton	P. Lewis	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>P. l'Anson</i>	
	6.00pm	Gerald Norcross		
29th January	10.30am	George Kendal	R. Bolton	C. l'Anson
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>P. Rowland</i>	
	6.00pm	Colin Scholes		