



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

December 2020



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

***Please do join us.***

## Sunday Services

We have limited capacity in church with Social Distancing and masks are mandatory for anyone inside the building. The services start at 10:30 am and are also being streamed live on YouTube - check our website for the service link.

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

Midweek Activities as announced.

**Secretary – Mrs Angela Higgin**

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Do you have something you would like to be included in next months newsletter? Please hand anything you would like adding to Richard I'Anson, or by email to [newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk)



# Lockdown Thoughts

*(A short message by Philip Rowland)*

As I write this, we are still in lockdown. How can I think of the future? How can I write something suitable for the month ahead? The words ‘the way ahead I cannot see’ are floating around in my head, but I can take confidence in the fact that God sees, knows and determines the way ahead, and that all things are in His hands.

This is a time when we have to stand firm in our beliefs that God is working His purposes out in the world. Some say that he is speaking to us through this pandemic – if this is so, what is He saying? Is He speaking to you personally? Have you a word from the Lord you should be sharing with the rest of us?

I imagine that He is calling the world to repent of its wicked ways while there is still time. Many things are now considered lawful which go against his revealed word. Are we like Lot in Sodom? Mourning because of this situation, and all that is going on? Mourning about all that goes on in the world, and in our own land?

Dare we be like Job of old, content to receive good or bad from His hand, so long as it fulfils His purposes, and brings glory to His name? Rejoice if you receive good; and if adverse situations buffet and perplex us, let us trust in Him, that He will bring us through. Do we know in our heart of hearts that after the trials here, we shall be inheritors of a better place, which is beautified by His presence in the heavenlies?

So let us look forward to the future, whatever it holds for us. Christ must have lived a life of dreadful anticipation of the agonies He would undergo on that cross. But he moved forward, bringing life, healing and acts of compassion to many as He taught us better the ways of His Father, and His will for us.

As we are called Christians because we follow Him, let us be like Him in bringing His word to all and sundry as opportunity arises, and encouraging one another with words and actions of compassion as we await His Return in glory. Does the day darken? Abide in Him always. The dawn will soon be here. The promise to those who revere His name is that the sun of righteousness [The Son?] will rise with healing in His wings. See Malachi 4, v2.

*Philip*

# December Events 2020

As the December Newsletter has been printed just prior to the end of the 2nd lockdown on 2nd December things may change, but we will endeavour to let people know as soon as possible, and all changes will be posted on the chapel's website.

## Christmas Cards 2020 and

## Christmas Food Bank Appeal - Saturday 12th December, 2020

We are opening the porch area to chapel on Saturday 12th December between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 12 noon, for people who wish to bring their Christmas cards and Food Bank donations. A box will be located in the porch for your cards, and if you are also bringing Food Bank donations (already in carrier bags please) these can also be placed in the porch area. The cards can then be sorted into the different people/families and distributed during the week following, the food donations will also be delivered during the following week. For those families with several households, could we ask wherever possible, for just one member of each family to bring the whole families cards/food donations to chapel helping to avoid congestion and keep social distancing.

If you are in a support bubble or know of anyone living near you who may require help in bringing things to chapel please contact them and offer to bring their cards or food donations to chapel for them.

One or two extra volunteers would be appreciated on the 12th December to receive and sort the cards etc., and help with distribution would also be appreciated.

If you need any further information please don't hesitate to ring/email me.

*Angela*

## Do You Need Help?

Could we remind any member of our church family, that should you need any help, to please contact any of the Church Elders or Officers who will do their best to help or will try and put you in contact with someone who can.



# Prayer Matters

Do you sometimes feel ‘down’? I have felt that way lately, unable to contribute in so many of the ways I used to! Then I was cheered by a letter from my brother, and I will quote it in part.

He says, “I have always thought it a remarkable expression of how the Apostles gave themselves ‘to prayer and the ministry of the word.’ Prayer is mentioned before the ministry. The private work is mentioned before the public duty. It is as though the Lord is letting us know that He regards prayer a more important work for us than publicly speaking to our fellow men. Both are necessary, but wrestling in prayer in private needs to become our primary activity, as it is that (in the economy of grace) that draws down the indispensable blessing of the Most High.”

So! Is Church our shut down! This and that discontinued? Never mind! We can **all** continue in prayer, rattle the gates of heaven as it were, until the Lord send down deliverance and blessings upon us once more.

## So let’s pray:

- That God will continue to be with us in these unprecedented times, directing, blessing and protecting us;
- That we may be able to grow in the Lord and in His grace;
- That we will be able to include everyone in every way as we move forward with new methods and technology;
- That the forthcoming vaccine will be effective in restoring some sense of normality to our world.

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](mailto: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.



# Christmas Services

***Please note that any of these events can be altered or cancelled at short notice due to the ongoing pandemic!***

As previously announced in chapel, the visit to the Retirement Homes and the Carol Singing around the Tree in Brierfield Centre have already been cancelled.

**Sunday 20th December**      10.30 a.m.      Carol Service – unfortunately this year the lunch has had to be cancelled.

**Thursday 24th December**      6.30 p.m.      Christmas Eve Carol Service, in Chapel if restrictions allow, if not we are hoping to hold a short service outside at the front of chapel (if wet - bring a broly).

**Friday 25th December**      10.30 a.m.      Christmas Day Service – *There will be no service in chapel*, a pre-prepared service will be streamed online - the link sent out in good time in the usual way.

**Sunday 27th December**      10.30 a.m.      Family Service - Preacher David Leeming

**Sunday 3rd January 2021**      10.20 a.m.      Re-Dedication Service to be led by the Elders and Ordination of Peter Lewis as a Deacon

**Any changes will be announced in Chapel or posted to the website. We will endeavour to keep you informed as much as we can.**







**COVID-19:**

**THANK YOU FOR SAVING LIVES**



**YOU'VE HELPED MORE THAN**  
**36,000**  
**PEOPLE**  
**IN 24**  
**COUNTRIES ACROSS**  
**FOUR CONTINENTS**

**YOU'VE PROVIDED:**

FOOD AND SOAP FOR  
**1,200**  
PEOPLE IN UGANDA

**PPE FOR**  
FOR MEDICAL  
WORKERS IN  
CHAD AND NEPAL

SOAP FOR  
**8,770**  
CHILDREN AND TEACHERS  
IN MOZAMBIQUE

FOOD PARCELS FOR  
**2,604**  
PEOPLE IN PERU



**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

		Preacher	Door Steward	Morning Service Leader
6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	David Tattersall	A. Higgin	K. Rowland
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	John Caddy	S. Dunham	M. Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Carol Service	E. Wilkes	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
27 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.30 am	David Leeming	C. Leeming	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
2021 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	10.30 am	The Elders	J. Greenwood	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
10 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	Geoff Hartley	C. l'Anson	G. Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
17 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	Howard Ellison	G. Leeming	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
24 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	Nigel Leeming	A. Higgin	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
31st January	10.30 am	Daniel Parkinson	C. Leeming	K. Rowland
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		

**PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS PAGE MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE**