



The Baptist Church,
Brierfield

December 2021



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 l'Anson, or by email to newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk



Are you ready?

(A short message by Nigel Leeming)

Are you ready for Christmas? It's a common question but what comes to your mind first? Shopping?, social events? Or travel?

The message that Jesus is the reason for the season is more relevant now than ever. The birth of Jesus is a time of great joy and celebration around the world are you ready for this? Are you ready to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas?

The key to Christmas lies not in the details of the shepherds visit or the journey of the wise men, but in the identity of the one whom they came to worship. In Jesus God became "flesh and made his dwelling among us" John 1:14

As we read the New Testament we can grasp something of the enormity of what that means. In it we are reminded that 'baby Jesus' is also Lord of Lords King of Kings Revelations gives us a glimpse of the struggle between Good and Evil. Yet we are reminded that in the end, it is through the humility and self-sacrifice of "the Lamb" (Jesus), that they are forces of evil and overcome.

Jesus puts aside the Glories of Heaven for a humble stall As the Carol puts it

*Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting lord
Late in time behold Him come,
Off-spring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail, the incarnate deity
Pleased as Man with men to dwell Jesus, **our** Emmanuel.*

Now that's surely worth celebrating!

Are you ready to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus? Are you ready to actively Worship him at our services this Advent and Christmas?

We look forward to welcoming all to our services. Christ the everlasting Lord and the whole Church family together again in Chapel

Nigel

Advent/Prize Giving Sunday - 28th November

Christmas is definitely just around the corner when we begin our Advent season on the 28th November, with the lighting of the first candle on our Christmas wreath. Today is also the children's Prize Giving day, thank you for supporting them.

Church Meeting - Tuesday 30th November – 7.30 p.m.

Hopefully you will have received this (December) Newsletter before the end of November and will be aware that there will be a Church Meeting on Tuesday 30th November at 7.30 p.m. in the Primary Room. Please make every effort to attend - all members of the Church and congregation are welcome.

Rainbows & Brownies Monday's 6.15 – 7.15 p.m.

Rainbows and Brownies meet on Monday 6th and 13th of this month, the 13th will be their last meeting of 2021. They will then re-start on the 10th January, 2022.

Commissioning of New Deacons

Both Peter Lewis and Mark Wilkes will be formally commissioned as Deacons on Sunday 12th December, 2021. This part of the service will take part following the Children's section. Please come and support your new Deacons.

Evening Service – 12th December 6.00 p.m.

Our Evening Service will be led by Janice. Please join us for these services with a difference.

Fellowship Group – 15th December 7.30 p.m.

The Fellowship Group are holding a Christmas Family Night with buffet Supper (£2 per person). Everyone is invited please let Glenys or David know if you are coming. If you join us please bring a £1.00 present to exchange with someone else. They should be marked male or female. Please note this is not the In-between group it is for all adults. Come and enjoy yourself.

Shoebox 2021

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Shoebox event this year. The boxes have now been delivered to the Distribution Centre and are beginning to be sent around the world in time for Christmas. Thank you for support.

Bible Studies/Prayer Meetings

Please pray for these meetings having read Philip's articles in this newsletter.

Month	Tues 7.30 p.m. (led by Philip)
January	11 th , 25 th
February	8 th , 22 nd
March	8 th , 22 nd

Christmas 2021

PLEASE NOTE ANY OF THESE EVENTS CAN BE ALTERED OR CANCELLED AT SHORT NOTICE DUE TO THE ONGOING PANDEMIC, ANY CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CHAPEL.

As mentioned in chapel, the joint churches visit to all the Retirement Homes on the 12th December has had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Hopefully, the events below will be going ahead (fingers crossed).

Saturday 18th December at 10.45 a.m.

Carol Singing around the Tree in Brierfield Centre. We are hoping to record this event and send out DVD's to the Retirement/Nursing Homes which will include individual messages from each of the churches.

Sunday 19th December – 10.30 a.m. – *Carol Service*

Carol Service – and this year, a Christmas lunch. There is information and a sheet to fill in if you can help in the newsletter. Details are available from Gillian and will also be announced in chapel.

Friday 24th December - 6.30 p.m. – *Christmas Eve*

Christingle Carol Service, in Chapel.

Saturday 25th December – *Christmas Day*

This year we are streaming the Christmas Day Service. There will be no service in chapel on Christmas Day. DVD's will be circulated to those without computer facilities during the week leading up to Christmas Day.

Sunday 26th December

10.30 a.m. Family Service - Preacher David Leeming

Sunday 2nd January 2022

Re-Dedication Service 10.30 a.m. to be led by the Elders.



Prayer Matters

A special call to pray for the next year regarding our Youth Work

When I first came to this chapel, I was given a paper with suggested prayers for the week to be used day by day. I still use it! Monday's prayer was for the young people and those who taught them in any way. I am not suggesting that this prayer call should be so prolonged, but that it should be acted upon.

Now as we enter the initial Post Covid era, this call to prayer needs to be recognised and acted upon urgently. Due to previous Covid restraints and daily life happenings (as well as our young people growing up!), our chapel's work amongst the young people has declined.

It is very important that we work with the young people in many ways. In life generally, our culture denies and decries the presence of God. Even in School assemblies, religion (and especially Christianity) is regarded as more or less irrelevant. Yet our traditional laws are based in the main on Christian ethics. They have given the UK a name as a tolerant society.

But now many harmful things that are decried by the Bible as wrong are seen as both good and normal, and are even advocated. We as Christians must seek to counter that false belief. So suddenly, our Youth Work has become more important, and a means whereby we can give a true picture of right and good behaviour as well as teaching Biblical truth.

In our chapel we have a

- Sunday School
- Jam (Jesus And Me) Club for the children to enjoy
- Rainbows
- Brownies

These pages are a call to earnest prayer for the future of this youth work within our fellowship.

Not only do we need to pray for those who work in the Sunday School, and run the various clubs that they may be a good example to the youngsters and have the ability to relate to them, but also to be practical, and encourage the young people within our families and circle of friends to come along to join in and hopefully receive a solid ethical and moral basis which will colour their thoughts and lifestyle in the future.

We would encourage mothers, aunts and uncles, grandmothers, and perhaps even neighbours to encourage young children within their sphere of influence to come along to these meetings for the youngsters.

At present we have a

- Sunday school, which takes place while the morning service is celebrated;
- Rainbows and brownies take place on a Monday evening;
- The Jam Club runs on a Friday evening.

Please pray and act where you can to support our chapel as it seeks to influence young people for good.

Let's pray for

- The young people, that they will grow up knowing right from wrong, and knowing the Lord Jesus and all that he has done.
- Those who teach and work in these differing societies, that they may be good examples to the children, able to relate to them, and be blessed in all that they do.
- That as a fellowship we may be instrumental in laying a good moral and religious foundation which will ensure a life built upon Biblical truth.

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.

BIBLE STUDIES

Following a review of the Bible studies, a few changes have been made.

Firstly, my personal thanks for those who have supported the Monday morning Bible Studies over the past few weeks. But as you will probably have realised, they have been poorly supported in the main, and so have become difficult to run, while the evening one, in which the content of the Monday session was repeated, has been popular. This is the opposite of the pre-Covid position, when the morning one was the better supported.

It is with sorrow therefore that we announce that the Monday morning sessions will be discontinued. In their place in the New Year, I will be conducting the evening sessions once a fortnight, to which all are invited. These will commence on the 11th January at 7.30, and will run fortnightly as far as possible from that date.

However, I realise that some are not able to attend in an evening, or perhaps a Tuesday evening is out of the question. For these, and anyone else interested, the Studies will be available online as outlined last month. If you would like a copy of the study notes online, please contact me on philip.rowland@virginmedia.com

The present series is called 'Dipping into Joshua' because it is not a consecutive verse by verse study of the whole book, but will deal with the major themes and teaching to be drawn from it.

Philip

		Preacher	Door Steward	Morning Service Leader
5th December	10.30 a.m.	Geoff Hartley	J. Greenwood	E. Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Kath		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
12th December	10.30 a.m.	Grahame Baldwin	C. Leeming	M. Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Mark		
	6.00 p.m.	Janice Greenwood		
Carol Service & 19th December Christmas Lunch	10.30 a.m.	Carol Service	G. Leeming	K. Rowland
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Peter L.		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
26th December	10.30 a.m.	David Leeming	D. Mullarkey	J. Greenwood
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip/Janice		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
2022 2nd January	10.30 a.m.	The Elders	S. Dunham	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Mark		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
9th January	10.30 a.m.	Howard Ellison	B. Baldwin	D. Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Janice		
	6.00 p.m.	Howard Ellison (Healing Service)		
16th January	10.30 a.m.	Danny Cliffe	R. Bolton	G. Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Kath		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
23rd January	10.30 a.m.	John Caddy	D. Driver	J. Greenwood
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip/Mark		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
30th January	10.30 a.m.	Kath Rowland	J. Greenwood	S. Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Peter L.		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		

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