



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

December 2022



*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**

52 Sandiway Drive, Briercliffe, Burnley, BB10 2JS  
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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](mailto:newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk)



# The birth of Christ

*(A short message by David Leeming)*

The gospel of Luke is the only gospel whose writer related the birth of Jesus to world events. Palestine at this time was under the rule of the Romans. The emperor Caesar Augustus, the first Roman Emperor was in charge. The Roman rulers who were considered to be gods stand in contrast to the tiny baby in a cattle trough who was truly God in the flesh

The Roman census was taken to aid military conscription and tax collection. The Jews didn't have to serve in the Roman army but they did have to pay taxes. Augustus's decree went out in God's perfect timing and according to God's perfect plan to bring His son into the world. The government forced Joseph to make the long trip to be registered and pay his taxes God controls all history and by decree of the Emperor Augustus Jesus was born in the very town prophesied for His birth (Micah 5 v 2) even though his parents didn't live there.

It is obvious we can see God in control of these events just as we can be sure that God is in control of our lives. At this Christmas time, let's remember this that God is in control of world events and we need not fear, only trust in Him and accept this baby born to a virgin in a stable is the Christ who went to the cross for our sins and rose again defeating death and because He lives we can live for eternity if we know Him and serve him.

The last two Christmases have been very poor in attendance We all know the fear of COVID and how it spoilt everything, but this Christmas let's get back to where we were before the pandemic. Christmas eve saw the Church almost full please play your part and join us at all the special services.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Hope to see you at all of the celebrations

*David*

## Bible Studies/Prayer Meetings

Please pray for these and attend if at all possible, starting at 7:30pm.

December	6 <sup>th</sup>
January 2023	10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>
February	7 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>
March	7 <sup>th</sup>

## Warm Room

We have launched our "Warm Room", which operates each Thursday evening from 6.30 - 8.00 p.m. serving Tea/Coffee & Biscuits. Now this is up and running volunteers are required each week, and if you can help please speak to Janice as soon as possible.

## Rainbows & Brownies

Meet on Monday's 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> of December at 6.15 p.m. They will then re-start on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. Special Evening - your support at their **Carol Service on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 6.30 p.m.** would be much appreciated, an additional attraction is that they will be having a cake stall (contributions gratefully accepted).

## Brierfield Churches

Brierfield Churches meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 a.m. at our Church. Christmas Retirement Home Visit Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> 2.30 p.m. starting at Marsden Heights - All Churches - All Homes - only two people from each church will be allowed - volunteers from our church needed to help in taking part - Carols Around the Tree - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.45 - 11.30 a.m. Everyone welcome.

## Evening Services

11<sup>th</sup> December *leader:* Janice.

## Fellowship Group – Wednesday 14th December at 7.00 p.m.

for a Christmas Party - all adults welcome. Please give your names to David/Glenys.

## Church Secretary Job Vacancy

Following the Church Meeting on 15th November, we are pleased to report that Mark Wilkes was officially voted in as our new Church Secretary and will commence his duties on the 1st January, 2023. Please continue to pray for Mark throughout the coming months, as he takes on this new and very valuable role within our fellowship.

## Shoe Boxes

Thank you to everyone who took part in any way in this now - annual event. Your 30 boxes are on their way and will hopefully bring some joy to the children of Ukraine this year. - Special thanks to Janice for organising this event again this year.

## Stamps & Collectables

Thank-you to everyone who has contributed Stamps, First Day Covers, and any other collectables over the past years. I will be sending the last parcel early December to BMS. I am looking for another recipient of these items so please continue to bring these items to chapel. Thank-You.

## Christmas Lunch - Sunday 18th December

Two lists will be on the notice-board in the Primary Room - one for if you wish to attend and one for help with the foods required. Please watch out for these and complete as needed.

## Christmas Dates and Events 2022

The Christmas programme of services and events are listed on a separate page in this newsletter.

# Prayer Matters

Doubtless many of us have seen many nativity plays, where one of the constant themes is “No Room At The Inn!” I know that I have used that theme for prayer matters before,

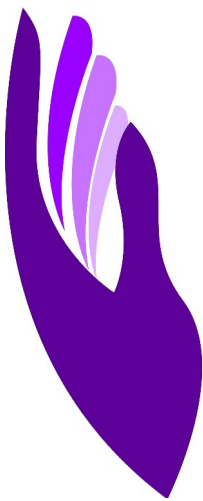
But this time I’m not asking for us to make room for Jesus, but asking whether we have made room in our thoughts and actions for the words of Jesus. When He says “Go!” will we go? When he whispers instructions to us through the Holy Spirit, will we take any notice?

This Christmas, when He says “Love one another, even as I have loved you”, let us do this to our utmost.

How can we show this? It is not the largeness of the present we may have given, but the loving thoughts behind it that count. So let us encourage one another in love in the Lord.

## Let’s pray

- That as Christ has loved us, so we will love one another.
- That we will seek out those who need love, and show them not only our love, but He who loved and died for us to save us from our sins.

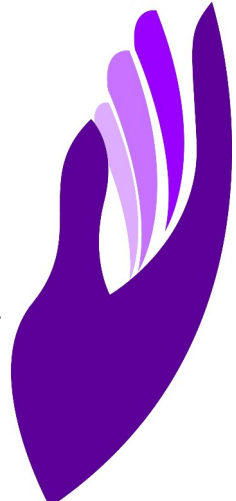


**May I remind you** that if you have an urgent need for prayer, such as sickness, or one of the problems of life, please contact Philip on:

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.



# “the church was earnestly praying to God”

*(A short message by Nigel Leeming)*

Despite the efforts of many ensuring we had a service every Sunday over the pandemic and despite the work undertaken to keep the building safe the numbers worshipping together has decreased. This coupled with recent illnesses and mobility issues has resulted in some very worrying worship attendances. Last Sunday, 20th Nov, we had another low attendance and at time of writing, Monday 21st lunchtime, there were only 5 viewing online! (However, I accept this may involve be more than 5 people viewing)

The reduced Sunday Worship attendance is also replicated in other aspects of Church life. The all but loss of the Sunday School, only 12 people present at the recent important Church meeting and low numbers attending Bible Studies on a Tuesday night.

These are bleak times and ultimately unsustainable.

We ALL need to act. Review our commitment and what gifts each of us can offer to our Church Family. In last month's Newsletter we touched on Act 12 and the need for prayer. Vs 5 “So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him”. On Sunday 8th January we intend to have an afternoon of Prayer in the Chapel. The Chapel will be open 12 till 6 pm for prayer when we will conclude with a brief service. All are welcome any time in the afternoon, but we are looking for 8 volunteers to be assigned to specific 45 minute sections from 12.00 pm to ensure coverage.

Please put it in your diary so we can all get on our knees, earnestly pray, seek guidance, encouragement, for each of us be more committed and prioritise Jesus in our lives.

A list will be going up soon or feel free to contact me for specific time slots.

*Nigel*

<b>2022</b>		<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>Morning Service Leader</b>
4th December	10.30 a.m.	Susan Western	C. Leeming	E. Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Mark		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
11th December	10.30 a.m.	Bea Foster	B. Baldwin	M. Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Kath		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>EVENING SERVICE &amp; COMMUNION - Led by Janice</b>		
18th December	10.30 a.m.	Geoff Hartley	E. Wilkes	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Peter		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
25th December	10.30 a.m.	Mark Wilkes	G. Leeming	D. Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip/Janice		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
<b>2023</b>				
1st January	10.30 a.m.	Elders	D. Leeming	G. Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Kath		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
8th January	10.30 a.m.	John Caddy	S. Dunham	S. Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Peter		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
15th January	10.30 a.m.	Howard Ellison	J. Greenwood	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Janice		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
22nd January	10.30 a.m.	Geoff Hartley	A. Higgin	J. Greenwood
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip/Mark		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
29th January		Martin Ashby-Smith	C. Leeming	N. Leeming
		David/Peter		
		<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
<b>PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS PAGE MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE</b>				



A watercolor illustration of a night sky. The sky is a deep blue, filled with numerous small, yellow stars. A single, larger, bright yellow star with a soft glow is positioned in the upper center. Below the sky, there are dark, silhouetted mountains. In the foreground, a town is depicted with warm, yellow and orange lights emanating from its buildings, suggesting a peaceful evening. The overall style is soft and artistic, typical of watercolor painting.

# Peace on Earth

# Christmas 2022

**Sunday 11th December - 2.30 p.m.**

## **Christmas Retirement Home Visits**

Christmas Retirement Home Visit Sunday December 11th 2.30 p.m. starting at Marsden Heights - All Churches visiting All Homes. Only two people from each church will be allowed, volunteers from our church needed to help in taking part in the services.

**Monday 12th December at 6.30p.m.**

## **Rainbows & Brownies Carol Service**

Your support would be very much appreciated, and an additional attraction is that they will be having a cake stall (contributions gratefully accepted).

**Saturday 17th December at 10.45 - 11.30 a.m.**

## **Carol Singing Around the Tree in Brierfield Centre**

with Brierfield Churches.

**Sunday 18th December - 10.30 a.m.**

## **Carol Service**

*Preacher will be Geoff Hartley*

Carol Service followed by a Buffet Christmas lunch. Please add your name to either or both Lists regarding the lunch, which will be displayed on the notice-board in the Primary Room.

**Saturday 24th December - 6.30 p.m.**

## **Christmas Eve**

Carol Service, in Chapel. Please see Janice who requires volunteers to help with reading etc. during this service.

**Sunday 25th December - 10.30 a.m.**

## **Christmas Day**

Traditional Christmas morning service. This will be led by Mark.  
The service will be streamed.

**Sunday 1st January, 2023 - 10.30 a.m.**

## **Re-Dedication Service**

This service of Re-Dedication will be led by Nigel. This is a special day when all members should be present.

*Everyone is welcome at all of the events, except the retirement home visits. Any changes to the plans will be announced in church during the Sunday Service. We look forward to seeing you there.*



Brierfield Baptist Church, Brierfield, BB9 5LH

