



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

December 2023



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

***Please do join us.***

## Sunday Services

We are in Chapel each Sunday and ask that you join us to worship our Lord Jesus Christ together and to share in the fellowship of the Church family.

The services start at 10:30 am and are also streamed live on YouTube - check our website for the service link.

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

Midweek Activities as announced.

**Secretary – Mr Mark Wilkes**

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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)*



# Sheila Dunham

We note with sadness the death of Sheila Dunham. It has hit many of us and her family as it was so unexpected. Sheila was a friend to many, she was always ready to stand in when folk were unable to fulfil their duties. She was a welcoming face on the door, many have remarked on this. We will all remember her with great affection and I hope someone will fit into her shoes. To Frank, her twin brother, and Barbara, his wife, we send our love and sympathy and assure them we will be praying for them. We rejoice that all pain and suffering is past and that she is in the Saviour's presence.

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## Items of Interest & Dates for your Diary

### Bible Studies/Prayer Meetings

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

December	5 <sup>th</sup>
January	16 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>

### Fellowship Group

Meet on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30 p.m. which will be the Christmas Party, and 10th January will be our AGM, when we arrange our programme for 2024. All Adults are welcome to join us. If you wish to join us for the Christmas Party then please let Glenys or Bernice know.

### Evening Services

Evening services have changed to the last Sunday of the month instead of the 2nd Sunday, as previous. Please note there will be no Evening service on the last Sunday of December as this is New Years Eve. The Evening service in January will be on the 28th, with a leader to be confirmed.

### Carols By The Tree In Brierfield

Will this year be held on the steps of the Methodists Church, please join us to sing carols on Saturday 16th December at 10:45 – 11:30am.

## Retirement Home Visit

The annual Christmas Retirement Home visits to sing Carols will take place on Sunday 10th December if you can join us see David or Nigel, starting at 2:30pm.

## Christmas Day Service

This year it has been decided that due to poor attendance last year, that we would have an online service on Christmas day. We will be recording this service during December and we want everyone in the congregation to participate! We will let you know dates for recording shortly. We do hope that you will take a little time out of your Christmas morning and share in celebrating the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, by watching the broadcast.

## Family Praise Service

Our December Family Praise Service will be followed by Pizza and is planned for the 31st December, with January's on the 28th followed by Pie & Peas.

## Music Group Rehearsals

Music group rehearsals take place each Friday at 18:45 with an extra rehearsal for the Praise Service on Wednesday before the service. If you can play an Instrument or Sing and would like to join the group then speak to Melanie, Morgan or Keith for more details.

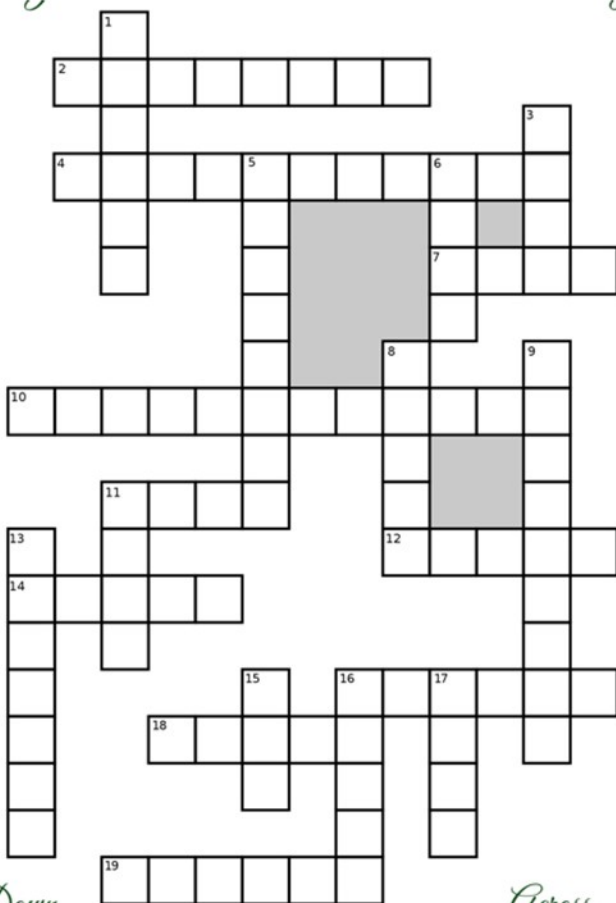
## Church Meeting

An early reminder the next Church meeting will be held on the 5th March 2024 starting at 7:30p.m.

## Elders and Deacons

Over the next few months we will have to appoint more Deacons and an Elder. These are very important positions and we must take our time, and above all seek the Lord's help in choosing the right people. The first requirement is that they must be Church members, a requirement for this is being Baptised by total immersion. Other requirements are set out in scripture. A good place to start is Titus Chapter 1 v 5 to 9, and 1Peter chapter 5 verses 1 to 4. If you wish someone to be considered you should get their agreement, any current Elder will be willing to help you should you need to talk.

# Puzzles



*Down*

*Across*

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. The coming of _____                | 2. Those tending their flock in the field |
| 3. The Wise Men followed a _____      | 4. _____, Holy Night (2 words)            |
| 5. The birth scene of Jesus           | 7. Jesus, _____ and Savior                |
| 6. One of the Three Wise Men's gifts  | 10. One of the Three Wise Men's gifts     |
| 8. Mary's baby                        | 11. The mother of Jesus                   |
| 9. The town where Jesus was born      | 12. Jesus came to save our _____          |
| 13. The Angel who visited Mary        | 14. A heavenly messenger                  |
| 15. Jesus is the son of _____         | 16. Baby Jesus slept in a _____           |
| 16. One of the Three Wise Men's gifts | 18. "For the _____ of God"                |
| 17. Christmas refrain                 | 19. Mary's husband                        |

# The Birth of Jesus Bible Quiz

**Which prophet said, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son"?**

- a)Isaiah                      b)Jeremiah                      c)Ezekiel                      d)Daniel

**What does the name *Emmanuel* mean?**

- a)God is for us                      b)God is with us                      c)God loves us                      d)God saves us

**What did the prophet Micah say about Jesus' birth?**

- a)He would be born in Bethlehem                      b)He would be laid in a manger  
c)He would be visited by shepherds                      d)He would be raised in Nazareth

**What is the name of the angel who appeared to Mary?**

- a)Uriel                      b)Raphael                      c)Michael                      d)Gabriel

**Who sang, "My soul doth magnify the Lord"?**

- a)Elisabeth                      b)Angels                      c)Mary                      d)Joseph

**The angel said to Mary that Jesus would reign over the house of which Old Testament character?**

- a)David                      b)Solomon                      c)Jacob                      d)Abraham

**What was the name of the old prophetess who saw Jesus in the temple when he was presented to the Lord after his birth?**

- a)Huldah                      b)Deborah                      c)Hannah                      d)Anna

**Which Caesar decreed that all the world should take part in the census?**

- a)Augustus                      b)Julius                      c)Nero                      d)Claudius

**Who said, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and glory of thy people Israel," when he saw Jesus?**

- a)Joseph                      b)Simeon                      c)Zacharias                      d)Angels

**Which prophet said, "Out of Egypt have I called my son"?**

- a)Hosea                      b)Jeremiah                      c)Isaiah                      d)Malachi

**Who told Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their sins?**

- a)Shepherds                      b)Mary                      c)Simeon                      d)Angel of the Lord

**How long did Jesus remain in Egypt?**

- a)Until the barley harvest                      b)Until the death of Herod  
c)Until he was five years old                      d)Until the rising of the first full moon of the year

**What sacrifice did Mary and Joseph offer when the days of purification were complete after Jesus' birth?**

- a)A young lamb and two pigeons                      b)A young goat  
c)A young lamb                      d)Two turtledoves or pigeons

**Who succeeded Herod after his death?**

- a)Archelaus                      b)Caesar Augustus                      c)Herod Antipas                      d)Alphaeus



Read the story below. Find and circle the words that are **underlined**. The words can appear in any direction: horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwards.

## The True Story of Christmas

More than 2000 years ago, there lived a young woman named **Mary**. She was preparing to be married to a man named **Joseph**.

One day, an **angel** appeared to Mary and said, "Listen! You will soon have a son, and you will name him **Jesus**. The baby will be holy and will be called the Son of God."

Around the time for Jesus to be born, the Roman rulers ordered everyone to return to their hometown to be counted.

Joseph and Mary had to travel to the town of **Bethlehem**. When Joseph and Mary arrived at Bethlehem, the town was very crowded. They had to stay where **animals** were kept.

While they were there, baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him with pieces of cloth and placed him in a **manger**.

That night, in a field near Bethlehem, **shepherds** were looking after their sheep. An angel appeared to them and said, "I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in Bethlehem, a Savior has been born. He is **Christ** the Lord!" Then many more angels appeared, praising God for the birth of Jesus.

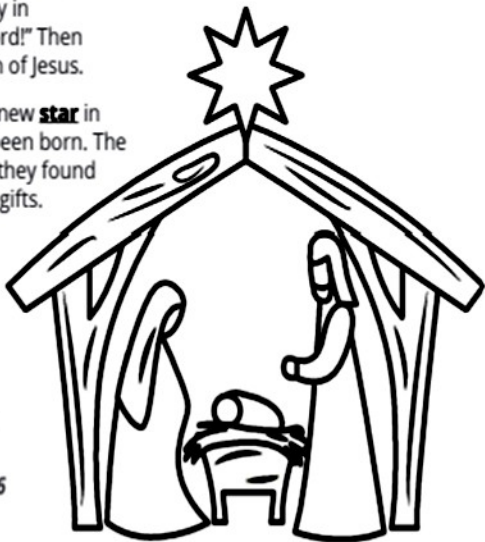
Sometime later, **wise men** from the east saw a bright, new **star** in the sky. They knew it was a sign that a great King had been born. The wise men followed the star to look for the child. When they found Jesus, they bowed down, worshiped him and gave him gifts.

This is the true story of **Christmas**. Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born on earth because he loves us very much.

*For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.*

John 3:16



# Last Months ANSWERS

H	A	O	N	L	U	F	I	C	R	E	M	G	R	G
D	D	W	O	R	L	D	L	Y	D	S	H	E	M	R
M	E	T	A	D	K	R	S	D	E	A	M	N	E	A
U	S	L	N	S	R	I	A	P	N	E	V	E	S	C
L	S	Y	B	A	A	A	F	V	M	R	R	R	S	I
T	E	N	A	U	N	L	Y	B	E	C	O	A	E	O
I	N	V	C	D	O	E	E	E	D	N	V	T	L	U
P	L	E	O	O	Y	R	V	N	N	I	A	I	E	S
L	I	T	D	D	E	T	T	O	O	I	F	O	M	W
Y	V	G	O	D	S	G	R	A	C	E	V	N	A	O
K	E	S	I	M	O	R	P	O	B	H	N	G	L	B
N	F	R	U	I	T	F	U	L	F	T	H	I	B	N
U	S	O	W	T	Y	B	O	W	T	R	A	S	S	I
R	I	G	H	T	E	O	U	S	L	A	M	I	N	A
D	T	N	E	I	D	E	B	O	T	E	R	G	E	R

Mystery Answer:  
DESCENDANTS



# Prayer Matters

At the moment we have 20 people in touch with each other via the Prayer chain. We have had many requests for prayer especially over the last few months and are constantly praying for the health and welfare of our families and friends.

This month is full of Christmas plans. Plans for our homes and families, plans for sharing and giving and plans for our fellowship together. Our church fellowship hopes to be busy singing, praising and worshipping together. We will also be meeting informally over festive food. This is a busy time of year for us and in all this we never forget those who need extra love and care. May God help us in His work in spreading His love to all those we meet.

To the forefront we pray for peace throughout the world and we include all who are innocently suffering in war zones at this time.

Psalm 67: “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that His ways may be known on earth, His salvation among all nations.”

God Bless,



Kathryn

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Telephone: 01282 541029

*Please leave a message if there is no immediate answer*



# Christmas 2023

## December 17<sup>th</sup>

10:30 Family Service Led By Sunday School & Janice  
*This Service will be followed by Christmas Buffet Party*

## December 24<sup>th</sup>

10:30 Morning Service Led By Mark  
18:00\* Carols By Candle Light Led By Nigel

## December 25<sup>th</sup>

10:30 Christmas Service (*Recorded Service on YouTube*)

## December 31<sup>st</sup>

10:30 Worship Praise Service Led by The Music Group

## January 7<sup>th</sup>

10:30 Rededication Service Led by The Elders





## HARNESSING THE SUN



*New solar panels are making healthcare more accessible in Chad!*

**“The first thing I did in the morning at the hospital was to listen for the sound of the generator. It was the first thing to tell me if a child had made it through the night” – BMS World Mission doctor, Tom Spears**

At the crossroads of north and central Africa, Chad is a tough country to live in. Life expectancy is 52.5 years and, on average, children only receive 2.5 years of education. N’Djamena, the capital of Chad, suffers from regular power shortages and it’s not uncommon for people to experience five to six hour power cuts. In a country that, on average, has 264 days of sunlight a year, attention has moved to solar power.

Guinebor II Hospital (G2) has always relied on diesel fuel and an array of solar panels to power the wards – however, this system had issues. The solar system had a small charge and couldn’t be fixed by anyone in Chad. When someone required oxygen, a diesel generator would have to be brought round to power the concentrators. Medication was going out of date due

to overheating storage fridges, babies were delivered by torchlight and the wards had no fans.

But, excitingly, a recent project has enabled G2’s solar capacity to increase threefold, massively reducing its dependence on diesel. The project was also completed alongside a Chadian electrician, equipping the community with the skills to repair and maintain the solar array. With all these improvements, new wards being built now have fans pre-installed. There’s no need for generators in the wards anymore. And amazingly, the pharmacy now has air conditioning!

Throughout this, God’s timing has been evident. The day the new panels were installed, the oil refinery in N’Djamena closed. With diesel practically unobtainable across the country, without the new panels, G2 would have had to pause surgery for six weeks. Thanks to your support, G2 can continue to stand on the frontline of healthcare, reaching those that need it most. A flick of a switch, something we take for granted – but a weighty and treasured decision in Chad.

Read more about the incredible work made possible by the new solar panels at G2, here:

[bmswm.org/HarnessingTheSun](https://bmswm.org/HarnessingTheSun)

<b>2023</b>		<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>Service Leader</b>
3rd December	10.30 a.m.	Susan Western	A.Higgin	N.Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Mark	Communion: End Of Service	Peter Lewis
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
10th December	10.30 a.m.	Rev Keith Richardson	J.Greenwood	M.Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Peter	Communion: Start of Service	David Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
17th December	10.30 a.m.	Sunday School Janice	G.Leeming	E.Lord
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Janice	Communion: End Of Service	Mark Wilkes
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
24th December	10.30 a.m.	Mark Wilkes	E.Wilkes	M.Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Peter	Communion: End Of Service	Nigel Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	<b>CAROLS BY CANDLE LIGHT</b>		
31st December	10.30 a.m.	<b>Family Praise</b> Led By Worship Group	B.Baldwin	<b>Family Praise Service</b>
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Janice	Communion: End Of Service	Janice Greenwood
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
7th January	10.30 a.m.	Elders Rededication	C.l'Anson	B.Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Mark	Communion: End Of Service	Grahame Baldwin
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
14th January	10.30 a.m.	Mark Heaton	D.Driver	G.Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Janice	Communion: Start Of Service	Peter Lewis
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
21st January	10.30 a.m.	John caddy	J.Greenwood	D.Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Mark	Communion: End Of Service	David Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
28th January	10.30 a.m.	<b>Family Praise</b> Led By TBC	A.Higgin	<b>Family Praise Service</b>
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Peter	Communion: Evening Service	Mark Wilkes
	6.00 p.m.	<b>EVENING SERVICE - TBC</b>		

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