



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

February 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 I'Anson, or by email to [newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk)



# More Lockdown Thoughts

*(A short message by Philip Rowland)*

As I write this, we are still in lockdown. How can I think of the future? Again I say, 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.

Above all, it is a time for standing firm and listening to God when all around us is confusion and despair. The Early Church was being bitterly persecuted by the Jews. That too was a time of standing firm, and seeking to be obedient to God’s leading, for church members and leaders alike.

Most people have heard of Saul (or the Apostle Paul as he is better known), but what about Ananias from Damascus (mentioned in Acts 9)? We know little about his background and nothing about what happened to him after these events. He wasn’t one of the apostles and does not appear to have been a major church leader. In all probability, he was just an ordinary believer in the Lord Jesus. However, his act of obedience was vital in God’s plans, for if he had not visited and prayed with Saul, then Saul would not have received God’s healing and empowering to be the great missionary he was to become.

It’s easy to think we are only important in God’s plans if we are church leaders or in full-time Christian work. Yet Ananias shows us what a huge impact the obedience of one ordinary person can have. He did God’s will not by just laying hands on the blinded Saul, but by showing his previous enemy love by calling him a ‘brother’ (v17).

How this must have moved the former persecutor of Christians, and demonstrated God’s grace that Paul was later to write about so often. And what a difference Ananias’ obedience made to both Saul – and the whole course of human history. Is there anything God has been calling you to do? A person to help perhaps, a career path to take, or an activity to get involved in? In this period of constraint, be encouraged by the story of Ananias; God can really work through you.

*Philip*

# Quiz Nights and Prayer Meetings

We are continuing to have prayer meetings and quiz nights on Zoom. The details are as follows:

<b>Quiz Night</b>	<b>Prayer Night</b>
	2nd February
9th February	
	16th February
23rd February	
	2nd March
9th March	
	16th March
23rd March	
	30th March

All meetings start at 7:30pm.

If you wish to join in with any of the above, please let Elizabeth have your contact details and she can then invite you to join in.

## 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

Sometimes when we pray, it feels that our prayers are weak and ineffective. Is God even listening, we wonder? It feels as though our prayers just get lost in the air around us, rather than reach up into the Throne Room of our Lord God. It's hard to put into practice what Jesus said, about believing as we pray that God is answering, especially when we sometimes have to wait years for that answer to be seen.

In the Bible, Peter had been captured, and the authorities intended to execute him. The disciples – and it seems a great number of them – had gathered together to pray for him. This occasion was hardly a great example of believing prayer, however, for even when the newly released Peter stood at the door, he was not allowed in, and they doubted when they had seen!

Yet their prayers had been answered, and in a most miraculous way. So I often urge myself, and I now urge you, to continue in prayer, not despising those prayers or their lack of Biblical beauty or language or content, for if they are asked in the name of Jesus, they will be received by God the Father, and in His good time, answered.

## So Let's Pray...

- That God will continue to be with us as He has in the past;
- That we may be able to grow as individuals and as a people in the Lord and in His grace;
- That even in this new Lock-down we will know His presence and blessing.
- And 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:

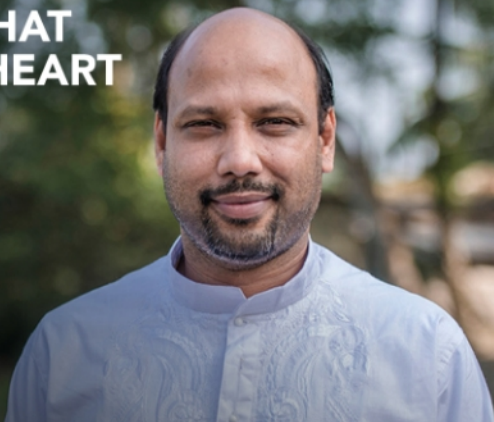
Email: [philip.rowland@virginmedia.com](mailto:philip.rowland@virginmedia.com)

- 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.



# THE STORIES THAT BROKE BEN'S HEART



*Please pray for India.*

**"I heard stories of people boiling leaves to feed their children," says BMS World Mission worker Ben Francis. "My heart broke."**

When India went into lockdown last March, people were left with a sense of dread. Workers in cities had no way to earn a wage, and people in remote villages already living on the bare minimum now had nothing. How can you provide for people, both physically and spiritually, in the face of such despair?

Many of the people Ben works with in Odisha (formerly Orissa) and West Bengal live in villages only accessible by boat. With no transport running from the cities, there was no way to bring food in. It wasn't Coronavirus that was killing people, it was starvation.

For many people, it seemed there was no hope. But, thankfully, they were not forgotten. Our amazing supporters prayed for India and gave to the BMS Coronavirus appeal, and thanks to you, we were able to help towards the distribution of over

28,000 food parcels in Delhi and Kolkata. Thanks to you, Ben and his team could bring life-saving food to families in desperate need. But that's not all they brought with them.

"I didn't want to use this opportunity to preach the gospel," says Ben. When reaching out to people nearing starvation, he felt God was just asking him to provide physical necessities like food and medicine. It wasn't long however before he realised that the love of God was just what people wanted.

In a situation without hope, God opened doors like never before. People who had never wanted to hear the Word of God were listening to Ben's testimony and asking for prayer. "A lot of new people have come to the Lord," said Ben. "Those people now have hope."

To people living in darkness, God has become a life-saving light.  
Read the whole story right here:  
[bit.ly/IndiaCovidResponse](https://bit.ly/IndiaCovidResponse)

# HUNDREDS OF UK CHRISTIANS RESPOND TO THE BEIRUT EXPLOSION



*You stood with the people of Beirut.  
And you made a difference.*

**At least 200 people were killed in a massive blast that decimated the port area of Lebanon's capital Beirut on 4 August 2020.**

A further 300,000 people were left homeless after the explosion, with thousands of others injured and grieving the loss of loved ones. At the time of the disaster, the people of Lebanon were already in the midst of an economic crisis, and cases of Coronavirus were on the rise.

In a moment of great need, over 300 individuals and 32 church families responded to BMS World Mission's Beirut appeal, giving generously to support people whose lives were shattered by the blast.

People like four-year-old Malak. Malak's home was severely damaged in the explosion and her family lost all their possessions, staying instead in emergency accommodation provided by BMS' partner in Beirut. After the blast, Malak experienced significant regression in her

development. She went from being a happy and vibrant child to being withdrawn, silent and distracted.

You helped support a playground for children like Malak, staffed by counsellors and volunteers. Day by day, this loved little girl has begun to express herself through art and play. Her anxiety and distress are reducing and, while Malak plays and talks with volunteers at the BMS-supported playground, her mother is having some respite to work through her own trauma.

"Seeing children expressing their feelings while having fun and smiling for probably the first time after the explosion is enough to bring joy to my heart," says one of the trained volunteers.

Thank you for making Malak smile. Thank you for standing with the people of Beirut. Thank you for giving to the BMS Beirut appeal.



Thank you so much for helping rebuild in Beirut. Hear more stories from the people behind the blast at:  
[bit.ly/RebuildingBeirut](https://bit.ly/RebuildingBeirut)

	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Leader Up to Children's Hymn</b>	<b>Children's Bible reading</b>	<b>Leader From Children's Hymn  If Required</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>Daniel Parkinson</b> Live	Melanie	Genesis 48 V 1-24	
7 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>John Caddy</b> Live?	Elaine	Daniel 6 Vs 1-23	
14 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Kath Rowlands</b> Live	Elizabeth W	Jonah 1 Vs 1-17	
21 <sup>st</sup> February	<b>Stephen Wells</b> Live?	Mark W	Luke 10 Vs25-37	
28 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Geoff Hartley</b> Recorded	Nigel	Ephesians 6 Vs 10-18	<i>Required</i>
7 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Graham Baldwin</b> Recorded?	Gillian		Janice
14 <sup>th</sup> March Mothers Day	<b>Nigel Leeming</b> Live	Janice		
21 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Philip Rowlands</b> Live	Melanie		
28 <sup>th</sup> March	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	Declan		
4 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Howard Ellison</b> Live	Elaine		

Please note if you are unable to take part please swap with others.

If you are preaching and/ or you have reading in advance please forward to Nigel so we can arrange readings to be read and recorded by other volunteers.