



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

January 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**

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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)



## God so loved... that he gave his only Son (John 3 v 16) (A short message by Donald Leeming)

It might seem a little unusual so soon after Christmas and as we face a new year to bring this text to mind – but is this not what Christmas is all about. We give presents as part of Christmas, but surely the greatest Christmas present, and the only true present, is the giving of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the book of Judges we read of a strange person called Samson, the world's strongest man. We read that Samson loved Delilah, however there is not a shred of evidence in the Bible that Delilah loved Samson. To the contrary she begged Samson to tell her the secret of his strength and then she betrayed him time and time again. Samson loved Delilah but he knew he could not trust her.

Love is strong and Samson was waiting to give her what she wanted – his strength was in his hair, which she shaved off and then we find Samson weak and his enemies captured him and among other things they blinded him and we see him, as the poet puts it, “Eyeless in Gaza, at the mill, grinding with slaves”. How are the mighty fallen, it's not the end of the story (read Judges 6 verses 13 to 16) It's as far as we want to go.

Samson loved Delilah but she did not love him. God loves us and by nature we do not love Him, but Jesus came to earth to die in our stead and reconcile us to God. The just died for the unjust, as Charles Wesley puts it. Sons of man became children of God. And those who know Him as their saviour know that He will never leave them, or forsake them.

We face a new year. The past year has hardly been one of the best for us, it had more than it's share of anxious days, worries and difficulties, and the prospects for the new year are not good.

BUT as a Christian we have a saviour who is always with us. One who has never failed us in the past and in Him and with Him we can go forward – look with confidence at the future, knowing that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

## Job Vacancy

A vacancy has occurred for the position of Safeguarding Person within our fellowship. Sarah has tendered her resignation and we as a church are grateful to for her hard work, under sometimes very difficult circumstances. We cannot function as a church which welcomes children, without a Safeguarding Person. Could we ask all members of the congregation and church membership to think, pray and hopefully for someone to come forward and take on this very important role. Should anyone wish to discuss further please contact either David or Angela.

## Christmas Eve Offerings

The offerings received on Christmas Eve have been split between the Hospice and the Food Bank.

## Re-Dedication Service - Sunday 2nd January at 10.30 a.m.

Our annual re-dedication service will take place during our morning worship

## Evening Service - Sunday 9th January 6.00 p.m.

The Evening Service will be held in the Primary Room and will include a short Healing Service led by Howard Ellison. Please join us for this service with a difference.

## Rainbows & Brownies Monday's 6.15 - 7.15 p.m

Re-start on the 10th January, 2022

## Bible Studies/Prayer Meetings

Please pray for these and attend if at all possible.

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

## Officers Meeting - Thursday 13th January at 7.30 p.m.

There will be an Officers Meeting on Thursday 13th January in the Church Lounge.

## World Day of Prayer - Thursday 20th January at 7.30 p.m.

This short service which includes all Brierfield Churches will be held at the Methodist church. All welcome.

## J.A.M. Club

We are looking to bring back JAM Club in this New Year. We would like to get an idea as to numbers interested in attending and ages, so that we can work out activities that may be of interest.

We are expanding the age group that can attend to Year 4 and up, with a start time of 18:30 until 20:30 on a Friday once a month First meeting **Friday 28th January at 6.30 p.m.** (Other dates to be arranged).

If you have Young People who are interested, or know of anyone that may be interested, please let Mark or Elizabeth know. Thank You.

## Twitter

Do you have a Twitter account? If you do why not follow us @BrierfieldBapt to keep up to date with activities, news and reminders of Meetings etc.

## Fellowship Group

The Fellowship Group will be holding their AGM in January - date will be confirmed in the Notices early January.

## Used Stamps

If you have been saving your used Christmas stamps, please bring them to chapel as soon as you can so these can be forward to BMS to raise much needed funds.

## Flower List for 2022

The list on the notice-board at the front is starting to fill up - please check if any dates you require are still free.

# Prayer Matters

A new year! None of us knows what it holds for us. Some look forward in hope for a new beginning. Some fear what may emerge in various ways. But in all this, we must put our trust in the Lord God, who has all things in hand.

We may not see the way forward, but He knows it already, intimately. And as we go forward, we can but put our hands in His, and let Him lead us. The way may not be easy. We are not promised easy paths, but that in all things He will be with us.

## So Let's pray for

- Courage to face the future;
- Willingness to listen to His word and obey His calling;
- A determination to continue meeting as a fellowship whenever possible;
- And protection from Omicron or whatever variant raises its head in the future.

## Please continue to 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](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.





## LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS IN AFGHANISTAN



*Please keep Afghanistan in your prayers.*

### **The world watched with sadness as the Taliban takeover swept across Afghanistan earlier this summer.**

Please do keep praying for the Afghan people, and for BMS World Mission workers who serve in the country, as they navigate how best they can serve communities in need. We caught up with Mary\*, who served in Afghanistan until the recent evacuations, about her hopes for the nation's future.

"Leading up to the evacuation, we started to notice [in our area of the country] that there were fewer women on the streets. The men started to grow beards. And there was a real atmosphere of fear and hopelessness. All we could do was pray.

"[Since the Taliban's takeover] there is some kind of normalcy. The men are back at work, the children are back at school.

A lot of the women are still at home. But they've said that it's a very uneasy normality. We've heard what the [new government] have said about allowing women to do various jobs and so on. But that happened last time. We need to see what they actually do rather than what they say they're going to do.

"If you look at the situation in Afghanistan over the last century, let alone the preceding ones, it has always been a tough place. But there is still light there. There are still people who are working, Afghans and expats, who are still working to bring life and hope there and to improve the lot of these people. So we don't want to despair. We can be sad, but actually, our God's bigger than this.

"My hope is that that God will turn this around. Because I don't know anybody else that can. And for that we desperately need people to pray and to keep praying for Afghanistan."

*\*Name changed.*

Please do keep the nation of Afghanistan in your prayers. Read more of Mary's thoughts on the BMS website: [bit.ly/Afg-QA](https://bit.ly/Afg-QA)

		Preacher	Door Steward	Morning Service Leader
2nd January	10.30 a.m.	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 - (Includes a 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		
6th February	10.30 a.m.	David Livermore	C. Leeming	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald/Janice		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
13th February	10.30 a.m.	Jim Lockhead	G. Leeming	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel/Mark		
	6.00 p.m.	Grahame Baldwin - (Sankey Evening Service)		
20th February	10.30 a.m.	John Haynes	D. Mullarkey	M. Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip/Kath		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
27th February	10.30 a.m.	Daniel Parkinson	E. Wilkes	E. Lord
	Vestry Prayers:	David/Peter L.		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		

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