



The Baptist Church,
Brierfield

January 2026





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

35 Simpson Street, Hapton, Burnley, BB12 7LJ

telephone: 01282 774847 email: markwilkes35@btinternet.com

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

Together

(a short message by Cynthia I'Anson)

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, I want to begin by giving thanks for you.

One of the greatest blessings of this church is the genuine love that flows through it. I see it in the way you care for one another, pray for each other, and show up in times of need. It's real, and it's beautiful, and it reflects the heart of Christ.

Yet as I have prayed about the year ahead, I have felt the Lord stirring something in me—a desire to see those bonds of love grow even deeper and wider. Though we're one church family some of us don't yet know each other as well as we could. There are friendships waiting to be formed, gifts waiting to be shared, and encouragements waiting to be spoken across the whole body.

Paul reminds us that "*in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*" (Romans 12 v 5) What a gift that is—and what an invitation to pursue.

Going forward I would like to encourage you to consider attending Bible Study where we learn more about God and His impact on our lives, and in the process get to know and pray for each other better. I would also encourage you to come to the monthly evening service, which is less formal and offers the opportunity to ask questions to help you more fully understand the message.

We don't know what events will happen over the next year, we don't know what challenges we will face as a church or what personal challenges we will face. We do know that whatever happens we are in God's hands and if we stay close to Him, and each other, we can only prosper through the year ahead.

Cynthia

Items of Interest & Dates for your Diary

Bible Studies/Prayer Meetings

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

January	20 th
February	3 rd & 17 th

Friendship Group: Meet on Wednesday January 14th, when we will be having their AGM, when we decide the 2026 activities. The Friendship Group is open to any adults and if you would like to join us just come along or speak to a member of the Friendship Group.

Evening Services: The next Evening Service will be on the 25th January which will be led by Cynthia and then the 22nd February, Leader to be arranged. Evening Services are followed by Holy Communion.

Maintenance Team: We meet most Tuesday mornings in the New Year at 9:30 a.m. for a couple of hours to carry out maintenance on the Church building, If you have any DIY skills, or can pick up a paint brush, then please come along and give us a hand.



Officers Meeting: The first officers meeting of 2026 is on Thursday 22nd January at 7:30pm all officers are requested to attend.

Church Meeting: The next church meeting will be held on the 27th January at 7:30pm all Church Members are encouraged to attend.

BMS Christmas Appeal: If you've watched our Christmas Day Service you will have seen the BMS Christmas Appeal for 2025. If you would like to give the details are below if you wish to give individually, or if you wish to contribute to a collection from the Church, then speak with Elizabeth who is co-ordinating the collection.

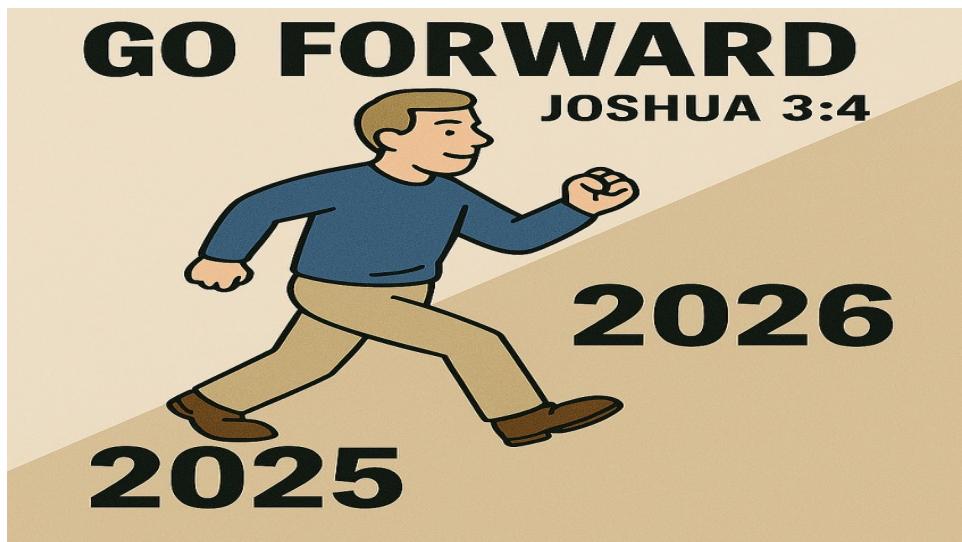
Give online or by scanning the QR code
www.bmsworldmission.org/gift



Give by phone on **01235 517641**
Monday to Friday 10 am - 4 pm
Please mention the **Lebanon Christmas Appeal.**

Family Praise Services: Dates for 2026 Praise & Munch Dates are on the notice board in the primary room and you can put your name down on the list if you can help organise one of the lunches.

Praise & Munch Rota 2026		
Date	Menu	Organiser
25 th January	Pie & Peas	
22 nd February	Soup & Sweet	Elizabeth
5 th April	Easter Breakfast	
26 th April	Pie & Peas	
7 th June	Anniversary Buffet	
28 th June	Bacon & Sausage Butties & Sweet	Hannah
26 th July	Pie & Peas	
30 th August	Jacket Potatoes	
27 th September	Harvest Ploughman's Lunch	Elizabeth
25 th October	Pie & Peas	
29 th November	Soup & Sweets	Angela
20 th December	Chrismas Buffet Lunch / Party	



Puzzles

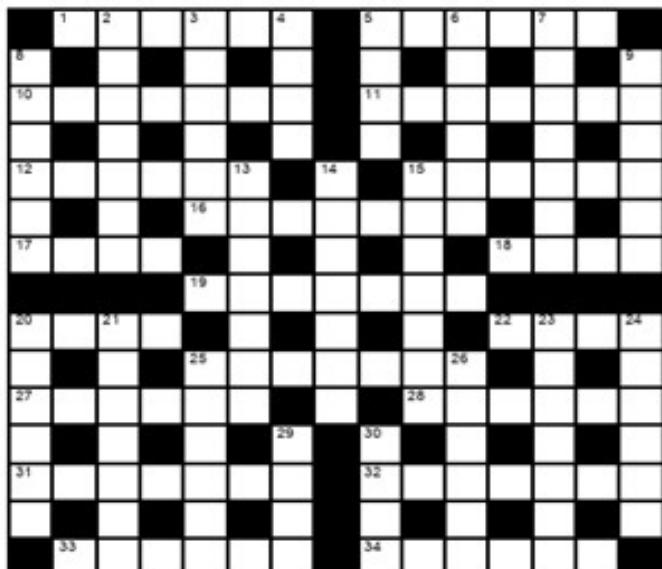
BIBLE CROSSWORD IX

Across

- 1 A nation referred to in the O.T. and the N.T. (6)
- 5 Teacher; leader (6)
- 10 Letter (7)
- 11 Blood was painted on these (7)
- 12 "Out of the ____ came something sweet" (6)
- 15 Where was Jacob? (6)
- 16 Made unholy (7)
- 17 Ezekiel lay on this for three years (4)
- 18 Very old (4)
- 19 Sure (7)
- 20 Ethiopia (4)
- 22 Remaining (4)
- 25 Naaman's maid, for example (7)
- 27 Seraiah's father (6)
- 28 Land (6)
- 31 Hold inside (7)
- 32 The teaching place of the Ethiopian eunuch (7)
- 33 Jews are renowned for celebrating these (6)
- 34 A child of Caleb & Maachah (6)

Down

- 2 The lame man was too slow to reach this type of water (7)
- 3 To wait on, or be present (6)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 4 Untruths (4)
- 5 The Promised Land was said to be flowing with this (4)
- 6 We have all done this (6)
- 7 Late in the day (7)
- 8 Animals (6)
- 9 A Philistine city (6)
- 13 Sisera, for example (7)
- 14 A nation in the O.T. neighbouring Israel (7)
- 15 Anyone who comes to God must do this (7)
- 20 Together with 'time' this happens to all (6)
- 21 Did Nadab and Abihu have a match for this? (7)
- 23 Self scrutiny before communion (7)
- 24 Half the time of Jesus' fasting (6)
- 25 Lebanese trees (6)
- 26 Provided by God when we are tempted (6)
- 29 Far extremes of the earth (4)
- 30 Luke Part II? (4)

NEW YEAR

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

BLESSINGS	GUIDANCE	NEW BEGINNINGS	RENEWAL
CELEBRATE	HOPE	NEW YEAR	SPIRIT
COVENANT	JOY	PEACE	STRENGTH
FAITH	JOYFUL	PRAYER	THANKFULNESS
FORGIVENESS	KINDNESS	PROMISE	UNITY
FUTURE	LIGHT	PSALM	WISDOM
GRACE	LOVE	PURPOSE	WORSHIP
GROWTH			

**Mary and
Joseph look
for Jesus.**

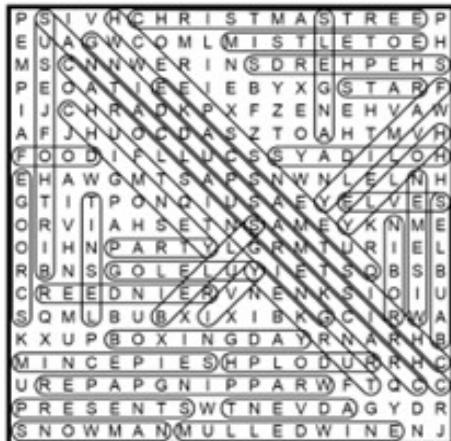
Luke 2:41-52



Last Months ANSWERS

CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

SOLUTION



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD - SOLUTION



Across: 1 Bethlehem, 5 Two, 8 Joel, 9 Reed, 10 The, 12 Ad, 14 Aser, 15 Virgin, 20 Meet, 21 East, 22 Jacob, 23 Ruth, 25 Omer, 27 Elisha, 30 Ears, 32 Ed, 33 Add, 35 Ague, 36 Lead, 38 Inn, 39 Shepherds.

Down: 1 Born, 2 Twelve, 3 Eat, 4 Eve, 5 To, 6 Wear, 7 Old, 8 Jesse, 11 Hal, 13 Or, 16 It, 17 Grace, 18 Naomi, 19 Star, 20 Mary, 24 Herod, 25 Oh, 26 Manger, 28 Led, 29 So, 30 Eden, 31 Jews, 32 Eli, 33 Ash, 34 Dip, 37 An.

Prayer Matters

As the year starts perhaps we could share this thought.

Use God as your steering wheel
not as your spare tyre.



Let us not be one of those who uses Him just for emergencies.
We will get through life better with God helping us to steer on the difficult road.

As Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth and the life.” John 14 verse 6

Paul reminded the Colossians to “Be persistent in prayer. Keep alert as you pray, always giving thanks to God.” Colossians chapter 4 verse 2.

Through prayer God WILL steer us on the road through life.

May God keep us safe on our journey

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Kathryn

If you have anything you would like to be added to the prayer chain,
please send it to Kathryn:

Email: bbprayer@outlook.com
Mobile: 07305 541647

Please leave a message if there is no immediate answer

CHALLENGE

Building locally sustained ministry in Asia

Our partners in Bangladesh, Thailand and India trained an encouragingly high number of people in 2023. However, as we seek to build local ownership and sustainability, growth in numbers should be matched by growth in local sources of income. Unfortunately, the percentage of income from local sources remains stubbornly below the 30 per cent mark and appears to be a long way from our target of 50%. Despite its counter-intuitive nature, we are committed to promoting a model of sustainable, modest growth and turning down external funding with our partners.

Persecution among church planters in India

Church planters in India have been subjected to widespread persecution. In September we received reports from one partner that the government was tracking evangelistic activity on social media and setting up helplines so the public could report evangelistic activity in their area to the authorities. Another partner reported persecution in Kashmir, Manipur (where BMS responded to the attacks on Christians through our relief fund), Haryana and Uttar Pradesh (where several partner-trained church planters are working).

Over 23,000 people – the vast majority in India – have been trained in disciple making and church planting across partners in India, Bangladesh and Thailand, which is an encouragingly high number. However, we are aware of a significant gender imbalance within that figure, with men outnumbering women by a ratio of three-to-one. Annet-Ttendo Miller,

BMS Gender Justice Co-ordinator, continues to work alongside partners to create practices and policies aimed at gender equity.

LIVES TRANSFORMED

Draw near with dumplings

In our appeal at the beginning of 2023, you met Som and Thew, a young couple who had recently come to faith in the village of Wang Daeng. This joy-filled couple are now helping lead at a new church planted in the nearby village of Ban Dara, where their son recently got baptised!

When we first met Thew, he shared his desire to one day make and sell his own food – a very different trajectory from his exhausting daily work as a manual labourer. Along with Suree, Wang Daeng's first believer, this dream has been made possible.

Located in front of Wang Daeng's church building, their recently launched food stall selling fried chicken, sticky rice and fried dumplings has been immensely popular in the community, especially with the children walking past it daily on their way to school! With every dumpling sold, Thew is providing for his family, building community and drawing newcomers into church with an inviting (and delicious!) welcome.

Thew



Weekly Service Rota					
January			February		
4 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	The Elders Jack Wellman Glenys Leeming No Service Mark Wilkes	1 st	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Bea Foster Nigel Leeming Jack Wellman No Service Janice Greenwood
11 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion On Return	Keith Richardson Gillian Fogg Mark Wilkes No Service Nigel Leeming	8 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Start Of Service	David Jackson Melanie Lewis Bernice Baldwin No Service Grahame Baldwin
18 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Tim Doggart Janice Greenwood Anne Kellow No Service Cynthia l'Anson	15 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Gareth Earnshaw Elaine Lord Janice Greenwood No Service Peter Lewis
25 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Evening Service	TBC Glenys Leeming Neil Binns Led By Cynthia Neil Binns	22 nd	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Evening Service	Peter Foulds Elizabeth Wilkes Angela Higgin TBC David Leeming
PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS ROTA MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE					

Vestry Prayers					
January			February		
4 th	Nigel	Neil	1 st	Cynthia	Kathryn
11 th	Cynthia	Janice	6 th	David	Neil
18 th	David	Peter	15 th	Nigel	Janice
25 th	Nigel	Mark	22 nd	Cynthia	Peter
PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS ROTA MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE					