



The Baptist Church,
Brierfield

July & August 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



Let's Pray with Passion Together

(A short message by Nigel Leeming)

We continue along the apparent endless journey out of Covid 19. It's been a difficult road for many. Many are anxious for the future. Some are facing very serious health issues of loved ones.

One highlight of the lockdown has been the regular zoom prayer meetings. Unfortunately, it hasn't been accessible to all due to technical and/or health reasons but for the band of regular attendees it has been a time of blessing and **prayer has been answered.**

Prayer should be the root and fountain of all we do as a Christian family and individually. I know many pray alone for our Church and individuals and the prayer chain is proven to be an essential tool in our fellowship.

In our Bible readings we are reminded regularly how Christ regularly took time out to pray and how essential it was to his time here on earth. This continued by the Church. It is essential that we spend time with God even in (or more correctly especially in) the darkest times of our lives.

Look at **Acts 12**. The early Church was being actively persecuted. Herod had killed James the brother of John by the sword and in vs 3 we see Peter is arrested. The outcome for Peter and the early Church looked bleak.

What would you, we, I, do faced with such seemingly impossible circumstances? In verse 5 we see what the early Church did - they undertook "earnest prayer for him (Peter)"

Let's seek Gods help as we face up to life moving forward.

Praying to God

Prayer to God means having an audience with God. It means actually coming into the presence of God – asking and receiving.

Let's make use of the prayer meetings and future Sunday evening and mid-week activities

In Acts 12 'The church' (v.5) joined together in prayer. 'Many people had gathered and were praying' (v.12). The New Testament teaches a lot

about private prayer, but there is even more about praying together. We encourage everyone to join us in these activities.

Let's follow the Example of the Early Church

There are two reasons in Acts 12 why the early Church might not have prayed at all. First, James had been executed (v.2). God had not answered their prayers for James; we don't know why. But it did not stop them praying.

Second, Peter's situation *seemed impossible*. Their choice was either to give up praying or to pray passionately and 'earnestly'

This chapter suggests that they prayed not as a one-off, but for a considerable length of time. **They persevered.**

This was an extraordinary prayer meeting and the results are evident (vv.6–15). In answer to their prayers God acted supernaturally. Peter was freed the night before his trial. God's answer involved visions, angels and chains falling off (vv.6–9). Obstacles were removed. The guards did not bar the prisoners' escape, and the iron gate to the city opened in front of them (v.10).

Peter then turned up at the prayer meeting but his release was so extraordinary that the girl who answered the door, forgot to let him in, and no one else believed it was actually him (vv.12–15)! actually God had done what seemed impossible in answer to their earnest prayers.

The word of God continued to increase and spread (v.24). As John Stott wrote, 'This chapter opens with James dead, Peter in prison and Herod triumphing; it closes with Herod dead, Peter free and the word of God triumphing.'

Times may be bleak, but nothing is impossible for God

Nigel

Condolences

As a church we wish to express our sadness to Kevin and Gillian on the death of Kevin's Mother, Shirley. It has come as a great shock to them both as nothing like this was expected. We want to express our sympathy to Kevin and Gillian and all the family and assure them of our prayerful support at this sad time.. May the Lord bring abiding comfort to all the family. David

Quiz Nights and Prayer Meetings

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

Quiz Night	Prayer Night
6th July	
	13th July
20th July	
	27th July
NONE IN	AUGUST
DUE TO	HOLIDAYS

*** Please note date - changed to 29th due to AGM on 22nd.*

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.

Open Air Service - 18th July, 2021

Due to current Covid Restrictions, the Open Air Service on Sunday 18th July at 6.00 p.m. has once again had to be cancelled.

Food Bank – July / August

Please remember to continue to support the Food Bank by bringing items to chapel. The school summer holidays are not that far away and the Nelson Food Bank will need to build up stocks to support families throughout the long summer holidays.

Advance Notice – Harvest Service - 5th September

As this newsletter covers both July and August together, advance notice is being given for our Harvest celebration. The date is the 5TH SEPTEMBER. There will be one display of flowers and tinned or dried goods can be brought to chapel, from mid August onwards. At the time of writing we still have not had confirmation regarding being able to meet for large social gatherings indoors, so unless notified otherwise

the Harvest lunch will NOT take place again this year. We will be supporting Operation Agri with any monetary gifts and our local Food Bank with the tinned and dried goods.

Updates from the Annual General Meeting

New Deacon

We are pleased to announce that Mark Wilkes was appointed as a Deacon at the AGM. We welcome him to the Diaconate team, and ask for your prayerful support for Mark.

Important Issues Discussed :

- **Evening Services** - Pleased to report that evening services will recommence - but only once a month - after restrictions are lifted, hopefully starting in September. More people are asked to make a special effort to attend these new monthly services.
- **Communion Services** - Possible changes were discussed, but a decision was made to hold these services weekly - date to be announced when this will commence.
- **Bible Studies / Prayer Nights** - were discussed and various alternatives suggested - the Officers were asked to consider and come up with suitable solutions to both of these vital elements of our church life, at their next and/or future meeting(s).
- **Thank-You** - Thanks were given to those in our fellowship who work tirelessly each week to keep our chapel functioning, and who once upon a time again agreed to continue to do this for a further year.

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

Why do these times of trial and testing come upon us? We all have problems in life that perplex us. We all have worries. If it is not our finances, it is our health – or perhaps a family matter that seems unresolvable. Perhaps advancing years make things harder to accomplish and causes us stress in that way. As the wind strengthens a young tree, so adversity will make us turn in prayer to our Lord. Let's not stress about life but trust The Life-giver.

I came across someone's post the other day. It said STRESS makes you believe that everything has to happen right now. But FAITH reassures you that everything will happen in God's good timing.

Give thanks that in Christ you are inheritors of a kingdom that cannot be shaken. Wars in nations, disputes in families, Covid, financial upheavals, and personal disasters may come upon us, but all things are in God's hands ultimately. In all these things, God says, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble, and I will be with you, even as I have promised you."

So Let's Pray...

- For ourselves have we problems? – let us lay them before the Lord who watches over us as the Father watches over even the sparrows.
- Giving thanks for all the times He has delivered us, and trust Him, who is faithful even when we are not, for the future.
- For our country, that Revival may come once more upon us, and God's name glorified as people put their trust in the Lord rather than material worldly things.

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

- 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.



		Preacher	Door Steward	Morning Service Leader
4th July	10.30 a.m.	Geoff Jackson	B. Baldwin	D. Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
11th July	10.30 a.m.	Mark Faris-Robertson	R. Bolton	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
18th July	10.30 a.m.	Philip Rowland	D. Driver	G. Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
25th July	10.30 a.m.	Gerald Norcross	S. Dunham	S. Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
1st August	10.30 a.m.	Mick Huck	J. Greenwood	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
8th August	10.30 a.m.	David Livermore	C. Leeming	J. Greenwood
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
15th August	10.30 a.m.	Rev Keith Richardson	G. Leeming	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 p.m.	OPEN AIR SERVICE - CANCELLED		
22nd August	10.30 a.m.	Stephen Wells	D. Mullarkey	M. Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
29th August	10.30 a.m.	Kath Rowland	E. Wilkes	E. Lord
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		

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