



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

June 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**

52 Sandiway Drive, Briercliffe, Burnley, BB10 2JS  
telephone: 01282 414979 email: [glyang52@virginmedia.com](mailto:glyang52@virginmedia.com)

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)



# What is important?

*(A short message by Philip Rowland)*

We are familiar with the passage telling us that we should love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. That is most important, Jesus says. Then we read that almost as important is “Love your neighbour as yourself”. (Matt 29, 37-39)

How much do we love our neighbour – and come to that, how much do we love ourselves? A person recently wrote that they were listening to a song, and one of the lyrics was ‘how can you love your neighbour if you do not love yourself?’ Looking at Scripture, it can be inferred that this is very much a Biblical concept. If we are to love others as we love ourselves, we should love, (or perhaps need to love) ourselves first.

Do we treat ourselves with care and kindness, and ignore the needs of others? The Bible says that we should love as we have been loved by the Lord Jesus. Do we forget that sometime? Someone has said ‘that when we are kind to ourselves, and ‘speak life’ into ourselves, rather than condemnation for our failings, then we bring light into the world. When we are well rested and full of life and energy, we have the capability to serve others and love them in a way we would not if we were consistently denying ourselves the love, care and attention that that we deserve as the chosen people of God.’

Some Christians can be so hard that they have no time to love, but only condemn others. That is surely not what Christ wanted of us. If we are Christians, we are to be Christ-like, or little Christs if you like, to others. That is the only way we can be said to love as we have been loved by God the Father in sending His Only Begotten Son into the world to die for us. Jesus cared for others above His own self.

Self-care is a term that has recently been popularised in modern culture, and while for some it may be an excuse to act selfishly, we should apply it to our lives using the Word as our guide. Jesus regularly excused Himself to spend time with His Father God. He went away to recharge, to be still, and to get the energy He would need to complete His work. Getting rest and recuperation is not being lazy, but better prepares us for serving and loving others with everything we have to give.

*Philip*

## Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

The church's Annual General Meeting will be held on the 22nd June at 7.30 p.m. All church members have a duty to attend if able to do so, and this year there are several items which require their participation and vote regarding possible changes within the church. Letters will be sent out to church members week commencing Monday 31st May regarding these items. Members of the congregation are encouraged to attend but cannot vote. It is a very good way of seeing how and what goes on in the running of our church.

## Christian Aid, Church Anniversary and Gift Day

Many thanks to everyone who contributed financially to the above special events over the past few weeks - you can be assured that your gifts will be used wisely, both here in Brierfield and throughout the world.

## Door Stewards & Service Leader Rotas

A new 3 month rota for the above will be on the notice-board at the entrance to chapel week commencing 13th June and the rotas commence on the 4th July. The rota sheet also shows the Vestry Prayer rota for the Elders.

## FOOD BANK

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.

## 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.

## 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>
1st June	
	8th June
15th June	
	29th June **
6th July	
	13th July
20th July	
	27th July

*\*\* 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.

# Prayer Matters

It is the beginning of what is known as the holiday season. My Elder's letter this month stresses the need for those occasions when we can for a moment relax from our everyday routines. You will remember Jesus telling His disciples to come aside to a quiet place for a while, leaving the business of the day to day travelling, teaching, and healing campaign of Jesus. So let's take a religious perspective on this.

From what we can see, for the disciples this was often an intimate teaching session with Jesus. For Jesus, it was time spent with and in His Father's presence. And in just the same way, we need that time of refreshing to recharge our batteries.

So, from a daily quiet time to a full retreat, we often need to leave aside the business of our daily routines to be with our Lord. Let us make sure that we come often into His presence. And just think, God is never unavailable, or too busy, to be with us. He never takes a holiday from sustaining and caring for us, His people!

## So Let's Pray...

- That we may find time to come to know God more deeply ourselves, to meditate upon His Word, and so be filled afresh with the Holy Spirit.
- That the Lord will have mercy on us during this pandemic - that the continuing measures taken to protect ourselves will be successful.
- 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](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.





## CHALLENGING STIGMA IN NEPAL

*Your support has made a huge difference to Tham's life.*

**Lockdown has been tough: the places we love out of bounds, spending months at home and not seeing loved ones. Yet, around the world, there are people for whom life is lived in a kind of never-ending lockdown.**

It's not a highly infectious disease with no easy cure that's keeping these people apart from others: it's fear.

Leprosy has low community transmission and can be completely cured with the right medical intervention early on. But the stigma around the disease means that, in many countries, those with leprosy are cast out from families and society: written off as incurable and without hope.

As a young man living in Syangja district, Nepal, Tham had begun learning to live with his leprosy diagnosis. Trips to receive treatment at the BMS-supported hospital in Pokhara were becoming a regular part of his routine. "One day, on my way [to the hospital], I entered a hotel to have

breakfast," says Tham. "The hotel owner was observing my hands while I was drinking my tea. After finishing it... she told me to take the cup along with me. After that, I never went to any hotels, no matter how hungry I was."

Years have passed since that day, and Tham's life has changed beyond recognition. "The situation [around stigma] has changed a lot," says Tham. "People are now more aware of the disease." Wonderfully, Tham has been an important part of bringing about that change through his work as a BMS-supported pastoral counsellor at the same hospital where he received his treatment. Tham's also built a life with his loving and supportive family, and most exciting of all, he's accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour!

Read more about Tham's journey and how your generosity has enabled him to impact others at [bit.ly/ThamsStory](https://bit.ly/ThamsStory)

Sign up for the BMS weekly email update at [www.bmsworldmission.org/update](https://www.bmsworldmission.org/update)

		Preacher	Door Steward	Morning Service Leader
6 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30 a.m.	Geoff Hartley	S. Dunham	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30 a.m.	Howard Ellison	C. Leeming	S. Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30 a.m.	Tim Doggart	J. Greenwood	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
27 <sup>th</sup> June	10.30 a.m.	Mark Heaton	E. Wilkes	M. Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
4 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 a.m.	Geoff Jackson	B. Baldwin	D. Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
11 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 a.m.	Mark Faris-Robinson	R. Bolton	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
18 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 a.m.	Philip Rowland	D. Driver	G. Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>OPEN AIR SERVICE</b>		
25 <sup>th</sup> July	10.30 a.m.	Gerald Norcross	S. Dunham	S. Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 p.m.	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>		
	10.30 a.m.			
	Vestry Prayers:			
	6.00 p.m.			

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

If 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.