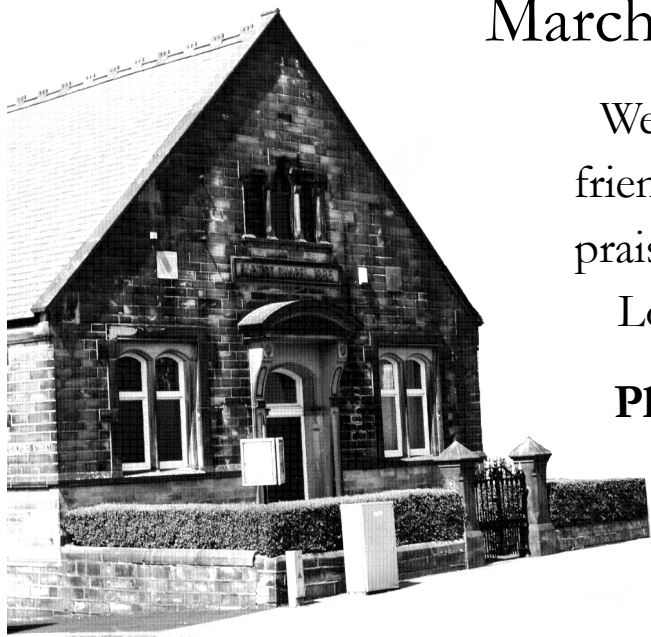


The Baptist Church, Brierfield

March 2017



We meet in a warm,
friendly atmosphere to
praise and worship the
Lord Jesus Christ.

Please do join us

Services every Sunday	10:00am	Prayer Meeting
	10:30am	Family Service
	6:00pm	Evening Worship

Children and Young People's meetings

Rainbows and Brownies	Weekly Meetings	Elizabeth Wellman	01282 690403
Guides	Weekly Meetings	Janice Greenwood	01282 605594
Sunday Club	For boys and girls up to 11 years old	David Leeming	01282 618026
JAM Club (Jesus and Me)	For those in year 6 and above.	Elizabeth Wellman	01282 690403

Mid week meetings for adults as announced

Church Secretary Mr David Leeming, Tel: 01282 618026 or 07811192134

<http://www.brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk>

As most will know over the next few months, we are planning to appoint a new church secretary and others to take on the jobs I have been doing. We also are considering appointing additional Deacons and considering if we should appoint more Elders. This means that when we meet on the 14th March for a church meeting we need to be well prepared.

All church members should realise how important the changes for the future are and should be present, other members of the congregation are very welcome and can make a valuable contribution by showing their support.

My attention was drawn to Acts 13 v1-7 in my daily Bible Reading; I would suggest we all read this passage in preparation for the meeting.

In this passage the early church is about to send someone on a potentially dangerous enterprise, The two chosen are Paul and Barnabus. We must first note that they are very much part of their Christian Community and we should especially note that the initiative came from the Holy Spirit speaking to the gathered church, not to Paul and Barnabus individually.

Look what the church is doing, the whole community is worshipping, praying and fasting. This fact is repeated and note there is no record of long debates and committees meeting. That may have happened, I don't know, but Luke the writer of Acts chooses to emphasise the costly commitment to prayer (v3).

Please also note that the early church was looking to the Holy Spirit to make His will known.

I want to ask YOU a question... How are you personally preparing to help our church make these big decisions? Do we need to revise our way of going about it? Are you looking to the Holy Spirit and spending time in Prayer and worship? I do hope we all are.

David

Gift Day March is the date of the Gift Day and the end of the church financial year, so unfortunately we have to talk money.

The Gift day is on the 19th March. Gift envelopes are available and your gift should be brought to the morning service at 10.30 a.m. If you wish to gift aid your giving, you need to sign the envelope accordingly.

Gift Envelopes for next year are also available. Those who Gift Aid should try to obtain the same number as last year, if it is not in the box please inform Peter l'Anson. Those who do not Gift Aid can take any number.

Can I suggest that you again look at the possibility of using gift envelopes if you do not already use them? They allow you to put on one side your gift to the Lord and even if you are unable to attend, you will be reminded to make the gift the following week. Remember the church expenses continue even if you are not present. It also means that when we receive our income we can put aside for the Lords work first. No one knows how much you give unless you gift aid (we do have to know to reclaim tax but this is known by only two people). So please consider joining the scheme.

Finally, I do not need to tell you that repairs are expensive and much work is required please give what you can for the Lord's Work.

Mothers Day

March 26th is Mother's Day. All mothers and fathers are invited to come with their children to this service and join the rest of us in remembering our mothers, and giving thanks for them. Kath Rowlands will lead the service and we will have a time with the children before they go into Sunday School. As usual, I suspect that all ladies will receive a gift from the children. Following the service, please join us for tea and coffee, etc.

In-Betweens

The next meeting is on the 22nd March. This is a quiz night and everyone is welcome, especially new people. There will be a light supper arranged by Cynthia, we all put £2.00 in and we have a relaxed time of fellowship. Of course, the more there are the better. In April, we meet on the 22nd at 7.30 p.m. for Channel Island Cricket and Glenys is arranging supper. Do join us.

Bible Studies

Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m., and Mondays at 10.30 a.m. Do join us for a time of Praise, Prayer and discussion

Dates for Tuesdays are March 7th and 21st April 4th and 18th Mondays March 13th and 27th and April 10th and 24th.

Coffee Mornings

The next is on Tuesday 4th April at 10.30 a.m. We are invited to the home of Grahame and Bernice. Transport can be arranged please see Cynthia. If you don't know their address see Graham for details But just accept this invitation.

Prayer Meeting

On the 25th April we are planning to meet together to ask for guidance in the appointment of new Deacons and possibly Elders. Also to show us how to proceed secretarial wise. This meeting will be at 7.30 p.m. and we trust everyone possible will be present. The invitation is to both Church members and non-members. .

As many of you will have noticed, there is some deterioration in the plaster on the organ side in the church. We are having this looked at and it may result in us having to use the schoolroom for a week or two. Please watch out for information.

Christian Aid

There is a soup lunch planned for St Lukes, the Methodists are doing House-to-House collection and we have been invited to hold a Breakfast Get together (sounds more interesting than a coffee morning). This is on the 29th April from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. We will be serving Bacon Sausage butties, tea and Coffee. We need help any volunteers should see David. Please also note the date and come for food and a chat.



EASTER SERVICES

Maundy Thursday April 13th

Communion Service 7.00 p.m.
*in the Primary Room, Children and Young
people welcome.*
Led by Geoff Hartley

Good Friday April 14th

Family Service 10.30 a.m.
Preacher: Geoff Hartley

Easter Day April 16th

Communion Service 9.00 a.m.
Followed by Breakfast (names To Glenys)
Family Service 10.30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.
*Preacher at both services:
Rev John Fisher*

Dear Family and Friends

This will be the last update from Dhaka as our departure date of 28 February is speeding towards us. There is still much to do both in our respective work places as well as all the practicalities of clearing an apartment, freighting personal possessions as well as travel arrangements and the immediate plans upon arrival in the UK on 4 March.

Gwen will complete the teaching of the Spiritual Formation course for the B.Th students at CCTB [College of Christian Theology Bangladesh] this coming Thursday. Having just returned from the north of the country where we attended a District Revival Meeting 'boro shova' In Rangpur, this coming week end will see us journey to the south for another gathering, this time in the Barisal and Gopalganj Districts.

Rangpur is very special to us for this is where our good friend Barnabas Hembrom is located and it was sad to say our farewells to him and the folks there. We shall have to go through the 'good byes' on numerous occasions over the next week or so, these are particularly draining emotionally. We have packed our bags several times to see what we can manage within the weight limit but every time we go to a farewell or last meeting, we get another gift. We feel very blessed by the expressions of appreciation and invitations to return to visit.

I am busily seeking to complete items of work and write up information for our hoped for replacements. There is nothing definite as yet but a couple are interested in pursuing the possibility of coming to Dhaka. This will be important as having someone in the country is both valuable for BMS but even more appreciated by the Bangladesh Baptist Church. Please pray that this will all work out in God's good timing and that the work will go on from strength to strength.

Although sad to be leaving people here we are looking forward to seeing family and friends. We shall continue to serve with BMS until the end of May and during this time will be able to visit some of our supporting churches and perhaps make some informal visits to other people and places. We are also planning to attend the Baptist Assembly being held in Harrogate in May. We would value your prayers as we do not know what will be next for us. We plan to take a little time to reflect on our experiences and whilst I move into 'retirement mode' Gwen is keeping an open mind about what she might feel is right for her continued ministry.

We value your friendship, interest and prayers. Thank you for sharing the journey with us in what has been both a challenging and rewarding experience, for which we give thanks to God. We will definitely be seeing some of you soon.

God Bless

Andrew and Gwen

Dates For Your Diary

7th March	7:30pm		Church Lounge
13th March	10:30am	Bible Study	Primary Room
14th March	7:30pm	Church Meeting	Primary Room
19th March	10:30am	Gift Day	Church
21st March	7:30pm		Church Lounge
27th March	10:30am	Bible Study	Primary Room
22nd March	7:30pm	Inbetween Group	Primary Room
26th March	10:30am	Mother's Day	Church
4th April	7:30pm		Church Lounge
10th April	10:30am	Bible Study	Primary Room
13th April	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday Communion Service	Primary Room
14th April	10:30am	Good Friday Family Service	Chapel
16th April	9:00am	Communion and Breakfast	
	10:30am	And 6:00pm—Easter services	
18th April	7:30pm		Church Lounge
24th April	10:30am	Bible Study	Primary Room
24th April	10:00am	Cluster Group meeting	32 Reedley Road
25th April	7:30pm	Prayer Meeting for guidance for future appointments	Primary Room
26th April	7:30pm	In-Between Group	Primary Room
29th April	10:00am	Breakfast get-together for Christian Aid	Primary Room

Prayer Matters:

In Matthew 8, v5ff, we have the story of the Centurion asking Jesus for help. We may have been praying for this, that, and the other, but have we been specific, like the Centurion was when he approached Jesus for help?

We have perhaps identified our need. How do we pray about it to God the Father? Is it just, 'Bless me in all things?' Such a vague indication would do us no good if we went into a shop to buy something. We need to be specific. The Centurion was specific. He knew his need (his paralysed servant, whom he thought a lot of, was desperately ill). So he specifically asked Jesus to heal him. Added to that, he had faith that Jesus could heal, even from a long distance away.



When God seems far removed from us and our petitions, do we have faith that He can and will answer us? So as we pray, let us not only pray with faith, be specific about our needs, but also trust Him to answer our petitions as He has promised to do.

Let's pray that

- God will guide us as we make decisions about the future organising of our Church;
- That as we consider additional Deacons, and possibly even Elders, the Lord will show us in a definite way who He wants to fill the positions in our church in the future .

Please also pray for:

- Our Missionary Contacts – Irene, The Millns (as they enter their well-earned retirement, Rachel, and Natalie);
- That our Church will grow both in numbers and grace as the Lord adds to our number .

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
5th March	10.30am	Harold Hogarth	Kath Hughes	Ruth Hartley
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>J. Parkinson</i>	
	6.00pm	Donald Leeming		
12th March	10.30am	Pat Hayhurst	C. l'Anson	Sarah Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>Nigel Leeming</i>	
	6.00pm	Jeffrey Pearson		
19th March Gift Day	10.30am	Danny Cliff	J. Greenwood	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>P. l'Anson</i>	
	6.00pm	Geoff Jackson		
26th March	10.30am	Kath Rowland	S. Dunham	N.Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>J. Sunderland</i>	
	6.00pm	David Lavendar		
2nd April	10.30am	Open Doors	C. Leeming	M. Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>P. Rowland</i>	
	6.00pm	Adrian Smith		
9th April	10.30am	Susan Western	G. Leeming	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>Jack Parkinson</i>	
	6.00pm	Rodney Steel		
16th April	10.30am	Rev. J. Fisher	Peter Lewis	C. l'Anson
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Donald Leeming</i>	<i>Nigel Leeming</i>	
	6.00pm	Rev. J. Fisher		
23rd April	10.30am	Donald Leeming	R. Bolton	B. Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>P. l'Anson</i>	
	6.00pm	Geoff Hartley		
30th April	10.30am	P. l'Anson	E. Wellman	R. Bolton
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David Leeming</i>	<i>J. Sunderland</i>	
	6.00pm	Howard Ellison		