



The Baptist Church, Brierfield

March 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



Not My Way But Yours

(A short message by Philip Rowland)

The latest David Attenborough series on the BBC was entitled Perfect World. As usual we were introduced to some wonderful creations of the natural world with explanations of how all elements of our planet interact. This is not surprising to Christians as this World was created by one being, God. Unfortunately, as we are all aware, our World is far from perfect due to our misuse of it and mankind's introduction of Sin which broke down our relationship with God.

March is a time of transition for nature as we stare into our plant pots or perhaps gardens and we see plants begin to bud or burst from the soil. Two contrasting Gardens I want to think about are the Garden of Eden and the Garden of Gethsemane. The first was, initially, a truly Perfect World (Gen 2 v 31 "God saw all that he made, and it was very good") but this was soon corrupted by mankind in the form of Adam and Eve as they went against God instruction. In essence their response was "Not your Way but Mine". However, in the second Garden "Not My way but yours" was Jesus' prayer to his heavenly Father.

This month as we lead up to Easter consider the cost paid by Jesus. He was human, he knew and felt pain and yet he accepted his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, took the humiliation, the beatings, and the lifting on the cross all because it was Gods will. Doing it Gods way meant immense suffering and death. But it brought redemption of the whole world and way back to God for us all.

In Matt 26 we see the prayers of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. These are not prayers of resignation, but prayers of great courage as he was willing to follow God's way no matter what. For Jesus, the cost was totally different to anything we face. He took the sins of the whole World on his shoulders. That why in vs 38 it tells how his soul was overwhelmed with sorrow.

In these tough, deeply depressing times it's encouraging to know our Lord has experienced all that we face, and far, far more. He knows what we are going through, and we must look to follow his example by submitting our ways to God.

Our World is no longer perfect but thanks to the actions of Jesus that first easter we have the opportunity for a fulfilling relationship with God and a promise that one day we will meet up in the perfect environment that is Heaven

Nigel

Carole Watson

It was with sorrow and regret we heard of the death of Carole on Saturday 20th February.

Carole had been a church member for some 35 years, but had attended long before that, and her husband (Victor) first came to preach for us almost 60 years ago.

She had lived in Blackpool for quite a number of years, but spiritually her home was at Brierfield. From time to time she appeared at the services and her prayer and giving continued to the end. It was a joy to visit her back in her home, and later in the nursing home. Most of the conversation was about Brierfield people and events, and often would remark she wished she could still be at the services every Sunday.

But we rejoice she is with the Lord. We commit Victor to the Lord at this time and thank God we know well and the blessing brought to our lives.

For ever with the Lord.

Carol and Victor worshipped with us for some time prior to going to live in Blackpool. Victor loved going to the pleasure beach which was the reason they went there. Carol suffered from M S and it got gradually worse as time went on .Eventually they both moved into a nursing home which is where Carol passed away on Saturday February 20th. We thank God for her life and faith to Victor we offer our sympathy and assure him of our prayers at this sad time

New Vicar at St. Luke's, Brierfield

We are pleased to confirm that St Luke's have a new Vicar, he is the Rev Munawar Dinn - he was born in Pakistan to a Christian family, and is married with 3 children . David has written to him welcoming him on behalf of the church and received a reply saying it will be good to work alongside us and the Methodists in whatever way God wants us.. He is also the joint Vicar with St Cuthbert's in Burnley.

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
	2nd March
9th March	
	16th March
23rd March	
	30th March
6th April	
	13th April
20th April	
	27th April

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.

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

As we approach Easter, we are coming to the greatest of Christian Festivals. While Christmas has been overtaken by all the raz-a-matazz and frivolity of the world, the long shadow of the cross leans across the world, and at its foot an open and empty grave.

Some of our older folk may remember old pulpits that were called grave pulpits. Above the pulpit hung a cross on the wall, such as we have in our chapel. And at the base of the pulpit would be an empty hollow, symbolising an empty grave. The whole pulpit was to speak of the all in all work and sacrifice and rising from the dead of our Lord Jesus Christ.

That was a symbol. But we are not celebrating a symbol. But the reality of all that our Lord has done for us. He has taken our sins, borne the punishment for them, died in our place, and risen triumphant from the grave. Let us remember with gratitude, and pray for a greater understanding of this this Easter.

So Let's Pray...

- That we may know afresh our sins forgiven in His Name;
- That reinvigorated we may be able to grow as individuals and as a people in the Lord and in His grace;
- That as soon as possible we may be able to meet together to worship our Lord as a fellowship in our chapel.
- And that the Lord will have mercy on the world in stopping this plague from continuing, and heal the nations as they repent from their sinful ways.

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.





GROW TREES AND CHANGE LIVES IN NORTHERN UGANDA



You can support a life-transforming project in northern Uganda, and help fight against climate change while you do it!

There are devastating deforestation rates in Uganda. Over the past 25 years, the country has lost 63 per cent of its forest cover.

This loss of trees has had a huge impact on the environment – and on people’s daily lives. Poverty rates have increased, with an estimated ten million people now living below the poverty line. And with 90 per cent of the population relying on fuel woods for heating and cooking, skyrocketing prices for wood and charcoal mean that many cannot afford to buy fuel. As a result, rare tree species are being cut down and forests are being destroyed for the charcoal trade.

But BMS World Mission worker Genesis Acaye is passionate about trees. He’s passionate about communities thriving in northern Uganda. He’s passionate about

Jesus. And for Genesis, these three things are inextricably entwined. “Every problem that affects the environment affects us directly. It affects food availability, food quality, food prices,” says Genesis. “That’s why I love to see trees and forests – to see people growing more food, more harvest, famine reducing, people earning more money and living better. It improves lives. It transforms lives.”

And you can help Genesis in his crucial mission. By using the BMS carbon calculator, you can offset your eating habits, your heating, the postage on any parcels you send... and you can use that money to give a long-lasting, life-transforming gift to 30 families in northern Uganda.

Right now, Genesis is preparing to begin a new agroforestry project in two communities. The project has the Climate Stewards Seal of Approval, and Genesis and his team are preparing the ground at two churches to set up demonstration sites. When the dry season finishes in March, trees will be planted and the exciting work will begin. And you can be a part of it.

Use our carbon calculator to support God’s work across the world by offsetting your carbon usage:
bit.ly/BMSCarbonCalculator

	Preacher	Leader Up to Children's Hymn	Children's Bible reading	Leader From Children's Hymn If Required
7 th March	Graham Baldwin Recorded	Mark W	John 9 Vs 1-12	TBC
14 th March Mothers Day	Nigel Leeming Live	Janice	Luke 2 Vs 41-52	
21 st March	Philip Rowlands Live	Elizabeth W	Luke 19 vs 1-10	
28 th March	Palm Sunday Live	Declan Peter L Mark W	Mark 11 Vs 1-11	
4 th April	Howard Ellison Live	Elaine	Luke 24 Vs 1-12	
11 th April	Howard Ellison Live	Gillian	Luke 22 Vs 1-6	
18 th April	Daniel Parkinson Live	Nigel	Luke 22 Vs 7-32	
25 th April	Mark Heaton Live	Melanie	Luke 12 Vs 26-49	
2 nd May	John Caddy Live	Elaine		

Please note if you are unable to take part please swap with others

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.