



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

November 2020



*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](mailto:newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk)



# Returning

*(A short message by Nigel Leeming)*

As we are now well into Autumn and looking to the end of 2020, we can still see no end of the Covid 19 situation. I know from visiting shops and various manufacturing sites many people have embraced the new normal of masks and social distancing. So too we see Children back at school and colleges full time. Some of us may also have returned to recreational events, restaurants and hotels.

At Church too we see people returning but numbers are still low, and we encourage everyone to re- consider joining us on Sunday mornings. All safety recommendations are being followed but if there is a specific concern please don't hesitate to raise them. I know some have underlying health concerns, but we aim to ensure everyone who visits remains and feels safe.

Just as each one of us is unique so the Covid situation and its restrictions has affected each of us in different ways and has developed different concerns.

In Acts 3:2 we read of a lame man who was forced to beg for money at the busy temple gate in Jerusalem. This man had no access to state aid or social services. Instead we are told he relied on gifts from people entering the temple. Just imagine how that man felt? Helpless, desperate, worried about how he was going to get by. I wouldn't blame this person if he had begun to look inward, perhaps had feelings of self-pity and worried about the future.

We read he asked Peter and John for monetary help. Whilst they had no money, they were willing to help. Peter "said look at us". Why? Well as Christ's ambassadors Peter wanted the lame man to stop looking at his own limitations. As the man looked at these two apostles, he would see the reality of having faith in God.

Peter told him "silver and gold have I none, but what I have I give you "in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth walk" Then Peter helped him up and instantly the man's ankles became strong. Not only did the man walk but we read he exceeded even that remarkable gift. We read "he jumped to his feet" and began to walk and praise God. All because he saw the power of the Holy Spirit through Peter. The man saw and put his faith in God.

Charles Spurgeon urged us to "keep your eye on him". When we do, we don't see obstacles or difficulties we see God, the answer to each of our needs.

We meet each Sunday not only to listen to God's word but to take time out to see God and be in his presence. Yes, it is an unusual experience not singing.

Yes, you could watch the service remotely on YouTube, but it is not the same as being part of, sharing and seeing the real thing.

Let's all look at returning to Church. Let's all look away from the troubles and difficulties of this world and look to Jesus.

*Nigel*

# Items of Interest

## Shoebox Appeal - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

Please remember the shoebox appeal – boxes must be at chapel by Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November. Alternatively money or shoeboxes already filled can be given to Janice as soon as you wish – either at Chapel or dropped off at her home. Please remember no liquids, toothpaste or sweets.

## Communion Service - 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

After six months absence, and following requests from some in our congregation a decision has been made to accommodate this within the current restrictions. A communion service will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November at the end of the morning service and this will be taken by Grahame Baldwin, who is also our preacher that day. There will be glasses of communion wine for you to collect at the entrance to chapel as you come in, but could we ask you to please remember to bring your own bread.

## Remembrance Sunday – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Once again due to the Covid pandemic changes have had to be made to the service around the cenotaph in Brierfield Centre. The decision has been made that no more than 6 people can attend. **No members of the public should attend** but wreaths can still be laid after the official party has departed, and this can be done at any time during the remainder of the day. We will be streaming this event on YouTube, and this will be shown in Chapel.

## Prize-giving Sunday – 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Please remember the prizegiving service with a difference – Janice is looking for a few volunteers, and this can include anyone of any age, to make a short film a couple of minutes in length about a book that you have found inspirational to your faith, or that has helped you along the way. If you want more information please talk to Janice who will need your video, either by WhatsApp, or any other method, by the 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Please note that any of these events could be altered or cancelled at short notice due to the pandemic. Any changes will be announced in church and posted on our website.**

## 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

The Covid restrictions remain with us. We are now in the Very High Category. We are fed-up, but we persevere for the common good. We may long for the past, but it is the present we are living in, and the future we have to prepare for, even though we are not sure what that will entail.

We have struggled through the best part of a year, but our morning services have been resumed, for which we must give thanks to our Lord. Sadly there are many areas in the church we need to rebuild. We need to restore Bible Studies, Sunday School and Prayer Meetings, and the various other activities which help bind us together as a family. We need to grow spiritually in the knowledge of the Lord, and to grow practically in love to one another.

The ideal will always be by meeting together face to face; but as another way, perhaps we may have to facilitate various online methods. But at the same time, we must always be conscious that not all will be able to do so. These people must not be forgotten or ignored, but through our love and compassion and understanding included in all we do.

## So let's pray:

- That God will continue to be with us in these unprecedented times, directing and protecting us;
- That we may be able to grow in the Lord and in His grace;
- That our love for one another in the Lord will increase;
- That we will be able to include everyone in every way as we move forward.

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.



# Christmas Services

***Please note that any of these events can be altered or cancelled at short notice due to the ongoing pandemic!***

As previously announced in chapel, the visit to the Retirement Homes and the Carol Singing around the Tree in Brierfield Centre have already been cancelled.

**Sunday 20th December**      10.30 a.m.      Carol Service – unfortunately this year the lunch has had to be cancelled.

**Thursday 24th December**      6.30 p.m.      Christmas Eve Carol Service, in Chapel if restrictions allow, if not we are hoping to hold a short service outside at the front of chapel (if wet - bring a brolly).

**Friday 25th December**      10.30 a.m.      Christmas Day Service – *There will be no service in chapel*, a pre-prepared service will be streamed online - the link sent out in good time in the usual way.

**Sunday 27th December**      10.30 a.m.      Family Service - Preacher David Leeming

**Sunday 3rd January 2021**      10.20 a.m.      Re-Dedication Service to be led by the Elders and Ordination of Peter Lewis as a Deacon

**Any changes will be announced in Chapel, but please check December's newsletter and the churches website for any changes.**



# Operation Agri's Presents with a Purpose

## Thank You!

Last year OA had orders for more than 400 cards, for Christmas, birthdays, and other occasions, which raised over **£11,000** to help our project partners! Preparing and sending out the cards kept Malcolm Drummond, our administrator, very busy – especially in the run-up to Christmas. That's how your support of Operation Agri's "Presents with a Purpose" scheme helps projects in ten countries!



## You are a Blessing

When you order "Presents with a Purpose" cards, as well as giving to your friends, you are also blessing a family with far greater needs. Each card includes details about what your selected gift is achieving.

You could help provide goats for a farmer:

Patrick in Uganda says that the Sustainable Agriculture Farming Initiatives, (SAFI), project has greatly helped him. As well as giving training in sustainable agriculture, the project also provided goats of a high-quality breed. These are valuable for milk, or to fatten for meat – but also for their manure! His goat manure is benefiting his crops of coffee and maize, increasing the harvest and profit on his farm. He is very grateful to OA for supporting this project.

## What Could You Provide?

The gifts, for varying amounts, include items like donkeys, seeds, medicines, reading lessons, and sewing classes. Perhaps members of your church or home group could even come together to fund the full cost of a new well for a family:

Nadarasa's family, in north Sri Lanka, had problems with unclean water. Their well was a crumbling hole dug in the earth, with no wall to stop children falling in. The Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service (LEADS) team built a safer, cleaner well, with a concrete wall. As a result, not only do they now have safe water, but Nadarasa's wife can use the water to grow vegetables for the family and to sell. They say, "Thank you for supporting us to obtain drinking water permanently".

## Hand Crafted Gifts

There are also some hand-crafted gifts on offer, made by volunteers in the UK to benefit OA's projects. You can order handsome recycled wood pens, dishes and much else, and new this year are hand-made lavender bags – lovely gifts to accompany your Operation Agri "Presents with a Purpose" cards!

Please order from the PWAP booklet (posted with this magazine) OR via the website [www.operationagri.org.uk/item/presents-with-a-purpose](http://www.operationagri.org.uk/item/presents-with-a-purpose).



Malcolm will be grateful if you order in October or November!

## Be an Advocate for PWAP

Pass the brochure (or web-link) on to others and invite them to order "Presents with a Purpose".



		<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>Morning Service Leader</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> November Shoebboxes	10.30 am	Grahame Baldwin	S. Dunham	K. Rowland
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip Rowland		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
8 <sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday	10.30 am	See Service Leader	J. Greenwood	Elders
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
15 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30 am	Mark Heaton	C. Leeming	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	10.30 am	Mark Heaton	C. l'Anson	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
29 <sup>th</sup> November Prizegiving	10.30 am	See Service Leader	G. Leeming	Janice Greenwood
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	David Tattersall	A. Higgin	K. Rowland
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	John Caddy	S. Dunham	M. Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30 am	Carol Service	E. Wilkes	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	David		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		
27 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.30 am	David Leeming	C. Leeming	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip		
	6.00 pm	<b>No Evening Service</b>		

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