



The Baptist Church,
Brierfield

September 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



Social Distance and Lockdown

(A short message by Donald Leeming)

Since early March a new word has appeared in the English language – well I never recall hearing it before!

Make no mistake we have heard much about it since; it is “Lockdown”.

It was a message from the Government which means ‘Stay at home to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 throughout our land.’

Now we read of many messages in the Bible where the Lord contacted the people to go to a safe place or remain in their home to protect them from death and destruction.

- 1 **Noah:** In the book of Genesis, Noah and his wife, sons and their wives were instructed to enter the ark which he had built. In Genesis 7v16 tells us the Lord shut the door and when the great storm came, they were safe.
- 2 **The Children of Israel:** They were slaves in Egypt, but God was about to set them free. In Exodus 12v3 the Israelites were instructed to sprinkle the blood of a lamb on their door posts and stay in their houses until the next morning. When the angel of death saw the blood, he passed over their houses and none of the Israelites were smitten.
- 3 **Rahab:** She had been very kind to the Israelites who had been to spy out Jericho, a city that was about to be destroyed. To identify her house, she was instructed to place scarlet thread across her window, take her family into the house and when the armies came to Jericho, they would be safe after seeing the thread (Joshua 2v18).

Turning to the New Testament

- 4 **Jesus told a story about 10 virgins:** Five were wise and five were foolish – they were about to go to a wedding. The wise had oil for their lamps, the unwise did not. The bridegroom came, the wise went in with him and the doors were closed. The foolish were not admitted. How essential it is, and how wise, to be inside the “lockdown” if you like, and to be ready when the door is closed. (Mat 25v10)
- 5 **The Disciples:** We read they were assembled together in fear of Jews and the doors were shut (John 20v19) but Jesus came.

Though we might be confined, the Lord is still able to come and visit us, John 20v19 goes on to say that Jesus came in and said to them “Peace be unto you”.

But there is another door – it is a door that is locked and must be opened. We read about it in Revelation 3 v 20.

We are all familiar with Holman Hunt’s picture – Jesus is knocking at the heart’s door; it must be opened from the other side. We have to open the door and let Jesus in. Older folks will recall the five C. C. C. visits be Ralph Chambers and Irene Wardle. Each meeting ends with a chorus:

*At the heart’s door the Saviours knocking,
At the hear’ts door fast closed by sin.
Can’t you hear him, gently knocking.
Draw the bolt and let him in.*

What’s stopping you? Why don’t you draw the bolt and let Him into your life?

Items of Interest

Harvest - 20th September 2020

We are starting to collect both dried and tinned goods for our Harvest service on the 20th September which will be donated to the Food Bank In Nelson. Could we ask people to start collecting and bringing their items to chapel, or if you cannot bring them contact Angela (01282 414979), who will come and collect them from your home. Unfortunately, as mentioned in the August Newsletter, due to the current Covid-19 pandemic we will not be having a lunch this year. As we are not displaying flowers in chapel to distribute to people at the moment, there will only be a token flower display.

New Personnel

At the AGM there were changes to the people doing some of the jobs within the church.

Peter Lewis was elected as a Deacon, and has also joined the Maintenance Team

Melanie Lewis has now taken on the role of Pulpit Supply Organiser from Kath Rowland.

Gillian Fogg is now the Social Co-Ordinator re church lunches etc., taking over this role from her mother.

Janice Greenwood is now a Sunday School teacher, taking over this role from her father.

The thanks of the whole church go out to all the above who have taken on new roles within the church and we wish them all well. Thanks must also go out to those who have stepped down having given many years service including: **Peter I'Anson** for over 40 years loyal and dedicated service as a Deacon – **David Leeming** for over 50 years as a Sunday School teacher – **Cynthia I'Anson** for many years service as Social Co-Ordinator, **Kath Rowland** for several years service as Pulpit Supply Organiser and also to **Kathryn Hughes** for her work as Newsletter Helper.

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

What have we been praying for recently? Protection from Corvid-19; the doctors and nurses caring for the sick, and especially those dealing with victims of this present pandemic; the ability to continue worshipping the Lord in our morning services and maintaining our joy and confidence in the God, who has all things in His hands; the elderly and lonely who are especially affected by this present lockdown; and the Government, that they might have wisdom in all that they do to lead the country through this present crisis.

But we are a people, a church under the direction of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Head. It is right that we should pray for all the things mentioned above. Church is where we come to praise God, pray to Him corporately, and learn of Him and His will for us. But over and above all this, the church is a vehicle used of God to present the Gospel to those who do not yet know the Lord. And so our prayers this month will be directed in that way.

So let's pray:

- Firstly, that God will continue to be with us in these unprecedented times, directing and protecting us;
- That our confidence in the Lord will be an object lesson to those people round about us;
- We are broadcasting our morning services – let's pray that many will see them, and hear the voice of God through them;
- That the Lord will open doors to us so that we can speak of His love and forgiveness available to all who seek it.




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.



RAY of Hope for Pakistani Christians in COVID-19

By **Nargus Azhar**, Founder & Director, Light for the Nations, Pakistan



Introduction

Pakistan is an Islamic country but there are other religions like Christians, Hindus, Sikhs, and some other communities. These communities are often targeted for acts of violence by extremists.

The majority of our Christians are poor, so their wives support them by doing work which is not normally acceptable in our society. Christian women working as domestic servants in Muslim households are particularly vulnerable to harassment.

For these reasons, Light for the Nations (LFTN) started providing skills training for poor women, mostly, but not exclusively, Christian.



Beautiful embroidery from one of the sewing groups

The Project

Through the valuable support of Operation Agri we were able to run two sewing, and two Adult Literacy Centres last year (2019) in which we have trained more than forty-four (44) young girls and women (reaching about 264 indirectly). The ladies learn various types of hand sewing, machine stitching and embroidery, designing, pattern making, cutting, tailoring, and finishing of garments for children and ladies. Each training course lasts six months, after which the trainees are able to read and write, handle their finances, and get gainful employment as dressmakers.

However, because of the COVID-19 problem the country is going through the lockdown situation so everything and every workplace is closed. There is a huge economic deficit at the national level and on an individual level. With no work due to lockdown the conditions of the families is near to starving.

A Christian lady, Shumila

Shumila shared her story. "My husband is a plumber working on daily wages. I have four children (two boys and two girls). When the centre opened at our place, I joined and learned much, including stitching clothes for people at my house. I was earning Pak Rs.350/- (about £1.80) for one suit. I was

paying fees of my children monthly, and our economic condition was improving day by day. But because of this lock down situation my husband has no work, and no one came to our home to give me orders to stitch clothes. That's why we are suffering a lot. We are thankful to those who support us with food and that was not only food but a **Ray of hope** for our family."



Shumila still hopeful

OA's Support

LFTN is grateful for Operation Agri's financial support, which enables this work to continue in other needy and deserving areas.

What's the Use of This?

By **Jane and Ralph Hanger**, (Jane is an OA trustee)

Answer!

In the past materials such as soya roots and maize stalks would have been discarded as useless, but under the Growing Greener project, supported by OA in Malawi, farmers are being shown how this can be turned into valuable compost. The compost enriches the soil, improving the quality and quantity of the crops and, at the same time, improves the water retention of the soil, thus contributing to conserving the environment.

Pastor Lloyd Chizenga and his associate Hanta who run the project in a number of places in Southern Malawi, received in depth training themselves, not only in the Sustainable Agriculture, but also in how to train others in it.

Hands-on training

In Mphemba, just outside Blantyre farmers gathered together for hands-on training. Chopping up the maize stalks took a lot of work and the men took it in turns to wield their machetes. When enough mulch was ready everyone was gathered round an oblong area of ground which had been cleared and marked out by poles. Gradually layers of maize mulch, old soya roots, green leaves and then a thinner layer of chicken manure were laid on top of one another. Before every handful was laid however, it was thoroughly soaked in water.



Old Maize Stalks

Everyone had their turn

Everyone had their go at applying the 'rubbish', making it a very good, hands-on, co-operative exercise. After three hours, the compost heap stood about five feet high in one half of the area prepared for it. This was now left for about seven weeks. Then it would be 'turned' over into the other half of the prepared area. Remember that this is the tropics and so the compost will have matured well by this time.



Informational Materials on COVID-19

Zero Tillage

Another aspect of conservation agriculture was the process of zero tillage. Instead of indiscriminate ploughing of soil before planting seeds, which can badly affect the water content of the soil, this method encourages just the making of holes at the point where the seeds are to be sown. Compost is put at the bottom of the hole before the seeds are sown which are then covered with soil and watered.



Layering the Mulch

		Preacher	Door Steward	Morning Service Leader
6th September	10.30 am	Susan Western	G. Leeming	S. Greaves
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip Rowland		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
13 th September	10.30 am	Kath Rowland	J. Greenwood	G. Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel Leeming		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
20 th September HARVEST	10.30 am	Phil Jump	S. Dunham	G. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald Leeming		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
27 th September	10.30 am	Howard Ellison	D. Driver	B. Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	David Leeming		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
4th October	10.30 am	Daniel Parkinson	C. Leeming	B. Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip Rowland		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
11 th October	10.30 am	Paul Carter	C. l'Anson	R. Hartley
	Vestry Prayers:	Nigel Leeming		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
18 th October	10.30 am	TBA	S. Dunham	N. Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	Donald Leeming		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
25 th October	10.30 am	David Boadle	E. Wilkes	R. Rigby
	Vestry Prayers:	David Leeming		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		
1 st November	10.30 am	Grahame Baldwin		D. Driver
	Vestry Prayers:	Philip Rowland		
	6.00 pm	No Evening Service		

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