

Christmas Greetings





The Baptist Church,
Brierfield

December 2025

Christmas greetings to you all,

*We hope you have a very happy Christmas, and
a great start to the new year. Please come and
join us this festive season to celebrate the birth of
Jesus Christ.*

*With loving prayers
from The Baptist Church, Brierfield.*



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

Please do join us.

Sunday Services

We are in Chapel each Sunday and ask that you join us to worship our Lord Jesus Christ together and to share in the fellowship of the Church family.

The services start at 10:30 am and are also streamed live on YouTube - check our website for the service link.

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

Midweek Activities as announced.

Secretary – Mr Mark Wilkes

35 Simpson Street, Hapton, Burnley, BB12 7LJ

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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

“A Season Of Hope Welcoming Christ Anew”

(a short message by Grahame Baldwin)



As we enter the Christmas season, our hearts turn once again to the quiet miracle of Bethlehem—the humble arrival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. In a world that often feels hurried, uncertain, or heavy with burdens, the Christmas story calls us to pause and remember the unshakable hope God gave through His Son.

Scripture tells us, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” This is the promise we cling to today. No matter what challenges we have faced this year, the light of Christ continues to shine with grace, truth, and transforming power.

Christmas invites us to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus long ago, but also His presence with us now. As a church family, we rejoice that God is still at work—healing, restoring, guiding, and drawing hearts closer to Him. This season reminds us that we are called to share that same love: to encourage the weary, welcome the stranger, and shine the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and community.

In the days ahead, may we each find time to seek out opportunities to serve our Lord. Let us come together in worship, praying that He will deepen our understanding of one another and strengthen the bonds of our church family. As we encourage and love one another, may every word we share stir gratitude in our hearts and anticipation for all that the Lord will do in the year to come.

From our church family to yours, we pray that this Christmas fills you with peace, joy, and renewed faith. May the spirit of Christ dwell richly in your home—and may His love be the greatest gift you receive.

Happy Christmas and blessings in our Lord Jesus!

Grahame

Items of Interest & Dates for your Diary

Bible Studies/Prayer Meetings

Please pray for these and attend if at all possible, starting at 7:30 pm.

December	2 th & 16 th
January	*6 th & 20 th (*Subject to Change)

Friendship Group: Meet on Wednesday 10th December when we will be having our Christmas Party. Then on January 14th, we will be having our AGM, when we decide the 2026 activities The Friendship Group is open to any adults and if you would like to join us just come along or speak to a member of the Friendship Group.

Evening Services: The next Evening Service will be on the 25th January which will be led by Cynthia and then the 22nd February, Leader to be arranged. Evening Services are followed by Holy Communion. Please note there is no Evening Service on 28th December.

Maintenance Team: We will be back most Tuesday mornings in the New Year at 9:30 a.m. for a couple of hours to carry out maintenance on the Church building, If you have any DIY skills, or can pick up a paint brush, then please come along and give us a hand.



Retirement Home Visits: The Christmas retirement home visits to all three homes will take place on Sunday 7th December starting at 2:30pm at Marsden Heights and then moving on to Brierfield House and Victoria House. Please come and join us if you are able.

Food Bank: Thank you to everyone who donated food (both dried and tinned) for the Nelson Food Bank at the Autumn Half Term Holiday in October. The next time we will be donating will be for the Christmas holidays - these commence on Monday 22nd December - Friday 3rd January. If you are able to bring any donations please bring them to chapel on or before Sunday 21st December so that I can deliver them on Monday the 22nd. Thank You Angela.

Family Praise Services: Dates for 2026 Praise & Munch Dates are on the notice board in the primary room and you can put your name down on the list if you can help organise one of the lunches. A full list will appear in the January Newsletter.

Flower List: The 2026 Flower List on the notice board at the entrance to the church. If you wish to place flowers on a Sunday, please put your name against the appropriate date. You can either put the flowers in yourself or Glenys will buy them for you and put them in. This is a great way to remember loved ones or celebrate birthdays or mark other important dates, you can pay any amount you like.

Officers Meeting: The first officers meeting of 2026 is on Thursday 22nd January at 7:30pm all officers are requested to attend.

Church Meeting: The next church meeting will be held on the 27th January at 7:30pm all Church Members are encouraged to attend.

Christmas Services

7th December – 2:30p.m

Brierfield Churches Care Home Visits

Marsden Heights, Victoria House & Brierfield House.

14th December – 2:30p.m

Brierfield Churches United Carol Service

At the Baptist Chapel

20th December – 11:00a.m

Carol Singing Outside Methodist Church Brierfield

21st December – 10:30a.m

Christmas Family Service

Followed by Buffet Lunch

24th December – 6:00p.m

Carols By Candlelight Service

25th December – 10:30a.m

Christmas Day Service – Premieres on YouTube

This is a Recorded service

28th December – 10:30a.m

Morning Service

Led By Mark Wilkes

4th January 2026 – 10:30a.m

Rededication Service

Led By The Elders

Puzzles

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

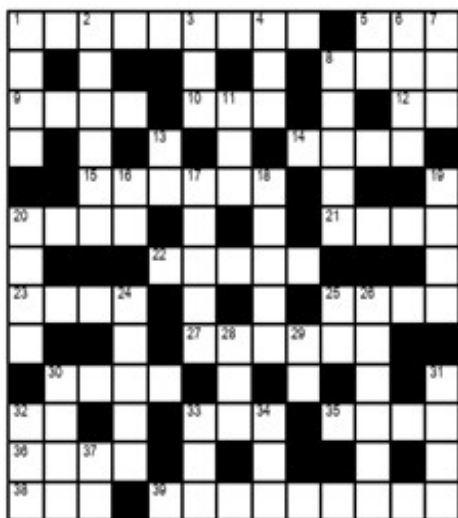
Across

- 1 Jesus' birthplace (9)
- 5 Herod slew the children of this age and under (3)
- 8 Peter quoted his words on the day of Pentecost (4)
- 9 "A ___ shaken with the wind" (4)
- 10 "Ye shall find ___ babe wrapped in swaddling clothes" (3)
- 12 The year from Jesus' birth (2)
- 14 Anna was of this tribe (as recorded in Luke) (4)
- 15 "Behold, a ___ shall be with child" (6)
- 20 "Fruits ___ for repentance" (4)
- 21 The wise men came from here (4)
- 22 "He shall reign of the house of ___ for ever" (5)
- 23 A female ancestor of Jesus, as recorded in Matthew 1 (4)
- 25 The amount of manna to be gathered per person (4)
- 27 He multiplied the widow's oil (6)

- 30 "As soon as the voice of thy salvation sounded in mine ___" (4)
- 32 An altar meaning witness (Joshua 22) (2)
- 33 To increase (3)
- 35 Malarial fever (4)
- 36 To guide (4)
- 38 There was no room here (3)
- 39 These men went to see the baby Jesus (9)

Down

- 1 "Mary, of whom was ___ Jesus" (4)
- 2 Jesus' age when he was taken to Jerusalem (6)
- 3 Jesus did not do this in the wilderness (3)
- 4 Adam's wife (3)
- 5 "Mary was espoused ___ Joseph" (2)
- 6 "They that ___ soft clothing are in kings' houses" (4)
- 7 Zacharias said, "I am an ___ man" (3)
- 8 Grandson of 23 (5)
- 11 A place near Bethel (3)
- 13 "A pair of turtledoves ___ two young pigeons" (2)
- 16 "That ___ might be fulfilled" (2)
- 17 "The ___ of God was upon him" (5)
- 18 Mother-in-law of 23 (5)
- 19 This went before the wise men (4)
- 20 The mother of Jesus (4)
- 24 He was king at the time of Jesus' birth (5)
- 25 "___ that one would hear me!" (2)
- 26 Jesus was laid in this (6)
- 28 The spirit did this to Jesus in the wilderness (3)
- 29 Thus (2)
- 30 The first garden (4)
- 31 "Where is he that is born king of the ___?" (4)
- 32 A priest in the time of Samuel (3)
- 33 A tree of the olive family (3)
- 34 To put into water (3)
- 37 "___ angel of the Lord appeareth" (2)



by Colin

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CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

G I V M P G W W F H I I G W H D H M Y B
S Q A F S B G T P S B O I A S R B Y E I
M N A U N A I T H Z B H F X S B J T H B
L W E P G G V E S G E J T P U N H A Q S
P H E L A N P I C S I L S J S L T I C J
E I B F M H A I O L P N M N E M E S I W
F S X V E A J E S R H K Y H J Z R F R K
K S Z R M B U H F T A G E L Q A A J C D
E H D S Y A N G E L A M V D O O Z K J M
E S I A R P J P C V X B S M B H A T T R
M E Y R O L G N Q G J E L U A O N M D S
Y U P P P B S M A N G E R E A Z D S K O
E V Z R B S A K W S P S J O S E P H H E
D W P N W M I N H A L X J O J T D N A P
F S U N Y S W D B F P V H G B S N A Y W
B V G M I E E E U N Y C T Z R T H A Y B
P C J B D G G K V U H B F H Y A H R N U
C H J V H C Q B E M P A C F M R A L N G
V M K B F G B R S D T H E W R M Q E S T
O T W B N S X H X I P Q S N S T M R P E

ANGEL

JOSEPH

SAVIOR

BETHLEHEM

MANGER

SHEPHERDS

GIFTS

MARY

STABLE

GLORY

NAZARETH

STAR

HOLY NIGHT

JESUS

PRAISE

WISE MEN

Jesus is born.

Luke 2:1-7



Last Months ANSWERS

MISSION SOLUTION



QUICK BIBLE CROSSWORD VIII - SOLUTION



Across: 1 Battle, 4 Spear, 7 Wilderness, 8 Rain, 9 Eaten, 11 Witness, 13 Scatter, 15 Cured, 17 Rend, 18 Miraculous, 20 Lowly, 21 Tongue.

Down: 1 Borrow, 2 Twin, 3 Endless, 4 Serve, 5 Eve, 6 Risen, 7 Winter, 10 Tithes, 12 Scarlet, 14 Riddle, 15 Camel, 16 Decay, 17 Ruin, 19 Raw.

Prayer Matters

At this time of year, as we prepare for Christmas, we often hear these words from Luke Chapter 2 verse 14.

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth Peace and Goodwill to all men"

The angelic proclamation to the local shepherds announcing the birth of Jesus. It is a prayer of praise and hope. Not only a prayer of peace, hope and harmony in the world, it serves as a basis for our own personal struggles in life. In a world filled with adversities, strife and unrest this prayer is as relevant as ever.

May the peace of God be with us all this Christmas

Kathryn

If you have anything you would like to be added to the prayer chain, please send it to Kathryn:

Email: bbprayer@outlook.com

Mobile: 07305 541647

Please leave a message if there is no immediate answer



Give a child the priceless gift of education this Christmas

This Christmas, you can help Syrian refugee children in Lebanon in the most life-changing way – through the gift of education at a BMS World Mission-supported learning centre.

For children like Lina and her brother, Ibrahim*, your kind support for this education centre could make an entirely different future possible.



We were born in Syria, but we left when we were very young, after our father was killed in the war. We live in a small apartment. We have a room for my mother and us and there is a room for my grandparents. Before coming here, my brother never had an education. I studied a bit, but not in a real school. I used to go to someone's house where some people taught me to read and write. It is our first year in the education centre. We very much prefer coming here to the centre than staying at home.

Lina, aged nine

For children like Lina and Ibrahim, your gift of education could change everything.

The BMS-supported learning centre provides more than just an opportunity to gain an education, it also offers refugee children a safe space where they can heal from the trauma they've been through. Deeply rooted in Christian values, the centre also gives children the chance to experience God's unchanging love for them, some for the very first time.



Weekly Service Rota

December 2025			January 2026		
7 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Bea Foster Cynthia I'Anson Jack Wellman No Service Janice Greenwood	4 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	The Elders Jack Wellman Glenys Leeming No Service Mark Wilkes
14 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion On Return	Ashleigh Stansfield Michael Patterson Bernice Baldwin No Service Grahame Baldwin	11 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Start Of Service	Keith Richardson Gillian Fogg Mark Wilkes No Service Nigel Leeming
21 st	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Led By Cynthia Neil Binns Janice Greenwood No Service Peter Lewis	18 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Tim Doggart Janice Greenwood Anne Kellow No Service Cynthia I'Anson
28 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Mark Bernice Baldwin Angela Higgin No Service David Leeming	25 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Evening Service	TBC Glenys Leeming Neil Binns Led By Cynthia Neil Binns
PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS ROTA MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE					

Vestry Prayers

December 2025			January 2026		
7 th	David	Janice	4 th	Nigel	Neil
14 th	Nigel	Peter	11 th	Cynthia	Janice
21 st	Cynthia	Mark	18 th	David	Peter
28 th	David	Kathryn	25 th	Nigel	Mark
PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS ROTA MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE					

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his
shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9 verse 6

How to find us

