



The Baptist Church,
Brierfield

February 2026





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

telephone: 01282 774847 email: markwilkes35@btinternet.com

Do you have something you would like to be included in next months newsletter? Please hand anything you would like adding to Richard l'Anson, or by email to newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk

Relying on God

(a short message by David Leeming)

I must begin my item for the newsletter to pay tribute to Keith Wills who was called home in late December. Brierfield Baptist and many of its members owe him a great gratitude. He was a friend of many and after going forward at a Billy Graham crusade Keith went to Bible college. He was always willing to come and preach; he took two away week ends and did very valuable work with our teenagers. Glenys, Kathryn and myself all remember him with real thanksgiving and pray that his wife and children will find comfort in the Lord at this sad time.

In September last year Glenys and I went on holiday. It turned out to be a mystery tour as we didn't know where we could dock next. Three ports were closed to us because of bad weather, but one substitute was to go to the Orkney island and visit Kirkwall.

By the time we got ashore daylight was beginning to fade so it was a quick visit before it went dark. St Magnus cathedral is called the light in the north and so it was that day. We have been in summer when it never goes dark but in winter there is often only three or four hours of daylight. This can be very depressing for the residents, and the suicide rate is extremely high. We are fortunate as the darkest time we meet is when the lights of Christmas are lit. These lights pierce the darkness and help us get through that time of year.

When we have corporate prayer at church just listen to the problems that are prayed for, they seem to get longer and more depressing. I must say that I consider the world in a very desperate state at present. Just look at the places where there is conflict, drought, flooding, famine and political unrest. But against all this is a promise that God will care for those who know him and put their trust in him.

Even though the list is long let's continue praying for the various needs and may we continue to keep His promises in our hearts. Remember Prom, prom, promises, God always keeps his promises.

David

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.

February	3 rd & 17 th
March	3 rd , 17 th & 31 st

Friendship Group: Meet on Wednesday 11th February when we will be playing Sjolen & Carpet Bowls. Then on March 11th, we will be having a Bag Beatle Drive, 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 22nd February leader to be announced and then the 29th March. Evening Services are followed by Holy Communion.

Music Group Rehearsals: Music group rehearsals will continue after the Sunday Service for now. If you can play an Instrument or Sing and would like to join the group then speak to Melanie, for more details.

Maintenance Team: We will be back on 10th February & then most Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for a couple of hours to carry out maintenance work 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. For more information speak to Grahame or David.



BMS Christmas Appeal 2025: If you watched our Christmas Day Service you will have seen the BMS Christmas Appeal 2025. Elizabeth kindly agreed to collect gifts on behalf of the church and that money has now been sent to the appeal. The sum of £300.00 was sent and a big thank you to all who generously gave gifts in the knowledge that BMS will be able to do life changing work in the refugee centre in Lebanon. If you haven't made a gift and would still like to do so then the details are below.

Thank You.

Give online or by scanning the QR code
www.bmsworldmission.org/gift

Give by phone on **01235 517641**
Monday to Friday 10 am - 4 pm
Please mention the **Lebanon Christmas Appeal**.



Dates further ahead:

Nursing Home Visit: Our next Nursing Home Visit will be on 29th March (Palm Sunday) at 2:30p.m. when we visit Brierfield House. Please put the date in your diaries and come along and join us.

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.

Praise & Munch Rota 2026		
Date	Menu	Organiser
22nd February	Soup & Sweet	Elizabeth
5th April	Easter Breakfast	
26th April	Pie & Peas	
7th June	Anniversary Buffet	
28th June	Bacon & Sausage Butties & Sweet	Hannah
26th July	Pie & Peas	
30th August	Jacket Potatoes	
27th September	Harvest Ploughman's Lunch	Elizabeth
25th October	Pie & Peas	
29th November	Soup & Sweets	Angela
20th December	Christmas Buffet Lunch / Party	

Puzzles

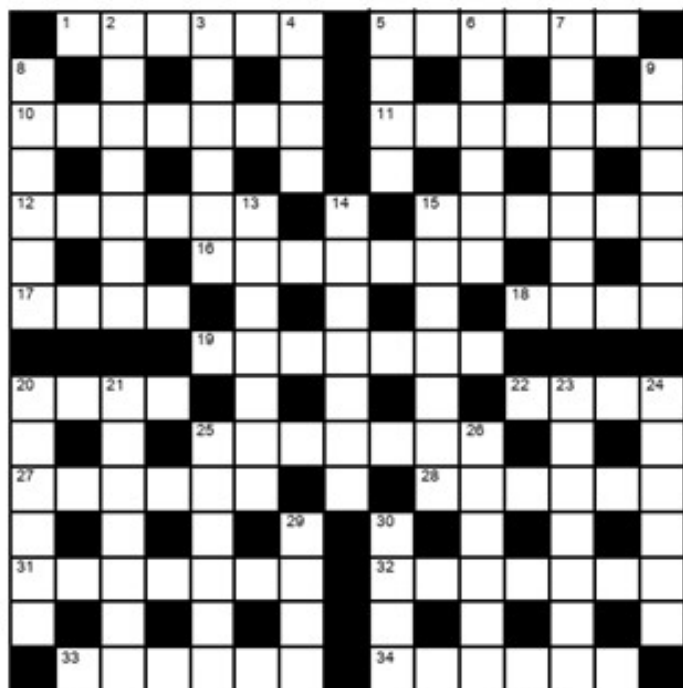
BIBLE CROSSWORD X

Across

- 1 Air (6)
 5 Town where Timothy lived (6)
 10 Sets up shelter (7)
 11 Promised one (7)
 12 Welcome season (6)
 15 Aaron, for example (6)
 16 Site of scrolls (4,3)
 17 Flower (4)
 18 Magi guide (4)
 19 Roman army divisions (7)
 20 Way (4)
 22 Blemish (4)
 25 The resurrected boy did this seven times (7)
 27 Old Testament prophet (6)
 28 Female relative (6)
 31 Storm (7)
 32 Insanity (7)
 33 Follow closely (6)
 34 Distant (6)

Down

- 2 Writes down (7)
 3 Nut (6)
 4 Multitude (4)



by Philologus

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- 5 Light (4)
 6 Jabin's army captain (6)
 7 Clothing (7)
 8 Thurable (6)
 9 More towards spotless (6)
 13 Place of torment (7)
 14 Counsellor (7)
 15 Coins (7)
 20 Enough (6)
 21 Victory (7)
 23 Long-suffering (7)
 24 Remove the chaff (6)
 25 Soldier's guard (6)
 26 Crown (6)
 29 One-pot meal (4)
 30 One-tenth of an ephah (4)

THE BOOK OF REVELATION WORD SEARCH

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

ALPHA

ANGELS

ANTICHRIST

APOCALYPSE

ARMAGEDDON

BABYLON

BEAST

BOWLS

CHURCHES

DRAGON

EARTH

FALSE PROPHET

GOD

HEAVEN

HORSES

JOHN

JUDGMENT

LAKE OF FIRE

LAMB

MILLENNIUM

NEW

JERUSALEM

OMEGA

PROPHECY

RESURRECTION

REVELATION

SATAN

SEAL

SECOND DEATH

SEVEN

THRONE

TRUMPETS

WITNESSES

Ruth shows love.

Ruth 1:1-22



Last Months ANSWERS

BIBLE CROSSWORD IX - SOLUTION



Across: 1 Israel, 5 Master, 10 Epistle, 11 Lintels, 12 Strong, 15 Behind, 16 Defiled, 17 Side, 18 Aged, 19 Certain, 20 Cush, 22 Left, 25 Captive, 27 Azriel, 28 Estate, 31 Contain, 32 Chariot, 33 Feasts, 34 Sheber.

Down: 2 Stirred, 3 Attend, 4 Lies, 5 Milk, 6 Sinned, 7 Evening, 8 Beasts, 9 Ashdod, 13 General, 14 Hittite, 15 Believe, 20 Chance, 21 Strange, 23 Examine, 24 Twenty, 25 Cedars, 26 Escape, 29 Ends, 30 Acts.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

NEW YEAR

SOLUTION

Due to a technical issue unfortunately the New Year Word Search solution is not available. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause

Prayer Matters

Rededication

At the beginning of January we held a service of Rededication. Included in that service was the invitation to join together with the following prayer. Here is a reminder of our petition to renew our faithfulness to God our Father and the work within our church.

“Our Father, You have called us into Your service. Here we renew our promise to serve You in this place and we call upon Your help so that we can work and witness for You here in Brierfield and beyond.

Empower us by Your Spirit that we may live lives of service here so that it may be a shining light to those around us and a welcoming and loving fellowship. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen “

Our Prayer chain partners have also included prayers for quite a few members of our church who have lost friends and family over the past few months. Please pray for them and their families as they come to terms with their loss.

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



CONCLUSION

A challenge to the UK government

The new UK FoRB strategy is a welcome commitment to placing freedom of religion or belief at the centre of UK human rights advocacy, at a time when this is more necessary than ever. Our recommendations in this report reinforce the five strands of the FoRB strategy.

- Extreme violence in sub-Saharan Africa crosses many national borders, and state capacity is proving insufficient to protect the rights of citizens. The UK must work through or with multilateral institutions, including the UN, the African Union and the Commonwealth, to ensure the causes of such violence are properly understood. It must also ensure an adequate response which, in the words of our Arise Africa campaign, stops the violence and starts the healing.
- We support the government's identification of ten priority countries in its FoRB strategy – eight of which rank high on the 2026 World Watch List. This list does not limit UK action but is a hopeful declaration of where the UK has the greatest degree of opportunity. We anticipate seeing how the UK can use its influence bilaterally with countries where there is a strong relationship – advocating for victims of violence in Nigeria and for recent converts in India.
- Open Doors is a member of international networks such as the Council of Experts for the Article 18 Alliance, as well as domestic civil society coalitions such as the APPG on FoRB, and the UK FoRB Forum. We encourage the FCDO to engage meaningfully with these groups, both within the UK and internationally. We also recommend that the FCDO commits to sharing how it stands up for FoRB in the context of its human rights work, for example by reporting on FoRB issues in future versions of the *Human Rights and Democracy Report*.
- In this seventh year since the UK Truro Review into Christian persecution, FoRB cannot be treated as an isolated concern but must be integrated throughout the FCDO's work and

the UK's wider human rights advocacy. We look forward to hearing from the UK government on how this is going to be achieved, building on past achievements following the Truro Review.

- Open Doors has always strongly advocated working with wider civil society and religious groups, both drawing on their expertise in the UK and working with local faith actors and religious human rights defenders around the world.

We urge the UK government to act on the commitments it has made in the FoRB strategy, and we ask that MPs and peers hold the government accountable for the goals it has set.

FCDO FORB STRATEGY

In July 2025, FCDO minister Lord Collins of Highbury and UK Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, David Smith MP, launched the FCDO FoRB strategy. The strategy has five core strands:

1. Engaging with multilateral institutions and forums to maintain collective support for FoRB around the world
2. Achieving better outcomes on FoRB through targeted bilateral relationships – in particular with ten priority countries
3. Strengthening international coalitions of collective action, such as the Article 18 Alliance
4. Weaving support for FoRB throughout the government's human rights agenda, ensuring it is mainstreamed throughout the FCDO's work
5. Working towards stronger and wider engagement with human rights champions and civil society, including religious groups.

The ten priority countries are: Afghanistan, Algeria, China, India, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Ukraine and Vietnam.

Weekly Service Rota

February			March		
1 st	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Bea Foster Nigel Leeming Jack Wellman No Service Janice Greenwood	1 st	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Cathy Browne Mark Wilkes Glynis Leeming No Service Mark Wilkes
8 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion On Return	David Jackson Melanie Lewis Bernice Baldwin No Service Grahame Baldwin	8 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Start Of Service	Susan Western Cynthia I'Anson Mark Wilkes No Service Nigel Leeming
15 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Gareth Earnshaw Elaine Lord Janice Greenwood No Service Peter Lewis	15 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Melanie Lewis Michael Patterson Anne Kellow No Service Cynthia I'Anson
22 nd	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Evening Service	Peter Foulds Elizabeth Wilkes Angela Higgin TBC David Leeming	22 nd	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion End Of Service	Gerald Norcross Neil Binns Jack Wellman No Service Neil Binns
			29 th	Preacher Service Leader Door Steward Evening Service Communion Evening Service	Miles Alderson Bernice Baldwin Neil Binns TBC Janice Green wood
PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS ROTA MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE					

Vestry Prayers

January			February		
1 st	Cynthia	Kathryn	1 st	David	Mark
6 th	David	Neil	6 th	Nigel	Kathryn
15 th	Nigel	Janice	15 th	Cynthia	Neil
22 nd	Cynthia	Peter	22 nd	David	Janice
			29 th	Nigel	Peter
PLEASE NOTE ANY PART OF THIS ROTA MAY CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE					