



The Baptist Church,  
Brierfield

January 2025

***Wishing all our Church family  
A Happy New Year***



***A year of hope***

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



# Permanent Present Tense

*(a short prayer by Amanda Pink)*

Save us, Lord, from living in a permanent present tense;  
With our constant rushing from one deadline to the next,  
Not living for each moment so much as just about surviving it.

Forgive us for when we dismiss too quickly what has gone before;  
For when our preoccupation with the now,  
And our eagerness for what is next,  
Blind us to the significance of what you have already done.

You are helping us to see...

The past is a gift:

A great and precious library of case studies to be explored, learned from and built on.

And you, you are the knowledgeable librarian, showing us where to look and helping us to understand,

Training us in this art of Holy Remembering.

For what we learned yesterday is the compass to navigate tomorrow

And it is in celebrating the past that we awaken the future

*Amanda Pink is a Baptist Minister and Team Chaplain at Milton Keynes University Hospital*

*Taken from Gathering up the Crumbs*

# 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.

January	14 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>
February	11 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Service January 2025:** The first Sunday in January the 5<sup>th</sup> will be an important service for the Church and we would ask that everyone please attend. Our two new Elders Cynthia and Grahame will be ordained at this service and the New Elders Memorial board with Donald's name on will also be unveiled. So Please make sure you attend to support our new Elders and to give thanks for the life and work of Donald.

**Friendship Group:** Meet on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 p.m. when it will be our AGM. If you would like to come along either just turn up or speak with one of the fellowship group for more information, all Adults are welcome.

**Evening Services:** Evening Services will return on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and then on 23<sup>rd</sup> February. Starting at 6p.m. and held in the primary room, unless otherwise notified.

**Family Praise Services:** Our Family Praise Service for January will be on the 26<sup>th</sup>, which will be followed by Lunch. We hope you will come and join us.

**Music Group Rehearsals:** Music group rehearsals will take place after the Sunday Service during the winter. 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 meet most Tuesday mornings 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. For more information speak to Grahame or David.



**Missionary Visit - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025:** We will be having a visit from one of our Missionaries on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025, when they will take the morning Service it would be great to see a large turnout from the congregation to show our support and find out more of the work they are doing.

**Food Bank: CHRISTMAS 2024 FOOD BANK DELIVERY** Glynn and I delivered the chapel's Food Bank Donation on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December. We had a full car boot, Elaine, the lady I spoke to that day was extremely pleased with our delivery, and our continued and reliable support over many years. She was even as excited to see that everything was in good quality carrier bags, as they struggle quite a bit with not having enough good bags when handing out Food Parcels to people in need. I was asked to pass on her thanks via our Newsletter, so I've kept my promise. Thanks to everybody who helped with the bagging up in my absence. **ANGELA**

# Puzzles

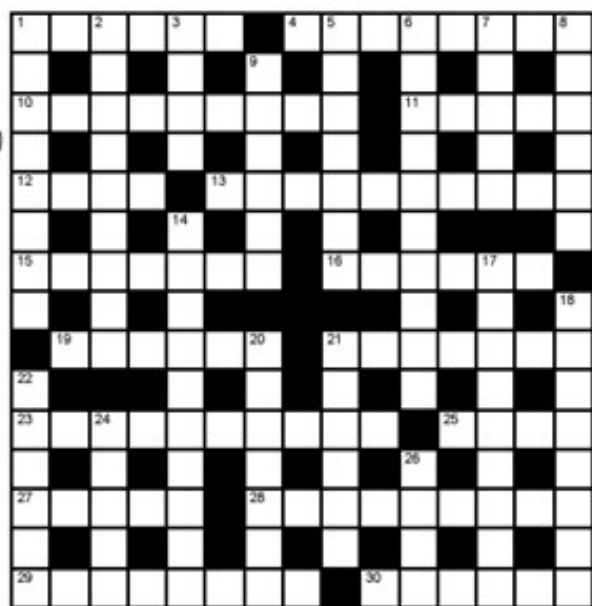
## BIBLE CROSSWORD I

### Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)  
4 Seemed (8)  
10 New Testament book (9)  
11 Unit of length (5)  
12 '...it is a \_\_\_\_ thing  
the king requireth'  
(Dan 2:11) (4)  
13 Contemplation (10)  
15 Abigail supplied David  
with one hundred  
clusters of these (7)  
16 A son of King David (6)  
19 Concurred (6)  
21 Light sources (7)  
23 Propitiation (10)  
25 A false god (4)  
27 Gather (5)  
28 Abimelech was hit by  
this (9)  
29 Instructors (8)  
30 Hastily (6)

### Down

- 1 Skilled animal  
workers (8)  
2 Inspiring (9)  
3 Compass point (4)  
5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah  
said not to listen to  
these (10)  
7 Jewish leader (5)  
8 'He is proud, knowing  
nothing, but \_\_\_\_\_  
about questions and  
strifes of words...'  
(1 Tim 6:4) (6)  
9 Bread makers (6)  
10 In this year of King  
Nebuchadrezzar's reign,  
Nebuzaradan arrived in  
Jerusalem (10)  
17 Ancient city of Og, King  
of Bashan (9)  
18 Stringed instrument (8)  
20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)  
21 Tiny amount (6)  
22 Jesus did this with  
authority (6)  
24 Last letter of the Greek  
alphabet (5)  
26 Province of the Roman  
Empire (4)

# A New Year



ABUNDANCE

BLESSINGS

COVENANT

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FORGIVENESS

GRATITUDE

GROWTH

HOPE

JOY

KINDNESS

LIGHT

LOVE

NEW BEGINNINGS

PEACE

PRAYER

PROMISE

PURPOSE

REJOICE

RENEWAL

STRENGTH

TRUST

TRUTH

WISDOM



# Last Months ANSWERS

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD - SOLUTION

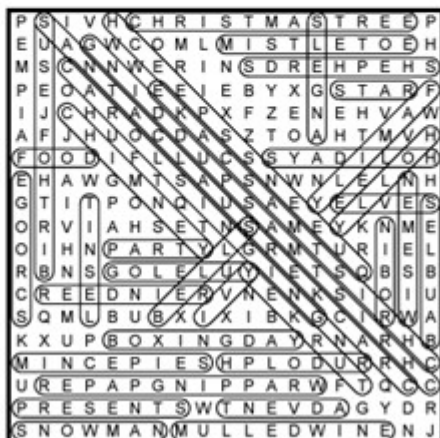


Across: 1 Sled, 3 Stuffing, 6 Crib, 8 Noel, 9 Robin, 11 Epiphany, 12 Punch, 13 Merry, 14 Tidings, 15 Cranberry sauce, 19 Cedar, 20 Red, 22 Yule, 23 Sacred, 24 Ham, 27 Jingle Bells, 29 Presents, 30 Goodwill, 31 Winter, 32 Gift.

Down: 1 Star, 2 Pine, 3 Surprise, 4 Inn, 5 Green, 6 Candy, 7 Manger, 10 Birth, 13 Miracle, 14 Thank you letter, 15 Ceremonies, 16 Bells, 17 Sauce, 18 Card, 21 December, 25 Divine, 26 Child, 28 Eggnog, 29 Pie.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

### Solution





# Prayer Matters

As we start the New Year I was reminded of the Millennium prayer. It seems as relevant today as it was at the start of the year 2000.

“May there be Respect for the earth  
Peace for its’ people  
Love in our lives  
Delight in the good  
Forgiveness for past wrongs  
And from now on  
A new start”

God Bless us all in our work for Him  
AMEN

*Kathryn*

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

Email: [bbprayer@outlook.com](mailto:bbprayer@outlook.com),

Mobile: 07305 541647

*Please leave a message if there is no immediate answer*





## AN OASIS FOR REFUGEES



*Many displaced people arrive in Europe by crossing the sea to Cyprus.*

**Emma arrived in Cyprus with hopes of finding a new life.** She arrived with nothing, and found a country with a housing crisis that's struggling to cope with the number of new arrivals. She didn't know who to turn to for help.

Emma isn't her real name. Five years ago her life was threatened after her fiancé got entangled with corrupt officials in Cameroon. With her life threatened, her only option was to leave the country.

A fellow refugee directed her to the Oasis welcome centre, which offers essential services like language classes, food distribution, and emotional support. Emma found the community there welcoming and generous, inspiring her to volunteer at the centre after experiencing their kindness first-hand.

Emma now volunteers at the centre, helping to book appointments for people

to collect clothing and food. She sees it as the perfect way to give back after the welcome she received and as a way she can live out God's command to care for those in need.

Five years later, Emma still awaits her refugee status and is unable to leave Cyprus, even after the recent loss of her sister. Despite this heartbreak, the Oasis centre has been her lifeline, offering prayers and assistance as she navigates her situation. Emma expresses gratitude for the support she receives and hopes to reunite with her family.

She requests prayers for both herself and the Oasis centre, which has recently expanded its facilities to better serve refugees. The centre's new computer lab and craft room aim to enhance job skills for those in need. Emma emphasises that these resources are vital for helping refugees like her find stability and a sense of belonging in their new home. Her story highlights the importance of community support in overcoming adversity and rebuilding lives after trauma.

Discover how the Oasis centre is a safe haven for refugees.



# PRAY FOR AFGHANISTAN: "THE WORLD HAS FORGOTTEN US"

*Please pray that women in Afghanistan will soon have the freedoms and dignities they deserve.*

**The de facto leaders of Afghanistan have introduced new laws banning women from speaking in public and requiring them to wear a full veil when leaving home.** We spoke to the BMS World Mission team in country to find out how these laws will affect women – and how we can pray for Afghanistan.

BMS workers Ruby\* and Reeta\* in Afghanistan report that the laws have created fear and uncertainty among women. There are concerns about harsh enforcement, including potential beatings or detentions for non-compliance. The impact varies across the country, with rural women already facing severe restrictions, while more educated urban women see their dreams and freedoms vanishing.

Ruby and Reeta had spoken with some of the younger women about what they know about the new laws: "Some think it would be better if they were born a boy or even not to have been born at all. Some still study online when they have the money for the internet. They try for all the possible scholarships to be able to get out and have freedom but so few countries will accept them due to where they are from. On a weekly basis we hear them say that the rest of the world has forgotten about them, they no longer care that they are invisible."

The team are concerned about what new laws might mean for BMS' work in the country. They are continually assessing how both the staff and women they work with be kept safe. Women are among the most vulnerable in their communities. Widows in particular have little choice but to live off charity. There is a great need to allow continued engagement with vulnerable women in a way that does not put them at further risk.

When the future is so frightening and uncertain, your prayers are urgently needed for the women of Afghanistan. But even in the face of such cruelty, you can remain confident of this: "that you will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord (Psalm 27: 13-14)."

*\*Names changed for security reasons.*

Find out how you can  
pray for women in  
Afghanistan.



<b>2025</b>		<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Door Steward</b>	<b>Service Leader</b>
<b>5th January</b>	10.30 a.m.	The Elders Ordination Service	Angela Higgin	Gillian Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Nigel/Mark</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Nigel Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
<b>12th January</b>	10.30 a.m.	Mark Heaton	Glenys Leeming	Janice Greenwood
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Grahame/Kathryn</i>	<i>Communion: Start Of Service</i>	Janice Greenwood
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
<b>19th January</b>	10.30 a.m.	Mark Heaton	Mark Wilkes	Glenys Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Cynthia/Neil</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Grahame Baldwin
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
<b>26th January</b>	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Ann Kellow	Nigel Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David/Janice</i>	<i>Communion: Evening Service</i>	Peter Lewis
	6.00 p.m.	<b>EVENING SERVICE</b>		
<b>2nd February</b>	10.30 a.m.	Ruby Missionary	Neil Binns	Melanie Lewis
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Nigel/Peter</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Mark Wilkes
		NO EVENING SERVICE		
<b>9th February</b>	10.30 a.m.	Martin Ashby Smith	Jack Wellman	Elaine Lord
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Grahame/Mark</i>	<i>Communion: Start Of Service</i>	David Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
<b>16th February</b>	10.30 a.m.	Susan Western	Bernice Baldwin	Elizabeth Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Cynthia/Kathryn</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Nigel Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Janice Greenwood	Mark Wilkes
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David/Neil</i>	<i>Communion: Evening Service</i>	Janice Greenwood
	6.00 p.m.	<b>EVENING SERVICE</b>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Angela Higgin	Cynthia l'Anson
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Nigel/Janice</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Grahame Baldwin
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		

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