



The Baptist Church,
Brierfield

March 2025



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

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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 I'Anson, or by email to newsletter@brierfieldbaptistchurch.org.uk



Greetings

(a short message by Grahame Baldwin)

Dear Church Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! We're so pleased to connect with you through this month's edition of our church newsletter. Each month, we aim to encourage, inspire, and inform you about the incredible work God is doing in our congregation and community.

As we journey together in faith, let's be reminded of Hebrews 10:24–25:

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...but encouraging one another.”

This newsletter is a part of that encouragement, bringing updates on upcoming events, ministry highlights, testimonies of God's goodness, and opportunities to serve and grow.

There's a place for everyone to get involved whether it's in our regular Sunday worship, Bible studies, mission work, or prayer meetings,. Let's continue to walk as one, lifting each other up in prayer and love, and let the light of our Lord Jesus shine in our daily lives.

Thank you for being a vital part of our church family. May this month be filled with God's blessings as we strive to glorify Him in all we do.

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.

March	18 th
April	1 st , 15 th & 29 th

Friendship Group: Meet on Wednesday 12th March at 7.30 p.m. when it we will be playing Board Games, which will be followed by a light supper, for a small fee. If you would like to come along why not speak with one of the Friendship group for more information, all Adults are welcome.

Evening Services: The next Evening Service will be on the 30th March and then on 27th April, both starting at 6p.m. and held in the primary room, unless otherwise notified.

Family Praise Services: Our Family Praise Service for March will be on the 30th, 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.



Church Meeting: A reminder the first Church Meeting of 2025 is on Thursday 11th March at 7:30p.m. in the Primary Room. All Church Members are encouraged to attend, but the meeting is open to all the congregation.



Daylight Saving: With Winter behind us and Easter on the way the end of March sees the clocks go forward and with it lighter Evenings. This year the clocks go forward one hour at 01:00 on Sunday 30th March.

Puzzles

LENT



ALMSGIVING

BENEDICTION

COMPASSION

DEVOTION

DISCIPLESHIP

FASTING

FORGIVENESS

GRATITUDE

HOLY SPIRIT

HUMILITY

JESUS

JOURNEY

PRAYER

REFLECTION

RENEWAL

REPENTANCE

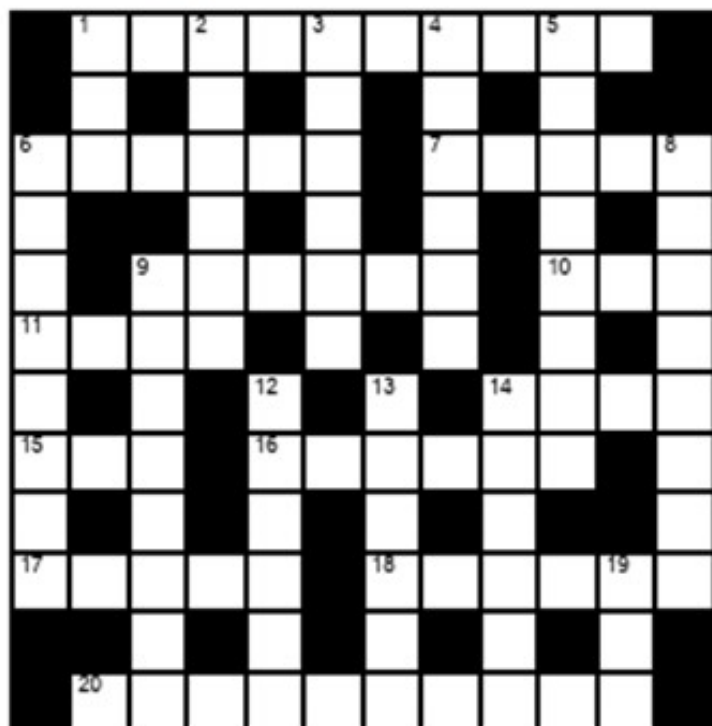
RESURRECTION

SACRIFICE

SCRIPTURE

WORSHIP

Quick Bible Crossword I



by *Philologus*

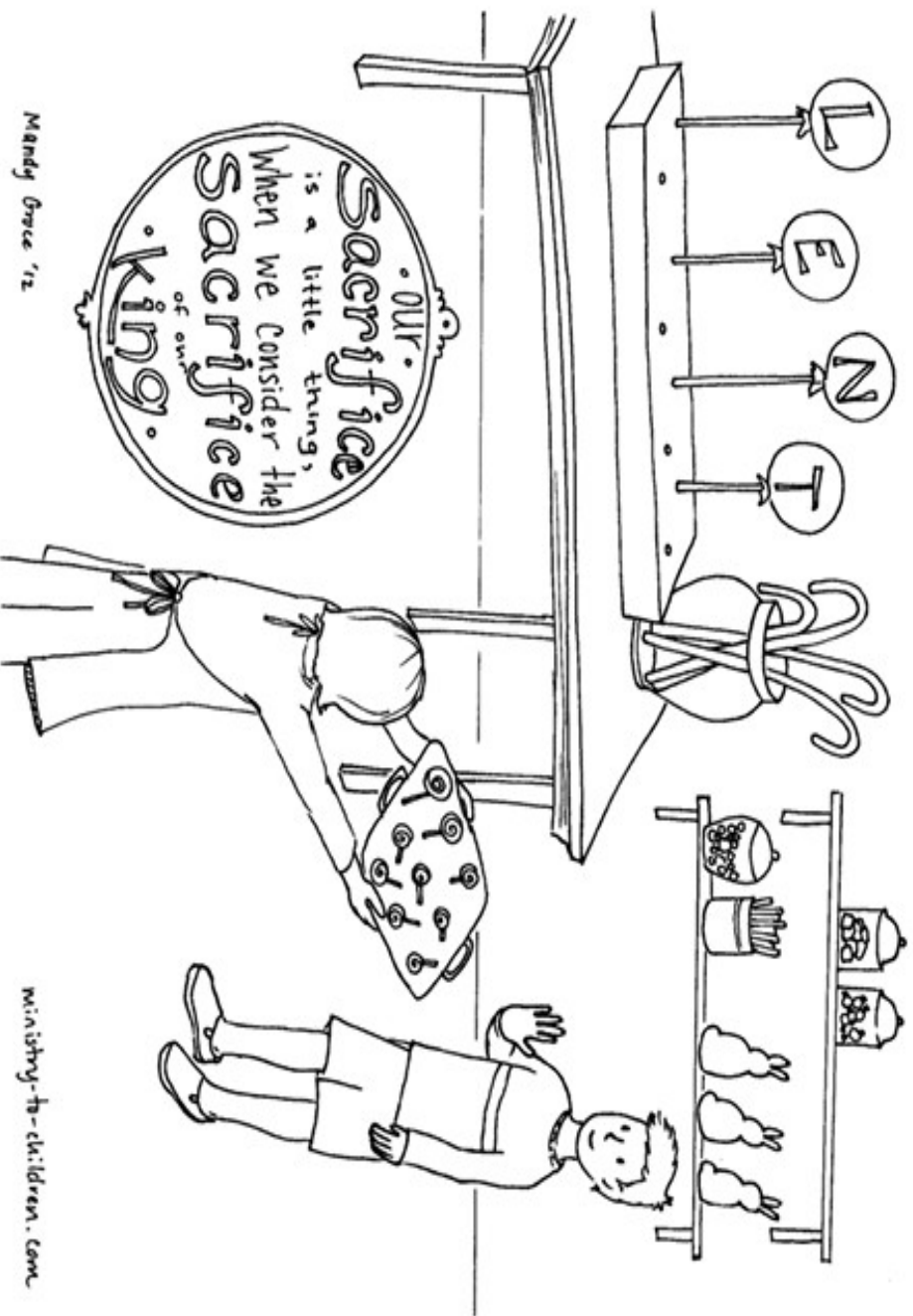
© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Across

- 1 Remorse (10)
- 6 Consecrate (6)
- 7 Break a Commandment (5)
- 9 Make a hole (6)
- 10 Pot (3)
- 11 What Ai became (4)
- 14 This initially watered the earth (4)
- 15 Samuel's mentor (3)
- 16 Small river (6)
- 17 Mount that Moses climbed (5)
- 18 Prophet in David's time (6)
- 20 Biblical garden (10)

Down

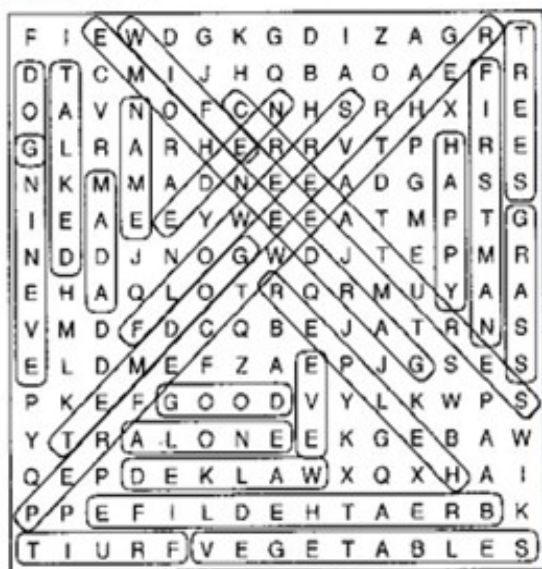
- 1 Take flight (3)
- 2 One of the twelve (6)
- 3 All living things (6)
- 4 Response (6)
- 5 Guardians of Eden (8)
- 6 The father of Levi (8)
- 8 Grow (8)
- 9 Forbearance (8)
- 12 Second longest book (6)
- 13 Statue metal (6)
- 14 Sister of Lazarus and Mary (6)
- 19 Wood splitter (3)



Mandy Grove '12

wishing-to-children.com

Last Months ANSWERS



Prayer Matters

Have you noticed that the days are starting to get longer?

It is almost the start of Lent. Traditionally this is a period of 40 days before Easter.

The word Lent derives from the Old English word Lenten or Lengthening. Some people try to give up something during this time, which is in sympathy for Jesus who spent 40 days in the wilderness being tempted, praying and fasting. Read Matthew chapter 4 verses 1 to 11.



This act of self-discipline can also be used to the opposite effect. Giving something to others and ourselves.

Try giving something to God. Extra prayer time? Extra Bible study? A small task within the church family?

Try giving something to others. Giving to charity, financially or volunteering. Be helpful to someone in need.

Take time for yourself in meditation, positivity and gratitude for what you have. Or something as simple as learning a poem, a new song or even a bible verse.

However you spend Lent may it be a time of reflection and blessing as we look forward to longer days and Spring sunshine.

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



INDIA

“The Lord sent you to encourage us”

Thank you to all of you who wrote to Narendran* and Kavita*, a couple from India who were beaten severely when extremists attacked a prayer meeting. They’ve received your messages – and they couldn’t have arrived at more timely moment.

“Last night, we as a family were very discouraged,” shares the couple. “Though we have a strong desire to do many things for the Lord, we’re often unable to do them because of pressure from extremists. Just yesterday, we considered quitting the ministry, but the Lord sent you to encourage us today.



ABOVE Narendran and Kavita



ABOVE Narendran and Kavita reading your timely messages

“After reading these letters, our hearts are filled with joy and gratitude that hundreds of brothers and sisters are praying for us. It’s given us the strength to move forward and continue the race that the Lord has set before us. Words cannot express our thanks.”

PRAY For resilience, protection and encouragement for Narendran and Kavita.

CENTRAL ASIA

Open Doors video leads to baptism

God often reaches out to people in the unlikeliest of ways – and that certainly applies to Samila* from Central Asia.

Samila has a skin condition that makes her a social outcast. Her husband left her, relatives abandoned her and people avoid her on the street – all because she’s deemed ‘unclean’ and cursed. In search of healing, Samila explored several avenues, including saying

Islamic prayers, touching the graves of sheikhs and travelling to holy places to fast. Nothing worked.

As she began exploring Christianity, she saw a video posted on YouTube by Open Doors. After leaving a comment asking for help, a local partner met with her, listened to her story and hugged her. Samila cried – it was the first time in years anyone but her daughter had embraced her.

After six months’ reading the Bible daily, asking questions and attending a house church, Samila gave her life to Jesus and got baptised!

Whilst Samila hasn’t yet been healed of her illness, she knows with deep assurance that she’s a beloved child of God and part of a worldwide church family. After years of hurt, her heart is beginning to heal – and she’s overjoyed!

PRAY Thank God for Samila and how God revealed His love for her, and pray that she’ll grow in her faith.



ABOVE Samila (right) no longer feels isolated after becoming a Christian

PAKISTAN

Christian mother sentenced to death

A Christian mother in Pakistan has been sentenced to death for allegedly sharing blasphemous content on a WhatsApp group.

Shagufta Kiran was fined under the country's notorious blasphemy law and handed the death sentence. She was also found guilty under the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, which carries a seven-year prison sentence and an additional fine. The family plans to appeal the verdict.

Shagufta is currently in solitary confinement, and there is fear that she could face serious threats to her life. Death sentences are seldom carried out, but people charged under the blasphemy law have been killed by mobs or vigilantes. Shagufta's family are also at risk and are currently in hiding.

PRAY For Shagufta and her family's protection, comfort and peace, and that lawyers will secure her release.



ABOVE Shagufta and her family need your prayers

MALI

Crippling tax imposed on Christians

Christians in a Mali village have been threatened with church closure if they don't pay crippling tax to Islamic extremists.

Believers aged 18 and over living in Douna-Pen village, in Mopti region, must pay a tax of 25,000 CFA francs each month – that's £32, more than half the monthly income of many families. "We're supposed to be living in a secular state, where such practices should not take place, but unfortunately this is becoming our new reality," says a Christian worker.

It follows reports of the tax being imposed last summer in Dougouténé, another village in Mopti, and there are



ABOVE Mopti, Mali ©Unsplash

fears that other villages will follow. It's been applied elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa, and Open Doors analysts believe the cases are part of a wider systemic plan by extremists.

"Families who refuse, or cannot afford to pay, are driven from their lands – places where they have lived all their lives," says Jo Newhouse*, an Open Doors spokesperson on the region. "The long-term physical and emotional impact is devastating."

PRAY For an end to this tax, and ask God to help believers navigate its imposition.

MORE STORIES

- 200+ killed in Burkina Faso attacks
- Read messages from secret believers in Afghanistan
- 26 mostly Christian men released in Sudan

Head to opendoorsuk.org/news or follow us @opendoorsuk for more news and updates.



*Names changed for security reasons

2025		Preacher	Door Steward	Service Leader
2nd March	10.30 a.m.	Keith Richardson	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		
9th March	10.30 a.m.	Nigel Lawrence	Glenys Leeming	Michael Patterson
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Grahame/Peter</i>	<i>Communion: Start Of Service</i>	Peter Lewis
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
16th March	10.30 a.m.	Grahame Baldwin	Mark Wilkes	Neil Binns
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Cynthia/Mark</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	David Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
23rd March	10.30 a.m.	Miles Anderson	Anne Kellow	Bernice Baldwin
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David/Kathryn</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Mark Wilkes
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
30th March	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Neil Binns	Jack Wellman
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Nigel/Neil</i>	<i>Communion: Evening Service</i>	Nigel Leeming
		EVENING SERVICE		
6th April	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Jack Wellman	Gillian Fogg
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Grahame/Janice</i>	<i>Communion: Start Of Service</i>	Janice Greenwood
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
13th April Palm Sunday	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Bernice Baldwin	Janice Greenwood
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Cynthia/Peter</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Grahame Baldwin
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
20th April Easter Sunday	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Janice Greenwood	Glenys Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>David/Mark</i>	<i>Communion: End Of Service</i>	Peter Lewis
	6.00 p.m.	NO EVENING SERVICE		
27th April	10.30 a.m.	TBC	Angela Higgin	Nigel Leeming
	Vestry Prayers:	<i>Nigel/Kathryn</i>	<i>Communion: Evening Service</i>	David Leeming
	6.00 p.m.	EVENING SERVICE		

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