Growing
as a Family

The Baptist Church, Brierfield

December 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

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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

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More than a Holiday

(a short message by Nigel Leeming)

Unlike decades ago we have moved away, as a society, from the traditional holiday periods or "Wakes weeks" to have holidays. That is of course unless you're stuck with School holidays but they too appear to differ across the North West. The only set holiday in our calendar appears to be Christmas and as we know that too is under pressure. Personally, it the only holiday of the year where I can return to work after a few days without the dread of mountains of emails to reply to.

Let's aim to keep Christmas special by focusing on what it's all about.

As the year draws to a close and life grows busy, Christmas invites us to pause and remember that God came to Earth in Jesus—our Light in the darkness and Prince of Peace. Even when times feel heavy or uncertain, the birth of Christ brings real hope, deep love, and lasting peace to our hearts and homes.

The Nativity reminds us that God makes room for everyone—and that there is always a place for you here. Whether you have been part of our church for decades, have joined in the past few months or are stepping through our doors for the first time, you matter to God and you are a valued part of our church family. I pray all feel welcome and get involved in our work here in Brierfield

This season, let us share the warmth and generosity of Christ with our neighbours and look forward to celebrating together. We look forward to us all joining together with your families, your friends at our Christmas services and events.

On behalf of our church family, thank you all for your prayers, kindness and shared faith this year. May God bless you and your loved ones this Christmas and the year ahead.

Nigel

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	8th & 22nd
January	5th & 19th

Bible Study sessions are fortnightly (See dates above) we meet in the Church Lounge starting at 7:30pm. The sessions will be led by David and everyone is welcome to join us, if you have never been before, why not come and join us.

Friendship Group: Meet once a month on a Wednesday and is open to all Adults. We have a varied programme of events and each evening is followed by a light supper for a small fee. Our next meeting is 9th December at 7:30pm when we will be having our Christmas Party.

If you would like to join us why not come along to our AGM on 13th January or speak to a member of the Friendship Group for more details.

Church Meeting: The Next Church Meeting will take place on Tuesday 12th January at 7:30pm in the Primary Room. All Church Members are encouraged to attend.

Evening Services: The next Evening Service will be on 31st January at 6pm, when the Service will be led by Gary Bartlett, and followed by Holy Communion, everyone is welcome.

Music Group: The Music Group are looking for anyone who can play an Instrument, can you play the organ or sing? If you are interested or wish to know more speak with Melanie.

Maintenance Team: We continue to meet most Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for a couple of hours to carry out maintenance work on the Church building, for more information speak to Grahame or Mark.



Christmas Food Bank Donations: We will be collecting donations for the Brierfield Food Bank from now until the 13th December. I will take the donations to Anne at the Food Bank on Thursday 17th December. Speaking to Anne she gave me some additional ideas of what the Food Bank needs which includes - **Long Life Milk and Washing Up Liquid.** Somebody recently donated some winter coats they no longer needed and they went within an hour. From money donations received Anne is purchasing other items which will be useful during the cold winter months. Anne asked that I give a very big thank-you to everyone who has donated during 2026, the Food Bank could not continue if it were not for people like you. A VERY BIG THANK-YOU. **ANGELA**

Used Stamps & Spectacles: We have two boxes on the radiator as you come into chapel. One is for used stamps (trim off the excess - but leave a small amount clearance around the perforated edge of the stamp). The second box is for used spectacles,(not including the case). As Christmas is coming, we all receive more cards with stamps on and after the Christmas trimmings are taken down people start to think of Spring cleaning, this is a good time to clear any old pairs of spectacles. The stamps are donated to the local hospice and the spectacles are donated to the Round Table, who have a facility to check and grade these and send them around the world to people in need. If you haven't donated before, please think about it for 2027. Many thanks.
ANGELA

Prayer Meeting: Joan, Cynthia & Bernice have begun meeting on Tuesday mornings at 9:45 for a time of prayer, if you would like to join them or to find out when they are meeting next, speak with them.

Baptismal Service: There will be a Baptismal Service on the 3rd January and we currently have one candidate, but we would welcome more candidates to come forward. So If you have been thinking about being Baptised or wish to know more then speak with Nigel or David

Prayer Chain: We would like to remind everyone that we do have a Prayer Chain, which is used when we know of someone who is in need of urgent prayer. If you are not already signed up and would be interested in joining this useful tool for urgent prayer, please give your email address to Kathryn who will be pleased to add you. If you have Urgent Prayer then also send a message to Kathryn, details in this Newsletter on the Prayer Matters Page.

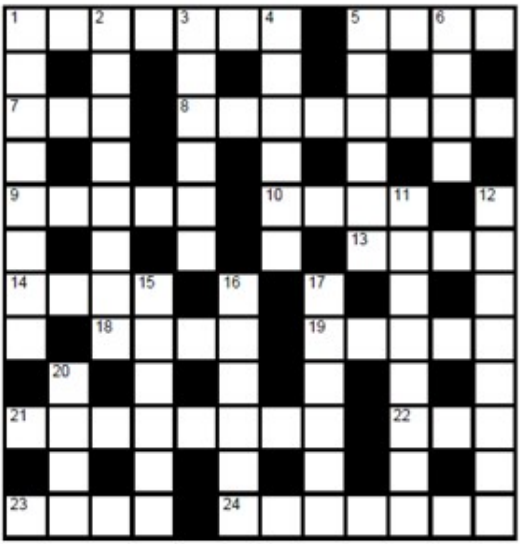
Family Praise Services:



Our Final Family Praise Service will be our Christmas Buffet Lunch on the 20th December, following the main service, we do hope you will come along and join us. Next year there will be no monthly lunches, but we will still celebrate key event's in the Church Calendar with a Lunch or Breakfast. These are Easter Breakfast 28th March, Church Anniversary 16th May, Harvest 26th September and Christmas Buffet Lunch 19th December 2027.
There may be some additional dates added at a later date and these will notified in the newsletter and notices.

Puzzles

Quick Bible Crossword XVIII



by *Philologus*

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Across

1 Spoke (7)
5 Ridicule (4)
7 Path (3)
8 Religious work (8)
9 Adversary (5)
10 God's dislike (4)
13 Adullam, for one (4)
14 Book written by a priest (4)
18 Book of Paul's journeys (4)
19 May be guiding (5)
21 Bearing (8)
22 Pledge (3)
23 Can't stand (4)
24 Number of sheep in the lost sheep parable (7)

Down

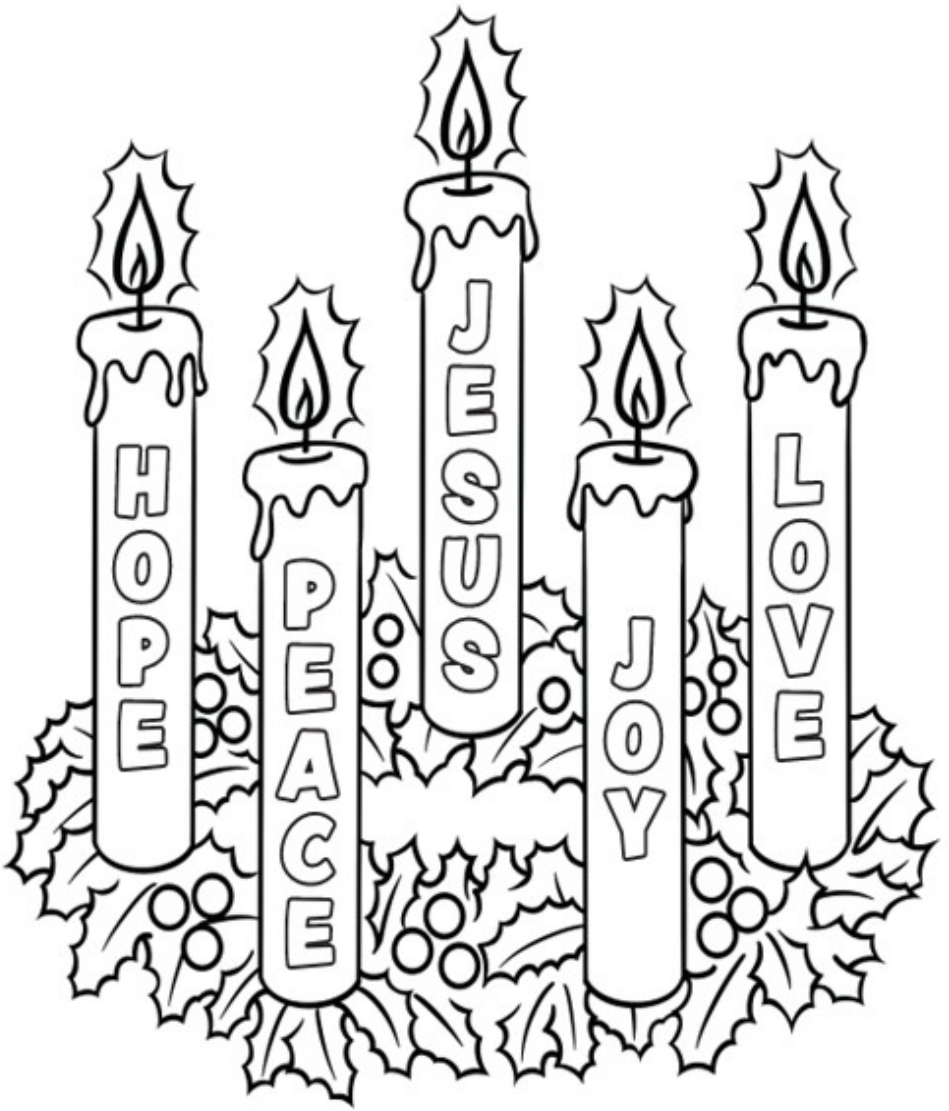
1 Dirty (8)
2 Lydia's home town (8)
3 An epistle of Paul (6)
4 Book featuring Nebuchadnezzar (6)
5 Concerning the Old Testament laws (6)
6 Worry (4)
11 One who says how to behave (8)
12 Granted (8)
15 Charge (6)
16 Book read by the eunuch (6)
17 Wine vessel (6)
20 Devout widow (4)

MESSIAH



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

ALPHA
AMEN
ANOINTED
BLESSING
CHRIST
COVENANT
ETERNAL
FAITH
GOOD NEWS
GRACE
HEAVENLY
HOPE
JESUS
JOY
KING
LEADER
LIFE
LIGHT
LORD
LOVE
MESSIAH
OMEGA
PEACE
PROMISE
PROPHET
REDEEMER
SACRIFICE
SAVIOR
SERVANT



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Last Months ANSWERS

Quick Bible Crossword XVII - Solution



Across: 1 Parable, 7 Felix, 8 Antioch, 9 Offer, 12 Plea, 14 Sun, 15 Plot, 17 Urn, 18 Ash, 19 Oxen, 21 Rob, 22 Idle, 24 Sides, 27 Bathing, 28 Plain, 29 Untying.

Down: 2 Annul, 3 Animal, 4 Locust, 5 Deaf, 6 Wine, 9 Onyx, 10 Found, 11 Rinse, 12 Prays, 13 Ephod, 16 Ours, 19 Obtain, 20 Eighty, 23 Linen, 25 Isle, 26 Evil.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.com

REMEMBERANCE

SOLUTION



Prayer Matters

Hannah and myself would like to share this message.

You never know the true joy of Christmas until you look to God and tell Him that you have received His gift to you.

As we begin our preparations and celebrations this Christmas we pray that the world will find peace. May the people of our world understand the true meaning of Christmas.

We are required to spread the good news of God's love for everyone.

Let us pray and sing like the angels

You never know the true joy of Christmas until you look to God and tell Him that you have received His gift to you.



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





The Light of Christmas

Gary Bartlett, from our church family, has created an original Christmas song, The Light of Christmas, about the star over Bethlehem and the hope it brings to us all. It will be released on Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon and other platforms on 1st December 2026, with a music video on YouTube the same evening.

The song is the heart of a Nativity musical Gary is creating and producing, The Light of Christmas – Live on Stage, planned for December 2027 in Lancashire, with the money raised going to the NSPCC and Make-A-Wish UK.

Gary is setting up a small community group, Light of Christmas Productions, to run the show properly. He is looking for:

- A secretary, to take notes at meetings and help with letters and emails
- A treasurer, to look after the group's bank account and keep a record of the money.
- Helpers, to find sponsors and venues, and to help behind the scenes. You don't need any experience, just a little time and a willingness to help.

Meetings can be held by video call.

You can pre-save the song here:
https://distrokid.com/hyperfollow/garybartlett/the-light-of-christmas

If you'd like to help make the show happen, Gary would love to hear from you on 07940 250964 or Bartlettgary13@gmail.com.

Weekly Service Rota

December			January 2027		
6th	Preacher	Colin Scholes	3rd	Preacher	Baptismal Service
	Service Leader	Jack Wellman		Service Leader	Elders
	Door Steward	Bernard Kellow		Door Steward	Glenys Leeming
	Evening Service	**No Service**		**Evening Service**	**No Service**
	Communion End Of Service	Nigel Leeming		Communion	Grahame Baldwin
13th	Preacher	Gerald Norcross	10th	Preacher's	Michael & Grahame
	Service Leader	Janice Greenwood		Service Leader	Melanie Lewis
	Door Steward	Bernice Baldwin		Door Steward	Mark Wilkes
	Evening Service	**No Service**		**Evening Service**	**No Service**
	Communion Start Of Service	Mark Wilkes		Communion Start Of Service	Janice Greenwood
20th	Preacher	Carol Service	17th	Preacher's	Jack & Mark
	Service Leader	Glenys Leeming		Service Leader	Elizabeth Wilkes
	Door Steward	Janice Greenwood		Door Steward	Anne Kellow
	Evening Service	**No Service**		**Evening Service**	**No Service**
	Communion End Of Service	Neil Binns		Communion End Of Service	Mark Wilkes
27th	Preacher	Derek Lawrence	24th	Preacher's	Nigel & Peter
	Service Leader	Nigel Leeming		Service Leader	Elaine Lord
	Door Steward	Angela Higgin		Door Steward	Neil Binns
	Evening Service	**No Service**		**Evening Service**	**No Service**
	Communion End Of Service	Cynthia I'Anson		Communion End Of Service	Peter Lewis
			31st	Preacher's	Cynthia & Melanie
				Service Leader	Mark Wilkes
				Door Steward	Jack Wellman
				Evening Service	**Gary Bartlett**
				Communion **Evening Service**	David Leeming

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

Vestry Prayers

December			January 2027		
6th	David	Janice	6th	Nigel	Joan
13th	Nigel	Peter	10th	Cynthia	Janice
20th	Cynthia	Mark	17th	David	David
27th	David	Neil	24th	Nigel	Peter
			31st	Cynthia	Kathryn

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