



Blackley Baptist Church



Gathering for Peace



Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

As we approach the end of one year and the beginning of the next, we look back over 2024, and look forward to Christmas and New Year in our December/January Edition of the Broadcaster.

We send our love and best wishes for Christmas and 2025 to you from Blackley Baptist Church.

<https://www.blackleychurch.co.uk>

Hello from our Ministers!



Dear Friends,

“Are you ready for Christmas?”

That’s the question I have already been asked, and it’s not even December! You know me – I’ll not be ready until... well, Christmas! But according to the noise and the fuss, it is already here.

Christmas is loud, isn’t it? So much expectation. So many voices. Telling us how to celebrate, what to wear, what to eat and drink, what to watch and what to buy. We turn on the News and jarring with the ‘jollity of Christmas’ are the raised voices of fighting leaders and angry politicians. Which is why this year we are joining with other churches in calling people to **‘Hush the Noise’**

These words, of course, come from that lovely carol, ‘It came upon the mid-night clear’ written by Edmund Hamilton Sears, from the challenging third verse.

*But with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel’s hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the love-song which they bring;
oh, hush the noise and still the strife, to hear the angels sing.*

This Christmas we’re inviting everyone to hush the noise. To listen for the love song that the angels bring, this and every year. They sang it for the first time more than 2,000 years ago, on the midnight clear. They’re just waiting for us to join in.

But what is this ‘love song?’ Well, Advent gives us the opportunity to explore again just precisely what that love song is, to understand its message for us as individuals, church communities and fellow travellers in our broken and warring world. So whilst this edition of the Broadcaster gives details of how we will be celebrating Christmas, don’t let us just join in the collective Christmas rush and noise, and drown out the opportunity of Advent.

At our recent Blackley Centre Trustees meeting and our Peace and Quiet day we asked the question ‘What does Advent mean for you?’ There were a variety of answers: space, a chance to listen to music and reflect on deeper meanings, the beginning of candle-time, the coming of light and hope, a chance to stop and ‘wonder at the Wonder’ of Incarnation, as well as the opportunity to eat chocolate! In this edition of the Broadcaster several people will reflect on what Advent means to them. So, I wonder, what is the gift of Advent for you; what does it mean to you; what can you gain by taking time and space to wonder at The Wonder? Perhaps you might like to share these thoughts with those around you – family, friends.

Finally, when you are asked, “Are you ready for Christmas?” why not ask yourself (and them?) a different question, “Am I ready for Jesus?” And if the answer is not really, then Advent might be just what you need!

Wishing you a wondering Advent, a Wonderous Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

With our love, *Jo and Andy*

Journeying through Advent to Christmas at Blackley 2024

'Hush the Noise'

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Sunday 1st Dec | Advent Sunday: Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm Join with us as we begin Advent at our All age service in the Thompson Jones Hall |
| Sunday 8th Dec | Advent 2: Worship at 10.30 am. Prayers for Peace in our World at Christmas at 6.00 pm |
| Saturday 14th Dec | 'Sleighbells and Showtunes' Halifax SingSpace Choir Concert (see below for details) |
| Sunday 15th Dec | Advent 3: Worship with Communion Service of Remembrance for Loved Ones at 4.00 pm A special service to remember those we love but will not see. |
| Thursday 19th Dec | 'Carols and Barrels' at 7.30 pm A chance to sing your favourite carols at The Holywell Inn , Station Road. This is a new venture – so do come and support. |
| Saturday 21st Dec | Children's Choir for Christmas. 2.00 – 4.00 pm (See below for details) |
| Sunday 22nd Dec | All Age Carol Service for 4th Sunday of Advent at 10.30 am. Join us when, as a church family, we begin to celebrate Christmas together in church – a service for all ages worshipping together. Carols by Candlelight At 6.00 pm Our Carol Service for the community, held in the Chapel by candlelight, to be followed by refreshments. |
| Monday 23rd Dec | Crafts, Carols and Christingles for Everyone 2.00 pm A lovely time for children and adults, playing some games, making some crafts. After refreshments we make Christingles, finishing with a special time at the manger. All welcome. |
| Christmas Eve | 10.00 pm Christmas Eve Communion A short, reflective Communion service, especially for Christmas Eve. <i>However, please could you let Jo or Andy know if you are coming.</i> |
| Christmas Day | 10.30 am Let's Celebrate A short happy and often chaotic service for Christmas Day. Jesus is born, and we joyfully celebrate together – be prepared for the annual Christmas Present 'Show and Tell!' |
| Sun 29th Dec | 10.30 Worship led by The Deacons (see below) |

Sleighbells and Show Tunes **Christmas Concert – 14th December**

Tickets are available to see the very first show of the students of Sian Pattison Academy, SPA, and **The SingSpace Halifax Musical Theatre Choir** who meet at Blackley every Tuesday evening. Sian says,

“We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a fabulous evening of your favourite theatre and Christmas tunes. We are proud to say that proceeds from the show will be donated to the Blackley Centre in support of the amazing work they undertake and to Panache Cheer and Dance, Brighouse, in support of their World Championship campaign in Florida 2025. We are also supporting the Elland food bank on the evening of the performance so if you could spare any tinned/canned/dry goods or toiletries these will be gratefully received at the door.”

<https://bookwhen.com/sleighbells-showtunes#focus=ev-szsj-20241214190000>

A New Children’s Choir! **Calling all budding young singers!**



On Saturday 21st December we are having a fun afternoon for children and young people to learn a couple of Christmas songs/carols to sing at ‘Carols by Candlelight’ the very next day. Open to anyone who wants to sing! Come and play some games, enjoy some food, and help create a new Children’s Choir. The Choir will be led by

Ebony, from Halifax SingSpace Musical Theatre Choir – assisted (not that ably) by Jo.

**2.00 – 4.00 pm Saturday 21st December with first performance at Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 22nd December at 6.00 pm at Blackley.**

Après Christmas Sunday 29th December

Hopefully it won’t be Apres Ski – although anything could happen with the weather. The Revs will be having a well-deserved break after the busy and full time at Church during Advent and Christmas.

By special request the Deacons have been asked to prepare and lead the Sunday morning service on 29th December in the TJ Hall. We want to make it an opportunity for you all to have some input. It can be hard to fit all the carols in over Christmas so if you have a special favourite which may have missed the pick, or if we have sung it and you would like to sing it again, please let us know. Any contributions such as a significant poem, or reading from the Bible or elsewhere? Perhaps you have a Christmas story we would love to hear. Any contributions would be most welcome and we can weave them in to our final service of the year.

Please let me, Jean Whitworth, have your requests and suggestions **before Christmas.**



Peace with God...

...through learning and listening

Advent thoughts

'What do I want for Advent?' from Jean Whitworth

We are usually asked, "What do we want for Christmas?" and we think of luxuries or necessities which we would like – and sometimes more altruistic things, like peace and good will.

Jenny's question of what I would like for Advent brought an immediate quick response of sun, sand and relaxation! She responded that I could give thanks for all the beautiful places in the world where we could holiday. Job done!

However, later on I thought that really is a self-centred way of awaiting the birth of Jesus – such an amazing event for Christians world-wide. Reading the news and watching the television can be very worrying and depressing, can't it? Strange political decisions, wars, greed and unhappiness seem to be dominating, resulting in an air of negativity. I am worried that the negativity seems to permeate everywhere at the moment. This Advent I would like to see and experience far more positivity in everyday life, looking forward with hope, with appreciation for the many things which are good in our lives.

We are approaching the birth of Christ and the hope he gives to the future of us all. Let us spend our Advent days revelling in these special days and their special meaning.

'Advent thoughts' from Chris Williams

As a child I wasn't aware of Advent....I was more interested in Christmas, and the presents at the bottom of my bed! Children are nearly all like this at a young age. As I grew older, I still didn't appreciate Advent and was not aware of the Saviour born on Christmas day – I didn't have a relationship with Him.

Eventually, after I became a member of 'Girl Crusaders' I began to learn the depth of God's love, and what his coming into the World at Christmas meant to me. This, in turn, gave me a whole new slant on my thoughts about Easter as well, and Christmas was always a special time in our family, with its connection to Easter not far away.

Thankfully, in recent years the belief that we can't have Christmas without Advent has been made more obvious to me in this Church which I happily and gladly attend. I am now a long way from being that child interested mainly in those presents, I can, and do, appreciate an Advent that leads up to Christmas, giving me time to reflect on the most precious gift God has given to all of us. Thank You Jesus.

SAYING "YES!" TO "ADVENT"

The nature of Advent in our world today is very different from that experienced by Mary, Joseph, and Elizabeth all those years ago, when our Creator God came to earth as a human baby - as 'Emmanuel' - God with us. There was no clamour or stridency then, no artificiality or materialism. Just a peasant family coming face-to-face with an incredible choice and opportunity to carry out the purpose of their God. For them it involved wonder, acceptance, obedience and joy, mixed no doubt with anxiety and endeavour.

For Mary herself the wonder must have been overwhelming! The coming of the Angel Gabriel itself would have taken her breath away, and the message he brought to her must have seemed unbelievable! She was a virgin, and was still only betrothed, and she and Joseph had not broken the law! Yet Mary did believe. She accepted the reality of Gabriel's message and declared herself ready to accept whatever God was asking of her. The joy will have come later in Bethlehem. As her pregnancy progressed it may well have aroused doubts or disapprobation among her family and neighbours, and she may have gone to visit her cousin and Elizabeth for understanding and support in view of the amazing events of *her* life!

Joseph too had a decision to make. Should he break their betrothal or allow it to go ahead? Again, God provided the answer in a vivid dream. The birth of a son to Mary was His will and purpose and had long ago been prophesied by the Prophet Isaiah. So, for Joseph too, wonder and acceptance will have been there, and his obedience to God's command will have played an essential role in making the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem possible. He will have cared for Mary on the long journey, found them shelter, and later taking them out of danger into Egypt until they could go home safely to Nazareth. Nothing of this will have been easy, but the joy will have been very real when he saw the precious baby he had been called to cherish and bring up, peacefully sleeping in his manger-bed.

Elizabeth and Zechariah too were part of the Advent story, and Mary's visit to Elizabeth may well have been a comfort and joy to them both. Zechariah's experience in the temple, and his temporary dumbness because he doubted that his seemingly barren and aging wife really would, in due time have a baby, must have been a great source of wonder and amazing joy to them both. They showed their joyful acceptance by obeying God and preparing John for his life ahead. Zechariah had been told that his son would go before the Messiah, and prepare the people for His coming. When Mary and Elizabeth met, the baby in Elizabeth's womb seemed to recognise and rejoice at the child Mary was carrying, and Mary herself broke out into the beautiful poem which we know as the Magnificat.

So where does this leave us? Wonder, Acceptance, Obedience and Joy all seem to be responses to the Coming of Jesus in the people of the first Christmas story. How might we, in our hectic and busy world respond in a similar way to the coming of Emmanuel? How do we as individuals, and as the family of Jesus Christ, prepare to welcome the reality of His coming into our broken world, and recognise afresh the wonderful truth that He is *still Emmanuel, God with us*? We too can wonder and rejoice and offer Him our loving obedience, as we think back over two thousand years to the birth of Jesus.

Jenny



Peace with Justice...

...through Interfaith Conference

'Peace, Inside and Out'

Blackley hosted the joint Interfaith Peace Conference, working with Calderdale Interfaith and Bradford University Peace Studies Department. It was a super day, with amazing hosting and catering from Blackley folk. It was fabulous to see the Thompson Jones filled with people from different communities, cultures, and countries exploring different aspects of peace, with workshops run by the Quakers, the Buddhists, Community artists and others.

A particular highlight for many was listening to 3 Young Peace Ambassadors and their Headteacher Mr Mark Sharp from Cross Lane Primary School. They spoke clearly and eloquently about the hugely positive impact of the YPA programme on themselves and their school. Those attending the workshop were amazed and inspired by them, and by the project.

All in all, it was a great day, and a big 'Thank You' to all who worked so hard to make it so.

... through The Amos Trust

Last Christmas we gave our Christmas offerings through the Christmas Card scheme, plus donations, to Amos Trust Emergency Relief Fund for Gaza, following on from the beginning of the war in October 2023. One year on and the situation is even worse, with many thousands still dying, directly because of bombs and missiles, but also because of disease, starvation, exposure – all caused by the obscenity of war.

Amos Trust website says:

"If you had said a year ago that the situation in Gaza would be worse now, I would not have believed you. I could not have believed what Israel would do." [Ambassador Dr Husam Zomlot – Head of the Palestine Mission to the UK]

- 44,249 Palestinians killed, of which 17,000 were children
- 10,000 people buried under the rubble
- 104,746 injured
- 10,000 amputees
- Over 2 million displaced, many numerous times.

The population is systematically being denied access to food, water, fuel and medical care. Hunger and famine are widespread, while thousands of aid trucks are denied entry to Gaza.

A year after the fighting started, the situation in Gaza City and across northern Gaza is now worse than it has been at any stage in the last 14 months.

Our 2024 Christmas Appeal is to fund:

1. Essential medical care
2. Vital food aid
3. Therapeutic interventions for women and children
4. Young writers who are documenting a genocide.



This is Al Ahli (Baptist) Hospital in Gaza City after the bombing on 17th October 2023. That first strike killed 490 people and it has been hit 4 times since.

Despite this and massive shortages in staffing, medicines, anaesthetics, antibiotics, fuel, food and water, the hospital continues to open every day.

This small hospital is currently the only trauma hospital operating in Gaza

City. It is seeing 700 patients a day, has 200 inpatients in a 60-bed unit and 22,000 outpatients. Every day the staff risk their lives getting to work.

This is just one of the projects that Amos Trust is supporting. We would like to suggest that, for a second year we collect and raise money for Amos Trust emergency Relief for Gaza Appeal this Christmas.

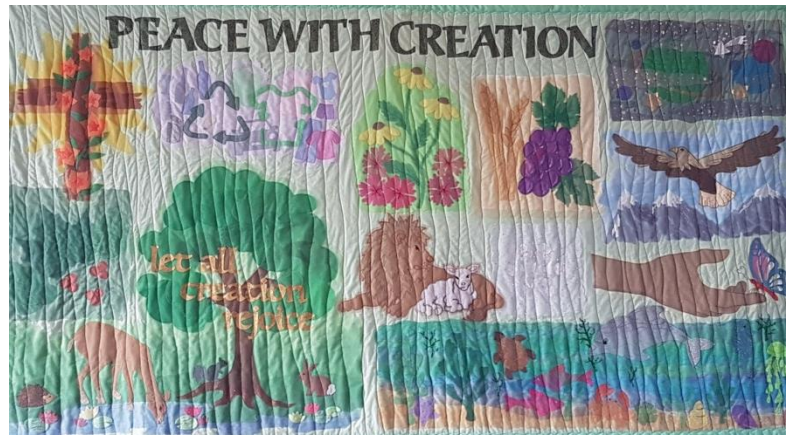
However, if anyone would like to make a personal donation, between the 3rd and the 10th of December every gift donated online through The Big Give will be doubled. You can pledge a donation for this now (which will be doubled) by going to

www.amostrust.org/give/christmas-appeal-for-gaza/

amos  **trust**
justice and hope for the forgotten

Peace with Creation...

... through our Peace Garden



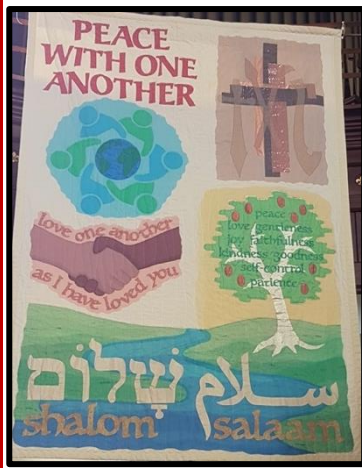
Our long awaited and much debated circular bench has arrived, and we have taken big strides in making our Peace Garden with our commemorative bench for David Shutt actually happen. The children at The Blackley Centre Celebration Day helped to create a Peace mosaic, which will – when it is finished – go to mark the Peace Garden for all to see. So if you are up at Blackley, and the weather is not too cold, why not have a quick sit on the bench. Take a breath, notice the beauty all around, and remember David.



Our hope is to add some plants and quotes on Peace to the Peace garden, and build up to a trail around the site, finishing up at a Labyrinth at the bottom of the Graveyard. We are not there yet – but that is the plan. If you would like to donate a plant – or a cutting from your own garden – do please have a chat with Jo and Andy.

If anyone feels that this is a project with which they would like to be more involved, please, please speak up! Nikki was really sad that she wasn't able to see this through with us to completion, but health issues and time issues didn't make that possible.





Peace with One Another...

Part of our collective life here at Blackley is sharing in each other's joys and struggles, and those of our families. If any of our readers has information that it would be good to share either here or in Community News, mindful that we broadcast our services, please do let us know.

Last Sunday, November 24th, we were anticipating the opportunity to celebrate 100 years of Leslie with an Open House on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Unfortunately, the same day, Leslie had a fall and was taken to Calderdale, where he deteriorated, developing sepsis. As I write the Broadcaster we know that treatment has been withdrawn and Leslie is peacefully coming to the end of his very long and remarkable life. We are grateful to God for all we have known and experienced through this lovely man, and hold Leslie, Karen and all the family in our love and prayers. It is so sad that Leslie will in all probability not make that amazing milestone, but perhaps there is some rightness that in the year we lost Trevor and Raymond, the third person in the 'Blackley Triumvirate' goes to join his dear friends before the year ends. Go gently, dear Leslie, and thank you.

In our last edition of the Broadcaster we shared news of Gordon Smith's recent surgery to remove lesions and the planned chemotherapy he was to have received. Unfortunately, due to a series of infections the chemo had to be postponed, and currently Gordon is struggling with pneumonia. We hope and pray that the new antibiotics knock this on the head quickly and he is well and strong enough to proceed with treatment. We continue to pray for Gordon and of course Pam, and all the family. Happily, Pam and Gordon had a lovely day celebrating their Golden Wedding with the family, even though it wasn't the celebration they had planned.

On the subject of Golden Weddings, Desley and Andrew also celebrated theirs – this time, as planned! They had what seemed an amazing holiday in the East, and celebrated 50 years of married bliss (that's right isn't it, Desley?) And this month there is another wedding anniversary to mark and celebrate – Chris and Ray Williams are celebrating their Silver Wedding on 4th December. Many congratulations to them all.

Doreen Barlow has recently shared the news of serious health concerns for Roger. We understand that over the last few months investigations have been on-going (very slowly) with Roger having a biopsy last week. We hold Roger and Doreen in our prayers at this worrying time of uncertainty and distress. We have also been praying for Daniel, Kath Avis' son who has been very poorly, and has now been diagnosed with T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He is undergoing treatment at St James which is being very painful and challenging, so they are very appreciative of prayers and thoughts. Kath is taking extended leave from church cleaning, and we are very grateful to Vickie, a member of Sing Space Choir for stepping in and cleaning the place for us. She has her own worries for her mum who has terminal cancer, and would appreciate our prayers.

There are several others of our Blackley family for whom on-going health issues continue to give concern. Alan Odams is still in considerable pain, and feeling quite poorly, and Caroline Buckle has had a really hard time with trapped nerve issues as well as family concerns. We continue to remember Carole and David, and Margaret and John.

But let's end on a happier and more positive note. We share the great news that Jean and Michael's grandson Matthew has had confirmation that his condition has not spread to other parts of the body and there is no sign of cancer anywhere. Matthew still has little vision in one eye, but is positive about the future.

... through Meetings and Events

Regular Meetings

Wednesdays 9.30 – 11.00 **'Playing with Peace' Parent and Toddler group.** Our last session is Wed 18th December, reopening on 8th Jan.

Thursdays @ 10.00

Gathering to Work and Pray

Morning Prayer in The Prospect Suite. All welcome

Church Working Party. Volunteers always welcome!

Thursdays @ 11.00

Gathering for Coffee and Chat – Prayers, Workers, Walkers, & You!

Thursdays @ 11.20

Gathering to Sing (as advised)

Other Meetings/Events (known at the time of printing)

Please see Advent and Christmas Programme for more details.

Thurs 5th Dec 12.30pm Internment of Ashes for Christine Sutcliffe

Wed 11th Dec 12.00 pm 'The Rock Boys' Christmas Cook-in

Tues 14th or 21st Jan (tbc) 10.00 Deacons, Officers and Ministers Meeting

... through Flowers from Church

The flowers we have in church week by week really enhance our lovely Church, but they are also an important part of the way we care for friends, family and each other. We are really grateful to all who have donated, arranged and distributed the flowers throughout 2024 – thank you so much for enabling us to offer 'Peace to One Another' by this important ministry.

| DECEMBER 2024 | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 st | |
| | |
| 15 th | Christmas Tree |
| 22 nd | Christmas Tree |
| 29 th | Christmas Tree |



The rota for 2025 is being finalised and January will come out via email.

... through The Blackley Centre

At our Church AGM we thanked Andrew for his five years or more work as a trustee of the Centre and appointed Jean to take his place as a trustee nominated by the church. This means that Jean and Guy now serve as Blackley Centre Trustees nominated by the church and they both made great contributions at the recent Trustees strategy day.

The Centre continues to face the challenge of securing an adequate income to cover all its costs and we are very grateful to all the members of the Centre who give their personal support in this way.

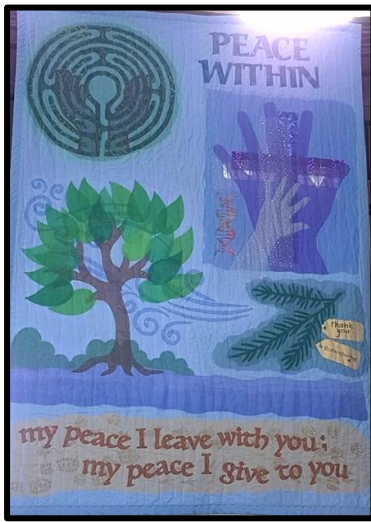


In October and November the Centre ran its first 'Paths of Peace - Handling Conflict Well' course over five days with ten participants. This was a great success with **all ten evaluating the training as excellent** and saying that they would recommend it to others.

As one person commented 'Wonderful expertise, clearly and openly communicated, in a great atmosphere to learn'. The next course will begin in March.

Speaking of reviews...





Peace Within

...through Prayer

There are approximately 7 people or families listed each week and some other areas to think about. You can pray for them all, or individually, each day or once or twice a week. This is not meant to be an 'ought' or a pressure but something that is helpful so please use it in whatever way works for you.

| Week Com | People to remember this week | Areas of Church Life | Local Areas/Groups |
|---|---|--|---|
| Sunday 1ST December 1st Sunday of Advent All Age Worship. 2pm TJ Hall | Christine Allcock and family The Allison family The Ambler family Kath Amis and her family Darren, Deborah, Phoebe and Thomas Arber Neil and Margaret Arber Doreen and Roger Barlow Pauline and George Barnard , Charlotte and Rob | Pray for our ministers Jo and Andy as we approach the Christmas Season. We bring those in our congregation suffering with illness and needing treatment and pray for good outcomes for them Pray for Sing Space Choir as they prepare for their first Concert at Blackley on 14th | At the beginning of the Christmas period, be with all the local children, schools and staff as they start their preparations. Be with their Christmas activities and celebrations. |
| Sunday 8th 2nd Sunday in Advent 10.30am Prayers for Peace 6pm Bible Reader Alan Odams | The Baume family Jean Bennett and family Leslie Bolton's family Joe Braithwaite and family Ann Bryant and family Caroline, Gordon and Poppy Buckle Susan and Alan Clough and family here and in Australia | Pray for our Officers, Deacons and Ministers. We pray for Pauline as she takes on the new role as Treasurer, giving thanks for her. We welcome Linda back onto the diaconate after a long break (!) and pray for all Officers and Deacons as they end this year, and begin the next, thanking God for Michael and all his hard work for the church | Think of wider Blackley: the Cricket club, The Fleece and Brosters Farm Shop and pray for them as they work so hard at Christmas time. May a sense of community prevail and grow amongst all the residents. |
| Sunday 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent 10.30am Communion Service of Remembrance 4pm Bible Reader David Denton | Mary Crowther and family Glenda & John Dekker & Family David & Carole Denton & family Gloria Dyer Elaine Dyson and family Roy and Linda Dicken Margaret Ellis Happy Birthday Jill Sykes (16 th) Joe Braithwaite (17 th) David Denton (19 th) | Pray for Advent and Christmas events continuing this week, including Playing with Peace Christmas Party on Wed 18 th , Carols and Barrels at Holywell Inn on 19 th and the formation of a children's Christmas Choir on Sat 21 st . | At the beginning of the Christmas period, be with all the local children, schools and staff as they start their holidays. Be with their Christmas activities and celebrations. |

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| <p>Sunday 22nd December 2024</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent Church 10.30am</p> <p>Carols by Candlelight 6pm In Church</p> | <p>John Farrar and Margaret Jackson and family The Field and Smith families Chris and Steve Green and family Linda and Mike Greenwood and family. Elaine Harvie Guy Hirst and family Jenny Howland Brenda Ingram and family</p> <p>Happy Birthday Phoebe Arber (23rd)</p> | <p>Carol Service for All Ages in morning and by Candlelight in the evening. Please pray that these special services will reach out to our friends, families, and community to share the good news of Jesus this Christmas Please pray for Crafts, Carols and Christingles on Monday that children and families will come along, and for our Christmas services on Christmas Eve and Christmas day</p> | <p>Let us pray for All our local churches in Elland and District .May their Christmas Services and this time of joy bring peace and harmony Remember those who are alone or homeless or struggling with poverty.</p> <p>Praying for and Wishing Everyone a Very Happy Christmas!</p> |
| <p>Sunday 29th December 2024</p> <p>TJ Hall 10.30 am</p> <p>Bible reader</p> | <p>Nikki and Stuart Jenkins</p> <p>Patricia and Richard Lindsay Beryl Mason Patricia and Graham Mitchell and family Jenny Peckett Alan and Maureen Odams Pam and Gordon Smith and family Margaret Shutt and family</p> | <p>Pray for Stuart as he retires today as a Baptist minister, and celebrates with the church at Roomfield. Pray for our Deacons as they lead worship on Sunday. Pray for our Ministers as they have some space with family and friends after the busyness of December and Christmas.</p> <p>Wishing Everyone a Peaceful 2025</p> | <p>Pray for the residents of Blackley Village and Blackley Road.The Fleece Pub and Brosters.Hazelmere Fold , for the residents and the families with whom we have connections</p> <p>Pray for Peaceful New Year's Eve celebrations</p> |
| <p>Sunday 5th January 2025.</p> <p>All age family service</p> <p>TJ Hall 2Pm</p> | <p>Lynn & Philip Smith and family Jean Sykes and family Jill Sykes and family Desley & Andrew Taylor and family Susan and Ian Taylor & family. Joan Thornton and family Clare and Anne (Townend) & families Happy Birthday Alan Clough (4th Jan)</p> | <p>We remember and give thanks for all who work at the up-keep of our building, for Ray and Joe in their leading of Property and Finance, for the Trustees of the Peel Trusts, and for the Thursday Working Party. Pray for all who donate, arrange and distribute flowers as a sign of our love.</p> | <p>All good wishes to the local people and friends at the start of 2025, praying especially for our neighbours in Hazelmere Fold. Pray for those countries still at war through out the world May the peace of God and his compassion come to them.</p> |
| <p>Sunday 12th January 2025</p> <p>TJ Hall 10.30am</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Bible Reader Jenny Howland</p> | <p>Jean and Michael Whitworth & family Chris and Ray Williams and family Wendy and Steve Williams and family. Jo, and Andy Williams , Megan & Dan, Alys & Duncan Tricia Wilkinson and family Joyce Woodhouse</p> | <p>Those who attend.. Thursday Prayer Group and those who lead it .</p> <p>Please pray for the Shake it all about Group, ROGY and Futures Group as they think about new opportunities for the church as we grow and care for our communities, helping us all to share the good news and hope of Jesus.</p> | <p>Please pray for those in our local area who are finding life difficult at the moment with increased prices and business problems . Be with those who need medical services and are suffering due to long waiting times</p> |

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| <p>Sunday 19th January 2025</p> <p>TJ Hall 10.30am</p> <p>Bible reader</p> <p>Doreen Barlow</p> | <p>The Blackley Centre for Peace and Reconciliation; Christine Alcock as Centre Manager and Pauline as Centre Treasurer The Centre Trustees. The Interfaith Work done at the Centre The David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors Paths of Peace Mediation Skills Participants</p> | <p>Thank God for the young men at the Rock and for the growing ways we can support and care for them. We pray for the cooking sessions but especially for the lads themselves -uncertain of their future</p> <p>Please pray for Christine and the catering group .</p> | <p>Remember those who are alone or homeless or struggling with poverty. Be with those who work at Overgate Hospice and in our social services , to give care and compassion to those in need .</p> |
| <p>Sunday 25th January 2025</p> <p>TJ Hall 10.30am</p> <p>Chris Williams</p> | <p>Baptist Union of Great Britain, Revd Lynn Green (Secretary of BUGB) YBA and our Regional Ministers (Graham, Nike, and Alex)</p> <p>Happy Birthday George Barnard (29th)</p> | <p>Pray for all in our fellowship who are poorly or unable to attend. We especially remember and pray for our older friends who we do not see that often: Mary, Joyce, and Beryl.</p> <p>We pray for friends who have moved away but who are in our thoughts.</p> | <p>. Pray for the work of Elland Food Bank and for the Elland people who are struggling at this.</p> <p>Pray for the homeless, and those who are being helped by the work of Project Colt</p> |

After Christmas

The stable is empty now,
echoes of forgotten moments are all that remain.

A baby's cry, the tears of a mother's joy,
all are gone.

Just another stable – dark, cold, unwelcoming,
not the place we'd choose... and yet,
it was here that poverty found its master,
oppression its freedom.

Here humanity stood,
face to face with God
and creation was reborn.
Here love's victory began.
The stable now is empty...

... but the world is filled.

G M Breffitt 1987

The Christmas Story

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

Myrrh gold Frankincense census Bethlehem stable manger
shepherd star prophet angel Joseph Mary Magi Jesus
baby Immanuel



Items for our next edition of The Broadcaster to Jenny Howland jd.howland@live.co.uk or Jo Williams jo.williams@blackleycentre.co.uk by Sunday 26th January 2025 please.