



Welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church, on June 6th 2021 at 10:45, meeting once more at Bethesda Chapel.

The lifting of lockdown restrictions has resulted in the decision to meet in person at Bethesda Chapel once again. We still plan to use our YouTube channel to broadcast the services, and will continue to provide this written service sheet for those unable to attend Bethesda. We hope and pray that you will find this outline of our service helpful, as we all seek to worship God as a Church family, wherever we are.

We continue our studies in Luke's Gospel, and our worship today is led by **Tim, who welcomes us all, wherever we are.**

"Good morning everybody. It's lovely to see you, and welcome to Blackburn Baptist Church. Thank you Alec for the lovely music as people have been coming in, we've enjoyed that. (Alec had been playing the piano, a Rachmaninov piano Concerto!) It's such a privilege to be able to gather here this morning and to praise and worship our great God who we've got so much to be grateful to, and what better way to do that than to join this morning in our first song, as we listen to the words of people gathered together at the Royal Albert Hall singing together 'To God be the glory,' and looking like they're really enjoying it. Let's join in in our hearts at least with the words of this great hymn: **To God be the glory.**"

To God be the glory, great things he hath done:
so loved he the world that he gave us his son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the lifegate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.

Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to ev'ry believer the promise of God.
The vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!...

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!.....

(This was a full orchestral arrangement from the Royal Albert Hall, and Tim says how much he'd enjoyed watching the looks on people's faces as they sang those brilliant words, and the percussionist 'giving it some welly' on the kettledrums!!)

Tim invites us to come together in prayer as we reflect on the words we've just heard.

"Father God we do want to give you the glory this morning, because of all those great and wonderful things you have done and that hymn celebrates. Lord thank you that though we didn't deserve it you loved us, loved us so much that you were prepared to send your one and only son into this world to yield up his life as an atonement for sin, and Lord through what he's done, he has opened up that life gate that we may go in. Thank you Lord that it's true that the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Thank you Lord for the forgiveness, the freely available forgiveness, that you offer us through that amazing price that Jesus paid for us on the cross. Lord we want to give you the glory and the praise this morning and Lord we want through our lives for the earth to hear your voice, and that message of good news and hope and salvation to go out to those around us as well. So Lord be with us this morning we pray, as we bring our praise and our offerings to you. Lord be with us in our worship, teach us, encourage us this morning as we come together before you, as we listen to your word. We ask these things in Jesus name. Amen."

We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father.

who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Tim now shares any notices for the week:

"First of all some sad news. I have to tell you of the death yesterday of our brother, Frank Thomas. We want to remember Frank at this time and give thanks to the Lord for his long life of service and love for the Lord and of course we want to remember Anne and the family at this sad time. I'm sure we'll have more news shortly but things like funeral arrangements but let's be mindful and be prayerful and uplift Anne and the family before the Lord at this time.

Other things to mention, we have our community room zoom as usual at 1 o'clock this afternoon, we hope it's not going to be too long now before we can meet in person and share fellowship here after the services but for the moment we continue with our community room zoom at 1 o'clock. We also have coming up this Tuesday, June 8th at 7:30 p.m. our church members meeting, which will be here at Bethesda chapel, and also we have our regular zoom prayer meeting still on Thursday this week, gathering together on zoom at 7:30 pm.

I think that's all I've got to share unless anyone has anything that I've missed so we're going to turn now to God's word, turning for the last time at the moment to the book of Luke. We're going to be starting a new series next week, going through to June and July, to be entitled encouragement in hard times, something that's very appropriate for us at the moment, but today we're going to finish off in Luke, "

as Tim reads our Bible passage for today, Luke 7, verses 36-50.

Jesus anointed by a sinful woman

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner.'

Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.'

'Tell me, teacher,' he said.

'Two people owed money to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii, [c] and the other fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?'

Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.'

'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said.

Then he turned towards the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.'

Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

The other guests began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?'

Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

Tim introduces our next song:

"That Bible reading is the story of forgiveness through the Saviour Jesus, and that forgiveness, that salvation, was promised long ago, and God as we know, always keeps his promises. We're going to remember that in our next song:"

It's one we have sung before, helped by Esther doing the actions for us: God always keeps his promises.

Oh, God He always keeps His promises -
He said the sons of Abraham
would be more than the grains of sand
and so, his family grew
underneath the Pharaoh's rule.

Oh, God He always keeps His promises -
He said the blood upon the door
would keep the Israelites secure
and so, He stayed His hand
and led them to the Promised Land.

Our God is good and true,
He cannot lie to me and you.
We can be sure of this:
God always keeps His promises.

Oh, God He always keeps His promises -
He gave us laws to be obeyed
and we broke every one He made,
but when we ran from Him
God said He'd take care of our sin.

Our God is good and true....

Oh, God He always keeps His promises -
He said His Son would set us free
through His death at Calvary,
He suffered in our place
and then He rose up from the grave

Our God is good and true....

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You can do actions too if you wish, make them up as you go along - or read aloud or silently!

Tim now leads us in a time of Communion together, inviting us to:

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy, help and forgiveness.

Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more. Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his body.

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We pray together:

Loving God, we praise and thank you for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ. We thank you for his life and work, announcing the good news of your kingdom and demonstrating its power by lifting up the downtrodden, and healing the sick, and loving the loveless. Thank you that he perfectly fulfilled all your promises of a coming Messiah and King.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross for the redemption of the world, and for raising him to life again, as a foretaste of the glory we shall all share. We give you thanks for this bread and wine, symbols of your transforming love.

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we may be renewed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and formed into his body. We pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

We share the bread:

Jesus said, "This is my body which is for you; do this in memory of me."

Let us take and eat the bread, remembering how much it cost Jesus to buy our freedom and forgiveness.

We share the wine

In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and said, "This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this in memory of me."

Now let us drink this wine together, as a symbol of our oneness in him, and be thankful.

Prayer

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off, you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tim invites Jane to lead us in our prayers of intercession

"As we pray, please feel free to join in at the end of each section after 'Lord, in your mercy,' with 'hear our prayer'.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that we can meet together and bring our prayers to you today and you, as always, are ready to listen. We come before you in humility, knowing that we so often fall short of what you desire us to be. But we also know that in your love

for us, you sent your one and only son, Jesus, to take the penalty for all the things that we have thought, said or done that are contrary to your will for us, and He has opened the way for us to approach you and ask for your forgiveness. We are truly sorry for the times when we have let you down by our lack of compassion, a sharp word or an unkind thought, or failing to respond to the prompts you give us to love and care for others in the way that you love and care for us. In your mercy, restore us and fill us with your Holy Spirit, that we may be more like Jesus, who showed his unconditional love by dying for us and offering us new and everlasting life.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father, we bring you our prayers for the world but we really don't know where to start. There is so much suffering in so many places and such great inequality between the rich and the poor. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they would make decisions to protect and enhance the lives of all their citizens; where there are wars and conflict, may they seek peace; where the basic necessities of life are lacking, may they use the country's wealth to bring relief to the poorest. We ask that the richer nations would prioritise their aid support for the developing world, and we think particularly of the vote in our own Parliament tomorrow, that the decision to cut the aid budget would be reversed, so giving a positive lead to other nations. We pray too that ways would be found of sharing the Covid vaccine more equitably across the globe.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our own country, Lord. We pray that you would give wisdom to the government as they seek to lead us safely out of the restrictions due to the pandemic. Help us to be sensible in the way we move about, but not fearful, for we know that You are in control of all things and your perfect love casts out all fear. We pray especially for all the churches in this land as they take this opportunity to look at new ways of working, to be able to effectively reach out with the love of Jesus to those who know nothing of His love for them and won't know unless they are shown in words and action. Open the hearts of this nation again, Lord, that many may hear and respond.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Finally, Father, we pray for ourselves. We thank you for each member of this fellowship and ask that you would enable each of us to draw closer to you and in so doing, draw closer to one another. We pray especially for those in particular need at this time – you know them each one by name and we lift them up to you for your healing power. We bring our dear sister, Anne, before you in her loss of Frank. Father, may she know your presence by her side bringing her comfort and peace. We pray for her physical healing too, especially for her eyes that are causing her so much discomfort. Lord, please be with her and the rest of her family at this sad time.

We pray for our church, that you would lead us and guide us, praying especially for our members' meeting on Tuesday as we come together to seek your will, for ourselves and for the community in which you have placed us.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We offer all our prayers in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.”

Tim shares his talk, based on the Bible passage we heard earlier, entitled "Forgiveness"

"There was once a country with a king who had suffered a lot from his rebellious subjects, who had even taken up arms against him. But one day they surrendered their arms, threw themselves at his feet, and begged for mercy. He pardoned them all. One of his advisors said to him, "Did you not say that every rebel should die?" "Yes," replied the king, "but I see no rebels here."

In our passage from Luke today, we see another forgiving king and the story of two rebels, one who sought and received forgiveness at the king's feet and one who saw no need to ask.

The Party (verses 36 - 38)

It's interesting and perhaps, at first sight, surprising to see Jesus dining at the house of a Pharisee, this man named Simon (v36). We've seen Jesus being critical of the Pharisees and their attitudes – but Jesus, it turns out, is just as comfortable eating with the religious leaders as he is with those at whose dinner tables those religious leaders would never be seen. No-one is ever outside Jesus' interest and love, even those who oppose him. We don't know Simon's reason for inviting Jesus, but maybe he just wanted to be able to debate over dinner with a well-known rabbi. Maybe he wanted to hear and honestly evaluate Jesus' teaching for himself, or even just provide entertainment for his other guests.

The menu is not mentioned. I wonder if it was chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy and peas? Well, probably not, but that reminds us that many things about this dinner in first century Israel would have been different from a dinner party today. For one thing, they reclined on low couches at the table rather than sit as we would. The homes of the day would have been different too. They would have been simple, with lots of ventilation for the hot, dry climate and no locks on the door. Many have also suggested that it might not have been that unusual to have people attending a dinner like this who were not specifically invited. They wouldn't dine with the guests but would come in and stand around the outside of the room listening to the conversation.

So when we find in verses 37 and 38 that a woman was present at the dinner and had access to Jesus with her jar of perfume, whilst that seems very odd to us, it was perhaps less surprising in that context. However, what she did *was* unusual, surprising and probably downright embarrassing for Simon, the host. Into a setting with what we could imagine might be educated, polite conversation about matters of Jewish law, up to the table comes this 'sinful woman.' And not only does she burst onto the scene, but she also starts crying at Jesus' feet, washing them with her tears, drying them with her hair, and anointing them with perfume. Put yourself in the scene in your imagination and consider the reactions on the faces of Simon and his other guests at this point. Talk about a dinner party not exactly going according to plan!

We don't know who this woman was, or what her sin was, except that it was something outward, because it was obviously generally known – she was notorious. Perhaps it's deliberate that Luke does not name her. She doesn't have a name, just a label - a 'sinner' - someone whom everybody looked down on and marginalised. Well, she may have been a sinner, but her actions give evidence that she *knew* she was a sinner – and *was repentant*. We can't prove this from the Bible, but it's very possible that this woman had encountered Jesus before and knew what he offered to people like her. If we turn to the equivalents of the events described in this chapter of Luke in Matthew's gospel, we find Jesus teaching there, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11 verses 28 and 29). Perhaps hearing those words,

the woman had turned away from her sin and trusted Jesus as her saviour. Whether it was earlier or on this evening as she listened to Jesus, certainly, her tears, her humble attitude and her expensive gift all spoke of a changed heart - and gratitude for what she had been forgiven.

The great news for all of us is that, no matter what we've done, no matter who we are, no matter what guilt we feel over our behaviour, no matter what others think of us, that same offer of forgiveness is available to us if we come in repentance, like this woman, to Jesus. Have you done that – will you do that?

The Parable and Its Application (verses 39 - 47)

The fact that Jesus doesn't put a stop to what the woman was doing seems to prove one thing to his host (v39), who was probably looking on with disdain. Simon thought it proved Jesus was *not* a prophet – as if he was, surely he should have known enough about this woman to send her away? Simon wonders this to himself, rather than saying it aloud, making it all the more interesting that Jesus responds in the following verses to Simon's *unspoken* question. I wonder if Simon recognised the irony – if Jesus knows what he (Simon) was thinking, didn't that offer the proof that Jesus *really was* a prophet?

What we've seen in this story so far shows a contrast between Jesus and Simon in terms of how they respond to this sinful woman. Simon believes that the right thing to do is to distance himself from her; but Jesus did not do so – rather he moved towards her with his offer of forgiveness and acceptance. That's a great lesson to us on how we treat those upon whom the world looks down.

However, it's a different contrast that Jesus draws out as he responds by telling a short parable to Simon. This contrast is between the responses of the woman and of Simon to Jesus himself. In the parable, there are two debtors – both had debts they couldn't pay, although of different sizes, and both are forgiven, but one was more grateful and loving as a result because they were so conscious of the great size of their debt. Jesus' point is that all of us are sinners in God's sight, in debt to him and unable to pay. Even though Simon thought himself to be holy, he was a sinner just like the woman. The difference is that the woman knew the seriousness of her sin and so appreciated the greatness of her forgiveness, whereas Simon did not recognise his sin and felt no need of forgiveness.

These verses remind me of how the prophet Nathan came to King David to tell *him* a parable, which then was applied pointedly to David to convict him of his wrongdoing in committing adultery and murder. In a similar way, Jesus turns this parable clearly on Simon as he draws out its meaning further in verses 44 to 47. Jesus asks, "Do you see this woman?" Simon thought Jesus couldn't see who she really was, but in fact it's Simon who can't see clearly – he misses the repentance and love shining through her actions. Even though Jesus was a guest in Simon's home, he was not an honoured guest. Simon had not even offered the basic courtesies of a welcome and foot washing. It was the sinful woman who had actually offered Jesus true hospitality through her actions – evidence of the greatness of her love, who had been forgiven much.

I wonder who I am more like in my response to Jesus and to the seriousness of my sin? How big is your sense of sin? Has the thought of your sins ever brought you to tears like this woman? Or do you feel that your sins aren't nearly as bad as other people's? If so, you are acting like Simon the Pharisee. Sin is sin in the sight of God. It separates us from him and it's a debt we cannot pay, causing us to be condemned to death. But the good news is this – the Bible says 'God demonstrates his love for us, that while we were still sinners, Jesus died for us.' (Romans 5 verse 8.) It also says that 'if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.' (Romans 10 verse 9.)

The Pronouncement of Forgiveness (verses 48 - 50)

The sinful woman had placed her faith in Jesus and the story concludes with Jesus saying something that must have been so wonderful for her to hear – verse 48 – ‘Your sins are forgiven’. She knew this because of the word of the Lord to her – and so can we. We should be very clear that it wasn’t the woman’s good deeds towards Jesus that had brought her that forgiveness – Jesus makes that clear in verse 50. It was her faith in him that had saved her, and her actions were simply evidence of the love she had because of what Jesus had done in her life. It was a vivid illustration of what Galatians 5 verse 6 says: ‘The only thing that counts is faith, expressing itself through love.’ Our actions and the love they express should show the change that has already taken place. In our hearts.

Not for the first time, some of Jesus’ hearers, the other guests, were shocked and offended by such a pronouncement of forgiveness. Only God could forgive sins! True, but Jesus was and is God and he *did* have that authority – and he’d proved it time and time again through his deeds, some of which we have read about in this chapter – like the healing of the centurion’s servant and the raising of the dead son of the widow from Nain. These were great miracles, proving Jesus’ authority as God, but just as great and even more lasting a miracle is what Jesus did in this woman’s life when her sins were forgiven, and she was made a new person – this is something that would last into eternity. That same miracle is available to you today.

Conclusion

So, finally, let’s consider how we may apply this passage to ourselves:

- Let any who feel they haven’t much need for forgiveness from Jesus hear from him in this story that ‘the one who has been forgiven little loves little.’
- Let any who feel their own sins are too many or too great to forgive hear a reminder from this story of God’s amazing grace and mercy.
- Let any whose hearts are overflowing with gratitude for God’s grace hear an invitation in this story to give back to God extravagantly in return.
- Let all of us in the church consider how we respond to people like the woman in this story. We are a community of forgiven sinners, so we also need to be a community that forgives in its turn, that says to those on the margins, “You are welcome here.”

Let’s be that kind of people. Let’s be that kind of church. People who know no gift is too good for the one who has given us everything. A church that makes clear everyone is welcome at the dinner table, when Jesus is our guest.”

Finally, another song to watch, listen to or read, which may be new to us: I get so excited, Lord (I’m forgiven)

I get so excited, Lord,
every time I realise
I’m forgiven, I’m forgiven.
Jesus, Lord, You’ve done it all,
You’ve paid the price,
I’m forgiven, I’m forgiven.

Hallelujah, Lord,
my heart just fills with praise,
my feet start dancing, my hands rise up
my lips they bless Your name.
I'm forgiven, I'm forgiven, I'm forgiven.
I'm forgiven, I'm forgiven, I'm forgiven.

Living in Your presence, Lord,
is life itself,
I'm forgiven, I'm forgiven.
With the past behind, grace for today
and a hope to come,
I'm forgiven, I'm forgiven.
Hallelujah, Lord....

Mick Ray
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And to close, we share the Grace together:

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen**

**We can watch, listen (or imagine) Alec playing the piano for us both before and
after today's service.**

We are invited, by the North Western Baptist Association, to spend time in prayer during this season of Pentecost, praying particularly for the churches in our North Western area. To help us, they are suggesting we may wish to pray for 2 churches every day, and many of the churches have asked us to pray very specifically. Here are the churches prayer requests for this current week, (and also next week, so that if you wish, you can pray on the same day as other fellowships!)

Monday 7th June 2021

New Park Street Baptist Chapel, Holyhead

Please could you pray for us as we seek to reach out to our local community, focusing on the '500 front doors' within 5 minutes' walk of our church building. Pray that we can be open to the leading of the Spirit and join in with what God is already doing in our neighbourhood.

Tywyn Baptist Church

For a joy-filled, God-centred reunion of the whole church family as we begin to gather again both indoors and out.

For practical needs as we cope with building size and social distancing and for both ends of the age- spectrum: our youth and our older folks as they have struggled more than most without in-person gatherings.

Tuesday 8th June 2021

Bethania Baptist Church, Leeswood

Please pray that the momentum for mission will continue to grow and for the re-launch of our children, youth and family ministries in conjunction with Saint Y Gymuned , Urban Saints Wales.

Chester Street Baptist Church, Wrexham

For a stronger sense of Community among us and the restored health of our Minister.

Wednesday 9th June 2021

Prince's Drive Baptist Church, Colwyn Bay

Please pray for PDBC as we begin to restart various services and weekly activities. Particularly for the development of Youth for Christ Colwyn Bay and for wisdom in where to put energy and resources.

Penrallt Baptist Church, Bangor

Pray that we use the resources we have to inspire, resource and release leaders, members and the congregation to achieve all that God wants them to be.

Thursday 10th June 2021

Union Street Baptist Church, Crewe

Union Street Baptist Church, Crewe, began with twelve people meeting 138 years ago. The last few years have been difficult with only two short periods of ministry. We have a faithful congregation, and we are

now meeting regularly for our service following the lockdowns. Please pray for God's guidance as we recommence our search for our next Minister.

Dukinfield Baptist Church

For guidance on the way forward for us as a small Church with an ageing congregation.

Friday 11th June 2021

Hill Lane Baptist, Briercliffe, Burnley

Pray for Revival, that people will come in to give us some help.

Roe Green Church, Worsley, Greater Manchester

For a vision

Saturday 12th June 2021

Toxteth Tabernacle Baptist Church, Liverpool

That we would be able to love each other well, and be envisioned as we move out of this tough time.

Forest Church Manchester

Forest Church Manchester is a Pioneer Community based in East Manchester. We gather weekly around a meal table to break bread and go out into the hills, fields and parks to pray. We do not have a building to re-open. Clearly, lockdown has significantly impacted our common life. Please pray for us as we re-build these relationships.

Sunday 13th June 2021

Beulah Community Church, Hollinwood, Oldham

For the way we move forward, learning the lessons from lockdown and adapting to the new situation we are in and the opportunities we can exploit.

Mills Hill Baptist Church, Manchester

Pray for the church to find its new post lockdown mission and God's guidance for next steps as we enter a time of ministerial vacancy.

(Some of you may remember Mike and Sandra Edwards, who were part of our fellowship at LRBC some years ago, before Michael trained for ministry. They are now part of Mills Hill Baptist Church, where Sandra is a Deacon and Mike leads the Pastoral Care)

NWBA - A Season of Prayer

Week commencing - Monday 14th June

Each day during our season of prayer, you are invited to pray for two churches in our NWBA community. This week's prayer focus is:

Monday 14th June 2021

Carey Baptist Church, Preston

Please pray for comfort for those who mourn and that the fellowship would grow together in unity and love. Pray that more people would be willing to step forward into leadership positions and that together we would discern the mind of Christ for our ministry and mission in these changed times.

Newall Green Baptist Church, Wythenshawe

For people to engage with the future of the church and see that they have a responsibility and influence on that future.

Tuesday 15th June 2021

Hope Baptist Church, Bootle, Merseyside

That we might recognise and accept God's will and plans for us.

Trinity Baptist Church, Radcliffe, Manchester

For God's leading as we plan to return to worship & the future Pastorate

Wednesday 16th June 2021

Melling Baptist Community Hub, Merseyside

We have no building so we are v reliant on other buildings being available and following the correct hygiene procedures, this makes "our return" a little bit more uncertain...but also quite exciting!

(We've met Jo Hassoun, who leads the fellowship, when she has spoken both at Pleckgate and at Bethesda Chapel)

Haslingden Baptist Church, Lancs

That the Lord will strengthen us as we try to build up our fellowship and the outreach to the community.

Thursday 17th June 2021

Farnworth Baptist Church, Lancs

For wisdom as we learn lessons from lockdown and move forward that we will avoid simply going back to the way we used to do things but allow God to guide us.

Richmond Baptist Church, Liverpool

That we can sensitively and successfully renew contacts begun during the two years prior to lockdown; that we may be open to new ways of being church and able to identify and follow-up opportunities to make connections with people in the local area. That the youthwork, that has been so badly interrupted, may be renewed and revitalised.

Friday 18th June 2021

Forest Gate Baptist Church, Blackpool

That we find a way to be and do church that is helpful and fruitful for all of us, including those not yet part of us.

People's Church, Partington, Manchester

that God would give us wisdom and unity as a body on the way forward and what church looks like as we come out of lockdown.

Saturday 19th June 2021

Lymm Baptist Church, Cheshire

Pray that as a larger congregation with a smaller building we can find effective ways to regather both to support our congregation but also with a missional focus.

**Hawkshead Hill Baptist Church, near Ambleside, Cumbria
(The young people used to camp here many years ago!)**

Pray for a smooth transition as Andrew & Kath Dodd step down as ministers, and pass the ministry to Matt Hirst (with wife, Ali)

Sunday 20th June 2021

Christway Baptist Church, Salford

Please pray for divine leading and help for the vision and mission to thrive as Christ's Disciple Church will be articulated and well embraced by all the members when the church finally reopened after lockdown.

Rosehill Baptist Church, Burnley

For us to have wisdom and clarity as we 'replant the church.'