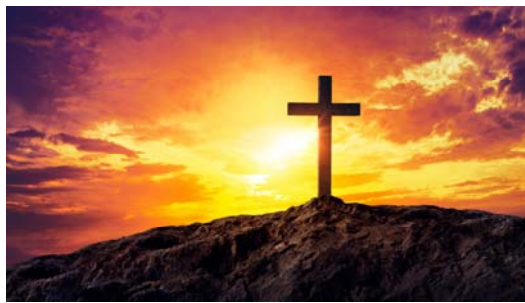




Blisworth
BAPTIST CHURCH
TO KNOW HIM AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

BBC NEWS UPDATE (No. 62): March/April 2024
(Registered CIO: Charity Number 1192810)



A Message from Lee, our Pastor:

As Lent is upon us, have you decided to give something up? I have read that many people choose to donate money or food to the local Foodbanks or other charities as a way to show solidarity with those who are struggling and to help alleviate their suffering. Jesus had a time of testing, and some people will use this period to deal with their 'demons', TV, alcohol and social media! Whatever you are deciding to do (if you are) then I pray a Blessing that in Jesus' name, you will complete your given task.

Over the next short period, we will be getting ever closer to celebrating Easter, the worst and best days of the year in my humble opinion, the death, but then resurrection of our Saviour.

I am sad to say that I will not be around for two weeks from Wednesday 27th March, due to me having an operation on my ear; but the fantastic Leadership Team, alongside Keith for worship, have stepped in to cover the Sunday services. This does, however, mean that we will now no longer be having a Maundy Thursday service. Please do try and find an alternative either locally or online.

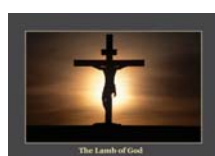
I cannot believe it has been nearly two years since I stepped into the role of Pastor. I look forward to our next few months together, and to see how the Holy Spirit moves at Blisworth Baptist Church following our amazing Prayer Sunday. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you all do, individually and corporately, for our community and God's Kingdom, and especially my wife, Hannah, who supports me in all I do.

Richest Blessings, Lee

Our Forthcoming Sunday Services (10.30 am)



Date	Leading	Worship	Speaking	
3rd Mar	Brian Ash	Keith Barker	Tony Maycock	Communion
10th Mar	Mike White	Lee Hillyard	Mike Lyons	Mother's Day
17th Mar	_____	Lee Hillyard _____		Cafe Church & Fellowship Meal
24th Mar	Anne Puffett	Keith Barker	Ted Ashworth	Palm Sunday
31st Mar	Ray Payne	Keith Barker	Ruth Brown	Easter Sunday
7th Apr	Brian Ash	Keith Barker	Mike White	Communion
14th Apr	Ray Payne	Keith Barker	Tony Maycock	
21st Apr	Lee Hillyard	Lee Hillyard	Lee Hillyard	
28th Apr	Diane Atkinson	Lee Hillyard	Ray Payne	Talk & Fellowship Meal



Tues 5th Mar/Tues 2nd Apr Zoom Prayer Evenings (7.30 pm)



The Zoom link, Meeting ID and Password is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9482591397?pwd=STBXbkZaaDIJm5zRkpCUzBHZ2NEdz09>

Meeting ID: 948 259 1397

Password: 857654

We will come together for a time of fellowship and prayer on the first Tuesday of the month: Tuesday 5th March and Tuesday 2nd April at 7.30pm.

Home Groups



Home Groups are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month (Thursdays of that week for Blisworth). The next meetings are:

Towcester Home Group: Tues. 12th & 26th Mar. / Tues. 9th & 23rd Apr. (7.30pm at Lee & Hannah's home)

Northampton Home Group: Tues. 12th & 26th Mar. / Tues. 9th & 23rd Apr. (7.30pm at Ray & Julie's home)

Blisworth Home Group: Thurs. 14th & 28th Mar / Thurs. 11th & 25th Apr. (2.30pm at the Church Coffee House)

Church Matters

Prayer & Pastoral Support Email Address: PastoralCare@BlisworthBaptistChurch.org

If you have a conversation with someone in the Church Family, and you feel that there is something worthy of sharing with the Church Leaders' Pastoral Care Team (good or not so good news) then please just email a message to the Pastoral Team. This will ensure the right people are made aware and pastoral support and prayer requests can be activated, as appropriate. Please don't assume that the Pastoral Team already know! Thank you.

Maundy Thursday Service

The evening service that we had originally planned for Maundy Thursday, has been cancelled (as Lee explained in his message on the front page).

Fellowship Meal: Sunday 17th March

We are having a Fellowship Meal, after the Cafe Church, on Sunday 17th March. Everyone is invited to attend, and asked to please bring along items to share. Thank you.

Talk on Malawi / Fellowship Meal: Sunday 28th April

Following the service on Sunday 28th April, there will be another Fellowship Meal. We ask everyone to please bring items to share. At the same time, Terry Atkinson will be giving us a presentation regarding the incredible work that he is involved with in Malawi, in Africa. (A session not to be missed!)

Fellowship Breakfast (Sat. 30th Mar) & Men's Breakfast (Sat. 27th Apr.):



The next Breakfast will be served on Saturday 30th March (Easter Saturday) at 8.30 am. This will be a Fellowship Breakfast to which both gentlemen and ladies are invited. We will be joined by a representative from **Age UK**, who will give a short talk and be available to answer questions.

A reminder/invitation will be sent out nearer the time, and we ask everyone to please advise beforehand if they are planning to attend, as this greatly helps with our catering and seating arrangements. We are trialling a new booking system, and ask everyone to please “book their seat” in advance – an email, with a link to do this, will be sent to everyone about a week beforehand. Thank you.

After this, the next Men's Breakfast will be served on Saturday 27th April.

Nominations for Elder, Secretary and Treasurer

The term of office for Brian, Ray and Anne ends at the forthcoming A.G.M. in April (if they are happy to do so, then they could be re-nominated for these positions). **The time period for nominations is the 1st - 15th March.** Elections will take place at the A.G.M.

Anyone who is nominated must have given their permission for their name to be put forward. The nomination must be supported by the signatures of two Church Members.

(Nomination forms can be accessed via Ray, the Secretary.)

A.G.M. & Church Meeting (Tues. 16th April)



The **A.G.M.** and the next **Church Meeting** are planned for **Tuesday 16th January 2024 (7.30pm)** in the Coffee House. This will be a Hybrid Meeting, meaning that people will also be able to “attend” via Zoom.

Do we listen when God speaks to us?

Over the past few weeks, indeed months, many people in our Church Family have faced numerous challenges with health issues, family difficulties and continuing financial worries. We seem to hear nothing but bad news, with strikes, NHS waiting lists, knife attacks, murders, the cost of living crisis, the climate crisis and conflicts and wars around the world. We despair at the death and destruction in the Ukraine and in the Middle East!

It is very easy to feel worried, anxious, depressed and totally helpless in such dark and troubled times. Indeed, many have spoken about feeling that we are under attack; and several have advised us to stay strong in our faith, with hope in Jesus, the light in the darkness, and to put our armour on for the fight (Ephesians 6). In a recent service, I spoke about these things, and even chose as our opening hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers!"

After that service, Liz Gilbert handed me some notes that she'd made regarding two visions that she had experienced, way back in November. They were:

Sun. 5th Nov.: *"I saw the Earth from above, and as I looked a black cloud began to descend, firstly across Russia & China, then spreading outwards over the rest of Asia. Darkness. Ungodliness. I then turned back to look at the West. Here it was grey as if in twilight – all of the United States, the Americas and Europe – the so called Christian World!"*

"Then, I noticed small dots of bright light appearing, scattered throughout the Earth (they included Blisworth!). I asked God what did this all mean? I was told that a great darkness is beginning to descend on the world and only the spirit-filled believers were the lights shining in the darkness. It is to be a time of great trouble and testing of our faith. Only true believers will survive. God says, 'Each light, however scattered, is very precious to Him!'"

"It is important that the true spirit-filled believers stand firm and true to the Gospel of Christ, and not be influenced by the darkness around them. The areas in shadow represent the so-called established Christian Church weakened and apostate as it is influenced by the secular world around it. Blisworth is one of the bright lights shining in the darkness and precious to God!"

Sun. 12th Nov.: *"I heard the sound of soft drumbeats gradually getting louder and louder. They were the sign of an impending battle calling us to arms. Then, I found myself in a line of believers, standing, fully armoured, under God's banner of 'Love'. We are called to be fully prepared for what lies ahead!"*

Thank you for sharing this, Liz!!

Equally, many have had visions and spoken about what God is saying to them. We have heard messages about growing spiritually, as individuals and as a church, and about

spreading the Word, the good news about Jesus. We keep asking God for guidance about how He wants our church to move forward, but is it possible that He keeps telling us and showing us? Are we listening to Him? Are we acting on what He is saying?

We need to grow and move forward individually, as Christians. We need to be strong, courageous, bold and united as we stand against the evil in our world. We need to share with others the wonderful news of Hope and Love that is on offer to everyone, as we journey forward in our relationship with Jesus! Jesus is the Light in the Darkness!

Nathan Toseland, one of the new BU Regional Ministers, recently visited us and his sermon was based on Phillipians Ch.3. He said that God had laid this on his heart to share with us in Blisworth. He talked about the importance and value of good relationships with like-minded people. He “felt” something special at BBC and encouraged us to “keep it going”! He emphasised the importance of rejoicing in the Lord, even in our worst moments. As Paul had said, when faced with challenges do not return to your old ways, don’t go backwards, go forwards, the “good old days” were not that good! Build your relationship with Jesus, and face all that life throws at you. The suffering that we face today should be rendered to the past – it has no place in the Kingdom! At the end of it all is Joy in Jesus. We are citizens of Heaven.

Ruth, in her recent sermon, also spoke about issues relating to us being “under attack”. She shared that this is not just in a spiritual way but also in a range of things affecting our everyday lives, and she provided numerous shocking examples of how so many of the basic morals and principles of our culture and society are being eroded. This is happening now! What are we doing about it? Are we going to make a stand and act, or are we going to hide in the shadows and let this happen to us?

When God speaks to us, do we listen? Do we actually hear what He is saying to us? Do we act upon what God is saying and telling us to do? Or, do we keep saying that we are waiting for God to tell us and show us what He wants us to do?

And Finally ...

[Message from Lin](#)

As we journey through March, there are so many special events (Lent, Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday) and Lin has provided me with lots of songs and video links (thanks, Lin). I have had to be very selective, and have chosen the following that I hope provide the message for the time (Ctrl + Click on each below):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sX1mv_k7uwQ ('Mother of Mine', Neil Reid)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQVog92kLH8> ('Three Days')

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DQfthEHVc4&t=6s> ('He's Alive', Dolly Parton)

Message from Winnie

Winnie invites us to listen to Andrea Bocelli singing "The Lord's Prayer":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8jlmIig4UY>

Ted has forwarded me another link, that he had been given by Winnie (thanks to both of you). This is a lovely tune and takes me back to my days in Sunday School! "Jesus Loves Me", a special version for Seniors!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qV2ZrXpY32E>

And Finally ...

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3: 5-6

"Jesus said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray ... I am deeply grieved ... stay here, and stay awake with me.'" Matthew 26:36,38

This Lent we are all invited to wait in hope for God to meet us and sustain us through the storms and trials life brings.

If you believe that Christians need to make a stand against the things that are happening in our Society, to oppose the changes that are being forced upon us, the change the perception that Christianity no longer plays a major part in the life of our country (congregation numbers are dwindling across all denominations) then perhaps it's time to "Reclaim the Ground"!

As the following advert states, there is a "call to arms" meeting at Towcester Town Hall (2.00 – 4.00pm) on Saturday 16th March.

May you all have a happy and blessed Easter.

God bless you all.

Ray (Church Secretary)

Reclaiming the Ground

**Do you love God and love your country?
Do you grieve at the state of Christianity in Britain?
Do you want to do something about it?**

The Church is called to uphold the faith and be a beacon of light in a fallen world. It is called to provide a moral compass, and seek after the lost. It is called to guard the flock. This, it is failing to do and, as result, our nation is in a mess.

As a society we have become increasingly self-focussed, decadent and corrupt while, by and large, the Church stands idly by.

Battle for the soul of our nation!

We will not see the nation change until the Church regains its vision and voice. It is time for Christians to wake up and once again make a stand for our faith and for the land that we love.

Join us on Saturday, 16th March,

Venue: Towcester Town Hall, 86 Watling Street, NN12 6BS

Time: 2 pm to 4 pm ALL WELCOME



<https://vfjuk.org>