

Blackley Baptist Church

Gatherings for Peace



‘Peace and Quiet Day September 2025’

The Broadcaster

October – November 2025

Welcome to this edition of The Broadcaster.

We hope that you enjoy reading our magazine, and that it helps to keep you in touch and up to date with all that is happening here at Blackley. We are a friendly and inclusive church, meeting together every Sunday, gathering for Peace.

Hello from our Ministers!

Dear Friends,

*'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;'*

So begins John Keats poem 'To Autumn'. I had to learn this poem as a competition piece when I was 14, and every October as the trees begin to turn and the air gets fresher, I am reminded of it by what I see happening around me. We may not have many 'vines that round the thatch-eaves run' in Blackley but there are the unmistakable signs that we have entered another season.

It's a good season to spend some time in, and not lose it in the rush towards Christmas. For Autumn is a time for taking stock; for reflection, for thanking God for all the gifts and mercies God has bestowed on us, for remembering and giving thanks for our lives, and for the lives others have given in service. It is a time of new beginnings, and for putting in place things that will sustain us though the year. At the beginning of Autumn we return to school, celebrate harvest, and move on through to All Souls Day, and Remembrance.

One of the tasks for me during Autumn over the last few years has been to write the Annual Report ready for the AGM in November. Whilst this is a quite an undertaking and takes a lot of time, it is really good to reflect on the year and all that makes this church so vibrant and faithful as we seek to serve God. I would like to invite you to reflect on the church's year and think about what you would like to give thanks for, or see in the report. Tell me your thoughts. What have you been grateful for this year?

So often we get caught up on what we haven't got, or what we can't do. Equally, we look at what is happening around us and we feel dispirited, seeing our country becoming more and more divided and polarised, the poor getting poorer, whilst the millionaires become billionaires, somehow managing to make the country blame the weakest and the poorest for this. We see our world being torn apart – and pictures and actions that we thought had been consigned to history books are once more on our screens and in our news. When we see and hear all that is going on in society and in the world, it can feel almost irrelevant or unfeeling to look at our own lives and our church, considering the things for which we are grateful, and celebrating them. But actually, it is vital that we do. For if we do not note and celebrate, and give thanks for all that is good, joyful and just in the world, we are not being the community of hope and peace and love that we are called to be by God.

During the autumn we are continuing to hoist the mainsail of prayer as part of Sailboat Church. We would like to encourage you to continue to listen to God, to others, and to each other and to share what you are hearing as we, amazingly enough, draw towards the end of another year. We have made various suggestions: The Examen, Daily readings and prayers, using The Lord's Prayer – or just times of silence. What are you hearing/noticing/sensing as we journey forward together?

Let's use this season of reflection and thoughtfulness to expand our understanding of God's love, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wishing you a peaceful and reflective Autumn,
With our love, Jo (and Andy)



The Autumn Craft Fair is coming soon!

We are looking forward to hosting our annual craft fair at Blackley on Saturday 18th October. As always there will be a fabulous selection of crafters, so come and support them and solve all your Christmas present dilemmas. Whether you are looking for something smelly, something soft, something sparkly, something rustic, you are sure to find it here. And it will be the place to buy those Christmas Cards and support various charities in the process with a large stock of Charity cards for sale.

It is also an opportunity for the church to show its wonderful Blackley hospitality to the crafters as well as to the community. We will be selling light lunches and refreshments, as well as holding a cake stall and tombola and bottle stall. So we need items for all three stalls. Please bring donations for the tombola and the bottle stall and leave them in the back room behind the kitchen.

We will also need to have people on the door to give that warm Blackley welcome, as well as people on hand to help with refreshments, cakes and in many different ways. Please consider how you can support - not least by coming down to church on Friday to help set up tables, chairs, bunting, stalls etc. It'll be another "All hands on deck!" occasion, and I am sure it will be an amazing day.

Proceeds will be divided equally between the church and Ellland Foodbank. Any questions, or offers of help, please see Pauline. As always we are really grateful to her for all that she does to make this happen.



Peace with God...

... through Worship at Blackley

Worship on Sundays most Sundays will be in the chapel at Blackley, and on Facebook, **at 10.30 am**, and now on YouTube. It will be led by one or both of our ministers, Andy and Jo unless otherwise stated. Please note that **Worship for Everyone on the first Sunday of the month will not be on Facebook or YouTube** for Safeguarding reasons but will be on the church Zoom account. Contact Andy or Jo for the link.

Sun 5 th Oct	BBC 1	2.00 pm	Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm in the TJ. Service led by Penny, and Kai
Sun 12 th Oct	BBC 2	10.30 am	Worship
Sun 19 th Oct	BBC 3	10.30 am	Worship and group for children, with Communion for Everyone
Sun 26 th Oct	BBC 4	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Worship Prayers for Peace and Justice
Sun 2 nd Nov	BBC 1	2.00 pm	Worship for Everyone at 2.00 pm in TJ
Sun 9 th Nov	BBC 2	10.30 am	Worship for Remembrance Sunday
Sun 16 th Nov	BBC 3	10.30 am	Worship, and group for children, with Communion for Everyone.
Sun 23 rd Nov	BBC 4	10.30 am 6.00 pm	Worship, to be followed the AGM of BBC Prayers for Peace and Justice
Sun 30th Nov	Advent 1	10.30 am	Worship for the First Sunday of Advent

... through praying together

Last month Jenny wrote these words:

"We are, I think, very hesitant to talk about prayer and our experience of it. Our relationship with God is something very personal, and it is not always easy to share it. Yet Jesus clearly depended on the time He spent with His Father for the power and strength to live those three wonderful years of teaching, healing and

eventually dying, to carry out the purpose for which He came. So, in the middle of all our planning, doing and general busy-ness, should not we too spend time with our Father, just as Jesus did, and allow Him to equip us for the Kairos road? We will achieve very little if we try to 'go it alone' without the Holy Spirit's strength and guidance. We need our sails to be filled!"

One of the ways we are consciously taking time to do this is on a Thursday morning: the time when Blackley is alive with people gathering to work and pray, and drink coffee and chat. We gather in the Peace Garden for 2 -3 mins, before going off to work and pray, committing all we are doing to God, saying the following prayer together. You might like to stop at some point on a Thursday morning and think of our Blackley family wherever they may be, praying the same prayer that we will be saying at Blackley.

*In working and worship, God is with us!
Gathered and scattered, God is with us!
Now and always, God is with us! God is with us!*

... through using **the Examen.**

A Way to Pray Each day

For most people most of the time, prayer is hard. It is especially difficult—not to mention unsatisfying—when people experience it as formal, dry, and repetitious. But what might happen if you discovered a simple prayer that changed all that? What if you discovered a prayer that changed you?

The Examen is a 500-year-old form of prayer which St. Ignatius of Loyola developed for the purpose of nurturing a reflective habit of mind that is constantly attuned to God's presence. What makes the prayer so powerful is its capacity to dispel any notion that God is somewhere "up there," detached from our day-to-day tasks and concerns. Instead, the examen leads us into a relationship with a God who desires to be personally caught up in our lives.

By following simple yet powerful steps for praying the examen, we can encounter the God who, as Scripture tells us, "is not far from each one of us"—the God whose presence in our lives can make all the difference in the world.

If you want to discover more, there are many books and articles written about it, and many more detailed versions to try. However, below are 2 simple versions which you may like to try. Traditionally it is done at the end of the day (although Jesuits also do this at noon) and it takes about 15 – 20 mins. Find a quiet space – or even do it sat in bed before you turn off the light

A Very Simple Examen

This was created by Jo and other trainers and used at the end of a day's training. You will not find it in online or in any other publication.

1. Sit with your palms facing the ceiling

Mentally review your day, remembering the events that have happened.

Notice the times, moments, events that have given you life today and be grateful. These are the *Consolations*. It may be something that has been said in passing, or a major event in the day. Small or large, notice it, re-live it and give thanks. Have a sense that you are receiving this from God.

2. Now turn your palms to face the floor

Notice, without guilt, the times, moments or events that have taken life from you. These are the *Desolations*. This is not about looking to blame, or find fault with others or yourself, but to notice what has happened and, if appropriate, express regret. Have a sense that you are letting this aspect of the day go.

3. Now turn your palms to face each other – you may like to loosely clasp your hands.

Notice the space between. Feel the presence of God in the spaces of your day. Consider how you may be able to do more of the things that give you life, and less of the things that take life from you.

Invite God into your life, into the consolations and desolations, into the whole of life. Ask God's Holy Spirit to guide and help you in the changes that you may make, becoming more aware of God's presence with you each day.

You may like to finish by saying The Lord's Prayer.

A Fuller Version of The Examen

Using the 5 Fingers as a mnemonic to help remember the stages.

Stage 1: Ask Where? (Thumb)

Take a little time to withdraw into the stillness and silence from the busyness of the day. Ask the Holy spirit to show you where God has been present in your day...

Say:

*Lord, let me be still and at peace, just for a few moments, in the busyness of my life.
Let me be attentive to the steps I have taken today: to the things I have done, to the words I have spoken, to the thoughts I have entertained. Let me see and sense where you have been present, blessing and giving new life.*

Amen

Stage 2: Be Grateful (Pointing Finger)

Recall the events of the day: the people and situations you encountered, the things you said, saw or heard.

Ask yourself:

- What have I to be grateful for today?
- What has added joy or hope, inspiration or fulfilment, meaning or peace to my life?
- Who or what do I overlook, or take for granted but if lost or altered would make my life poorer?
- What have been the unexpected blessings of this day?

Say *"Thank you"* to God.

Stage 3: Be Attentive (Tallest Finger)

As you recall your day, consider what stands out. Ask yourself:

- Was there anything today that didn't seem important at the time which seems more significant now? Or is there something which seemed big at the time which has become less important now?
- Is my attention drawn to anything I did or said or felt? What brought me consolation or joy? What brought me sorrow, perhaps even desolation?
- Was there anything today which made me love more? Hope more? Anything that increased my faith in myself, in others, in God?

Stage 4: Be Sorry (Ring/Promise Finger)

As you are attentive to your day, ask yourself:

- Is there anything I have said or done or left unsaid or undone, which I regret?
- How well have I responded to the invitation to live to the full God's gift which is my life this day?
- Say *"I am sorry"* and *"I am forgiven"*

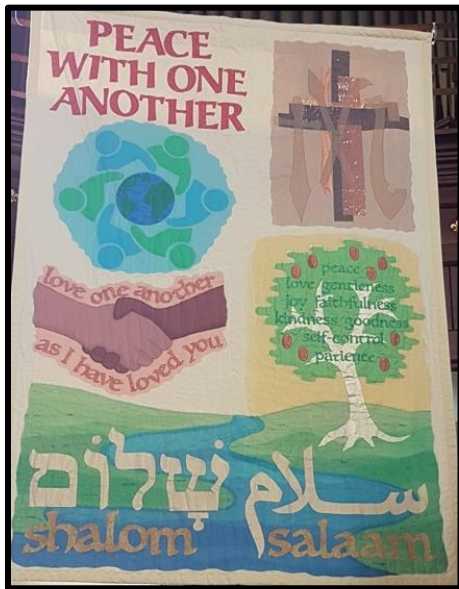
Stage 5: Be Changed (Smallest Finger)

Now consider the day that is to come tomorrow in the light of what has happened today.

Ask yourself:

- Is there anything in my life which is out of balance and that needs adjusting? Is there anything which needs to be put right that it is my power to do?
- Perhaps there is something in my character or personality I have been trying to work on? A fault I want to put right, or a virtue I am trying to grow? How am I doing?
- What do I need to do, or think, or say which will make the changes big or small, to help me grow to be the person God calls me to be tomorrow?

End by saying *The Lord's Prayer*



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. In the Community News we share each week on Sundays, we remind ourselves that we are part of a wider family. 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.

... through 'Playing with Peace'

For the last few months at Playing with Peace, we have been noticing how we really need new tables for the children. We have 2 small light plastic ones that don't meet in the middle, that skid around and are not helpful as we try to encourage the children to share food together, as well as 'bigger' toys and equipment, and sand and water trays to add to the home toys which have previously been donated. But we hadn't mentioned this need to anyone outside the group.

Last month, out of the blue, something quite amazing happened. The play leader Parents and Toddlers from St Matthew's Rastrick, who comes to choir, contacted me to tell us that, sadly, they had closed. The local primary school had swooped in to take their resources, but they had held back a few items plus £100 for us because they had noticed our 'Playing with Peace' display and wanted to support this way of working with children and families. So, on Thursday they delivered just what they had left - 4 toddler sized tables and chairs and some bigger play equipment including trays for water and sand.



We are thrilled and very grateful to receive these gifts. We are such a happy group, meeting every Wednesday, enjoying each other's company, making friends, and eating lovely snacks, provided by Aunty Jenny and others, and it is such an affirmation of all we are doing to receive these gifts from the folk at St Matthew's.

We send them our grateful thanks.

Michelle and Jo

... through Gathering Together

"As Yet Untitled..." has a Title!!!

Under the new name of

Tuesday Together

**This is an opportunity to get together with friends, old and new
on Tuesday afternoons**

1.45 pm to 3.45 pm

Each week we will do something altogether for about 45 mins,
have tea (and biscuits, cakes, crisps... or whatever turns up on the
afternoon)

then spend 45 mins or so playing games,
making something, having a chat
– in fact, 'doing life together!'

It is something to invite friends and family to attend
as a way of building relationships and connections,
helping others who may be a bit lonely, isolated or who just need our
special Blackley warmth and welcome.

Come and join in!

... through our AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Blackley Baptist church will be held on Sunday 23rd November at 12.00 pm. As we prepare for the meeting Pauline and other Deacons will be trying to establish if people are willing to continue in the many roles and activities that enable us to be church together. We also recently distributed our harvest of Gifts sheet. Please consider prayerfully how you can prayerfully, practically and financially support the ministry and life of Blackley Church: Gathering for Peace. We all love this church and we need each other as we live for Jesus in this place, doing life together.

... through Meetings and Events

Regular Meetings

Tuesdays 1.45 – 3.45 Tuesday Together 'Doing Life Together'

7 th Oct:	Possibly 'Cake Decorating'
14 th Oct:	Discussing 'Happiness'
21 st Oct:	"The happiest days of our lives???" Schooldays stories
28 th Oct:	Pumpkin carving competition (Bring your own pumpkin!)
4 th Nov:	Remembrance and Remembering
11 th Nov:	Speaker from Elland Foodbank
18 th Nov:	"Best Books" Literary Christmas Present Ideas
25 th Nov:	Cancer Care with Eilidh Gunston

Wednesdays 9.30 – 11 'Playing with Peace' Parent and Toddler group. Please sign the rota for occasional helpers if you can.

Thursdays @ 10.00 Gathering to Work and Pray

We gather together for a brief time to commit our work, our prayers, our lives to God, before going to..

Northumbria Community Morning Prayer (PS)

Church Working Party. Volunteers always welcome!

Thursdays @ 11.00	Gathering for Coffee and Chat – Prayers, Workers, Walkers, & You!
Thursdays @ 11.20	Gathering to Sing (occasionally, as advised)

Regular users of the building include:

Tuesday mornings:	Chi Chi Dance and Fitness @10.00
Tuesday Afternoons:	Inner Wheel (one Tues per month)
Tuesday evenings:	Halifax SingSpace Musical Theatre Choir @ 7 pm
Wednesday Evenings:	Chi Chi Ballroom and Sequence @ 6 pm Dance and Fitness @ 7 pm
Thursday Evenings:	Luv'ly Lasses

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

Sat 11 th October	4.00 pm	Celebrating and Commissioning David Shutt Young Peace Ambassadors. All welcome!
Tues 14 th October	10.00 am	Deacons, Officers and Ministers Meeting with Regional Minister Leone
Thurs 16 th Oct	All Day	The Blackley Centre Trustees Away Day in Lymm
Fri 17 th October	tbc	Setting up for the Autumn Craft Fair.
Sat 18 th October		THE AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR
Tues 28 th October	11.30 am	Rock Cooking
Tues 11 th Nov	10.00 am	Deacons, Officers and Ministers Meeting (Discussion)
Sun 23 rd Nov	12.00 pm	Annual General Meeting of Blackley Baptist Church
Thurs 27 th Nov	11.00 – 3.30	Blackley Centre Trustees Meeting
Fri 28 th Nov	10.00 – 4.00	Peace and Quiet Day

... through the FLOWER ROTA

Thank you all for donating your flowers. This is an important part of the church's caring ministry and flowers are much appreciated by those who receive them.

If you wish to change your slot or rearrange please contact Desley Taylor

OCTOBER 2025 		NOVEMBER 2025 	
5th		2nd	-
12th	Jenny Howland	9th	Jenny and Howard Whitely
19th	Robert Ambler	16th	Margaret Shutt
26th	Margaret and Neil Arber	23rd	Vacant
		30th	Chris and Ray Williams

DECEMBER 2025 	
7th	-
14th	Ian and Susan Taylor
21st	CHRISTMAS TREE
28th	CHRISTMAS TREE

...through the Blackley Centre



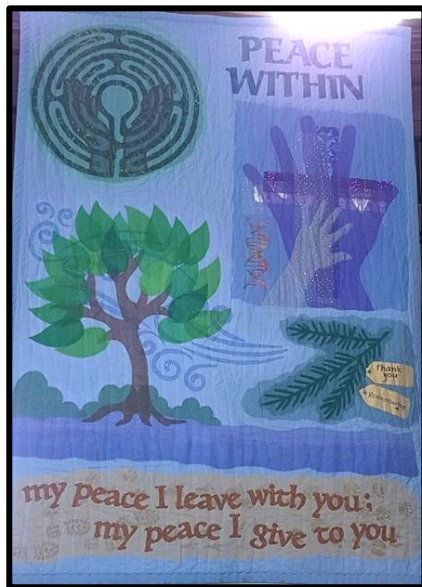
Some pictures of our wonderful Peace Ambassadors at their Refresher Days in September.

DO come and celebrate and support them on

Saturday 11th October

at 4.00 pm at we commission them to work for peace in their schools.





Peace Within...

... through Prayer

People or families are listed each week together with some other areas to think about. This is not meant as an 'ought' or a pressure but something that is helpful so please use it in whatever way works for you. Thanks to Jean Whitworth for providing this for us each time. If there is something or someone which you feel should be included, please do let Jean know.

Week Com	People to remember this week	Areas of Church Life	Local Areas/Groups
Sunday 5th October TJ Hall All age worship 2pm	Christine Allcock and family Lissa, Simon, Stanley, Nancy Allison The Ambler family Kath Avis and her family . Darren, Deborah, Phoebe, Thomas Arber Neil and Margaret Arber Doreen and Roger Barlow Happy Birthday to Jamie Ingram (8th) Jo Williams (9th) Doreen Barlow (11th)	We pray for Penny Weynberg as she leads our worship this afternoon, assisted by son Kai. We give thanks for our young families asking God's blessing on the children who will be present. We give thanks to the Group of Young Peace Ambassadors at their celebration and commissioning on Saturday	We pray for the community of Blackley village, for the residents of Hazlemere Fold and the local meeting places such as the Cricket Club, The Fleece and the Farm Shop. Loving God, be with them in their diverse needs.
Sunday 12th October 10.30am Reader: Doreen Barlow	Pauline & George Barnard , Charlotte and Rob The Baume family Jean Bennett and family The Bolton family Joe Braithwaite and family Suzanne, Sonny & Jonah Broster . Bright	We pray for the Deacons, Officers and Ministers at the Deacons meeting on Tuesday. Be with the Centre Trustees as they meet together for the discussion day on Thursday. May we be united in our support of the Autumn Fair and ask your blessing on the organisers and the attendees.	Please pray for all the local children able to attend school and be with their families. Let us not forget the suffering of the children and young people in Gaza. Pray that they get the food needed, and that attempts for peace succeed
Sunday 19th October 10.30am Communion. (Childrens Group) Bible Reader Patricia Mitchell	Ann Bryant and family Caroline, Gordon and Poppy Buckle Susan and Alan Clough and family here and in Australia Mary Crowther and family Glenda & John Dekker and Family David & Carole Denton & family Roy and Linda Dicken Happy Birthday to Mary Crowther (25th)	We pray for our ministers Jo and Andy as they sail with us all in our Sailboat Church. May new ideas and opportunities come over the horizon and we avail ourselves of new and different directions. At the same time let us remember those of our church who are housebound or have mobility difficulties who are valuable to us all.	Please be with families and individuals who are finding life and finances difficult at this time. We pray for the work of Elland Foodbank and all who work so hard to help those who struggle to put food on the table. Be with the Food for Families group as they work from COLT.

Sunday 26th October 10.30am Bible Reader Christine Williams	Elaine Dyson and family Michelle Edwards and family Margaret Ellis John Farrar and Margaret Jackson and family The Field and Smith families Chris and Steve Green and family Linda and Mike Greenwood and family.)	Pray for Jo and Andy as they work with people in conflict or in places of tension and anxiety. We pray for all who go through mediated conversations and restorative processes. Be with our congregation in both poor and good health, and guide us with our caring for each other. Be with our new tenants in the cottage and pray that they be happy in their new home.	Think of and pray for all the local Churches, their ministers and congregations: Upper Edge, St Marys'/All Saints, Southgate and Bethesda, St Patricks, Elland Christian Fellowship, St Thomas and St Andrews. We pray for Old Earth, Holywell Green and Elland CofE Schools As half term arrives Half Term week 27 th -31 st
Sunday 2nd November 2 pm All age Worship TJ Hall	Elaine Harvie Guy Hirst and family Jenny Howland and Family Jamie, Tim and Sam Ingram Nikki and Stuart Jenkins Patricia and Richard Lindsay Patricia & Graham Mitchell & family Happy Birthday Alys Williams (2nd)	Pray for our Property and Finance group who work hard at looking after and maintaining our buildings and grounds. Be with the Thursday working party as they faithfully steward our grounds and property.	Pray for the local children as schools reopen this week. Pray for Project Colt with the work they do with addiction and mental health problems and the new Community Hub, that it be of help to those in need. We think of other community groups as they try to improve the environment of Elland
Sunday 9th November 10.30am Bible Reader David Denton	Alan and Maureen Odams Joan Parkinson Jenny Peckett and Eric Nannette, Stuart, Oscar and Wilbur Quarmby Pam and Gordon Smith and family Margaret Shutt and family Lynn and Philip Smith and family Happy birthday Poppy Buckle (9th)..Ian Taylor & Darren Arber (13th)	We pray for our Playing with Peace group, children, parents and grandparents. We also pray for our other users of the hall, those who sing and dance and those who meet in other ways to use our facilities on a regular basis. On this week of remembrance we remember with gratitude all who gave their lives in the service of others.	We pray for all in the war-torn areas of the world, for the civilian populations living in fear and hunger. Let there be a breakthrough in attempts to bring peace and understanding. We pray particularly for Gaza and for Ukraine, that these horrendous conflicts and unjust killings will cease. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Sunday 16th November 10.30am Communion (Children's Group) Bible Reader Doreen Barlow	Jean Sykes and family Jill Sykes and family here and in Australia . Desley and Andrew Taylor and family Susan and Ian Taylor and family. Joan Thornton and family Clare and Annie & families (Townend)	Let us welcome and pray for the children who will hopefully come to the morning service and join in the activities Let us remember the groups who use our centre and facilities on a regular basis, particularly those from other churches and from the YBA and administrative groups. We pray for our Regional Minister Team: Graham, Nike, Leone and Alex	Let us remember the work done by our health services: for The hospices, supported by volunteers and charities, Overgate, Forget Me Not and Kirkwood. We pray for doctors nurses and paramedics who care for our health in this district, through local surgeries and our hospitals, praying for Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, Calderdale Royal and The Spire.

Sunday 23rd November 10.30am Bible Reader Alan Odams	Jean and Michael Whitworth & family Chris and Ray Williams and family Wendy and Steve Williams and family. Jo, Andy , Alys and Megan Tricia Wilkinson and family Joyce Woodhouse Happy Birthday Guy Hirst (27th)	We pray for our whole congregation this week. May our Services be a special time for us. Let our prayers spread throughout the church in its differing aspects . Be with those with health concerns, undergoing tests and treatment. We all have worries and concerns which you know of and we bring them to you for your comfort and guidance.	Pray for our leaders and the local community councillors and representatives. May they put the local concerns of residents of their areas forefront in their working for everyone. May those who receive their assistance be thankful for this voluntary work which they do.
Sunday 30th November 10.30 am Bible Reader Christine Williams	'The Blackley Centre for Peace and reconciliation. The Interfaith Work done at the Centre. The Young men from the Rock. The David Shutt Young Peace Ambassador Project in Schools	Pray for the Peace and Reconciliation and Interfaith work, which goes on at the centre. Also pray for Christine who organises our centre bookings those who do the catering and Pauline who manages all the finances. We welcome all who come to the church and pray for them to find hope and comfort here.	Be with other Baptist churches in the area. Upper Edge, New North Rd, Salendine Nook, Scapegoat Hill and for the Yorkshire Baptist Association. Pray for the young men from the Rock, that they may feel welcome and supported

Christmas is coming...

Yes, we have mentioned the word! Whilst we are not following the trend of the shops by starting Christmas in October, we thought it might be helpful to highlight a few key events that are happening at Blackley and the dates that they are likely to happen.

Sunday 14th December: Service of Remembrance for Loved Ones at 4.00 pm

Sunday 21st December: Carols by Candlelight at 6.00 pm

Monday 23rd December: Crafts and Christingles at 3.00 pm

And finally...

If you have items for the next Broadcaster please get them to Jo or Jenny by Sunday 29th November. Thank you.