



Blisworth
BAPTIST CHURCH
TO KNOW HIM AND MAKE HIM KNOWN

Church Handbook &
Facilities Hire Information



“To grow disciples to make disciples, who will walk in the love of God”

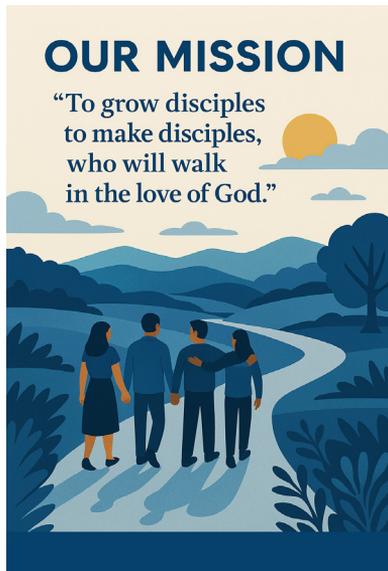
Welcome to Blisworth Baptist Church

The fact that you are reading this handbook means that you are interested in Blisworth Baptist Church and want to know about its work and activities. As a Baptist Church we are committed to sharing the good news of God's love for people, and this will happen through teaching and explaining the Christian faith as well as practical action. As a newcomer to Blisworth Baptist Church we want to tell you about our activities, so that you can join in!

What We Believe

We believe that:

- ▶ God – who is eternally Father, Son and Holy Spirit created from nothing everything that exists. Every human being is accountable to Him
- ▶ God has spoken through the Bible, which is the trustworthy record of His message to mankind, and our ultimate authority in all matters of life and faith
- ▶ All people fall short of God's moral perfection, and violate His standards and values. Our sin alienates us from God and places us under his judgement
- ▶ In Jesus, God became man. Jesus' death and resurrection offer the one and only basis for the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God and the gift of eternal life
- ▶ All of these gifts of grace are received on the basis of personal trust in Christ and commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord



- ▶ Christian baptism by immersion celebrates God's grace to us in Jesus; it expresses decisive personal faith in the life of the person baptised; and it affirms our belonging, both to the Church of Jesus Christ in the world and within the life of a particular Church fellowship
- ▶ God sends His Holy Spirit into the life of each Christian believer to illuminate our understanding of His word and ways, to empower us to develop Christ-like character and to equip us to serve Him in the Church and the world
- ▶ Through the Holy Spirit, and on the basis of all that Christ has done for us, each Christian has a direct personal relationship with the Father, and a part to play both in the ministry of the Church and in sharing our faith with those who are not yet Christians
- ▶ Jesus Christ will one day return to earth in glory, to judge the world, to renew creation and to complete the work He has begun in us

What we do

At Blisworth Baptist Church, we're a small fellowship with a big heart. We focus on a few meaningful activities, aiming to approach each one with care, intention, and a spirit of welcome.



Our Sunday services begin at 10:30am in the Chapel and include a time of worship, prayer, teaching, and fellowship. We enjoy a thoughtful mix of traditional hymns and contemporary songs, creating space for all to engage.

On the first Sunday of each month, we share in the Lord's Supper (Communion), remembering Christ's love and sacrifice together. The third Sunday includes a special children's session, where little ones explore Bible stories and learn about God in a way that's just right for them—while adults remain in the main service.

Throughout the year, we also gather for dedicated services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest, and Remembrance, times to reflect, celebrate, and come together as a community

We'd love to invite you to be part of one of our Home Groups—small gatherings that meet twice a month during the week in Blisworth, Towcester, and Northampton. These groups offer a welcoming space to build friendships, share encouragement, explore the Bible, worship, and pray together in a more personal setting.

Our wider church family also gathers online for a monthly prayer meeting via Zoom, held on the first Tuesday of each month. If you'd like to join us, just get in touch for the access details.

Every Tuesday morning, our Community Café opens its doors to all. Whether you're popping in for a cuppa, seeking good company, or simply looking for a relaxed space to unwind, you'll be warmly welcomed. There's even a kids' corner to keep little ones happily occupied.

Throughout the year, we host a variety of social events, from film nights and quizzes to community breakfasts. These are great opportunities to connect, laugh, and enjoy life together.

Blisworth Baptist Church is also here to support you through life's significant moments. We offer dedications, weddings, and funerals with care and compassion. For more information, please contact Lee.



A typical week's diary



Sundays

Praise and worship service every Sunday at 10.30am

Dedicated children's work on the 3rd Sunday of the month

Tuesdays

The Community Cafe is open between 10.00am – 12.00pm

Prayer Meeting via Zoom (1st Tuesday of each month) 7.30pm

Home group (2nd + 4th Tuesday of each month) 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Wednesdays

Play with Clay 2.00pm - 4pm & 7.15pm – 9.15pm

Thursdays

Home Group (2nd + 4th Thursday of each month) 2.30pm – 4.00pm

Fridays

Blisworth Youth Parish Council 7.00pm - 8.30pm (4th Friday in the month)

(with the exception of August and December)

Saturdays

Men's Breakfast

Last Saturday in the month 8.30am – 9.30am

(with the exception of August and December)

We are part of the Warm Welcome Spaces initiative, and open our doors extended hours when the weather turns cooler. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for more details.



About us

Joining a new Christian community is a wonderful way to build friendships, grow in faith, and find your place, but it's also helpful to know who's who and how things work.

Our Minister, Pastor Lee Hillyard, is someone you'll likely meet early on. He makes it a priority to personally welcome newcomers and help them feel at home. We want to understand how our church can support you and make sure any questions you have are answered. You'll find Lee's contact details at the end of this handbook. Lee also serves as Minister at Nether Heyford Baptist Church, and from time to time we hold joint services with their fellowship.

Much of what happens at Blisworth Baptist Church is made possible by a team of dedicated volunteers who generously give their time and energy to support our worship, outreach, and day-to-day life. From setting up chairs to leading prayers, every contribution is deeply valued.

The overall leadership of the church is held by a group legally recognised as Trustees. Within our fellowship, these individuals also serve as Deacons and Elders, forming what we call the Church Leadership Team (CLT). Together, they help guide the church's vision, care for its members, and ensure everything runs smoothly and prayerfully.



Anne
Treasurer



Brian
Elder



Lee
Pastor



Maggie
Deacon



Ray
Secretary



Ruth
Elder



Tony
Deacon



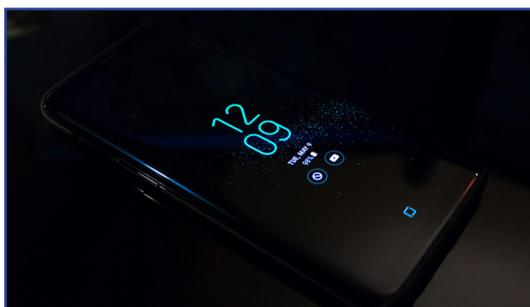
What are Elders and Deacons? Elders support the Pastor in overseeing the spiritual life of the Church, including preaching, teaching, pastoral care and prayer. Deacons may also be involved in these spiritual matters, but they will also have gifts and skills in practical areas for which they have been appointed.

The Church Secretary acts as an information and reference point for those involved with the Church. They deal with a range of administrative matters, including meetings, record keeping and overseeing compliance with the Church's governing document (called the Constitution) and statutory requirements.

The Church Treasurer looks after the Church money and accounts. They deal with counting and banking offerings and donations, paying bills, keeping accurate financial records and regularly reporting to the Trustees and members about the Church's financial position.

Pastoral care in the Church is facilitated by Ruth, our Elder, working with the Pastor and several of the Deacons. If you need help and support, either inside or outside of the Church, then please contact Ruth or Lee.

The Designated Person for Safeguarding, and the Data Protection Trustee, is Ray, our Church Secretary.



Communication and Sharing information

Information about the Church and its activities appear on the website and social media outlets such as FaceBook. In addition, there is a Bi-monthly

newsletter, which is available to everyone, along with regular news updates, reminders and prayer requests. This information is sent to everyone who has provided their contact details to the Church.

The Church has a contact list containing people's names and contact details and, where permission has been given, this is shared amongst the members and regular attendees of the Church. This data is only used for Church purposes and can be removed at any time.

(All personal data that is provided is used and protected in compliance with the Church's Data Protection Policy, and in line with UK Data Protection Regulations.)

Getting involved

There are many activities where you could volunteer.

We want to encourage you to join in and will try to find an opportunity for you to help, and make new friends.

There are some parts of Church life where we need to take special care. Where activities involve children or vulnerable adults we need to make sure that the people who help are suitable, so if you are asked to take any responsibility for these activities we will need to speak to you in more detail about the Church's policies concerning the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

Becoming a Member

Blisworth Baptist Church is guided and shaped by its Church Members' Meeting, a space where those who belong to the fellowship come together to pray, discern, and make decisions about church life.

Membership is open to individuals who wish to commit to the church and its mission. For those who have recently come to faith in Jesus Christ, this often includes baptism by immersion, a public and joyful declaration of their new life in Christ.

Being part of a Baptist church carries both privilege and responsibility. Members are invited to take part in Church Members' Meetings, where listening well, speaking with grace, and helping to make wise decisions are all part of the journey.

When someone expresses a desire to join the church, they are usually visited by two Church Members—at least one of whom will be a Church Leader. This visit is a chance to share about their Christian journey and explore what membership means. A report is then shared with the Church Leadership Team (CLT), who may recommend the person for membership at the next Church Members' Meeting.

Sometimes, life leads people to move away or join another fellowship, and their membership is transferred accordingly. Others may choose to step back from membership and formally resign. If someone has been absent for a long time and hasn't returned despite encouragement, the membership list may be reviewed and updated.

For more details about Church Membership, please refer to Clause 12 of our Constitution (pages 8–9).



Baptism

What is Baptism?

Baptism is the way that someone shows they have decided to follow Jesus, it involves water. Some Churches just sprinkle water over the person, or make the sign of the cross on the person's forehead with water – this is usually done to a baby. Jesus was baptised by his cousin John, and the Bible says Jesus came up out of the water. Baptism by immersion is when a person is immersed – lowered under the water and immediately pulled back up again. This is what Baptists (and some other Churches) do.

Why do you do that?

Jesus was killed on a cross and came back to life three days later. In the book of Romans, baptism is compared to being buried with Jesus and rising again. The water is like a grave; the old dead life is buried in the grave when the person goes under the water. When someone decides to follow Jesus they are given a new life and coming up out of the water is a symbol of rising to new life.

Jesus commanded his followers to baptise those who choose to follow him, 'teaching them to observe everything that I have taught you'. This means that someone must be able to understand before they are baptised. This is why we only baptise believers, those people who say they want to follow Jesus. Unless someone is unwell, we baptise them by immersion. The pool is heated under the floor at the front of the Church which we use. Feel free to come and watch, if we are having a baptism it will say so on our website and social media.

Want to know more?

If you would like to talk to someone about baptism or to be baptised, please speak to Lee.

Members choosing Leadership

The Pastor, Deacons and Elders who are also all legal Trustees in a Baptist Church, are chosen by the Church members. Therefore, there are processes for appointing people to these important positions of responsibility.

Once a Pastor has been appointed that person normally serves the Church until the time when they resign or retire. Very rarely will a Pastor be asked to leave the Church by the Church Members' Meeting. The Leaders of Blisworth Baptist Church are appointed from among the members. They usually serve for a period of three years.

To make it easier to ensure continuity one third of the Leaders retire each year, so that over a three year cycle each leader has stood down and either been re-appointed or replaced.

The election of the Church Leaders normally takes place at the AGM in April, but the process will begin much earlier. Several weeks beforehand, Church members will be asked to nominate individuals who might be suitable to serve as leaders. A list of candidates will be prepared, including details of their role if elected (i.e. Secretary, Treasurer, Deacon or Elder) and at the Church Members' Meeting a secret vote will be taken. To be appointed as a Leader of Blisworth Baptist Church the candidates must receive votes from at least 70% of those members voting.

If there is a need to change one of the Leaders' roles mid-term, then the Pastor should firstly gain the support of the CLT for the proposal, and then seek the Church members' blessing, support and approval by a show of hands at the next possible meeting.

Further information and details on all of these governance matters can be found in the Constitution.

If you have any questions about this you should ask the Secretary. All members receive a copy of the Constitution and a copy is also available to view on the Church website.

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Finance

The Church receives income from donations made by members and individuals who attend the Church. Tax payers are encouraged to complete a Gift Aid declaration so that tax can be recovered, giving added benefit to the Church and increasing its income.

In this Church we aim to follow the following principles in managing our money:

1. To give a percentage of our income to Home Mission (the funds of the Baptist Union of Great Britain) and to BMS World Mission
2. To give a further percentage of our income to support other external charities – decisions about this are made by the members (with Leaders' proposals)
3. As well as aiming to tithe (10%) of our income to the above charities, we also have many payments that are practical and are associated with the organisation and maintenance of the Church.

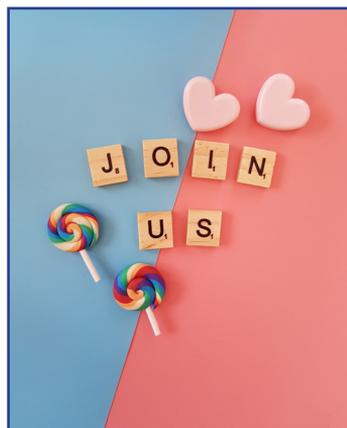
Our principle expenses include:

- ▶ Paying staff
- ▶ Paying utility bills
- ▶ Maintaining the Church grounds and buildings
- ▶ Reimbursing reasonable expenses to those who volunteer for the Church, also conferences or other events on our behalf

Join us!

We hope you will enjoy attending Blisworth Baptist Church, and that you will find friends and be able to join in some of our activities.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions. Normally new ideas are discussed at a Church Members' Meeting (non-members are invited to attend, but they are unable to vote on any matter), but if you have any thoughts or suggestions then please feel free to speak with any one of the Church Leaders.





Hiring of our facilities

The facilities are part of the Church premises and the use is therefore subject to certain restrictions and Health and Safety Regulations. These terms and conditions apply to all those who book facilities at Blisworth Baptist Church (BBC). They are part of an agreement between BBC and the hirer, who may be an individual or an organisation represented by an authorised person.

Safety

Safety is always important and we do our best to make sure the Church premises are safe. However, we realise that accidents can happen. Please let one of the Church Leaders know if there is a problem. If you need the First Aid kit, then one is kept in the Coffee House, one in the kitchen and one in the Leisure Hall.

The Church has a fire evacuation procedure and in an emergency please follow the instructions on the printed notices. Fire extinguishers are also located around the building, but we hope that you will never need to use them!

Nobody should be using step ladders or undertaking any kind of maintenance or building work whilst they are on their own in the building. More details of the Church's Health and Safety Policy can be found on the website, or in the Coffee House.



Use of premises, supervision

The hirer, or an authorised representative approved by the Trustees, must be present throughout the duration of the hire to ensure that all terms and conditions are upheld. For both short-term and long-term bookings, a Key Holder / Alarm Code Declaration form must be completed, and an alarm panel code agreed in advance.

Use of the rooms must always be responsible, with care shown for the accommodation, facilities, and equipment. During the hire period, the hirer is expected to supervise the premises, including its structure, furnishings, and contents, ensuring they are treated with respect and protected from any damage or alteration, however minor. The hirer is also responsible for the conduct of all individuals using the premises, regardless of their role or capacity, and must ensure that car parking is managed appropriately to avoid any obstruction of the highway.

At the end of the hire period, the hirer is responsible for ensuring that the premises and surrounding area are left clean, tidy, and ready for the next use. All utensils and equipment should be properly put away, and lights, taps, and any electrical appliances turned off. Any rooms used must be secured unless directed otherwise, and any items moved from their usual positions should be returned.

Spillages must be cleaned up immediately, and the counter wiped down after use. The water heater should be switched off, and tables and chairs returned to their standard arrangement. Please take care to remove any hazardous items—such as needles or tacks—from carpets and surfaces. Before leaving, ensure that all lights are off and external doors securely locked.

If these conditions are not met, Blisworth Baptist Church reserves the right to apply an additional charge. As a guiding principle, the space should be left in the same condition in which it was found.

The hirer is responsible for covering the cost of any damage to the premises, including accidental damage, as well as any harm to fixtures, fittings, or contents, or loss of items during the hire period.

The premises must only be used for the purpose stated in the booking confirmation. The hirer may not sub-let the space, nor permit its use for any unlawful activity or in any way that could compromise the safety or integrity of the building. Nothing may be brought onto the premises that poses a risk to its structure, contents, or users.



Leisure Hall



Fellowship Room



Coffee House



Kitchen



“The Lounge”



Chapel

**Audio Visual facilities are also available for hire including:
Sound desks, lighting, projection, computers and live streaming.**

- ▶ Rooms will not be hired for activities which may be considered contrary to Christian beliefs, and will only be let at the sole discretion of the BBC leadership
- ▶ Consumption of alcohol is prohibited. Moderate consumption, however maybe allowed in the case of family celebrations, weddings and other group activities at the discretion of the BBC leadership
- ▶ BBC reserves the prior right to all rooms at all times which may mean a room will not be available at certain times. This will only apply to long term hire and due notice will be given
- ▶ BBC reserves the right to review hire costs and agreements at any time with the minimum of one month's notice

All the conditions, plus any special conditions imposed at the time of booking, apply unless specifically excluded in writing in the Booking Confirmation Form.

Signing or signifying agreement to the Booking Confirmation Form certifies that the hirer is aware of these terms and conditions, will abide by them and will ensure that those who use the facilities in conjunction with their booking act in accordance with them.

BBC will assume that anyone signing on behalf of an organisation is duly authorised to do so.

In the event of someone using the facilities without signing or specifically agreeing to the Booking Confirmation Form, then it will be deemed that they are aware of these terms and conditions, will abide by them and will ensure that those who use the facilities in conjunction with their booking act in accordance with them.

Charges, payment, invoicing

Charges

Charges for all bookings are shown clearly on the booking confirmation form. Bookings may be charged by month / term or one off by discretion of BBC. As well as charges for use of the facilities, there may be charges for use of equipment. The hire of the building is for the specific agreed times shown on the booking form and does not entitle the hirer to use or enter the premises at any other time. Please ensure that setting up and packing down times are included in your booking period. The alarm system allows 5 minutes either side of your booking agreed time.

Invoicing and payment

Payment is in full before hiring takes place. Payment can be made via Bank transfer, cash or cheque.

Cancellation

Confirmed booking

Once agreement to the booking confirmation form has been accepted, and payment made, the room/s or facilities will not be hired out to any other user at that time without the prior agreement of the hirer.

If a booking confirmation form has been received but not paid for, signed or agreement otherwise signified, the “slot” may be given to someone else.

Cancellations by BBC

BBC reserves the right to cancel a booking by written notice in the following circumstances:

- ▶ Unlawful or unsuitable activities which take place at the premises as a result of the hiring
- ▶ The premises becoming unfit for the use intended by the hirer
- ▶ An emergency requiring use of the premises as a shelter for the victims of flooding, snowstorm, fire, explosion or those at risk of these or similar disasters.

In any such case the hirer shall be entitled to a refund of any monies already paid, but BBC shall not be liable to the hirer for any resulting direct or indirect loss or damages whatsoever.

Policies

All users must be familiar with and observe the policies of BBC relating amongst other things to Health and Safety, Safeguarding and Risk Assessments. Copies of these are available on the BBC website and are displayed in the building. Any hirer or user of the rooms/facilities where children and/or vulnerable adults are involved must have appropriate policies/procedures in place and must ensure that these are observed when using BBC.

Fire

All Hirers must make themselves, and any individuals using the premises as part of their Hire, aware of emergency escape routes and fire alarm procedures.

Licensed activities

BBC has premise licences authorising the following regulated entertainment and licensable activities:

- ▶ The performance of plays
- ▶ The exhibition of films
- ▶ Indoor sporting events
- ▶ The performance of live music
- ▶ The playing of recorded music
- ▶ The performance of dance
- ▶ Entertainment of a similar description to the above

Copyright licences

BBC has CCLI licences. However, if you are playing recorded music as part of an event for which a fee is charged (for example an exercise class) you may need to have your own licence.

If other licences are required in respect of any activity at BBC the hirer should ensure that they hold the relevant licence.

No Alterations

No alterations or additions may be made to the premises nor may any fixtures be installed or placards, decorations or other articles be attached in any way to any part of the premises without the prior written approval of BBC.

Any alteration, fixtures, fittings or attachments so approved; may at the discretion of BBC remain in the premises at the end of the hiring. It will become the property of BBC unless removed by the hirer who must make good to the satisfaction of the room any damage caused to the premises by such removal.

No Rights

The hiring agreement constitutes permission only to use the premises and confers no tenancy or other right of occupation on the hirer. Any use must be conducted in such a way that it does not unreasonably interfere with the activities of other users or neighbouring houses by way of noise, disturbance or otherwise.

Access to the other rooms/time periods of hire

Bookings relate only to the specific rooms and days and times hired. Hire periods must be long enough to allow for any setting up of and putting away/dismantling any furniture/equipment.

**IT IS STRESSED THAT IF MORE TIME IS NEEDED
FOR SETTING UP/DISMANTLING /CLEANING/ LEAVING THE
ROOM AS FOUND, THIS MUST
BE COVERED BY YOUR BOOKING PERIOD.**

Rooms and Church premises must be vacated no later than 11.30pm

Security

CCTV is used both inside and outside of the building for monitoring building use and security. We comply with all .GOV requirements including 40 day recording cycle, sharing images with the authorities, e.g. the police, if they ask for them. An alarm system protects the premises. Every individual that will unlock/lock will have a unique passcode, this should not under any circumstances be shared with anyone else.



Pastor enquiries:

Minister@BlisworthBlisworthBC.net
Contact number: 01604 918405 Ext 1

Administrative enquiries:

Secretary@BlisworthBlisworthBC.net
Contact number: 01604 918405 Ext 2

Treasurer enquiries:

Finance@BlisworthBlisworthBC.net
Contact number: 01604 918405 Ext 3

Pastoral Support enquiries:

PastoralCare@BlisworthBlisworthBC.net
Contact number: 01604 918405 Ext 4

General enquiries:

Hello@BlisworthBC.net
Office (24 hour answerphone): 01604 918405

Website: BlisworthBlisworthBC.net

Facebook: [@BlisworthBC](https://www.facebook.com/BlisworthBC)



Blisworth Baptist Church is a Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Charity Number 1192810

Blisworth Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Blisworth, NN7 3BU.

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