



**BBC NEWS UPDATE (No. 72): November/December 2025**  
(Registered CIO: Charity Number 1192810)

### **A Message from Lee, our Pastor:**

Dear All,

As the year draws to a close, we find ourselves in a season of reflection, celebration and anticipation. November brings autumn's end, and December brings to us the joy and mystery of Christmas, a time when heaven touched earth, and love was born among us.

#### **Christmas: God With Us**

This Christmas, let us remember again 'Emmanuel', God with us. In the midst of busy preparations, gatherings, and traditions, let us not lose sight of the heart of the season: Jesus, the Light of the World, born into humility, bringing hope to all. Let us remember His presence, not just presents.

Whether your December is filled with laughter or tinged with sorrow, the message of Christmas remains: you are not alone. Christ came for you. For us. For the world. Let's be intentional in sharing that love, through kindness, prayer, and presence. Join us for serving at our Advent Lunch, and fellowship at Tuesday community Café's.

#### **Looking Ahead: Boldness & Unity in 2026**

As we step into a new year, I invite us to do so with boldness and unity. Boldness not in our own strength, but in the confidence that comes from knowing we are loved, called, and equipped by God. Unity not in uniformity, but in shared purpose, to love one another deeply, serve faithfully, and walk together in grace.

Let's be a church that stands firm in the love of Christ, welcoming all, encouraging one another, and daring to believe that God is still doing a new thing – the quiet revival!

### A Prayer for the Season

Father God, as we celebrate Your coming and look ahead to a new year,  
 Fill us with Your peace, Your courage, and Your love.  
 Make us bold in faith and gentle in heart.  
 Unite us in Your Spirit, that we may shine Your light in Blisworth and beyond.  
 Amen.

With love and blessings,  
 Lee

## Our Forthcoming Sunday Services (10.30 am)



Date	Leading	Worship	Speaking	
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Nov</b>	Lee Hillyard	Keith Barker	Lee Hillyard	<b>Communion/200<sup>th</sup> Anniv.</b>
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Mike White	Keith (Videos)	Keith Barker	<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Lee Hillyard	Lee Hillyard	Hope Centre Speaker	
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Nov</b>	Brian Ash	Keith Barker	Ted Ashworth	
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	Anne Puffett	Keith Barker	Maggie Barker	<b>Advent: HOPE</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Dec (a.m.)</b>	Ruth Brown	Lee Hillyard	Tony Maycock	<b>Communion/Advent: PEACE</b>
<b>(6.00pm)</b>	Lee Hillyard	Lee Hillyard	Lee Hillyard	<b>Carols by Candlelight</b>
<b>14<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Ray Payne	Keith Barker	Mike White	<b>Advent: JOY</b>
<b>21<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>	Maggie Barker	Keith Barker	Lee Hillyard	<b>Family Carol Service (LOVE)</b>
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	Lee Hillyard	<b>Cafe Church with Testimonies</b>		



**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Nov./Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Zoom Prayer Evenings (7.30 pm)**



The Zoom link, Meeting ID and Password is:

**PLEASE CONTACT WEB ADMIN**

We will come together for a time of fellowship and prayer on the first Tuesday of the month: Tuesday 4th November and Tuesday 2nd December 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:** Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> & 25th Nov./Tues. 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. (7.30pm at Lee & Hannah's home)

**Northampton:** Tues. 11<sup>th</sup> & 25th Nov.(at Tony & Alyth's)/Tues. 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. (at Ray & Julie's home)

**Blisworth:** Thurs. 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Nov./Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> Dec. (2.30pm at the Church Coffee House)

## **Church Matters**

**Prayer & Pastoral Support Email Address: [PastoralCare@BlisworthBC.net](mailto:PastoralCare@BlisworthBC.net)**

Please use the email address above for all pastoral care matters and prayer requests.

**Other Email Addresses for your needs:**

[Lee@BlisworthBC.net](mailto:Lee@BlisworthBC.net)

[Finance@BlisworthBC.net](mailto:Finance@BlisworthBC.net)

[Secretary@BlisworthBC.net](mailto:Secretary@BlisworthBC.net)

## Celebrating 200 Years!



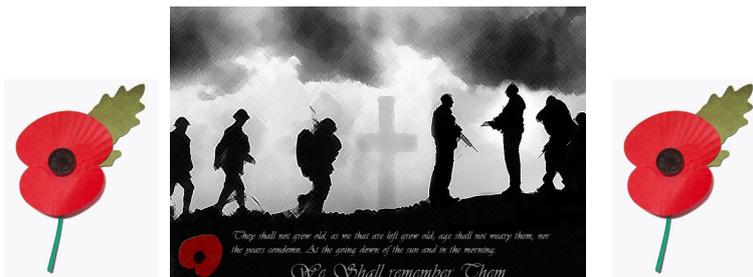
**1825 Bicentennial Year 2025**

On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November we celebrate the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the official formation of Blisworth Baptist Church. We are holding an Anniversary Breakfast and we have a special Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November (with Holy Communion).

The first service was held in the building on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1825. Then, just over six weeks later, on the 1<sup>st</sup> November, Blisworth Baptist Church was officially formed, when eleven original members gave an oath and signed a covenant to God. For the previous thirty-six years they had worshipped in a farmer's barn and in each other's homes. Now, due to their commitment and faith, the foundations were laid not only for a "Meeting Place", but also for a church to grow as part of the community in Blisworth. We give thanks for our predecessors, and all those that have worshipped in our church for two centuries; and we pray that we can uphold the values of that original covenant today, in our daily lives and in the way that Blisworth Baptist Church serves the community.

At our recent "Property Sunday" Service, on 15<sup>th</sup> September, the offering, along with online and special donations made, raised funds to go towards the cost of repairing and maintaining our wonderful, historic building. Thanks to people's kind and generous giving, we raised £865.50 (which includes Gift Aid of £159 added). Thank you!!

## We Will Remember Them!



November is the month that we all associate with "Remembrance". It is a time when we reflect upon lost loved ones and family members, and a time when we honour the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf. It is so pleasing to see that in recent

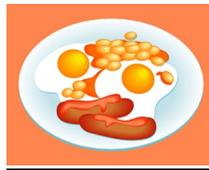
years the 11<sup>th</sup> November has once again become a day of special commemoration in its own right; not forgetting, of course, the significance of World War 2 and all the other conflicts up to the present day where lives have been lost, and commemorated on Remembrance Sunday. As a Church, we will pay our respects as part of our Sunday Service on the 9<sup>th</sup> November. We will remember them!

### **“MacMillan Coffee Morning” (Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September)**



Proceeds taken on the day were £159.90. We have added £40.10 to that, and sent a donation of £200.00 to the MacMillan Cancer Charity. (At our recent Church Meeting the Members also agreed to send £100 to the Leprosy Mission and £100 to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.)

### **Men’s Breakfast (Sat. 29<sup>th</sup> Nov.)**



The next Men’s Breakfast will be on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November, at 8.30am. A reminder/invitation will be sent out nearer the time, and we ask everyone to please advise beforehand if they are planning to attend, using the online booking system, as this greatly helps with our catering and seating arrangements. Please note that there is no Breakfast served in December. Thank you.

### **Advent Lunch (Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November midday)**



We are organising an Advent Lunch to which we will be inviting non-church going members of our community to join us for a Christmas meal. A team of volunteers will be needed, please, to help with serving refreshments, acting as waiters/waitresses to serve the meal, to wash-up and to set up and then tidy the Leisure Hall afterwards.



## Christmas Services

The services during Advent will see the lighting of our Advent Candles as we focus on and celebrate the arrival of our Saviour, bringing Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December, in the evening at 6.00pm, we have our 'Carols by Candlelight' service. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December we will have our Family Carol Service, and we end the year with a Café Church on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December, at which we will have a number of testimonies shared. Praise the Lord!!

## Church Meeting (Tues. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2026)



The next scheduled **Church Meeting is planned for Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026 (7.30pm)** in the Coffee House. This will be a Hybrid Meeting, meaning that people will also be able to "attend" via Zoom. Non-Members are invited to attend the meetings, but they are unable to vote on any matters.

## **And Finally ...**

As we look forward to celebrating our Church's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the period of Remembrance, Advent and the Birth of Jesus, we thank God for His work in our lives. Lin and myself have chosen a few lovely and quite powerful music videos for you to enjoy:

- 1) Remembrance

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u\\_Gvl05j8ig&list=RDU\\_Gvl05j8ig](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_Gvl05j8ig&list=RDU_Gvl05j8ig)

- 2) All Together Now (Christmas Eve 1914)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh3ft-CLfQ0&list=RDnh3ft-CLfQ0&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nh3ft-CLfQ0&list=RDnh3ft-CLfQ0&start_radio=1)

- 3) "Breath of Heaven" (Mary's Song) Amy Grant

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWo3qlgyW1c&list=RDFWo3qlgyW1c&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWo3qlgyW1c&list=RDFWo3qlgyW1c&start_radio=1)

- 4) The Night Jesus Touched the World (a new beautiful song for Christmas 2025)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgdrWhn25HU&list=RDcgdrWhn25HU&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cgdrWhn25HU&list=RDcgdrWhn25HU&start_radio=1)

5) "He is the Gift" (A Christmas Song by Shawna Belt Edwards)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZ4JA3YZCj0>

### 'The Greatest Gift' by Ron Cranmer

When Christmas shopping is finally done.  
Wrapped gifts lie 'neath a tree  
That sparkles bright with tinsel and light  
For everyone to see.  
Each gift has been selected  
With thoughtfulness and care,  
Bringing joy with every toy  
And other gifts we bear.  
But let us keep within our heart  
The much greater gift than these,  
One from above, with God's great love  
Should bring us to our knees.  
A gift of birth, to all on Earth,  
A gift that's far from small,  
To everyone, He gave His son .....  
The Greatest Gift of all!!

I pray that you will all know the Lord's presence, the **Hope**, the **Peace**, the **Joy** and the **Love** in your lives during this period of Advent, and at Christmas. Our prayers and best wishes go to you, your family and your friends. Remember that He is the Gift. Please, share the Gift. God bless you all,

Ray (Church Secretary)

# Happy Christmas to you all

