



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

TOGETHER

"Since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other and each of us needs all the others" (Romans 12:5)

BRITISH ISLES

SPRING 2013

No. 16

A Diamond Celebration – 2013

This year is a Diamond Celebration for the Church of the Nazarene in the British Isles - a 60th Anniversary! Although the history of the church in the UK goes back to 1906, it was in 1953 that the two Districts were established. And in addition to our 60th annual assemblies, 2013 is also the year of the 28th General Assembly of the International Church of the Nazarene, to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, 19th-27th June. Delegates and visitors will be gathering for that significant event from around the world.

Although these gatherings focus on the administrative business of the denomination, the purpose of our assemblies is far greater than merely hearing reports and making elections. Assemblies, District and General, are times when God's people can meet together for fellowship and to seek God in worship...they are times when we Praise God for the blessings and spiritual victories of the past, reflect on the very great needs – spiritual and material – of our world, and dedicate ourselves afresh to spreading the Gospel Good News and to making Christ known in our communities. Our task is to fulfil the Great Commission, and to **"Make Christ-like disciples in the nations"**.

General Superintendent, Dr Jerry D. Porter, will preside at both District Assemblies



DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

SOUTH DISTRICT 15th-16th March

District Superintendent – Rev David Montgomery

The South District covers most of England, together with our churches in Wales, and delegates and visitors will be gathering in Dewsbury, Yorkshire, for the Assembly. The NYI Convention was held 15th September 2012 in Sheffield when Jenny Robertson was re-elected NYI President. Plans are being made to hold the NMI Convention and Assembly at **Dewsbury Minster** and delegates are asked note the following arrangements.

South District Assembly Programme

Friday, 15th March

- 10.00 am – NMI Convention
- 2.00 pm - District Assembly Business
- 7.00 pm - Worship Service

Saturday 16th March

- 9.00 am - District Assembly Business
- An Ordination Service will be held in the afternoon, if so ordered by the Assembly.

NORTH DISTRICT 15th-18th March

District Superintendent – Rev Philip McAlister

District Conventions and Assembly will be held in the **Paisley St Matthew's Church of the Nazarene**. The North District includes churches in N. Ireland, Scotland, and churches in the very North of England.

North District Assembly Programme

Friday, 15th March

- 7.00 pm **"Love...the Church"**
Speaker: Rev Margaret Vosper

Saturday, 16th March

- 9.30 am All Age Breakfast Fellowship
- 10.15 am NYI Convention
- SSDM Convention - Devotions and Seminars

- 2.00 pm NMI Convention
Speakers: Aaron & Brittany Bolerjack

- 7.00 pm **"Love...the World"**
Speaker: Chris Franklin

Sunday 17th March

- 4.30 pm **"Marriage Reconciled"**
(A testimony of what "you" can do with God's help)
- 7.00 pm **"Love...One Another"**
Speaker: Rev Philip McAlister

Monday 18th March

- 9.00 am Assembly Business
- 7.00 pm **"Love...the Saviour"**
Speaker: Dr Jerry D. Porter

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

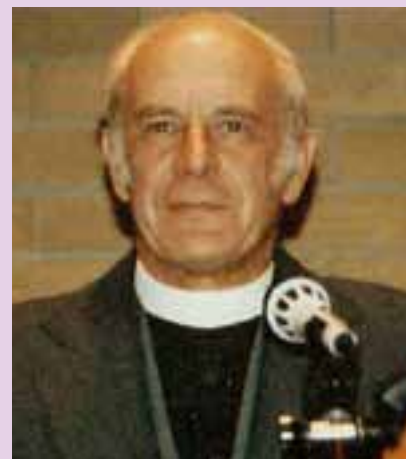


Two General Superintendents will be retiring at the General Assembly, and elections will be made to replace them. Pictured are (left) Dr Jesse C. Middendorf & Dr Stan A. Toler who are to retire. Pray for God's Hand to

be upon the process to elect their successors, that wisdom and guidance would be given. There are 6 General Superintendents in total who give leadership to the denomination.

In Memoriam

Rev Ernest Dunn was called home 16th January – he was 92. Ernest grew up in rural West Lancashire and as a teenager helped his father working on various farms in the area. In his late teens he committed his life to Christ and felt God's Call to ministry. The family had roots in the Anglican and Methodist church, but Ernest found his way to Hurlet Nazarene College in Scotland, where he trained for the ministry. It was while he was in Scotland that he met Isa Fotheringham, of the Parkhead Church, who became his wife and partner in ministry over many years. Ernest Dunn was ordained in 1951 by General Superintendent, Dr G.B. Williamson.



Rev Ernest Dunn

After a short ministry in Lurgan, N.I., which commenced in 1950, the Dunns moved to Greenock where they ministered for 7 years. Then came the move to Bolton which was to be a 21-year ministry (1960-1981), and Rev Dunn gave oversight to the relocation and rebuilding of the Arden Street Church. Renamed Bolton Brownlow Fold, the new church was officially opened in October 1971. In 1981 the Dunns moved to the Lancaster church until retirement in 1985. The Dunns continued to live and minister in the Lancaster area; in 1998 Isa passed away. In recent years Ernest moved to be nearer family members in the Wigan area.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Ernest Dunn was held on Thursday, 24th January in Bispham Methodist Chapel – the church in which Ernest's parents were married – followed by interment in the family grave at Bickerstaffe Parish Church.

We give thanks to God for the life of Rev Ernest Dunn, pastor, preacher, servant of Jesus Christ, a man of integrity and compassion and with a great love for people and who served Christ and the Church faithfully. "Well done good and faithful servant..."



Rev Bessie Flint

Rev Bessie Flint went to be with the Lord on 31st January – she was 89. With roots and family links in the International Holiness Mission and the Church of the Nazarene at Dewsbury Road, Leeds, Bessie's first career was in nursing. She became a Ward Sister, and then eventually was appointed to the position of Home Sister, in charge of the Nurses Home and with administrative responsibilities in the, now closed, Staincliffe Hospital Dewsbury. After Matron and Assistant Matron, Home Sister was next in position of responsibility in the Hospital. Bessie was an active member of the Nurses Christian fellowship, and through her influence many were helped and encouraged in their faith during these years.

In the early 1970s Bessie Flint felt God's call upon her life to leave the nursing profession and to train for the Christian ministry. After studies at British Isles Nazarene College (now Nazarene Theological College) Manchester, Bessie was appointed, in 1979, to the small Nazarene church in Camelon, Falkirk, Scotland. She was ordained, in 1981 by General Superintendent, Dr Charles H. Strickland. Along with the help of her good friend and supporter, Joan Harrison, Bessie served the Lord in the pastoral and preaching ministry in Falkirk until her retirement in 1992. (The church in Falkirk was closed in 1994, but the building is still used for the Lord's work as a Christian Counselling centre).

Moving back to Yorkshire, Bessie found avenues of service and ministry in the Dewsbury Church of the Nazarene where her devotion to Christ, her warm personality, and her strong faith, were a blessing and encouragement to many.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Rev Bessie Flint was held in the Dewsbury Church on Friday, 8th February, when friends from the South Leeds and Dewsbury churches, and others, joined with family members to remember Bessie and her life of sacrifice and service. "She rests from her labours..."

LINK MAGAZINE

The current issue – Winter 2012/13 - of the College magazine **THE LINK** is on-line. Copies can be downloaded from the College website www.nazarene.ac.uk click on 'News & Events' and 'Link Magazine'

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Delegates and visitors to the General Assembly (Indianapolis, USA) are invited to an "Ice-Cream Social" hosted by the College. This event, for friends and supporters of NTC, will be held on Friday, 21st June, following the evening service in the Convention Centre. Tickets are \$10 each and can be obtained from the College.

WE'LL BE BACK!

As work progresses on the new church building at Parkhead, the banner proclaims, "Parkhead Nazarene, Back in Summer 2013". With walls and roof now complete, work can proceed internally... in the main sanctuary area and in the 3-story block (two main floors and loft-space/storage rooms)...and it is hoped that the building will be completed sometime in the Summer. Sunday Services at Parkhead continue to be held in the John Wheatley College, and fund raising continues in order to meet the total cost of the project.

The 'first brick' was laid by George & Edith Fotheringham at a special 8.00am ceremony on Wednesday morning, 24th October 2012, when prayer was offered and hymns sung by the approximately 40 persons that gathered in the street. The Fotheringhams are longstanding members of the church, and Edith's grandfather, Thomas Gray, was one of the first Board Members of the work in 1906.



The "Back in Summer" 2013 banner on the scaffolding

George & Edith Fotheringham lay the first brick with pastor, Dr Ian Wills (in hard hat), standing to the right



NEWS FROM NTC

COLLEGE GRADUATION was held 20th October in the Whitworth Hall of The University of Manchester, and this year's graduation was an extra special occasion. In addition to the worship and ceremony (the total graduates numbered 37 representing 13 countries – and included 6 PhDs), and with General Linda Bond (International General of the Salvation Army) bringing the address, the new Principal of the College, Dr Deirdre Brower Latz, was installed. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Governors – Rev David Montgomery and Rev Philip McAlister – conducted the installation and greetings were brought to the new Principal from the University and from Global and Regional representatives of the Church of the Nazarene.



Guests, Faculty, and Graduates in the Whitworth Hall. Standing foreground (l.to r) Dr Peter Rae (Dean), Dr Deirdre Brower Latz (Principal), General Linda Bond (SA), Dr Kent Brower (Vice-Principal)

Retirement

Special recognition was given to **Rev Chris Cope BA, MPhil** at a recent College function held at the College on 15th January, to mark nearly 43 years of teaching ministry. Originally from the London Thomas Memorial Church and a graduate of the College and of Manchester University, Chris Cope was involved in High School teaching, a pastoral assignment (Atherton) and part-time teaching at the College, prior to becoming a full-time member of the College faculty. Chris, who has given faithful service to the College, spoke of a deep sense of God's call on his life and of finding, at the College, a place of belonging. Dean of the College, Dr Peter Rae, comments, "Chris Cope served as Lecturer, Registrar, Publicity Person, LINK Editor-in-Chief, and Learning Support Coordinator...he was ready to serve in whatever role was asked of him. His retirement marks the passing of an era."

We wish the Copes, Chris and Irene, every blessing for the future.



Rev Chris Cope (right) organises faculty and graduates for the graduation photograph.

NEW HALL OPENED



Don Bowyer cutting the ribbon

Built as a facility for Youth and Children's work, the new **Greenisland** church hall was opened and dedicated 3rd November 2012 when approximately 130 gathered to celebrate the event. Don Bowyer (a church member and the Building Project Manager) cut the ribbon, and the service of dedication was led by the District Superintendent, Rev Philip McAlister.

It was in May 2009 that the vision for a new hall started to become a reality. With just £12,500 in the bank, the foundations were laid, and over the months, thanks to sacrificial giving, much hard work and some donated labour, the building has been erected stage by stage as the money came in - £135,000 in total. Located on ground to the side of the existing sanctuary, the new building also comprises kitchen and toilet facilities.

Local pastor, Rev John Dickson, comments, "We as a church have seen God's wonderful hand of provision in it all from start to finish... God has truly done great things for us and we trust we will see many youth and children being reached and saved for His glory in the days to come..."



Inside the new hall



(l.to r) Rev Philip McAlister, Don Bowyer & Rev John Dickson.

SHANKHILL INDUCTION

A congregation of 45, which included pastors from the N. Ireland Zone, gathered on a cold and snowy Friday evening, 19th January, for the induction of Pastor Philip Evans to the **Belfast Shankill Road** church. Pastor Evans, who comes from the Lisburn Church, has been giving interim leadership to the Shankill Road church for some nine months, during which growth has been evident in all areas of the church programme, and not least when 86 local people attended a Christmas Candle-light Carol Service, and when 24 children took part in the Nativity Play.

In the induction service, the Evans family was welcomed by Billy Nesbitt (trustee), Rev Albert Griffith (Lisburn) welcomed the pastor on behalf of the Nazarene fraternal - and commented on the loss to the Lisburn fellowship of the Evans family - and the District Superintendent, Rev Philip McAlister led in a time of covenant between pastor and church board and conducted the induction. Supper was served following and everyone stayed for the time of fellowship.



Induction Group (l.to r) Rev Philip McAlister (DS), Pastor Philip Evans, Sharon Evans, and Jude & Silas.



The Shankill Church on a snowy evening

FOOD BANKS LAUNCHED

In partnership with the **Trussell Trust** the **Ardrossan** and **Sheffield Heeley** churches are the first Nazarene churches in the UK to establish Food Banks. This project, which seeks to meet social needs, consists of the collecting of food items which are stored and ready for distribution to individuals/families. Working through the Social Services, Job Centres, Woman's Aid, GP Surgeries, and other agencies, food is made available strictly on a voucher system and in cases of emergency.

The **Sheffield Heeley** Church Food Bank is run by a small team of volunteers and works in partnership with a local Methodist Church. It is anticipated that a second storage and collection point will soon be opened in the area. The Sheffield Food Bank Project covers the Heeley and adjoining Gleadless Valley Estate and was started Friday, 26th October 2012.

The **Ardrossan** Church Food Bank was launched on Saturday 1st December 2012 and is the main centre for N. Ayrshire. All food items are all brought to the church before being distributed to individuals and to other distribution centres in the area. A number of special guests and local councillors were present when the Food Bank project was given official recognition on Friday 4th January and this was followed up with a full-page spread in the local Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald. Outside the Ardrossan church is a 'textile recycling bin' and proceeds from this go towards the Food Bank project.



Visitors and volunteers at the Ardrossan food bank. Craig Crosthwaite (left) is the manager of the Food Bank (and also the Local Church Treasurer), centre foreground is the Provost of N. Ayrshire, Councillor Joan Sturgeon. (Also present but not pictured: Katy Clark MP, Kenneth Gibson MSP).



Local pastor, Rev Geoff Austin, addresses Food Bank supporters. The church was also launching "Reachout" – which is a Church Garden Project...hence the caption, "Let Glasgow Street FLOURISH" (the church is located on Glasgow Street!).

Rev Helen Lawson, Heeley associate pastor, and Food Bank project manager



Sheffield Food Bank store - Food Bank store in the Heeley Methodist Church



The Sheffield Heeley Church

BUILDING PLANS APPROVED

Plans for a major renovation of the **Sheffield Heeley** church were passed by the Sheffield City Council on 3rd January. The 105 year old building – which runs a full church and community programme – is showing signs of age.

The estimated £500,000 project includes a new disabled access and emergency exit, disabled toilet and a tea bar. A new lift and staircase will be installed to connect upper and lower floors and in addition there will be new toilets, lounge area, kitchen, entranceway and small rooms.

The church has pledged an initial £100,000 and half of this has already been raised, a further £200,000 is expected from the sale of the Norfolk Park properties, and £200,000 needs to be raised through grants, donations, and from other sources. The church will need to secure temporary accommodation for some 6 months while the work is carried out.

The ministry team at Sheffield Heeley, Rev Bruce Lloyd, Rev Helen Lawson & Pastor Kate Barclay (Youth Pastor), request prayer as the church embarks upon this refurbishment project.

Ladies Retreat

Approximately 70 ladies attended the South District Retreat held 18th-20th January held at Swanwick, Derbyshire. The theme of the weekend was "Is Your God Too Small?" and this year's speaker was Pastor Ann Goodwin of Irvine. Once again the facilities of the Conference Centre were enjoyed as were the worship and fellowship times.



Piano duet - Jayne Sankey (left) and Mair Paton play a selection of songs and hymns in one of the fellowship sessions

YP WINTER RETREAT

North District NYI President, **Matt Ross**, reports.

From 15-17 February 2013, around 70 young people from the Mainland Zone enjoyed a fantastic weekend away at the NYUK North Winter Retreat held at the Glasgow Youth Hostel in the west of the city.

"Young people from Cramlington, Erskine, Houston, Irvine, Parkhead and Perth came to Glasgow to spend a great weekend together of fellowship, teaching and worship. The speaker was Graham Meiklejohn (NTC and Momentum). Graham taught about finding our identity in Christ and based his teachings on Galatians. We enjoyed worship led by Callum Dunlop (Irvine) and Ruth Lloyd (Parkhead), and fantastic outdoor games led by Kirsten Ross, Chris Franklin and Jack Swan (Perth). A great team of leaders worked together to ensure our young people were very well fed and watered. One highlight of the weekend was how well the young people behaved and represented the church to the others who were staying in the youth hostel. An older gentleman, said, with no prompting, what a lovely group of young people we had and how impressed he was with their politeness and kindness to one another and others too. He then complemented our 'school' and was encouraged to hear that we were in fact a group of young Christians!"



Young People at the Winter Retreat

Grimsby Celebrates

The Grimsby Church celebrated its 60th Anniversary 12th-13th January. Although the work goes back over 100 years – to 1908 when "Trinity Hall" began as a Christian Mission, and it subsequently became affiliated to the International Holiness Mission and a part of the Calvary Holiness Church - it was in 1952 that the work united with the Church of the Nazarene.

The celebrations began on Saturday with tea followed by a service when the church was packed. The pastor, Rev Joy Osborne, conducted the service and welcomed special guests, which included, The Worshipful, the Mayor of the Borough of N.E. Lincolnshire, Councillor Mike Burton and Mayoress Audrey Burton. A number brought greetings including the Mayor, Dr Kent Brower (NTC) and a representative of the local clergy. And greetings were read from former pastors and friends of the Grimsby church who were unable to be present.

The mayor was pleased to see so many children present as his chosen charity was NSPCC – and a retiring offering was taken for this. Pastor Joy Osborne comments, "Children's Ministries are still one of our strong areas... we have a Sunday School and two weekly caravan groups – next year we will celebrated 30 years of Caravan." Celebrations continued on the Sunday when former pastor, Rev Bill Townend, who continues to support the Grimsby church, preached at both Sunday services. The weekend celebrations were reported in an article in the Grimsby Telegraph



Grimsby leadership group, (l.to r) Rev Joy Osborne (Pastor), Beryl Rack, Rev Andrew McRae, Maureen Wheatley, Lynda Newbert, George Newbert, Rev William Townsend (Picture courtesy of the Grimsby Telegraph)

The Grimsby Trinity Church of the Nazarene at its corner location.



Four children from the Grimsby Caravan Group receive the "Bresee Award". The highest award in the Caravan Movement was presented last November to (l.to r) Luke Bradley, Rebecca Leeman, Emily Vincent (not pictured Shannon Gillies).

Last June, the Grimsby church shared in the 'Big Lunch Initiative' in connection with the Queen's Jubilee. Pastor Joy Osborne reports, "...we had a huge number of visitors in the church who were delighted to be involved in the games and activities and to enjoy the food...the weather was good and it was a happy and memorable occasion." A community treasure hunt was a part of the activities, and pictured are the Taylor Family (l to r – Shaun, Sammy, Liza, Matty, and Dave Taylor), returning from the treasure hunt.



PASTORS MEET



Over 40 pastors from across the North District met in Irvine, 4th-5th February for the annual Prayer Conference. The District is grateful to the Irvine church for hosting this event, and grateful to the volunteers from the church for providing such excellent meals.

Leadership Retreat

22 South District Youth Leaders attended this retreat held 8th-10th February at Edwinstowe Youth Hostel – near the Major Oak (Robin Hood's old hunting ground!). A varied programme included games – lazer tag, and attempted murder – fellowship and relaxation, together with times to reflect on leadership and to seek the presence of God. South Leeds pastor, Rev Chris Lewis, spoke about relationships – with God and, as leaders, with others.

District NYI President, Jenny Robertson comments, "...it was an incredible weekend...and thanks to our amazing District Youth Pastor, Sarah St Clair Whicker for a brilliant retreat"



South District Leadership Retreat

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held in the Dewsbury Church, over 50 young people met for the South District Christmas Party on Saturday 15th December. Based on a "Pantomime Fancy Dress" theme the evening was marked by creativity, fun, games and good food. Thanks are expressed to the Dewsbury NYI for hosting a "fantastic party".

Youth Christmas Party - Dewsbury



WALTHAMSTOW DRUMMERS

Walthamstow pastor, **Rev Martin Seymour**, reports on a new set of drums received by the church a few months ago. He writes, "...after seven years without drums, the London Walthamstow church is celebrating a new drum set donated by a friend of the church. A couple from Paris who head up the drumming and several enthusiastic young people, are all competent and ready to accompany our songs. Glory be to Jesus!"



Walthamstow percussion group with the new drum set - ready to make a joyful noise...

IMPORTANT DATES

2013

BOARD OF COLLEGE GOVERNORS

1st-2nd March

NTC OPEN DAY

5th March

NTC PUBLIC LECTURES

5th, 12th, 19th March

DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES

15th-16th March - BISD

15th-18th March - BIND

DRYSDALE LECTURE (NTC)

9th April - Professor Andrew Walls

LADIES FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE

20th April - Irvine

NTC PUBLIC LECTURES

16th, 23rd 30th April

CHILDREN'S QUIZZING (BIND)

11th May - Broomhill & N. Ireland

SPORT'S DAY (BIND)

18th May - Ayrshire Athletics Arena

PASTORS' SUMMER SCHOOL (NTC)

28th-30th May

SYDNEY MARTIN LECTURE

29th May (NTC) - Dr. Michael Lodahl

ONE-DAY THEOLOGY CONFERENCE (NTC)

15th June

MWRC ANNUAL LECTURE

(Manchester Wesley Research Centre) - 18th June

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19th-28th June - Indianapolis, Ind. USA

MISSION TRIP (BIND NYI)

13th-23rd July - Bulgaria

SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMP (BIND)

20th-26th July

NORTHBREAK

3rd-9th August - Condover Hall, Shrewsbury

BREAKTHRU

17th-24th August - Condover Hall, Shrewsbury

DISTRICT MINISTRIES DAY (BIND)

14th September

COLLEGE GRADUATION

19th October - Rev Dr Calvin T. Samuel

UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

Deborah Griffith, a member of the Lisburn Church of the Nazarene and a psychology graduate of the University of Ulster Coleraine, is part way through a 10-month full time assignment ministering to university students. Working with **Relay: Discipleship Training in a Student Context**, through IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) in N. Ireland, Deborah's ministry takes her to Coleraine University of Ulster and Letterkenny Institute of Technology. Her work includes, leading and facilitating Bible Studies (one-to-one and with groups) outreach ministry where students gather and socialise, and supporting, training, and equipping students to evangelise on campus. Deborah comments, "...this past year has been one of great encouragement and challenge...and I am dependent on God for more than I have ever needed before."



Deborah Griffith

CAMERON VISITS CARLISLE

The Prime Minister, the Right Honourable David Cameron, included a visit to the **Living Well Trust** on the Raffles Estate, Friday 9th November, when he was in Carlisle. Trust Director, Rev Barrie Thomas – who has recently handed over the running of the Trust to Geoff Baxter OBE (member of the UK Youth Justice Board and former National Board Member of Youth For Christ) – was able to discuss with the Prime Minister how faith and voluntary sector organisations can engage with local and national government to tackle youth crime and deliver programmes to impact NEET young people.

The Prime Minister took time to visit a music workshop, an alternative education lesson which was in progress, and also spent time talking to mums at the Trust's "Reach" community project. Following his visit the Prime Minister commented on twitter, "Inspiring visit to Living Well Trust in Carlisle..."



(l.to r) Rev I Barrie Thomas (Pastor; Raffles & Belle Vue churches), Rt Hon David Cameron, Geoff Baxter OBE (CEO Living Well Trust)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Have you ever wondered where the authors of "Called to be Saints" - Dr Rae & Dr Noble – found all the facts and information for their book? And where do students go to get details and data for their research on the early Holiness Movement in the UK?

Located at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, are the Archives of the Church of the Nazarene in the UK – and help is needed. Hundreds of documents, reports, minutes, letters, sermons, have been collected and cared for over the years, and they are continually being added to...documents that contain our history... of the International Holiness Mission, the Calvary Holiness Church, Emmanuel Missions, the Church of the Nazarene and so on.

The College and the District appeal to anyone who has a love for history and an ability to get things in order, to consider giving some time and help to the archives. Volunteers are needed!

College Principal, Dr Deirdre Brower Latz writes, "If you have some time and could make it to Didsbury to help us...or if you have some money and would like to contribute to the upkeep of our shared history, please do contact me!" enquiries@nazarene.ac.uk

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8 Blackcroft Road, Glasgow G32 0RB

Editors: Rev. Colin H. Wood – revcwood@nazarene.org.uk

Rev. David Montgomery – dmontgomery@nazarene.org.uk

Rev. Philip McAlister – revpmac@aol.com Assistant Editor: Irvine Boal – irvineboal@msn.com

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