



“IS IT I, LORD?”

All Christians are called to serve. The word of the prophet Samuel to the Children of Israel was to, “...serve the Lord faithfully and with all your heart” (1 Samuel

12:24). God's plan is for mankind to contribute and serve! And there is something in the heart of man that wants to be useful. The principle is laid down in Genesis, 2. When Adam was placed in the garden, the instruction was to work in the garden and to take care of it (Genesis 2:15).

Yes, we are all called to serve, but sometimes there are specific tasks and roles that need to be filled in the life and work of the

church. One such area is that of the pastoral ministry. Some are called to Preach the Word and to be Shepherds of God's flock; to engage in full-time Christian Service in the context of the local church.

Sometimes the Call to the pastoral ministry comes directly to an individual. Jesus called his disciples directly – “...come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). Sometimes it is an ‘overheard’ call, as was the case with the prophet Isaiah. While in God's presence, Isaiah heard the voice of the Lord calling, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? (Isaiah 6:8).

God is still calling today – who will say. “Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?”



We give thanks to God for the long life and reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II. We are grateful for the example of integrity, goodwill, devotion to duty, and faith in God, that she has given to us. We pray for those in positions of influence and authority (1 Tim 2:1-2) - HM King Charles III, the new Prime Minister, and all Members of Government - that wisdom, compassion, understanding, and a spirit of cooperation, would be given to all.

CHURCH HOLIDAYS

Over 240 people of all ages attended Northbreak held 31st July-6th August at Ampleforth College. The week's theme, “Still God” was a reminder that God is still at work, still with His people, and still has a mission. Guest speakers included Rev Pete Read (Regents Theological College), Rev. Ruth Turner (DS), Rev. Tom Burke and Rev. Kirsty Burke of Didsbury Community Church, and there was also a



special visit from John Archer - Christian comedian and magician. In addition to the day-trips to places of interest, the programme included a 1960s themed afternoon which included 1960s themed costumes, bouncy castles, a Beatles tribute band, candy floss, an NTC ‘cream-tea’ stand, and a hog roast. ‘Good Morning World’ and worship times were daily events. Thanks to the Northbreak team for another great Northbreak Holiday!

Over 260 South District Nazarenes gathered at Ampleforth College in N. Yorks, 16th-21st August, for the Breakthru holiday. They enjoyed worship services and workshops around the theme, ‘Revitalise,’ hearing from many excellent speakers. There were also inflatables, live music, a ‘Britain through the Decades’ theme night, a BBQ, team games, a wood burning pizza oven, and much more! In addition to the programme and various trips, there were the blessings of fellowship and of simply being together. The Youth Camp ran alongside the holiday, with many young people enjoying their own seminars and activities, including a silent disco! And Pastoral Families of the South District met 14th-16th August prior to the main holiday when Rev Jacob Morris (Erskine) spoke about different tools and resources available for ministry. Many thanks to the hardworking team of volunteers who put together such an excellent holiday- roll on Breakthru 2023!



IN MEMORIAM *Remembering those who have served*



It was earlier this year - 18th April 2022 - that **Maureen Reaney** passed away; she was 88. The 2nd of 8 surviving children and the eldest of 5 girls Maureen Tumilson was born in East Belfast and some of her earliest memories were of the 1941 blitz in Belfast before being evacuated to the County Down coast. Although a promising student, Maureen was obliged to leave school at age 14 to help with the family finances...jobs included factory work and with a printing firm where she met John Reaney. They were married on 23rd June 1956 in the Skegoneill Avenue Church with Rev Raymond Spence officiating.

Maureen had introduced John to the Glenmore Street Church of the Nazarene and when John felt the call to preach the move to Hurler Nazarene College in Scotland resulted. Maureen became the College cook and her skills as a cook/baker were greatly appreciated.

The Reaneys pastored in Hartlepool, Dundee, Donegal Road (Belfast), Edinburgh, London (Battersea), and Bangor (N.I.) and also for a time in Canada. Rev John Reaney passed away 23rd September 2018, age 84. Across the years Maureen had a number of part-time jobs (shop assistant, waitress, child-minder), and then she joined the Civil Service full time as an admin officer in the Finance Department.

Maureen led a busy life...as a wife and mother, working in a variety of jobs, and as a partner in ministry. She enjoyed reading, gardening, cooking and travelling. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Maureen Reaney was held 25th April 2022 in the Megain Memorial Church, Belfast, led by Rev Sammy Robinson. The Reaneys had 5 children, Andrew, David, Peter, Dawn and Neil, 15 grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren. We thank God for the life and ministry of our sister in Christ.



Jean Thirkell passed away 13th August after a short illness. She was 85. Brought up in the Aigburth district of Liverpool, and raised in a Christian home, Jean Gates had an older brother and a younger sister. It was as a result of speaking to a missionary, who was staying in the home, that Jean committed her life to Christ. She met David Thirkell when attending a New Year meeting in Everton where David was giving his testimony. They were married in July 1959 in St Anne's Church, Aigburth.

Following Teacher Training at Edge Hill College, Ormskirk, Jean qualified as a maths teacher, teaching maths up to A level. She also did home tuition. For 42 years Jean shared in the ministry along with David. Gifted in many areas, Jean was a homemaker and hostess, Sunday School Teacher working with youth and adults, an expert at telling children's stories in church, and a piano and cornet player. And for a time, Jean served on the Board of Governors of Nazarene Theological College, Manchester. The Thirkells pastored in Atherton, Luton, Keighley, Llay, Taunton, Lisburn, Brixham, Troon, Houston, before retiring to South Devon.

Jean had many interests including gardening, music, sudoku, sewing, card-making, photography, and for a time she volunteered as a guide at the historic Powderham Castle in Devon. The family describe Jean as being positive, strong and resilient, she had a kind and compassionate nature and her love of Jesus was evident in all that she did and said. She had a ministry of encouragement and would listen attentively; she had a huge and generous heart.

Following interment, a Service of Thanksgiving for the life and ministry of Jean Thirkell was held in the Kenton Victory Hall, Devon, on Friday, 9th September. In addition to family and clergy participation, Rev David Thirkell brought a personal tribute and a Gospel Challenge. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev David Thirkell, Paula and Mark, and all the family.

NAZARENE UKRAINE TO UK

At the beginning of the war in Ukraine in February, many of our churches across both districts looked for ways to respond. As part of this response a joint-district team was formed, made up of Rev Carl McCann, Rev Michelle Lynam, Lorna Cronin, Sasha Ferns and Ruth Lloyd, to connect Ukrainian Nazarenes with Nazarenes in the UK, allowing them to host through the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme. This grew to include hosts from other denominations and non-Christians, with over 100 visa applications submitted. 70 guests have already arrived safely, while more still wait their visa approvals. Please pray for these families, as some have been waiting more than 3 months for a decision. This has been both a very rewarding and very challenging experience. It has required many hours of work and at times has been quite overwhelming. The team have really felt God's presence in what they are doing.

As there are now fewer UK hosts available the group has partnered with Starfish Ukraine, based in Northern Ireland, and continues to work on pairings and completing visas.



Pictured are some of the Ukrainians hosted by Nazarene families that attended Northbreak (Lorna Cronin is 2nd from the left, Ruth Lloyd is the 3rd adult from the right).

If you are interested in hosting or have further questions, please contact the team on nazukrainetouk@gmail.com

EURASIA APPOINTMENT



Steve Clarkson has been appointed Strategic Operations Facilitator for the Eurasia Region. Originally from Leeds, Steve is involved in the local and district church and as Holiday Director of the Northbreak Church Holiday. Steve has considerable experience in the finance and insurance fields and in business management...he, and his wife Ruth, will continue to live in Perth. Regional Director, Rev Jim Ritchie, says "Steve will be a great addition to our team."

NAZARENE MINISTERS' BENEVOLENT FUND

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Nazarene Ministers' Benevolent Fund. Established in 1962, largely as a result of the vision and work of the late Rev David J. Tarrant, the Fund has supported scores of retired Nazarene clergy and the surviving spouses of ministers, and many thousands of pounds have been distributed over the past 60 years. The Fund's Trustees are grateful to all who have supported the Fund through Benevolence Budgets, gifts and legacies, and generous grants received from the Souter Charitable Trust.

Rev David J. Tarrant, the first administrator/manager of the Benevolent Fund, was succeeded in 1972 by Rev Colin H. Wood, who has been Fund Manager for the past 50 years. The Benevolent Fund is to close in 2027 - the 65th anniversary of the Fund.



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Autumn 2022

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Spiritual Formation

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The 1950s were significant days for our College. Following the union of the International Holiness Mission and the Calvary Holiness Church with the Church of the Nazarene (in 1952 and 1955 respectively), the decision was taken to unite Hurlet Nazarene College (Paisley, Scotland) and the Calvary Holiness Church's College (Beech Lawn Bible College in Stalybridge, Greater Manchester) and establish a new College in a new location. Property in Dene Road, Didsbury - "The White House" - was purchased in 1959 for £9,500 and the new college was named British Isles Nazarene College. Over the years the campus has been expanded and developed and the name changed to Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

Pictured are the members of the Board of Governors at the time of the mergers and move to Manchester in 1959 (seated l to r) Dr George Frame (DS), Dr Hugh Rae (Principal), Rev James B. Maclagan (DS), (standing l to r) H. E. Wood, Rev Jack Ford, Rev Sydney Martin, Rev William Henson, Leonard C. Shepherd.



NEW BOOK

Published earlier this year, "British Evangelical Theologians of the Twentieth Century — An Enduring Legacy" (273 pages, APOLLOS/IVP, London, 2022. Editors T.A. Noble & Jason S. Sexton) contains contributions by 14 scholars and accounts of the lives, ministry, and theology of 12 British theologians/preachers, including, W.E. Sangster, John R.W. Stott, Martyn Lloyd-Jones, James Denney. The book is dedicated to the memory of Rev Tom Findlay (who contributed the chapter on James Denney). The dedication inscription reads: "Thomas Vance Findlay - Faithful preacher, stimulating teacher, caring pastor, enthusiastic scholar, erudite bibliophile and forthright Scot."

Edited by
T.A. Noble &
Jason S. Sexton

**British
Evangelical
Theologians
of the
Twentieth
Century**

An Enduring Legacy

CHURCH NEWS



LURGAN INDUCTION Rev Philip Evans was inducted to the Lurgan Church on Saturday, 10th September. Those taking part included, Rev Albert Griffith who led, Rev Sammy Robinson who brought the address, and the District Superintendent, Rev Ruth Turner, who officiated. Rev Evans comes to Lurgan following a 10-year ministry in the Belfast, Shankill Road, church. Pictured, (l.to r) Rev Philip Evans, Sharon Evans and Rev Ruth Turner (DS).



CONGRATULATIONS - family, former pastors, and members of the Edinburgh, Clermiston, congregation met 7th August to celebrate the 100th birthday (12th August) of longstanding member, Mary Wood. Rev Rosemary Davidson says, "Mary was involved in the work of the church over many years, a Church Board member into her 90s, and a wonderful prayer warrior for so many of us..." Rev Margaret Vosper (seated far right) brought God's word and also present were former members, Rev Andrew & Elma Young.

MISSION & RETREATS North District Youth were involved in two special events this summer.

First, a weekend Youth Retreat was held 18th-29th July in Arbroath, Scotland with 44 attending. The theme, "The Interrupted Life" examined the lives of Bible characters who had twists and interventions in their lives and what their experiences can teach us. Speakers were Pastor Hannah Clarkson (seminars) and Rev Jack Swan (evening services). In one of the evening services 8 young people made commitments to God. The programme also included team games, American Football on the beach and making new friends. Thanks are expressed to the leaders of the retreat and especially to 'Mini Camp Coordinator', Kathryn Tatlow (Ardrossan), for pulling together the camp at short notice.

The second event was a Youth Mission held 7th-14th August at the Megain Memorial Church, Belfast. The team of 20 ran the Kids Club each evening using the theme, "Under the Sea" which looked at Paul's missionary journeys while 'Servant Leadership' was the topic for the team's evening devotions. Thanks are expressed to the leadership team – Pastor Hannah Clarkson (Perth) and Danielle MacDonald (Erskine), Hollie Eagleson (Carrick), Lauren Hamill (Carrick), Jack Patterson (Carrick) and Letisha Ewart (Troon).



Pastor Hannah Clarkson reports, "We had a wonderful week...the young people did a fantastic job...God moved in our group...we are so thankful for the time we spent in Megain." And local Pastor, Rev Sammy Robinson, adds, "The team was a real blessing to us not only as a church but also as a local community...the team built on the relationships already built by our fabulous Kid's Team...providing a great springboard for our next season of ministry in Megain. A huge thanks to Pastor Hannah and the team for such a great week."



CARRICK APPOINTMENT On Sunday 17 July 2022 the Carrickfergus Church commissioned Lauren Hamill (daughter of the late Rev David Hamill) to a one-year internship ministering to children and youth. Officiating were Pastor Jordan Neill and Youth Pastor Hollie Eagleson with Lauren's mother, Isobel Hamill, bringing the message. Pictured (l.to r) Hollie Eagleson, Lauren Hamill and Pastor Jordan Neill.

PERTH TRINITY The new worship centre facility, which will seat 350-400, was formally opened on Saturday 30th April. This included a 'ribbon-cutting' ceremony, family activities, and an evening rally followed by a ceilidh. Rev Ruth Turner (District Superintendent) brought the evening message and among those bringing greetings was, John Swinney – Deputy First Minister of the Scottish Government. The worship centre is dedicated to the memory of Cathie Souter – a plaque has been placed in the entrance foyer...the plaque includes the words of the gospel hymn... "Let us then be true and faithful; Trusting, Serving, every day; Just one glimpse of Him in glory; Will the toils of life repay."



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