

PENTECOST THE PARADOX OF LITURGY

"...AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES..." (ACTS 1:8)

'...this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people..."' (Acts 2:16-17).

The inaugural signs that accompanied the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost are of significance. The sound of the rushing mighty wind suggests power and enablement. As Jesus said to His disciples. "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you." (Acts 1:8). The tongues of fire speak of purity. And when the apostles met some time later at the Council of Jerusalem to recall the events of Pentecost, it was purity that came to their minds - "[God] put no distinction between us and them (the Gentiles), for he purified their hearts by faith." (Acts 15:9). The miracle of languages underlines the importance of proclamation - people need to hear and understand the good news of the Gospel. As the apostles spoke in other tongues the people said, "...each of us hears them in his own native language." (Acts 2:8).

What then, is the Paradox of Pentecost? Simply this, although the person of Pentecost is the Holy Spirit, the purpose of Pentecost is to

glorify, exalt and lift up Jesus. Two verses are striking in this connection. When Jesus was teaching his disciples about the work of the Spirit and explaining to them what the Spirit's ministry would be, he said, "...he (the Spirit) will bring glory to me..." (John 16:14). And when giving instructions to his disciples to tarry in Jerusalem and wait for the gift the Father promised, Jesus said, "...when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8).

In his 'Pentecostal Sermon', recorded in Acts 2, Peter quotes the Joel prophecy and then proceeds to preach Jesus...his life and work, his death and resurrection. And the climax of his address is Jesus! "Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36).

The purpose of Pentecost is Christ and for us to be "his witnesses." As Raymond E. Brown expressed it..."the Paraclete (Holy Spirit) is the presence of Jesus when Jesus is absent." May the Holy Spirit fill each one of us...to enable us to be like Jesus...to know his presence, and to be his witnesses!



"GOD SAVE THE KING!" We are commanded to "...honour the King" (1 Peter 2:17) and we are urged to remember in prayer those who have the rule over us: "...that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." (1 Timothy 2:1-2). We thank God for the Coronation of their Majesties, King Charles III and Queen Camilla, for the service of Christian worship and praise held at Westminster Abbey on 6th May, and pray that God would bless them and grant unto them compassion, integrity, understanding. and wisdom.

MINISTRY OF FOOD

It was in December 2012, during the ministry of Rev Geoff Austin, that the North Ayrshire Foodbank was established in the Ardrossan Church of the Nazarene as members of The Trussell Trust. Originally housed in the Church Gallery, the operation has, over the years, expanded and moved to the Church Hall. In addition, portacabins have been installed in the church grounds to hold the food-stock along with a new 'ramp system' to ease the flow of donated food.

In 2013 it was thought that the Foodbank would assist 350 households. By the end of the first year some it was actually 3,200 households. Over the years the Foodbank has raised 644.61 tons of food and issued 641.6 tons. Food has been distributed across North Ayrshire benefitting nearly 34,000 households which represents 43,881 adults and 17,686 children.

During the 2 years of Covid lockdown a number of innovations took place.

- Commercial grade kitchen installed.
- Over 48 tons of food issued in 2 weeks.
- 2000 meals a week distributed by Council Teams.
- Holiday programme "Make a Meal of it" for children.
- "Junior Chef" programme to teach healthy eating.

Other programmes have included issuing annually 250 festive hampers, thanks to the support of Community Windpower, and placing a hamper in each of the 290 temporary accommodation households over each Christmas and New Year period. Recent developments have included.

- A mini-shop 'Larder Project'.
- Employment of a Campaign Officer.
- Mobile cinema showing "Food for Film".
- 48 dedicated volunteers.
- Distributing food to 14 hubs across N Ayrshire.

In addition to the Foodbank, local pastor, Rev Nathan Payne, and Church Member George Bradford, operate a financial support programme in connection with 'Christians Against Poverty' and are able to give advice to those struggling with debt, fuel poverty, housing issues and mental health. The Ardrossan Church is grateful for the generosity of many in terms of cash and food and the financial support from the North Ayrshire Council, and the BBC 'Children in Need' which funds the children's work. Thanks are also expressed to 'The Trussell Trust' for its support and for the grants which enabled the portacabins to be installed and the employment of the Welfare Rights Officer and the Campaign Officer. Local Church Member and Coordinator and Manager, Chris Crosthwaite says, "...it has been an amazing time of blessings for all involved...and we thank God that so many are being reached with love and compassion."



"Make a meal of it" annual pantomime.



Volunteers packing the Festive hampers

AROUND THE REGION – ORDINATIONS | CAMPS | CONFERENCES

DID YOU KNOW that the British Isles North and South Districts are part of the Northern Europe Field and the Eurasia Region? The Eurasia Region is one of 6 regions of the global Church of the Nazarene. In this issue of TOGETHER we bring you some news from 'Around the Region'.



N.E India District Assembly, 6th January.



East and South East India District Assemblies, 10th January.



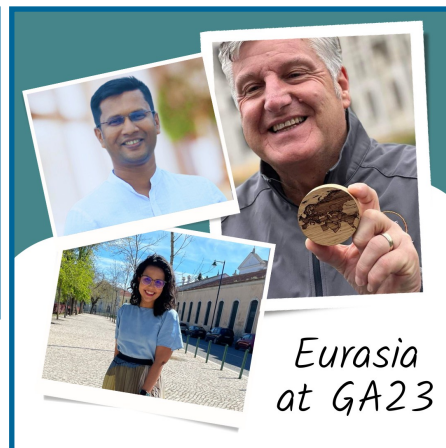
Tamil Nadu West and East India District Assemblies, 11th January.



On 17th January, 11 pastors were ordained in Kathmandu, Nepal.



Andhra Pradesh (India) District Assembly, 12th January.



At the British Isles North District Assembly, 13th March, held in the Sharpe Memorial Church of the Nazarene, Parkhead, Glasgow, Rev John Craig (Parkhead) and Rev Andrew Purdy (Paisley) were ordained. Pictured (l.to r) Rev Andrew Purdy, Rev Ruth Turner (DS), Richard Wood (District Secretary), Rev John Craig, Dr David A. Busic (GS), Debs Craig, Rev Jim Ritchie (RD).

If you are not able to physically be at General Assembly, but would still like to be 'present', we would love you to send us a photograph of yourself that we will print out to display as part of our booth!



In Seville, Spain, 90 women gathered from Spain and Portugal for the 2nd Iberian Retreat held over the weekend 28th April-1st May. The speaker was Glória Dannemann and the theme was, "Listening to God in Difficult Times." Nicole Almeida (Portugal) reports, "...over the weekend there were small groups, prayer times...and lots of times to get to know each other and support each other."

In Germany over 70 young people met during Easter week at the youth hostel, Hohe Fahrt am Edersee, and enjoyed singing together "Good Grace" ("Jesus: Our Redemption, Our Salvation, Is in His Blood, Jesus: Light of Heaven, Friend forever, His Kingdom Come."). The week was full of activities and spending time with God.

In the Eurasia Region there are 136 Child Development Centres that offer a safe

environment so children and teens can develop positive self-esteem, grow spiritually, and improve their academic skills. The centres provide Bible teaching, meals, clothing, tutoring, access to health care, and a place for kids to play together. Pictured are some Romanian children at a Nazarene Compassionate Ministries CDC. To learn more about child sponsorship and how you can partner with this ministry please visit <https://cs.ncm.org/>





NAZARENE

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

From Autumn 2023, NTC will begin offering **online BA and MA courses**

Details at nazarene.ac.uk/online

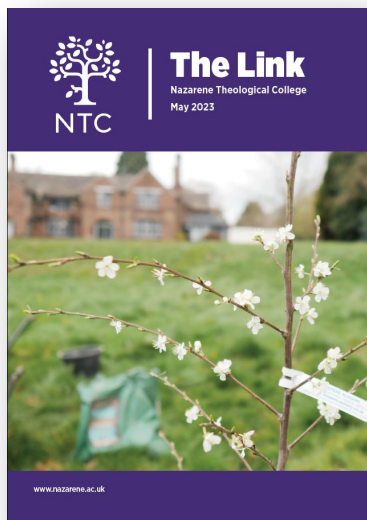
WHAT'S ON

7th June - Open Day at NTC
26th June - Sydney Martin Lecture
2nd Aug - Open Evening at NTC
9th Oct - Didsbury Lectures
21st Oct - Graduation

NEWS

Inhabit students assist refugees
Student shares journey to NTC
Alumnus book receives award
Friends of NTC launches
Read more on our website!

THE LINK



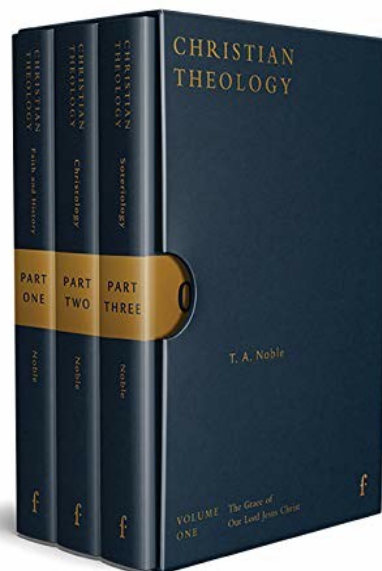
The Spring 2023 Link Magazine is out!

Find the newest edition of Link Magazine on the [NTC website](https://nazarene.ac.uk) (click the link or use the QR code to access the publication).

In this edition, you'll find highlights covering a new orchard on NTC's lawn, NTC students serving refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, interviews with two alumni with new books out and more!



NEW BOOK



Published February 2023 by The Foundry Publishing, Kansas City, "Christian Theology Volume I" is now available. Authored by Dr T.A. Noble – Professor of Theology, Nazarene Theological Seminary, Kansas City, and Senior Research Fellow in Theology, Nazarene Theological College, Manchester – Volume I is titled "The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ" and is in three parts. Part 1. Faith and History. Part 2. Christology: The Doctrine of the Person of Christ, and Part 3. Soteriology: The Doctrine of the Work of Christ. Throughout the entire volume, Biblical, Historical, and Systematic Theology are integrated, drawing on major historical works of Theology and on contemporary scholarship. Two more volumes are planned.

RETREATS AND CONFERENCES



SOUTH DISTRICT YOUNG ADULTS "Just Be" was the theme of the Young Adult Weekend held 21st-23rd April at Holly Bush Farm, Derbyshire. The main speakers were Pastor Beth Ford (District Youth Pastor) and Lauren McGillivray (Associate at Manchester Brooklands). Over 50 young adults enjoyed a weekend full of fun, friendship, creativity, food and games. On a visit to nearby Bakewell 'Bakewell Tarts' were sampled and the group enjoyed shopping and walking around the scenic town.

The most important part of the weekend was the spiritual connections which were made, and learning what it means to "Just Be" in Christ's presence. Pastor Beth Ford, reports "...we were truly blessed by the presence of the Spirit throughout the weekend and we are praying that this weekend will be just the beginning of something new and beautiful for our young adults."



CONGRATULATIONS to Rev Fred & Maureen Cowan who celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on Sunday 16th April. Pictured with the Cowans are their daughters (l.to r) Heather & Rhonda.



...and... 'from the archives'... the wedding picture of Fred & Maureen, 60 years ago! Held in the Belfast First Church of the Nazarene, 16th April 1963, Rev Leslie Roberts officiated, Kay Lewis (Eades) was bridesmaid and Pastor Gerald (Reg) Heasley was the best man.



NORTH DISTRICT MANSE MINISTRIES Chaplain, Rev Ann Goodwin reports, "...surrounded by the beautiful scenery at Arrochar, at the north end of Loch Long, 15 Manse Ladies met 10th-12th February for the annual retreat. It was a time of being together, of renewing friendships and making new ones. Our speaker, Jeanette Allan (pictured 5th from the left), shared with us tools to help with mental wellness – which included crafts and drumming. Best of all was the presence of God with us."



LADIES' RETREAT over 40 from the Parkhead-Charter (Glasgow) fellowships met at the Scripture Union Conference Centre, Gowanbank, Ayrshire, 24th-26th February for this retreat.

Speakers included, Shona Howard, Becky Dunphy, and Adele Duncan. Passages

from the Bible, where women encountered Jesus, were looked at. A very special part of the weekend was when the women were praying for one another for emotional, physical and spiritual healing, and surrendering their whole selves to God.



MENS' RETREAT 30 men from Parkhead-Charter were at the Gowanbank Scripture Union Centre 21st-23rd April. The theme of the weekend was "Men after God's Heart".

The programme included games, relaxation, outings – and food. The main speakers were Rev John Craig, Rev

Dave White, Calum Watkins, Martin Fraser, and quiz-master, Sandy Smith. In addition, many testimonies were shared. Thanks to all who attended and took part - and thanks to David Allan and David Cochrane for their part in arranging the weekend. Plans have already been made for "Retreat '24".



THE 30TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY & CONVENTIONS

9-16 JUNE 2023

INDIANAPOLIS
INDIANA, USA

nazarene.org/generalassembly

TOGETHER published by: Church of the Nazarene, British Isles, 8 Blackcroft Road, Glasgow, G32 0RB

Editors: Rev Colin H Wood – revcwood@nazarene.org.uk; Rev Carl McCann – carlmccann7@hotmail.com; Rev Ruth Turner – revruth@nazarene.org.uk

www.nazarene.org.uk

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