

From the Pastor



Church family,

Welcome to Worship on this Mothering Sunday! We are excited to be joined this week by a guest speaker, Gillian Parish, who will assist in bringing creativity to our time this morning as we spend the second of two weeks around theme of Lost and Found. There will also be some input from some of the children.

So much is often said about the Fatherhood of God, but have you ever considered the occasions Scripture describes God as a Mother? Although not as common as paternal language, it is there in Hosea 13:8; Deuteronomy 32:11-12; Deuteronomy 32:18; Isaiah 49:15; Psalm 131:2; Matthew 23:37; Luke 13:34; but perhaps most explicitly in Isaiah 66:13 –

“As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.”

Today we celebrate these images, and all the images in Scripture of God’s love for us, His people.

Today we also celebrate the mothers in our church family, as well as those connected to our church families. I, for one, don’t know where I would be today without the love and prayers of my own mother. A very happy Mothers’ Day to you all!

However, we also want to be mindful of the fact that today can be a difficult day for some. For those who are reminded of special individuals no longer with us. For those who have and have had broken and challenging relationships with their mothers. For those who have longed to be mothers themselves and whose prayers have gone unanswered as of yet. For those mothers who have lost children. We remember all of these in our prayers today.

Today also marks one whole year of Brooklands Virtual Church! Can you believe it? None of us thought that when we made the switch to online church a year ago we’d still be on this journey all this time later, especially not the team who have worked so hard to ensure that we are able to gather in this way. We will take a moment during today’s service to honour and thank this team who have given so much of their time and talent to the church in this past year.

We’ll meet again this Wednesday evening at 7.30pm on the church Zoom for the second of our listening exercises. For those who don’t have access to Zoom we are hoping to provide a telephone number that can be used as a way of joining with us – see below. This week we’ll be having time of study and listening around Luke 15. You don’t need to do anything in preparation this time but having a Bible with you may be beneficial.

Keith Hambleton’s funeral will take place on Friday, 11.30am at Manchester Crematorium. Continue to be in prayer for Brenda and the wider family.

Don’t forget that following this morning’s service the church AGM will take place on

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Daily Reading and Prayer Guide

Date	Reading	Pray for
Monday 15th March	Mark chapter 13 verses 1 to 27	Christine Clarke
Tuesday 16th March	Mark chapter 13 Verse 28 and chapter 14 verses 1 to 11	Enid and James Collins and Family
Wednesday 17th March	Mark chapter 14 verses 12 to 42	Luis, Miriam and Family
Thursday 18th March	Mark chapter 14 verses 43 to 72	Heather Critchley
Friday 19th March	Mark chapter 15 verses 1 to 20	Elouise Critchley
Saturday 20th March	Catch up	Colin Dunbar and Family (Margaret)
Sunday 21st March	Mark chapter 15 verses 21 to 47	Bill and Sue Ellis

Special Prayer Requests

- ◇ Pray for the funeral of Keith Hambleton taking place this Friday.
Pray for Brenda and the wider family.
- ◇ Give thanks for all the mothers in our church family and connected
to church family.
- ◇ Pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday may be a difficult day.
- ◇ Continue to pray for those in our church facing illness - Jon, John,
Isobel, Claire S, Bill E.

Proverbs 19:17 "Whoever is generous
to the poor lends to the Lord, and he
will repay him for his deed."

Some thoughts on Mothering Sunday

We have a visiting speaker this week, and we do not have her message notes to include in the weekly update. Instead, it might be good to take a look at some other insight about mothers.

In his autobiography *Just As I Am*, the American speaker and evangelist Billy Graham has this to say about his mother.

“In many Crusades over the years, I have devoted at least one message to the subject of the family. In my Depression-era growing-up years, I suppose we Grahams on our North Carolina dairy farm bore some resemblance to the fictional Walton family on television. It’s easy to feel nostalgic about simpler times, but they obviously were not easier times. Nor were they necessarily happier times.

What we did have back then was family solidarity. We really cared about each other, and we liked to do things together. Jesus’ word picture of a hen gathering her brood under her wing fits my mother. She saw to it that we gathered frequently and regularly—and not just around the dinner table or in front of the radio for favorite broadcasts. She gathered us around herself and my father to listen to Bible stories, to join in family prayers, and to share a sense of the presence of God.

On August 14, 1981, Morrow Graham quietly left this earth in her sleep and entered Heaven.

When word came, I wept and yet rejoiced at the same time. Of all the people I have ever known, she had the greatest influence on me. I am sure one reason that the Lord has directed and safeguarded me, as well as Ruth and the children, through the years was the prayers of my mother and father.”

I am reminded of another Godly woman, who lived a few hundred years before Morrow Graham.

Susanna was the youngest of 25 children. She herself, with her husband Samuel, had 19 children—imagine receiving 19 bunches of flowers every Mothering Sunday!

Samuel worked away a lot, and Susanna wrote to him, “I am also the mistress of a large family. And though the superior charge of the souls contained in it lies upon you, yet in your long absence I cannot but look upon every soul you leave under my charge as a talent committed to me under a trust. I take such a proportion of time as I can spare every night to discourse with each child apart. On Monday I talk with Molly, on Tuesday with Hetty, Wednesday with Nancy, Thursday with Jacky, Friday with Patty, Saturday with Charles...”

Susanna would assemble all her children every Sunday afternoon for fam-

BrooklandsChurch
of the Nazarene



Brooklands Church of the Nazarene,
Wendover Road, Manchester, M23 9FN

Pastor: Rev Mick Kane
Email: pastormickkane@gmail.com
Mobile: 07545 622498

Web: www.BrooklandsChurch.uk
Email: info@BrooklandsChurch.uk
Correspondence: 5 Ashcroft Road, Lymm,
Cheshire, WA13 9HX

At Brooklands, we are big enough to be part of a world-wide denomination, yet small enough to invite you to make our church your home. Please visit our website and contact us if you would like to get in touch or need more information on any of our events.

During the Coronavirus pandemic, we are holding weekly services on our YouTube channel, starting at 10:30 am each Sunday.

We look forward to welcoming you to our fellowship!

Manchester Brooklands Church of the Nazarene, Registered Charity No: 1159881

ily services. Before long, other people in her community asked if they could attend with their children and on one occasion, there were over 200 people attending her Sunday afternoon service.

Susanna wrote commentaries on theological themes. Her writings can be read today in Charles Wallace's compilation *Susanna Wesley, The Complete Writings*.

Susanna was a believer that great mothers would be able to instil a sense of destiny into their children. When the Wesley family's vicarage was burned down, John Wesley nearly died but was rescued from a second-storey window. He never lost the sense of destiny that his mother instilled in him as a "brand plucked from the fire."

Susanna understood that she had to work hard in order for her children to become achievers. Our children will become what we consciously work for them to become.

The impact of Susanna's children is still with us today.

But as we honour our mothers, we also acknowledge that grandmothers also have a great opportunity to impact their grandchildren. We are told in 2 Timothy 1 verse 5, that the Apostle Paul reminded his protege Timothy that he had been instructed by a godly mother, Eunice, and godly grandmother, Lois.

Let us thank the Lord for all those people that have had a positive influence on our spiritual lives, and pray that by the grace of God, we might bear the fruits of the Spirit, for the benefit of our communities and the wider society.