



# Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

## Pandemic Times

9 May 2021  
Issue 59

### FRIENDS

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." - Matthew 5:4*

You'll have no doubt been exposed to some of the horrendous news coming from India this week as the Coronavirus Pandemic continues to take hold there. With scenes of makeshift crematoriums, people sharing beds in hospitals, and critical shortages of oxygen, it reminds us that our relatively positive outlook here in the UK will mean nothing if a global approach is not taken.

Scripture tells us that wherever there is pain and suffering God is to be found, and I'm glad to know that the Church continues to be on the frontline of these situations too. This morning, as part of our worship we will hear a report from a pastor in the Church of the Nazarene describing what role Christians are having in this difficult situation. It will, I hope, help to shape our prayers for them.

As well as praying, I feel it is important that we take an opportunity to give financially to support the work of the church there. By giving through the Church of the Nazarene we can be assured that 100% of the gift given will make it to support the work there. And so, if you would like to contribute, you can do so by bank transfer. The church account details are below. Please make sure you include the reference 'India.' If you are unable to navigate bank transfers then please speak to myself, Mark Bolton or Sheila Strong, our church treasurer, and we will make arrangements to receive your donation.

Church Account Name: Church of the Nazarene  
Sort Code: 20-55-59  
Account Number:: 50255769

We give, remember, first and foremost, as an act of worship. We give because we have received riches beyond all measure in Christ Jesus. We give because, as Kingdom people, we believe it is better to do so than receive. Covid hasn't allowed us to take up weekly offerings so we are so grateful for those who have faithfully given to the church by standing order and in other ways. This has allowed the work of the church to continue in these days. If you would like to give regularly to the work of the local church then please speak to one of the above individuals who can help you with this.

It's been wonderful to have people in the sanctuary for worship these past couple of weeks. This week we are close to capacity and so if you would like to attend in person please let us know as early in the week as possible. We may need to start rotating people so that everyone who wants to be present can be – this is a wonderful 'problem' to have!

Peace,

Mick



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## NAZARENE HOLIDAYS

The British Isles South District is hoping to put on a family holiday and a youth holiday this summer.

Both holidays will be from 18-22 August. They will be at the same location—Ellesmere School in Shropshire.

For further information about the *Breakthru* holiday, click this link to the [BISD Facebook Page](#).

If you would like more information about the Youth Camp, [info@BrooklandsChurch.uk](mailto:info@BrooklandsChurch.uk) or [nyuksouth-camp@gmail.com](mailto:nyuksouth-camp@gmail.com).

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### PRAYER REQUESTS THIS WEEK

- For those who continue to need God's physical healing in their life: Isobel, Jon F, John B, Claire, Bill, Mick (Pastor Mick's dad)
- For Steph, Jon Fisher's daughter-in-law, who is being monitored by doctors following a positive Covid test last week.
- For all the children connected to the church.
- For the church leadership as they seek to move the church forward through and out from the pandemic.
- For the Coronavirus crisis in India and the work of the Church on the frontline there.

### DAILY PRAYER AND READING GUIDE

Date	Reading	Pray for
Monday 10th May	Luke 23:1–25	Jean Stockton and family
Tuesday 11th May	Luke 23:26–56	Nikki and Mathew Armett, Antony, Jessica and family
Wednesday 12th May	Luke 24:1–35	Arthur Basnett and family
Thursday 13th May	Luke 24:36–53	Maud Batchelor
Friday 14th May	John 1:1–28	Theresa Baker and family
Saturday 15th May	Catch up	Val Batty and family
Sunday 16th May	John 1:29–51	John and Ann Beattie and family



*The Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Washim, India*

## NAZARENE CHURCHES IN INDIA SERVE DURING PANDEMIC SURGE

The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in India is breaking world records, with the total reported number of deaths exceeding 215,000 and rising. Deaths have nearly tripled in the last three weeks and reached more than 3,600 in the last 24 hours. The true death toll is believed to be much higher.

The dramatic surge in cases has overrun the health care infrastructure; both hospitals and crematoriums have run out of space, and there is a critical shortage of oxygen. The surge in cases and deaths has also slowed the country's vaccination rollout.

Nazarene churches in India have been actively involved in distributing aid since the beginning of the pandemic a year ago, ensuring that hundreds of families have food and supplies. Most recently, the project began distributions for 500 families. This has become particularly important during the surge. While it is vital that people maintain proper safety measures, it also means a significant loss of income. Those who are living in poverty have even fewer resources than usual.

The Reynolds Memorial Hospital, a Nazarene entity started in 1938, is providing frontline care to patients with COVID-19. The Church of the Nazarene is mobilizing support for the hospital by providing oxygen and other urgent items. The surge in cases has impacted this hospital, too, and staff members are working extremely hard to treat those in their care. About 16 of the staff have also been infected and are being treated at the hospital themselves.

Lazarus, a district superintendent in India, is recovering from COVID-19 along with four members of his family. The support from the Nazarene church helped them with steep medical bills, and he said that he would like to continue the work by showing love to others in need.

"Please continue to pray for me and the church in India and all of our leaders," he said. "Especially pray for my country to get the safety under God's protection and to get a healing touch."

Large portions of the population have lost their income during the pandemic, making it nearly impossible to count on essentials like groceries and housing. Support provided by churches alleviates some stress as communities strive to make it through the loss of income caused by the pandemic. This includes supporting pastors, who aren't receiving their normal pay while churches are closed.

Pastor Pratik tested positive for COVID-19 in April, along with his parents. He says that the support from the church was a great help.

"I seek your prayers for our country," he said. "I seek your prayers for our pastors and the families who have lost their dear ones. Please pray for the whole country."

<https://www.nazarene.org/article/nazarene-churches-india-serve-during-pandemic-surge>

## HOW TO HELP

### Pray

Pray for those who have lost loved ones, and pray for those who are trying to find medical care for their loved ones. Pray for the staff at all the hospitals, including Reynolds Memorial Hospital, who have treated an increasing stream of patients for weeks. Pray for those who are ill, that they would be healed and recover quickly, and pray for the spread of the virus to slow. Pray for those who are most vulnerable during crises, especially senior adults, individuals with disabilities, and people living in poverty. To send a prayer or note of encouragement, go to [ncm.org/pray](https://ncm.org/pray).

### Give

Churches and individuals around the world can provide support through the COVID-19 Response – India. Donations will be used for immediate health needs.

See page 1 for details about how you can support the vital work of Nazarene churches in India.

SUNDAY 9 MAY 2021

## ENCOUNTERS WITH THE RESURRECTED CHRIST (4)

REVD. MICK KANE

### ACTS 1:6-11

6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

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## SERMON NOTES

Who's all excited for the big day this week? We've been waiting for it for so long haven't we? Some of you have had your decorations up for a couple of months now! The shops are playing all the music and have their sales since January, haven't they? What are you doing for it? Turkey? I like to have steak. Of course it will be a different one this year because we can't have all the family round as usual. Shame, isn't it? But come this Thursday it'll be here and then by Friday it'll be done for another year...

I wonder if you have any idea what I'm on about. Well, this Thursday is Ascension Day! 40 days after Easter, the day where we "celebrate" Jesus going from Earth to Heaven. It's the day where Jesus left us, so that he could be with us in a new and better way – We'll hear more on that in two weeks when we get to Pentecost. It's the day when Jesus took his place on his throne in Heaven. This week is the week where we "celebrate" all those things. I use inverted commas over 'celebrate' because the truth is we don't really celebrate it at all, do we? In fact, I guess that most of us didn't even know it was a thing.

Of course the celebrations I was joking about earlier describe how we celebrate Christmas, don't they? And why shouldn't we celebrate Christmas because the truth of Christmas is stunning! At Christmas we celebrate the fact that God came to us and the way he came to us was by taking on our humanness with all its brokenness and fallen-ness, and he wore it, and lived in it. That's a beautiful truth! And here is what it means: every challenge you have ever experienced, every heart-ache, every moment of suffering, every temptation, God understands! Because he stepped into it. He lived it! That's the beauty of Christmas. What a gift – which is why we buy each other gifts!

But if Christmas is the day that we celebrate God becoming flesh then Ascension is the day we celebrate flesh going to Heaven! At Christmas God entered humanity – At Ascension, humanity was taken to Heaven where it sits on the throne of Heaven and Earth!

But what is happening on that throne? Well, the writer of the book of Hebrews helps us:

*Now the main point of what we are saying is this: we do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, and who serves in the sanctuary, the true tabernacle set up by the Lord, not by a mere human being... Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance – now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant... [and] when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool.... Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.* (Hebrews 8, 9, 10).

Ascension helps complete the story for us. We are grateful for Christmas: God came! But also, because God lived, died, rose AND ASCENDED, we can approach God himself because one who is like us intercedes on our behalf! What a beautiful truth! A truth worth celebrating, right?

But I have one question. If we are witnesses to this. That is, we believe and live out this truth. Then "why do we stand here looking at the sky?" Surely this truth, which has permeated the deepest part of our beings, is a truth that we dare not keep to ourselves. This truth starts the book of Acts, which then sends us into the story of how the message of the Gospel spread all over the world. Surely it should inspire the same in us?

The Nazarene Theological College is hosting a Zoom forum of missionaries past, present and future, to contribute to a discussion on *'The changing models of missionary work: a missional conversation in the light of the 100th year Anniversary of Emmanuel Bible College'*. The meeting will be hosted by Julie Lunn and Peter Rae, and the panel will include Davide and Tanya Cantarella, Sandro Laifi, David McCulloch, Cosmas Mutowa and Mi Ja Wi.

## The 2021 Drysdale Lecture

Monday 10th May 2021,  
7:30 pm to 9:00 pm.



[Click to register for this event.](#)