

Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

Sunday 27 June 2021
Issue 66

Pandemic Times

Friends

"Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?" Psalm 88:11-12

I came to a stunning revelation about these verses this week. They are from Psalm 88 which is often described as the darkest of all Psalms. In it, the Psalmist laments his circumstances with graphic language painting a picture of deep despair. In these verses he asks rhetorical questions of God about the purpose of his suffering – can God's glory be displayed when things are this bad? Surely not!

However, in Christ, God's love has been declared in the grave! He showed faithfulness in the face of destruction! His wonders are known even in the pits of Hell – a statement we declare with the early church as part of the Apostles Creed: "He descended into Hell..."

Even in the deepest pit of suffering, God's love is to be found. No matter where you find yourself in these days, make no mistake, God can and does work in us no matter how difficult things may look. Hallelujah!

Our sermon today continues our theme looking at the work of the Holy Spirit and we are reflecting on the character of Christ which is grown in us as Christians – a stunning reality!

Please continue to pray for our community pop-up café which launches this week. Thank you so much to those of you who have volunteered to help. Also to you who have volunteered to bake. We are hoping that as a church we can be a place of welcome and blessing to the local community through it.

Over the next few weeks I am hoping to host an outdoor breakfast and play date with the families and children of the church. This will be a Saturday morning where the kids can be together again and as families we can begin to think about what children's ministries can look like again in the near future. Please speak to me if you want to help me with this.

Peace.

Mick

fruit of the
SPIRIT LOVE
FAITHFULNESS
gentleness
self-control PEACE
JOY
kindness
PATIENCE
GOODNESS

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Prayer Page

Church Family and Community

- * For the pop-up community café launching this Thursday
- * Continue to pray for John Beattie, that his chemotherapy treatment will be able to continue. Pray for strength for Ann, as she provides constant care for John.
- * Thank God for restoring Jean Hall to health.
- * We continue to remember others of our fellowship who are in need of healing: Jon F, Claire.
- * Bill Ellis had a fall this week and has asked for prayer for him and Sue.
- * Remember Cameron Preece, in Scotland. Cameron is an important member of our technical team, a student at NTC, and would welcome our prayers.
- * Pray for Terence Strong, visiting family in South Africa. Pray for his safety in an area with high Covid infection rates. Pray for Sheila and the rest of the family here in England.
- * Continue to pray for Isobel, and give thanks that her treatment is going so well

Daily Reading and Prayer Guide for This Week

Date	Reading	Pray for
Monday 28th June	Acts 4:1–22	Beverley Mitchell and family
Tuesday 29th June	Acts 4:23–5:11	Kingdom, Debi, David, Sarah, Faith and Malachi Matsetlo
Wednesday 30th June	Acts 5:12–42	Dr. Herbert McGonigle and family
Thursday 1st July	Acts 6	Sigrid Nwator and family
Friday 2nd July	Acts 7:1–22	Myra O’Hara and family
Saturday 3rd July	Catch up	Michael Okechukwa and family
Sunday 4th July	Acts 7:23–53	Vera and John Packard



Holy Spirit Encounters (6)

Galatians 5: 13-26

Mick Kane

The Fruit of the Spirit

27 June 2021

As we continue on in our journey looking at encounters with the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures and seeking to answer these questions, 'who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do?' let me remind you what we have learned so far. We have learned that the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is God at work in us, the Church and in the World. We have also learned that the Holy Spirit illuminates Christ in us, leads us into all truth and sends us out empowered on the mission of God. Lucy did a great job last week emphasising particularly that last one as she shared with us from Acts 13 where we saw how both Paul and Barnabus were sent by the spirit all around the known world at the time.

We come today to the book of Galatians where we find some very important teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit at work in us, the people of God. Paul is addressing a group of Christians who seem to have lost their way in their understanding of what it means to be a Christian. What does it look like in someone's life? And Paul says that the mark of being a Christian is that we are filled with the Holy Spirit. You cannot be a Christian without the Holy Spirit.

But what does that even look like? Well it's in answering this questions that Paul gives some of his most famous teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit. He said if you want to know if the Spirit of God is at work in you then you need to look for the fruit. The Holy Spirit produces in us the character of Christ – that is what the fruit is. The fruit is the evidence, if you like, that the Spirit of God is at work in our lives. So here is what those fruit are:

Love: Love is the chief of all the fruit of the Spirit. We'll see next week when we come to look at the gifts of the Spirit that if we don't have love then we are nothing. Earlier in the book of Galatians Paul says this: The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love (Gal 5:6). Love is the main evidence that we are living in Christ, you could say.

Joy: The best way I understand joy is to remind myself that joy and happiness are not the same. Happiness is fleeting. Happiness is a response to our happenings. Whereas Joy is much deeper than happiness. Joy is the deep understanding that no matter what is going on we are secure in Christ. This is why Paul can pen words like 'rejoice in the Lord always' (Phil 4:4) even when he is chained to a prison wall!

Peace: The Jewish understanding of peace comes from the Hebrew word shalom which is fuller than how we might understand peace: the absence of disturbance. Shalom is more to do with a feeling of fulfilment which comes again from our understanding of who we are and what we are in Christ.

Sermon notes continued...

Patience: A lady in my old church used to tell me that the most dangerous thing we can ever pray for is patience since God doesn't tend to give us patience but circumstances through which patience can be fostered!

Kindness: Kindness is not an optional extra in the Christianity. If the Church should be known for anything then surely it should be kindness. Sadly, this hasn't always been the case!

Goodness: A basic statement of faith is the expression that 'God is good! All the time, God is good!' If we truly believe that then this fundamental character of God will come to fruition in our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Faithfulness: Faithfulness, I like to think of, is the ability to maintain who we are and what we do out of that no matter how hard it gets. It can be so tempting at times to give up. There are times when we can be tempted to do things by way of the world. The ultimate picture of faithfulness is found in Christ who died for us whilst we were still sinners

Self-control: before naming the fruits of the Spirit Paul list the acts of the flesh. The Spirit of God at work in us gives us real power to overcome these destructive things. And it's when we step into that place of self-control we really know what Paul talks about at the start of chapter 5 – Freedom!

I often find that the fruits of the spirit allow for excellent self-reflection. If we really want to know where we are in our faith then ask ourselves this question: can I see growth in my life in these different characteristics over the last weeks, months, years? If not, why not? And if you really want an accurate answer, ask someone who knows you well. I've found that others are often better placed than we are to see where God is at work in us.

Nazarene News

TOGETHER CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
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 | SUMMER 2021 | No 41

CALLLED TO SERVE
- "...be sure to serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider the great things He has done for you."
1 Samuel 12:24 (NIV)

DISTRICT OFFICERS

SOUTH DISTRICT
Rev Carl McCann
Rev David Gilmour
Andy Hollingsworth
Liz Robinson BBA
Pastor Tom Burke

- District Superintendent
- District Secretary
- District Treasurer
- District NW President
- District NYI President

NORTH DISTRICT
Rev Ruth Turner
Richard Wood
Michael Ferguson
Cathy Tarrant
Pastor Hannah Clarkson/
Nick Barclay
Rev Nathan Payne

- District Superintendent
- District Secretary
- District Treasurer
- District NW President
- Joint NYI Presidents
- Chair: Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries

INTRODUCING Rev Ruth Turner was elected District Superintendent of the North District at the recent Assembly taking office on 18th May 2021. Originally from Carrickfergus, Ruth and her family attended Abbot's Cross Congregational Church. As a teenager, Ruth began to attend a 'junior youth challenge' meeting held in the home of Ivan and Sylvia Crowe in Carrickfergus and eventually began to attend Sunday services at the Church of the Nazarene which was then meeting in the Orange Hall, Killroot. Ruth joined the NYI, was baptized, became a Church member and experienced a call to ministry.

In the early 1990s Ruth was, for a year, a puppeteer, and then commenced nursing studies completing a BSc in Nursing, and eventually obtaining a post-graduate Specialist Qualification in Cardiology. In 2001 Ruth was granted a local minister's licence, became Youth Pastor in the Carrickfergus Church, and commenced studies at Nazarene Theological College. She was ordained in 2011.

In 2003 the possibility of church planting in the Larne/Ballyclare area was discussed, and in 2004 Ruth left the Carrickfergus Church to become a bi-vocational church planter in Larne combining ministry and nursing with her theological studies. The work moved from Larne to Millbrook in 2012.

The Summer 2021 edition of the British Isles news magazine **Together** is now available online.

[Together—No 41—Summer 2021](#)

We have a few printed copies available also. These will go first of all to those without access to the internet. Please let us know if you would like to also receive a copy of the printed edition if there are any left over.

This particular edition contains news about pastoral changes at a certain church that is familiar to all of us.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Ellesmere College have cancelled our summer booking

New Venue: Ampleforth Abbey
York, YO62 4ER

with a 1 day change of dates

New dates: Tuesday August 17th - Saturday August 21st

No price change

Full refund available for those for whom these changes are not possible

This year's Breakthru holiday, organised by the Nazarene church, has had a change of venue and a change of date. If you have booked to attend the holiday, or if you are still looking for somewhere to go this summer, the new details are above.

If you cannot attend the full holiday, day rates are available too.

Further information, including prices, contact details and booking forms, can be found online: www.breakthruholidays.com

A Celebration of Grace—Sunday 27 June 2021

As part of the global Nazarene family, we have been invited to attend a worship service featuring music from across the Nazarene regions and a message from the Board of General Superintendents. This **Celebration of Grace** will be broadcast in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese and 한국어. It will go out on the hour, every hour, on Sunday 27 June 2021.

Links in all languages will be available on Sunday on the website below:

<https://nazarene.org/celebration-of-grace>



Created to Create Ladies Conference 11-13 February 2022

Something for your diaries ladies. Here is a reminder of our District Ladies' Weekend that is taking place next February, with the theme 'Created to Create'! Information can be found by clicking the link here [Created to Create](#)



BROOKLANDS COMMUNITY

Pop-up Cafe

*Thursdays, 11am-2pm
Brooklands Church of the Nazarene*

Donations only!

Starts this Thursday

Brooklands Church
of the Nazarene



Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

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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!

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of the Nazarene

