

# Pandemic Times

Sunday 11 July 2021  
Issue 68

## Friends

*"After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: "I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do." – Acts 13:22 .*

This morning we're looking at King David's commencement as king of Israel. I wonder what comes to mind when you think of King David. Shepherd? Poet? Mighty warrior? King? Or perhaps it is the famous description twice given to him in the Scriptures, and noted above – a man after God's own heart. What a stunning description!

But the truth is, when we dig down in to David's story, we find that as well as being a model worshipper that we can learn so much from at times, there are also incidents in his life that paint him as a fallen human (just like you/me!) – failed family man, adulterer, murderer. The truth is David's life, like so many of us, is complex and full of the highest highs as well as the very lowest lows (just read some of his Psalms to taste this variety).

But isn't this the beauty of Scripture? That it doesn't shy away from the difficult realities of life. And even in some of these difficult situations there are lessons for us, and also grace! I pray that we too, would be men and women after the heart of God!

You'll no doubt be aware of the government's announcement to bring all Covid restrictions to an end following July 19th. We as a church are still discussing exactly what this will mean for us but it does feel like we are closing in on a day when we can sing, hug, share tea/coffee, enjoy the sound of children playing among us... We of course also want to ensure that everyone is as safe as they can be amidst cases rising locally and so we hope to have more details on this in the next couple of weeks.

However, be reminded that our church has never 'closed.' We've been so fortunate to be able to continue to worship and 'gather' in online spaces. We continue (and will continue for now) to meet online on Wednesdays to pray for the needs of the church. We've also opened ourselves to the local community and continue to engage with our pop-up community café. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, we'll seek God for his grace and guidance in these days. Do continue to pray with and for us!

As always, if you would like to discuss any of this with me I'm available on 07545 622 498.

Peace,

Mick



### Inside this issue

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Intro .....                | 1   |
| Prayer Page .....          | 2   |
| Daily Prayer Guide .....   | 2   |
| Daily Bible Readings ..... | 2   |
| Sermon Notes .....         | 3-4 |
| Created to Create .....    | 4   |
| Breakthru Holiday .....    | 5   |
| Pop-up Café .....          | 6   |
| Church details .....       | 6   |

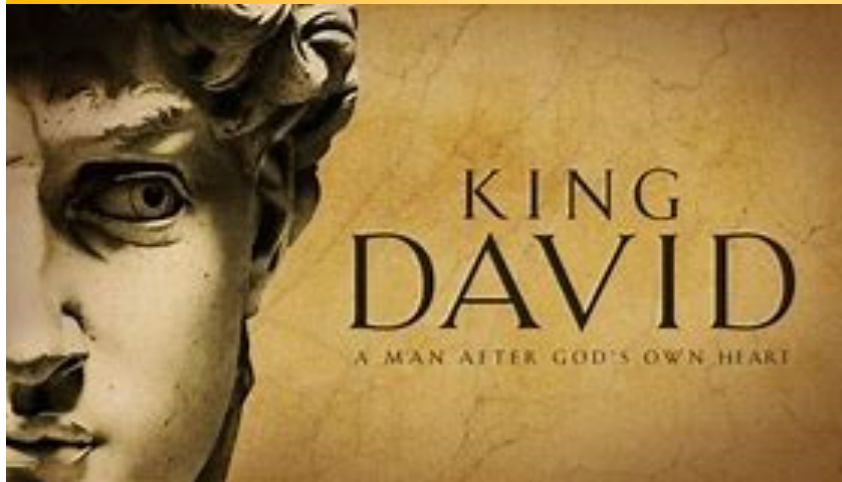
## Prayer Page

### Church Family and Community

- \* Pray for Colin Dunbar who is very ill in hospital with circulation problems in his leg.
- \* Continue to pray for Alan Roberts, son-in-law of Val Batty, who commences treatment for cancer this week.
- \* We give thanks that Ron, Sylvia Finlay's brother, has been released from hospital.
- \* We continue to pray for those in our congregation who need healing. Including, Jon F, John B, Isobel, Claire H.
- \* We pray for those in our community who need to know God's presence at this time.

### Daily Reading and Prayer Guide for This Week

| Date                | Reading        | Pray for                             |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Monday 12th July    | Acts 11:1–12:5 | Dean, Simona and Mia Stanfield       |
| Tuesday 13th July   | Acts 12:6–25   | Karl and Ingrid Stanfield and family |
| Wednesday 14th July | Acts 13:1–30   | Terry and Sheila Strong and family   |
| Thursday 15th July  | Acts 13:31–52  | Gert Schwartz and family             |
| Friday 16th July    | Acts 14        | Marion Tewkesbury and family         |
| Saturday 17th July  | Catch up       | John Torkington and Family           |
| Sunday 18th July    | Acts 15:1–35   | Julie, Hayley and family             |



## Lessons on Worship from a Human King after God's own Heart

2 Samuel 6: 1-5, 12b-19

Mick Kane

11 July 2021

So many of us are excited to sing together in church again. I am too. Singing and making music to God is such a significant part of how we worship. But today's passage reminds us that singing, as beautiful as it is, is only a small part of our worship. Worship, as described in the Scriptures is so much more than singing.

And so as we follow something of the reign of David over Israel, let's here about how it started and perhaps we can learn some 'Lessons on Worship from a Human King after God's own Heart.'

### **Worship is placing God at the centre**

This is a beautiful moment for the people of Israel under the leadership of their new king. Here David sets his priorities for the nation out clearly: God's presence will be found at the centre of all that we are (and therefor all that do!).

This image gives us a very helpful and powerful picture of the true heart of Christian worship – placing God at the centre of our lives. You see, with God at the centre we will be readily reminded of all he is, and what that means for us as His people.

You could argue that God at the centre of our lives is the way things were created to be. Maybe that's why one commentator describes this event as the ark 'coming home' (football, anyone?). Many of us can witness to the fact that once we place God at the centre of who we are, we find a sense of fulfilment – like this is way things were always meant to be.

### **Worship should include every aspect of our lives**

When I started theology college I was gifted a devotional written by a famous chap by the name of Oswald Chambers titled, 'My Upmost for is Highest.' Admittedly, I didn't read it at the time mostly because I knew nothing of it. However, years later I became aware of a children's version of the same devotional with a simpler, and I would argue, more effective, title – 'Jesus wants all of me.' It wasn't until I understood the heart of this devotional as described in the title of the children's version that I found the urgency to read it. What a beautiful truth – Jesus wants all of me!

This is absolutely true when it comes to our worship. We need to offer God all of our lives in worship. Unfortunately for David he had made the mistake of failing to honour God in his marriage to Michal – and resentment had grown between them (2 Samuel 6:16). We read earlier in the Scriptures that Michal loved David (1 Samuel 18:20), but we never read that David loved Michal – how tragic!

## Sermon notes continued...

But this brokenness in David's life becomes a problem. David's attitude towards his wives (and ultimately women who were not his wives) would lead David to a place of difficulty.

Let this be a reminder to us of the importance of worshipping God in every aspect of our lives, especially our family!

### **Others are blessed by the fruits of our worship**

I love the way the passage finishes, with all the people present being fed and blessed. Our worship should always be a blessing to others. Sometimes we make the mistake of thinking worship is a private affair, something that happens between me and God. The Bible rarely makes a case for this but instead emphasise the corporate nature of worship. Worship is something that we do together. And when we do we receive blessing from on high. So much blessing, in fact, that it pours in to us and out to those around us. Not just to those part of the assembly, but to neighbours, friends, family, and everyone we come in contact with. If worshipping doesn't result in us being a blessing to others, then you could argue that it isn't worship...



## Created to Create Ladies Conference 11-13 February 2022

This is a ladies weekend away next February, where there will be a number of creative workshops to get involved in, times of worship and fellowship, and opportunities to meet Nazarenes from around the country. We will give out further information when we receive it, but in the meantime, please [email us](#) if you are interested, so that the organisers can start to put together their plans.

# 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](http://www.breakthruholidays.com)



BROOKLANDS COMMUNITY

# Pop-up Cafe

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

*Donations only!*

BrooklandsChurch  
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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