

Pandemic Times

Friends

As mentioned last week, we have been praying and discussing how we as a church will navigate the changes to restrictions beginning on Monday.

We understand that there is a range of feeling around this and so we want to ensure that there is a way for everyone to be able to engage in worship with us exactly where they are at. You'll see that we have opted for something of a gradual opening. As always, please feel free to speak to me if you want to discuss any of this.

Here is what will remain for the foreseeable future:

As we mentioned last week, we are committed to ensuring that our worship services at Brooklands Nazarene continue to be broadcast live, and made available afterwards, online via our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/BrooklandsChurchoftheNazarene>. We will also continue with our midweek prayer meeting on Zoom - Wednesdays, 10.30am-11am.

The Update will be circulated via email as it has been and there will continue to be a small number of hard copies delivered to those with no access to email.

We'll continue to ensure that the sanctuary is cleaned regularly, well ventilated and stations for hand sanitization remain dotted around for use. We ask that where possible, members of the congregation continue to self-test through the freely available Lateral Flow Tests accessible in various places. If you have a positive test, or begin to develop any of the symptoms of COVID, please refrain from coming to the church building.

We are going to ask that people continue to wear masks in the church building on Sundays. We are aware that this is not a requirement by the government anymore but we like to see it as a way of 'loving your neighbour.'

Changes:

Sunday 25th July – On this Sunday the capacity for seating inside the sanctuary will increase, back to its regular layout. Congregational singing will return! We'll be led in music by Audrey Bolton as members of the band are away that weekend. Lucy will be preaching as I too am away.

Sunday 1st August – On this Sunday we will be having an 'all-age family service' with communion (safely administered with individually prepared elements). There will be a praise band and singing will include a kids' song. There will also be interactive elements and a shorter message included in the service. Tea and Coffee will be served following the service – this will include disposable paper cups and take place outdoors if the weather permits. If not, we will remain indoors.

Sunday 8th August – This Sunday will see the return of crèche and Kids' Church at Brooklands Nazarene. Kids Church will be for primary school aged children only. If older kids want to be part of Kids Church they will need to join in as a helper/leader. Parents or teens can speak to Sheila Strong if interested. We are aware it's been a long time since kids have been in church and so we want to make it as welcoming a place for them as possible. During the month of August, parents are welcome to join Kids Church with their children and the programme will be fun and relaxed.

All of this is, of course, subject to any further changes and announcements by the government.

Thank you so much for your ongoing love, support, encouragement and engagement with us in what has been a very challenging season - Believe it or not, this is the first time I've pastored a church during a pandemic! Continue to pray for each other. God remains good, and faithful.

Mick

Prayer Page

Community

On Tuesday of this week, our next door neighbour here on Wendover Road, Siobhan, experienced a devastating house fire where she lost almost everything she owned. Thankfully no one was hurt. The local community have started to

donate items to the family and there is a go fund me page set-up also: <https://gofund.me/0ae17945>. We as a church will look to support the family and bless them in a few weeks time once things have settled down somewhat. In the meantime, please be in prayer for Siobhan and her 4 kids, all of them are known to us here in the church.

Church

- * 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 has cancer.
- * Pray for John Beattie this week as he meets with his consultant.
- * We continue to pray for others in our congregation who need healing—including, Jon F, Isobel, Claire H, and Charlotte, who has contracted Covid.
- * Pray for the continuing work of the church in the local community.

Daily Reading and Prayer Guide for This Week

Date	Reading	Pray for
Monday 19th July	Acts 15:36–16:15	Jean and Dave Walker and family
Tuesday 20th July	Acts 15:36–16:15	Carol Wray and family
Wednesday 21st July	Acts 17	Norma Whyte and family
Thursday 22nd July	Acts 18	Nikki and Mathew Armett, Antony Jessica and family
Friday 23rd July	Acts 19:1–20	Jean Stockton and family, Maud Batchelor
Saturday 24th July	Catch up	Arthur Basnett and family
Sunday 25th July	Acts 19:21–20:6	Theresa Baker and family

COVENANT



Covenant: A personal relationship with the living God

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Mick Kane

18 July 2021

One of the beautiful truths of our faith is that, because of Christ, we get to have a personal relationship with the living God of the universe! I know that it's probably overstated but let's never take for granted the incredible reality of this!

Now I wonder what you think of when you try to picture this personal relationship. The Bible gives several images for this: God as friend, father, shepherd, teacher...

But there is one particular way that the Bible talks about this relationship that runs all the way through the Scriptural narrative, and perhaps we don't talk about as much as the others – the idea of a covenant with God.

A covenant describes an agreement made between two parties who will work with each other towards a specific outcome. Now, I understand that this might sound quite dry when thinking about a personal relationship but think of marriage as good example of a covenant in this context – an agreement to love each other no matter what! That's what we are talking about here.

In today's passage King David enters into covenant with God and it comes in response to his idea to build a temple for Him (interestingly God states that he does not want a temple) and he declares that because of David's faithfulness to him he will ensure that there will always be one of his heirs on the throne. And with one of David's heirs on the throne there will be peace, and justice and faithfulness to God.

This covenant is actually the 4th and final of the significant covenants in the Old Testament:

Sermon notes continued...

Noah – In response to his righteousness and faithfulness, a covenant to never to destroy the earth by natural disaster again. Sealed by a rainbow.

Abraham – In response to his faith and righteousness, a covenant of land and descendants who would be a blessing to all the nations.

Moses (Israel) – A covenant to be the God of the people of Israel as long as they would continue to live according to his will (the Law)

David – As above

But here is the truth of how each of those covenant relationships played out: in each case, humanity didn't live up to its side of the agreement. They failed to be faithful, they failed to be righteous, they failed to live as a just people caring for the poorest and weakest among them, and, as such, they failed to live according to their side of their relationship with the living God. And even though there were consequences to their actions, God would continue to uphold his side of the relationship! One Old Testament prophet, Hosea, runs with the analogy that we used earlier – marriage. He said that Israel has acted like an unfaithful partner in a marriage, and yet, God would still welcome them home.

And so along comes Jesus. Jesus becomes the one who fulfils all of these covenants in a way that we couldn't. He remains faithful, and righteous, and just, and lives according to God's will. Jesus becomes that faithful covenant partner that we couldn't be in order that all of these covenants are fulfilled and, as such, God has opened up a way for anyone to be in a renewed partnership with Him.

And for those of us who take up this offer of a covenant, of a personal relationship with God, we receive the blessings of all these promises!



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

BROOKLANDS COMMUNITY

Pop-up Cafe

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

Donations only!

BrooklandsChurch
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!

BrooklandsChurch
of the Nazarene

