

# Brooklands Church Update

## Sunday#05 December

Dear Friends

*"Comfort, Comfort my people says your God" – Isaiah 40:1*

These words remind us that Jesus coming to us as part of the Christmas promise brings comfort to an often uncomfortable world. This is what we celebrate today as we light the second candle of Advent; the candle of Peace. May you know God's comfort in Christ Jesus now and find peace in the knowledge that he will fulfil this promise in its entirety one day when there will be no more tears or sorrow or pain. Hallelujah!

The Advent Candle is being lit today by Holly, Charmaine, Lauren and Darcie. It's been a joy to have them as part of the Church family in recent days and we are also grateful for all of Holly's hard work in leading the Community Christmas Market last Sunday. Around 250 of our local neighbours popped by and enjoyed the festive atmosphere. They even managed to raise over £300 for the church which will go back into investing in more community events. Holly, Charmaine and the rest of the team were a credit to themselves, the community and the church!

Don't forget that this afternoon we are partnering with King's Church, Wythenshawe to bring Christmas Carols in the park. Meet in the Rose Garden (facing the bowling greens) in Wythenshawe Park just before 2pm as we bless those in the park with this event. It should last around 40 mins. Some of you have asked about joining the choir for the event. If you are able to join the choir, please meet at around 1:40pm at the same location.

Next Sunday morning we will be led by our Kids' Church group as they bring us their Nativity production. Please be in prayer for them as they put the final touches to their preparations. We will have a special evening service of Carols and Christmas Worship next Sunday also.

Today is your last chance to return your menus to Tim and Alison for the Christmas banquet. A reminder that this event is by pre-booking only.

Finally, let me just reiterate what I said last week with regards to the ever changing Covid situation. We want to be a church that seeks to protect each other as best we can so we are asking you to continue to wear masks (while in the sanctuary), wash your hands and test regularly. Please do not come to church if you are feeling unwell in any way. We see this as a way of 'Loving our neighbour as ourselves.'

Peace, be with you!

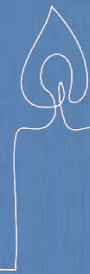
Mick

### ADVENT

May he strengthen your  
hearts so that you will  
be blameless and

*holy*

*1 Thessalonians 3:13*



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

### Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

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Cheshire, WA13 9HX



# Church News

CHURCH CHRISTMAS BANQUET, 19 DECEMBER 2021, 5:00 PM

If you are coming to the Christmas Banquet on 19 December, remember to return your menu requests and to pay for your meal, this Sunday. We have a waiting list for this event, so we need to know our final number of guests by this Sunday. See Tim or Alison about this event.

## HARVEST OFFERING FOR TOILET TWINNING

Thank you to everyone that donated to our harvest project this year. We raised £495, and this has now been paid over to [toilettwinning.org](https://toilettwinning.org), which is a part of Tearfund, a Christian charitable organisation. Your generosity has helped to provide clean sanitation in the community of Nacogolone, in the city of Mocuba, Mozambique, Africa. (Near the red dot, on the map).

Our official certificate is on display near the toilets in church, and we have received a letter of thanks from the toilet twinning charity:

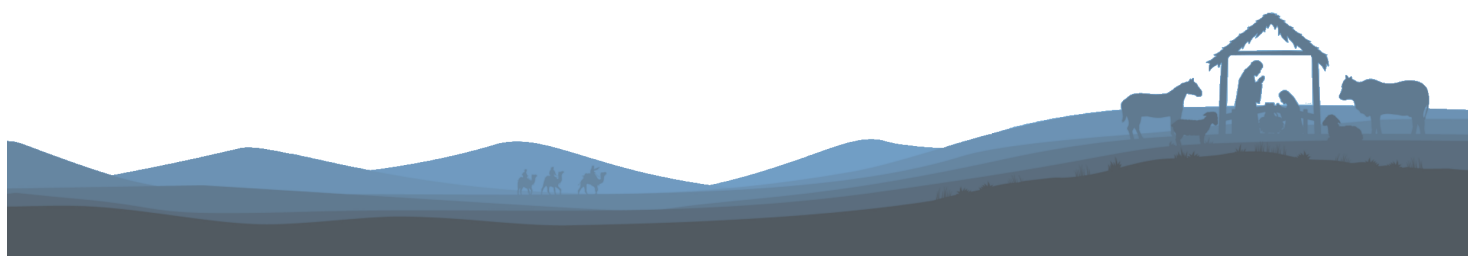
*"Thank you for your donation. Your donation will enable our partners to work with local communities to build lifechanging latrines. The project also has a strong focus on teaching communities about good hygiene, including handwashing, to stop the spread of infection.*

*So, please display your certificate with pride, knowing that your donation is making a difference in some of the most vulnerable communities on the planet.*

*Thank you again.*

*Lorraine Kingsley*


*Toilet Twinning CEO"*

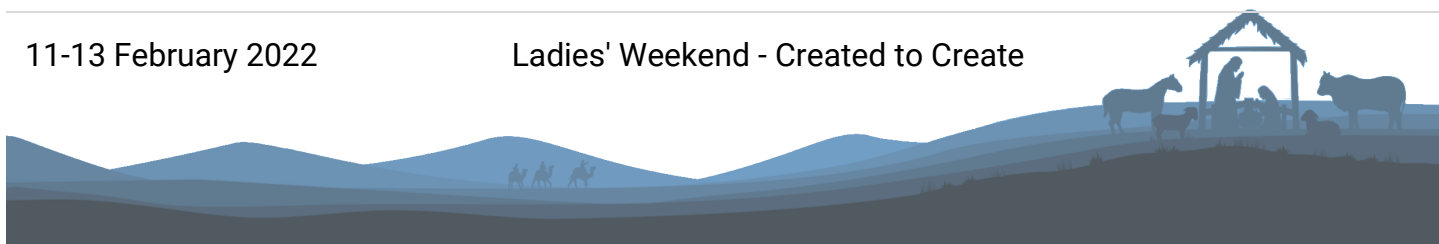


# Church Calendar



## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Event
Sunday 5 December 2021	Second Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am
Sunday 5 December 2021	Carols in the Park, 2:00 pm (Choir volunteers meet 1:40 pm)
Wednesday 8 December 2021	Toddle-In
Wednesday 8 December 2021	<a href="#">Church Zoom Prayer Meeting</a> , 10:30 am
Wednesday 8 December 2021	FoodCycle free community meal at church at 5:00pm
Thursday 9 December 2021	Community Café, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Friday 10 December 2021	Musical Connections, 2-3:30 pm. See advert on the last page
Sunday 12 December 2021	Third Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am—Kid's Church Nativity
Sunday 12 December 2021	 Candlelit Carols and Christmas Worship – Evening Service, 6pm
Thursday 16 December 2021	Brooklands Community Santa's Grotto, 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Sunday 19 December 2021	Fourth Sunday of Advent, 10:30 am
Sunday 19 December 2021	Church Christmas Banquet, 5:00 pm (pre-booking only)
Tuesday 21 December 2021	Christmas Carols in the Community. Meet at church, 7:30pm
Saturday 25 December 2021	Christmas Morning celebration, 10:00 am to 10:30 am
Sunday 26 December 2021	Boxing Day service, 10:30 am
11-13 February 2022	Ladies' Weekend - Created to Create

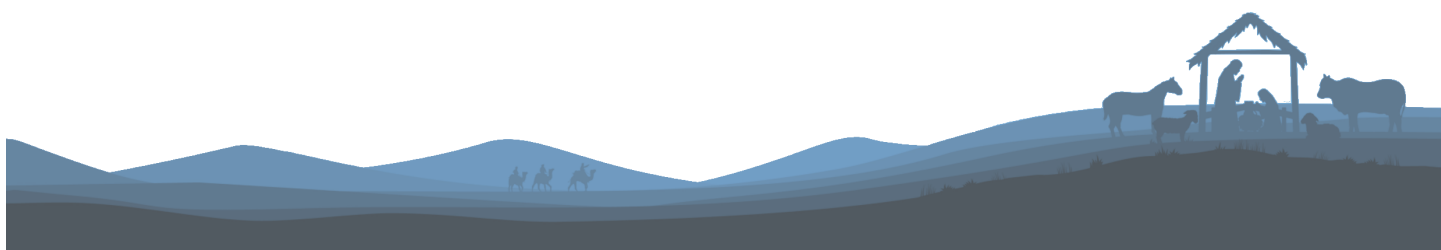


# Church Prayer Requests



## PRAYER REQUESTS

- 📖 Pray for our church as we continue in the season of Advent, with lots of important and exciting activities.
- 📖 We continue to uphold John and Ann Beattie in prayer.
- 📖 Pray for Jon Fisher as he continues with his cancer treatment
- 📖 Isobel's recent scan results have shown no significant changes in her cancer. We praise God for this and continue to pray for Isobel in these days.
- 📖 Pray for Pastor Mick's dad, also called Mick, who needs a lot of prayer at this time.
- 📖 Continue to pray for Chris Hoolihan who has arrhythmia of the heart.
- 📖 Pray for David and Chris Hoolihan's son Philip, in Vietnam, who has been in hospital recently. Pray for his wife, Hua also.
- 📖 We pray for Marie Vickers, family to David and Chris though marriage. Marie has received sudden news that she has a serious illness.
- 📖 We continue to pray for Myra's nephew, Lee Hickman, for a full recovery following a stroke earlier this year.
- 📖 We continue to pray for Annette and Mike Jones and give thanks that Annette's condition is improving.
- 📖 Continue to pray for Brenda Cawley and family as her granddaughter's partner, Owen is very ill with cancer.
- 📖 We continue to remember Alan Roberts, son-in-law of Val Batty, who has cancer.
- 📖 We pray for others in our congregation who need healing. Including, Colin Dunbar and Claire. Also Christine Clarke has asked for prayer for sciatica.
- 📖 Pray for those we have recently come into contact with, and who are showing an interest in church.
- 📖 Pray for the continuing work of the church in the local community, and for the relationships that are being forged.
- 📖 Pray for wisdom for the church board as we consider the implications of Covid variants, and the need to protect our visitors.
- 📖 Pray for protection for all who enter Brooklands Church.



# Sermon: The Forgotten Characters of Christmas

## 2: Mary

### Reading: Luke 1:46-55

This week we're continuing our advent series on some of the forgotten or misunderstood characters of the Christmas story. As this series unfolds it is my hope that the full majesty of the Christmas story is unveiled, and we gain fresh insights into the people involved. I love to examine biblical characters and work out what we can learn from them in how we should conduct ourselves as Christians.

I have a special heart for the female characters in the Bible who historically have particularly been forgotten or misunderstood. The Bible narratives take place in oppressive periods of history. However, it is wrong to suggest that the Bible encourages oppression or is sexist. God is a loving God, and the Bible is clear on God's heart for equality and empowering all humanity. In Galatians 3:28 Paul explains: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." In Proverbs 31 a woman of noble character is described who is kind, caring, charitable but also clever, hardworking, a businesswoman, intelligent, strong- both mentally and physically and faithful to God. It says: "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised" (Prov. 31:30).

This week we're studying Mary the mother of Jesus. Our passage is from Luke's gospel: Luke 1:46-55. This is a very famous passage known as the Magnificat. It is a song: a theological hymn. Yet, it is a very misunderstood passage. Although on the surface it is a song of praise it is much more than that. It teaches us a great deal about Mary and about God's plan for His people. It is recorded in Luke's gospel. Luke was a doctor who was interested in science, facts, and historical accuracy. Luke proudly starts his gospel by saying he has accurately researched everything and spoken to eyewitnesses. His account of the Christmas story reads as if Mary has supplied a great deal of information to him.

Mary was betrothed to Joseph. They were both Jews living in Nazareth. Joseph worked as a craftsman of some sort- perhaps a carpenter or builder. Nazareth was a deprived area and treated with contempt. In John 1:45-46 Nathaniel has a hard time believing anything good can come from Nazareth, let alone the Messiah! The Jews had been under Roman oppression for 63 years. When Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem for the census, they would have seen one of Herod's palaces looming down on them from the mountains above. Joseph was an incredibly brave and godly man. He accepted Mary as his wife despite her being pregnant. At best he was signing up to a lifetime of ridicule, social exclusion and caring for a child that wasn't his.

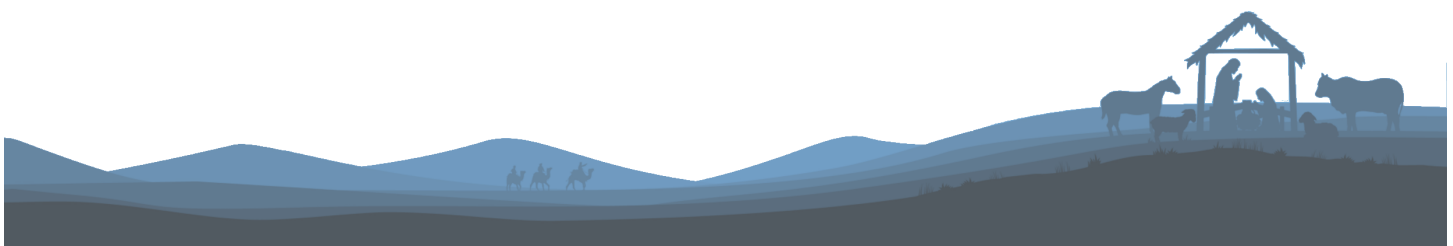
We have nineteen references to Mary in the New Testament. She is especially prominent in Luke's gospel. Luke brings out God's heart for the hurt, the downtrodden, oppressed, the outsider, people with human very frailties. Such people as the Good Samaritan, the parable of the rich man and the poor man, Zacchaeus the tax collector, the penitent thief, the prodigal son. We think Luke came from a gentile background and hailed from Macedonia. There women had more freedom and were held in high esteem. Luke had a great heart for women and the Birth narrative is written from Mary's point of view.

If we look at Mary in comparison to the woman of noble character in Proverbs 31, we can see some parallels. The woman in Proverbs had it easy in comparison- she seems to be well off, with servants. Mary is a young girl living at a time when women's status was very low. She's presented with about the most awesome gift anyone could ever get- the privilege of being the Messiah's mother. But this is also a very frightening, perhaps life-threatening prospect for her. An unmarried Jewish woman could have been stoned to death.

Mary's brave choice to accept God's call to carry and birth the Messiah means Mary chose to accept an important role in God's plan of salvation despite the high risks to her safety. Her song bears much in common with Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2. Hannah rejoices at her pregnancy. Her son Samuel would be a mighty prophet and anointer of kings. Mary's song shows her learning and understanding of scripture. She understood God's plan for the coming Messiah and the fulfilment of promises made to Abraham and throughout the history of Israel.

Mary's song shows great intelligence and social awareness. It has much in common with the politically reactionary songs of the time that the poor Jews of Palestine would sing in frustration at Roman subjugation. Like many, Mary longed for freedom, and a release from poverty and oppression for all who were struggling. She understood that the inbreaking of the Kingdom of God could provide that.

I hope you have enjoyed about this incredible woman of the Bible. In saying yes to God, the world was changed. The Messiah was coming. Mary's bravery, intelligence, spiritual understanding, and faithfulness helped make it happen.



# O Come, O Come, Immanuel

A prayer journey  
through Advent

## Week Two Peace

**Sunday 5 December 2021**

Advent Reading

Luke chapter 1 verses 76 to 79

Prayer (by David  
Gilmour, Llay)

God our Father, We praise you and thank you that darkness never gets the last word, because the light of Christ shines in the darkness, and can never and will never be overcome.

And so, Lord, we pray for those living in darkness, even when it's ourselves. We pray for those journeying through the shadow of death, even when it's ourselves.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. And in your mercy, guide us into your peace which transcends all understanding.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Collective Prayer

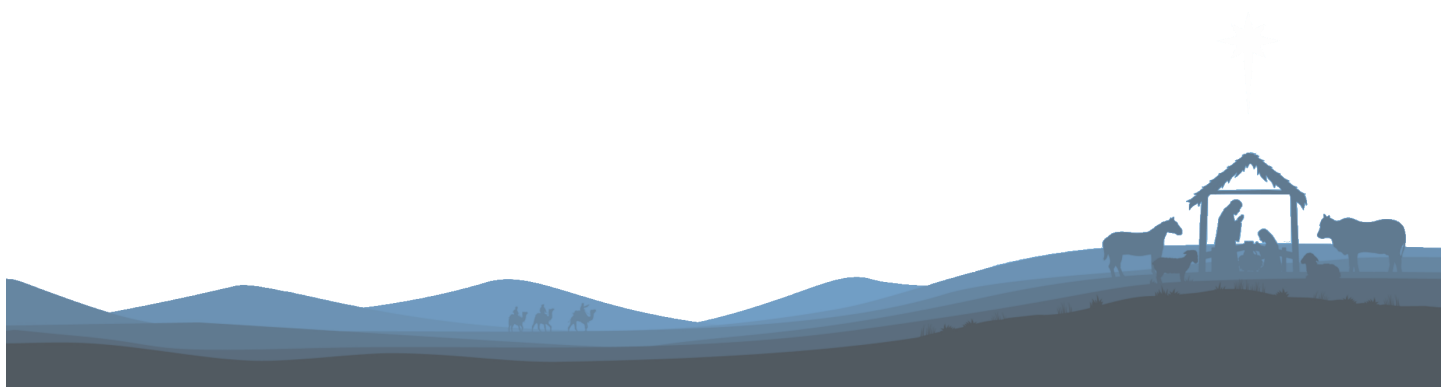
Pray that God would guide you to those in dark places, and use you to shine His light for them.

Church reading

2 Peter chapters 2 and 3

Church Prayer

Pray for Mark, Rebecca, Charlie & Laney Rotheram



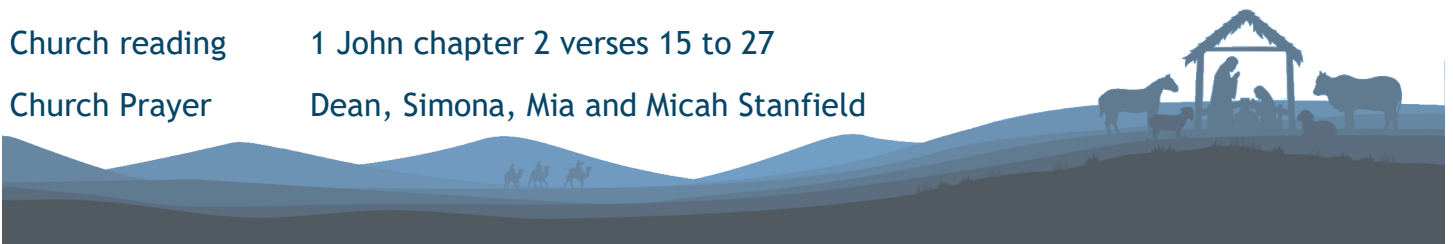


## Monday 6 December 2021

Advent Reading	Isaiah chapter 40 verse 11—God's comfort and peace
Prayer (by Nicole McConkey, Longsight)	<p>God of all comfort and peace, we confess that we come to you with troubled hearts, weighed down by life in a fallen world.</p> <p>Yet, whatever our worries, whatever our burdens, we know we are safe in your presence.</p> <p>We are comforted knowing that your mighty arms gather us in, that you hold us close to your heart and gently lead us with your voice of peace.</p> <p>May we, too, become a voice of peace and comfort for those struggling around us.</p> <p>May we, too, participate in making a way for you to arrive anew in our hearts, lives, and communities, as we anticipate and look forward to the arrival of the King of kings.</p> <p>Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.</p>
Collective Prayer	Pray that God would allow you to see how He is speaking comfort and peace into your life and those around you.
Church reading	1 John chapter 1 verse 1 to chapter 2 verse 14
Church Prayer	Nick, Ada and Joshua Savu & family

## Tuesday 7 December 2021

Advent Reading	2 Peter chapter 1 verse 12—Abundant peace
Prayer (by David Gilmour, Llay)	<p>Father Almighty, We thank you that our peace isn't rooted in circumstances or grounded in situations. We thank you that it doesn't rely upon where we are or what we face or how we feel.</p> <p>By your grace, our peace is firm and secure, because it's built upon the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.</p> <p>And so wherever we find ourselves today and whatever we face; Wherever we'll go tomorrow and whatever will come our way, we have a peace that the world can't give, and the world can't take it away.</p> <p>Thank you, Father, through Christ Jesus, Amen.</p>
Collective Prayer	Rather than asking for the storm to cease, ask God for the peace that comes from knowing that Christ is with us in the boat.
Church reading	1 John chapter 2 verses 15 to 27
Church Prayer	Dean, Simona, Mia and Micah Stanfield



## Wednesday 8 December 2021

Advent Reading Psalm 126 verses 4 to 6

Prayer (by Michael Kane, Brooklands) God of comfort and peace, we thank you for your promise to restore all things.

We anticipate a day when you will wipe every tear from our eyes; a day that will see an end to crying and sorrow and pain; a day when death will be no more and the prayers of this Psalm have been fulfilled.

But until that day may we know comfort in the truth that no tear has fallen that you do not know of intimately.

And may we be bringers of that same comfort to those who need it.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen

Collective Prayer Pray for those who mourn, that God might be close to them this Advent season.

Church reading 1 John chapter 2 verse 28 to chapter 3 verse 24

Church Prayer Karl & Ingrid Stanfield and family

## Thursday 9 December 2021

Advent Reading 2 Corinthians chapter 8 verse 9—God became poor

Prayer (by David Gilmour, Llay) Lord, we cannot begin to imagine what it meant and what it cost for God to become flesh and move into our neighbourhood.

We cannot begin to fathom the splendour and glory and majesty that Christ shed to take up the rags of flesh.

All we can do is worship.

Thank you, Lord, for the price you paid that we may know peace with God.

We echo the words of the hymnist—'Our God contracted to a span, Incomprehensibly made man.'

Thank you Lord, for such extravagant, scandalous grace. Amen.

Collective Prayer Ask God for a fresh sense of wonder and awe at the Incarnation- God becoming flesh for us.

Church reading 1 John chapters 4 and 5

Church Prayer Terry & Sheila Strong & family





## Friday 10 December 2021

Advent Reading	2 Corinthians chapter 9, verses 6 to 9
Prayer (by Jez Smith, Bolton Brownlow Fold)	<p>God of Peace, You are my Salvation, my strength and defence. I receive joy from Your well of salvation, I praise Your name, O God. My heart sings for joy at the peace You have given me, for great is the Holy One of Israel.</p> <p>Let us not forget those who are trampled down. May we be beacons of peace to those who are poor; May we share the peace of God to all who are in need. Let Your peace and salvation come from our lips as we travel through this Advent season.</p> <p>And so we must sow peace generously. Let us give generously to the poor and lift the spirits of those in need. Lord, help us to give cheerfully. Let us this Advent season confess the peace of Christ, and may it rule in our hearts always with generosity.</p> <p>In His mighty and Holy name, Amen.</p>
Collective Prayer	Pray for those in your life struggling with anxiety.
Church reading	2 John
Church Prayer	Gert Schwartz & family

## Saturday 11 December 2021

Advent Reading	Amos chapter 9 verses 11 to 12—The God who rebuilds
Prayer (by David Gilmour, Llay)	<p>God our Father, We thank you that you are the God of universal and cosmic redemption, because you are making all things new.</p> <p>Your work isn't limited to some deep-down, hidden-away part of us that will one day fly off to Heaven. No, your redeeming work reaches every crack and corner of Creation; the light and life that was birthed in Bethlehem will only day flood all that's been spoiled and ruined, as you repair and restore and rebuild that's been broken.</p> <p>Do it in our lives, Lord. Do it through our lives.</p> <p>Bring us peace in the places that are still broken, and use us in your work of redemption. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.</p>
Collective Prayer	Pray that God would show you the broken places in your circle, and use you to bring peace.
Church reading	Catch up.
Church Prayer	Marion Tewkesbury & family



**NEXT YEAR**  
BISD Ladies' Weekend

# Created to Create

11th - 13th February 2022

Kings Park Conference Centre,  
Northampton



**Come in!**  
For tasty food  
and good company



**Free meals**  
**Wednesdays**  
**5.00pm**

**Everyone is welcome**

FoodCycle Wythenshawe  
Brooklands  
Brooklands Church  
of the Nazarene  
Wendover Rd  
M23 9FN



## Musical Connections at Christmas

STRING OF  
HEARTS  
buzz  
Manchester  
Health & Wellbeing  
Service

Over 50s are invited to a christmas music session with String of Hearts and Buzz Health & Wellbeing Service!

Join in with some well-known christmas tunes and explore your musical interests with local professional musicians.

- Have some fun
- Connect with local people
- No musical experience required

Friday 10th December, 2 - 3.30 pm  
Brooklands Church of the Nazarene,  
Wendover Road, Brooklands M23 9FN

The session is free to attend and  
drinks & snacks will be provided.

Please contact Lucy at String of Hearts to  
register your interest: 07392 154 743

