

Brooklands Church Update

Sunday#12 December

Dear Friends

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

On this third Sunday of Advent we light the candle of Joy!

I do love the shift in the thematic Advent weeks at this particular point. Having worshipped our way through Hope and Peace we now come to Joy. I picture it as the point at which the truth of the coming Christ really starts to hit home. No longer is it a distant Hope that is comforting (peace), but a reality that stirs excitement!

Of course we can see this all around us now. We are full throttle on route to Christmas. Decorations are up and presents are being bought. The atmosphere of anticipation at this time of year really does start to overflow into joy!

There is much to be joyful for us as a church. We give thanks for the excellent attendance (around 150, I estimated), and for break in the weather, at the Carols in the Park event last week. Thanks particularly to those who stepped up and led the singing as part of an impromptu choir. Brooklands Nazarene made up 90% of said choir, actually. It was a great opportunity to bless the people of Wythenshawe and I was able to have a number of encouraging conversations as well as distribute our church Christmas card.

This morning we are being led in worship by our Kids' Church team as they put on their Nativity production. This is always a highlight in the church programme in my opinion. Children are able to capture something of the truth of Christ in a way that us adults can't (Luke 18:16). I'm particularly grateful for the leaders who work so hard all year round with our children.

For those who are able, we will meet again tonight for a time of Christmas worship and carol singing. There will be a short message as I continue us in our preaching theme, 'The Forgotten Characters of Christmas,' as well as a time of refreshments following. Please do join us – we'll begin at 6.00pm.

This Thursday our local Tenants and Residents Association are running a Santa's grotto event in the back hall from 5.30-8.00pm. We are excited to be hosting this event. All children welcome.

Peace,

Mick

For God did
not send his Son
into the world
to condemn
the world,
but to save
the world
through him.

JOHN 3:17



Brooklands Church of the Nazarene

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Important Church News about COVID-19

COVID-19: Guidance for the safe use of Places of Worship

The government has announced that England will move to Plan B in response to the risks of the Omicron variant.

What this means for places of worship

Face coverings

Face coverings are required by law in most indoor public places, including places of worship, and on public transport. Face coverings are not be required in hospitality settings such as cafes, restaurants and pubs. This is because it is not practical for customers to keep removing their face coverings to eat or drink. This means that in a café within a place of worship, face coverings are not required, but they are mandatory in the rest of the premises.

Steps everyone can take to reduce the risk of transmission

- *Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, should not attend church. They should self-isolate immediately and get a PCR test.
- *If someone has been instructed by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate because they have tested positive for COVID-19, or they are the close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate and not attend.
- *Social distancing in a place of worship is now a personal choice. We ask you to respect other attendees and those working who may wish to adopt a more cautious approach.
- *Several simple and effective personal hygiene behaviours can also continue to reduce the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19. These include:
 - *washing your hands with soap and water or using hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day
 - *avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth, and washing your hands before and after if you do need to touch your face (for example to put on or take off your face covering)
 - *covering your mouth and nose with disposable tissues when you cough or sneeze, or sneezing into the crook of your elbow (not your hands) if you do not have a tissue

Social distancing and capacity

You do not need to implement social distancing. However, you may choose to limit the close contact you have with people you do not live with. This can help reduce your risk of catching or spreading COVID-19.

Singing

We would encourage everyone to continue to wear their face coverings while singing if they feel able to do so.

Other measures

The church will ventilate the church to the best of its ability. Surfaces will be regularly disinfected. Free face coverings will be available and hand sanitising gels will be readily available.

Please help us to protect those attending church from becoming infected with COVID-19.



Church Calendar



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Event
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
Wednesday 15 December 2021	Toddle-In, 10:00 am
Wednesday 15 December 2021	Church Zoom Prayer Meeting , 10:30 am
Wednesday 15 December 2021	FoodCycle free community meal at church at 5:00pm
Thursday 16 December 2021	Community Café, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
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
Sunday 2 January 2022	Sunday Worship, Lucy Frost is preaching
Sunday 9 January 2022	Sunday Worship, Rev. Dr Deirdre Brower-Latz is our speaker
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.
- Pray for all the children connected to Brooklands Church of the Nazarene. We also give thanks for the team who serve and lead them each week.
- We continue to uphold John and Ann Beattie in prayer.
- Jon Fisher has completed his most recent cancer treatment. We continue to pray for him.
- 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 Ron and Jenny Hearne who have been poorly recently.
- 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

3: The Genealogy of Jesus

Reading: Matthew 1:1-17

1. An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, 3 and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, 4 and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, 6 and Jesse the father of King David. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, 7 and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, 8 and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, 9 and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, 10 and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, 11 and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

12 And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, 13 and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, 14 and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, 15 and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, 16 and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.



O Come, O Come, Immanuel

A prayer journey
through Advent

Week Three Joy

Sunday 12 December 2021

Advent Reading

Isaiah chapter 12 verses 2 to 6—Pray with thanksgiving

Prayer (by Rev. Sue
Aveyard, Bolton
First)

As we move nearer to Christmas and all the busyness that creates for us, help us not to be overwhelmed by the preparations and by the need that is ever present, yet heightened at this time of year.

Help us to focus upon what is the reality of this season - that you are our salvation and that we are called to "with joy...draw from that well of salvation!"

We have remembered the hope and the peace that you give us. Now help us to remember the wondrous things that you have done and can do in our lives and the lives of others.

Teach us to use what we have to the benefit of others, and in doing so, both give and receive abundant joy. And may we always sing your praises. Amen.

Collective Prayer

Pray that God will open your eyes and your heart to the wonders of this season. His light for them.

Church reading

3 John

Church Prayer

John Torkington & Family



Monday 13 December 2021

Advent Reading	Isaiah chapter 11 verse 1 to 9—Joy deep within
Prayer (by Rev. Tracey Day, Sheffield)	<p>Jesus, your word tells us you came to bring us abundant life, life to the fullest. Philippians tells us to 'Rejoice in the Lord always'.</p> <p>As we come through these dark times, even as those times still cast a shadow over us, may we focus on the coming of the Light of the World.</p> <p>May that light spark joy within us. Not a carefree joy that denies the difficulties surrounding us in the world, but joy deep within us that comes from knowing the Source of all hope and light and life.</p> <p>May that knowledge enable our hearts to smile and our lives to bring joy to others. Jesus, may you continually renew your joy within us. Amen</p>
Collective Prayer	Take a deep breath and ask Jesus to renew the joy that comes from knowing Him as friend and Saviour.
Church reading	Jude
Church Prayer	Julie and Hayley

Tuesday 14 December 2021

Advent Reading	Acts chapter 28 verse 28—Joy to the World
Prayer (by David Gilmour, Llay)	<p>God and Father of all, We thank you that from the very beginning, your heart has been for genuine, abundant life to fill every corner of the world you love.</p> <p>We thank you that the promise you made to Abraham has been fulfilled in us and for us- your blessing has reached all the nations. We, even we, are swept up and carried along by the goodness of God. We rejoice in your salvation, that has reached us when we could never earn it or deserve it; We thank you for saving us and keeping us; And we thank you that you're not willing that any should perish, but that all should take their place at your Table. Amen</p>
Collective Prayer	Thank God for the day He saved you, and for every day He's kept you.
Church reading	Revelation chapter 1 verse 1 to chapter 2 verse 11
Church Prayer	Sean and Sharron Harland, and Lisa



Wednesday 15 December 2021

- Advent Reading Micah chapter 4 verse 8—Impossible joy
- Prayer (by David Gilmour, Llay) Almighty God, We praise you that our God is greater, Our God is stronger, God, you are higher than any other. We praise you that nothing could ever be too big, too much, or too hard for you.
- You can even take all of the brokenness of where we find ourselves right now, all the mess that we're enduring, Even the mess we've made for ourselves, and transform it until you create reason to rejoice. No obstacle or foe, no challenge or turmoil, could ever be greater than our God.
- And so we entrust our mess to you, and pray that in your mercy you would work it together for our good and your glory. Amen.
- Collective Prayer Name before God the parts and places of your life where you struggle to know His joy, and ask for His perfect help.
- Church reading Revelation chapter 2 verse 12 to chapter 3 verse 6
- Church Prayer Jean & Dave Walker & family

Thursday 16 December 2021

- Advent Reading Psalm 80 verses 1 to 7—O loving God
- Prayer (by Rev. Dr Deirdre Brower-Latz, NTC) Loving God,
- Who sees and knows us: In this waiting time, we pray for light. Holy one, in corners of our lives where we try to hide, seek us out. When we suffer, hear our cries. From fractures and hurt, restore us. Where we forget, teach us.
- By your Spirit, put your law in us. With your wounded hands, carve your love on our hearts. Remind us with every breath, we are yours. Forgive us our sins, willingly committed, or foolishly tempted into.
- Where stale, freshen us, Water of life, gush over us, bathe us in your love. Oh God of love who sees, and knows, in this waiting time, we pray, please, make us a people of love. Amen.
- Collective Prayer Pray that God's light would fill us and flow from us.
- Church reading Revelation chapter 3 verse 7 to chapter 4 verse 11
- Church Prayer Carol Wray and family



Friday 17 December 2021

Advent Reading Hebrews chapter 10, verses 35 to 39—True joy

Prayer (by Rev. Ruth Turner, British Isles North District) We lift our voices in praise to the Lord who has brought us joy; joy beyond surface happiness or temporary delight; a joy that has its foundations carved out in His peace and poured in His strength. A joy that, even in weakness, ignites a power that has been built into the very marrow of our being through His glorious salvation. A joy that evokes His praise even in times of fear, for He is worthy of all trust.

The Lord has placed in us His hope, lavished us with His mercy, and redeemed us at a great price. He guards and defends us with an undefeatable might, and in Him we find true joy. Amen.

Collective Prayer As we acknowledge God's majesty and mercy, may our response be one of true joy.

Church reading Revelation chapters 5 and 6

Church Prayer Norma Whyte & Family

Saturday 18 December 2021

Advent Reading Luke chapter 13 verses 34 to 35—Joy in sorrow

Prayer (by David Gilmour, Llay) Heavenly Father, We thank you for a joy much deeper, much stronger, and much more real than simple happiness.

We thank you that, by the work of your Spirit in us, we can know joy regardless of circumstances and situations. We can know joy when our souls are heavy and our hearts are broken, because our joy isn't rooted in where we are or how we feel, but in the reality of God.

So we confess that there are times when we're heavy, and we name before you the reasons for our despair. But we ask for grace to know the joy that comes from being fixed and focused upon you, regardless of anything and everything else. Amen.

Collective Prayer Ask God for an unshakeable and infectious joy, even in the midst of the very real struggles of life.

Church reading Catch up.

Church Prayer Jean Stockton & 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
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