

# BROOKLANDS CHURCH

## 4 DECEMBER 2022

“A voice of one calling: “In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” – Isaiah 40: 3-5

Last week we launched our Advent series as we considered Advent as a time to watch and get ready for the coming again of Christ. As we travel towards Christmas we will expand on what exactly this looks like in the life of the believer. This week we are considering Advent as a time to repent.

I wonder what you think of when you think of the call to repent. You may think of pulpit bashing preachers extolling judgement as they call people from a life of sin. This is certainly part of the call to repentance, a call to turn away from the things that are harmful, dangerous and displeasing to God. However there is a second element that I hope we can arrive at today. As we turn away, we at one and the same time are being called to turn toward something else. Repentance is an invitation to turn to things that bring healing, life and love! Repentance is a call to turn to Christ!

Don't forget to join us for the Carols in the Park event at Wythenshawe Park today. We'll meet in the rose garden along with King's Church Wythenshawe and bless the community with the singing of carols and reading of Scriptures which tell of the Christmas story. The event begins at 2pm so please try to get there early. I'm still looking for some willing volunteers to make up a choir to help lead the singing alongside the Salvation Army brass band. Let me know if you can help.

Next week following church we will enjoy a family Christmas party. We still need some sign-ups for the bring and share element of the lunch so please speak to Sheila Strong if you can help. We'll enjoy fun and games for all ages at the party so come with all your festive cheer!

Peace,

Mick

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## Daily Readings and Prayers

Date	Bible Reading	Pray For
Mon 5 Dec 2022	Luke 1:57-66	Peter Grady
Tue 6 Dec 2022	Luke 1:67-80	Bill and Lorraine Graham
Wed 7 Dec 2022	Luke 2:1-7	Will Graham
Thu 8 Dec 2022	Luke 2:8-14	Jean and David Hall
Fri 9 Dec 2022	Luke 2:15-20	Diane Hallam
Sat 10 Dec 2022	Luke 2:21-32	Brenda Hambleton
Sun 11 Dec 2022	Luke 2:33-40	Charmaine Hamnett

## This Week at Brooklands

Date	Time	Event
Sun 4th Dec	10:30 am	Sunday Worship, Mick Kane
Sun 4th Dec	2:00 pm	Carols in the Park
Wed 7th Dec	10:00 am	Toddle-In
Wed 7th Dec	10:30 am	Prayer meeting on Zoom
Wed 7th Dec	5:00 pm	FoodCycle free community meal
Thu 8th Dec	11:00 am	Winter Warmer (Community Café)
Thu 8th Dec	7:30 pm	Manchester Gospel Choir rehearsal
Sat 10 Dec	9:30am	Prayer Breakfast
Sun 11th Dec	10:30 am	Sunday Worship
Sun 11th Dec	11:30 am	Family Christmas Party



## Prayer Points

- Pray for the work of the Church this Advent and Christmas season.
- We rejoice that Norma has returned home from hospital after 10 months. She still has many challenges ahead, but the family are grateful for this answer to prayer.
- Pray for Diane, lifelong friend to Babs Hewitt, who is receiving palliative care. Pray for Babs at this time.
- Pray for David and Christine Hoolihan's granddaughter, Lyla, who has been ill after receiving her flu vaccination.
- Continue to pray for Marie Vickers, family to David and Chris Hoolihan, who has cancer. Marie took unwell on holiday recently and was admitted to hospital. She is recovering at home now.
- Sue Ellis has been experiencing pain in her leg this week and would value prayer.
- Pray for Cameron Preece's dad who has been ill in hospital this week.
- Pray for Majid Saadouni who has had serious challenges around accommodation and accessing support as an asylum seeker this week.
- Pauline Howells is feeling better following an injection in her hip which seems to have eased the pain in her back. Continue to pray for healing.
- Pray for the family of Revd. Keith Tewksbury, brother in law to Marion Tewksbury. Keith sadly died this week following a short battle with cancer.
- We pray for Peter Grady following a recent diagnosis of prostate cancer. Peter is due for further tests and a pre-op in the coming week. Surgery to remove the cancer should happen in early December.
- Pray for Pastor Lucy as she continues with responsibilities at Brooklands and Salford churches.
- Pray for Joan, Faye's sister in law in Canada. Joan suffered a stroke.
- Pray for Ann Beattie who continues to feel the loss of John.
- Continue to pray for Barbara Edwards, in Munster, Germany. Barbara is also recovering from a stroke. She is the sister of Jean Walker.
- Pray for Gilbert and Amie and the children, and especially for Amie, as she receives medical attention. Amie had further scans this week and is awaiting results. Gilbert and the children have all been sick this week so would value much prayer.
- Pray for Lauren, in her role as Associate Pastor for Children, Youth and Families.
- Pray for Ron, the brother of Sylvia Findlay who is undergoing treatment for his kidneys. He is being considered for dialysis but Sylvia's prayer is that such healing would take place that he would not need this. UPDATE: Ron has seen improvements in his health recently!
- Pray for Ron and Jenny Hearn, for healing and strength.
- Pray for those struggling with the Cost-of-Living Crisis. We pray that our Food Pantry will be a real support for those in need in our area. Pray for Gert, Charmaine and others who help to run this ministry.
- Continue to remember Stephen Lovett in your prayers.
- Pray for our local councillors - Sue Cooley, Glynn Evans and Julia Baker Smith. Pray also for our MP, Mike Kane.
- We continue to pray for a solution in Ukraine, and for protection for Christians and others who are being conscripted to join the armed forces.
- Pray for the continued work of the Church here in the community of Brooklands, as new faces continue to engage with us.

Please contact Mick, Lucy, Lauren or Mark if you have any specific prayer requests, or answers to prayer for us to share.

## This Week's Sermon

Mick Kane

### A Time to Repent- Matthew 3:1-10

1. In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptising, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

## Family Christmas Party Next Week

After the morning service next Sunday, we will be having a Fellowship Lunch, followed by a Family Christmas Party.

Lunch will be a bring and share, and Sheila is coordinating this. If you are able to bring along some food to share with your church family, please let Sheila know.