

# Brooklands Church

22 January 2023

*"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground."*

*Exodus 3:5*

As we continue in this miniseries of 'Finding God in unexpected places,' we see here in Exodus 3 Moses meeting with God in the form of a fire in a bush. We'll take some time to explore the significance of the bush as part of our sermon but for now I want us to see Moses' response to standing in the presence of a holy God – he removes his sandals.

This might seem strange to us today but the removal of one's sandals would have been common place as an act of worship in Moses' day. For the Old Testament people of God, cleanliness and worship went hand in hand. Shoes, being receptacles of all the dirt of the ground, had not place in the presence of a holy God.

Now our understanding of worship and cleanliness is different today but in response to this verse I ask us this question: How do we prepare ourselves to come into the presence of a holy God? What is our equivalent to Moses removing of his shoes? Maybe we want to offer God the things that have been weighing us down in the week? Perhaps we would offer our sin in a prayer of confession? Or maybe we just enjoy a moment of quiet to recognise a God who loves us and is present in our gathering? However we 'remove our sandals,' be sure to enter into the presence of a holy God this morning.

We are delighted to welcome 5 new members into fellowship of the Brooklands Church of the Nazarene this morning. Join me in prayer as we covenant to serve alongside Margaret, John, Sue, Eden and Daisy.

I have my Pastoral Review on Tuesday 7th February. After 2 years as pastor it is procedure to sit down with the church board and District Superintendent to review how we feel things are going. If you would like to offer comment to this conversation – whether positive or negative – please speak to a member of the church board.

The church AGM will take place on Sunday 26th February at 12noon. We are looking for nominations for the new church board. If you would like to nominate someone please take time to pray about it, ask whether the person is willing to stand for election, find a second name to support your nomination and offer this to a member of the current church board. Sheila has nomination forms with her this morning.

Peace,

Mick

## This Week at Brooklands

| Date            | 9:00 | 10:00                                      | 11:00                            | 12:00 | 13:00 | 14:00                    | 15:00 | 16:00                         | 17:00     | 18:00+ |
|-----------------|------|--|----------------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Sun<br>22 Jan   |      | Sunday Worship with<br>Mick Kane (10:30am) |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               |           |        |
| Mon<br>23 Jan   |      |  |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               |           |        |
| Tues<br>24 Jan  |      |  |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               |           |        |
| Weds<br>25 Jan  |      | Toddle In                                  |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               | FoodCycle |        |
|                 |      | Zoom prayer meeting                        |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               |           |        |
| Thurs<br>26 Jan |      |  | Winter Warmer and<br>Food Pantry |       |       | Bible Study<br>with Lucy |       | Mcr Gospel Choir<br>(19:30pm) |           |        |
| Fri<br>27 Jan   |      |  |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               |           |        |
| Sat<br>28 Jan   |      |  |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               |           |        |
| Sun<br>29 Jan   |      | Sunday Worship with<br>Mick Kane (10:30am) |                                  |       |       |                          |       |                               |           |        |

## Daily Readings and Prayers

| Date            | Bible Reading       | Pray For                                    |
|-----------------|---------------------|---|
| Mon 23 Jan 2023 | Matthew 15:1–28     | Vivienne Best                               |
| Tue 24 Jan 2023 | Matthew 15:29–16:12 | Holly, Nathan, Lauren and Darcie Billingham |
| Wed 25 Jan 2023 | Matthew 16:13–17:13 | Audrey Bolton                               |
| Thu 26 Jan 2023 | Matthew 17:14–18:6  | Jack, Leah and Harry Bolton                 |
| Fri 27 Jan 2023 | Matthew 18:7–35     | Mark and Joanne Bolton                      |
| Sat 28 Jan 2023 | Catch UpDay         | Tom Bolton                                  |
| Sun 29 Jan 2023 | Matthew 19          | Robert Bond                                 |

## Prayer Points

- Pray for those who have joined the church in membership this morning: Margaret Webb, John Churchman, Sue Churchman, Eden Lai, Daisy Chen, Samson and Sammu.
- Pray for the 2 year Pastoral Review for Pastor Mick on Tuesday 7th February.
- Pray for the Church AGM on Sunday 26th February. This is an important time of accountability and celebration.
- Pray for Anna, she continues to feel very poorly. She is waiting for the results of another blood test before a treatment plan can be discussed.
- Pray for Ron and Jenny Hearne who continue to need support at home due to health.
- Give thanks that Bill Graham's cataract surgery has been completed. Pray for full healing. Remember also Lorraine in your prayers.
- Continue to pray for Lyla, the granddaughter of David and Chris Hoolihan. David and Chris give thanks for improvements in Lyla's health recently.
- Peter Grady's surgery to remove cancer in his prostate was successful. He is recovering at home and very grateful for the prayers of his church family.
- We give thanks that Peter White is back with us after spending time with his family down South. We pray his health continues to improve and he finds somewhere to live.
- Pray for Vivienne who has been suffering with covid and flu.
- Pray for Lucy's Auntie, and Jean Hall's Sister-in-law- Dorothy who has been poorly with covid.

Please pass on your prayer requests, answers to prayer, and prayer updates to Mick, Lucy, Lauren or Mark. We will include them in this weekly newsletter.

## **This Week's Message - Mick Kane**

### **Finding God in Unexpected Places**

#### **Exodus 3: 1-15**

1 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. 3 So Moses thought, "I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up."

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, "Moses! Moses!"

And Moses said, "Here I am."

5 "Do not come any closer," God said. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." 6 Then he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob." At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

7 The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. 9 And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. 10 So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt."

11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

12 And God said, "I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain."

13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

14 God said to Moses, "I am who I am. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I am has sent me to you.'"

15 God also said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.' 'This is my name forever, the name you shall call me from generation to generation.'"

## Church Notices

- Peter White is looking for a room to rent until he is able to find a house to buy. If you are able to help please contact Pastor Mick, Lucy or Lauren.
- CHURCH LADIES' WEEKEND. Click on the poster below to access the booking form. Last year's event was very enjoyable. Try to attend this year's event if you are able.



- Church Annual General Meeting. This will be held next month. The church leaders and trustees will present information about the activities of the church over the last year, its finances, and vision for the future. Further information will be given in the coming weeks. If you are a church member and interested in serving as a church trustee, please have a word with Pastor Mick, Pastor Lucy, or Mark Bolton.
- If you are interested in becoming a church member, Mick will be happy to discuss this with you.
- Rehearsals for the Manchester Gospel Choir start up again on Thursday this week. 7:30pm at church if you can are interested.