

BROOKLANDS CHURCH

12 February
2023

**Wendover Road
Manchester
M23 9FN**

brooklandschurch.uk

Brooklands Church of the Nazarene
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**Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits
Psalm 103:1-2**

What a joy to welcome some guests – friends and family of Jack and Leah Bolton – today as little Harry is offered to the Lord in dedication. As a church family this is a day of celebration and rejoicing as we give thanks to God for the blessing of Harry's life and place in our church. As we mentioned last week, we are expecting church to be particularly full today, so please arrive early to guarantee a seat.

Thank you so much for all of your prayers as we prepared for pastoral review on Tuesday. There is a brief note from the board below reporting on the outcome of this but from my perspective I found it to be a very positive and affirming process.

We are now making our final preparations for the church AGM which will take place after church on Sunday 26th February. Please make arrangements to be there as we hear and receive reports and elect a new church board for the coming year. To help you prepare for this the AGM booklet should be made available to you shortly. Take time to read its contents as we will receive many of the reports as read. There will, of course, be opportunity for questions and comments. A reminder that all are welcome to attend but only church members are entitled to vote in any decisions made.

Following our AGM we also look ahead to the British Isles South District Assembly on 10th and 11th March at St. John's church Dukinfield. We are able to send representation from the church to the business meetings which take place during the mornings and afternoons of the Assembly so please speak to me if you would be available and are interested in being sent as an official delegate. There are also times of worship in the evenings and everyone is welcome to attend those.

Some of you have been asking about giving in response to the devastating earthquake which took place in Turkey, Syria and Lebanon last week. There is a link to support the work of the Church of the Nazarene responding in Syria, where we have the largest church presence in that region so please use this if you feel you are able to give to that cause: www.ncm.org/syria. All monies donated make it to the frontline response of the church there. If you would like to give cash then please place this in an envelope clearly marked for this and give as part of the regular offering. We will ensure the money is given appropriately.

Peace,

Mick

Sermon - Mick Kane
Finding God in Unexpected Places
Matthew 5:1-16

1 Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, 2 and he began to teach them.

He said:

3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

5 Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

7 Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

8 Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

9 Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

13 “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Daily Readings and Prayers

Date	Bible Reading	Pray For
Mon 13 Feb 2023	Matt 26:26–56	Lucy Frost
Tue 14 Feb 2023	Matt 26:57–27:10	Tim Geddes
Wed 15 Feb 2023	Matt 27:11–31	Bill and Lorraine Graham
Thu 16 Feb 2023	Matt 27:32–56	Will Graham
Fri 17 Feb 2023	Matt 27:57–28:20	Jean and David Hall
Sat 18 Feb 2023	Catch Up	Diane Hallam
Sun 19 Feb 2023	Mark 1:1–20	Brenda Hambleton

Prayer Focus

- We give thanks for the positive and affirming process of Pastor Mick's 2 year review on Tuesday
- Pray for Pastor Lauren this weekend as she leads the teaching at the NYUK North Winter Retreat in Stirling with 90 young people.
- Pray for the Church AGM on Sunday 26th February. This is an important time of accountability, celebration and vision casting.
- Pray for Anna Holme, 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. Jenny has been moved into a nursing home and is devastated to be apart from Ron. Ron is currently struggling with back pain too.
- 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.

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.

Church Calendar

This week

Date	Time	Event
Sun 12 Feb 2023	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship, Mick Kane
Wed 15 Feb 2023	10:00 AM	Toddle-In
Wed 15 Feb 2023	10:30 AM	Prayer meeting on Zoom
Wed 15 Feb 2023	5:00 PM	FoodCycle free community meal
Thu 16 Feb 2023	11:00 AM	Winter Warmer Café
Thu 16 Feb 2023	7:30 PM	Manchester Gospel Choir
Sat 18 Feb 2023	9:30 AM	Prayer Breakfast
Sun 19 Feb 2023	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship, Mick Kane

Looking Ahead

Date	Time
Sun 26 Feb 2023	Church Annual General Meeting
24-26 Feb 2023	Thrive Ladies Weekend
Sun 5 Mar 2023	Our Daily Bread Conference (see Jon Fisher)
10-11 Mar 2023	Nazarene British Isles South District Assembly in Dukinfield

Church News

PASTORAL REVIEW

One of our church's governing documents is the Church of the Nazarene Manual (<https://2017.manual.nazarene.org/>). The Manual stipulates that our church board would be required to undertake a "Regular Church/Pastoral Review", under the chairmanship of our District Superintendent (DS), the Revd Carl McCann. This arose because "Pastor Mick" had joined us in February 2021, and has now served as Lead Pastor for two years.

Prior to the meeting on Tuesday, each board member had been asked by the DS to give him a personal written reply to a range of searching questions. (Pastor Mick was also asked to respond to a somewhat different set of questions). Some responses from church members had also been submitted anonymously to the DS. The DS was able to lead us in a constructive analysis of the state of the church over the last two years as seen by all those who had contributed. The meeting was generally conducted in "executive session" (that is: church board including pastor) but for a time during the meeting, the DS discussed matters with the board in the Pastor's absence; and for a time at the end, with the Pastor alone. The meeting was a valuable time of reflection on the highlights, successes and challenges of the past two years, which could also serve as a platform for prayers, thoughts and discussion on plans for the years ahead.

However, at this Tuesday's review meeting, the key question was discussed. The objective being to discover a consensus without the need of a formal church board vote. It is good to be able to report that at Tuesday's meeting, the church board (in the Pastor's absence) was unanimous in informing the DS that they wanted the present church/pastoral relationship to continue. This means that the present church/pastoral relationship, with Mick as Lead Pastor, will continue, without any requirement for a formal general church members' meeting.

So, let us rejoice that, if the Lord will, and Mick and Debbie are prepared to take on the continuing challenge, the Manchester Brooklands church can look forward to Mick continuing in his very much appreciated excellent role as our Lead Pastor!

Please continue to join us in prayer for Mick, Debbie and Mikey as they continue in their dedicated service to the Brooklands Church and wider community.