



26 FEBRUARY 2023

# BROOKLANDS CHURCH

## Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

(UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)

“Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. During this season converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to participation in the life of the Church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. To make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now come before our Creator and Redeemer.”

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## From the Pastor

Today we begin the long walk with Christ to the cross of Calvary. As you can see above, these six weeks before Easter were an invitation to Spiritual renewal as we prepared ourselves – once again – for the celebration of Christ's death and resurrection.

As a church our own Scriptural journey will see us walk through the Old Testament, beginning with the Fall in Genesis 3, and witness how God's promise to rescue his people from sin gathers momentum over centuries before culminating in Christ himself.



Today is also the church annual general meeting. We will begin at approximately 12.00noon. Members and friends are invited to remain for the meeting as we give thanks for what God has done in the church in this last year and elect a new church board for the upcoming year (only members can participate in this process).

The documents for the meeting are available below (there are some hard copies in the church too). Please try to read the reports ahead of time as we will be receiving some of them as read.

Peace,

MICK

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

JOHN WESLEY



## DAILY READINGS AND PRAYERS

DATE	BIBLE READING	PRAY FOR
MON 27 FEB 2023	MARK 5:21–6:6	PAULINE AND PETER HOWELLS
TUE 28 FEB 2023	MARK 6:7–29	TIM AND ALISON INGRAM
WED 1 MAR 2023	MARK 6:30–56	JOSH AND MOLLY, MILEY, JONAH AND EZRA JENKINSON
THU 2 MAR 2023	MARK 7:1–30	MICHAEL, DEBBIE AND MIKEY KANE
FRI 3 MAR 2023	MARK 7:31–8:13	EDEN LAI, DAISY CHEN, SAMSON AND SAMMU
SAT 4 MAR 2023	CATCH UP	CONNIE AND SAMUEL LAW
SUN 5 MAR 2023	MARK 8:14–9:1	ZIZINHA MENDES MARINO

## CHURCH NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you to those who have given towards the earthquake which took place in Turkey, Syria and Lebanon. 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](http://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 passed on as soon as possible.

### ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Peter White has been looking for accommodation. If you or anyone you know are able to help with this, please speak to one of our pastoral team.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

## THIS WEEK

DATE	TIME	EVENT
SUN 26 FEB 2023	10:30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP, MICK KANE
SUN 26 FEB 2023	12:00 PM	CHURCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WED 1 MAR 2023	10:00 AM	TODDLE-IN
WED 1 MAR 2023	10:30 AM	PRAYER MEETING ON ZOOM
WED 1 MAR 2023	5:00 PM	FOODCYCLE FREE COMMUNITY MEAL
THU 2 MAR 2023	11:00 AM	WINTER WARMER (COMMUNITY CAFÉ)
THU 2 MAR 2023	7:30 PM	MANCHESTER GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
SUN 5 MAR 2023	10:30 AM	SUNDAY WORSHIP, MICK KANE

## LOOKING AHEAD

DATE	TIME	EVENT
24-26 FEB 2023	12:00 PM	THRIVE LADIES WEEKEND
WED 8 MAR 2023	7:00 PM	POINT LOMA SINGERS AT NTC
10-11 MAR 2023		DISTRICT ASSEMBLY IN DUKINFIELD



## PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for the Church AGM, today, Sunday 26th February. This is an important time of accountability, celebration and vision casting.
- Pray for Nathaniel Herbert following the death of his sister Inez a couple of weeks ago. The funeral will take place on Wednesday 8th March in Leicester.
- Pray for Bill and Sue Ellis. Bill was taken to hospital earlier this week with an infection, and is now home again. Bill and Sue have both tested positive for Covid.
- Pray for Anna Holme, as she continues to feel very poorly. Anna has been to the Christie this week.
- Pray for Ron and Jenny Hearne. Jenny has been moved into a nursing home. We give thanks for Ron being in church last week as he has had improvements in his health. He has been able to visit Jenny too!
- Continue to pray for Lyla, the granddaughter of David and Chris Hoolihan. David and Chris give thanks for improvements in Lyla's health recently.

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.

NTC PROUDLY WELCOMES THE

# POINT LOMA SINGERS



**Wednesday, 8th March**  
**7:00pm**  
**Maclagan Chapel**

£3 suggested donation  
All proceeds go towards the Student Hardship Fund





# This Week's Sermon

## Every Story Whispers his Name (1)

### Mick Kane

#### GENESIS 2: 15-18

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. 16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."  
18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

#### GENESIS 3: 1-19

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"  
2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"  
4 "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."  
6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.  
8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"  
10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."  
11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"  
12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."  
13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"  
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."  
14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."  
16 To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labour you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."  
17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'"