

# BROOKLANDS CHURCH

24 SEPTEMBER 2023

ISSUE #36/23



"I hate, I despise... says the Lord."

***Amos 5:21-27***

## **Dear friends**

I don't know about you, but I find it very jarring to read the words 'I hate' coming from God's mouth. So often our focus is on God as a being of love; God is love! So how can it make sense that that hatred might flow from God's heart? But there it is, right there in the Scripture. We really are dealing with the emotional heart of God in this series, aren't we?

I am pleased to inform you that this hatred is not aimed towards any person. And in fact, it is because God loves so ferociously, that he does have hatred for anything that brings harm to those he does love. That's what we're dealing with here! God loves his people so much, that when systems, and actions result in harm to them, particularly the vulnerable of them, he is riled up in his heart.

So what exactly is it that God hates and despises in this instance? Well, join us on Sunday to find out. I think the answer may surprise you somewhat.

A reminder that we will gather for an extended time of fellowship following our service this morning and enjoy some food together. Thank you to everyone who brought something along for the Bring and Share. If you haven't brought something along, don't worry, stay and enjoy anyway! We'll gather at some point in front of the church building to take our annual photograph together.

A new church Bible Study will begin on Tuesday 3rd October, from 7pm to 9pm (7-7.30pm will be tea/coffee), and will run weekly, led by Pastor Mick. All are welcome to attend and we will begin with a look at Christianity Explored. Do speak to me if you have any questions about it.

Mark Bolton is looking to arrange an evening of fun together at 'Sixes' – a place where you can have go at playing some indoor cricket. Speak to Mark if you would be interested in attending. All abilities welcome!

Peace,

Mick

## **SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023**

### **AMOS 5: 4-7; 21-24 – PASTOR MICK**

4 This is what the Lord says to Israel: "Seek me and live; 5 do not seek Bethel, do not go to Gilgal, do not journey to Beersheba. For Gilgal will surely go into exile, and Bethel will be reduced to nothing." 6 Seek the Lord and live, or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire; it will devour them, and Bethel will have no one to quench it. 7 There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.

21 "I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. 22 Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. 23 Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. 24 But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

25 "Did you bring me sacrifices and offerings forty years in the wilderness, people of Israel? 26 You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols, the star of your god—which you made for yourselves. 27 Therefore I will send you into exile beyond Damascus," says the Lord, whose name is God Almighty.

## READINGS AND PRAYERS

DATE	BIBLE READING	PRAY FOR
Mon 25 Sep 2023	2 Corinthians 10	Robert Bond
Tue 26 Sep 2023	2 Corinthians 11	Jean and Steve Boyd
Wed 27 Sep 2023	2 Corinthians 12-13	Audrey Broome
Thu 28 Sep 2023	Galatians 1	Lisa Bruce-McArdle, and Connie-Grace
Fri 29 Sep 2023	Galatians 2	The family of Isobel Cave
Sat 30 Sep 2023	Catch Up	Helen Charlesworth
Sun 1 Oct 2023	Galatians 3	John and Sue Churchman

**SIXES**  
SOCIAL CRICKET

We are arranging an evening playing **Sixes Social Cricket**. See Mark Bolton for details.



The 2023 graduation ceremony for the Nazarene Theological College will take place on Saturday 21 October, at 11AM. Speak to Mark Bolton if you are able to help with the stewarding of this event.

## WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun 24 Sep 2023	10:30 AM	Sunday Worship
Sun 24 Sep 2023	12:00 PM	Church Fellowship Lunch
Tue 26 Sep 2023	10:00 AM	Computer Support Session
Tue 26 Sep 2023	12:00 PM	Computer Drop In Session
Wed 27 Sep 2023	10:00 AM	Toddle In
Wed 27 Sep 2023	10:30 AM	Weekly Zoom prayer meeting
Wed 27 Sep 2023	5:00 PM	FoodCycle
Thu 28 Sep 2023	11:00 AM	Community Café and Food Pantry This week is a fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer
Thu 28 Sep 2023	2:00 PM	Bible Study at church
Sun 1 Oct 2023	7:30 PM	Manchester Gospel Choir rehearsal
DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tue 3 Oct 2023	7:00 PM	Bible Study with Pastor Mick at church
Sat 21 Oct 2023	11:00 AM	NTC Graduation Ceremony. Speak to Mark Bolton if you would like to help with stewarding

## CHURCH PRAYERS

- Pray for Esther, Siggy's daughter, who has recently been diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery this week. Pray for Siggy too as she supports her daughter from afar.
- Continue to pray for the family of Isobel Cave as they mourn her loss.
- Pastor Mick's mum, Adele, is being treated for Rheumatoid Arthritis. The doctors remain concerned about the aggressive nature of the inflammation and so will monitor her closely. Please pray for wisdom for doctors and healing for Adele.
- Continue to pray for Rebekah McLachlan, 8, who was with us recently whilst she received treatment following the removal of a brain tumour. Her follow up scan will take place on 2nd October.
- Pray for the family of Maud Batchelor as they mourn her loss.
- Pray for Steve Lovatt, who had a fall recently.
- Please pray for Claire Silverwood, who has started a new job this month.
- Pray for Fatima Alkandaari who has a number of ongoing health concerns.
- Pray for Majid Sadouini who has relocated to Tameside. He too is facing a number of challenges.
- Please pray for Veronica and Trevor, a couple who are close friends of Steve and Jean Boyd. They have both been diagnosed with tumours in the brain.
- Pray for Anna Holme as she continues in her chemotherapy. Pray that she will remain well during the treatment and that it will work well to contain her cancer.
- Pray for a little girl called Rosie. Rosie has a chronic digestive problem causing severe pain and weight loss.
- Pray for Ava Marshall who is 6 years old and has leukaemia.
- Also pray for Olivia, aged 4, who has also recently been diagnosed with leukaemia, and is undergoing a course of chemotherapy.
- Pray for baby Freddie who is needing an urgent heart replacement.
- Continue to pray for Ron and Jenny Hearne. Ron had surgery on a hernia last week and is recovering at home.
- Pray for Jean Walker's sister - Barbara Edwards, in Germany, who recently suffered from a stroke.
- Continue to pray for Marie Vickers, a family member of David and Chris Hoolihan. Marie has cancer and needs prayers for healing.
- Pray for John Reavey, a neighbour of Jean Walker. John is in hospital suffering from an inoperable brain tumour.
- Give thanks that Norma has had adaptations installed in her home which will hopefully allow more mobility. Pray for carers and family as they learn to use these with Norma safely. Norma's prayer is that she would be able to attend church again sometime soon.