

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

1 Corinthians 1:2 To God's church at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus and called as saints, with all those in every place who call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord—both their Lord and ours.

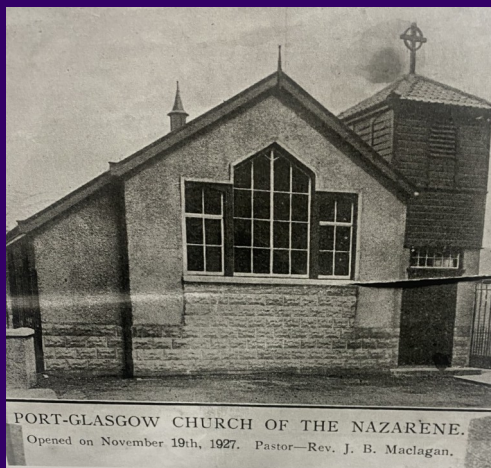
Sainthood is not just for the spiritual elite or reserved for those who appear in stained-glass windows. To be a saint is God's plan and provision for all who would follow Jesus. A holy God demands a holy people and as Oswald Chambers put it, "...the destined end of man is not happiness, nor health, but holiness." "Be holy" says the Lord, "because I am holy." (1 Peter 1:16).

BASIS The basis and provision for the holy life is the cross. "...Jesus...suffered outside the gate to make the people holy through his own blood." (Hebrews 13:12). Jesus gave himself for us "...to purify for himself a people that are his very own..." (Titus 2:14). Mrs C. F. Alexander expressed it perfectly and simply in those lines of her hymn (published in 'Hymns for Little Children' in 1848), "He died that we might be forgiven, He died to *make us good.*" (italics added).

CRISIS The crisis that arises in the life of the believer concerns the will. Am I willing to give up my right to myself and to surrender my life to Jesus Christ? Oswald Chambers again, "Surrender is not the surrender of the external life, but of the will; when that is done, all is done." So, Paul can say, "I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." (Galatians 2:20). May we be able to say in the words of Mrs C.H. Morris, "My stubborn will at last hath yielded, I would be thine and thine alone."

PROCESS We are to "...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18). The paradox between 'crisis' and 'process' in the holy life is illustrated in that verse in Hebrews 10:14, "...by one sacrifice [God] has made perfect for ever those who are being made holy." Yes, 'already' and 'not yet'. So, we continue in our quest to be like Jesus and say with the hymn-writer, "Deeper, deeper, in the love of Jesus, daily let me go."

100 YEARS AT THE PORT



The Port Glasgow Church of the Nazarene has been celebrating its centenary. Established in 1925, Rev James B. Maclagan was the first pastor. Those early days were characterised by aggressive evangelism and outreach with open air meetings being held regularly and often timed to when the public houses closed and people were making their way home. Over the years other pastors took up the reins of leadership and the church became a strong family-centred fellowship with programmes and activities for all ages.

After meeting in temporary premises, the first church building was opened in 1927 in Bruce Street. The move to a new building on Clune Brae in August 1966 enabled the church to begin a new chapter in its work and ministry and to reach out to new housing developments in the town. After research, appeals for information, and a visit to the Nazarene Archives (at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester) Church Secretary, Sharon Millar, prepared a comprehensive exhibition in the sanctuary which, with the help of pictures, documents, leaflets and booklets, traces the decades of the history of the church including the names of all those who have served as pastors.

A "Celebration Weekend" was held 12th-14th September with special speakers, Rev Ruth Turner (District Superintendent) and Rev David Hogg (USA) – David was brought up in the Port Glasgow church and is the son of Rev Bill & Isabel Hogg.

Pray for Rev Andrew Purdy (part-time pastor) and the faithful group in the church that God would bring blessing and growth as the church moves into its second century.

Pictures. The first church building. Opening day of the present church in 1966. Newspaper cutting - the congregation in 2008 (the centenary of the International Church of the Nazarene).



Port Glasgow Celebrates

The *Port Glasgow* church celebrated the centenary of the denomination – which was marked by the International Church of the Nazarene in October 2008 – by having 100 together in church at the same time. This happened in May 2009, and, although not everyone was in the picture, a great group of all ages were included in the photograph. Rev Ian Stewart is the pastor of the *Port Glasgow* church.



Port Glasgow, Celebrating 100 years

SUMMER MEMORIES

BREAKTHRU



Held 29th July - 2nd August at Cliff College, Derbyshire, approximately 230 attended the Holiday and Youth Camp. The theme, "Rooted and Grounded", was an encouragement to embed lives deeply in Christ and bear His fruit in His world and on His mission. The

main speaker was Rev Jim Ritchie (Global Missions Director in the Church of the Nazarene). According to one reporter, "...highlights included a barn dance, a family catchphrase quiz-show, and 'Makethru' - we made music, a mess, craft, rhythm, and much more. And it climaxed in sliming DS Carl and holiday coordinator Adam!"

NORTHBREAK



...held 4th-8th August in Lancaster, was a wonderful celebration of faith and family, bringing together people of all ages. Over 140 attended. The theme, "A Positive Faith: Practising Joyfulness and Gratitude", was explored in morning seminars by Dr Steve

Fountain (Largs). Other speakers included Rev Ruth Turner (DS) and Dr Deirdre Brower (NTC Principal). A huge 'thank you' goes to the team and volunteers who worked so hard to make it all happen. Northbreak 2025 reminded us of the joy of being God's people together - and we're already excited to gather again next summer!

NEW MEMBERS

The Carrickfergus Church of the Nazarene welcomed 10 new members in May.

On Sunday 11th May, 8 became members.

Pictured (l to r) Rev Jordan Neill (Pastor), Ann Hodge, Denise Hamilton, Joanna Walsh, Elaine McKee, Tommy McKee, Denise McQuitty, Sam Rogers, Megan Rogers, Julie Patterson (Secretary). And two more new members were welcomed on Sunday 25th May.

Pictured. (l to r) Louise Owens, Rev Jordan Neill, Sarah Gordon.



MENTORING PROGRAMME



A District/Local Church initiative. Rev Ruth Turner (North District DS) reports, "It has become clear that we need more people to step into ministry. But getting the experience needed for ordination isn't easy without being thrown in at the deep end! We wanted to create opportunities for people to explore what ministry really looks like before they are licenced, and during ministerial studies, supported by a good mentor in an active church. The District Advisory Board has set aside funds to partner with local churches sharing costs to help raise up good leaders. It is exciting to see this project come to fruition and we look forward to seeing the next generation of leaders equipped and ready to serve Christ and the Church."

Dwain McKay was welcomed to the Millbrook (N.I.) church in September as part of the District Internship Partnership and Mentoring Programme working under the mentorship of Rev Philip McAlister. For the past ten years Dwain has been an active member of the Desertmartin Church of the Nazarene and has, served as NYI President, organized community events, and preached from time to time, all of which have helped to shape his faith and deepen his desire to serve the church. Dwain is in his second year of studies for a BA degree in Theology at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester...he says, "Family and Faith are at the centre of our lives, and we feel truly blessed for all that God has already done for us...I am committed to serving Jesus and have the desire to encourage others, help build community, and help people understand what it means to have a personal relationship with Jesus. I am grateful for the support of Rebecca and our children as I navigate studies, ministry, and everyday life together. I'm excited for this season and open to wherever God leads us next in our journey together." Pictured, Dwain, Rebecca, and their three children - Jacob, Sofia and Joshua.

GRADUATION

Held Saturday, 25th October, in the Whitworth Hall of the University of Manchester, 5 PhDs, 15 MAs, 1 Post-Graduate Certificate, 14 BAs, 3 Diplomas, and 13 NTC Theological Foundations Certificates were awarded. Dr Peter Rae was honoured for a life-time of service to the College as he faces a new "semi-retirement" role; Ian Burleigh was thanked for serving for 10 years as Chairman of the Board of Governors. The Graduation Speaker, Dr Andrew Boakye, Lecturer in Religions and Theology at the University of Manchester, challenged and encouraged the graduates with the words of Paul, "...the Lord is near" (Phil. 4:4-7).

Pictured: College faculty and the class of 2025



PRINCIPAL'S PROJECT

Over recent years nearly £21,500 has been raised for the Principal's Project. Lives have been transformed as students from home and abroad, who were involved in mission and ministry – including Iranians, Eritreans, Nepalese, Indians, Chinese, Hong Kongers, Kenyans – have been supported.

This year, the project is a little more mundane, but no less significant for the lives of students. After consulting widely, it has been decided that it was time to refurbish the common spaces and invest in renewal and refreshment of them. This will include flooring, sofas and soft chairs, and back-friendly desk chairs. In the library the study-desks, provided a number of years ago in memory of Dr Sydney Martin, pastor and theologian, need to be supplemented.

£30,000 needs to be raised. The Principal, Dr Deirdre Brower says, "... Pauline McKendrick, our Vice Principal for Operations and Debbie Kane, our Operations Coordinator and live-in warden, have priced things up - and we are trying to raise at least £30,000 which we will spend across the campus in the common spaces, enabling the next decade or so to have a running start." Please support the Principal's Project!

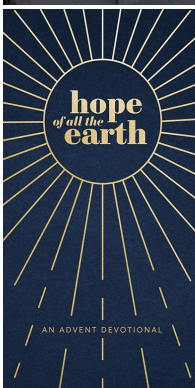
REGIONAL CONFERENCE: Nearly 800 Nazarenes from across the Eurasia Region gathered in Tirana, Albania, 4th-8th November, for the first Eurasia Regional Conference since 2019. Under the theme 'There Is MORE', pastors, leaders, missionaries, church members and their families came together for a time of inspirational worship, preaching, teaching, interactive fellowship, collaborative learning, and multicultural celebration of what God is doing across the region. Speakers included General Superintendents Dr Filimão Chambo and Dr Carla Sunberg; Global Missions Director Rev Jim Ritchie; Eurasia Regional Director Dr Mark Louw; Principal of Nazarene Theological College Dr Deirdre Brower; Central Europe Field Strategy Coordinator Cezi Glendenning, and Eurasia Regional Discipleship Coordinator Chad Gibbons. Insights from several of these sessions are available now on the Everyday Eurasia Podcast.



NEW BOOK

"*Hope of All the Earth*" is the title of an Advent devotional book by Rev David Gilmour (Llay). Published in 2025 by The Foundry Publishing, the book is intended to offer hope and spiritual guidance during the difficult period of waiting, connecting the Advent message of light overcoming darkness to Jesus as the true hope. In the relentless bullet train of life, we're not accustomed to waiting.

We demand instant gratification and then immediately move onto the next event. And into that breakneck pace steps the season of Advent, in which we're told over and over again, "Not yet...but soon!" Through looking at the four great Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, 'Hope of all the Earth' helps us learn to wait well in eager, active anticipation.



IN MEMORIAM *Remembering those who have served*

Jane Benington, who passed away 10th May 2025, age 108, was a remarkable lady. She became a Christian at age 21 and trained as a chef, and then became a midwife. In her later years she married J. Arnold Benington, the Quaker, British ornithologist, and Vice Principal of the Friends School in Lisburn. Jane was a member of the Carrickfergus Church of the Nazarene and then of the Belfast Donegall Road Church of the Nazarene where a Service of Thanksgiving for Jane's life and Christian witness was held 23rd May conducted by Rev Philip Bell.



Picture - Jane Benington taken when she celebrated her 106th Birthday.

CHURCH NEWS

SHEFFIELD HEELEY

Rev Rob & Rev Bev Fitzjohn were inducted to the Heeley, Sheffield, Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, 4th October. The church was full for the occasion with local churches represented and some from Cramlington in the congregation. Originally from Zimbabwe and South Africa, the Fitzjohns moved to the UK in 2004. They have pastored in Govan, and, for 8 years in Cramlington. For the past 23 months Rev Tommy Goodwin MBE has served the Heeley church as interim pastor concluding his ministry on Sunday, 7th September. Pictured – the Fitzjohns with Rev Carl McCann (DS) centre.



BELFAST FIRST

Pastor Stephen McTernaghan was inducted to the Belfast First (Skegoniell Avenue) Church of the Nazarene on Saturday, 23rd August, with Rev Ruth Turner (DS) officiating. He will be sharing in ministry with Pastor Isabel Hamill (Pastoral Support Worker). For the past 4 years Stephen has been the pastor of the Lisburn Church of the Nazarene. Stephen has a BA (Hons) degree from the Belfast School of Theology.



Pictured – Pastor Stephen and Carolynne McTernaghan cutting the 'celebration cake'.

BANGOR (N.I.)

At the beginning of September, Joshua Sanderson joined the Bangor Church of the Nazarene on the associate pastor programme working with Rev Ken White. Joshua came to faith through the ministry of the late Pastor James McConnell of Whitewell Tabernacle and has had ministry experience in the Presbyterian Church and with the Scripture Union...and including mission trips to Africa, Hungary, and Romania. Joshua has a BA degree from Belfast Bible College and is studying for an MA through NTC. He is married to Bethany who comes from the Lisburn Church of the Nazarene.



Pictured Joshua & Bethany Sanderson.

DESERTMARTIN

Pastor Reuben Lyons was inducted to the Desertmartin Church of the Nazarene on Saturday 27th September with Rev Ruth Turner, (DS) officiating. Originally from Enniskillen & more recently from Coleraine, Reuben has studied at the Faith Mission Bible College, Edinburgh, graduating with a Diploma in Applied Theology. For 3 years he served as a full-time evangelist with the Faith Mission in the North & South of Ireland and for 2 years was Assistant Pastor in Newtownards Congregational Church. Joshua is married to Bethany (pictured) and says that his vision for the Desertmartin church is to be a "...Community Orientated Christ Centred Fellowship."



RETIREMENT

A special service to mark the retirement of lay pastor Robert White was held Sunday, 20th July. Robert & Carol have given leadership to the Broomhill, Glasgow, church for the past 22 years. The work at Partick/Broomhill over the past 120 years was also celebrated.



Pictured Pastor Robert and Carol White.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES



SOUTH 13th-14th March – Sheffield Heeley
NORTH 14th-16th March – Glasgow, Parkhead