



nacukie news

Newsletter United Kingdom, Ireland and Isle of Man

November 2020



Foreword

Light after darkness.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year Sunday 29th November, will signal the start of Advent. 2020 has a very different feel to previous years and for many, this will be a year we will never forget. And yet, the spirit of Advent brings with it a powerful message of hope and expectation.

I think back to a very simple, yet incredible example of the power of light on life. After we married, our first home was a small house built on a steep hill with a tiny piece of grass at the front and rear. Behind the house were large concrete paving slabs which adjoined a wall. The houses were built on top of what was empty land, covering up and hiding the signs of anything that might have been before.

However, amongst the hard concrete paving slabs, I remember noticing a tiny crack and being in complete wonder that through the thinnest crack the stem of a tiny flower was breaking through from the darkness below. This life, which would

otherwise have been hidden, was drawn by the amazing power of sunlight and even the tough, heavy concrete could not hold it back.

Advent is very much associated with a time of light. Even in the darkness, this light brings warmth and hope through the lighting of candles, and anticipation of the arrival of Christmas, and the message of Immanuel, 'God with us.'

God visited humankind, who lived in remoteness from Him. In this light, we can become a light for others. Christ's appearance is to bring those from the darkness (remoteness to God) to the light (the love of God in Christ): "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined." (Isaiah 9: 2).

In the Gospel of John, Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life." (John 8:12).

Like the tiny flower breaking through the concrete, we are drawn to the love of God in Jesus Christ and to live a life where the love of God is visible to all. "No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light." (Luke 11:33)

Allowing this light to be seen is possible, even when we may have experienced sadness, grief, illness, loneliness, or anxiety. Let us remember that 'God is with us,' allow trust in God and the peace

of the Lord Jesus to strengthen and encourage us to help one another. This year has taught us that, in the way in which we live our lives, all over the world we are all dependent on one other.

In 2009 I attended the European Youth Day in Dusseldorf. On Friday evening 45,000 gathered in the LTU arena for 'the night of lights' and everyone had been given a tiny torch. In the darkness of the huge arena, when each shone their little torch, it was incredible. You were not alone, now you could see so many lights, from those next to you to the ones far away, we were all together.

Dear sister, dear brother, at this time we are not alone. God is with us and the Lord has given to each of us a light. Whether through your prayers, through online services, devotionals, morning prayers or congregational connections here and across the world, we are together. Wishing you all a blessed Advent, and may the Lord continue to bless you.

[Light after darkness](#)
(NAC English Hymnal 198)





Fellowship

Lockdown Music!

Today, we would like to ask you for your help.

Throughout this year, it has been inspiring to hear and see the music contributions in our GoToMeetings, and especially our YouTube services. Our sisters and brothers have been inventive and creative, and wonderful love and care shines through each piece.

However, we need more music. The weekly YouTube services contain around 40 minutes of music each - you can imagine how many pieces that requires! We're very grateful to all those who have contributed; and we're looking forward to more videos from all our talented singers and musicians!

So, if you have a musical talent, please consider if and how you could contribute to this joy creating effort. Please have a go and record solo, family, or group projects. We also encourage you to be bold and try making music together remotely - record backing tracks; or make a small virtual ensemble.

Please discuss your ideas with your **Music Ambassador**, who will help you plan projects, suggest ideas, connect musicians, advise about recording of videos, and make sure that we don't record 20 versions of the same song.



If you don't know who your Ambassador is, please contact your district ministers, who will connect you. When it comes to recording, there are a couple of tips to follow - see the info box on the side.

Music for Christmas.

We are especially looking for Advent and Christmas music, both for the divine services, but also for a special **Virtual Carol Service**, which we will broadcast on the **4th Advent (Sunday 20th December)**. The Carol Service will be titled '**Bright Little Star**,' and we hope it will bring us all together in the true Christmas Spirit of love, joy and hope - shining our little

lights into the world to make things a bit brighter for everyone.

And you can get involved, too! Not only are we collecting music videos, we are also looking for people of all ages and backgrounds to contribute to the readings for the day. Please speak to your Music Ambassadors about taking part.

Deadlines.

We will need any recordings for the following Sunday by latest Tuesday to have time for editing and publishing. For the **Carol Service**, we will need all your pieces by latest **8th December**.

We are looking forward to your ideas and videos!

Lots of love from the UK Music Team

The **Music Ambassadors** are:

North District
Margit McQueen, Karen Paisley, Rose Pusch

West District
Jessie Parker, Roland Jordaan, Martin Hughes

South District
Andreas and Christal Schneider

Ireland
Carmen Kane and Melissa Tango

Youth
Brenden King

Tips for Music Recording

- Wear appropriate clothing for a church service. For the Carol Service, please include something **red**.
- Use your phone or a camera, mounted landscape. Place at approx. head height, about 2m away from you.
- Consider the background and lighting. Would you like to include some Christmas Decorations?
- Leave a little time at the end of the music before turning off the recording.
- Share your love and joy. Have fun. **Smile!** We love you.
- Send your completed videos to your Music Ambassador. Please include: **Name** of the piece, and **Hymn Number** or Composer (if relevant), and **your name(s), congregation** and **instrument(s)**.
- **Please note: By sending us your video, you consent to having it played during service or published as part of a Concert on YouTube. For any persons under the age of 18, we will need written permission from the parent or guardian - an email is sufficient.**



Fellowship

Online Teaching Classes.

Like many of us, our children have also experienced disruption to their spiritual well-being by not being able to be in church enjoying fellowship with their friends in their teaching classes. We especially think of those who prepared for their Confirmation in the spring of 2020 and have had the disappointment of their plans for their special day postponed into next year.

In some cases, parents, teachers and ministers have arranged between themselves for children from different congregations to attend lessons where these are

taking place. This welcome development has helped our children build important friendships and contacts which can only serve to their good. To help make these arrangements more widely known to children and parents across the district we have listed below a schedule of the lessons, to which any child is welcome to join.

Parents are encouraged to join in these short lessons and will need to attend the first lesson to introduce their child/ children to the teacher.

Please note this initiative doesn't replace any existing local arrangements, although written parental consent is a mandatory requirement for any child attending online church activities and teachers must have a valid DBS check in place.

If you are interested in your child joining any of the lessons below, please send an email to: admin-hq@btinternet.com and the necessary information and login details will be sent to you.

Lesson	Teacher	Time and Day
Sunday school	Sister Gail Royston	9:30am Sunday
Sunday school	Sister Shene Belton and team	11:30am Sunday
Religious Instruction	Ev Craig Esterhuizen	4pm Thursday
Confirmation	Pr Keith Herrmann	11:30am Sunday

Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.

(Deuteronomy 32:2)

Interview

Sunday School teachers Gail and Shene share their thoughts.

Gail Royston, (Welling congregation) and Shene Belton, (Camberley congregation) run active, online Sunday school lessons and will be delighted to welcome new students to their classes.

? What can you remember from being a Sunday school child yourself?

Gail: *I remember loving going to Sunday school when I was younger my first teacher made it so much fun. She had so much energy and I loved learning about the interesting bible stories and life lessons together with my friends in Sunday school.*

Shene: *I remember my mother frantically rushing around trying to get all the children in the bath and hair styled whilst preparing the Sunday dinner on the Saturday evening. Our 'Sunday best's' were hanging behind the bedroom door, ready for the following morning, shoes polished to the point where we could see our smiley faces in them and all this while church music playing in the background and my father trying to concentrate on reading his 'word of life' in the living room. As one of many children I would join in the divine services*

and we would sing as the Sunday school choir and play the recorders. This was set as the basis for my future love for choir and orchestra engagements within the youth- and congregation activities.

? What motivated you to be a Sunday school teacher?

Gail: *My hopes for the children is that they will continue to grow up into kind, caring and faithful adults who take the lessons we learn in Sunday school forward into their real lives.*

Shene: *My hope for all the children that I teach is that they will look back one day and have happy memories of their Sunday school days; that they may take on board and apply these spiritual elements of faith that I will teach them; that they may grow and develop to love, trust and honour our Father; to trust Him always and to strive to be made worthy on the day of His Son's return. After all, in Mark 10:13 -16: He said to them, 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'*



Gail Royston



Shene Belton



Dublin congregation

We start the day with a smile.

Charmaine da Silva from our Dublin congregation talks about her recent experiences over the last months...

I moved to Ireland in October, 1979. We were a very small congregation at the time, consisting of the Rector, Evangelist Eric Chalk and his wife, the Jaeger and



Wolfangel families and myself. My sister Amy (Amelia) followed in 2002, and is a great addition to the choir of which, under normal circumstances I would be the choir leader.

When we went into lock-down in March of this year, we were on our way back from a long-awaited hospital appointment with our deacon. Initially we were very shocked and afraid at this daunting prospect. However, after a lengthy conversation he said, 'My sister, the Lord knows what He's doing, leave it in His hands!'

Both Amy and I have underlying health issues, therefore we were expected to shield. This did not bode well for us as we're a single income family, and also getting provisions posed a huge problem. So, we prayed, and put our concerns before the Lord.

The Lord opened so many doors of blessings and we could share them with our brothers and sisters, and even our neighbours.

The online divine services, the Wednesday devotionals, the morning, 'Thought for the Day,' and so much more, have all made our life so much more richer than it ever was as Children of God. We often

discuss what a blessing in many ways this pandemic has been. It has united us across continents. We don't need passports or visas to go to a service, or see each other thanks to technology. The Thought for the Day, especially, we look forward to every day.

And sometimes we're late, and teased for it, but we start our day off with a smile and secure in the knowledge that we're not alone, and that we are prayed for constantly. Also, we have connected with so many brothers and sisters from numerous congregations and formed wonderful friendships, which, under normal circumstances would never have come about!

This has kept us strong, and sometimes when one or the other becomes overwhelmed with the weight of it all, we remind ourselves of the words of the chief apostle: 'The first resurrection is not cancelled, and the return of Christ is not delayed!'

It gives us reassurance and comfort, and the strength to carry on.

Love and Blessings,

Charmaine and Amelia da Silva.



Invitation to Family Service.

Dear Parents and Children,

On Sunday 13th December, there will be a service dedicated to children and their parents in the UK and Ireland. There will be an opportunity to learn about the time of Advent (waiting for Jesus to return), share in the spirit of Christmas and to be connected with each other.

We will have FUN!

For the service I would like to invite all children to wear a Christmas jumper or hat... adults are welcome to do the same. We will turn on the cameras at the end of the service and want to see a rainbow of colours!

It will be INTERACTIVE.

The plan is that during the service everyone with a mobile phone will be asked to submit answers to questions related to the word for the day. The answers will be displayed anonymously for all to see and they will help us to learn. *Please ensure you have the bill payer's permission to use the phone.*

There will be pictures, bible stories, time to think about our actions as a child of God and much more.

Come and take part in an interactive divine service – with each other and our heavenly Father.

Looking forward to sharing a special divine service with you all.

Love
David Abrahamse





Fellowship

December Schedule



Date	Time	Event	Platform
2.12.20	8pm	Midweek Devotional	GTM for each district
6.12.20	10am	Divine Service	GTM for each district
6.12.20	10am	Youth Service UKIE	YouTube
9.12.20	8pm	Midweek Devotional	GTM for each district
13.12.20	10am	Divine Service aimed at families with children and young people up to the age of 14	<i>Online</i> https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005 <i>Telephone</i> United Kingdom: +44 330 221 0097 Access Code: 669-815-005
13.12.20	10am	Divine Service for all other groups	YouTube
16.12.20	10am	Divine Service for Seniors	<i>Online</i> https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/981527869 <i>Telephone</i> United Kingdom: +44 330 221 0088 Ireland: +353 16 572 651 Access Code: 981-527-869
16.12.20	8pm	Midweek Devotional	GTM for each district
20.12.20	10am	Divine Service	GTM for each district
25.12.20	10am	Divine Service	GTM for each district
27.12.20	10am	Divine Service	GTM for each district



District GTM logins

<https://nacukie.org/telephone-and-online-services-2020-connection-details-and-dates-time-of-services/>

NACUKIE YouTube channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC53Bwh_W17_uolxroG8BLA

Additional activities in December



Date	Time	Event	Platform
Weekday mornings until 18.12	6am 7am 8am	Thought for the Day	<i>Online</i> https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005 <i>Telephone</i> United Kingdom: +44 330 221 0097 Access Code: 669-815-005
Monday Evenings through December	8pm	Songs of Worship	<i>Youtube</i> https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFVvskXVeE3D3xHCbKNOSdA
Thursday evenings until 18.12	8pm	Bible Quiz	<i>Online</i> https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/669815005 <i>Telephone</i> United Kingdom: +44 330 221 0097 Access Code: 669-815-005