



nacukie news

Newsletter

2023 Q3 edition



Foreword

Change!

September 17th was a day of multiple changes to our church here in the UK and Ireland. Organizational changes and changes for individuals. Another huge change that we recently experienced was the passing of District Elder Jan Clement. It's impossible to embrace every change.

Perhaps that's why King Solomon in his wisdom already highlighted that there was a time for everything, with his extensive list of 28 themes he covered almost everything!

Ecclesiastes 3, starts:

'To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven.'

So, let's see what did actually change.

The UK North received a new District Leader. Our Evangelist David Abrahamse now has many new tasks ahead. I wish him well. I have already been praying for him intently.

Shepherd Neil Woodman was assigned as our new Bishop for UK and Ireland. Neil will remain in full time employment, so he has an enormous task ahead. Let's pray for David and Neil, and their families daily.

Both are wonderful ministers and when we support their works wholeheartedly then we can agree with King Solomon who in the same chapter has a side heading 'The God-Given Task,' followed by verses 10 & 11 where we read:

'I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity in their hearts.'

While both Neil and David carry on, things will not carry on in the same way. God's work always takes us to a new level. This is particularly seen in the transition from Elijah to Elisha. I think we can assume that Elijah was considered a poor man, perhaps just standing there in a robe and sandals with his staff and yet, he asked Elisha, 'What may I do for you?' 2 Kings 2:9.

Elisha, who refused several times to be separated from his mentor looked and, seeing past the poverty of the man, saw the spirit of God in him, 'Sure,' Elisha says, 'Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me,' and it was!

So, on reflection, we have experienced a positive change and can agree with Solomon when he wrote:

'I know that whatever God does, It shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear (be in awe) before Him.'

Ecclesiastes 3: 14-15

With love and greetings

David Middleton





Ministry

Retirement of Deacon Paul Armstrong.

On Sunday 9th July, following 20 years of ministry, our dear deacon was placed into ministerial retirement in our Tiverton congregation.

The date seems to have been spirit inspired as already months before, District Elder Jan Clement had 'chosen' the date and the location of his home congregation where he was the rector and Paul served as a faithful deacon. Sadly, following a short illness, on this very Sunday, our friend Jan, passed away.

Whilst the mood of the congregation was somber, we felt the overwhelming presence of our District Elder and we could not on his behalf as well as for the congregation, wish our dear Paul a most blessed rest from ministry.

Paul is widely known and much loved throughout the UK for his musical contributions to various online devotionals and services.

Being placed into retirement by Bishop David was also a touching moment as

the mothers of both ministers were close friends, their fathers had served together as priests and both Paul and David had attended the same Sunday school classes. ■



Ministry

Retirement of Bishop David Middleton.

District Apostle Krause chose Isaiah 58:11 as the basis for the sermon on Sunday 17th September 2023:

*The LORD will guide you continually,
And satisfy your soul in drought,
And strengthen your bones;
You shall be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water, whose
waters do not fail.*

District Apostle Krause could say of Bishop David Middleton: 'You were always a great support to the apostles among

whom you served and prepared the way for their visits to the congregations,' Furthermore, he was a witness of his faith, whose heart was so filled with the gospel, that he could not help but share it with others. Together with all apostles, brothers, and sisters, he wished Bishop Middleton a happy and blessed retirement.

For 49 years, Bishop Middleton was active as a minister for the New Apostolic Church, including 20 years as a bishop. Born and raised in Swindon in 1956, he was ordained a subdeacon in the congregation there in 1974, a deacon in 1978, and a priest two years later. This was followed by the office of evangelist in 1988 and district evangelist in 2002.

On Pentecost Sunday, June 8, 2003, Chief Apostle Richard Fehr ordained him as Bishop in Dortmund.

'We are deeply grateful to our dear Bishop, who served us for 49 years with a loving heart and great dedication.' District Apostle Krause paid tribute to him in a letter to the brothers and sisters in faith of the working area.

Following the retirement of Bishop David Middleton, the District Apostle assigned Neil Woodman as Bishop for UK and Ireland and appointed Evangelist David Abrahamse as District Rector for the UK North. He expressed his thankfulness to the two brothers for their willingness to serve the Lord and the souls entrusted into their care. ■



Ministry

Retirement of Deacon Chris Bartlett.

On Sunday 10th September, Apostle Heynes and Bishop Middleton served in our Birmingham congregation and joined together with the members to celebrate the retirement of our Deacon Chris Bartlett.

Chris served faithfully over many years and could say of the congregation: 'I feel loved when I come to church.' The congregation could also feel loved by their Deacon Chris too. ■



Fellowship

Youth Singing Weekend in Denmark

Under blue skies and in summery temperatures, young people from Denmark and Germany arrived late in the afternoon on Friday 18 August 2023 for a youth choir weekend in Denmark.

After a joint dinner, the first song rehearsals began and within a very short time a fantastic community arose. Even though several of the participants didn't know each other beforehand there was a lively conversation in Danish, German and English.

The musical direction was provided by Timo Schmidt and Gerrit Junge and the repertoire consisted of a colourful mix

of worship and praise songs in all three languages as well as singing exercises accompanied by clapping, stomping, stepping to beats, which put everyone in a good mood.

Empathy, excitement, compassion, understanding, helpfulness, humour, and the joy of praising the Lord through music and singing were the hallmarks of this weekend, where everybody contributed to everyone having a good time and feeling comfortable.

On Sunday 20 August, the congregation from southern Denmark, families and guests were invited to a service followed

by a concert, where the rehearsed songs were presented.

The event ended with church coffee together with the entire congregation and in the afternoon a happy group of young people left for home, having learned new songs and building new friendships.

We thank the Lord and are grateful for this event and the gift of being able to sing and worship together. We cannot repeat it but we are happy to continue! ■

Mette Pørksen Marwede



Ministry

District Elder Jan Clement 11th May 1959 to 9th July 2023.

Bishop David Middleton chose a text from Psalm 27:14 for the funeral service for Jan Clement on 24th August.

'Wait on the Lord; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!'

Jan was a colourful character in every sense and will be sorely missed by his dear wife Nicola, children Stuart and

Catherine and his brothers and sisters. Bishop Middleton concluded his sermon with the words from John 16:22

'Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.'

May this word be a source of comfort and hope for all those who grieve at this time. ■



Fond memories



DE Jan Clement, known for his colour fashion



DE Jan with the Icelandic missionary team



Fellowship

Glasgow reopens

July 9th Glasgow.

Text word.

Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.' And he was afraid and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!'

Genesis 28: 16–17.

Our District Evangelist Aspden began the service with 'Well here we are!' It was seven long months since a burst pipe flooded the church and finally, we were back home. All the repairs and cleaning were complete and what a most beautiful and fitting text word for our return to church.

God wants us all to experience and recognise He is with us in this place. Draw strength and dedicate and serve the Lord in faithfulness; you will feel His love.

It was a delight to hear the choir again and both Priest Paisley and Priest Chirwa assisted. Following the divine service, the congregation enjoyed fellowship together and made plans for the following weeks' activities hosting an outreach event for the local neighbourhood.

Saturday 15th July.

After extending many invitations to the neighbourhood and our contractors – the congregation enjoyed meeting and greeting our locals who were invited to see our newly refurbished building and enjoy some music and refreshments with us. ■



Online

New connection details for online activities.

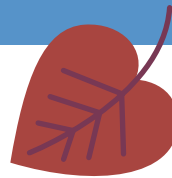
Morning Connection and Prayer
08:00 on Mondays and Fridays

Meeting code is 839-176-869
<https://meet.goto.com/NACMorningConnection>

Tuesday Evening prayer circle
19:00 on Tuesday evenings
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/924293821>

All are welcome to connect and join.





Ministry

Retirement of Priest Steven Richards.

Sunday 3rd September, our Nottingham and Leicester congregation combined for divine service and the retirement of Priest Steven Richards.

Steven has served in various ministries since the age of 17, just shy of 48 years!

Due to local circumstances, Priest Steven was able to conduct nearly all of the

Wednesday evening services and the mid-week congregation made a special presentation to him on Wednesday 30th September.

Priest Brefo also thanked our Priest for his many visits he made to our Leicester congregation where he was also much loved and appreciated.

Steven will be especially remembered for his dedication, humbleness and his kindness and his gift of choosing just the perfect hymn and verse for the divine services. ■



Priest Brefo thanking our retired Priest for serving in Leicester

Camberley



Reinstatement of Priest Andrew Maritz for Camberley

Nottingham



Ministers and wives retirement dinner



Dear Brothers and Sisters, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest thankfulness for the many well wishes, all the wonderful expressions recorded in so many cards and the wonderful gifts received before, during and since retirement. Also, for those able to contribute to the retirement tribute. I am so deeply touched by your outpouring of love and memories of days and conversations gone by.

I wish I could write to each one individually or express my thankfulness to you all personally but clearly that will not be possible. So, this is a small way to express my thanks and love to you all. We remain connected as expressed during my retirement and those connections are renewed each morning in our prayers for one another.

Thank you so much.
David Middleton

