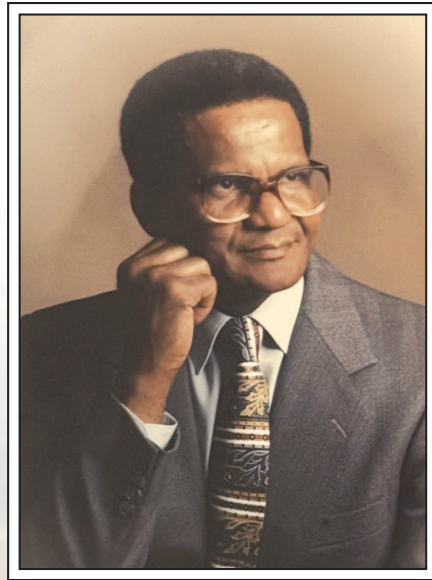


Celebration of Life



Keith Nathaniel Channer

Sunrise: 1st January 1937 - Sunset: 26th October 2025


Burton Town Hall,
King Edward Place, Burton on Trent, Staffs DE14 2EB
Friday 5th December 2025 at 10.30 am

Officiating Ministers:

Bishop Claion Grandison, Administrative Bishop NTCG

Bishop Dr Eric A. Brown

Bishop Lincoln Davis



Officiating Ministers
Bishop Claion Grandison
Bishop Dr Eric A. Brown
Bishop Lincoln Davis

Praise and Worship

Procession and Song

The Day Thou Gavest

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
the darkness falls at your request;
to you our morning hymns ascended,
your praise shall sanctify our rest.

We thank you that your Church, unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world her watch is keeping
and never rests by day or night.

As over continent and island
each dawn leads to another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor do the praises die away.

So be it, Lord! Your throne shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
your kingdom stands and grows forever
until there dawns your glorious day.

Welcome and Domestics

Opening Prayer

by Bishop Samuel Thompson
New Testament Church of God, Coventry

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

by Belinda Channer, niece

A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Congregation Hymn

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

Eulogy

read by the Channer children, Bishop Keith Nathaniel Channer
1st January 1937 – 26th October 2025

Today we gather to celebrate the life, the ministry and the extraordinary legacy of Bishop Keith Nathaniel Channer. A man of faith, a man of integrity, a man of quiet strength and deep conviction. A husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, pastor, mentor and friend. A man whose life was lived wholly for God and wholly for others.

He was the most wonderful of men. He was an anchor and a rock to his family.
He was an inspiration to the church and community.

Keith was born in Jamaica to William Nathaniel and Ethel May Channer. One of ten siblings, he grew up in a large, close-knit family rooted in Christian values, respect and hard work. Even as a child he was known for his gentleness and his obedience – so calm and compliant that people would say he didn't even frown. Those early years shaped his character: disciplined, humble, dependable and deeply anchored in faith.

At the age of seventeen, Keith committed his life fully to Christ. His salvation marked the beginning of a lifelong journey of service, sacrifice and dedication to the gospel. It was clear from early on that he was called to leadership, to teaching and to guiding others in the ways of the Lord.

As a young man, he attended the Water Lane New Testament Church of God in Montego Bay, where he was asked to teach Sunday School. Among his students was a young woman named Alice May Clarke – the woman who would one day become his wife. Their story began in the church, through ministry, service and devotion to God.

In 1960, Keith made the bold decision to migrate to the United Kingdom as part of the Windrush generation. He came to rebuild a country recovering from war, taking up work as a joiner in the construction industry – “just like Jesus,” as he often remarked. The environment he encountered was frequently hostile, but he remained undeterred. His resilience, dignity and discipline carried him through.

During this period, he exchanged letters with his former Sunday School student, Alice Clarke. Those “Epistles of Love,” as the family lovingly calls them, led to marriage. His beautiful handwriting may well have helped. Their marriage, which lasted almost sixty-two years, was a shining example of loyalty, prayer, faith and unity. Together they raised four children – Byron, Pamela, Clover and Terence – and were later blessed with seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The family also honours the memory of his daughter Maylin, who preceded him in death.

Keith was cherished not only by his own family but by his wife’s relatives as well, who embraced him wholeheartedly.

In the 1960s and 70s, Keith served faithfully at the New Testament Church of God in West Bromwich, now Oldbury. He worked closely under the leadership of the late Bishop S. U. Thompson and became the District Youth Director for Handsworth. He was instrumental in planting the Tipton church, taking his family house to house, witnessing and evangelising. He also served on the Bilston and Dudley Districts. His early ministry laid a foundation for the thousands of lives he would later impact.

In 1979, he was appointed Pastor of the New Testament Church of God Burton-on-Trent, and the family moved there permanently in 1981. His pastoral ministry in Burton was marked by prayerfulness, humility, dedication and deep love for the people he served. He was a Sunday School teacher, Youth Pastor, Evangelist, Pastor and eventually Bishop. He lived the gospel he preached. His integrity and steady example shaped generations.

Keith’s heart for justice extended beyond the church. He served as Chairman of the East Staffordshire Racial Equality Council, advocating for fairer housing and employment during a time when Caribbean families were routinely given “third-rate housing,” as he later recalled.

Whilst working in the construction industry in the 1980s, and as the only black worker on site, he was challenged by a white colleague who insisted that Apartheid in South Africa would continue to flourish. Keith responded with dignity, humility and conviction declaring that Apartheid would fall soon and certainly during his lifetime.

He fought injustice not with anger but with wisdom, clarity and resolve.

His construction skills were called upon in the 1990s when, as District Pastor in Derby, he led the acquisition and renovation of the derelict Methodist Church at 89 Brighton Road, Alvaston. His single-handed laying of the entire internal wooden floor – every nail hammered by hand – is a story that will be told for generations. It was more than repair work; it was a labour of love and a demonstration of his belief that God's house should be built with excellence.

Keith served as a prison chaplain at HMP Swinfen Hall and HMP Foston Hall.

He believed firmly that no one was beyond redemption, often quoting Romans 3: 23: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

His work in prisons gave hope to those who felt forgotten.

He served the nation as an NHS volunteer and chaplain for fifteen years. During the pandemic in 2020, at over eighty years old, he completed sixty-two press-ups in sixty seconds to raise funds for the NHS – a testament to his strength, determination and generosity. He retired from NHS service in 2024.

Keith played a vital role in organising Jamaican Independence Services, strengthening Caribbean identity and unity within the community.

He was an active presence in the Burton-on-Trent Caribbean Association and a respected voice in local civic life.

He was also a builder of people. He mentored young ministers, recommended many for ministry and supported those preparing for ordination or the bishopric. Even after retiring from active ministry, he continued to support the Leadership Training Centre, praying for and guiding upcoming ministers. His influence as a spiritual father spans generations.

In his personal life, Keith loved Scripture, music, preaching and practical work around the home and church. He had a sharp memory and could recite poetry learned in school decades earlier. He was an exceptional storyteller, captivating audiences with wisdom, humour and clarity. He supported West Indies cricket, enjoyed snooker and later developed a love for tennis.

And of course, he had his quirks. He could never walk past a comb without combing his hair. Presentation mattered to him. He believed in looking neat, disciplined and respectable at all times.

He was a man of excellence. Whatever he did – whether preaching to a congregation, speaking to a stranger, or hammering a single nail – he did it with care, precision and pride. He carried no bitterness, forgave readily and lived with a quiet, dignified strength.

In 2023, he was awarded the Freedom of the Borough of East Staffordshire. In his BBC Midlands Today interview he said:

“I think it’s a great honour. I think as Caribbean people who have come and laboured and given our all, it’s not that we held back. We gave our all wherever we were, at work, wherever. I think this is a great honour. I feel honoured.”

That honour could not have been more deserved.

He loved Caribbean cruises, and his final cruise in November 2024, shared with his children and some of his grandchildren, was a precious family memory.

Keith later faced his greatest earthly challenge when, in December 2024, he was diagnosed with mesothelioma, caused by asbestos exposure during his early years in construction. He endured his illness with dignity, courage and unwavering faith. His family – including three of his grandchildren Jesse, James and Sarah – who acted as overnight caregivers – surrounded him with devotion and love.

On Sunday 26th October 2025, at home and at peace, Bishop Keith Nathaniel Channer went to be with the Lord. Although his death – an industrial disease – will be the subject of an inquest, the truth remains clear: he gave everything he had, in work, in ministry and in love.

He was funny, kind, caring, humble and loving. He was a giant of a man – spiritually, morally and emotionally. He was an anchor and a rock to his family. He was an inspiration to the church and community. He was a faithful servant of God.

He will be sorely missed.

We commend him to God with the words of Scripture
that so perfectly fit his life:

“Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

Amen.

On 8th September 2020 Keith wrote assuredly in a Facebook post:
“When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound, and time shall be no more, and the morning breaks eternal bright and fair; when the saved of earth shall gather over on the other shore, and the roll is called up yonder, I’ll be there.”

Tributes

Children:

Byron Channer, Pamela Thompson, Clover Channer, Terence Channer

Siblings:

Merle Hibbert, Errol Channer, Beverley Bookal, Pamela Morrison,
Melville Channer, Sonia Blackwood

Grandchildren:

Dwain Channer, Sabrina Channer, Anthony Channer, Jesse Thompson,
James Thompson, Tyrone Channer, Sarah Thompson

Great-grandchildren:

Leona Channer, Jaiden Channer, Alayna Channer

Solo

by Bishop E G Beason
New Testament Church of God, Gloucester

Scripture

1 Corinthians 15: 51 - 58 (New King James Version)

by Reverend Bev Thomas, former Sunday School student

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep,
but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye,
at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be
raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For this corruptible must put on incorruption,
and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption,
and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought
to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

“O Death, where is your sting?

O Hades, where is your victory?”

The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable,
always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

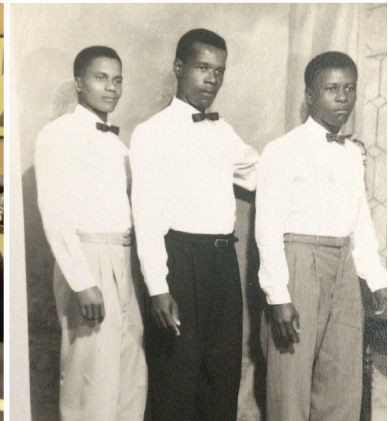
Tributes

NTCG NEC - Bishop Dr Derek Webley, National Secretary NTCG

Reverend Kevin Shaw
Reverend John Augustin
Reverend Virginia Thomas
Reverend David Shosanya



Please confirm placement.





Special Songs Request

by James Thompson

Beautiful Robes So White

Beyond The Sunset

Address

by Bishop Eric Brown

Prayer for the Family

by Reverend Hermilyn James

Viewing of the Body

Exit Hymn

When We All Get To Heaven

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

Refrain:

*When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!*

While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh. *(Refrain)*

Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay. *(Refrain)*

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open—
We shall tread the streets of gold. *(Refrain)*

Songs for the Cemetery

It Is Alright, Alright

What A Glory That Will Be

We Shall Have A Grand Time Up In Heaven

We Shall Have A New Name In That Land

I'm Gonna Say Goodbye, When My Life On Earth Is Ended

I'm Gonna Walk Those Streets Of Glory By And By

He Set Me Free One Day, He Set Me Free

Oh When The Saints Go Marching In

I Know Where I Am Going, I Know

Soon And Very Soon We Are Going To See The King

I'll Fly Away Oh Glory

By And By When The Morning Comes

Some Sweet Day, I'm Going Away

John Saw Them Coming

We Shall Be Changed

Oh What A Glory That Will Be

If You Miss Me Shouting Down Here

We Shall Have A New Name In That Land

Better Days Are Coming By And By
Meet Me By The River, Some Day
Oh I Want To See Him To Look Upon His Face
I'm Going Home On The Morning Train
When I Get There, When I Get There
T'will Soon Be Done, All Troubles And Trials
If I Had Wings Like A Dove
I Want To Go To Heaven And Rest
When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder
Some Glad Morning We Shall See Jesus In The Air
Someday, Someday, I'll Go Where Jesus Is
Goodbye World, I'll Stay No Longer With You
It's A High Way To Heaven
Across The Bridge There'll Be No Sorrow
Won't It Be A Time When We Get Over Yonder
My Home Is In Heaven
No Grave Can Hold My Body Down
Ring Out Those Heaven Bells, When I Get There

Tributes: Expressions from the heart

Keith my BELOVED HUSBAND with whom I spent nearly 62 years, was my ROCK we were like TWO PEAS in a pod, we did most things together, go places together although we differ in our likes and dislikes, but that was not a big issue, we got along by the GOOD GRACE of GOD. You were a WONDERFUL Husband, GOOD Father to our four children, you ADORED the GRANDS and GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, but most of all you were a FAITHFUL and HUMBLE SERVANT OF GOD.

I am missing you dearly, but SLEEP AND TAKE YOUR REST until THAT GREAT TRIUMPHANT MORNING WHEN THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL ARISE!! I'LL MEET YOU THEN WHERE THERE WILL BE NO SAD FAREWELL!! LOVE YOU FOREVER!!

Alice Channer, wife

My dad was a strong and dependable man – someone whose faith guided every step he took. He made us laugh, he supported us without question, and he showed me what it means to be a man of God. I'm grateful for his love, his lessons, and the joy he brought into our lives. I will carry his strength and his faith with me always. My dad will always be my hero.

Byron Channer, son

Our dad was an ordinary man who loved the Lord, loved his family and loved people. He was disciplined, a man of excellence, of integrity and of great principles.

He loved us all as children without favouritism and desired the best for each one. He was proud of our achievements and made sure we knew.

Dad was fun, loved hanging out with us as small children to grown adults - took us on many day trips as children, looked forward to just being at our homes and being with his grandchildren. We went on many holidays, travelling together nationally and internationally. He set for us a great example, he was fervent in hospitality, and generally made people feel they mattered.

Great storyteller, amazing wit and awesome memory gems.

Meet you in the morning Dad - much love

Pam Thompson, daughter

Dad was so greatly respected at home and outside the home. He was a real man of God. Words fail me at this time as our family journeys through the passing of our beloved dad.

Love you so much Dad. X

Clover Channer, daughter

I asked God why.

Not why God took Dad, but why He gave me such a wonderful father. More than 25 years ago the realisation acutely dawned on me and I rang Dad to tell him that I loved him (and Mom). I remember it vividly, like it was yesterday.

He walked with dignity, humility and pride.

I loved him dearly. He was my hero. I was so proud of him and I am deeply proud of his rich legacy.

I feel so blessed to have had him in my life.

I now have very precious memories (many captured in photographs and videos).

I am deeply honoured that he called me son.

Thank you Lord!

Terence *Channer, son*

Please confirm if this
is to be printed.

It would be quite unnatural if I were not touched by the life of brother Keith.
Being the youngest of the siblings he was my mentor, and today I praise God for
his life of example and a journey well-travelled.
We had some memorable times together. I attended his 50th wedding
anniversary and was the special guest at his 80th birthday party.
Now that his journey of life is over and he is resting, awaiting the return of our
Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
My hope is to meet him again and together
We shall sit at the feet of Jesus, so let us comfort one another.

Sonia Blackwood, sister, USA

An uncle, father figure and confidant. I will always treasure those special family
times we shared together.
New Years, birthday conversations were always so special. Always there for dad,
nothing was too much.
Travelling to New York to be by his side. You laughed, when my nephew asked,
'which is the real grandad?' so much was your resemblance.
But how you loved the Lord and guided me and so many others in the most
gentle of ways, is what I'll be forever grateful for.
So blessed to have had you in my life.
Until we meet again.
Your niece, Belinda

Belinda Channer, niece

My Dear Uncle Keith,
Thank you for your words or wisdom, wit, kindness, love and compassion.
You were the best uncle anyone could ever have wished for and we'll miss you.
God bless and may you rest in eternal peace.
From your nephew Everton X

Everton Nelson, nephew

In loving memory of Uncle Keith Channer, a man whose warmth, kindness, and generosity touched everyone he met. He had a special way of making those around him feel valued and loved. His laughter, stories, and guidance will remain in our hearts. We honour Uncle Keith today with gratitude, remembering his spirit. The extraordinary life he led, and lasting impact he made on all who knew him.

Rest in peace dear Uncle from your loving family in Canada.

Dawn Brotherton, niece, Canada

Keith, you were the sibling I came after.
We spent happy times together during childhood days.
You were loved by everyone.
In school you were so brilliant with good penmanship, very good writing.
Although you migrated you kept in touch with the family.
You were a young, dedicated Christian and kept the faith.
Miss you, but in my heart your memories linger.
Sleep well, enjoy the rest.
Meet you in the resurrection!!

Beverley Bookal, sister, USA/Jamaica

Melville, better known as Peru, number eight of the children and the last boy.
My brother Keith was always a mentor and a leader for us.
He played a very important role in our family.
He always had something good to say.
He has left us an empty chair.
May he find a resting place.

Melville (Peru) Channer, brother, Canada

Daddy Channer, thank you for being an extraordinary father-in-law, mentor, and father. I aspire to emulate your remarkable qualities. You have shown me nothing but love and respect, and I am truly thankful to be part of your family. You have welcomed me into the family with open arms, and I will always be grateful for your kindness and acceptance. Your calming presence, peaceful spirit and unwavering faith in God are a constant source of inspiration to my marriage and family, and I am ever so grateful. May your soul rest in eternal peace with God.

Joe Thompson, son-in-law

Sleep On Beloved

Sleep on, beloved, sleep, and take thy rest;
Lay down thy head upon thy Saviour's breast;
We love thee well, but Jesus loves thee best--
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Calm is thy slumber as an infant's sleep;
But thou shalt wake no more to toil and weep:
Thine is a perfect rest, secure and deep--
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Until the shadows from this earth are cast,
Until He gathers in His sheaves at last,
Until the twilight gloom be over past--
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

Until the Easter glory lights the skies,
Until the dead in Jesus shall arise,
And He shall come, but not in lowly guise--
Good-night! Good-night! Good-night!

At the end of the service, please vacate the Main Hall. For those not going to the cemetery, tea/coffee will be provided in the Lingen Room and Dove Room.

We will reassemble in the Main Hall after 3pm for the reception.



*The interment will now take place at
Stapenhill Cemetery, 38 Stapenhill Road, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9AE.*

Thank you

Keith's family extends thanks to everyone for all the kind messages, visits, phone calls, flowers and gifts. They appreciate your sentiments, support, friendship and prayers during this difficult time.

You are invited to rejoin the family at the Town Hall for the reception, where you are invited to continue in sharing your memories and reflections of their beloved Keith.

Donations in memory of Keith received on behalf of New Testament Church of God: Sydney Street Project and may be left in the donation box as you leave the service or by scanning QR code below.



Central coop

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