



Newbury Baptist Church Profile

1. Introduction

Newbury Baptist Church (NBC) is looking for an experienced minister who can wrap their arms around us, nurture and energise us to live our vision of being a connected church with a heart for connecting people to God.

We are a community of Christians who believe in living out our Christian faith as effectively as possible, making an impact with those who do not know the great news about Jesus Christ. We believe we should share that good news of Jesus, equip people in their faith journey and see them live their faith out in the world. We are blessed to have a wide variety of ages in our congregation. As a church we are keen to reach out and make a difference to the community we serve.

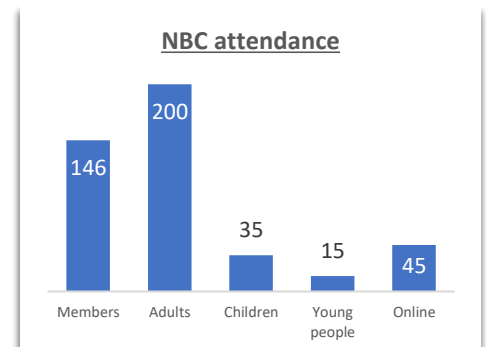


2. Our church as it is now

Membership

The formal NBC membership is **146**, with **30-35** children and **15** young people. In total there are around **200** adults who interact with NBC. Typically, on a Sunday, there are about 100 people at a service. Our online services are regularly watched by about 45. Demographically we are fairly representative of the Newbury area.

We have around 30-35 children aged 11 or below who regularly attend children's activities and creche on a Sunday morning. There are a further 15 young people who regularly attend our youth work.



Services

Our main service is at 10am on a Sunday. This comprises worship, children's talk, prayer, bible reading and sermon. We sometimes have interviews or sharing from church members or visitors. The children generally stay in the service for about 15 minutes then go to separate groups. We broadcast the service live on YouTube ([Newbury Baptist Church Live](#)).



The style of the service is fairly traditional with a worship band normally leading the music. We also have an organ which is played for some hymns where possible.

Moving forward we want to encourage physically meeting as much as possible whilst developing our online presence. We need to understand



the best way to meet and how to evolve our services following the shifts seen post-COVID.

Activities

NBC runs many activities throughout the week and on Sundays both for the church itself and the wider community.

We currently have 6 small groups who meet regularly. This is an area that needs focus as we have had many more in the past. We see small groups as a core part of church life and a way to encourage one another, deepen relationships, develop our faith, understand God's Word and help pastorally.

There is a monthly prayer meeting which is currently meeting via Zoom.

We have a number of young children and during Sunday services we run a creche for under 3s and Sunday school (Chattabox) for 3 to 11 year olds. There are approximately 12 in the crèche. During the week the church runs a toddler group called Giggles and Wiggles which is mainly used by non-church attendees. About 30 families come each week, with around 40 families on the regular list.

For older children and teenagers NBC runs a youth group called Ignite, which runs on Sunday evenings. It provides a mix of Bible study, discussions, prayers, fun and games. During the Sunday morning service a group called Dig Deeper meets for age-appropriate Bible Study.

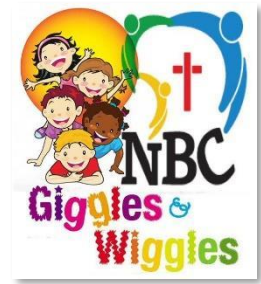
A dedicated group of leaders runs a long established Boys Brigade Company with a small group of boys currently in attendance.

For seniors, there is First Thursday lunch which is held on the first Thursday in each month and provides an opportunity for Seniors to come together and worship at a traditional style service, which lasts for approximately half an hour.

For men there are opportunities to meet together at men's breakfast, once a month, and at a dedicated small group called BOB. This is a study and fellowship group for all backgrounds who meet in order to help each other through the honest sharing of the challenges of life - by prayer and practical support reflecting on the teachings in the bible and the guidance in other books of relevance.

The Ladies Fellowship group meets weekly, which is a group for ladies of any age with a prayer time and social activities, and mainly consists of retired ladies.

The church has a talented group of flower arrangers who prepare weekly displays on a Sunday, with donations from church members. The flowers are then distributed as part of the church pastoral ministry.



Buildings

The main site for NBC is situated in the centre of Newbury, next to the train station, on Cheap Street. The site comprises the main church building, church hall and Morton Hall with a car park for approx. 30 cars.

Within the main church building there is a vestibule/welcome area, small kitchen, toilet facilities, church office, minister's office and the auditorium with seating for 120. To enable the live streaming of services there has been a significant investment in camera, lighting and sounds systems within the auditorium. Throughout the main buildings there is public Wi-Fi access.

The church hall is directly linked to the main church building and is a flexible space that can be divided in two. Next to the hall is a large kitchen along with toilet facilities. There is an upstairs with 2 further rooms. The Morton Hall is a separate building on the same site that includes a main space, toilet facilities and a kitchen.

In 2020 planning permission was obtained for an extensive redevelopment of the site; however it was decided not to proceed with the plans.

The Church owns a manse which is about a 15 minute walk away.

Staff

The church is supported by a part-time creative co-ordinator, responsible for providing and co-ordinating creative input for NBC services, and a part-time administrator. We are currently recruiting for a Children and Youth Worker.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

NBC is a charity that became a CIO IN November 2020.

Diaconate

The church is led by a committed diaconate of 9 people (there can be up to 12). There are annual elections to the diaconate which provides continuity as the Deacons are elected for a three year period, and the total number of deacons varies from year to year. Deacons are also Trustees in the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

Wider connections

NBC is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain as well as the local Southern Counties Baptist Association.

NBC is part of **Churches Together Newbury Area (CTNA)**. This brings together the churches of Newbury, the surrounding area, and associated organisations to share God's love.



There are strong links to **Street Pastors** both through church members and the use of NBC as a base on Saturday nights. NBC also supports **CAP, Christian Outreach in Newbury Schools (COINS)** and the **West Berkshire Foodbank**.



NBC supports Jonathan Edwards and his transitional ministry for several churches as well as an adviser for a number of Christian disability charities.

Currently NBC supports the Mahon family who are serving in Peru as part of BMS' long-term programme. The church is also partnering with a couple who are seeking ministry opportunities with BMS in a politically sensitive part of the world.



3. The Church we would like to see

NBC is a friendly, community focused church in a great location at the heart of Newbury town centre. We enjoy fellowship with each other either through the main church meeting or small groups. Family is important and we have a wide range of ages across the church. As a community we recognise that we face a number of challenges including leadership and direction, prayer life, outreach, engagement, and pastoral care.

We would like NBC to be a community that worships and serves together, where all are welcomed, encouraged, loved and cared for, and enabled and equipped to share God's love with others.



4. The minister we believe we need

NBC is looking for an experienced minister to lead and equip us on the next stage of our spiritual journey, as we rebuild after the pandemic. NBC is committed to supporting a leadership team appropriate for the size of congregation.

We are looking for someone who is passionate and knowledgeable about teaching the gospel, inspiring others yet can also relate to the varied and different members of the congregation. Someone with vision and leadership skills along with the energy to encourage the church to build up one another and to reach out to the local community.

They will bring together a team with complementary gifts, skills and experiences, working with the membership to identify needs and gaps in resources that can be filled either through development or recruitment. We are looking for a leader with experience of building and developing a team of both full time and voluntary workers who can take us to a new place in our service and celebration of God's work in individuals and in the world.



5. A brief history of the church

Newbury Baptist Church is thought to have begun sometime before 1640. It has been located in various places in the town centre including upper rooms of what is now a department store in the town centre. The church located to its current site before the second world war, with the current buildings built in the late 1930s. A detailed history of the church is available on the website, including a book written by one of the members in 2003.



6. The area

Newbury is a market town in West Berkshire that grew very rapidly in the 80's and 90's as the Thames Valley economic boom extended west. Newbury has a population of about 44,000. Located on a major junction where the A34, running north/south from Southampton to Liverpool, crosses the M4, running east/west between London and Wales.

The town centre has a range of independent and chain stores, with plenty of coffee shops, twice weekly markets and monthly Farmer's Markets, a cinema, library and the Corn Exchange. The Kennet and Avon canal runs through the middle of the town, with an attractive lock and swing bridge, with views of St Nicolas' Church. Newbury has two parks with Victoria Park and Goldwell and Northcroft Parks flanking the east and west sides of the town centre.



Newbury as a town has had an "effective" zero unemployment for more than 30 years. The area is identified as one of the wealthiest in the country, with easy road and rail access to London, there is a strong commuter population. This does not preclude Newbury from some of the endemic social challenges of our age, including poverty, loneliness, addiction etc.

The church is situated on the edge of the town centre with most of the congregation coming to the church from the residential areas around the town. The church has been considering ways to connect with a new residential development which is nearing completion close to the church site.



7. Practical matters

Stipend

As a senior minister we would offer a stipend of 130% of the standard.

Along with the stipend, there is also accommodation provided rent free on an unfurnished basis, with the church paying for council tax, water rates, building insurance (not content insurance) and phone/internet charges (excluding the cost of private calls). The church would also reimburse the cost of gas/electricity.

Accommodation

The manse is a 4-bedroom semi-detached house located in a pleasant residential area within easy walking distance of the town centre railway station and a range of amenities. There is a paved forecourt at the front and garage to the side. To the rear is a sizable garden with a large decking area accessed directly from the house and shed at the bottom. Internally on the ground floor is a well-equipped kitchen with linked dining area, a lounge, WC and a separate room to the rear which could be used as an office/study. Upstairs there are 3 double bedrooms (one ensuite) and a single bedroom as well as a separate bathroom/WC. Central heating throughout (gas fired) and a small gas fire in the lounge. It is situated next to St Bartholomew's School, a secondary school which recently received an Outstanding in all areas rating from Ofsted. The manse is also close to other good primary schools.

The church building also has dedicated office space for the Senior Minister.

