

WEEKLY NEWS

Newbury Baptist Church

Wednesday 31st July 2024

1 YEAR ON...

Last Sunday marked one year since we packed all our belongings into a big yellow lorry and moved from Great Yarmouth to Newbury.

This also means it's almost a year since Claire's car conked out, both the girls caught chicken pox and the manse boiler broke! However, despite those relatively minor hiccups, as I look back upon my first year as Minister, what stands out to me is God's faithfulness.

We knew and expected life would be very different, and it certainly has been. But this has almost entirely been positive, with the Lord providing for each of my family in different ways, as we have sought to make friendships and settle into work, school and nursery. Being part of a minister's family can be a strange and sometimes disruptive experience, yet God has shown that when he calls, he also provides - and that promise is just as true for the girls as it has been for me.



Soon after I arrived in Newbury, someone from NBC shared a verse with me which they felt God had put on their heart. It was Colossians 2:2, which says: "My purpose is that they may be

encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely Christ."

It's a verse which chimed with one of the core things which I believe God has called me to express in my ministry; namely seeking to encourage foundations of a loving church family, united by our shared faith in Jesus, so that in turn we might encounter God in deeper and more transformative ways.

I think there remains a sense that God is very much at work in NBC. We've seen it through dedications, baptisms and members stepping out in faith to serve God locally and abroad. We see it in the quiet conversations and invitations to join and foster community. We take joy at the sight of dozens of children charging out to their classes every Sunday; each one being nurtured in their young faith.

Of course we are far from being a perfect people.

We are a work in progress. But it's a genuine privilege to share in that journey with you, and exciting to see where our faithful God is leading us.

May he continue to bless you, and our church.



CHURCH NEWS

FIRST THURSDAY, 1ST AUG, 2:30PM

Please note that tomorrow's First Thursday meeting is a special afternoon tea, and as such the meeting starts at **2:30pm** not the regular midday time, as advertised last week.

The service will include a time of sharing favourite hymns and readings, before we share tea and cakes. All are welcome to attend.

MUSIC TEAM REQUEST

The Music Team are in need of an iPad to help with the transition from paper to electronic music. If you have an unused 10" iPad that you would be willing to donate, we would love to hear from you.

Please speak to Philippa or email musicleaders@newburybaptistchurch.org

Thank you.

FAMILY SUMMER HOLIDAY SOCIALS

We know the summer holidays can be tough for parents. We are planning a couple of fun afternoons to 'lighten the load' and encourage our children to play together and burn off some energy!

You are very welcome to join us at either/both of the following:

Friday 9th August: Anytime from 12:00 near the splash pad in Victoria Park.

Bring a picnic and some swimming things if your kids plan to get wet!

Tuesday 27th August: Anytime from 1:30 by the picnic area at Snelsmore Common.

Bring any ball games or suitable outdoor games and the kids can play and build some dens!

Please speak to Sarah for any further information: sarahm@newburybaptistchurch.org

SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES & SOCIAL

Our Bible-lympics summer series is up and running!

Following the final service on 1st September, we will have our very own 'Closing Ceremony', finishing with a Church Picnic and games in Victoria Park. We hope you will be able to join us for a time of fun and fellowship together.

CTNA WEEK OF PRAYER, 8TH-14TH SEPTEMBER

Christians Together in Newbury are organising a week of prayer, which will be hosted at a number of different churches, including NBC on Tuesday 10th September at 7.30pm.

Further details will be provided during August, but if you would like to get involved in helping set up our prayer space, please speak to Jo: jo@newburybaptistchurch.org



FAMILY PRAYERS

If you have something you'd like the NBC Church Family to be praying for, please let us know by emailing the Church Office: office@newburybaptistchurch.org

BETHAN C

Please continue to pray for Bethan, as she makes her final preparations before flying to South Africa.

She is about to spend four months with Operation Mobilisation, as part of their REACH program. This involves bible training, cultural acclimatisation and outreach. It often acts as a gateway to a longer internship, and would allow Bethan to utilise her Masters in Humanitarian Aid.

Please pray for the final arrangements being made, that Bethan secures the remaining funding she needs, and for a fruitful and safe time in South Africa.

PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD

There seems to be a stark juxtaposition between the start of the Olympics - an event which is supposed to bring nations together - and acts of violence, disaster, escalation and war. So let us take some time to bring some of these things before God in prayer.

We come before you God, in the midst of a broken and hurting world. The same world which you saw needed rescuing from itself. Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you that in coming to you through him, we have a hope which is more powerful than any of the brokenness around us.

We pray that you would draw close to those victims who are grieving and affected by the recent stabbings in Southport. We think especially of those three families who have lost their children. Hold them in your tender, loving arms, we pray.

We think too of the dozens of people killed and trapped in the recent landslides in southern India. We pray for the rains to stop and emergency access to be able to assist. We pray too for the huge recovery and rebuilding process which will have to begin. Bring wisdom to those tasked with leading and organising this, we pray.

As fears rise over a new war in Israel with Hezbollah, we pray once more for peace in that troubled land. What seems impossible for human hands, is possible for you, Lord. We pray for Your Kingdom To Come, in those places where the feet of Jesus once trod.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.