

# Weekly News

## 4th September

### FUN: THE UNDERRATED SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE

Following last Sunday's service, around 50 from NBC headed over to Victoria Park for a picnic together, as we marked the end of our summer series on the 'Bible-lympics'.

Despite a slightly ominous forecast, the clouds parted and the sun shone brightly as we spent a couple of hours chatting, playing games and sharing Simon's giant pack of cocktail sausages!

It was a lovely way to round off our all-age services, and a reminder of how important it is to spend time together as a church family beyond our usual services and regular group activities.

The 'churchy' word for this is 'fellowship', which, for me, is another Christian-ism that can join 'pastoral care', 'evangelism' and 'discipleship' as words which most people inside a church understand, but which are rarely used outside its four walls.

Fellowship is essentially about spending time together and forming relationships. I am convinced that healthy churches are ones where genuine friendships exist amongst the congregation, and where there is a desire to spend time with people whose paths we may otherwise never cross.

It is a sign of the presence of God; people drawn together through the bonds of faith.

This can sound quite serious, when in fact one of the key things required to cultivate such a culture is the presence of fun.

When we read about Jesus spending three years travelling with his disciples, or the early church emerging in Acts, it seems impossible that there weren't jokes or moments of fun.

Jesus celebrates at weddings and reclines at the dinner table with friends. Have you ever been to a wedding or shared dinner with friends when there wasn't at least a moment of fun and laughter?

To have fun is an integral part of what it is to be human.

You don't need me to tell you that fun can take many forms. One of the things I particularly enjoyed about Sunday's picnic was seeing a wide spread of people having fun as they took part in the team games.

Different generations; people who didn't necessarily know each other that well; brought together by such simple things as throwing and catching tennis balls and balancing bean bags on their heads! And the soundtrack to this was one of laughter. The noise of people who are happy to be doing something a little silly together.

Sharing in moments like these are important because they are formative. They help us move away from being a bunch of individual believers, towards the kind of community which Paul describes in Galatians 6:10 as "the family of believers."

There will always be moments where solemnity and quiet reflection is required, but God is not restricted to revealing himself to us solely in such times.

We can also learn something of God's joyful character amidst noise and laughter. May NBC always take seriously the need for fun, as we journey in life and faith together.

Peter

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1

# CHURCH NEWS

## SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

A reminder that all our regular church activities are restarting this month.

This includes **First Thursday** tomorrow (5th), **Giggles & Wiggles** (6th), **Men's Breakfast** (7th), and **Ladies Breakfast** (14th).

Our regular children's and youth groups will also return from this Sunday (8th).

## DEACONS ELECTIONS

Our next Church Members Meeting is on **Sunday 29th September**.

The following deacons will complete their current term of office: Carol, Di, Neal, Tim, Tom.

If you would like to nominate someone to stand, please speak to that person and ask them to prayerfully consider it.

Nominations must be sent to the Church Secretary (nealr@newburybaptistchurch.org) by **SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER**.

## BAPTISM CLASSES

Peter will be running baptism classes for those interested at the end of September/beginning of October. If you are interested please sign up by **Sunday 15th September**.

This is an open invitation for anyone who has not been baptised to explore what baptism means, and how it connects to church life in a friendly, non-judgemental group environment.

There is no obligation to be baptised at the end of the classes.

To register your interest please sign up on the 'What's On' section of our website [here](#).

## ORGAN CELEBRATION SERVICE: SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER, 2PM

In anticipation of the upcoming building works and the removal of the organ, we wanted to give it a fitting send-off, with a Songs of Praise style celebration service.

A number of our past and present organists will be joining us to play a selection of favourite traditional hymns in an hour-long service on Saturday 12th October at 2pm.

This will be followed by tea and cakes in the Foyer.

## CTNA WEEK OF PRAYER - SEPTEMBER 8TH-14TH

Christians Together in Newbury have organised a week of prayer this month, with various churches hosting meetings, including NBC.

We will be opening a prayer space for a prayer meeting on **Tuesday 10th September, 7.30-8.30pm**. The theme to focus our prayers will be 'global crises'.

Following the success of the Easter prayer space, we are planning to do something similar, with a series of interactive prayer stations. This will also be available to Small Groups and others to use throughout the week. If you'd like your group to use the prayer space, please contact Jo: [jo@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:jo@newburybaptistchurch.org)

The prayer space will be open for anyone to use from Sunday-Thursday 5:30-7:30pm.

Below is an outline of the various CTNA prayer meetings taking place across Newbury:

Sunday 8th	6:00-7:00pm	St Nicolas Church	Starting with prayer: Evening Service
Monday 9th	7.30-8.30pm	The Well, Thatcham	Praying for West Berkshire
Tuesday 10th	7:30-8:30pm	Newbury Baptist	Praying for Global Crises
Weds 11th	12:30-1:30pm	Greenham Common	Praying for the Churches
Weds 11th	7:30-8:30pm	St. Mary's, Shaw	Lectio Divina
Thursday 12th	12:30-2:30pm	St. John's Church	Praying Through Creativity
Thursday 12th	7:30-8:00pm	Newbury Methodist	Praying for those in authority
Friday 13th	7:00-7:30am	Online (Zoom)	Praying the Psalms
Friday 13th	12:30-2:30pm	St. Joseph's Church	Prayer for the Environment
Friday 13th	7:30-8:30pm	Kennet Christian Centre	Praying for Newbury
Saturday 14th	11:00-Noon	Meet outside St. Nic's	Newbury Prayer Walk

## CHURCH BUILDING WORK DATES

The Church Hall upgrade works are scheduled to begin on 10th November and are expected to last 8-10 weeks.

After the Hall is completed, the work in the Church will follow. This is expected to be from the third week in January and will last 4-6 weeks, depending on what is found beneath the pulpit.

The Church will still be usable in this time, but the stage area will be boarded off for the duration of the work.

There will be some minor loss of car parking in the area of the Morton Hall, to allow material storage and skips to be located away from the main car park.

If you have any questions please email [nbcbuildings@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:nbcbuildings@newburybaptistchurch.org).

## SONRISE CHURCH RESOURCES

As Shoemakers Christian Bookshop is now closed, the manager, Steve Wood, is continuing to supply Christian Resources to Newbury, Thatcham and the surrounding area via Sonrise Christian Resources.

You can phone Steve to talk through the options available and for any advice on choosing baptism gifts or cards, bible translations or commentaries, daily devotional readings or books that give biblical perspective on topical issues. For church groups, Steve can supply course materials, bookstalls for events and age-appropriate gifts for children.

Whatever your need Steve would love to talk through your requirements and how he can help. You can also browse the website (link below).

Tel: **07396 825097**

Website: **[www.sonrisechristianresources.co.uk](http://www.sonrisechristianresources.co.uk)**

## SAVE THE DATE: LIGHT PARTY, 31ST OCTOBER

The Light Party will be returning on 31st October, 5-6:30pm, for a fun evening of games, crafts, food and stories. This is for all children in primary school (reception - year 6).

Save the date and encourage your children to invite their friends.

Online booking will open later this month and invitations will be made available for children to give to their friends.

We also need some more volunteers to make the party a success. This includes helping the children with the crafts and games, food preparation, registration, and a pack-down team to clear up and put the chairs back in the church afterwards.

We would also like a team of people praying for the event whilst it is happening. You can do this in your own home or meet up with others to pray together.

Please email Sian if you would like to help [sianc@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:sianc@newburybaptistchurch.org)

## WE ARE HIRING! OPERATIONS MANAGER ROLE

Our advert for the Operations Manager role at NBC is now live!

If you are interested in applying or know someone who might be an ideal candidate, please share the job description with them, which can be found [here](#)

Applications need to be received by Monday 23rd September.

Interviews will take place during the week commencing 7th October.

Please pray that the right person would see the advert and apply, and for the recruitment team as they receive and review any applications.

# Prayer Space

**Do you have something you'd like to share for prayer?  
Please let us know by emailing: [office@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:office@newburybaptistchurch.org)**

## SIMON M

Please pray for Simon, who was taken into Royal Berkshire hospital on Monday and is seriously ill.

Pray too for Barbara and their children at this time.

## BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYERS

Lots of our children and young people are heading back to school today (Wednesday), with a number starting at new schools. There will inevitably be a mixture of excitement and nervousness as they get to grips with new classes, new teachers and new lessons. We also pray for the teachers and school workers in our church, as they prepare to welcome the pupils back to school and begin another year of learning. Let us pray...

Loving God, we thank you for the rest, relaxation and fun that has been enjoyed over the summer.

Today we pray for our children as they begin their new school year. Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning.

We think especially of those who are starting at new nurseries, schools and colleges.

Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

We give you thanks for the gift of teachers and those who are committed to nurturing and educating our children. Grant them wisdom, patience and joy in serving their pupils. May they be beacons of light, radiating your love, kindness and compassion in the schools where they work.

We pray that this will be a fruitful term for all in school, and ask for your blessing upon them.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

## PRAYER WALKING

Next Wednesday (11th) we are resuming our weekly prayer walk around Newbury. A small group of us meet at 10am outside NBC and walk around the town, praying at various points along the way. This has proven to be an encouraging and uplifting time over the past year, with God often opening our eyes to new things and places, as well as blessing our conversations as we walk. All are welcome to join us.