

Weekly News

18th September

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR GLOBAL CRISES

Throughout the CTNA Week of Prayer, we hosted a prayer space featuring various prayer stations focused on the theme of global crises. There was lots of positive engagement, with some thought-provoking responses at the prayer stations.

The week highlighted the importance of praying together, and the reminder that we are connected to something bigger than ourselves at NBC.

Below are some of the prayers and comments which were left at various points in the prayer space. Hopefully in reading these you may be inspired to not only continue praying for some of the biggest and complicated issues in our world, but also to participate in future prayer events.

At the "Solidarity Prayer Wall", participants were invited to add sentences to create a wall of prayers. These included:

"Lord, may I welcome the stranger and those who are different from me."

"Thank you that your eyes are on the orphan and the widow - the broken hearted and the wounded. Look out for them and protect them."

Another prayer station featured a prayer tree, with branches filled with prayers written on paper leaves, thinking on issues around climate change.

"Thank you that creation is so inspiring! Please help us to be better stewards of it."

"Thank you that you reveal your amazing power through creation. You are in creation, and creation is yours."

The Story Box was used as a treasure chest to put prayers for those who are forced to leave their homes and their possessions in search of safety. Some prayers picked up upon the journeys made by Abraham and other biblical characters, while others prayed for protection and peace.

"Lord, we pray for all those who are fleeing from their homes, family, friends, jobs, schools, churches and all they know. Help them safely travel to a new homeland, whether it is temporary or permanent. We pray that those they meet along the way will demonstrate kindness, grace and humility."

One of the popular prayer stations involved making simple creations out of Duplo blocks, and praying for the work of rebuilding which is needed in various places and situations. Prayers were offered for the conflicts in Israel and Gaza, as well as in areas which had suffered from natural disasters.

As we continue to commit the crises in our world to God in prayer, may we too be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit working within us, and our ears attuned to the Spirit's promptings, so that our hearts may increasingly be aligned with God the Father's heart.

CHURCH NEWS

SIMON MOFFAT THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Simon's service will take place at NBC on **Thursday 19th September, 3pm.**

All are welcome to attend.

Please continue to pray for Barbara and the family at this difficult time.

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.

CHURCH BUILDING WORK UPDATE

Work to prepare for the church building work is underway. We've been clearing out cupboards (mainly the former Boys Brigade store), and there are a number of items available to anyone who can make use of them.

Email nbcbuildings@newburybaptistchurch.org if you (or someone you know) would like any of the following:

2 x large foam hands	2 x portable gas stove/hob
1 x camping gas duo	1 x camping gas dual burner
1 x pair inflatable goal posts	6 x packs playing cards
1 x Stack Em (Jenga)	1 x 7" saucepan
1 x 8" saucepan	1 x camping kettle
1 x 5" sieve	2 x battery camping Lights
1 x Swing Ball – tennis	7 x badminton racquets
2 x Donnay tennis racquets	1 x boules set
1 x bat and ball set (2 bats and one ball)	1 x hoopla set
5 x plastic oars (3 long, 2 short) long	2 x aluminium and plastic oars 4ft
13 x plastic hockey sticks	1 x kite
1 x Slazenger short tennis kit (Inc bag)	1 x wooden rolling pin

CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING

Please note our next Church Meeting is on **Sunday 29th September**, following the service.

The agenda and other documents are available in the members area of the website.

DEACONS ELECTIONS

At our Church Members Meeting on 29th September, we will be holding a deacons election.

The following people have been nominated to stand:



Name: Tom Clifton

Nominated by: Nick Freeman

Seconded by: Dave Andrews



Name: Tim Dent

Nominated by: Valerie Vardy

Seconded by: Angie Bryant



Name: Neal Rankin

Nominated by: Di Cullen

Seconded by: John Cullen



Name: Steve Vardy

Nominated by: Nikki Wilby

Seconded by: Daph Appleby

WE ARE HIRING! OPERATIONS MANAGER ROLE

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.

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).

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

Prayer Space

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

One of the books I have recently been reading is called *Struggling With God: Mental Health and Spirituality* by John Swinton. It has been helpful to think about the impact that mental health can have on faith. When we pray, we often remember those who are physically unwell, or who have an obvious emotional need, such as the bereaved, but we don't always include those struggling with their mental health. Below is a prayer to help us think about and lift up to God all those who suffer with anxiety, depression, fear and trauma. Let us pray...

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who are anxious, isolated, lonely or grieving. We pray for all those whose mental health has suffered in recent years, and who face a daily struggle.

We lament the stigma and prejudice that has infected our attitudes to mental illness. We pray for all who have not been made to feel welcome in our churches and communities, our homes and our hearts, and whose mental health has suffered because of exclusion, discrimination, rejection or cruel words.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for all whose thoughts or feelings are troubled. We pray for those who are depressed, anxious or afraid, for those who feel that you are far away from them, and for those who feel that life is not worth living.

We pray for those whose high moods endanger their wellbeing and that of those around them.

We pray for those who hear voices that are intrusive, threatening, abrasive or evil.

We pray for those whose thoughts are dominated by delusional beliefs.

We pray for those who struggle with cravings for alcohol, drugs, food, gambling, or sex.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for relatives, friends, carers, and all who struggle with the impact of mental ill health on relationships, homes and families. We pray for children traumatised by sexual, physical or emotional abuse.

We pray for those who suffer mental ill health in old age, for those whose memories and faculties are taken from them by the likes of dementia, and for those who care for them.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we pray that as Christ's body here on earth, we bring bring healing and new life to those who suffer, both within our churches and our wider community. May we be bringers of kindness, forgiveness, faith, hope and love. Help us to listen well. May we know your presence with us and may we be Christ for others.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.