

Newbury Baptist Church

weekly news

9th October

BETHAN'S UPDATE

In August we prayed for Bethan as she prepared to leave for South Africa on a four month mission trip with Operation Mobilisation, as part of their REACH program.

Bethan has been combining studying alongside undergoing cultural acclimatisation and outreach, with a view to possibly doing a longer term project with OM. This would enable her to use her Masters in Humanitarian Aid.

As she approaches the halfway point in the trip, she has shared an update with us:

Dear NBC, thank you for your continued prayers for me in South Africa.

I'm really enjoying it so far and have learned so much about cultural differences, and in particular how to share Jesus with different cultures. I have been enjoying our outreach work, despite the challenge of language barriers.

This week we have been joined by 70 other people for mission mobilisation training, where we have lots of cultural experiences (including some great meals), learn about mission in persecuted countries, given evangelism tools and tools to talk about mission back at home. It has also been a helpful week for networking.

We have also started to talk about the internship program called 'Connexions' that can come after REACH. I have applied for this and recently had my first interview.

It is sounding very positive and they are really excited about how I could use my Masters. The internship is very tailored to what you want to do in the future, and they try and place you in a country and role that would relate to that, so we have started to have conversations about where I could go and they are looking at different options currently.

I would love prayer for this as we continue to look into it.

The internship is normally 6 months, however because of what I want to do they have asked if I would be happy to do it for a year or even two, so the timeframe could be longer.

There also could be a possibility of also doing disaster response training too.

I am grateful for all your support, and look forward to seeing you at Christmas.

Last Sunday we spent our Harvest service thinking about God's generosity and our response to it, with an invitation to get involved in serving God at NBC.

Bethan's update and willingness to go and use her gifts wherever God calls is encouraging for those who have known and nurtured her through the children and youth work at NBC over the years. It is also an inspiring example to us all, as we reflect upon where we might serve God.

Most of us are more likely to be called 'over the road' than 'overseas', (some of us might even feel 'over the hill!'), but the truth is that God invites us all to respond to his generosity, and in a healthy church that will be seen in different ways. May God bless you this week.

Peter

CHURCH NEWS

LADIES BREAKFAST: SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER

We're really delighted that Maxie Heppell has agreed to be our guest speaker at the next Ladies' Breakfast.

Maxie and her husband Emil moved to Newbury from South Africa in 2019 and attended NBC until 2023 when Maxie's new job meant they moved to Poole in Dorset.

In her spare time Maxie is a Christian author, shares a weekly blog with her followers and enjoys speaking at women's conferences across the country. Her most recent book is "Grace Period: Hope in cancer, infertility, vision loss and fibromyalgia".

So do put the date in the diary... and come ready to be blessed, encouraged and inspired!

Please book your place [here](#) so we can cater accordingly.

HARVEST OFFERINGS

Thank you to all those who contributed to our harvest offering last week. If you missed out but would still like to make a donation, there will be a box available in the Foyer this Sunday. These will then be taken to Newbury Foodbank.

ORGAN CELEBRATION SERVICE: SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER, 2PM

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 this Saturday at 2pm, followed by tea and cakes in the Foyer.

LIGHT PARTY, 31ST OCTOBER: BOOK NOW!

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).

Invitations are available for children to give to their friends. You can book on our website [here](#).

YOUTH WEEKEND: 25-27TH OCTOBER

The Ignite youth weekend away is almost upon us, and we would love your support!

Cakes & Movie Night Snacks: Teenagers eat a lot! Would you be willing to bake a cake or donate some snacks for our movie night? (If baking yourself, please list the ingredients). These can be dropped off at church or to Sarah Dent by Thursday 24th October.

Prayer: Prayer is the foundation of all our youth work. We would love for each young person and team member to be prayed for individually in the build up to and during the weekend away. Is this something you can commit to? Please email youth@newburybaptistchurch.org to register your interest and during the week before the weekend away you will be sent a name to pray for and some prayer pointers. It was such an encouragement last year to know there was an army of people praying for us!

VOLUNTEER MONTH

Throughout October's Weekly News we are featuring various groups and areas where you might be able to serve. This will include a contact person and email if you would like to express an interest in finding out more or would like to sign up to a rota.

GIGGLES & WIGGLES EXTRA HELP

The building works in the hall are starting very soon and one of the main groups that will be affected during this time is Giggles and Wiggles.

We are still in need of some more volunteers to help with both setting up the church ready for Giggles and Wiggles and preparing the church again for Sunday services. Set up will take place after the service on Sunday morning. Preparing the church for Sunday will only involve putting the chairs back in the correct rows. This could be done any time between Friday lunchtime or Saturday evening depending on availability, and we can arrange access to the church if necessary.

If you can help, please email sarahm@newburybaptistchurch.org or speak to Sarah on Sunday. Thanks.

TECH TEAM

The "tech team" is the unseen team who make our Sunday services happen. Most of the time their work goes unnoticed, but without them we would not see words or images on screens in church or at home, nor hear the musicians, singers and speakers.

We enable our church to be more inclusive. The hearing loop system in the building and the video streams for those unable to attend in person are run by this group every week. Ours is an enabling ministry; helping the whole church to engage in worship during our Sunday services.

The NBC style of worship requires various technologies to come together and function well for those on the stage, those in the Creche as well as those in church and at home every time we meet.

The tools we use can look a bit daunting, but please don't be put off by that. We are offering full training to everyone who wants to join us. If you are not sure, have questions, or just curious, please get in touch.

We plan to hold an open session on **Saturday 26th October at 10:00am** for anyone who would like to have a go. Talk to Paul Davey if you would like to come along or email pauld@newburybaptistchurch.org.

FIRST THURSDAY

First Thursday is our monthly seniors event, and one of my favourite activities at NBC. I love being part of the team that makes it happen. I love the way guests arrive with smiles of anticipation and chatting to each other as they sit down. I love the short service that we all enjoy, led by Peter, Jonathan or Graham.

It seems a wonderful way to minister to people who may go to a variety of churches or not be able to attend church at all. We tuck into a substantial meal and the chatter and laughter is wonderful to hear. It is incredibly rewarding to be part of the team and to know what pleasure it gives to so many people.

However it takes a team of helpers to enable First Thursday to function, and we would be pleased to speak to anyone who would be interested in being part of our team. We are not looking for particular skills but would appreciate regular commitment. If you are interested, please come and speak to me. *Daph.*



Prayer Space

PEOPLE FOR PRAYER

Please continue to pray for the following people in our church family who are in particular need of our prayers and support:

- **Beryl R** who is scheduled for surgery next week.
- **Joyce & Brian C**
- **Barbara M & family**
- **Joy & Gordon S**
- **Jonathan E**

Lord, we lift up our brothers and sisters before you today. Some we know well, some we know a little, but all we know are loved and known by you. Meet their needs, we pray, and remind them of your ongoing presence in their lives. Amen.

OPS MANAGER INTERVIEWS

On Friday this week (11th), we will be holding interviews for the Operations Manager job. Please pray for the interviewees and the interviewers, as we seek God's guidance in this key role.

Father God, we bring before you the interviews taking place this week, and we ask for a real sense of clarity and consensus among the interviewers, as they assess whether any of the applicants are suitable for the role.

We pray for the interviewees, that they would present well, and have a sense of peace this week.

We also bring before you the wider task of administration in church life, recognising it as a key cog in order for your church to function well. Please bless all who serve in this area. Amen.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BAG APPEAL

A reminder for those who missed it last week, that the deadline for our Christmas shoe bag appeal has been brought forward to **Sunday 20th October**. As this deadline draws nearer, it is also a timely reminder of the need to pray; both for this initiative, and for the wider issues taking place in Ukraine. Let us pray...

Almighty God, we thank you that through the work of Hope Now and the Christmas shoe bag appeal, we have been developed a connection and love for your wider church in the world. We thank you for the blessing of bringing Ukrainian families into our church in recent years, and into our wider community in Newbury.

As we prepare our shoe bags for collection and delivery, we pray for the practicalities involved in transporting the many boxes across the continent. We pray for safe passage and travelling mercies. We ask that each gift in each bag would bring joy to the face of the children who receive them, and that they might embody something of the love and joy which you have for each child.

We pray too for peace in Ukraine, a withdrawal of Russian troops, and an end to the violence which has caused such destruction in that country. May the international community be relentless in advocating for, and pursuing, peace. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.