

Newbury Baptist Church

weekly news

30th October

A YOUTHFUL EXAMPLE

Last Saturday I had the opportunity to drop in on the Youth Weekend at St. Cassian's in Kintbury.

I had been disappointed not to be there for the whole weekend, but with Claire now part of the youth team, someone had to look after the girls, and this year it was my turn. Never one to be deterred, when Sarah suggested I could bring them along for the afternoon, I jumped at the chance!

The few hours I spent with the 20 odd young people plus the leaders was excellent. There was an abundance of laughter and fun, and what I saw was a group who care about and look out for each other.

We will hear more about the weekend from Ignite during our service on the 17th November. What struck me though, was how so many of them are living out Paul's instruction in 1 Timothy 4:12.

It's a passage where the relatively youthful church leader Timothy (estimated to be in his early 30s), is being encouraged by his mentor, Paul.

Verse 12 says: "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."

When I see our youth group interacting, I see so much of those words being lived out, not least the call to 'set the believers an example'.

Those believers are us - adult Christians; those who are meant to be mature in faith and in life, but who often fail to live up to the standards God has modelled to us in Jesus.

We are blessed to have such a thriving youth group, and one where God is quite clearly at work, not just in their lives, but in setting an example to us - if we choose to look.

Now, of course they are not perfect - as I'm sure their parents and siblings will readily testify! But it is an important reminder of how often God flips the well-established order of things to open our eyes to something new.

The old learning from the young.

Leadership being found in serving.

Life found in death.

In our current sermon series we are learning to look for encounters with Jesus in unexpected places. For me, it was on the low ropes course at St. Cassian's, through the conduct, love and joy of a bunch of youngsters.

When was the last time Jesus surprised you?

Finally, we should not overlook the blessing it is to have dedicated and gifted leaders getting alongside our young people and nurturing them.

A weekend away takes a colossal amount of planning, and it is vital we uphold Sarah and her team in prayer, especially now the weekend is over and tiredness inevitably kicks in.

God bless you this week.

Peter

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS

THE GREAT BAPTIST BAKE OFF

Bake a cake.
Bring it to church.
Everyone tucks in.
The judges declare a winner!

SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

Winners will be chosen from 3 age categories:

Under 11 | 11-17 | 18+

Please include a list of ingredients to display next to your cake.

Donations are welcome, with proceeds going to Newbury Street Pastors

CHURCH NEWS

NBC BUILDING WORK UPDATE

A reminder that work will start in the church hall on 11 November. The plan is to:

- Convert the existing ladies' toilet into a storeroom.
- Convert the existing men's toilet to 3x unisex individual toilets with wash basin, dryer, etc.
- Improve the acoustics, lighting and insulation in the hall.
- Replace the kitchen shutter with one that's electronically operated.
- Redecorate the whole hall and entrance area.
- Sand and re-varnish the hall floor.
- Replace the sliding partition.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, email nbcbuildings@newburybaptistchurch.org

MAHON FAMILY VISIT TO NBC

The Mahon's are our BMS Link Missionaries in Peru. They are coming back to the UK to visit their partner churches in December and January, and will be at NBC for a joint breakfast on Saturday 11th January 2025.

While the details of the event are still being finalised, they are in need of overnight accommodation on Friday 10th January, for Michele and Dave and their children; Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe. If anyone might be in a position to offer hospitality, or would like more details please speak to Peter.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER, 8AM

A reminder that our next Men's Breakfast is coming up on Saturday. This will be our last in the Church Hall until the building works are completed, so make your booking and prepare for extra bacon, double portions of scrambled egg, and unlimited refills of tea and coffee!*

You can book your place [here](#)

**There may not actually be double portions of bacon and egg...*

CTNA SENIORS CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL

If you or someone you know is going to be alone this Christmas and are over 65, then you are welcome to join a free community Christmas Day meal at St. George's Church Hall.

The day includes a meal, entertainment, a short reflection on the true meaning of Christmas, and carol singing. Transport can be provided if needed.

This is organised by Christians Together in the Newbury Area (CTNA). To register, please fill in the online form [here](#).

CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING: 17TH NOVEMBER

Our next Church Meeting is on Sunday 17th November, following the service. Agendas and accompanying documents will be available on the members area of the website next week.

VOLUNTEER MONTH

Throughout October's Weekly News we have featured various groups and areas where you might be able to serve.

Thank you to those who have responded and expressed an interest in finding out more about a group or an area of church life.

Please pray for the leaders and teams who continue to organise and serve, often quietly and in the background, but without whom we would struggle to carry out the work God has called us to as a church.

Below are our final requests for volunteers this month.

BIBLE READERS

Every Sunday during the service we read the Bible. And every week we like to invite different people to read a passage, reflecting both the diversity of our congregation, and the unity which exists between us as we gather around God's Word.

Anyone is welcome to volunteer to do a reading, and this includes those who don't speak English as their first language, and who would rather read in their mother tongue.

If you would like to volunteer, this is done via signing up to the rota in the member's area of the church website.

If you haven't been given the relevant access to the sign-up page please or aren't sure where to find the page, please email Tracey office@newburybaptistchurch.org for help.

GIGGLES & WIGGLES EXTRA HELP

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to move chairs in the church to enable Giggles & Wiggles to operate during the building works.

We are still short of a few volunteers, particularly those who might be able to come in on either Friday or Saturday to set the chairs out ready for the Sunday service.

If you are able to do this, even if only for one week, that would be incredibly helpful.

For more details or to volunteer, please email sarahm@newburybaptistchurch.org or speak to Sarah on Sunday.





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 now at home following surgery.
- **Shirley B** who is recovering from surgery and MRSA.
- **Joyce & Brian C**
- **Barbara M & family**
- **Joy & Gordon S**
- **Jonathan E**
- **Bethan C** serving God in South Africa.
- **"Arthur & Reeta"** serving God overseas.
- **The Mahon Family** serving God in Peru.

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Next Tuesday (5th) the American people will vote for a new President. Let us pray for this hugely important decision.

Lord God, as the election in the USA approaches, we pray that the American voters might understand the issues and concerns that confront their community, their state, their nation and beyond.

With all of the injustice and fear in our world today, we ask you to inspire and guide them as they vote.

We ask that Christian voters would look to Christ, and see the most vulnerable in society, recognising that their tears are your tears, their pain is your pain, their suffering is your suffering.

May those elected form a government that upholds and protects human rights and justice for all its citizens, regardless of race, class, gender, or religion. We ask this in Jesus' name, amen.

PRAYING FOR THE LIGHT PARTY (31ST OCTOBER)

Tomorrow (Thursday) is our ever-popular Light Party for primary school aged children. This is held on 31st October each year, to offer a safe, fun, and hope-filled alternative to the dark-themed focus around Halloween. It is popular with both church and unchurched children, so please pray that it is engaging, fun and filled with the love and light of Jesus.

Living God, we praise you that your Son, Jesus, is called the Light of the World.

We give thanks that this is not a title existing solely in the realms of hope, but is grounded in a historical moment in time, and your saving actions upon the cross.

As we uphold the Light Party to you now, we pray for all the children due to attend. As they play games, have fun and learn about you, we ask that they would have such a good time that 'trick or treating' wouldn't even cross their minds in future years, because they choose light over darkness. May every leader and helper radiate your love and light in every action and conversation.

We extend our prayers to our town and community of Newbury. Would the light of Christ shine brightly, through every church, every Christian organisation and every believer, so all would come to see and know that you are Lord. Amen.