



weekly news

6th November
Newbury Baptist Church

REMEMBER, REMEMBER GOD'S FRAGILE LIGHT

Each year the move into November invariably sees a quick reshuffle on the shelves from pumpkins to presents, as the Christmas season really kicks into gear. But before Noddy Holder and Mariah Carey come out of hibernation to collect their annual royalties, we observe an interesting period of reflection and remembrance.

"Bonfire night" or "Guy Fawkes' night" is a very British occasion, where we remember the failed attempt of one man and his fellow conspirators to blow up parliament, over 400 years ago. And how do we "remember, remember the 5th of November?" We burn stuff and let off fireworks, of course!

In the cold light of day, this tradition seems a bit surreal. However, there is nothing surreal about another act of remembrance which quickly follows, as we commemorate Armistice Day.

The frivolities of fireworks are suddenly counterbalanced by the solemnity and simplicity of the poppy. We are prompted to remember history once more, but the way we do it is very different. In this instance, light is not spectacular and joyful, but far more flickering and fragile.

It is an interesting juxtaposition, and one which I think is worth reflecting on alongside the famous statement of Jesus, that he is the light of the world (John 8:12).

What does that light actually look like?

I think it boils down to our experience of hope and assurance.

Hope that darkness will not win; assurance that God is with us.

I know that there are often times where I want that light to be big and bold. The kind of floodlight like those which illuminate our football pitch on Thursday evenings.

That's a kind of light which inspires confidence and certainty.

But in reality, I have found that often the light of Christ is more like a candle. You can't play football by candle light! You need to tread carefully and slowly. Hope is present, but it can appear to flicker. We know Jesus is with us, but we can't always see him.

Jesus has promised to bring light in the darkness, but he did not specify what kind of light it would be.

Holding on to our faith in him can sometimes mean being willing to accept the need to tread slowly and carefully. It can mean looking back and remembering the times where the light of Christ seemed to be so bright in our lives, or the times where we encountered Jesus in a simple but profound way.

To remember is a powerful tool at our disposal as Christians. It forms the backbone of what it means to gather together in worship around the Communion table: "*Do this in remembrance of me.*"

In this short season where we naturally pause to remember, I pray you might take hope and be assured that Jesus is present. To remember that he is the provider of light in both your life and our world - even if that light sometimes appears fragile.

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

In just a few days' time, we'll kick off the long-awaited work to improve our church buildings – to give us a smart, clean, modern, fit-for-purpose environment we can be proud of. Please pray it will go smoothly.

Pray for our builders Curtis and Sam. Pray for Tim and Mark as they manage the work on behalf of NBC.

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.

LADIES BREAKFAST: SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 9AM

A reminder that our next Ladies Breakfast is coming up on Saturday at 9am.

We will be meeting at Angelica's Cafe in Camp Hopson whilst the building works are taking place this month and again in December.

It would be helpful to the team if you could let us know you are coming by booking a place online [here](#)

This will enable us to reserve an appropriate number of seats at Angelica's.

LIGHT PARTY - THANK YOU

A big Thank You to everybody who came to the Light Party, to those who brought their children, invited families to come, to those who helped on the evening to make the children feel welcome and to help them enjoy it.

Also a big thank you to everyone who prayed for the event.

The children had a really enjoyable time, and it was such a privilege to share the message with the children that Jesus is the Light of the World.

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.

We will start our meeting by judging the Bake Off competition!

If you are planning to bring a cake, please put it on the table near the kitchen hatch before the service.

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

DEACONS AWAY DAY

This Saturday (9th) the diaconate are spending a day together to listen, pray and discuss. The focus on the day is 'Listening to God: How do we discern together?'

Please pray that it would be a fruitful day, where God's voice is heard, relationships are deepened, and wisdom is imparted.

Dear Lord, we uphold the deacons and Peter to you as they gather on Saturday. As they take the time to think deeply and rest in your presence, we pray that they might be refreshed and inspired by your Spirit.

We recognise the importance of listening to you, and ask that you would give the diaconate and ourselves ears to hear your voice, and discerning minds to distinguish it above the other noises competing for our attention. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR EARTH

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures.

You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.

Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty.

Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.

Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.

Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation,

to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day.

Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

In Jesus' name we ask, amen.