



weekly news

13th November
Newbury Baptist Church

THE MAHON FAMILY UPDATE



Dave, Michele and their three children are our BMS link missionaries, serving in Peru. They will be visiting NBC and sharing about their work at a special breakfast on Saturday 11th January.

I (Michele) am sitting at my desk having just completed a virtual class with my cohort at Anglia Ruskin University. We learned about important milestones involved in our doctoral studies and I am feeling a lot more reassured about my next steps. We have all been in an exciting season of learning as we gather together with others and consider different perspectives on what we might have once taken for granted.

During a recent school holiday period, the whole family visited Piura in the coastal north of the country, where Dave was part of a teaching team on awakening the DNA of missions within our community. It was a 7 hour journey by road through the night; the first such experience for the children. They enjoyed it, especially since the seats on the coach recline to horizontal, so some sleep was possible!

We spent some quality time catching up with Laura Lee Lovering our colleague who lives here. Many churches attended and more people are approaching the Missions

Board to express an interest in becoming national and international missionaries. Praise God! Ruy Olivera, a Brazilian pastor was also one of the speakers; he has been working in partnership with the Peruvian Baptist Convention and BMS to enable mission in the region. He is also a BMS Trustee.

On our way back from Piura in the car, we stopped to visit Fernando, a pastor based in Chiclayo, to encourage him and his family in their new role at Emanuel Baptist Church.

The same missions conference was repeated in Lima, where it was fascinating to see the contrast in delegates, with many Venezuelans and Afro Peruvians in attendance. Please pray for many more missions projects to be launched and for the existing ones to be well cared for and strengthened.



Dave was due to teach at another conference in Huancayo in the mountains, however due to a nationwide strike protesting against widespread extortion and high crime rates he was unable to travel. He ended up teaching virtually. Please pray for President of Peru, Dina Boluarte and her government, to be led by God in their leadership and for corruption to be rooted out. Psalm 33:10-11 'The Lord foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. 11 But the plans of the Lord stand firm for ever; the purposes of his heart through all generations.' We know that even though the news doesn't give us much hope, God's purposes for each nation will be fulfilled as we pray 'your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'. Amen?

Michele recently had a meeting with Cynthia Sundman, a mission worker with Swiss Indian Mission based in Lima, to discuss our plans to share some training here on Gender Justice from a biblical perspective. The training is called Restorations and was created and taught by Open Doors, who are working in partnership with BMS. Please pray that our plans will take shape and the training will be well attended by women and men from all over the country. Pray for much fruit to come from this.



The children recently had a festival of poetry and storytelling at school, a tradition held every Springtime here, and Ruth publicly shared a story about a princess who learned the value of work and kindness. She and Phoebe also performed

a song with their classmates. Jonathan enjoyed his friends' poetic recitals which were very dramatic!

We are all looking forward to Home Assignment, and we will be visiting some new churches this year, as well as renewing existing friendships with some of you that have been like pillars to us for some time. Your support for us in prayer and



giving means the world to us! Thank you.

Much love, the Mahon Family.

CAN YOU HELP?

When the Mahon's come to Newbury they will be in need of overnight accommodation on Friday 10th January.

This will be for all 5 of the family (2 adults, 3 children).

If you have spare rooms and would like to extend hospitality to them, please get in touch with Peter.

Sadly they will not be able to join us for a Sunday service, due to the large number of commitments which BMS has organised for them. Therefore the breakfast event on Saturday 11th January will be our only opportunity to meet them and hear about their work in more detail.

Please mark it in your diaries and make every effort to be there, so we can be an encouragement to them, and in turn be encouraged. Thank you!

CHURCH NEWS

CHILDREN & YOUTH UPDATE: BUILDING WORK

For the duration of building work in the hall there will be a relocation of the activities for the children and young people. Chattabox will relocate to the upstairs rooms in the hall, creche will be in a specially cordoned off space within the welcome area, and Dig Deeper will be meeting in the church office.

As a result of this, for safety reasons all parents/carers will need to collect their children at the end of the service from Chattabox and creche and no-one will be allowed to leave on their own. We also ask that no children play in the Church Hall, either before or after the service until the building works are complete.

If you have questions please speak to either Bethan (Chattabox lead) or Sian (Deacon for children & youth).

CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING: 17TH NOVEMBER

Our next Church Meeting is this Sunday, 17th November, following the service.

Agendas and accompanying documents are 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.

BAPTISM SERVICE: 24TH NOVEMBER

Our service on 24th November will include baptisms!

Please pray for the candidates being baptised, both as they prepare for this important step in their faith, and for the days and weeks which follow.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BAGS UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who filled bags, knitted, donated financially and prayed. Please continue to pray as the items journey overland to Cherkasy, Ukraine, and are given to vulnerable or displaced children at Christmas.

We sent: 109 shoe bags, 27 knitted sweater and hat sets, 60+ knitted hat and mitten sets, 102 knitted comfort/trauma hand held 'dolls', 60 knitted teddies, 22 pairs of glasses and a £300 donation for transport etc.

Once again thank you all for your loving generosity and please continue to uphold Ukraine and the work of Hope Now in your prayers. Kelvin, Judith and the Christmas Shoe Bag Team.

FLOWER TEAM ROTA

The new rota for 2025 is now up on the wall in the Foyer. Please do sign up for a week if you would like to cover the cost of the flowers.

You are then welcome to arrange them if you wish, otherwise a member of the team will do it for you.

Please contact Valerie Vardy or a member of the team if you would like more information. Thank you.

STITCH AND FIX WORKSHOP: 23RD NOVEMBER

Newbury Cancer Research are running a workshop to learn basic sewing and mending skills, all in a friendly and relaxed environment. In this workshop, you'll learn valuable skills and then practice them on a useful craft that you can take home at the end of the session. All materials will be provided – just bring yourself.

2-4pm, Cancer Research UK Superstore, Unit 7, Newbury Retail Park.

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

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:

- **Carol H** *who recently fell and broke her arm.*
- **Beryl R** *recovering from surgery.*
- **Shirley B** *who is now home following surgery.*
- **Joy & 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.*

NBC BUILDING WORK BEGINS

The builders arrived on Monday, and swiftly demolished the ladies toilets! Let us commit to praying for this work over the coming weeks, and for the groups who are affected by the disruption.

Dear Lord, as the building work in the Hall begins, we pray for the builders and all those who will be on site in the coming weeks. We pray that the work will go according to plan and on schedule. We also ask that every person who comes into our building would encounter something of your love and hope. May this be a positive experience for them, as well as for us.

We think too of the various youth and children's groups which are most disrupted by the work, and pray for their leaders as they make the necessary adjustments. Continue to inspire their planning and guide their sessions, we pray. In Jesus' name, amen.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

At the time of writing, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, had just resigned. The historic safeguarding issues facing the Anglican Church are not only troubling, but a reminder of the responsibility we all have towards diligence, action and justice. Let us pray...

Almighty God, we lift up those who have suffered pain and trauma at the hands of those in your church. We lament those instances where places of sanctuary have become prisons of torment, and where holiness has been corrupted by evil. Lord have mercy.

We pray that your light would shine in the darkest of places, bringing justice and healing. May those affected not lose sight of you, or your loving, guiding hand. Christ have mercy.

We recognise the problems facing the Church of England and are humbled, acknowledging our own sinfulness. Give us eyes to see and ears to hear, so that we might be alert to wrongdoing, and committed to making our church a safe place for all to belong. Lord have mercy.

We pray for Justin Welby and his family, and those most impacted by his resignation. May they seek solace in your presence, and illumination as they reflect and adjust to this news. We ask that repentance maybe sought where needed, and that through this, the wider public might dare to look beyond human failures, and see the truth, integrity and hope at the heart of your Kingdom.

Lord in your mercy; hear our prayer. Amen.