

weekly news

20th November
Newbury Baptist Church

RING THE BELL FOR BAKE OFF CHAMP!

Following Sunday's service we tucked into lots of delicious baked delights, as part of NBC's Great Baptist Bake Off challenge!

With around 20 entries, there was plenty of food to go around, once sampled and judged by our very own Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry (aka Steve and Jemima).

Winners were chosen from three age categories, and awarded a 'star baker' wooden spoon, as well as some tubes of Smarties for our younger winners.

Mia's chocolate cake won the under 11 category, while Marion's classic Victoria Sponge scooped up the prize among the adults.

But the overall winner, and recipient of a Newbury Baptist Church Star Baker apron, was Joshua. His intricate marbled cake topped with crumbled chocolate and edged with chocolate fingers wowed the judges and all who tasted it.

While we can't promise such a well-stocked table of cakes before every Church Meeting, there's no doubt that eating and meeting are a good combination!

Thank you to everyone who took part - either by baking cakes or eating them! We raised a total of £112 for Newbury Street Pastors.



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).

BUILDING WORK UPDATE

Hot off the press! We have now been granted planning permission to replace the church windows. Praise God!

Our builders got straight to work last week and have already stripped out the old toilets and bricked up a doorway to the old storeroom. Everything has gone smoothly so far, which is promising, and currently we anticipate this part of the work to take 8-10 weeks.

Tim has been, and intends to be, on site every day to check in with the contractors.

In other news, we have sought quotes from 'colour consultants' who will advise on decoration schemes. We are gathering quotes to sand and revarnish the Hall floor.

Please continue to pray for the smooth running of the project.

BAPTISM SERVICE: 24TH NOVEMBER

Our service this Sunday 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.

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.

WEST BERKS FOOD BANK UPDATE

Thank you for your recent support following Harvest. The donations received in September and October weighed almost 11 tonnes - the weight of 2 African male elephants! However, the average monthly stock being sent out to our clients is roughly 13 tonnes. Our current stock levels are 40% below the level at the beginning of 2024.

We are running our Advent Calendar initiative again this year, to help re-stock our shelves.

The idea is instead of receiving a gift, you donate a gift of an essential item of food or toiletries.

It runs for 25 days and can be started at any time, with the deadline for donations Monday 23rd December.

Many thanks,

West Berks Foodbank Team.



CHRISTMAS AT NBC!

With only 5 more Sundays until Christmas, it's time to share the details of our Christmas events at NBC.

Invitation flyers will be available to take and share with family and friends from Sunday 1st December.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL @ THE MANSE: 14TH DEC

Peter, Claire, Mia and Coco invite you to join them for Christmas drinks and nibbles at the manse on Saturday 14th December. Feel free to drop in anytime between 2-4pm.

If you need the address please email Peter: minister@newburybaptistchurch.org.

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER: CHATTABOX NATIVITY

Our children will be sharing with us during the service on 15th December.

Please note that Communion will not take place that day. Instead it will be held on Sunday 8th December.

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER: AM

There will **NOT** be a regular morning service on 22nd.

Instead, we will have some all-age craft activities and a prayer space from 10am, while others are invited to take chocolates and flyers into the town centre to invite people to our carol service etc.

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER: CAROL SERVICE, 6:30PM

Instead of our morning service on the 22nd, we will be holding our carol service at 6:30pm.

This is the perfect opportunity to invite family and friends who do not usually attend church, to a service with lots of familiar carols and a retelling of the Christmas story, followed by mince pies and drinks.

It will also be livestreamed.

CHRISTINGLE 24TH DECEMBER, 4PM

Our Christmas Eve Christingle service takes place at 4pm.

This is another opportunity to invite friends, especially families, for a shorter interactive service.

CHRISTMAS DAY, 10AM

We meet together at 10am on Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

It is a lovely way to centre ourselves upon God and be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

This is a short, fun-filled service, and children are invited to bring a small unopened present to unwrap during the service.

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER, 10AM

Jonathan Edwards will lead us for the final service of 2024, and you are invited to share a short testimony of what God has been doing in your life.

We will worship together, reflect on the year that has passed, and look ahead to 2025.

If you would like to contribute please email Jonathan: JonathanE@newburybaptistchurch.org



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** serving God in South Africa.
- **"Arthur & Reeta"** serving God overseas.
- **The Mahon Family** serving God in Peru.

A PRAYER OF CARING FOR OUR WORLD

*Loving God, Lord of heaven and earth,
this earth, our home, belongs to you.*

Give us grace to love it as you do.

*Give us courage to give ourselves, as you do,
for the good of all people and all of your creation.*

*Strengthen us to stand, as you do,
with the vulnerable poor.*

*Give us wisdom to know when we have enough, and the voice to
say "enough" to all that harms creation and hurts the poorest.*

This earth, our home, belongs to you.

Amen.

PRAYING FOR THE WORLD

This week has seen temperatures drop and the arrival of snow across much of the country, including Newbury. Alongside the shorter days and longer nights, it is a reminder of the changing season, as winter approaches. This change can sometimes prompt an increase in related mental health related problems. "Seasonal Affective Disorder" is a type of depression which usually worsens during the winter, but even those without clinical diagnoses can find themselves feeling lower than usual at this time of year. Let us pray...

Heavenly Father, hear us as we pray for ourselves, for one another, for your church and for a needy world.

We pray for all those 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 moods are being particularly impacted at this time of year, and for the impact that has upon them and those around them. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who hear voices that are intrusive, threatening or evil. We pray for those who struggle with cravings such as alcohol, drugs, gambling or sex. We pray for for all whose body image is a source of distress to them. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray that as Christ's body on earth, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we might bring healing, new life and hope to those who suffer in mind and soul, both within our church and in wider society. May we know your presence with us, find you in one another and may we be Christ for others. In Jesus name we pray, amen.