

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

15 JANUARY 2025

The Power of Our Thoughts



We all know that social media works on algorithms - they react to a variety of data, including behaviour, interactions & interests to match content to audiences with similar preferences.

The idea is that it shows users more of what they are interested in. This is fine if you like watching videos of kittens, but not great if you prefer some of the darker things the internet has to offer.

The more morally corrupt, unethical or unpleasant the material, the more likely that the algorithms will direct you towards more of the same. There is a parallel to be drawn with our own thoughts & what we expose ourselves to in our downtime. What we spend our time thinking about can affect our emotions, our actions & our characters.

The bible gives us an insight into the importance of keeping a check on our thoughts. In Isaiah 26:3 it says that God will keep our hearts in perfect peace if we keep our minds fixed on Him.

In Philipians 4:8-9 Paul tells us, "finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me - put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

The more time we spend focusing our thoughts on God and His Word, the more our hearts will be kept in peace. Peace is available to those who consistently trust in God, and fix their thoughts on Him. It doesn't stop life from being challenging or problems from arising, but it changes our reaction & perspective to them.

How many of your thoughts are spent on things relating to God? Do you keep your mind focused on Him when you're feeling anxious or stressed? Are there some simple ways you can continue to remind yourself to think about God throughout your day? Perhaps starting a daily devotional App or a commitment to read a chapter of the Bible each day, or identifying a trigger that you can use as a reminder to talk to God or say a prayer of thanks.

Spend some time thinking about the power of your own thoughts and the access you've been given to God through Scripture. Perhaps you could commit in 2025 to building the habit of centering your thoughts on God so that you can know Him more and experience His perfect peace.

Jo

Notice board

Jane Billington Thanksgiving Service

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY, 1PM, NBC

Following the sad news that one of our long-standing members, Jane Billington, died last week, we can now share the details of her Thanksgiving Service.

It will take place at NBC on Tuesday 21st January, 1pm.

Nigel has requested that those attending do not wear black.

Refreshments will follow at The Chequers Hotel, Newbury.

Please continue to pray for Nigel, Alice, Amy and their families at this difficult time.

Building Work Update

Sound consultant Ed Hendry will be visiting NBC this weekend to advise on improving the acoustics in the hall, and review the sound/tech set-up in church. If you see him around, do say hi!

Then on Wednesday 22nd Jan, the builders will start work on the church stage area. This includes removing the organ and pulpit, creating a ramp to the stage, and installing a new banister. We anticipate that church services will continue relatively unaffected. A screen will be erected to hide and secure the building work, and musicians, etc, will move to the floor in front of this.

As always, if you have any questions or thoughts, please email: nbcbuildings@newburybaptistchurch.org

NBC verse for 2025

Our verse for the year was launched on Sunday from 1 Corinthians 3:7 "Only God Makes Things Grow."

If you missed the service, catch up to see why we now have our very own fig tree to look after, and why the verse seems to be significant for us as we look ahead to 2025.

You can also pick up a magnet and/or a small card with the verse on as a reminder, and to encourage you to be on the lookout for signs of God at work across NBC this year.



Volunteering for Bible Readings & Prayers

If you would like to volunteer to do a Bible reading or lead prayers on a Sunday morning, you can sign up online or by using our App.

If you are unsure how to do this, please contact Emma in the Church Office and we will be more than happy to help you.

DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?
EMAIL: OFFICE@NEWBURYBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG

Prayer Space

Praying for the Mahons

Following their visit to NBC last Saturday, the Mahon family shared lots of interesting updates about their work in Peru, as well as several points for prayer. We have outlined these below for you to pray into.

- For assistance with the languages & dialects to aid communication.
- Prayers for the Awahun (the indigenous community).
- For Rebecca (who was guided towards university ministry), that she would be supported & provided for in all aspects of her work (spiritually, financially, emotionally, etc)
- For the young professionals who feel indebted to their families to provide financially and therefore feel unable to move into ministry.
- For the fruitful work that God is doing in Peru amidst the younger generation.
- That the older generation would find ways to support those young people who are striding out for God & not impede them.

Specifically for Mahon family:

- Stamina
- Energy
- Resources
- Time
- Finances
- Health
- For the children (Jonathan, Ruth & Phoebe), that they will form and maintain good relationships at school.
- Ruth - Particularly for her academic studies, that she would grasp reading and writing.
- Tom (Dave's father): In particular that they would be able to see him during this visit to the UK.



Church Family Prayers

Nigel and the family as they prepare for Jane's funeral next week.

A number of other church members are mourning the loss of loved ones, and have either recently or are about to mark significant anniversaries. Pray that they might know of God's comfort, strength and peace at this time.

Arthur & Reeta

Our missionaries in Asia continue to wait for news of when they can return to the country they have been serving in.

Pray that the discussions taking place regarding this will bring clarity and be clothed in wisdom.

Pray for the team members affected by this disruption, and for the family of a staff member who recently died, leaving behind a young family.

California Fires

We continue to pray for the fires raging across Los Angeles and those who have lost loved ones, home and their livelihoods.

Please pray especially for the daughter-in-law and grandchildren of Derek and Pauline, who have evacuated from Pasadena to a rental house with another family.

Their church in Altadena has also been affected by the fires, so please remember them too.

WANT TO INCLUDE A PRAYER REQUEST? CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE