

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

29 JANUARY 2025

Hidden Names & Stored Treasures

I have a slightly nerdy confession to tell you: I find church history really interesting!

I realise I might be in the minority, but I enjoy learning about the stories behind a church, and the way God has worked through different people at different times. Joining a church like NBC is particularly fascinating because we can trace our roots back to 1640, which ranks us among the earliest Baptist churches in the UK.

Of course, almost everything about the church has changed (several times) since then, and we are in the middle of further changes to our building. Some have been in membership for many decades and can remember many of the changes to have happened. But I wonder if even our longest-serving member (who reached 70 years in membership earlier this month!) would know the names A. Hayward and F. Palmer.

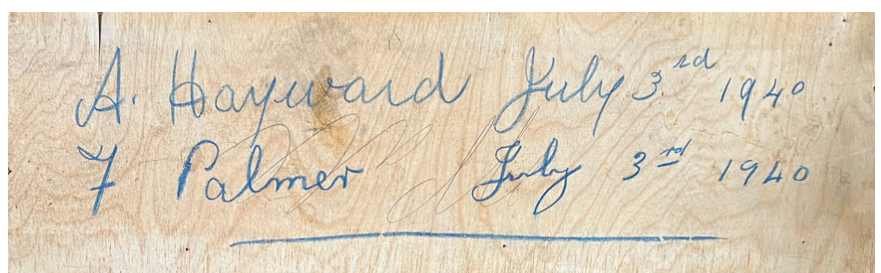
They were two men whose role at NBC had been largely forgotten for almost 85 years, until the pulpit was removed earlier this week. A hidden piece of wood was discovered with their names on, dated July 3rd 1940 - an old piece of graffiti from the carpenters who made and installed the pulpit.

The legacy of their work was to enable the faithful preaching of God's word for almost a century. And rather aptly, the focus of their work was not for their names to be brandished boldly for all to see, but on the name of Jesus. It reminded me of Jesus' words in Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven."

All worldly things will eventually come to pass. But the things we store up in heaven will not. These 'riches' are accumulated through devotion to God, good works and acts of kindness. What treasures are you storing up? Jesus goes on to say "for where your treasure is, your heart will be also." A test of one's heart is a good way of working out what kind of treasure we have been storing.

Of course, whatever we have done in the past need not define our future. Every day we can choose devotion to God. To do good works. To seek opportunities for kindness. What kind of treasure will you store in the coming weeks, months and years?

Peter



Notice board

Joyce Cole

We are sad to share the news that Joy Cole died on Monday night.

Joy had been an active member of NBC for over 40 years, until recent poor health had restricted her to watching the services online.

Please continue to pray for Brian and the family at this difficult time. Details of the funeral will be shared in due course.

First Thursday

Please note that First Thursday will **not** be meeting in February, due to the continued building works in the church and hall.

The next meeting is due to be 6th March, and we will send details out nearer the time.

Building Work Update

The work continues apace! The organ and pulpit have now been removed, opening up the space beautifully at the front of church.

New windows are booked for installation in the church, starting on Monday 10 February.

On the hall side, we're expecting the new floor to go down in the lobby tomorrow (Thurs), with the new partition due to be fitted in the hall on Wednesday 12 February.

Thanks again to all those who have juggled location moves and disruption to make this work possible.

Catering Team

We are hoping to run a few social events in 2025, including food and refreshments. As a result we are looking to put together a list of names of people we can call upon to help out.

We are looking for people who would be willing to help in the kitchen - preparing, serving and clearing up. We are also looking for a few people to lead activities in the kitchen. This will require a food hygiene certificate and being responsible for H&S in the kitchen. These people will meet occasionally to share good practice and improve how we cater for church activities. No prior experience is required, necessary training will be provided.

If you are interested please speak to Steve or Julie, or email: stevev@newburybaptistchurch.org

Church Members Meeting

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

Please note the next Church Meeting is on Sunday 9th February, following the service.

The agenda and accompanying documents will be available from the members area of the website from Monday.

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



COMING SOON: Gather 25

You are invited to join us at NBC on the evening of Saturday 1st March to take part in Gather25.

Gather 25 is a global initiative to mobilise the 2.5 billion Christians around the world to share in the mission of God to "go and make disciples".

The plan is for 25 hours there will be a continuous chain of prayer, worship and storytelling, crossing every continent and incorporating dozens of countries, languages and cultures. The hope is that everyone who attends will leave with a renewed desire to take the gospel to their families, schools, homes, workplaces and communities.

At NBC, we plan to tune in to some of the live stream and connect with what is happening globally, as well as share in food, stories, sung worship and prayer together.

Who - Anyone who follows Jesus - bring your friends, family, neighbours - all are welcome


What - A combination of food, prayer, sung worship, storytelling and live streaming of Gather25


Where - Newbury Baptist Church

When - From 6pm for food, but join us anytime between 6.45-10pm to take part in Gather25

Why - To mobilise the Church to reach the world, so every person on Earth may know Jesus

For further details visit the Gather25 website: [Gather25 | 25-hour Global Christian Conference in 2025](https://gather25.com) or contact Jo: jo@newburybaptistchurch.org



Gather  Newbury



GATHER25.COM

Prayer Space

Church Family Prayers

Please pray for the following people in our church family:

Brian C and family, following the death of Joy this week.

Beryl R who had a fall on Sunday and is currently in Basingstoke hospital.

Jeanette H

Mary H

Nigel B and family

Loving God, we pray for our church family and those in particular need at this time. We think especially of those who are grieving, and ask that you comfort and shelter them.

We pray for those who are struggling with their health, and pray particularly for healing for Beryl in hospital. May you remind those who are struggling that you are faithful, and grant them your peace.

We think of those who are struggling with the effects of dementia, and for their loved ones as they witness the impact memory loss and confusion has upon them. In your mercy Lord, bring peace, and give patience to those who care for them

We remember too, those among us who are housebound and unable to participate in church life in the ways they once did. Thank you for their service over the years. We lift them up to you now, and pray they may know of your presence alongside them, and be reminded that they are not forgotten.

We thank you for the newcomers who have been coming through our doors in recent months, and pray they might feel welcomed, build good relationships, and are able to worship you at NBC.

We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.



Gather25

Following the invitation to 'Gather25' on page 3, here are some ways we can begin praying into this initiative, and some bible passages to inspire our prayers.

Pray that God would bring to mind friends, neighbours, coworkers and family members you could invite to Gather25. Pray that God would give us kingdom-minded boldness to leverage our influence and ask those he brings to mind.

ROMANS 10:14-15:

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Pray that God would go before you and open the hearts of those you invite, and that they would accept your invitation.

Pray that God would ignite your desire to share Christ with the lost, disciple the younger people in your life, and live each day with a renewed vigour to be committed to God's word.

Pray that God would use Gather25 to reach the lost and bring them to repentance, relationship, and a saving faith in Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."