

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

5 FEBRUARY 2025

Old Words; Fresh Meaning?

On Sunday, as part of our service, we said the Lord's Prayer. Many of you will react saying "nothing unusual in that" and in many ways I agree.

However, as a numbers person let me show how this is not always the case across the generations.

When I was growing up, it was the normal practice for school assembly to be a Christian based service, ending with the Lord's Prayer. As I was at boarding school, this meant 6 days a week, but with two school chapel services on a Sunday, it means I heard and said the prayer 8 times a week.

By my calculations, when I left school, I had been exposed to these words over 3,500 times. Then in the 80's and 90's it was still normal to repeat the Lord's Prayer at every Sunday service. So, I think it's fair to say I have racked up a total of at least 4,000 readings.

There is no single written document that I have had so much exposure to, or ever will have: I know each "thou" and "art" and every cadence. For me, updating the words feels like putting on a slightly stiff pair of new shoes, rather than a pair of old comfy slippers. I am sure this experience is not unusual in my age bracket.

Contrast this experience with today's generation. A few months ago, we said the Lord's Prayer before the children and young people left. I know of one who didn't know the words and commented afterwards that it felt like we all 'went into a trance' and started 'chanting stuff'. The Lord's Prayer was new and unknown to them.

Over the decades, School and church life have changed dramatically, as demonstrated by this response.

My reflection is that we don't become complacent. For those of us for whom the Lord's Prayer is familiar, the challenge is to approach it as something fresh and new every morning, whilst also understanding that our experience is not replicated across the generations.

Neal



Notice board

Joyce Cole

Thank you for your continued prayers for Brian and the family, following the death of Joyce last week.

Her Thanksgiving Service will take place at NBC on Thursday 27th February at 11:30am.

Church Members Meeting

SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

Please note the next Church Meeting is **THIS SUNDAY** 9th February, following the service.

The agenda and accompanying documents are available from the members area of the website.

Ladies Breakfast

The next Ladies Breakfast will take place this Saturday (8th Feb) at 9am. We will meet at "Bill's" in the marketplace. Please join us for a delicious breakfast!

Building Work Update

The work on the stage is accelerating rapidly. The new ramp has now been installed, and the stage area extended around what was previously space occupied by the organ. New power points are being installed along with trunking around the bottom of the stage walls.

The new flooring has been installed in the entrance area to the Hall, the disabled toilet, and the store room. The decorators are currently working on the Bob Cooper and Frances Fayre rooms, having also painted the staircase.

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

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

Prayer Space

Prayers For Our World

Loving Father,

As we look around our nation and our world, our hearts are heavy with the struggles we see around us. We think of our NHS workers still recovering from years of strain, and we pray for renewed strength and resources for those who care for the sick and vulnerable in our society.

We lift up to you the ongoing conflicts that tear at humanity's fabric - in Ukraine, in Gaza, in Sudan, and in places whose suffering rarely makes our headlines. Grant wisdom to those in positions of power and influence, that they might choose paths of peace over violence, and reconciliation over division.

Lord, as we witness the effects of climate change in our own communities - from floods to coastal erosion along our shores - we ask for the courage to be better stewards of your creation. Help us make the difficult changes needed to protect this precious planet for future generations.

We pray for those in our nation struggling with the cost of living, choosing between heating and eating. Guide our leaders to create policies that support the most vulnerable, and open our own hearts to share what we have with those in need.

In our own congregation, help us to be a beacon of hope and practical support in our local community.

May our actions reflect your love, and may our church doors remain open to all who seek shelter, comfort, or fellowship.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



Church Family Prayers

Please pray for the following people in our church family:

Brian C and family

Beryl R who is recovering from a fall

Joy S

Jeanette H

Mary H

Nigel B and family

Bethan: Has just arrived in the Middle East, as part of her next placement with OM's sister organisation, Operation Mercy. She will be doing aid and development work. Pray that she bonds quickly with her new team and flatmate, and for continued safety and protection.



New Small Groups

This term we have two new small groups starting, both as offshoots of the Pitman group, which finished meeting at Christmas.

They will meet on Wednesday and Friday evenings fortnightly. As these new groups find their feet, please pray for them and those who have offered to host and facilitate the discussions.

May they be places of encouragement, nourishment, learning and friendship.



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: joi@newburybaptistchurch.org



Gather  Newbury



GATHER25.COM