

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

19 FEBRUARY 2025

Church Meetings: Lamborghini or Lada

Usain Bolt. Fibre Broadband. A Lamborghini Aventador.

What do these things have in common? Speed! Whether it's a sprinter, your wifi connection, or a supercar; all are geared towards speed. The faster the better!

Our world today is generally geared towards speed. *Fast* food, same-day delivery, the speed at which VAR makes its next calamitous intervention at the expense of Arsenal's title charge...!

But faster doesn't always mean better.

From slow cooking beef brisket to considering a significant decision in your life; sometimes it pays to take your time.

Last night (Tuesday) myself, Neal and Steve attended the launch of a new set of resources called *Slow Wisdom*. This is the title of a book based on the recent doctoral research of a Baptist Minister, Ruth Moriarty. It explores the way Baptist churches listen to God together, and discern the mind of Christ in Church Meetings.

One of her key findings is the need for churches to practice what she calls *slow wisdom*. She defines this as a process of "embodied Christian practical wisdom, characterised by prayer, listening to each other and God, and exemplified in the best practice of small group work."

It was interesting to listen to her presentation and the panel discussion which followed, particularly in light of our own practice of discernment and use of the Church Meeting. One of the observations made was the place of "gut instinct" - or what Moriarty calls "the divine gut"!

When you listen carefully, do you ever get a sense of a gut reaction to whether something is 'right' or not? Is this something you bring into your participation in Church Meetings?

Finding 100% consensus is difficult, if not impossible sometimes. The challenge of listening to God, to ourselves and to each other is something is also difficult, but one we *can* commit to doing. It requires us to slow down, often listen before speaking, and being brave in sharing when we do have something to say. It also requires careful consideration of how we structure Church Meetings, and how space is created to encourage and develop that kind of culture.

As a diaconate we are committed to finding ways to do this, but would value your input and ideas. How do we make spaces to hear voices on the margins? How do we better include families who often miss out on Church Meetings due to childcare? To listen to God well is a goal worth striving for, and I hope something we can increasingly do well as a church.

May God bless you this week.

Peter

Notice board

Joyce Cole Thanksgiving Service

Joy's service of thanksgiving will take place at NBC on Thursday 27th February at 11:30am. It will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel and be followed by refreshments in the Foyer. All are welcome to attend.

Building Work Update

Things have slowed down a little this week, as we await delivery of carpets and the custom glass for the balustrade on the stage. The painting in the upstairs rooms is finished, and we have installed new LED lighting in the Francis Fair room.

The Giggles & Wiggles store cupboard has been fitted with new racking, and the electric opening mechanisms on the new windows in the church are being installed tomorrow (Thursday).

Please note the screening has now been removed in front of the stage, but the stage will not be in use until the carpet is fitted.

World Day of Prayer

The service for the 2025 World Day of Prayer will take place at 10:30am on Friday 7th March in the Methodist Church on Northbrook Street.

This year's service has been prepared by Christians from the Cook Islands, and the theme is "I made you wonderful".

Tea coffee and cake will be served after the service. Everyone is very welcome.

"Arthur's" New Song

One of our missionaries, "Arthur", has recently released a new worship song. You can listen to it on his YouTube channel by searching "De Facto September".

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast takes place on Saturday 1st March.

We will be meeting at the NBC car park at 8:00am prompt to take a good walk along the canal and through Newbury centre, before ending at the Toby Carvery on the A4 for an all-you-can-eat breakfast at 9:00am.

During the walk we will be engaging with 'Gather 25' (see page 4) and praying ahead of the event at NBC later that day.

To register click [here](#).

If you would like to receive direct email updates from Men's Breakfast please email Steve stevev@newburybaptistchurch.org

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

Prayer Space

Prayers for the DRC

This week Tearfund issued an urgent plea for prayers for the Democratic Republic of Congo, where a humanitarian crisis is engulfing the country following a recent escalation of fighting between Congolese forces and militant groups.

Lord God, we pray for the people of the DRC, who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, and who now face the threat of disease due to unsanitary conditions and a lack of clean water supplies.

We bring before you those sheltering in overcrowded camps, schools and churches, where access to food and water is limited.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the organisations like Tearfund, who are supplying clean water and hygiene essentials. May they be protected in their work, and effective in distributing to those most in need.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for hospitals struggling to cope, and for children deprived of regular education in schools.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the thousands of families grieving the loss of loved ones due to the war, and for those thousands of others who have been injured. Bring your comfort, we pray.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

Gather 25

Pray for Gathering 25 taking place on Saturday 1st March.

That it might spark a revival across our world and inspire a growing hunger and thirst for the Spirit of God to move powerfully.

Church Family Prayers

Please pray for the following people:

Brian C and family

Beryl R

Joy S

Jeanette H

Mary H

Nigel B and family

Naomi in the Middle East

Arthur & Reeta as they prepare to return to the country they are working in.

Prayers for Ukraine

As the third anniversary of the war in Ukraine approaches, let us commit to praying for a just peace, and an end to the invasion.

Our Father in Heaven, we lift up our hearts before you.

For three years we have received horrible news of deaths, the noise of explosions and the wailing of the sirens across Ukraine.

Lord, every day the number of orphans and widows increases. Every day there are more people who experience the pain of loss of loved ones.

We see no end to this calamity. Only you hold us and the people of Ukraine. We ask once more for peace to come, and for Russian troops to withdraw back to their own country.

As global powers discuss peace, we pray for wisdom and we ask for the desires of the Ukrainian people to be heard, above the power plays and politicking of world leaders.

We pray for the Ukrainians in our own church and wider community. Strengthen their faith, and renew their hope in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, we pray.

Amen.



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.

We will kick things off at NBC at 6pm for anyone who would like to share in food. We'll be ordering from Pizza on the Square. If you plan on joining us for food can you please sign up [here](#)

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](#) or contact Jo: joi@newburybaptistchurch.org

A background image showing a city skyline at night with illuminated buildings. In the foreground, a silver car is parked, and two women are looking at a smartphone together. The text "Gather : : : Newbury" is overlaid in white, with a small "TM" symbol above the second colon.

Gather : : : Newbury

GATHER25.COM