

# Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

26 FEBRUARY 2025

## Kyrie Eleison: A prayer for all

Kyrie Eleison. Lord Have Mercy .

Christe Eleison. Christ Have Mercy.

On Sunday we sang those words as part of a prayerful response to the third anniversary of the war in Ukraine, and the ongoing conflicts and tension which engulf our world.

The Greek words are lifted straight from the New Testament, where they feature regularly. Whether it is the tax collector in Luke 18, the Canaanite woman in Matthew 15, or the blind men in Matthew 20; the words *Lord, have mercy*, are a plea to Jesus from the desperate, the sinful, and the humble. And they have continued to be uttered by Christians ever since.

In a similar way to how the Psalms have often been used as foundations for our sung worship, this prayer has offered a model for us, especially when we are unsure what else to pray. The scale of events like war, inequality and injustice can seem far too great for us to comprehend, and consequently we can sometimes feel a little lost in where to even begin. *Kyrie Eleison* offers us a starting point.

Perhaps it is no surprise that this prayer has been adapted many times into sung form. The fact it has been sung across the globe in vastly diverse cultures and contexts is testament to its power. These are not words which “belong” to the Catholic or Orthodox traditions, nor do they belong to Hillsong, Bethel or any other popular contemporary musicians. These are words which belong to the Church. The universal body of Christ.

What this means is that these are words which belong to you.

They are a prayer resource which you can pick up, mull over, whisper quietly or sing loudly.

Words which can cause us to sink to our knees in repentance, or cast our hands upwards in a plea for the broken and needy of the world.

In the evangelical tradition which many of us come from, there can be a tendency to “do away” with pre-scripted prayers, under some misguided notion that they are in some way less Spirit-filled than the ones you might come up with on the spot.

Yet I'd like to encourage you to lean into prayers like *Kyrie Eleison*; for these are words which are drenched in 2000 years of reaching out to God and longing for him to respond through his Spirit. They find their roots in the direct encounters people had with Christ, and they can focus our minds upon seeking a fresh encounter with him today. They can be the starting point and the ending of our intercessions and our confessions. May we know the power of *kyrie eleison*.

*Peter*



## JOIN US THIS SATURDAY Gather 25

You are invited to join us at NBC on Saturday evening (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: [jo@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:jo@newburybaptistchurch.org)

A background image for the footer banner showing a city skyline at night with many lit-up buildings. In the foreground, there is a blurred image of a car and two people, one of whom appears to be a woman with curly hair.

# Gather : :: Newbury

GATHER25.COM

# Notice board

## Joyce Cole Thanksgiving Service

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

## CAP Money Course

Following the successful re-opening of the CAP Debt Centre last year, a budgeting course is being run, free of charge to anyone from all walks of life.

The CAP Money course helps people think about their spending habits, create their own personal budget, and then most importantly how to stick to it. It is being led by Helen and David from NBC, and being hosted at St. Nic's Church.

The course is run across two sessions. An evening and a daytime course are planned for March and April respectively. Further details and registration can be found at the following link when you enter a Newbury postcode. <https://capuk.org/get-help/money-coaching>

## 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.

## Ladies Breakfast

The next Ladies Breakfast will be Saturday 8th March, 8:30am in the Church Hall.

We will be joined by Eve from Street Pastors, to share some of the work God is doing through that ministry. To register please click [here](#).

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast takes place this 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. Please register [here](#) so we can reserve enough seats at the restaurant.

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

If you would like to receive direct email updates from Men's Breakfast please email Steve [stevev@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:stevev@newburybaptistchurch.org)

**DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?**  
**EMAIL: [OFFICE@NEWBURYBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@NEWBURYBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG)**



# Prayer Space

## Prayers for our World

Almighty God, we bring before you the ongoing geopolitical tensions which seem to become more complicated every day.

As we think about the ongoing war in Ukraine, we recognise the complex set of relationships and political dynamics in play between Russia, the USA, Europe and beyond.

As Keir Starmer prepares to meet Donald Trump this week we pray for a positive meeting, where points of agreement can be found, and where the rights of the Ukrainian people are upheld and protected.

We pray for courage to stand up to those who ignore the rule of international law, and we ask that you might expose anyone who distorts your gospel to accelerate their own agendas and desire for power and control.

In this complicated web of destruction, we say *Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.*

With the news this week that the UK foreign aid budget will be cut to enable greater spending on defence, we lift up those who will be impacted most by that decision.

For the charities and workers whose funding will be slashed, we ask for alternative sources to come to the fore, and for creativity and innovation in how they might best serve the needs of those struggling. In a hurting world, we say *Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.* Amen.

## Gather 25

**Pray for Gathering 25 taking place on Saturday.**

**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

Jeanette H

Mary H

Nigel B and family

Naomi in the Middle East

Arthur & Reeta

The Mahon Family

## Kyrie Eleison

**As per the article on page 1, here is a prayer you can use as a way of focusing upon God. It is traditionally repeated a number of times, and you may find as you repeat the words different areas of focus come to mind, and you can lift these up to God in prayer too.**

*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.*

**Or simply:** *Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy.*

## BMS Prayer of the Day

**BMS World Mission are our primary mission partner. They produce a daily prayer diary to help focus prayers on all areas of their work across the globe. Copies of this can be found on their website or on the table in the Foyer.**

Pray for the Baptist Church Trust Association in New Delhi, and for BMS Kolkata.

Pray that a mission movement will emerge from these centres to bless the great nation of India and its neighbours.