

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH
26 MARCH 2025

Baptist Together Week of Prayer Invitation

As a church we are members of Baptists Together - the national union of Baptist churches, colleges and regional associations. However, we tend to generally focus on our own church, and maybe the work of churches together in Newbury (CTNA), rather than what it means to belong to a regional or national group of Baptists.

But our roots as a church go all the way back to 1640, putting us among the oldest Baptist churches in the UK. Our current membership includes a former General Secretary of the Baptist Union, and the current General Secretary's PA. So we are quite well-connected!

This week has been highlighted as a week of prayer for national baptist life, so it would be good to take a moment from our busy day to share in this. Below is a message to churches from the current General Secretary, Lynn Green:

"We all know that prayer is vital for our worship and mission. Fulfilling Jesus' Great Commandment and Great Commission needs to be rooted in heartfelt and persistent prayer.

I am so grateful to the Lord for all the faithful prayer that is offered across Baptists Together in so many different ways.

Here in 2025 I want to call our movement to a continued commitment to prayer in the year ahead.

I want us to be praying for our mission so that people will encounter Jesus and surrender their lives to following him.

I want us to be praying for God's coming Kingdom in our communities as we seek to be salt and light in those places. I want us to be praying that the whole Body of Christ will rise up, living and witnessing to Jesus every day and sharing the reason for the hope that we have.

With this in mind I want us to continue to pray into the Project Violet research findings so that we can express our lament and through this also share our hope for a future where every believer can fully play their part in God's Kingdom purposes."

Below is a suggested prayer for you to use:

Loving God, We lift up our Baptist family, calling for a renewed passion for prayer and mission.

Set our hearts ablaze with your purpose, that we might be salt and light in our communities.

Help us to pray persistently, with lives fully surrendered to your will.

Lord Jesus, we pray for divine encounters where people might meet you and be transformed.

Grant us courage to share the hope that lives within us.

We bring before you the findings of Project Violet, acknowledging our limitations.

Give us grace to lament and hope to see your Kingdom come.

Empower every believer to play their full part in your purposes. Unite the Body of Christ in witness and love.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Notice board

Building Project Update

Following a quiet couple of weeks, we will be busy again next week, as the carpets are replaced on the staircase and in the upstairs rooms. We have also found a new supplier for the partition in the Hall, and they will be doing some preparatory work early next week. The partition itself has also been ordered and will be installed in a few weeks.

Mirrors have been fitted in the new toilets, and some other minor snagging work has been ticked off the 'to do' list.

First Thursday

Our next First Thursday meeting is next week, **3rd April, midday**.

Graham will be leading the short service, and we will be enjoying another lovely two-course meal.

All are welcome to attend. Please speak to Daph or Steve if you would like to come.

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast is back in the Hall, and primed to serve Newbury's finest full-English.*

We meet at **8am** on **Saturday 4th April**. Jonathan will also be sharing with us.

To book a place click [here](#)

**Possibly...we haven't tried all the other options, but ours is pretty good and definitely the cheapest!*

Prayer Room Update and Request

Our new prayer room is getting closer to completion! It's had a coat of paint and the grimy windows have been cleaned! This is all working towards it becoming a thoughtful, calm space where people can connect with God.

We will be creating some artwork based on favourite verses and would love your contribution:

Is there a verse that is special to you?

One that has seen you through tough times?

Or one that informs your prayer?

If you'd like to share a verse then please email Jo - jo@newburybaptistchurch.org

From the Prayer Room Team,
Peggy, Allison, Hannah, Jo & Jo

Prayer Space

Lent Week 4 Prayer

Loving God as we journey through this season of Lent, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our weaknesses and seeking your transformative love.

In these moments of reflection, we pause to consider the depth of your compassion and the magnitude of your redemptive plan. We pray for our church family, for each member walking their own path of faith. Grant us the courage to look inward, to examine our hearts, and to strip away the layers of self-protection and pride that keep us from experiencing your fullest love.

Lord Jesus, as we contemplate your journey to the cross, teach us what it means to truly carry our own cross. Help us to lay down our burdens, to embrace vulnerability, and to trust in your unfailing grace. Remind us that your strength is made perfect in our weakness.

Guide our steps this week. Help us to be agents of your love, to extend grace where judgment might be easier, to offer compassion where criticism might prevail.

Fill us with the hope of resurrection, even as we walk through the shadows of this Lenten season.

We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus, amen.

Update on Ellis

Thank you for your continued prayers for Ellis.

Following further emergency surgery last Friday, he is now up and walking around. It is hoped he will be able to return home in the next week.



Church Family Prayers

Please pray for the following people:

John P

Jonathan E *awaiting a rescheduled operation*

Brian C and family

Beryl R *is now home following a hospital stay*

Jeanette H

Mary H

Nigel B and family

Naomi in the Middle East

Arthur & Reeta in Asia

The Mahon Family in Peru

Pray for the 4 teenagers continuing their baptism classes this week.

Prayers of Lament

Following Peter's sermon last Sunday, you might be reflecting upon prayers of lament. The words below are taken from the Iona Community's 'Eggs & Ashes' book. It approaches lament from a different angle to what we might be used to or expect, but brings home the truth that at all times, God is with us.

Not a good day

I know you are angry, says God.

Your silence screams.

So get real, be your hidden self with me; the one that is not nice, not nice at all.

Don't be embarrassed, bawl if you want to.

Rage. Sulk. Kick and pout like a child;

I like children.

Yes, poo, tantrums and all, since you ask.

So when someone says, 'Let us pray ...'

Knot your arms and mutter, 'Shan't!'

If it helps, it's where you are just now.

And where you are is

exactly where I want to be too.

With you.