

# Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

9TH APRIL 2025

## Pressing On...

What connects Jesus, Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice, and NBC's Tuesday Small Group?

As far as I know there aren't any free kick specialists hiding among Barbara's group, although I would happily stand corrected!

The answer is they're all 'pressing on' this week, albeit in very different ways.

For the non-football fans reading this, Declan Rice scored two free kicks last night against Real Madrid, helping Arsenal to take a big step in pressing on towards the semi finals of the Champions League. (He's also the reason I'm rather hoarse this morning, and pretty tired after getting the last train home!)

Yesterday I joined the Small Group as they continued their study of Philippians. They had reached chapter 3, which includes the verse: "Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus."

We enjoyed a good (and fun) discussion about what "pressing on" and "straining towards the goal" might look like in our own lives, and how such a focus and example to others was a mark of spiritual maturity.

Last and by no means least, we have Jesus. This week we will mark Palm Sunday, and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It is a moment where prophecies were fulfilled as he was serenaded with palm leaves and the cloaks of the crowd who had gathered around him.

It is a visually powerful moment in the gospels, with an emotional intensity heightened by our knowledge of what was about to unfold in the coming days. It is a moment where Jesus presses on, aware that his focus was not simply on that moment in isolation, but that it was a step towards the impending agony of betrayal, torture, and death.

To 'press on' can mean different things in different contexts and at different points in our lives. But, as we learn from Paul's words to the Philippians, it should be a key characteristic of followers of Jesus. It is a call to hold the things going on right now in the broader context of where we are heading, and whose power it is which enables us to move forwards.

When we 'press on' we not only follow Jesus' example, but we will also be able to better prioritise, and give proper weight to the various pulls on our time. This is undeniably difficult. To focus upon where we are heading as Christians sits at odds with the oft-cited philosophy of 'live for the moment' or 'life is short'.

But with Easter just around the corner, we are reminded of what it cost God to reconcile us to himself - not just in the present, but the future and for all eternity.

And eternity in God's presence is a prize worth pressing on towards!

God bless you this week.

*Peter*

# Notice board

## Family Cinema Trip

You may have seen that a new film has been released this week called *The King Of Kings*. This is an animation film about the life of Jesus, and comes from a story Charles Dickens would tell his children every year. It is voiced by an all-star cast, including Pierce Brosnan, Uma Thurman and Ben Kingsley. It will also form the basis of our summer all-age services.

There are very few screenings at our local Vue cinema, but some of our families are going to see it **this Sunday (13th)** at **11.35am**. Obviously this is soon after the service ends, but all are welcome to join.

## Holy Week & Easter Services

We hope you're able to join us as we journey through Holy Week through to Easter Sunday:

**Maundy Thursday** - 7.30pm at NBC - with Thatcham Baptist Church

**Good Friday** - 10.30am, St Nic's Church - CTNA service

**Easter Sunday** - 10am, all-age service at NBC

## Deacons Elections

Deacon elections are planned for the church AGM on Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. None of the current deacons are stepping down, but we are able to have a maximum of 12 deacons and have 9 in post at the moment. If you would like to discuss the role, please speak to Peter or one of the deacons.

Nominations must be submitted to Neal (Church Secretary) by the end of Easter Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> April please - via email: [churchsecretary@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:churchsecretary@newburybaptistchurch.org).

## Ladies' Breakfast

Ladies - join us on Saturday at 8.30am in the church hall for our next Ladies' Breakfast. For just £2 you can enjoy time with friends over a delicious breakfast and hear from our speaker - one of the deacons at NBC. Please book online [here](#)

## First Aid Courses

We have arranged two basic first aid courses for leaders of groups with the intention that if enough are trained, it is likely that there will be a trained first aider at most NBC events. Having booked everyone, we have some spare places on both dates, so would like to offer it to other church members. There is no charge to attendees. The sessions run from 9.30-3 on either the 26<sup>th</sup> April or 17<sup>th</sup> May at church. You will need to bring your own packed lunch, and wear comfortable clothing. Please book online for your preferred date: [26 April](#) or [17 May](#).

## Easter Cards & Gifts

Sonrise Christian Resources will be popping up with an Easter stall at the Open Door coffee morning at Newbury Methodist Church on 15 April 2025 from 10am until 12. Open to everyone, this is a great opportunity to pick up Easter cards and gifts, as well as more general Christian books, cards and gifts. You can even order ahead and collect on the day - just visit our website [www.sonrisechristianresources.co.uk](http://www.sonrisechristianresources.co.uk) or call us on 07396 825097.

**DO YOU HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?**

**EMAIL: [OFFICE@NEWBURYBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@NEWBURYBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG)**

# Prayer Space

## Lent Week 6 Prayer

Loving God,

You are always with us, guiding us and loving us. You tell us not to worry about what we will eat, drink, or wear; and you promise to take care of us. Thank you.

Help us find ways to say thank you to you and to others.

Lord, during this week of our Lenten journey, we give a little piece of what we have back to you. Take our gifts, bless them, and use them to help others. We know that getting ready for the mystery of Easter is big work.

During this season, help us learn how to trust you, love you, and share your love with others.

Thank you for being with our church family as we travel together, preparing our hearts and minds to enter into the mystery of Easter.

Bless us in our work. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Praying for Myanmar

**Please continue to pray for the people of Myanmar following the recent earthquakes.**

We pray Lord for your protection and comfort for those who are mourning the loss of loved ones at this time. We also lift up those who have lost their homes and who are fearful of the future.

We pray that there would be no further casualties and that water, electricity and wifi would be restored swiftly, so people can communicate and have safe sanitation.

We pray that the church in Myanmar may be salt and light at this time. May people see their kindness and hope and recognise that they demonstrate the truth of the gospel.

Amen.



## Church Family Prayers

Please pray for the following people in our church family:

Audrey & Brian

John P

Brian C and family

Beryl R

Jeanette H

Mary H

Nigel B and family

Naomi in the Middle East

Arthur & Reeta in Asia

The Mahon Family in Peru

## A Week Afloat

Nine young people from Ignite (and two others with Newbury connections) will be heading to the Norfolk Broads on Saturday for week on the water with Venturers.

During this week-long Christian camp, they'll be sailing, rowing, getting up at the crack of dawn, and living on a boat with young people from across the country. There will be talks, worship and hopefully lots of great discussions about faith.

Please pray for the gang going, especially Josh and Nazar attending for the first time, and Jemima and Ben in leadership roles.

Pray for safety and fun, and please also pray for Claire who's 'skippering' a yacht and Kev who leads the Cruise.