

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

30TH APRIL 2025

When in Romans

Perhaps it's apt that as much of the world's attention turns to Rome and the impending conclave, our focus for this term's preaching series will be Romans.

The longest of Paul's letters is also arguably the most influential. Hundreds of thousands of words have been written in commentaries, expounding every word of every verse. Some of the most notable theologians of all time have attempted to interpret it, including Augustine, Luther, Calvin and Wesley. Let me be clear in stating I am not trying to add 'Timothy' to that list!

Paul's words have been used to bring comfort at funerals, and as justification in doctrinal disputes including those surrounding women in ministry and same-sex relationships. It is undoubtedly a heavyweight among the New Testament writings.

So what possessed me to tackle such a meaty preaching series?!

I have found myself asking that very question more than once in recent weeks!

The truth is that Romans just keeps cropping up everywhere I look. Two of our small groups have recently studied it, and in my times of prayer it keeps returning to me. So having largely avoided delving too far into it since I became a minister, I felt convicted that now is the right time. I believe that God has something to say to us through the study of this letter, and I hope you will find it interesting, challenging and encouraging.

By way of preparation for this new sermon series, I invite you to reflect upon what I believe to be the key fundamental driver underpinning Paul's letter: That Jesus Christ has come, and has left nothing untouched.

The earth-shattering events of the crucifixion and resurrection have revealed Jesus to truly be the Son of God, and this revelation has transformed human existence. Everything Paul writes about, he does with the sure and certain hope that Christ has come, and will return to fully install God's Kingdom on earth.

If we can understand that and keep it in mind as we travel through this letter together, my hope is that we will retain a proper sense of perspective, and remain open to Jesus transforming us as we engage with his living word.

When in Romans, don't do as the Romans do, but remember what Jesus did and still does!

God bless you this week,

Peter

Notice board

Church Meeting

The next church meeting will be held on 11th May, and also includes our AGM.

No-one was nominated to stand as a deacon. Agendas and accompanying documents will be available from the Members' Area of the website from Monday.

First Aid Course

Last Saturday, the first of the two First Aid training courses took place. These courses are specifically designed to give everyone a basic "first responder" ability to help someone who becomes unwell. It is important that we plan for this scenario in case it happens on our premises. We have aimed to provide First Aid training to as many of our volunteers as possible.



Of the 13 people there on Saturday, some had attended similar training courses over long careers. Their feedback was not only to praise the trainer, Paul Lailey, but to say that this First Aid course was the best they'd very attended. Paul has worked in education for over twenty years and especially supports churches in this important area. We all had the opportunity to practise CPR on three different sized "dummies" – adult, child and baby. We were also able to try out defibrillators and bandage wounds and broken limbs. Neal said "I left the course feeling so much more confident about coping with unexpected situations, than when I started"

The next course is scheduled for Saturday 17th May – from 9:30 to 15.00. The course is already paid for, but we do have some capacity for others to join in. If you would like to have First Aid training and learn a real-life skill, for no cost, please [book online](#) or speak to Emma in the office.

First Thursday

If you haven't already booked for tomorrow's First Thursday meal and time of worship - please do! You can do so by speaking to Daph or [signing up online](#)

Men's Breakfast

Join us for our next Men's Breakfast on Saturday 3rd May at 8am in the church hall. For just £4 you can enjoy a delicious cooked breakfast and hear from this month's speaker who is definitely a Cutt above most!.... Simon will share about what it's like to be a father whose daughter is away working in a foreign land. [Please sign up online](#) to let us know you're coming.

Ladies' Breakfast

We're really delighted that Maxie Heppell has agreed to be our guest speaker at the next ladies' breakfast on Sat 10th May. In her spare time Maxie is a Christian author and enjoys speaking at women's conferences across the country. Her most recent book is "Grace Period: Hope in cancer, infertility, vision loss and fibromyalgia". So do put the date in the diary... and come ready to be blessed, encouraged and inspired! [Book your place online](#)

Marguerite Rule

Many of you will have known Marguerite Rule, a previous member and deacon at NBC. Her funeral will take place on Monday 12th May at 11 am, at Basingstoke Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving service at Christ Church, Chineham.

You can also watch online: <https://watch.obitus.com> Username zaxa3423 Password 729626

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

Prayer Space

Church Family Prayers

Please pray for the following in our church family:

Audrey & Brian

John P

Brian C and family

Beryl R

Jeanette H

Mary H

Nigel B

Jonathan E

Arthur & Reeta in Asia

The Mahon Family in Peru

Arthur & Reeta Prayers

We have recently received another prayer update from our missionaries in Asia, Arthur and Reeta.

They ask that our prayers might focus upon the ongoing challenges facing the leadership of the organisation they belong to, particularly the added responsibilities being taken on by Reeta in the absence of other staff.

Please pray for the team members who have recently left or are planning to leave, especially as they return to their home countries and adjust to a very different pace and way of life.

Give thanks for the recent office move, and pray that this will now be a stable, peaceful and long-term base to operate from.

There continues to be challenges and uncertainty over whether women will be allowed to continue with educational courses being run. Pray that the training and work can continue, and for peace for the women who face such an uncertain future.

As always, please continue to pray for the safety, good health and God's protection over Arthur and Reeta, and all those in their team.



Prayers for Exam Season

A number of our young people are about to sit important exams over the coming weeks.

If you'd like a prayer timetable please contact Sarah D: youth@newburybaptistchurch.org or pick up a copy in church.

Below are two prayers: One for us to pray for students, and another for students themselves.

Gracious God we thank you for always being with us. We thank you for making us the way that we are, all having different gifts and skills.

Lord we pray that you will have your guiding hand over those completing exams, submitting coursework and having practical assessments.

These times can be daunting for everyone involved. Grant each student and their families reassurance that through this time you will be with them in the preparation, during and after their assessments.

Lord, we pray when we are in times of doubt and worry that you would provide us with the courage to ask for help, so that we may look after ourselves and each other.

In Jesus name we pray, amen.

A prayer before sitting an exam

Lord Jesus, clear my mind of stress and allow me to pause for a short moment and feel your presence.

Quiet my mind and ease my anxiousness. Be with me as I take my test. Give me the grace to fully trust in you for whatever the future holds for me, in all my academic pursuits and with my life as a whole. Amen.