

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

7TH MAY 2025

Small Groups: A Big Deal

Throughout May we will be using this space in our weekly news to think about Small Groups, and the key role they place in helping us grow as disciples of Jesus. We start today with a reflection from Julie, our deacon responsible for small groups. In the coming weeks we will read contributions from small groups leaders, a couple who recently joined a small group, and a reflection on the role of pastoral care within small groups.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

1Thessalonians 5:11

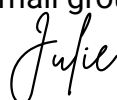
This verse in Thessalonians encourages Christians to actively support and strengthen each other. In a large congregation it can be difficult to do this, however, small groups create opportunities to build relationships which go beyond those of a Sunday morning.

Small groups spend time studying the Bible, praying together and supporting each other in practical ways (they also enjoy a good social too!). They help to nurture spiritual growth as it is easier to ask questions and dive more deeply into a Bible passage or topic. Meeting regularly with others helps to build relationships and for members to feel comfortable to share more personally with one another, it also helps to remind members that they are not alone in their faith journey. For all of us life has its challenges but being part of a small group means you have others who are with you through the good times and the more difficult times.

Small groups have been a part of NBC for many years and I have been in several different groups during my time here. At NBC we have a mix of different small groups: some which meet during the day, others in the evening; some in person and others online or a mixture of both; some at church and others in the homes of members.

In an increasingly disconnected world, small groups offer a space for connection, growth and support. Whether you are seeking deeper biblical understanding, meaningful relationships or simply a place to belong joining a small group can help to transform your Christian life.

If you would like to get involved in a small group at NBC please drop me an email
julieb@newburybaptistchurch.org



Notice board

Church Meeting & AGM - THIS SUNDAY (11th)

Agendas and accompanying documents for the church meeting and AGM are available from the Members' Area of the website. If you need a paper copy please speak to Emma in the office.

First Aid Course

We still have a few places left on the First Aid course taking place on Saturday May 17th 9.30-3pm. Those that are already booked are looking forward to a day of learning about and practising CPR as well as trying out defibrillators, bandaging wounds and dealing with broken limbs!

The course is already paid for by church, so there's no cost to individual attendees to come along. All are welcome, so please [book online](#) or speak to Emma in the office if you'd like to join in.

Giggles and Wiggles - we need you!

Do you have a couple of hours free on a Friday morning? Do you like coffee (or tea), cakes and chatting? If so, please get in touch with Chris C about joining the team at Giggles & Wiggles.

We'd love to have more helpers - even if you can't make every week.

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](#)

VE Day 80th Anniversary

Along with much of the rest of the country, Newbury will mark the 80th Anniversary of VE day with events to commemorate, celebrate and come together as a community. The events in the town begin on Thursday 8th May at 11am with a service at the war memorial, followed by a lunch at Fair Close Day Centre (booking required). Then in the evening, a Community Beacon Lighting takes place in Victoria park. Bring along a picnic and enjoy the music!

Victoria Park is the centre of the celebrations again on Saturday 10th between 11am and 3pm where there will be a community day with all sorts of stalls, games and activities as well as music, food and drink. At the Royal British Legion (Pelican Lane) there will also be a display of military vehicles and performances in the afternoon.

For more information see the [town council website](#) or the poster in the church foyer

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

Praying Together

We have recently had a request from one of our members to see whether there would be any interest in a short prayer meeting first thing in the morning before work.

This is likely to be around 6/6.30am for around 30 minutes, which obviously won't suit everyone!

However, it may fit nicely into the routine of some, who would value gathering together to pray for the church and for our community.

It is envisaged that the purpose of this prayer time would be focused prayer (not 25 minutes of sharing requests, then 5 minutes of praying!)

If this is something you might be interested in, please contact Jo I, and include the days which would work for you.

JoI@newburybaptistchurch.org

Church Family Prayers

Pray for those who have suffered recent bereavements, especially **Nigel B, Brian C** and the family of **Marguerite**.

Pray for those who have been poorly lately and have been unable to attend church, including **John P, Mary H, Jeanette H and Beryl R**.

Pray for those awaiting tests, results or operations, including **Audrey & Brian P, Jonathan**.

Pray for the missionaries we support in other countries, including the **Mahon Family** in Peru, and **Arthur & Reeta** in Asia.

Pray for **Naomi** in the Middle East, as she returns to Europe to complete emergency disaster relief training.



A Prayer for Small Groups

Loving God, thank you for the gift of our small groups where we can be real with each other and grow in faith together.

We ask your blessing on our small group leaders today. Give them the wisdom they need, energy when they're running on empty, and the confidence to know you're working through them even when they don't have all the answers.

For our groups, we pray they'd be places where people feel they belong, where your Word comes alive, and where genuine friendships form. Help us to look out for each other, share our struggles, and celebrate the good times too.

May our small groups be little pockets of your kingdom in action – places where people find support, faith deepens, and your love spills out into our wider community. In Jesus' name, amen.

A Prayer for the conclave

Loving God, as the Roman Catholic Cardinals gather to elect a new leader, we pray for their wisdom, courage, and openness to the Holy Spirit.

May they be guided by your will and find a shepherd who will lead with compassion and justice, fostering unity and peace among all your people.

We also pray for strength and healing for those who are struggling, and for the courage to find meaning and purpose in their lives.

May your light shine on all, regardless of their faith, and may we continue to work together to build a world filled with love, understanding, and hope. Amen