

Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

14TH MAY 2025

Small Groups: A Leader's Perspective

This month our focus is upon Small Groups. Each week in May we will hear from different people about their experiences of being part of a small group and the benefits they have found from belonging to one. If you are interested in joining a small group please email Julie: JulieB@newburybaptistchurch.org.

We are a small group of around 12 members who meet fortnightly on a Monday evening, alternating in-person or on zoom. We study the bible and spend time praying, for topics related to the study but also for things going on in our lives. We've studied a mixture of things over the past year, from books of the bible to topical themes that direct us to various bible passages.

We're currently looking at biblical masculinity and what it means to be a man of God in today's culture – one that we're all interested to study (whether we are male or female) as we become increasingly aware of some of the challenges (young) men face today, particularly online.

Leading a small group has been hugely beneficial for both our personal relationship with God and our relationships with other members of NBC. We have busy family and work lives, which means we generally pick studies that don't require a huge amount of preparation (and have good leaders' notes we can refer to!). Our approach has always been that we're not there to 'teach' members of the group or have all the answers, but to help initiate and guide thoughtful, biblical discussions that help others consider their own journeys of faith and understanding. If we waited until we had 'sufficient' knowledge or time to lead a small group, we would never get started!

We also have a passion for building community through small group. We encourage thoughtful conversations about the bible and our faith, but we also want to build strong relationships and a sense of community where we can support each other through life's ups and downs. We arrange a bring-and-share lunch once a term after the Sunday service as a chance to catch up with each other. Our last session of the Christmas and summer terms are usually a social evening of games, or wine and cheese. We hope that we can help members of our small group feel part of a community here at NBC, one that is there for the fun times, but also the harder times, standing alongside one another in prayer, fellowship and faith.

Tim and Jennifer

Notice board

First Aid Course

We still have a few places left on the First Aid course taking place this 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.

Venturers Camp Reflections

What do you get if you bring together nine yachts, 40+ young people, seven days of sunshine, half a tonne of cake and the occasional change of pants?

The answers: the Venturers Norfolk Broads Cruise 2025!

Ten young people from NBC joined the Cruise at Easter this year, including two for the first time and two in leadership roles. They enjoyed a week of living, sleeping and sailing on traditional Broads yachts alongside a crew of teenagers, with an adult (Skipper) coming aboard each day.

Venturers was established 78 years ago to introduce young people to sailing, the Norfolk Broads and the Christian faith – and it's changed very little since its founding. (Young people are now allowed to wear socks).

So the NBC teens were up at 7am every morning to clean the yachts ready for inspection, followed by breakfast on board. They also have a morning Bible study with their crew, exploring faith with people of different ages and various backgrounds.

We sail during the day, stopping for rowing and dinghy sailing regattas where crews compete against one another. Ask the teenagers about the Martham Bell trophy and who came out on top this year!

We moor for dinner on board, and evenings were spent in the local church or village hall. There's a crazy mix of fun and games, before a time of worship and a talk about faith. This year's theme was 'God's got this', and young people heard how God is always with us, even when it might not seem so, and wants us to be part of His plan.

It was a great, adventurous, fun and exhilarating week, with so many prayers answered. Thank you if you prayed, and please ask the Ignite young people about their highlights of Venturers 2025. And if you want to know more about the Cruise, speak to Kev Smith (the Commodore) or Claire.

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.

Jol@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.



Praying for Exam Season

Please pray for those finishing their year 6 SATs this week, and those continuing to take their GCSEs.

This includes Theo, Karina and Lara, who are sitting geography exams today (Wednesday) and a combination of Maths, German, Psychology and Business on Thursday and Friday.

Friday also marks the beginning of A Levels, with Ellie and Jemima taking their Psychology exams.

A Prayer for Our World

Loving God, in a world torn by conflict and strife, we turn to you with humble hearts. From the Middle East to Eastern Europe, from Africa to Asia, we see suffering amidst violence. We pray for your peace to descend upon these troubled lands, and for your comfort to embrace those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods.

Lord, guide the hands and hearts of world leaders. Grant them wisdom to pursue paths of reconciliation rather than retaliation, and courage to choose dialogue over destruction. Help them to see one another not as enemies but as fellow stewards of this world entrusted to us by you.

We pray for the innocent victims of these conflicts—the children who know only fear, the families forced to flee, the communities torn apart. Shelter them under your mighty wings, Father, and send your people to minister to their needs with compassion and practical care.

As Your church, remind us of our calling to be peacemakers. Empower us to speak truth, to pursue justice, and to extend Your love to all. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.