

# Weekly News

30 JULY 2025

## Time Out

When my children were younger, and they did something that they shouldn't have, they were occasionally sent to the "naughty step". Our hallway is very small, with just the front door, enough space to hang a few coats and then the door to the lounge one way and the staircase the other. If they sat on the step and we closed the lounge door it was a very quiet, solitary place for them to sit and "think about what they'd done!". As a mum, there were quite a few days when I wished someone would send me somewhere where I could just sit, do nothing, be quiet and think!

Life tends to be like that, doesn't it? Very full and busy. We often feel guilty doing nothing, and have to have an excuse to just sit and "be". Rest feels like a luxury. But we see so many examples in the Bible of Jesus resting - taking time away from the crowds, to be quiet, pray, and spend time with God. If he needed that kind of rest, then how much more do we need it?!

Over the last couple of weeks I've been thinking about what I could write for this article, and how it was just another thing I needed to add in to my list of things to do before my holiday. I went to the Ladies' Breakfast and heard Jenny speak about her digital life, and the difference her silent retreat had made on her faith. I then had to prepare something for a service in St Mary's (the church I worked at before coming to NBC).

### WHAT'S ON @ NBC

#### FIRST THURSDAY

#### AFTERNOON TEA

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST, 2:00PM

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### FAMILY SOCIAL EVENTS

MONDAY 4 AUG

SNELSMORE COMMON DEN  
BUILDING & GAMES

FRIDAY 22 AUG

SWIMMING AT NORTHCROFT

SUNDAY 31 AUG

GAMES & PICNIC, VICTORIA PARK

SATURDAY 6 SEPT

BACK TO SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT

The bible reading I had been allocated was the story of Martha and Mary from Luke 10 - Martha is busy preparing the house and the food, while her sister Mary simply sits at Jesus' feet, listening. Martha gets upset and asks Jesus to tell Mary to help. But instead of agreeing, Jesus gently tells her that Mary has chosen what is better.

That passage, and Jenny's talk, stuck in my head. Sometimes it's difficult to know what God wants me to do, but having done those two things in just a few days, I really felt that He was telling me that I needed to slow down and rest in His presence. Take some "time out" (and not necessarily sitting on a step!)

Funnily enough, the week Peter asked me to write this article is also the week I go on holiday. And I know many of you are also taking time away this summer. Our church calendar quietens down during August. Even if you're not going away, there's still a slower pace: longer days, warmer weather, and fewer obligations.

My prayer is that we all use this time to rest. To breathe. To reflect and reconnect—with ourselves, with each other, and with God.

*Emma*

# Notice Board

## Lyn Scott

A thanksgiving service for Lyn's life will take place at NBC on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm. This will be live streamed on our YouTube channel.

Refreshments will follow in the Church Hall.

Please continue to pray for Chris and the family at this sad time.

## Newsletters in August

In the spirit of resting and refreshing, there will be no further "Weekly News" during August. Do continue to send any articles or information for September when it returns.

## Family Social Events

During the school holidays there are several social events planned - a chance to get together and enjoy the summer! Please do pick up a flyer We hope you're able to join us.

4<sup>th</sup> August - 12:00 - Snelsmore Common. Meet by the picnic tables for den building & games

22<sup>nd</sup> August - 10:00 - Northcroft Lido. Book online via the [Northcroft Leisure Website](#)

31<sup>st</sup> August - 12:00 - Victoria Park. All-sge picnic & games

6<sup>th</sup> September - 18:00-20:00 - Back to School Movie Night at church. Wear your PJs and enjoy pizza while we watch a movie. [Book on the church website](#). £5 per person or £10 per family

## Save the Date

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October we're planning a fun church family social event.

Our working title is "NBC's Got Talent"! More details will follow nearer the time but we'd like as many people to come as possible, so put the date in your diary to make sure you don't miss it!

As the title implies, it will be an opportunity for members of our church family to delight, amuse and entertain us with their talents. We want to have as much variety as possible so, if you can sing, dance, perform, recite, play an instrument or otherwise surprise and entertain us for a few minutes, either solo or in a group, please talk to Julie or Steve as soon as possible and before the end of July.

We want to construct a programme for the evening that is entertaining, with a variety of acts from performers of a variety of ages and cultures. It may be that in order to balance the programme we have to hold some acts for a next time. We will let the successful performers know in early August to give them an opportunity to rehearse/practice.

Watch this space for more information! Julie and Steve





## MONTH OF PRAYER

During July we've had a month of prayer, getting out & praying over the streets where we live, our neighbours & communities. We've run four prayer walks, praying over Newbury and going where the Holy Spirit has led us. During these walks an option to "stay & pray" at church has also been offered, with prayers being prompted by the information on the posters in the welcome area, maps of Newbury & newspapers reporting local news.

The prayer walks have covered a lot of ground and places that have received our attention include the train station, local parks, schools, council offices and other churches.

Some of the recurring themes centred on :

- those in power who make decisions affecting residents. We pray that the welfare of those they serve remains at the forefront of their minds. We pray for wisdom and discernment for them as they use their positions to protect the vulnerable, use funds wisely and promote ethical values.
- those arriving in Newbury (whether by train or other means). We pray that they would find meaningful relationships, a sense of community and the opportunity to hear the Gospel. We pray that NBC & other local churches would be welcoming places where people can develop their faith.
- other local churches. Pray that God will use the different denominations to spread his gospel to those who have not yet heard it. Pray that the churches will complement each other, supporting ministries that reach far & wide. Pray for us all to listen and respond to God's plan here in Newbury.
- the public spaces we can use. We thank God for his creation and the outdoor spaces that have been developed for leisure & fitness. We pray that they would be a blessing to all who use them this summer. We pray that they would be safe spaces, where positive relationships flourish and a sense of community formed.

If you haven't had the chance to pray where you live yet, don't be disheartened - God wants to hear from you whatever the month! Perhaps you could pray for your street and neighbours as an ongoing habit?

*Jo*

## CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS

**Chris S and family** - Following the death of Lyn.

**Vivien S** - Recovering from surgery on a broken hip.

**Brian C** - Recent poor health.

**John P** - Recent poor health.

**Audrey P** - Ongoing radiotherapy & immunotherapy.

**Jonathan E** - Following recent spell in hospital.

