

Weekly News

10TH DECEMBER 2025

Anticipating God With Us

We're halfway through the second week of Advent, and it would appear the church is gripped by Narnia fever!

A number of you have told me that you're either reading *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, or have watched the film to remind you of the story, as we continue our journey through Christmas in Narnia. We've already covered the themes of hope and peace, both of which have brought challenge and reassurance. This Sunday we will be thinking about joy, and I'll be ably assisted by the acting skills of Bright Sparks and Lightning Squad. It's one not to be missed!

One of the themes which runs through the book is the power of names, particularly that of Aslan, the lion. Even the mention of it brings fear to the witch and her cronies, and hope to the creatures living under her oppressive rule. The anticipated arrival of Jesus is also marked by the revelation of names. We read in Matthew 1 that an angel tells Joseph to name the baby *Jesus* "because he will save people from their sins." Just two verses later (v23), we read he will also be called *Immanuel*, which means "God with us."

WHAT'S ON

FAMILY CRAFT MORNING

13th DECEMBER, 10-12

CHRISTMAS DRINKS AT THE MANSE

14th DECEMBER, 2-5pm

TOWN CENTRE OUTREACH

21ST DECEMBER 10AM

CAROLS BY LAMPLIGHT

21ST DECEMBER 7PM

CHRISTINGLE

24TH DECEMBER 4PM

CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

25TH DECEMBER 10am

I used to wonder how those verses fitted together. Was Immanuel a middle name or something?! I've since learned that it is more of a title - a description revealing Jesus' identity, and a fulfilment of a prophecy found in Isaiah 7:14. It's a reminder of the importance of names, and the power in knowing someone's name.

Our Romans series might already seem like a distant memory, but it was only three Sundays ago that I challenged the church to learn the names of three new people by Christmas. I wonder how that's going? Have you forgotten? Have you managed to learn the name of someone new, or an anonymous face you've seen for years?

A good opportunity to do this will be at our open house Christmas drinks on Sunday afternoon (14th). It's something Claire and I have enjoyed hosting since we moved to Newbury, and we're pleased that it's always drawn a good crowd from across the church.

For us, it's a reminder that through the coming of Christ, a new community was formed around him. Nothing less than the community of God. Sharing in our celebrations together is a reflection of that, and we'd love for you to join us. If you're new or simply don't know where we live, please contact the church office for our address. We look forward to seeing you any time from 2-5pm.

Peter

Notice Board

Family Craft Morning

Please do invite family and friends along to the craft morning, taking place this Saturday (13th) 10-12. It's a great outreach opportunity for us to welcome people into church and for them to hear the Christmas Story - without coming to a service. There will be plenty for children to do, and tea, coffee cake and chat to share too.

We have volunteers for setting up and the event itself, but need a few more hands to clear up and put the chairs back ready for church on Sunday. If you're available at 12 noon to help with this, please Let Emma in the office know.

Christmas Drinks Invitation

Peter and Claire invite you to join them for Christmas drinks and nibbles at the manse this Sunday, **14th December**. Feel free to drop in at the manse any time from **2-5pm**.

Sunday 21st December - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

There will be no morning service on Sunday 21st December.

Instead, groups will gather at 10am to go into the Town Centre to hand out sweets and invitations to our Christmas services.

If you'd like to support the team but don't want to go into town, then another group will stay to pray, and there will also be a craft activity for all ages, with the crafts made then added to the decorations in church.

That evening, at **7pm**, all are welcome to "Carols by Lamplight" - a traditional service with carols, mince pies and mulled punch.

Fig Tree

At the end of the year, we'd like to find a home for our fig tree - ideally with someone who has a south-facing garden. If you're able to continue the fantastic work Jo has done all year looking after it, please speak to Emma in the office.

Flowers

The flower team do a wonderful job decorating our church throughout the year. They have prepared a calendar for 2026 and have started to put together a rota for the coming year which will be in the welcome area on Sunday. If you would like to sign up to cover the cost of flowers in church on a Sunday of your choice - or perhaps to commemorate someone or a special event, please pop your name on the list! Perhaps you would just like to celebrate God's beautiful world around us.

You are welcome to arrange the flowers yourself or one of the team will do it for you, and then after the service you can either take the flowers or they we can arrange to give them to someone celebrating something special or in pastoral need in the church. For more information, or if you would like to join the team, please speak to Valerie.

The Gathering

NBC are organising a group to attend "The Gathering" in June next year. It's a fantastic opportunity to witness the impact of God in the lives of men throughout the UK and all men from NBC are welcome. For more information including costs and to book, please [click here](#)



Prayers

Advent 3 - JOY

In this third week of Advent we thank you for the joy that comes from the good news of Jesus' birth. We remember that true joy doesn't depend on how life is going, what we own, or who we are with. It doesn't come from presents, plans, or busy days. Real joy comes from you alone.

The joy that filled the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, and Mary and Joseph is the same joy you offer us today.

Father, thank you for sending Jesus—your greatest gift. He came to live among us, to love us, to die and rise again for us, and to bring forgiveness and new life. Because of him, we have a reason to celebrate every day.

Our joy is not found in our jobs, our families, or our success. It is your gift to us in Jesus, our Saviour and King.

Fill our hearts with deep, steady joy this Advent as we remember his birth and look for his light. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Father God,

When our days are full and our minds are busy, teach us to pause and wait for Jesus with quiet, expectant hearts this Advent. Remind us that this time is not about rushing, but about making room for your presence.

We give to you all our Christmas preparations here at NBC. Every service, every event, every welcome we hope to offer. Guide our planning and bless all who will come through our doors.

Thank you for each person who plays a part: those who set up, pray, bake, greet, lead and serve. Thank you for the gifts you have placed within our church family, and for the joy of preparing together.

Lord, help us to prepare not just our buildings but our hearts. Make us ready to receive Jesus, the One who brings hope, peace, joy, and love.

In his name we pray, amen.

