

# Weekly News

17TH DECEMBER 2025

## The Wait is Almost Over!

As we reach the final week of Advent, it's a good time to pause and take a deep breath.

The next week is likely to be super busy for many of us, and the danger is that instead of waiting for God, we tell God to wait. "I just need to sort out those final presents." "I've got to collect the turkey, pick some bits up from the supermarket, and the house still needs a good clean before the family come round."

The "God stuff" can wait until I've sorted all of that out.

Of course very few of us will actually think these things consciously. But our behaviour suggests that's essentially what we're doing. The trouble is, when we tell God to wait, we invariably miss out on the power of this season: The growing reminders that God is on the move. That Jesus is coming. That amidst the pain and brokenness of our world, a light shines and it will not be extinguished.

### WHAT'S ON

#### TOWN CENTRE OUTREACH

21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 10AM

#### CAROLS BY LAMPLIGHT

21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 7PM

#### CHRISTINGLE

24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 4PM

#### CHRISTMAS DAY CELEBRATION

25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 10am

### 2026

#### MENS BREAKFAST

3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 8AM

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### LADIES BREAKFAST

10TH JANUARY

8.30AM

I'm mindful of how many in our church family are experiencing forms of waiting during this Advent season.

Waiting for test results. Waiting for visits from loved ones. In the past week I've had to postpone three pastoral visits to some of our older members because of their poor health, much to their (and my) frustration. An enforced waiting.

The waiting of grief - how long will my heart ache? When will things feel better?

Our waiting echoes the waiting of all creation; waiting for its Creator to return and make all things new (Rev 21:5). As we have discovered in our journey through Narnia and its Advent parallels, this time of waiting is not supposed to be a hopeless, passive waiting.

It is a time where we can be reminded of the sure and certain hope provided by God in Christ, and that through his Spirit, we are empowered to live lives which reflect the good news of the gospel.

Christmas marks the end of Advent. But for many of us, we continue to wait. If that's you, I pray that God may fill you with a deep sense of his love and joy, so that you might be sustained in your waiting.

To all the community of NBC - whether you worship with us in person, or join us from afar, I pray that the peace of our Lord Jesus will fill your hearts this Christmas, and may he bless you in the coming year.

*Peter*

# Notice Board

## Craft Morning and Giggles & Wiggles

We had two great Christmas events last week - the last Giggles and Wiggles session of the year and the Family Craft morning. Both saw lots of visitors having a great time and enjoying "Narnia" with activities based on the Christmas Story. Thank you to all those who helped with both events



## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December - IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**There will be no morning service this Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## Christingle and Christmas services

Come and join us for our Christingle service at 4pm on Christmas Eve - invite friends and family to come along and take part in the fun with candles, sweets and the Christmas Story.

And then on Christmas morning, we'll celebrate Jesus' birth together in a fun-filled, all-age service. Children are invited to bring along a small present to unwrap during the service.

## Weekly News

The weekly news will take a break over Christmas - the first issue in 2026 will be on Weds 7<sup>th</sup> January.

## 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.

## Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts

Start 2026 with a tasty breakfast, good company and an interesting speaker. Men's Breakfast will meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> January at 8am ([book here](#)), and Ladies on 10<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30am.

## 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

## Prayers for the 4th week of Advent

Loving God,  
as we reach the last week of Advent, we thank you for your great love shown to us in Jesus. Like the long winter in Narnia, our world can feel cold, busy, and distracted, yet we trust that your love is always on the move. As Aslan brings hope, warmth, and life, so you come to us in Christ – gentle, powerful, and full of grace.

Help us to pause this Advent. When preparations rush in and calendars fill up, draw us back to you. In the middle of shopping, cooking, travelling, and celebrating, teach us to whisper simple prayers: “Thank you, Lord, for your love,” “Jesus, be with us,” “God, bless those I’m sharing this moment with.”

We thank you for laughter around tables, for familiar carols, for friendships and family, and for all who play their part in our celebrations. May every joy point us back to you. Prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus anew – the true gift of Christmas, born in love for us all. In his name we pray, Amen.

*In a busy week, the last week before Christmas, it's not always easy to find time to stop and pray. But how about some ideas to help you pray over the festive period:*

- **When you see a candle** – “Thank you, Jesus, you are the Light of the world.”
- **When you hear a carol** – “Thank you, Lord, for the joy of the good news of Jesus.”
- **When you see Christmas lights** – “Come, Lord Jesus, and fill our world with your love.”
- **When you wrap a present** – “Thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus.”
- **When you sit down to eat together** – “Thank you, God, for love shared around this table.”
- **When you see children's excitement** – “Thank you, God, for joy, wonder, and new beginnings.”
- **When it's cold outside** – “Thank you, God, that your love warms our hearts.”
- **When you hear laughter or see friends together** – “Thank you, God, for love and friendship.”

## Church Family Prayers

*As we approach Christmas, let us be especially mindful of those in our church family who are in need of prayer.*

**Barbara W** - Who is very poorly at the moment.

**John & Audrey P** - As they continue to settle into their new home.

**Mary H** - Following a recent fall.

**Dawn & Laurie N**

**Jeanette H**

**Those recently bereaved and marking the first Christmas without a loved one.**

