

Happy New Year

AN ENCOURAGING RESOLUTION

Dickens. Tolkien. Rowling. Clifton?

When thinking about what to write to kick off 2026, I hit the writer's block that even the greats suffer from. Then it hit me... I know what everyone wants to read about: Budget deficit.

OK, maybe not the most exciting topic! But it is something that has truly demonstrated the encouraging things God is doing here at NBC.

Last year we called the church to step out in faith about increasing giving to reduce the forecast budget deficit. Within 3 months, the church had answered this call, for which we are truly thankful and encouraged.

This experience reminded me how God works through His people to bring hope and encouragement. How does God encourage us and how do we encourage each other as the church family?

God encourages us through his Word. No matter what you are facing, God is with you "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Jos 1:9).

God encourages us through his Hope. Even when the path isn't clear, God's plan is. "I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future." (Jer 29:11).

God encourages us through his Son. Paul says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Phil 4:13). The greatest encouragement is knowing Jesus walks with us, advocates for us, and strengthens us.

So, what does this mean for our Church family?

How can we encourage each other?

Think about the words we use to each other, considering what impact they will have. "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... encouraging one another." (Heb 10:24-25).

Pray for each other. Let others know that you are praying for them. Choose different people in the church each day or week to focus on. Prayer connects us to God and to each other.

Celebrate answered prayers and successes. "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." (Rom 12:15). Encouragement is not only about supporting in the hard times, but we are encouraged when prayers are answered.

Encouragement is contagious. Seek someone out, a simple word of appreciation can lift them and support them. It could be a text or a call. Let's make 2026 a year where we reflect Christ's love through the encouragement we give.



by Tom Clifton, Church Treasurer

Coming Up @ NBC

Ladies Breakfast

Saturday 10th January
8.30am

[Book Here](#)

Building Work

The next phase of building work begins on Monday 12th January.

The new tech room will be built to the side of the stage and AV equipment moved and upgraded. The area will be boarded up and should not affect Sunday worship, but please do take care around the area.

Following completion, work will start to redecorate the welcome area and current studio. Thanks for your patience!

NOTICES



Ladies' Breakfast

The first Ladies Breakfast of 2026 takes place this Saturday, 10th January at 8.30am. Jennifer Nash is speaking on diet culture and body image - a timely antidote to the January diet rhetoric. Why not bring a friend or two along as well? Please [book online](#)

"A Taste of Heaven" Worship Event

Thatcham Baptist Church is hosting a celebration of music and song from around the world on 17th January.. Everyone (including children) are invited to come together at 4pm to share international snacks, followed by worship from 4.30pm. [Click here for more information, or to sign up.](#)

If you're a musician, or just love worshipping in different ways, they are also holding a workshop earlier that day from 12-4 with practical sessions, teaching time, and opportunity to learn new ways to worship. [Click here for more details](#)

2026 Rotas

Thank you to everyone who plays a part in our services each week. The rotas for serving on Sundays are all on Hubb for the whole of 2026- please do sign up where you're able to help. If there's a role that you'd like to help with but don't have access to the right groups on Hubb, or might need some help in "learning the ropes" when volunteering for a new role, please speak to Emma in the office.

Care for the Family

Are you the parent of a teen or tween? Care for the Family are hosting an evening event in Reading on Thursday 7th May which 'offers hope and help for parents through the turbulence of the leap from childhood to adolescence'. Tickets are £6 if booked by 27th March. Several people from NBC are planning to attend, if you'd like to join please speak to Sarah M for more information, or [click here to find out more and book tickets.](#)

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](#)

Contact Us

Want to include something next week?

Have something you'd like the church to pray for?

Email Emma in the Church Office by Wednesday 9am:
office@newburybaptistchurch.org

NBC in focus: BOB

Something new for the Weekly News this year, where we highlight various groups and ministries across the church, and how you can join in. We start with our men's group, BOB.



It looks like a small group. It sounds like a small group. But according to its members it isn't a small group! It's simply BOB - a fortnightly group for men to come together to share, study and support each other. Accountability is important for the group as they seek to grow as disciples of Jesus. They meet fortnightly on Thursday evenings in church. All men are welcome to join. Speak to Dave A or Nick F if you're interested in coming along.

PRAYERS



Church Family Prayers

On Sunday we launched a new prayer board in church. The congregation were invited to write prayers and attach them to the board. We used some of the prayers of thanksgiving in our service, and below are some of the prayer requests which were written. This will be a regular feature throughout the term. If you have a prayer request or have requested prayer and received an answer to it, please let us know.

We received lots of requests praying for family and friends; for a healthy 2026; for safety and protection; for the children and young people of NBC to grow and develop their faith; that the people in Newbury would come to know Jesus and for us to follow him more closely this year.

The following prayer requests have also been shared:

- For my two grandchildren, as their parents are separating. Pray God's protection over them all.
- That my Nanny's ankle will heal.
- For Benjamin with mock exams coming up, and for all the children starting a new term at school.
- Please help parents to be an example of Jesus to their children. Guide us as a church family and individually to understand your will.
- Pray for the good news of God's Kingdom to be seen more and more in all we do and are.

Prayers for our missionaries

Arthur & Reeta: A recent prayer diary update has been shared. If you would like to be added to this then please speak to the Church Office. A more detailed prayer request will also feature here next week.

Naomi: Pray for Naomi as she prepares to return to the country she will be serving in for the next two years. Pray for her family as they spend the next couple of weeks together. Pray for all the practicalities which still need to be finalised, including a date to travel.

The Mahon family: The Mahon family are currently in the UK visiting a number of their support churches. While they are unable to visit NBC on this occasion, there is an online event taking place tomorrow (Thursday 8th) at 12:30pm, where they will give an update on their work, have a Q&A and a time of prayer. You can register and get access [here](#).

Prayers for our world

Loving God, we bring before you the escalating tensions between the United States and Venezuela.

As military postures harden and rhetoric sharpens, we acknowledge our limited understanding of complex geopolitical forces at work - economic interests, historical grievances, and the suffering of ordinary Venezuelans caught in the middle.

Guard against nationalism that blinds us to the image of God in every person, regardless of which flag they salute. Restraine the hands of those with power to wage war. Give wisdom to leaders on all sides to choose dialogue over destruction.

We confess our tendency to reduce foreign peoples to abstractions. Remind us that Venezuelan families fear for their children just as we do for ours. Break our hearts for what breaks yours.

In a world of competing empires and interests, fix our allegiance firmly on your kingdom - a kingdom that transcends borders and refuses violence.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord and the Prince of Peace. Amen.