

## The Gift of Praying Together

One of the great things about belonging to a church community is having other people willing to pray with and for you.

The New Testament letters chronicle the story of the early church, and are scattered with references to the centrality of believers praying together. For example, in Acts 12:5 Peter is imprisoned and “the church was earnestly praying to God for him.”

James also encourages believers to pray, writing: “Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so you may be healed. For the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective” (James 5:16).

A picture is painted of earnest relationships between Christians, who recognise that what binds them together in spite of all their human, worldly differences, is a shared faith in Jesus as Lord. And through praying with and for each other, those bonds are strengthened and God meets with them.

I suspect the feel of church life in the first century was very different to NBC in 2026, with smaller clusters of believers meeting in homes, actively sharing their lives together in both practical and spiritual ways. In a larger church like ours it’s impossible to know everyone equally well, and to practically share our lives with people living across the town and beyond.

So while I don’t think the answer to all our problems is to “become an Acts church”, there are elements which should encourage and inspire us, particularly when it comes to prayer. For example, consider who are the people you would trust to pray for you in church? Who do you pray for? This could be your small group or friendship circle. Perhaps you’re unsure, or feel you don’t know people well enough. If that’s the case, why not join us before the service on Sundays at 9:30, to pray together for a few minutes? Or share a prayer on our new prayer board, and in turn read and pledge to pray for someone else’s request?

At our deacons away day on Saturday we were exploring our personality types using the Myers Briggs Type Indicator system. One of my reflections was how our approach to prayer can differ hugely depending on our personality. Not everyone wants to pray out loud, or come forward with a prayer request. Yet the example we see from the early church is one where prayers were clearly shared and offered by all. So how do we best facilitate spaces where all can engage and enjoy the gift of praying with and for each other? I would value any thoughts you might have, as we strive to increasingly make NBC a house of prayer where all belong.



by Peter Timothy, Minister

### Coming Up @ NBC

#### First Thursday

5th February  
12 noon

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### Men's Breakfast

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
8am

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
8.30am

# NOTICES



## Come & Pray - Sundays 9.30am

Join us each week at 9.30am in the Prayer room to dedicate NBC to God in Prayer. We will pray for the upcoming service - for all those involved in its delivery and for God's message to bring light and hope to those who hear it. Please pray in a way that works for you, whether that is in silent reflection or jubilant thanksgiving. All are welcome!

## West Berks Foodbank - Churches Collections Manager

West Berks Foodbank are seeking a volunteer (or a small team working together) to take on the important role of liaising with churches and supporting church collections of food. This includes maintaining relationships with local churches, helping to organise collections, sharing foodbank updates and ensuring that donations can be received smoothly and with thanks. If you are interested in this role, please contact Fran Chamings. email:[fran@westberks.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:fran@westberks.foodbank.org.uk) Tel: 07836500610

## Sonrise Christian Resources

Christian books, cards and gifts, a January sale, Lent books and Easter cards will be available from Sonrise Christian Resources at the pop-up stall at Newbury Methodist Church coffee morning on Tuesday 20 January from 10am-12. If you'd like to order ahead visit [their website](#), or call 07396 825097

## 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](mailto:office@newburybaptistchurch.org)

## NBC in focus: Men's Breakfast

This month we're highlighting various groups and ministries across the church, and letting you how you can join in. This week is the turn of Men's Breakfast.



While its leadership might be 'vintage' (sorry Dave!), there's nothing fresher than Newbury's best men's-only breakfast. Think sausage. Bacon. Eggs. Beans. Hash Brown. Mushrooms. Tomato. Fried Bread. Black Pudding. All for £4! Oh and throw in tea, coffee, juice, cereal and a thought-provoking talk - bargain! Newcomers are always welcome, and it's a great place to bring a friend. It meets on the first Saturday of the month at 8am. Book via the church website.

# PRAYERS



## Prayers from our Prayer Board

This month we introduced a new prayer board in our service, where we can write prayers and attach them to a board in the church. Below are some of this week's prayer requests.

- Pray for two of our members, Alice and Colin, as they prepare to return to Newbury from the USA, following the completion of Alice's posting with the RAF.
- Please pray for Barbara W, who is becoming increasingly frail and poorly.
- Pray for Naomi, who is preparing to fly to the Middle East to begin a two year missionary placement. Pray for her family at this difficult time, for protection as Naomi travels and settles, and for the work she will be doing. Pray that God will bless her and use her gifts so she is a blessing to all she meets.

## A Prayer for our World

Gracious God,

We come to you at a time when the foundations feel unsteady. As world leaders gather in Davos to discuss our shared future, we pray for wisdom that serves the vulnerable, not just the powerful. Grant them clarity to see beyond profit margins and quarterly returns to genuine human flourishing. May they hear the voices usually excluded from such rooms - the displaced, the poor, those whose lives will be shaped by decisions made in their absence.

We watch with unease as Greenland becomes a contested prize in games of power and resource extraction. The island's people deserve better than to be reduced to a strategic asset in someone else's expansion plans. Forgive us for treating your creation as territory to be claimed, exploited, and bargained over rather than gift to be honoured and protected. Guard those caught in the crossfire of empire-building they never asked for.

In these days of fracturing alliances and sabre-rattling, when the language of war and threats feels closer than it has for decades, we confess our fear. The old certainties are crumbling. We are tempted to retreat into tribalism, to hoard security and prosperity for ourselves and our own alone, to close our borders and our hearts.

Yet you call us to a different kingdom - one built not on domination but on justice, not on fear but on radical, costly love for neighbour and enemy alike. Your Son showed us that true power looks like a towel and a basin, like a cross and an empty tomb.

So make us agents of your peace in this fractured world. Help us resist the ancient lie that violence and control can ever truly secure our future. Show us clearly where we can advocate for the powerless, give sacrificially, pray without ceasing, and stand in practical solidarity with those crushed by the machinery of geopolitics.

Transform our anxiety into action, our fear into faithful presence.  
May your reign come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Amen.