

## Strength for the Mission

A friend recently sent me this quote from Mother Teresa, which resonated at a time when we are seeking God's will for mission at NBC:

***"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do.***

***I used to pray for answers, but now I am praying for strength, I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us and we change things"***



by Jo Isherwood  
Deacon - Prayer

We matter to God, each of us made in his image, & prayer gives us a way to draw nearer to him - to build on that relationship. We have all had friends who for a season we have seen daily, talked to for hours and who know us well. And we'll all have had friendships where our circumstances change, distance gets in the way & we don't get the chance to catch up as regularly. The closeness & intimacy of a relationship depends on the amount of investment each party puts into it and it is the same with God. The time we spend with friends can influence our opinions, change our viewpoints and often makes us more tolerant and accepting.

In prayer, God has given us a way to stay connected to him continually, but we have to play our part & bring our side of the conversation. In the same way that our relationships thrive through spending time together, our relationship with God will also develop by spending time in prayer with Him, both alone & with others.

### Coming Up @ NBC

#### The Bible Course

continues:

Online Mondays 8pm

In Person Wednesdays 7.15pm

#### First Thursday

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### Ladies Breakfast

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 8.30am

[BOOK HERE](#)

Since February we've been meeting regularly before church on Sundays - at 9.30am in the Prayer Room. We use this time to pray for the upcoming service, for those attending in person or watching online & for the life of the church, including our mission. This has been an encouraging time for me, both personally and in fellowship. It's been a privilege to pray with others who have different approaches to prayer, who have other topics that God has put on their hearts and who are at different stages of their relationship with God. Please do join us - you'd be very welcome.

It was great to see people attend the recent prayer evening which was held to pray for a second minister. To be able to sit with such a diverse group, all conversing with God in one place, for one thing was a real blessing - and I know that there is prayer taking place individually, within small groups and across all sorts of other activities within our church.

As we recently announced, we are going to be carrying out community mapping to help us discern NBC's mission and to help us be open to joining God's plan for Newbury. There is talk across the nation about a quiet revival, the Holy Spirit moving. Bible sales are up, unchurched people are asking questions, they're walking into church buildings wanting to know more about our God. Whilst there is this hunger for the gospel message we must pray for God to equip us to be the answer - just like Mother Teresa observes, "prayer changes us & we change things".

God is not distant from what is happening. He is not reacting, adjusting or trying to keep up - he is over all of it, working with a wisdom that is unlimited and a purpose that is certain. From within a relationship with Him we can trust his plan, even when we can't trace what he is doing. Please keep praying for the mission of NBC & for God to show you your role within it.

# NOTICES



## First Thursday

Join us tomorrow (7<sup>th</sup> May) for "First Thursday". The service starts at 12 noon in the main church, followed by a delicious 2 course lunch in the hall for just £4. Please [sign up in advance here](#) to give us an idea of numbers for catering. You can either pay when you register, or just sign up and then pay on the day. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Ladies' Breakfast

Rowena will share her story with us at Ladies' Breakfast this Saturday. We meet at 8.30am and have a delicious breakfast together. Please [book online here](#)

## The Bible Course

It's not too late to join us for the "The Bible Course" either online (Monday evenings 8pm via [this Google Meet link](#)) or in person on (Wednesday evenings 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start at church).

It's an 8-week course (split into two 4-week blocks) which looks in depth at the bible, and what it means for us today. There is a video to watch and then discussion groups too. There is an optional book to accompany the course - [details here](#).

## CAP Money coaching course

The next CAP Money Coaching course is being run at NBC on 13th, 20th May and 3rd June 7-9pm. If you, or anyone you know who would benefit from coming along, please [sign up for free here](#). We are also in need of a volunteer to make teas and coffees at the event. If you can help, or would like to know more about the course, please speak to Helen Andrews or David Clark.

## Thank you!

Rowena and Ian would like to thank everyone that made their wedding day so special. Thank you to those who helped with the preparation, the flowers, setting up, serving food and drinks, clearing up and so many other things. It was such a fantastic day! Thank you for the many cards, best wishes and prayers too.

## Church Picnic

Join us on June 28<sup>th</sup> for our church picnic. After the church meeting which is planned for that day, we will make our way over to Victoria Park for 12.30. More details to follow, but for now please pop the date in your diary!

## Confident Faith Training Day

Our friends at Glendale Church are hosting a day to help build confidence in sharing your faith.

It's being run by the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** and costs £20.

To book and for more info visit: [www.glendale.churchsuite.com/events/lw0bjmas](http://www.glendale.churchsuite.com/events/lw0bjmas)

**Want to include something next week?**

Email Emma by Weds, 9am: [office@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:office@newburybaptistchurch.org)

# PRAYERS

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## Church Family Prayers

Please pray for **Sasha** who has travelled to Ukraine this week and will be there for the next month.

- Pray for safety and protection.
- Pray for a blessed time with family and friends.
- Pray for Katya as she remains in Newbury.
- Continue to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine and a just peace.

Pray for **Arthur & Reeta** who have unexpectedly needed to return to the UK following safety concerns.

This is a time of uncertainty for them both, and for their colleagues. Pray for peace, wisdom and resilience during this time, and for clear guidance as they discern the next steps.

Please continue to pray for the work they and the team are doing. There are conversations and interviews taking place regarding the possible expansion of the team to fulfil various roles. Pray that these would be fruitful and for clarity in the decision-making.

The country they serve remains a difficult place to live, for both locals and foreigners. The capital city is expanding, but with new building work comes disruption to residents and very little support offered during these changes. The impact of recent rain and earthquakes has caused damage to many homes in the country. Pray for those who continue to be impacted, and who are suffering as a consequence.

## Exam Season

As we enter exam season, please commit to praying for our young people over the next few weeks. Several are currently sitting their GCSEs or A Levels. Exam timetables are available from Church with the details of every exam and date and the names of those taking the exams.

*Father God, we pray for our young people who are taking their exams over the next few weeks.*

*We ask that you grant them peace and a clarity of mind as they recall the information they have learned.*

*May they find a healthy balance of revision, rest, and relaxing.*

*We pray that throughout this time each of them would know that they are held by you, and that their worth is not dependant upon specific grades.*

*We pray too for their families in what can be a stressful and anxious time for all.*

*Grant their parents wisdom in knowing when to ask questions and when to give their children space.*

*Protect and strengthen relationships between siblings. May their homes be places of peace, fun, and security.*

*We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen.*

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