

## MARCHING IN STEP

Firstly - an apology for those who've heard enough from me in recent days, two Sunday sermons, First Thursday, Men's Breakfast - please do feel free to scroll down to the church news.

I can't quite remember exactly what I said about this photo and 'Artemis 2 power'; although I was trying to see the astonishing achievement of the recent flight to the moon as an illustration of the equally amazing journey of Jesus followers as described in the Acts 2 Pentecost account and the power of the Holy Spirit at work.

I'm sure many of us have heard sermons on the 'dynamis' (power) of the Holy Spirit and can be a little unnerved and asked; 'What is this power'? Furthermore, we often read or hear about 'abuses of power', which benefit the user but causes harm to other people. Throughout history the Church has exercised power and but sadly not always in ways which revealed Jesus and the Kingdom of God. So, what is this power?

We commonly understand this Greek word to mean dramatic, dynamic and miraculous, all of which the followers of Jesus displayed as revealed in the book of Acts. But I wonder why Luke chose to use the feminine state of this word? Was Luke indicating a link to the Female personification of Wisdom (Proverbs)? Is there a link?

Before Luke had written Acts, the Apostle Paul wrote 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit' I presume he knew that it wasn't difficult for Christians to get out of step. He describes being 'in step' as the 'fruit of the Spirit' - see Galatians 5v22-25. Is our 'keeping in step' another way of recognising the 'power of the Spirit' in us?

As my drill sergeant used to say 'By the left...'

*Graham*



by Graham Coldman

### Coming Up @ NBC

#### Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June  
8.30am

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### The Bible Course

Online Mondays 8pm  
In Person Wednesdays 7.15pm

#### Prayer Meeting

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm

#### Church Meeting

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June  
after the service  
followed by

#### Church Picnic

in Victoria Park - please bring your picnic and something to sit on!

# NOTICES



## Ladies' Breakfast

Rowena will be sharing her story at our next Ladies' Breakfast meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Join us at 8.30am for a relaxed continental-style breakfast with friends. [Please book your place here](#)

## The Bible Course

"The Bible Course" continues here at NBC. Join us online on Mondays at 8pm [via this link](#), or Wednesdays in person at church at 7.15pm.

## Prayer Meeting

Please join us for a whole church meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm as we continue the search for a second minister. Please also consider a time of fasting ahead of the prayer meeting - as detailed in the Weekly News from last week. [Click here](#) to re-read the article and for some ideas on how to fast.

## Church Meeting

The next Church Members Meeting will take place after the Sunday service on 28<sup>th</sup> June. It will be followed by our church picnic (details below!)

## Church Picnic

Everyone is invited to bring a picnic and something to sit on along to Victoria Park after the church meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> June. We'll enjoy some time together as a church family, with games for the children).

## Noticeboards

The decorating of the Welcome Area is due to take place next week, and we will be removing the noticeboards from the area. If anyone is able to use a noticeboard (or two!) please get in touch with Emma in the office.

## Bright Sparks

The Bright Sparks group on a Sunday morning needs some additional helpers. Could you help our youngest members of the church family as we share bible stories in a fun and interactive way through stories, simple crafts, games, activities and music? If you would like to find out more please speak to Linda-Jean or Sian ([sianc@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:sianc@newburybaptistchurch.org))"

## Save the Date

Don't forget to put October 3<sup>rd</sup> in your diary for a Harvest Barn Dance - more details to follow

**Want to include something next week?**

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

# PRAYERS

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## Arthur & Reeta Prayer Update

Arthur and Reeta have recently shared an update and prayer points on their blog. They will remain in the UK for at least the next month. Below is a prayer for them and their work.

Loving Father, we bring before you our friends Arthur and Reeta, unexpectedly back in the UK and living with uncertainty about how long they will be here. You know what it is to be displaced, to wait, to hold plans loosely. Give them peace in the not knowing, and a sense of your nearness as they adjust.

We thank you for good news in the work they serve: For agreements now in place that will allow new projects to go ahead. Thank you that the work continues, even at a distance, and that it does not depend on any one person being present. We pray for their colleagues who carry that work in-country while they are away. Protect them, encourage them, and give them wisdom in all they do.

We pray for the new local coordinator beginning his role this month. Give him a good start, a clear understanding of the work, and a strong working relationship with Reeta as they serve alongside one another.

We pray for Arthur in his responsibility for the safety of others. The situation around him keeps changing, and the decisions are rarely simple. Give him sound judgement, a steady head, and the courage to advise well even when the answers are hard.

We pray for Reeta as she works on her dissertation. Give her clarity as she shapes her research, and provide the right people to guide and support her studies.

And we pray for the gathering with their organisation at the end of June. May it be a time of real refreshment: honest conversation, encouragement, and renewed strength for whatever comes next. Watch over them, and over all whose faithfulness is hidden from view.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

## Belfast Riots

Please pray for the ongoing rioting in Belfast and victim of the recent knife attack. Pray for peace to descend upon the city, for the police and local authorities, and for a spirit of perspective - that those rioting might pause and recognise that one immigrant is not representative of all immigrants.

Pray too for Neal and Ingrid who are currently in Northern Ireland, and due to travel later this week.

## War in Iran

As strikes have resumed between the USA, Israel and Iran, continue to pray for a successful route to peace to be found. Pray for the diplomats tasked with handling negotiations, and for the leader of each nation to take a step back in their aggression.

Pray for all the civilians caught in the middle of the attacks, and for their ongoing protection, shelter and provision.

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