

## GO AHEAD - HAVE A GOOD TIME!

As I write this (Tuesday) I am reflecting on seasons of change. Yesterday I left full time service as an RAF Chaplain, and today I have joined the RAF Reserves. So I'm still a "Padre", but no longer working full time or being posted on a whim to where the RAF feels they need to use me. For now, Colin and I have greater control over our time - and of course we wish to make the most of more time spent together!

You may be familiar with the passage in Ecclesiastes 3:1-13. I like the version in The Message: a right time for everything on earth. It's a versatile passage that I've used at funerals but also at different stages of life; it talks into the present and it helps us reflect on the changing seasons of life. Today, I am reflecting on this passage and I urge you to take a moment to read it in The Message and also other versions... see which one speaks to you. Actually more than just finding the version that works for you... ask yourself - which time speaks to you?

Some years ago, we went to listen to Rob Bell speak in London, his tour was called An Introduction to Joy. I left with a real understanding that amidst pain and suffering, tears and lament, war and conflict, it is ok to laugh and smile... to seize joy where it can be found. In Bell's own words, 'Joy is not the absence of pain, but rather the capacity to embrace the full, unfiltered spectrum of the human experience.'

For me, today it is a right time to let go. To move into a new season of life, to take time and space to rest and to be thankful for what has been. We can never know what God is up to and so it is also a time to listen and be alert to what God is saying to us. In this new season, how are we to serve the Lord, how are we to be Kingdom builders, how then shall we live?

Some of you will be in a stable season of life, but for others, you will be facing change... moving from one phase of life to another. If this is a difficult season then reach out to others, look around you and seek a companion or two to walk alongside you on this journey called life... and if this is a season of joy for you then rejoice without guilt: It's God's gift.



by Rev Alice McDermott

### Coming Up @ NBC

#### 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!

#### First Thursday

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 12 Noon  
[BOOK HERE](#)

# NOTICES



## Whole Church Prayer Meeting

The whole church is invited to a prayer meeting tomorrow (25<sup>th</sup> June) at 7.30pm as we continue the search for a second minister. The search team felt challenged to include a time of fasting leading up to the meeting, and ideas on how to do that have been shared over recent weeks. Please do consider a day of fasting ahead of the meeting tomorrow if you're able.

When we are hungry, we are reminded why, and that remembrance shapes our prayer. It sharpens attention. It quiets distraction. It says, with our bodies as well as our words: we need God in this. Calling a minister is one of the most significant decisions a congregation can make. We want to make it well. Fasting is a way of approaching that decision with the seriousness it deserves.

## The Bible Course

We are coming to the end of "The Bible Course". The final sessions will be next week - Monday 29<sup>th</sup> at 8pm [via this link](#), or Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July in person at church at 7.15pm.

## Church Meeting

Church Members please do come along to the Members Meeting this Sunday after the service. The meeting agenda & papers are available to logged in members [here](#)

## Church Picnic

After the church meeting, everyone is invited to bring a picnic along to Victoria Park. We'll gather somewhere near the playground and enjoy some time together as well as games for everyone!

## First Thursday

The next First Thursday service and lunch will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 12 noon. Please do book your place [online here](#), or by speaking to either Daph, or Emma (in the office).

## Song - His Mercy is More

Please have a listen to [this song](#), we will be singing it after the sermon on Sunday. The song talks about God keeping no record of our sins and that, though our sins are many, God's mercy is more. May you be blessed as you listen to it.

## Mayor's Summer Variety Concert

This popular annual concert promises an enjoyable afternoon of entertainment while supporting local charitable causes. It's on Sunday 5 July 2026 at 2pm, at the Corn Exchange. Tickets are £6.25 each, and available [online](#) or by calling 01635 522733.

## Made for you - Women's Conference

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at Testwood Baptist Church, Southampton

A one day conference for women to equip, encourage and enjoy God together - with Lou Fellingham and guests. More information can be found [here](#) and if you click on 'tickets' it will show you the schedule for the day. For more information speak to Julie and if you book a ticket please let her know so we can coordinate lifts nearer the time. [julieb@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:julieb@newburybaptistchurch.org)

**Want to include something next week?**

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

# PRAYERS

---

## Church Family Prayers

**Carol & David H** - Would like to thank the church family for all their prayers following Carol's recent heart attack. She is recovering well at home, so please continue to pray for them.

**Beryl R** - Please pray for Beryl who has been unwell over the past week.

**Prayers during the heatwave** - Many within our church family and wider community are especially vulnerable during extreme temperatures. Please pray for God's shelter and protection, and be mindful of any practical support we might be able to offer.

**Week of Prayer & Fasting** - As the week concludes tomorrow (Thursday) with our prayer meeting, thank you to all who have joined us and committed our search for a second minister to the Lord. However, it doesn't mean the need for prayer is ending! Please continue to pray for God's leading. If you have sensed God saying anything to you during the past week please let Peter know.

## Praying for our nation

With the news this week that the Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, will step down in the coming weeks, let us pray for our government and the various challenges facing our country.

*Eternal God, you are the ruler of nations and Lord of all our days.*

*Kingdoms rise and fall under your steady hand, and throughout it all your faithfulness endures.*

*We bring before you our government as it embarks upon significant change. As Sir Keir Starmer steps down, we thank you for service offered and burdens carried. We ask that he and his family know rest, kindness, and a way forward. Where he has done good, may it stand. Where he has fallen short, deal gently with him, as we trust you deal gently with us.*

*We pray for those who will now seek to lead. Give them honesty, especially when it's costly, wisdom under pressure, and the humility to serve rather than to be served. Guard them from both pride and despair.*

*For our nation, weary of upheaval and quick to grow cynical, we ask for patience and hope. Lift up the poor, the anxious, and the overlooked, who feel each change most sharply. We remember, too, all who serve in public life away from the cameras, in councils, hospitals, and offices, doing quiet good.*

*Teach us, your church, to pray for our leaders before we judge them, and to seek the welfare of the place where you have placed us.*

*Hold this country, with all its divisions and its longing for something better, in your mercy. Keep us faithful, whatever the season, to the One whose kingdom does not pass away.*

*In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*