

EXPLORING GOD'S WORD TOGETHER

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.' Romans ch 15 v 4

We started back in April and we are now in July, time flies when you are..... studying God's Word together. Over the course of 8 weeks we met online or in person to explore The Bible Course.



by Julile Bell - Deacon (Adults)

'For those of us in small groups there is a sense of belonging, support, community and doing life together. Over time friendships grow, relationships deepen and people become more open, honest and vulnerable with one another. In a large church, this is invaluable. However The Bible Course also gave us the opportunity to come together as a wider church family and spend time in discussions with people outside our usual small groups. In some cases people who had never spoken before connected for the first time – perhaps because they are newer to the church or simply because their paths had never crossed, even after many years of attending NBC.

Each week the videos helped us see how the Bible fits together. Through the illustrations and teaching we were reminded that the 66 books of the Bible did not come together by accident but are God breathed, interconnected and part of one overarching story that spans both the Old and New Testaments. We also saw how God used ordinary – and in some instances deeply flawed - people to accomplish extraordinary things.

The testimonies shared in the videos each week demonstrated the power of God at work in people's lives today. A couple of years ago, my own small group shared our testimonies with one another - often we only know each other's stories from the point at which we meet, but hearing how others came to faith, the struggles they have faced and God's faithfulness throughout their journey is incredibly powerful. Never underestimate the power of your own story and faith journey.

The Bible can sometimes seem overwhelming and outdated, especially to someone newer in their faith, but sharing your story can help bring its truth and relevance to life. Your testimony doesn't have to involve a dramatic transformation and you don't need a lightning bolt moment of conversion. Be brave, trust God and share your story when opportunities arise. God can use your experiences, your faith and your journey to encourage, support or bless others in ways you may never fully see.

If you weren't able to join us for The Bible Course you can access the course online for free [here](#)

If you aren't currently part of a Small Group and would like to join one in September please do come and speak to me or drop me an email – julieb@newburybaptistchurch.org

NOTICES



Missional Listening Challenge

At the Church Meeting on Sunday members were set a challenge to engage with our existing networks to listen to the challenges and concerns they're facing. We are seeking to listen carefully to our community in order to identify needs and to help us discern where and how God might be calling us to respond. The challenge is not to quiz people with a survey or questionnaire, but to gather information through natural conversations rooted in genuine care. We've created a card with some suggested question prompts which can be filled in after your conversation and handed back for us to process. A digital version is also available [here](#). Speak to Helen, Steve, Jo I or Debi if you have any questions.

Ladies' Breakfast

Ladies Breakfast is taking a break for the summer and will return in September.

Over the past months, Ladies Breakfast has become a really special place where women can come together in friendship and community. It's been a wonderful opportunity to build relationships, share testimonies, encourage one another in our faith and simply enjoy spending time together.

We would love to see even more ladies join us when we return, so please do consider inviting friends, neighbours, family members, or anyone who would enjoy a relaxed and welcoming morning in great company. Our autumn dates are:

Saturday 12th September – Beryl will be speaking

Saturday 10th October

Saturday 14th November

Thank you to everyone who has supported and attended Ladies Breakfast this year.

Andy Kind - Christian Comedian/Preacher

Andy Kind is a comedian, preacher and writer. Andy's stand-up style is the joyful ranting of a redeemed alpha male. He has been featured on BBC1, ITV and Channel 4, while he's had jokes featured on Dave's One Night Stand and Live at the Apollo. He's coming to Newbury on Thursday July 23rd at 7.30pm in St Nicolas Church Hall. Tickets are £9 and available [here](#)

Made for you - Women's Conference

Saturday 26th 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

WorshipFest

Newbury Worship Fest is coming to Victoria Park on Saturday 18th between 12 noon and 5pm, Worship with others, hear testimonies and join in with Newbury Churches. Free admission. [More details here](#)

Creative Afternoon 19th July, 3-5pm

Calling all our creative people! Ahead of our summer all-age services we will be making some decorations and setting up the church. We need your help!

Contact Hannah for more info: hannahs@newburybaptistchurch.org

Want to include something next week?

Email Emma by Weds, 9am: office@newburybaptistchurch.org

PRAYERS

Church Family Prayers

Daph & Di - Please pray for Di who is now receiving palliative care at home. Pray for Daph and Dave as they care for her alongside the nurses and carers.

Beryl R - Please pray for Beryl who has been unwell recently.

Arthur & Reeta - Please pray for our missionaries who have been forced to return to the UK due to security concerns. They are likely to be travelling to Nepal in the coming weeks and will be working remotely. Please pray for them during this time of uncertainty, and for their team as they seek to continue their work without Arthur and Reeta being present.

Naomi Prayer Update

Naomi, our missionary in the Middle East, has shared the following update and prayer requests:

I have just moved up to the next phase of my language learning from being a toddler to a small child! I am learning to read and write words and simple sentences, listen to fairy tales (we recently did the 3 Little Pigs, but had to change the pigs to ewes!) We also get to learn more about the culture and do cultural experiences in our lesson, including how to cook local food.

i have continued mentoring projects, including learning how to use community engagement tools, which has been lots of fun. A project I evaluated in December had to close down due to funding issues, but are now hoping to start a new project and I am helping them write their project proposal. This has been very exciting, and they're now looking for funding. I've also had the opportunity to join some of our desert clinics. These have been held in Bedouin tents and have given the people the opportunity to be seen by doctors, nurses, pharmacists and opticians. It has been cool to join these and see another side of the culture here and practice my Arabic!

In May we had a field retreat, which was a great time to catch up and pray with people from several different countries. It was particularly refreshing for those who had been more affected by the regional situation and political tensions. I have also been on a course called 'Deeper into Culture', which is designed to help us ask our local friends different questions about the culture, such as weddings, family structures, and get deeper into beliefs and world views.

This month we are moving cities to where I lived last year for a month. This will be an opportunity to see life in a different city, and to have some language lessons with my old teacher. I need to leave the country for a few days as I am on a six month visa. At the moment no cheap airlines are flying, so I'm working out the best place to travel. Work-wise, our summer project managers will be writing their semi-annual reports, ready for review in September.

- Pray for our move to another city this month. Pray we would make good local friends and built relationships with our language teachers.
- Please pray for clarity on where to go for my visa trip.
- Pray for continued motivation for language learning.
- Pray for a local friend we have been reading our "Book" with.