

LONG DAYS AND SHORT YEARS

As I write this final reflection before a summer break, the school holidays are in full swing and we're already running out of ideas of how to keep Mia entertained whilst Claire and I try and get some work done. So far she's made a fairy village in the garden, tidied the playroom, made a stop-motion film of her Barbie dolls and written a story. Only five and a half weeks to go...

If the summer holidays can seem to drag, the same can't be said for our time in Newbury. Yesterday marked three years since we moved from Great Yarmouth. While plenty has happened in that time, it also seems to have happened remarkably quickly. We continue to thank God for leading us here.

One of the joys I've only discovered since we moved has been the chance to shake things up and do Sundays a bit differently during the summer. Our all-age services not only give our hardworking children's leaders a break, they also encourage us to think a little differently about worship, and to engage with prayer in ways we wouldn't normally. This year we've pushed the boat out even further than usual by creating *The Wonder Lab* as we investigate God's love. I admit to being a little anxious that the experiment of creating 'elephant's toothpaste' would work well, but thankfully it did, illustrating perfectly how the love of God cannot be contained. If you missed it then I encourage you to look back on the livestream - the oozing purple foam was captured brilliantly by our Tech Team.

As I reflected upon Sunday's service, I noticed how, in spite of the many changes to a 'normal' Sunday, so much remains the same. God's faithful presence. The importance of the body of Christ gathering to sing God's praises, listen to God's Word and to respond earnestly.

Those enduring traits through changing times have been captured on our recently installed story board in the Foyer. If you haven't had a chance to read it yet then I highly commend it as something worthy of your time. On one level it is the 400-year history of NBC. But on another it charts the enduring faithfulness of God in changing times, and the ways Newbury Baptists responded, adapted, and declared 'Jesus is Lord'.

The project took particular significance for me because by looking backwards it helps us to also take stock and look forwards. If these are the chapters already written in our church's story, what chapter is God writing today? What chapter might he be writing in the coming years?

Crucially, what might my place be in this continuing story of a faithful God and the work of his Spirit in our little market town?

I encourage you to reflect upon that question over the summer, especially in light of our current missional listening project, where we are seeking to identify where God might be calling us to serve and bless our community.

Remember to share what you've heard in your conversations to Emma in the Church Office (office@newburybaptistchurch.org).

Whatever your plans this summer, may God bless you and your family.

Peter



For those who are unable to get to church, you can view the boards and further additional information and photos here:

nbchistory.com

NOTICES



Summer Socials

The first of our Summer Socials for families takes place this coming Monday, 3rd August. We'll meet at the picnic area at Snelsemore Common at 12 noon, and enjoy Den Building and Ball Games. Please do invite friends and family too - everyone is very welcome!

Then, on **Tuesday 1st September 12 noon we'll have fun at the Splash Pad at Victoria Park**

And finally on 12th September at 6pm we'll have a **Back to School Movie night**.

Wear your favourite PJs or onesie and enjoy a film on the big screen with Pizza! Please book your place [here](#) so that we can order enough pizza for everyone. Cost £5 per person or £10 per family.

Baptism

Curious about baptism? or thinking about taking that step yourself? Peter would love to chat with you and explore what it means - speak to him after a service or drop him [an email](#)

St Nic's Craft Afternoons

St Nicolas Church are holding family craft afternoons in August (Thursdays 6th, 13th and 20th) from 2-4pm. Minimal charge to cover the cost of the crafts. For more information, and to book [click here](#)

Missional Listening Challenge

Please remember to speak to friends, family, colleagues and those you meet every day to find out more about what needs there are in Newbury and where we see God working. There are cards available in church to give your feedback, or fill in the digital version [here](#). Speak to Helen, Steve, Jo I or Debi if you have any questions.

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

Weekly News is taking a break for the summer!

It will return on Wednesday 2nd September

Some dates for the Autumn Term:

First Thursday - 3rd September

Giggles & Wiggles new Term starts - 4th September

Dee & Will's Wedding - 5th September

Men's Breakfast - 5th September

Ladies' Breakfast - 12th September

Back to School Movie Night - 12th September

Church Meeting - 20th September

Barn Dance & Meal - 3rd October

PRAYERS

Church Family Prayers

Beryl R - Please pray for Beryl who is suffering with a build-up of fluid in her body which is causing several complicated problems. Pray that she will receive prompt results from recent scans and an effective treatment plan can be made.

George and Melody - Some will know our friends from Hong Kong, particularly George who has been regularly worshipping with us for several months. Sadly Melody was recently diagnosed with leukaemia and despite treatment is now receiving palliative care.

They are being supported by friends from both NBC and St. Nic's (where Melody has been worshipping), and a number of family members have now flown over to the UK.

Please pray for them at this incredibly difficult time. They remain grateful for all the care and prayer they have received, but have asked that we pray for the pain Melody is in which is preventing her from sleeping, and the difficult decision around whether George will continue to work. They also ask for God to strengthen them and their family in their faith.

Carol & David H - Carol has recently been back in hospital and is undergoing tests and scans. Please pray for her, and for David as he cares for Carol and makes the trips to/from Reading.

Sarah, Florence & Micah - as they serve at Frinton Mission this week. Pray that God would once again move powerfully and spark a passion for Jesus among those who don't yet know him. Frinton is part of the Clacton constituency, which is gaining a lot of media attention for its upcoming by-election. Pray that the name of Jesus would be greater and generate positive headlines for the area, as well as providing a deeper source of hope for the local residents.

Please pray too for **Keith** who has recently broken his wrist.

Prayers for August

August is a significant month for all those awaiting GCSE and A Level results.

Please pray for all our teenagers who will be receiving their results and their families. Pray that they wouldn't be anxious in the waiting, and would maintain a healthy perspective whatever their results. May they have a deep sense of reassurance that they are not defined by grades, but by the fact they are loved and held by God.

Pray for the social events taking place in Snelsmore Common and Victoria Park.

Last year they attracted a number of families from Giggles & Wiggles as well as NBC regulars. Pray that they might offer the chance to develop friendships and provide support for busy parents.