

Weekly News

23rd September 2026



Have you ever wondered what happens after the children in church queue up by the door in the corner and charge through it when given the cue from the front?

Well, the children currently in year 1 to year 6 (primary school age) with all of their enthusiasm head for Lightning Squad in the hall, where the chatter and fun continue in a more direct way led by our fabulous team of Lightning Squad leaders and helpers.

Over this calendar year the children have been learning about Old Testament characters, sometimes acting out the story, like Abraham sending his servant to find a wife for Isaac, with some fantastic acting on show.

Sometimes the stories are told with videos, such as Moses and the Israelites in Lego form, or activities such as building the most creative basket for Moses and seeing how long it can float.

Some weeks there are games to help with understanding and direct the energy. There are also some quieter activities to help with learning the story, focussed on different ages and abilities.

There is usually lots of chatter and it is a great way to get to know the children, their interests, what activities that have been involved in, and for them to share what they are learning at home about the Bible too. We try to answer questions that they have, sometimes we need to say we will come back to them on their particularly tricky questions.

Please pray for our children as they find ways to learn and develop their faith. Pray they keep asking questions! And please pray for our team of leaders and helpers as they prepare each week for a programme which helps the children to learn in their faith and grow their friendships within the church family.

If you want to know more, why not ask one of the Lightning Squad what goes on when they head through that door?

Sian





QUESTIONING JESUS

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO ASK A QUESTION



Q. This week's question is a big one, which I've condensed to fit this space: *How can churches discern the mind of Christ and reach different conclusions on a subject? Surely one is right and one is wrong?*

I think this is a very legitimate frustration, and one I have wrestled with at various points over the years.

Ultimately the questioner is probably right; there has to be a 'right' answer in God's eyes on most (all?) issues, and therefore some of the church's conclusions will be wrong. And it's important that we take seriously the reality of God's objective truth, and the call for us to respond to it as obedient disciples.

It seems to me the challenge is holding conviction and uncertainty at the same time.

This is a challenge the church has always faced, and there has always been differences of opinion. Acts 15 (Paul and Barnabas splitting over Mark), Peter and Paul disagreeing in public at Antioch. Romans 14 where Paul tells 2 groups in a church that both might be right before God in their approach to food, suggesting that in a certain few topics God is neutral.

Going further back, the entire rabbinic system was preoccupied with the search for God's true intentions behind the Law, and different schools of thought reaching different conclusions and practices.

So the pattern of scripture is a record of people who discerned, argued, sometimes got it wrong, sometimes got it right, and in spite of it all, remained held by God.

So what do we do? Perhaps a key text is 1 Corinthians 13:12 ***"Now I know in part; then I shall know fully."***

Some questions aren't settled yet, and the Bible actually gives permission for that tension to remain (for now). Not knowing is the reality and challenge of the church as it exists between Jesus' ascension and his return. It's part of the time we're living in.

What we do know is that we trust in a person, not a position. Our ultimate authority is not the Bible, but Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The Bible, as the inspired Word of God, is the primary place where Christ is revealed to us. I believe that a big part of faith is knowing that Jesus is also faithful to us and holds us, irrespective of whether we've reached the correct conclusions on every issue.

I've also come to understand church doctrines in terms of primary and secondary. Primary ones are the things that determine whether you're a Christian or not. Think Jesus is Lord and Saviour, the Trinity, Jesus' death and resurrection - basically anything which will remain true, active and relevant both now and for all eternity in God's Kingdom. They're the things that demand agreement across denominations.

Secondary doctrines are the things which help us live Godly, obedient lives in this time before Christ's return, but are temporary, ie: in the fullness of God's Kingdom they'll either not be present or different in some way. Eg: Communion, understandings of divorce/remarriage, gender roles, leadership structures, etc. They're still important and not optional but there's different interpretations on what scripture teaches. Inevitably when we're in his presence God will reveal who was right, but they're not going to affect our salvation in Christ.

I've found this especially helpful in trying to understand a lot of Paul's teaching, not so I can pick/choose what to follow, but so I can better hold my convictions and uncertainties alongside each other. Some might disagree or debate what belongs in each category, but it's the argument and explanation which has resonated and made most sense to me, and has most helped me in making some kind of coherence out of the whole canon of scripture and overarching sense of God's character.

Notices



Logos Hope

If you missed the OM Ship Logos Hope when it visited London in the summer, there is another chance to go on board. It is currently docked in Cardiff Bay until Sunday 27th September. All details of the events and activities as well as its location can be found here <https://www.uk.om.org/waves-of-hope-cardiff>

Church Barn Dance

Dust off your dancing shoes and join us for a Harvest Barn Dance on 3rd October at 6pm.

Everyone welcome - no dancing skills required! There will be two sets of dancing, and in the middle we'll share a Ploughman's Supper together. Please book your place [here](#) **before the end of September**.

We are also looking for some volunteers to help with preparing the ploughman's and putting chairs away after the event. Please speak to Steve or Emma if you can help.

Harvest

We will celebrate Harvest on 4th October in church, giving thanks for everything God has blessed us with. In response to His goodness, and as a way to bless others, we will be collecting items for West Berkshire Foodbank. Please bring along donations of tinned/dried food or toiletries and household products. For a list of the Foodbank's most urgently needed items, [see their website](#)

CAP Money Coaching

CAP Money coaching is a free service designed to empower you with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to better manage your finances. It is a free course open to all. Wednesdays, 10am-12pm on 7th, 14th and 21st October. Book online [here](#). Contact David Clark or Helen Andrews for further info.

CTNA Joint Service

Join in with others from churches in Newbury on 18th October for a joint service to conclude the UK National Week of Prayer. The service will be held at St Nicolas Church at 6pm.

NBC Bake Off

NBC's popular Bake Off is back! Bake a cake and bring it along on October 18th. Our very own Prue Leith and Paul Hollywood will judge and award prizes! All donations will go to Newbury Street Pastors. Each cake must have a completed entry form including a list of ingredients. Please collect from the office.

Light Party

Come dressed as your favourite toy and have a Rootin' Tootin' Good Time at our light party on 31st October (5-6.30pm). There will be a disco, craft, games and food. Places are free but must be booked in advance [here](#).

If you're able to help supervise crafts, cook some hotdogs, join the prayer team or be part of the clean up crew for half an hour or so after the party finishes please sign up [here](#). For more information contact Sian

Prayers



Praying for the Minister in Training appointment

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the exciting opportunities ahead for our church family following the decision at the church meeting to explore appointing a Minister in Training. We thank you for the chance this gives us to strengthen our ministry at NBC, to encourage and support a new minister in their growth, and to play our part in giving back to the wider Baptist family.

We ask for your guidance in every step of this process. Be with the person who has been recommended to us. Give them clarity as they consider what our church community has to offer. Please give guidance and wisdom to the search team as they consider both the Minister in Training and second Minister positions. We surrender the outcome entirely into your hands.

Unite us as a congregation in faith, patience, and expectation as we seek your will together.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Welcoming Autumn

The first day of Autumn is today, September 23rd. As the seasons change we start to notice those familiar things again - the cooler weather, the leaves coming inside the house, searching for conkers with the children and finding the thicker jumpers and coats back out.

Lord God, we pray that our church family will shine with the warmth, welcome, and light of your love this Autumn. We lift to you our upcoming events asking that you use them to bless our community:

- We pray for our Barn Dance, that it would be a time of genuine fun, laughter, and easy connection for all who attend.
- We ask your blessing on our social events early in October - for First Thursday Lunch, as well as Men's and Ladies' breakfasts. We pray that they provide a warm space of friendship, good food, and comfort for everyone around the table.
- We pray for the CAP Money Coaching course, and ask that it offers practical support, peace of mind, and hope to those navigating financial pressure.

Open our hearts and our doors, Lord. Help us to be a generous, welcoming presence where neighbours feel valued and loved. May everything we do reflect your grace and bring glory to your name.

In Jesus' name, Amen.