

Weekly News

28th October 2026



It is great to see all the ways in which God is blessing NBC at the moment. I want to share with you a word which will be crucial if you want the church to go forward. It's the word:

ENCOURAGEMENT

We all need encouragement and the supreme encourager is God himself. In the New International Version of 2 Corinthians chapter 1 verse 3 Paul describes God as "the God of all comfort."

Comfort is a good word and comes to us from Latin meaning with strength. But a much better translation of the Greek is that God is "the God of all encouragement". That is to say God puts courage into us. Paul then describes in a very interesting way the process of encouragement. He says that God encourages us in all our troubles, so that we can encourage those who are in trouble with the encouragement we ourselves have received from God (verse 4). That is to say God gives us the gift of encouragement so that we can then pass that gift on to others.

I have a particular reason for sharing this with you. Ever since I came to NBC 19 years ago you have encouraged me. During those years my ministry has changed completely. In 2007 I was the General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain leading the work that God was doing in over 2,000 churches in these islands. And, since leaving that role, I have been walking with local churches in this area who have been going through times of change. I have also been working with Premier Media sharing the Christian message with thousands of people every day on the radio and in their publications. Life continues to be busy and I'm not often able to worship at NBC. But through it all you have been consistently encouraging and for that I am immensely grateful.

So much for me. I would love you to reflect on the way in which you have been encouraged whether it has been through times of success and happiness, or failure and pain. Perhaps you have been experienced the death of someone close to you or had the challenge of losing your job or an important relationship. Whether you have been through times of success or difficulty God has been with you every step of the way. He has put courage into you.

We all need to praise God that he is a God of encouragement, and every day we need to reflect on the way in which we can pass on that encouragement to others.

God bless you as you do so.

With my greetings and my deep gratitude,

Jonathan



Notices



Shoebags for Ukraine

Thank you to everyone who has filled a shoebag. Kelvin and Judith's spare room has been filled with an amazing 116 bags, ready to be collected by Hope Now, and taken to children in Ukraine.

Youth weekend

Last weekend our young people and leaders enjoyed a fantastic (if slightly wet!) weekend away. They had a great time and are looking forward to sharing stories from their time away soon. Thank you to all that prayed and supported the event in other ways.

Light Party

Bookings for this Saturday's Toy-Story themed Light Party are open until tomorrow (Thurs 29th). There are just a few places left, so please [book here](#) soon if you haven't already!! We're looking forward to a disco, craft, games and food, and of course seeing everyone's outfits.

If you're able to help with painting and preparation for the Light Party the evening before (October 30th at 7pm, please let Hannah know hannahs@newburybaptistchurch.org

Lost Property

We have collected quite a selection of lost property over the past few months. There are items of clothing, toys, coffee mugs and several cake containers after the Bake-Off. The box will be in the welcome area for the next two weeks - please rescue anything that is yours before it's disposed of. If you recognise something but can't get to church please get in touch with Emma in the office.



Sonrise Christian Resources

A whole range of Christmas products, including Christmas cards, Advent calendars, Advent candles, stocking fillers and 2027 calendars and diaries, together with Christian books for adults and children, cards and gifts will be available on the Sonrise Christian Resources stall in Market Place, Newbury every Saturday from 31 October to 12 December, 9am – 3pm.

Encounter - Joint Baptist Service

We're joining Thatcham and Basingstoke Baptist Churches for "Encounter" - a worship evening, led by John & Florrie Bishop-Hall.

It's at 7pm on Sunday 15th November at Basingstoke Baptist Church.

All are very welcome - no booking required. If you'd like a lift then please contact the Church Office.

Prayers



Lord, as the nights draw in and the winter feels ever closer, we thank you that you are the light of the world. We pray for anyone in our church family who feels anxious or afraid at this time of year, whether because of the dark evenings, loneliness, or the things that weigh on their hearts. Remind us that the darkness has never overcome your light.

Help us to walk in that light, free from fear, knowing that you are with us and that you are stronger than anything we might face. We pray that our lives would shine brightly for you, and that our neighbours would see something of your hope in us.

We ask for your blessing on our Light Party this weekend. We pray for the children coming - that they might have a great time and learn a little more about you. We pray for great conversations with the parents and carers and for relationships to be built upon - especially with those who do not regularly attend church.

We ask that you guide the team as they make final preparations, and that you give each of them an opportunity to share their faith easily and genuinely.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Lord, we bring before you the people of Ukraine, especially those in Oleshky and the surrounding area - previously cut off from food, clean water and medical care. We pray for the ceasefire to hold and for safe routes so that people can escape and aid can reach those who need it.

We pray for Hope Now and other organisations as they work across Ukraine. We ask that you keep their workers safe so they are able to carry out their work. We ask for your blessing on the shoebags that have been given from our church, that they might be a source of joy to the children receiving them, and that through it, they might feel your love.

We ask for a end to war, and for wisdom for those working to bring it about.

In Jesus' name. Amen