Weekly News

18th November 2026

If you hear the word Bob, what springs to mind? Possibly the name of a relative, friend or a shilling if you are old enough to have lived in pre-decimalisation times (for the youngsters that's 5p in "new" money).

All of that may be true, but what's Bob got to do with NBC? As many already know, we are not talking about a person but a group of men who meet fortnightly at 8.00pm on Thursdays in church. The official line (i.e. my explanation!) is that the name is an acronym: Band Of Brothers, for that is what we are. However, if you ask Dave he'll tell you that it's a reference to the character in Black Adder who, unbeknown to the other actors was in fact a girl dressed as a man. What this has to do with our group, I'll leave for Dave to explain!

We started Bob back in 2014, after discussing the need, value and importance of creating a group which would provide an environment and opportunity for men to share in fellowship, study and prayer enabling then to grow spiritually. Helping those who may feel less comfortable in other church groups or settings providing a safe space for support and encouragement.

We have a handful of simple objectives to help us remain focused:

- To promote daily devotion and prayer life;
- To provide a close and collaborative space for learning and exploring biblical truths through chosen study material;
- To help members to become accountable to one another in their lifestyle and behaviour;
- To encourage each member to serve either in the church or in the local community in whatever way they felt led – this of course can change with time;
- Sharing food and fellowship at social events throughout the year.

Through the years it has also become clear that one huge and lasting benefit has been supporting those struggling with health issues, bereavement and redundancy. Bob has created a non-judgmental place where men can cry if they wish and not be embarrassed; where they can open up about pain, fear and depression which they may have been bottling up.

Many will remember our dear brother Mike Heisig who suffered and died form Motor Neurone Disease. While we all knew the inevitable outcome, Bob rallied around Mike and committed to being present with him on that dark road, providing spiritual and practical support to the end.

We are currently about a dozen in number but always hoping and looking for other new members to join us. If you're a man and you want to know more please have a chat with Dave or myself.

You may find this is just the place for you.



Nick

Notices

Prayer Meeting

A reminder of our prayer meeting in church TODAY **Wednesday 18th November, 7.30pm.**
We will be praying for our search for a new minister and for Jess, who visited us a few weeks ago.

Church Members Meeting

Our next church meeting is this Sunday (22nd) after the service. An agenda and papers are available to logged in members here

Livestream 15th November

We had a technical issue during the livestream on Sunday - and some of Alice's sermon is missing. If you'd like to read the transcript to hear the "missing" bit - it's in the comments under the YouTube video

Christmas Choir

Do you love singing? Would you like to be in our Christmas Choir at the Carol service on 20th December? join us in the hall after each Sunday service for a short rehearsal. If you have any questions please speak to Claire T or Hannah.

Decorating the church for Christmas

Everyone is invited to a social evening on 27th November at 7pm in the hall. Bring along some snacks to share and we'll have a fun evening painting pictures that we'll use in our Christmas display.

Then on 28th November at 10am - we'd love people to come and help decorate the church ready for our first service in our Advent/Christmas series "Christmas Pieced Together" on Sun 29th.

Invitations to Christmas services and events

Christmas Pieced Together is our theme for Advent and Christmas this year. Cards with details of our services and events are available for you to give to friends and family to invite them along. Please do pick some up and hand them out! We know it's often easier to send things on a message so we've created digital versions of the invites too. Please download them (from here) and send them on.

Over the next few weeks we'll be asking for volunteers to help across these services and events - but for now, pop the dates in your diary and pray about who you'll invite!

COMING UP AT NBC

18th Nov, 7.30pm	Prayer Meeting
22nd Nov, 11.30am	Church Members Meeting
27th Nov, 7pm	Social Evening - creating Christmas displays
28th Nov, 10am	Decorating for Christmas
29th Nov, 10am	First Sunday of Advent "Christmas Pieced Together" series begins

Prayers

Church Family

Kelvin Please pray for Kelvin as he undergoes hip replacement surgery on 25th November.

John P Please pray for John who remains in hospital. Pray too for **Audrey.**

Beryl R Who is suffering with a chest infection.

Claire T Pease pray for Lyn, Claire's mum, who was due to have major surgery this week but has twice had the date cancelled at the last minute. Pray that a date would be quickly rearranged and the surgery would take place successfuly.

Mahon Family Prayer Update

The Mahon family are our BMS missionary partners in Peru. They have sent a detailed update which includes a number of ongoing challenges they are facing. It can be found **here**.

They write: "We are learning to meet these daily challenges with patience, to support one another and to pray for our neighbours and our city. Thank you for your love, prayers and partnership. It means so much to know that you are standing with us and praying for us."

They have also shared the following points for prayer:

• Praise God for his care for our family and for opportunities to listen to Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe and bring our concerns to him together.

• Pray for health and rest for us and our neighbours as factory fumes affect life at home. Ask for practical solutions and relief from the disruption to sleep and wellbeing.

.• Pray for safe school journeys amid changing road closures and diversions, and for patience when the school run becomes stressful.• Pray for children and teachers struggling to concentrate in the heat, and for schools and families preparing for the early end of term and possible El Niño rains.

• Pray for coastal communities facing erosion and pollution, especially those whose homes are threatened by the sea. Ask for wisdom for those responsible for protecting the shoreline.

• Pray for patience and grace as we support one another and seek to show Christ's love to our neighbours through these daily challenges.

Dave & Michele

