

# Weekly News

NEWBURY BAPTIST CHURCH

21ST MAY 2025

## Small is Beautiful!

*This month our focus is upon Small Groups.*

*Each week in May we will hear from different people about their experiences of being part of a small group and the benefits they have found from belonging to one. This week we hear from Derek and Pauline, who moved to Newbury and began attending NBC around 18 months ago. They joined a small group last year and became Church Members in February. If you are interested in joining a small group please email Julie: [JulieB@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:JulieB@newburybaptistchurch.org).*

Soon after starting to attend, we asked about small groups at NBC. How many, what happens, who comes, how often, where and when do they meet?

Membership of a home-based group had been a regular part of our experience in our previous church over many years and we had found them valuable. Not only had they provided a disciplined means of focussed Bible study, they had been the place where open, sharing, trusting relationships could be built for mutual care, encouragement and prayer.

We learned from each others' experiences, questions and answers, and helped to develop the understanding and practice of younger Christians. Often our discussion was based around the current Sunday sermon series, but that could be set aside if someone had an urgent issue where they needed help and prayer.

So we were pleased to discover that a number of small groups operate at NBC, and have been part of Barbara's group for over a year now. We have been able to get to know the other members more closely (and for them to know us better!), to ask about the ways in which the church works, and sometimes to laugh together.

In a church of some size, no-one can know everyone well, but small groups provide an opportunity to nurture the kind of supportive relationships encouraged by Jesus and the leaders of the early church. We are glad to belong to one!

*Derek and Pauline Sweet*



# Notice board

## Book Swap 15<sup>th</sup> June

Following the service on Sunday the 15th of June we will be having a church book swap. We've been donated a selection of Christian books and would love them to be passed on to spread further benefit.

If you have any Christian books languishing on your bookshelves which you no longer read then bring them in to NBC and swap them out for something else.

Any good quality leftover books will be donated to Book Aid, who supply bibles and christian literature to their partners who work in areas of the world where books are wanted but not easily found or afforded. Any books that they will not accept will be given to charity.

If you have books you want to donate then leave them in the prayer room and we'll set them out in the foyer on the 15th of June.

If you have books that you are prepared to swap, but would like returned then write your name in the front cover so that whoever takes it knows it needs to be returned to you after use.

## Giggles and Wiggles - we need you!

Do you have a couple of hours free on a Friday morning? Do you like coffee (or tea), cakes and chatting?

If so, please get in touch with Chris C about joining the team at Giggles & Wiggles.

We'd love to have more helpers - even if you can't make every week.

## Building Work update

Exciting progress is underway with our church hall renovations! Next week, a new partition will be installed, making the space more versatile. Once the partition is in place, sound experts will assess the rooms to plan the installation of acoustic panels. These panels will help reduce echo and improve sound quality, ensuring a comfortable environment for all events.

Following the church's recent decision to proceed with the next phase of building works, preparations have already started! The builders have visited the site to see what's needed for the tech room and electronic door locks have been ordered for the upstairs rooms and the new tech room too.

## Calling All Runners! (And Non-Runners!)

One of our members is interested in starting a running group on a Sunday evening and would like to know if anyone else is interested in joining them.

The idea would be to meet at NBC around 8pm (after young children have gone to bed!) and do a 5km run. This is open to all, with no expectation to be an expert runner. If you're interested but unsure about the distance, shorter routes can be planned as well.

Please contact the Church Office if you want to find out more.

# Prayer Space

## Praying Together

We have recently had a request from one of our members to see whether there would be any interest in a short prayer meeting first thing in the morning before work.

This is likely to be around 6/6.30am for around 30 minutes, which obviously won't suit everyone!

However, it may fit nicely into the routine of some, who would value gathering together to pray for the church and for our community.

It is envisaged that the purpose of this prayer time would be focused prayer (not 25 minutes of sharing requests, then 5 minutes of praying!)

If this is something you might be interested in, please contact Jo I, and include the days which would work for you.

[JoI@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:JoI@newburybaptistchurch.org)

## Church Family Prayers

Pray for those who are suffering with the effects of dementia. There are some older church members who are unable to attend events any more due to this disease, but have been a part of NBC for many years. Pray that they might be reminded of God's presence with them, and for a sense of God's peace which surpasses confusion, forgetfulness and uncertainty.

Pray for those who are particularly poorly at this time, including **John P** and **Mary H**.

Pray for **Audrey** as she awaits details of a new treatment plan. Pray for **Brian** as he supports her.

Pray for those within our church family whose spouses don't attend church. Pray for wisdom as they seek to balance their faith and involvement at NBC with family life.



## Praying for Exam Season

We are roughly at the halfway stage of GCSE and A Level exam season. Please continue to pray for our young people as they revise and sit their exams.

This week there are psychology and English Language A Levels for Ellie and Jemima (Weds). Lara, Karina and Theo have a combination of RE and physics exams on Thursday and Friday. There is then a break next week for half term.

## Praying for the Mahons

We have received a recent update from the Mahon family - our missionary partners in Peru. Please pray for the following:

- Join them in giving thanks for good health, and pray for their ongoing wellbeing.
- Pray for their landlord, Sergio, who is also a Peruvian missionary, as he continues to support churches in Iquitos and San Lorenzo.
- Pray for the new believers in Ruth and Phoebe's school, following a number coming to faith over the Easter period.
- Pray for their Pastor, Carlos, and his wife Ynes, as they spend time with their daughter in Spain, who is receiving chemotherapy. Pray for Dave and Michele as they pick up some of the teaching while Carlos is away.
- Pray for Michele as she travels this week with the Peruvian Baptist Mission Board to Ayacucho, to teach on the history of mission in the church.