

Weekly News

19TH NOVEMBER 2025

The End is Nigh!

Don't let the headline scare you - it's unlikely Jesus is about to return (and if he does I hope we can get Christmas out of the way first, as a lot of effort has already gone into our plans for this year!)

I am of course referring to the end of our mega sermon series on Paul's letter to the Romans, which concludes this Sunday. It began back in May, and barring a break for the Summer holidays, we have broken down the 16 chapters into 24 sermons, covering everything from the nature of discipleship, to Paul's gospel of grace, to the modern state of Israel and the status of Jews in the Kingdom of God.

If you've soldiered through every sermon, then 'bravo'! If I had a medal I'd be dishing one out to you, because Romans isn't a straightforward part of scripture. However, I've been encouraged by lots of positive feedback from many of the congregation, who have appreciated the chance to unpack Paul's words and hopefully understand them better and see their relevance to life today.

As I prepare to step back from Romans, it's perhaps a good time to be reminded of the big picture and purpose of the letter. John Chrysostom, the 4th Century archbishop of Constantinople, called Paul's words "a heavenly trumpet" - a call to action. Contemporary scholar Susan Eastman says to hear them is "an event that awakens desire, warms the heart and fires up the will." I hope you have experienced at least a hint of those things during our own preaching series.

Ultimately, Paul's theology is rooted in the firm belief that Jesus is Lord, and that God has chosen to reveal himself to us through Christ. This is where all our thinking about God, about life, about truth itself, should begin. To start anywhere else is, like the old Sunday school song warns us, to be like the foolish man who built his house upon the sand. *(Coincidentally, I was fascinated by Naomi's contextual insight into this verse when she spoke at Men's Breakfast recently - if you missed it, do ask her about it).*

To study Romans therefore, is to engage with the very nature of God and encounter the revelation of God's righteousness. Amidst all the complicated theology and differing interpretations on individual passages, my prayer is that God has met with you as you have studied this part of his Word.

May you encounter God in the ordinary as well as the extra-ordinary this week.

Peter

WHAT'S ON

**CHURCH MEMBERS
MEETING**
23RD NOVEMBER
11.30AM

**DECORATING THE CHURCH
FOR CHRISTMAS IN NARNIA**
29TH NOVEMBER 1-3PM

**FIRST
THURSDAY**
4TH DECEMBER
12 NOON
[BOOK HERE](#)

MEN'S BREAKFAST
6th DECEMBER
8 am

Notice Board

Audrey Lewendon Funeral Service

Please pray for Ceri and her family as the funeral service for her Mum, Audrey Lewendon, takes place at West Berks Crematorium this afternoon.

Painting evening

Feeling creative? All are welcome this Friday, 21st November in the hall at 7:30 for an evening painting backgrounds to help decorate the church for Advent. Bring a paintbrush and some nibbles for a relaxed, creative evening.

Decorating the Church for Christmas in Narnia

NBC is transforming into a Narnia wonderland for Christmas, and we need your help.... if you are able to help decorate the church with trees, light and snow, on 29th November 1-3pm please let Hannah know hannahs@newburybaptistchurch.org

Christmas Choir

Our first choir rehearsal took place last week, and we'll be meeting each Sunday after the service, with a final rehearsal on the morning of 21st December before singing at the Carol service that evening at 7pm. All are welcome to join in - please come along even if you cannot make all of the rehearsals. Any questions please speak to Hannah or Claire T. The song that we will be singing is Noel - available to listen to [on YouTube](#)

Family Craft Morning

We'll be running a family activity outreach event on the morning of the 13th December and need volunteers to help with set-up/pack down, refreshments, welcoming, hosting, and lots more. Please let Emma in the Church Office know if you'd like to get involved.

Rotas

The rotas for all the Christmas Services and for Sundays throughout 2026 are now available on Hubb. Please do have a look and sign up for some dates to serve. If you would like to try something new and don't have access, please speak to Emma in the office. Thank you to everyone that plays their part in making our services run smoothly!

Christmas Drinks Invitation

Peter and Claire invite you to join them for Christmas drinks and nibbles at the manse on **Sunday 14th December**.

Feel free to drop in at the manse any time from **2-5pm**, and enjoy a drink or two, plus Peter's carefully curated, non-cheesy Christmas playlist! *(Sorry to fans of Slade, Wizzard and Cliff!)*



Prayers

CAP NEWBURY

Please join our CAP Debt Centre team in giving thanks to God for the good news that they recently passed £500,000 worth of debt being either cancelled or dealt with on repayment plans. This total has been reached since the work re-commenced in January 2024.

Pray for the continued work of the team, especially that the light of Jesus might shine brightly in the home visits they conduct, and the relationships they build with clients.

Pray for Colin and David as the debt coaches, and for the team of befrienders.

CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS

John & Audrey P - who have made the decision to permanently move into a care home together. Please pray for the various practicalities involved in making such a change, as well as for their continued health and wellbeing.

Ceri & family - As they gather for Audrey's funeral today, and continue to grieve.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we draw closer to Christmas, please be praying for the various services and events taking place at NBC. Much of the preparation / rehearsals have already begun, and we want to pray that every person who enters the church would meet with Jesus.

Please also prayerfully consider who you might want to invite to the services.

NORTHERN IRELAND SCHOOL COURT RULING

Following the supreme court ruling today that Christian-focused religious education taught in Northern Irish schools is unlawful, please pray for those who will now be tasked with making changes.

Pray that the balance of teaching will not swing completely away from Christianity, nor for the many ministers and Christian organisations who lead assemblies and lessons to find themselves unwelcome in schools.

Pray that children will continue to learn about Jesus and be encouraged to ask questions in order to grow in their faith, and for the teachers tasked with leading lessons on other religions and approaches to worship.

