

# Weekly News

23 JULY 2025

## The Cost of Community

On Sunday I shared the incredibly sad and unexpected death of one of our much-loved members, Lyn.

As I looked around at the congregation there was a visceral reaction etched on the faces of many. Shock, upset, tearfulness. Among those that already knew, including Lyn's small group, there was an air of heaviness from the moment they stepped foot through the door. We are a church family in mourning.

This is the cost of community. The cost of walking together as sisters and brothers in Christ.

Because in times like these we are reminded that what binds us together is not simply a shared interest or sense of humour. We are bound by the Living God - Jesus himself - and the deeper we allow those bonds to grow, the stronger the connection we feel towards each other. Of course this is true of any kind of relationship in life. But what makes the relationship between followers of Jesus unique is that through the Holy Spirit at work in each other's lives, we catch glimpses of God.

For those who knew Lyn, it was not difficult to catch glimpses of God when in her presence. A gentle welcome and reassuring smile when she served on the front door on Sundays. Quiet and unseen acts of kindness and care, known only to the recipients, which made her such an asset to the pastoral team.

When we live in community and commit ourselves to the life of the church, as well as to God, there is much joy to be found. For the vast majority we are usually able to give and contribute without needing much in return. But there will be times when life gets tough. When we experience loss or hardship. And in those moments we see the power of what it means to be bound together by Christ.

### WHAT'S ON @ NBC

#### CHURCH SOCIAL

SUNDAY 27 JULY, 12:00PM

GAMES & PICNIC, VICTORIA PARK

#### PRAYER WALK FROM NBC

FRIDAY 25 JULY, 2PM

#### FIRST THURSDAY

#### AFTERNOON TEA

THURSDAY 7 AUGUST, 2:00PM

[BOOK HERE](#)

The reality of church being a community not a club is that there will be times of great joy and times of great sadness (and lots of times when we feel something in-between). If you are finding it difficult to comprehend the speed and unexpected nature of Lyn's illness, then I encourage you not to shy away from those emotions. What we feel is a consequence of love, and a consequence of God at work in us and through Lyn over the course of many years.

I am mindful of Jesus' words in Matthew 5: *Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.*

Jesus' use of the word 'blessed' doesn't mean happy, but refers to the ultimate wellbeing and distinctive spiritual joy of those who share in the salvation of the Kingdom of God. A salvation now inherited by Lyn, and a hope guaranteed for all of us who trust in Jesus as our Lord.

I pray for God's comfort for us all at this time, and for God to bring comfort through the support we show each other.

*Peter*

# Notice Board

## Lyn Scott

We are saddened to share the news that Lyn Scott died last week following a short illness. Lyn and Chris have been longstanding members at NBC and heavily involved in church life.

A thanksgiving service will take place at NBC on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August. Further details will follow.

Please pray for Chris and the family at this sad time.

## Family Social Events

During the school holidays there are several social events planned - a chance to get together and enjoy the summer! Please do pick up a flyer We hope you're able to join us.

27<sup>th</sup> July - 12:00 - Victoria Park. All-age picnic & games

4<sup>th</sup> August - 12:00 - Snelsmore Common. Meet by the picnic tables for den building & games

22<sup>nd</sup> August - 10:00 - Northcroft Lido. Book online via the [Northcroft Leisure Website](#)

31<sup>st</sup> August - 12:00 - Victoria Park. All-sge picnic & games

6<sup>th</sup> September - 18:00-20:00 - Back to School Movie Night at church. Wear your PJs and enjoy pizza while we watch a movie. [Book on the church website](#). £5 per person or £10 per family

## Save the Date

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October we're planning a fun church family social event.

Our working title is "NBC's Got Talent"! More details will follow nearer the time but we'd like as many people to come as possible, so put the date in your diary to make sure you don't miss it!

As the title implies, it will be an opportunity for members of our church family to delight, amuse and entertain us with their talents. We want to have as much variety as possible so, if you can sing, dance, perform, recite, play an instrument or otherwise surprise and entertain us for a few minutes, either solo or in a group, please talk to Julie or Steve as soon as possible and before the end of July.

We want to construct a programme for the evening that is entertaining, with a variety of acts from performers of a variety of ages and cultures. It may be that in order to balance the programme we have to hold some acts for a next time. We will let the successful performers know in early August to give them an opportunity to rehearse/practice.

Watch this space for more information! Julie and Steve



# MONTH OF PRAYER

**We are now entering our final week in our month of prayer!**

**Have you been out to pray for your neighbourhood yet?**

**Have you checked out our Prayer Scavenger Hunt or our interactive map to see if anyone else from NBC lives in your neighbourhood?**

**Our prayer walks from NBC have been well-attended from a variety of people, with opportunities to pray in various parts of the town. It would be great to see you at one of the final two taking place in the next fortnight.**

**If you have any questions please speak to Jo: [JoI@newburybaptistchurch.org](mailto:JoI@newburybaptistchurch.org)**

## **PRAYER WALKS FROM NBC**

**FRIDAY 25 JULY, 2PM**

Whilst these walks are taking place, the church will also be open for 'stay and pray' sessions, with some guided material provided to help focus our prayers.

## **PRAYING FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD**

When was the last time you prayed for the neighbours on your road?

We are challenging everyone to take at least one walk around your neighbourhood to pray for it.

Why not join up with other church members who live nearby? If you're unsure if anyone lives near you, we have created a special online map to show the geographical spread of the church. You can find this on the member's area of the website.

Exact locations and details have been anonymised, but if you see there are pins near to where you live, contact Emma in the church office and she will help make the necessary connections.

If mobility is an issue, why not invite a friend over for a cup of tea and a prayer together?

## **PRAYER SCAVENGER HUNT**

We have designed a scavenger prayer hunt as inspiration for families and small groups to use.

It helps us search for God in the ordinary, everyday things around us. It can be downloaded from the 'Pray' section of our website.





## PRAYING FOR GAZA

The ongoing war in Israel is a subject we have been praying into for several months. However the recent news coming from Gaza is that mass starvation is now spreading rapidly, with food parcels being prevented from entering the territory. Let us pray:

Merciful and Just God,  
We come before You today in lament and in longing—  
Lament for the suffering we see; longing for Your peace and justice to come.

Lord, we lift up the people of Gaza, where destruction has become daily life.  
We cry out for the thousands who have lost loved ones, homes, and hope.  
And we cry out, especially now, for those facing hunger and starvation.

God of compassion,  
You fed the hungry and drew near to the poor.  
We pray for children wasting away without food,  
For mothers and fathers desperate to find water,  
For the elderly and sick, cut off from help. Have mercy, Lord.

We pray for aid to reach those who need it most.  
We ask for the opening of humanitarian corridors,  
For the protection of aid workers,  
For wisdom and courage among world leaders to act  
with urgency and compassion.  
Where systems fail, God, intervene with Your power.

Prince of Peace, we pray for an end to this war—  
For weapons to fall silent, for justice to take root,  
And for peace that restores, not merely restrains.

Forgive us, Lord, when we look away.  
Awaken our hearts to care deeply, speak boldly, and act justly.  
Make us a people of prayer and of peace.

Come, Lord Jesus.  
Bring healing to Gaza. Bring hope to the hungry.  
Bring peace to the land and to all who dwell in it.  
In Your holy and powerful name we pray, amen.

### CHURCH FAMILY PRAYERS

**Chris S and family** - Following the death of Lyn.

**Vivien S** - Recovering from surgery on a broken hip.

**Brian C** - Recent poor health.

**John P** - Recent poor health.

**Audrey P** - Ongoing radiotherapy & immunotherapy.

**Jonathan E** - Following recent spell in hospital.

