

Weekly News

10 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Joy of Baggy Trousers

A few days ago the girls were putting on their pyjamas, when Mia exclaimed "I've got baggy trousers!" To which I replied "that's the name of a song!" For some reason this induced a great fit of the giggles, so obviously I then had to get my phone out and play them the 1980 hit from *Madness*.

I should've known I'd roped myself into endless renditions and requests to play it again, and at the time of writing the novelty factor hasn't worn off...yet. (Ask me again next week though...!)

Their joy from something so simple got me thinking again about the theme of Sunday's sermon "A Liberating Life" based on Romans 8:1-17. The passage is Paul's introduction to what life as believer of Jesus should look like - a life filled with the Holy Spirit.

We explored this from four different angles, each one expressing a form of freedom which God desires for us in the here and now, and not just when we reach heaven's gates. One thing we didn't cover was something the Spirit also brings, and is perhaps a by-product of freedom in Christ: Joy.

Joy isn't just something reserved for special occasions. It's something which can be found amidst the ordinary, daily humdrum of life, because those are also the times and places where God can be found. Psalm 16:11 says: "In your presence there is fullness of joy". We are reminded in Galatians that joy is a fruit of the Spirit, and therefore is something we should expect to feel if we are leading a life in the Spirit.

Of course, none of us will always feel joyful - despite Paul's encouragement to the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice." That sense of joy ebbs and flows. Sometimes it takes us by surprise - a *Baggy Trousers* moment of joy. But there will be other times where we experience joy as a consequence of intentionally seeking the Lord and dwelling in his presence.

I would argue this is especially important when we are going through a tough time, because it is precisely in those moments that we need holding, lifting and reminding that God is with us, is always faithful, and is capable of evoking emotions within us which seem at odds with the circumstances around us.

I continue to pray that we might earnestly approach God with a desire to be renewed by the Spirit, and in turn experience the joy of what it means to be free in Christ. May God bless you this week.

Peter

WHAT'S ON @ NBC

LADIES BREAKFAST

SATURDAY 13 SEPT, 8.30AM

[BOOK HERE](#)

CHURCH MEMBERS MEETING

SUNDAY 14 SEPT

CTNA WEEK OF PRAYER

14-20 SEPT

PRAYER FOR ISRAEL & PALESTINE

TUESDAY 16 SEPT, 7.30PM NBC

Notice Board

Church Members Meeting

Our next church members meeting will be held this Sunday, 14th September, following the service. The agenda and supporting papers are available on the members area of the website.

We're Recruiting!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in a part time Children's Worker role at NBC please do direct them to [our website](#) where full details including a job description are shown. Please also pray that the right person sees the details and applies for the position.

CTNA Week of Prayer

Open to all, this week-long initiative creates space for individuals, families, and churches across Newbury to come together in and pray. Each day will feature opportunities for communal and individual prayer, hosted by different churches throughout Newbury. We are looking forward to what God will do as we seek Him together across our community. NBC will lead **"Prayer for the Nations"** on Tues 16th 7.30-8.30pm, focusing on the ongoing war in Israel and Palestine. For other dates, times and locations [click here](#)

Christmas in a Shoe Bag

This year's Christmas Shoebags are now available from the Church Foyer. Each bag contains instructions and suggested gifts that we can collect for some of the poorest children in Ukraine. Please speak to Judith, Kelvin or Luda if you have any questions.

NBC's Got Talent

Thank you to the "acts" that have signed up for NBC's Got Talent - you should have received a confirmation email. If you are planning on performing and haven't yet received your email please contact Julie or Steve as soon as possible. For those who would like to come and enjoy the various acts - the event will begin at 5.30 on Saturday 11th October with a jacket potato & chilli (vegetarian option available). The cost is £5 per adult / £3 per child. [Book tickets here](#)

Care for the Family

On Sunday 12th October we will be running an 'Inspire' course, aimed at parents, grandparents and anyone who wants to nurture faith in children and young people. The session will include video teaching from Care for the Family and the opportunity to learn from and support each other. Supervised games and activities for children will be provided. The course is part of Care for the Family's Kitchen Table Project. Booking information will be available soon but for now, please save the date and plan to join us!

Care for the Family are also holding events locally this autumn which may be of interest:

Going the distance: Creating a vibrant and lasting marriage' at the DoubleTree Hotel in Swindon on Tuesday 21st October at 19:30, tickets £6.

Teens and Tweens: Hope & help for parents through the turbulence of those tween years and beyond' at Andover Community Church on Tuesday 25th November at 19:30, tickets £6.

We have four free tickets available for the Teens and Tweens event, if you would like one please speak to Sarah Masters or email sarahm@newburybaptistchurch.org





PRAYER

PRAYER UPDATE FROM THE MAHON FAMILY

We recently received an update from our missionaries in Peru, the Mahon family. Here are their latest prayer requests:

Michele recently spent a weekend at the National Congress of the Baptist Women's ministry in the mountains of Shiran, Trujillo. The theme was 'Women who reflect Hope'. She led a devotional meditating on John's vision of the heavenly throne room in Revelation 4, using our imaginations in worship and journalling in response. It was a new experience for most of the ladies, and there was good feedback. Please pray that each delegate will put into practice what they have learned and will be even more fruitful and fulfilled as they live for the glory of God.

Ruth has auditioned and been chosen to perform in the school's production of Little Mermaid. She is very excited and we are all encouraging her to do a good job of practicing and staying disciplined. Please pray for her as she prepares for this. The show will take place on October 24th.

Also please pray for Dave as he teaches at the annual Theological Conference on September 16-18 and Michele as she goes on a research study trip from September 21-28 to the Awahun community in Nuevo Belen.

We appreciate your encouraging support through prayers and giving. We are praying for you in all that you do, that God's mercy will be poured out to you in even greater measure, and that you will feel the Father's love surrounding your lives!

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Almighty God, as we look around we see a hurting world. Our news reels feel heavy with pain right now. We see the suffering in Ukraine, where families have been torn apart and cities destroyed. We watch the heartbreak in Gaza and Israel, where children on all sides live in fear, and loss seems endless.

We know there are other places too—places we might not hear about on the news—where people are crying out for help.

Please comfort those who have lost everything. Give strength to mothers protecting their children, to fathers trying to provide safety, to children who don't understand why the world has become so scary. Help the wounded heal and bring rest to those who are exhausted by violence.

We pray for the leaders making decisions that affect millions. Give them wisdom beyond their own understanding. Help them choose peace over power, mercy over revenge, and hope over hatred.

Change hearts that are hardened by anger. Open minds that are closed to understanding. Show us all how to see each other as human beings who deserve dignity, safety, and love.

We believe peace is possible. Help us work toward that day when swords become tools for growing food instead of weapons for destruction.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

