

Weekly News

12TH NOVEMBER 2025

Inspired by Remembering

On Sunday the church was decorated with dozens of beautiful hand-made poppies to mark Remembrance Day. Each one slightly different in size and shape, a reminder that weaved into the collective act of remembering are millions of individual lives and stories.

I was also minded of how we each remember in unique ways. Whether in the thoughts that go through our mind during the two minute silence, or in the decision around whether we wear a poppy, and if so, what kind of poppy we choose.

For me, this year's short season of Remembrance has also been tinged with memories of a different kind. The recent deaths of two of my favourite Boys Brigade leaders have prompted me to pause and reflect. These men of God, both named John, were very different characters but crucially, both great encouragers and examples.

One, a loveable and quietly generous Sergeant Major-type, would ensure discipline was maintained on Parade Sundays with a swish of his leather gloves to the back of the head of any boy larking around (the pre-safeguarding era was very different!) The other, a keen and gifted sportsman, was the Grandad figure we all wished we could claim as our own.

I mentioned these men in my opening reflections at our Leadership Meeting last night, and the invitation I made to the deacons, I now extend to you: When you look back at the people that encouraged you in the early stages of your faith, what do you remember about them? What are the traits that have stayed in your mind?

Hebrews 12:1-2 says *"since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses"* - those who have gone before us, modelled Jesus to us and signposted us towards him - *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith."*

In looking back at those who encouraged us, we are prompted and inspired to look forwards, towards Jesus. And as we do this, I wonder what kind of example we in turn are being to those younger than us - both in years and in their faith journey?

What kind of influence do you model and exert among your family? In church? In the workplace? Are you inspiring people to look to Jesus as the author and perfecter of their faith?

In remembering the actions of others, may we be inspired to act faithfully and courageously ourselves, modelling Jesus to the generations who follow. God bless you 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

MEN'S BREAKFAST
6th DECEMBER
8 am

Notice Board

Harvest Thank You

Thank you to all who donated food & essentials at Harvest to the West Berks Foodbank. As a church we gave 80kg of items, which will provide 168 meals - helping to feed a family of four with three meals a day for two weeks. As we enter the winter months, those in need often have to choose between heating or food, and so demand at the Foodbank increases. If you're able to help why not put together a reverse Advent Calendar and then drop it off it before Christmas, or perhaps support their "[Christmas Dinner for Everyone](#)" appeal. For more information see the noticeboard in church or [West Berks Foodbank's website](#)

Audrey Lewendon Funeral Service

The funeral service for Audrey Lewendon will take place at West Berks Crematorium at 1pm on Wednesday, 19th November. All are welcome

Christmas Choir

Our first choir rehearsal will be this Sunday after the service. We will be meeting for a short rehearsal after the service each Sunday with a final rehearsal on the morning of 21st December. All are welcome, 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, it would be really helpful if you get a chance to listen to it [on YouTube](#) before this Sunday.

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

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.

Sonrise Christian Resources

A whole range of Christmas products, including Christmas cards, Advent calendars, Advent candles, stocking fillers and 2026 calendars, together with Christian books for adults and children, cards and gifts will be available on the Sonrise Christian Resources stall in Newbury Market every Saturday until 6 December 9am-3pm. Visit www.sonrisechristianresources.co.uk/bookstalls for more information.





PRAYER

This week our prayers are inspired by resources from the Baptist World Alliance, following Hurricane Melissa, one of the most intense Atlantic hurricanes on record, which caused destruction in the Caribbean at the end of October. As we pray this week, we remember all whose lives have been torn apart, asking for comfort, strength, and hope.

Lord, we lift to you the people and communities impacted by Hurricane Melissa, especially those in the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and other affected areas. Many are facing damage to homes and livelihoods. We ask that you provide comfort, strength, and hope as families and churches work to rebuild and recover.

We ask for your protection over families, provision for those in need, and strength for local churches offering help and hope. Even in times of personal hardship church communities are working hard to bring compassion and care to those around them. May they be Christ's light in dark times.

We thank you Lord for the courage and commitment of first responders, emergency personnel, and humanitarian teams serving throughout the Caribbean. Pray for their safety, stamina, and wisdom as they provide rescue, relief, and care. May the Holy Spirit strengthen them and surround them with protection as they bring hope to others.

As we witness the growing impact of storms and natural disasters, help us Lord to be more responsible for the care of Your creation. We pray that leaders, communities, and churches take action to protect our lands, seas, and ecosystems. May we be faithful stewards of the earth entrusted to us, reflecting Your glory through our care for all creation.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Psalm 46:1-7

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of
God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.

The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

