

Weekly News

26TH NOVEMBER 2025

Responding to God's Call

If you've attended either of our breakfasts/First Thursday this month, or the Church Meeting on Sunday, you'll have heard from 'Naomi', and her calling to mission work in the Middle East. If you've missed all of them (*tut, tut!*) then here is a chance to learn more about how God has placed an exciting call upon the life of one of our very own church members.

Whilst at university she developed a keen interest in the role of faith organisations in humanitarian aid and development, particularly their approach to aid which recognises faith and practical support are intertwined for millions of people around the world.

This led to completing a training programme called REACH with Operation Mobilisation for three months in South Africa last year. She then spent the first part of 2025 in the Middle East, learning Arabic and working with Operation Mercy. This included using her background in monitoring and evaluation to help with several ongoing projects. If you've listened to Naomi speak, she has some lovely stories of how she's been taught Arabic using toy animals and children's books.

Her passion for this work and the place has grown, and she now senses a longer term call to the region. She will be flying back to the country in late January for two years, immersing herself in the language and culture, to better understand the people she is serving. An Operation Mercy catchphrase is "love the people; learn the language." Before she leaves we will hold a commissioning service for her one Sunday at NBC.

WHAT'S ON

**DECORATING THE CHURCH
FOR CHRISTMAS IN NARNIA**

29TH NOVEMBER 1-3PM

FIRST THURSDAY

4TH DECEMBER, 12 NOON

[BOOK HERE](#)

MEN'S BREAKFAST

6TH DECEMBER, 8am

[BOOK HERE](#)

TO SUPPORT NAOMI:



OM have advised us not to name her exact location in publications or on our livestream, which is why she also goes by her alter-ego 'Naomi'. We will still provide regular updates and prayer requests, so please join us in committing to pray for her and her family. As a church we have also agreed to support her financially for these next two years, meaning she now only needs to raise an extra £50 per month to reach her target. If you'd also like to support her individually you can do so using the QR code in the bottom corner of this page. This will require you to input her real name. If you need help with this then contact the Church Office.

It is always exciting when we see someone respond to the call of God upon their life, and even more so when it's a young adult who has grown up in our own church.

Perhaps Naomi's journey has inspired you to reflect upon what God is calling you to in your life. It may not be something as dramatic as moving abroad, but God can always use us to model Christ to others, whatever our age or circumstances.

We are fast-approaching Advent, a season of journeying. Maybe it is an opportunity to prayerfully think about where we've come from this year, and where God might be leading us in 2026.

Notice Board

Decorating the Church for Christmas in Narnia

If you're able to help decorate the church this Saturday (29th November) 1-3pm please let Hannah know hannahs@newburybaptistchurch.org. We need people to help transform the church into a Narnia wonderland, ready for Advent and Christmas!

Christmas Choir

All are welcome to join our Christmas Choir - which will be singing during the carol service on 21st December (7pm). The song that we will be singing is Noel - available to listen to [on YouTube](#). Rehearsals are taking place after every Sunday service in the coming weeks. Any questions please speak to Hannah or Claire T.

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.

Invitations for Christmas Services

Please take a couple of invitations to invite friends and neighbours to our services and events in "Narnia" at NBC over Christmas - there's plenty to go around!

First Thursday

Booking is open for December's First Thursday service and lunch on 4th December at 12 noon. Jonathan will lead our service, and we'll enjoy a Christmas meal to round off our series of events for the year. The meal is just £4 per person, and can be [booked in advance here](#)

Men's Breakfast

Graham will be our speaker at the next Men's Breakfast, taking place on Saturday 6th at 8am in the church hall. Wear your Christmas Jumper and join in the fun, by [booking your place here](#)

Advent Sunday song

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent and during the service we will be singing this beautiful arrangement of [Come Thou Long Expected Jesus](#) which we have sung before at NBC. As we only sing it once a year you might want to have a listen ahead of Sunday.

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 Christmas playlist!



Prayers

PRAYERS FOR NAOMI

A Prayer for Naomi, as she prepares to move to the Middle East in the New Year:

Loving God, we thank you that you that each of us is called to serve you in different ways. We thank you for the heart you have given Naomi to use her skills in aid and development work for Your glory.

As she prepares to move to the Middle East, we pray for all the practicalities which need addressing in the coming weeks. We pray for an uncomplicated visa application process. We pray for arrangements regarding housing, flights, and finance; that everything would come together smoothly.

We recognise the emotional impact that moving will have upon Naomi and her whole family, and we pray that you would bless them abundantly as they spend Christmas together, and remind them of your constant faithfulness at all times, and in all places.

Might we be inspired by Naomi's story, and motivated to seek your leading afresh in our own lives.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

A PRAYER AS WE APPROACH ADVENT

Loving God, as Advent begins this Sunday and we light our first candle, stir our hearts afresh with expectation.

In the busyness of December, slow us down enough to notice the wonder of what we're celebrating — that you chose to enter our world, not in power and glory, but as a vulnerable child born to an ordinary family.

Help us not just to remember your coming, but to live as people who carry your light into our community. Give us courage to speak of the hope we have found in you, and grace to do so with humility and warmth.

Open our eyes to the neighbours who need a kind word, the colleagues searching for hope, the strangers longing to belong. May our homes and our church be places of genuine welcome this season — not just for those who already know you, but especially for those still finding their way.

As we journey through these weeks of waiting, shape us into a community that reflects your generous, barrier-breaking love. Come, Lord Jesus — not just to Bethlehem long ago, but to Newbury today, through us.

In your name we pray, Amen.

