

Into the Rabbit Hole

Is it too late to be saying Happy New Year? Possibly, but I don't think it'll prompt a flood of complaints into my inbox!

Speaking of inboxes, for those of you following our new sermon series 'Get in the Bible', I've opened a potentially giant can of worms by inviting you to send me the questions you have about the Bible. However, the response has been pretty tame thus far, so if you've been meaning to get in touch then please do! There are also plenty of bookmarks left from Sunday (perhaps that says something about my sermon! If you've not taken one then please do - it'll at least make me think they were helpful!)

I often find reading God's Word a bit like the rabbit hole in *Alice in Wonderland*. Once I stick my head inside it feels like I've been transported to a different place. Sometimes I feel like I'm lost in a strange or complex world. Sometimes it's like I'm being challenged to suspend the things I think I know, in order to have my eyes, heart and mind opened up to something completely new.

What is always important though, is that we return from the rabbit hole, back into 'the real world', where we can put whatever we've learned into practice. If we don't do that then we're probably either getting stuck in purely academic study of scripture to the point of it becoming an abstract exercise. Or we fail to really 'get stuck in', and never go beyond a superficial reading and understanding.

In some ways there's nothing wrong with taking the latter approach. I have met many people over the years who have what some might consider a simplistic faith, yet God often speaks through them. However the Bible recognises that for many, especially mature believers, there is a responsibility to deepen our knowledge. Hebrews 5:12-14 distinguishes teaching between "milk" and "solid food", with the mature believers expected to be on "solids". This metaphor is repeated by Paul in 1 Corinthians 3, and suggests he altered his teaching methods accordingly.

Even Jesus himself recognised that we all have differing levels of ability and can handle different amounts of responsibility. The parable of the Talents in Matthew 25 is a good example and worth re-reading.

As we continue to *Get into the Bible* this term, my hope and prayer is that you will each find something to help you go a little deeper, and in turn discover something new in your experience of God's character, purpose, and call upon your life.



by Peter Timothy, Minister

Coming Up @ NBC

First Thursday

5th February
12 noon

[BOOK HERE](#)

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 7th February
8am

Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 14th February
8.30am

NOTICES



Come & Pray - Sundays 9.30am

Starting on Sunday the 18th of January we will be meeting before the service to dedicate NBC to God in Prayer. We will pray for the upcoming service - for all those involved in its delivery and for God's message to bring light and hope to those who hear it. Please join us and pray in a way that works for you, whether that is in silent reflection or jubilant thanksgiving.

Where: Prayer Room

When: 9.30am every Sunday

What: 15 minutes of prayer before the service

Who: All welcome

Why: To lift NBC and all those connected to it to God

"A Taste of Heaven" Worship Event

Thatcham Baptist Church is hosting a celebration of music and song from around the world on 17th January.. Everyone (including children) are invited to come together at 4pm to share international snacks, followed by worship from 4.30pm. [Click here for more information, or to sign up.](#)

If you're a musician, or just love worshipping in different ways, they are also holding a workshop earlier that day from 12-4 with practical sessions, teaching time, and opportunity to learn new ways to worship. [Click here for more details](#)

Care for the Family

Are you the parent of a teen or tween? Care for the Family are hosting an evening event in Reading on Thursday 7th May which 'offers hope and help for parents through the turbulence of the leap from childhood to adolescence'. Tickets are £6 if booked by 27th March. Several people from NBC are planning to attend, if you'd like to join please speak to Sarah M for more information, or [click here to find out more and book tickets:](#)

The Gathering

NBC are organising a group to attend "The Gathering" in June next year. It's a fantastic opportunity to witness the impact of God in the lives of men throughout the UK and all men from NBC are welcome. For more information including costs and to book, please [click here](#)

Contact Us

Want to include something next week?

Have something you'd like the church to pray for?

Email Emma in the Church

Office by Wednesday 9am:

office@newburybaptistchurch.org

NBC in focus: Ladies Breakfast

Something new for the Weekly News this year, where we highlight various groups and ministries across the church, and how you can join in. This week is the turn of Ladies Breakfast.



Ladies Breakfast is a group of women of all ages who meet on the second Saturday of the month at 8.30am. A light but tasty breakfast is shared, followed by an inspiring talk, often from one of our own members. There is a real sense of genuine support and community developing, and it's been encouraging to see increasing numbers of non-NBC regulars coming along. If you'd like to join us please speak to Christina or email the Church Office.

PRAYERS



Prayers from our Prayer Board

Last week we introduced a new prayer board in our service, where we can write prayers and attach them to a board in church. Below are some of this week's prayer requests (including some from our children):

- Dear God, things have been a bit hard for me. Thank you for being there with me and helping me.
- Pray for my ex to find God and establish a loving relationship with Jesus. For him to know he is loved.
- Pray for my career: Whether it's a PhD or to delay, and for the application process.
- Pray that Portsmouth University Christian Union would continue well with its gospel work and strengthen the new committee.

Prayer Update from Arthur & Reeta

Our missionaries in Asia have now returned, following their recent home assignment. They have shared the following prayer requests:

- Please pray that the organisation board, new executive director, and senior leadership team would have wisdom and God's guidance as they work together this year.
- The landlord of the current office has informed the organisation that they need to move out by the end of February. This means yet another office move, less than a year after the last one. Please pray for a suitable solution and location to be found.
- As a new software system is implemented please pray that no big problems would arise, and that it would help to improve the quality of work.
- Join us in thanking God that a new livelihood project is starting in a new district. Pray for success and that the project will be a blessing to many.
- Thank God for all the long-term staff members who continue to commit to this work and calling. Pray that God may bless them, protect them and their families.

Prayer Update from the Mahon Family

Happy New Year! As we prepare to share with our final church during home assignment, it feels like the right moment to reflect on the goodness of God during this short season. One of the highlights was the privilege of baptising Ruth and Phoebe in December!

- Our time in the UK has been rich and fruitful. Please join us to give thanks to God for this special time.
- We remember Venezuela in its current situation. We pray for good government and for peace and stability for its people. For the good news of Jesus to spread far and wide throughout the country.
- Carlos and Betty, our Venezuelan colleagues in Caracas ask the following: Pray for sufficient food and the physical wellbeing of my family in Venezuela.
- Pray for assistance and the provision of a vehicle for safe transportation to the Colombian border by January 17th.
- Now, with hearts on fire as we enter 2026, we look ahead to the Peruvian Baptist Assembly in Cusco from January 20–23, followed by Missionary Kids Camp for Jonathan the next week, and then a time of rest and family fun in Lima. After that, we will reconnect with our home in Trujillo and begin preparing for the school year, which starts in March.

Shalom,
The Mahons