

## Living Water - and blocked drains!

I'm very much a night-owl. Ask me something at 7am and you might not get a sensible answer (or indeed any answer other than a grunt!) ask me to do something at 10pm and I'll be there full of beans and wide awake.

So imagine how I felt this morning when I had to get up early to come to church and meet a contractor to look at a blocked drain. Not the most excited I've ever been! It was raining and obviously the drain was not in a nice, accessible part of the building, but round the back, through locked gates and a mucky path.

I retreated to make coffee while the contractor worked on the drain and thankfully solved the issue without too much bother. And while I was drinking the coffee, and slowly waking up, I thought about something that happened this week and how surprisingly similar it was to that drain....

In one of the churches in the group I worked as administrator before coming to NBC we do some outreach work with schools. A small team delivers collective worship in school every week, and a few times a year we invite the schools into the church. It's great fun, and gives me an opportunity to share my faith with 200 young people at a time, it builds relationships with the church and local families.

But this week, the team had a wake up call - you see what we thought was going well we realised wasn't quite hitting the mark. Although we speak to 200 children every week, a small group of children with special needs are not accessing the collective worship sessions. It's just too loud, or too long for them to sit for, or too difficult for them to understand, and they're missing out on Jesus. Despite our best intentions, there was a "blockage". We were pouring out the Good News, but it wasn't getting through.

Just like the drain at church, the problem wasn't the water itself – and it certainly wasn't the children. The blockage was something we had helped create, without meaning to. We had to get our hands dirty and clear it! We're now looking at what we can do to meet those children where they are, and share our faith with them in a way that suits them, not us.

Jesus was the ultimate "drain un-blocker" He broke through social barriers, religious rules and assumptions so that when he spoke, everyone - from the children to the scholars - were included.

It made me wonder, might there be other blockages that I haven't yet noticed? And what might God be inviting us to "clear" so that his living water can reach more people?



by Emma Rivers, Ops Manager

### Coming Up @ NBC

#### First Thursday

5th February  
12 noon

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### Men's Breakfast

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February  
8am

[BOOK HERE](#)

#### Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
8.30am

# NOTICES



## Welcome Lunch

On 8<sup>th</sup> March after the service we will hold a "Welcome Lunch" for those new to NBC. If you would like to come along, please speak to Emma in the church office or sign up online [here](#). If you are a church member and would like to help on the day, please contact Judith & Kelvin.

## Save the Date!

We're looking forward to Rowena and Ian's wedding, which will be on Saturday 2nd May at 2.00pm. They'd love the church family to join them for the wedding service, so please do put the date in your diary. The celebration afterwards will be by invitation only for close family and friends,

## Lightning Squad - help needed

We're blessed to have lots of children at NBC, along with a great team of leaders who plan and run our groups. We're looking for a few extra people who might be willing to be an occasional extra pair of hands on a Sunday morning. If you're able to help support Lightning Squad from time to time, we'd be really grateful. Everything is planned by the leaders – it's simply a case of helping out on the day. If you think this might be something you could offer, please have a chat with Chris C.

## Lent & Easter Books, Cards and Gifts

Sonrise Christian Resources will be at the coffee morning at Newbury Salvation Army on 6 February 2025 from 10am until 11:45. Open to everyone, this is a great opportunity to pick up Lent books, Easter cards and gifts, as well as the usual range of Christian books, cards and gifts. To order ahead and collect on the day - visit their [website](#) or call 07396 825097.

## The Gathering

NBC are organising a group to attend "The Gathering" men's camp in June. It's a weekend which combines activities and good company with thoughtful teaching, inspiring testimonies and uplifting worship. A number of men from NBC have attended over the years and always return encouraged. If you've never been and are interested (or think one of your friends/family might like to come along) then either speak to Dave A for more information, or visit our website [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](mailto:office@newburybaptistchurch.org)

## NBC in Focus...

we've recently been highlighting various groups and ministries across the church, and letting you know how you can join in. This week is the turn of Giggles & Wiggles.



Giggles & Wiggles is our popular toddler group, which meets on Fridays during term time. One of its strengths has been how it consistently attracts large numbers of non-churchgoers, and it has developed a reputation for providing a friendly welcome, a varied and fun array of toys, crafts and games and excellent cakes! It is not uncommon for bookings to be full within an hour of going live on Wednesday mornings. Chris and her dedicated team do an excellent job, and there is always room for new helpers if you have a heart for parents and young children.

# PRAYERS



## Prayers from our Prayer Board

*This month we introduced a new prayer board in our service, where we can write prayers and attach them to a board in the church. We have recently had a number of 'thank you' prayers shared, and we have included a selection below for you to be encouraged and join in with a hearty 'amen'!*

- Praise the Lord - Got the Job offer!
- Thanks for Naomi's safe arrival, for the provision of housing and language lessons and a good settling in period. Thanks for the prayers and support of the NBC family
- Thank you Lord for blessing us with a church family
- Thank you God for our school, friends and family, food and water.
- Thank you that Vic died peacefully and that his family are all pulling together.

*The following prayer requests have also been submitted this week:*

- Healing from depression, Victory in my process. Help my lawyers in my lawsuit. I need Joy & Peace
- Pray for Alice & Colin as they prepare to return to the UK
- Pray for Sean who fell from a ladder
- Pray that God looks after my family
- Dear God, pray my gran and grampa not die and to come to my house and do a game on the stairs.
- For my nanny's leg to get better
- That the children and young people of NBC will grow and develop their faith
- For Andy, who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- For family and friends who are experiencing life-changing medical issues

## Praying for Ukraine

*Many in our church family have been blessed to know Sasha, Katya and their family since they moved to Newbury from Ukraine at the outbreak of Russia's invasion. They have asked for specific prayers for their home city of Cherkassy, which was attacked last week, with a bomb damaging property and a number of people injured. Temperatures are dropping to as low as -20, and there is little electricity, so it is a deeply worrying time.*

Loving God, we bring before you our dear brother and sister in Christ, Sasha and Katya, and their family. We thank you for the blessing and encouragement they have been to NBC since they moved to the UK. We join them in lamenting the ongoing war in Ukraine, and especially the recent attack on their home town of Cherkassy.

We ask that you would bring comfort to those whose homes and businesses have been damaged or destroyed by the bombing, and swift healing to those injured in the attacks. We pray for proper aid and services to be provided, and that electric power can be fully returned. In these winter months we think especially of those who are vulnerable, and pray for you to shelter them under your loving arms.

As we think of the ongoing violence across Ukraine, we once again ask for you to bring peace and justice. May your Spirit intervene and change the minds of those at the negotiating table, in order for a ceasefire to hold and a lasting peace plan to be agreed. We ask this in the name of Jesus, amen.