

## Honouring History, Building Vision

We are very fortunate to have such a lovely suite of buildings, for which we give thanks to God. We are also thankful for the foresight of those who have gone before us - a long history of almost 400 years of witness in Newbury. This makes us one of the oldest Baptist Churches in England, founded in 1640. Our predecessors must have had a very difficult time during the reign of Charles I, the dictator, who allowed the ecclesiastical courts full power, and from their cruel findings there was no appeal. That Newbury baptists had their full share of suffering during this period is quite evident; but we have very little authentic information regarding this inquisition. Many people fled to Holland and New England to seek freedom and peace.

We have a duty to keep the property in as good a condition as possible in recognition of those who suffered so much for their faith in years gone by and to make the church as welcoming as possible to those that attend the various services and events. As you will be aware, we have been carrying our extensive refurbishment and upgrades to the suite of buildings at NBC.

### Phase 1 and 2

The hall and upstairs rooms are now completed with the exception of some touch up work for the decorators. The result has been an increase in the number of lettings that we now have with Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays being the most popular. The increase in lettings is in no small part due to the hard work Emma has been putting in to secure them.

### Phase 3

After the removal of the organ, pulpit and upgrade to the stage area, we were left with a large space previously filled by the organ loft.

Work is now complete on a new storage area with access from the stage, and a new upstairs room and staircase which will become the new studio for the computers and live stream.



The old studio in the welcome area will be decorated and returned to its original use as the minister's office. The welcome area itself will be decorated, with a new welcome desk, seating, and a screen installed. The kitchen will be redecorated, along with the passageway between the church and the hall.



by **Tim Dent**  
**Deacon**

## Coming Up @ NBC

### First Thursday

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 12pm

[BOOK HERE](#)

### Men's Breakfast

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, 8am

[BOOK HERE](#)

### Ladies' Breakfast

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

[BOOK HERE](#)

### Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7.30pm  
Thatcham Baptist Church  
More details to follow -  
save the date!



In the main church, the wooden surround of the partition will also be redecorated. The wooden cross, made by one of our former members some 60 years ago, has been relocated from behind the screen to the wall above the door to the church hall and is back lit to enhance its visibility. The dummy organ pipes to the right of the church have been retained, backlit, and the area behind the blocked off as this will now be part of the new studio.

Over the years there have been many comments regarding the safety barrier located in the church forecourt which was originally installed to protect the row of lit bollards along the footpath. As the bollards are no longer in place, we have decided to remove the barrier making the entrance to the church more welcoming.

We thank God for the financial provisions that we have been blessed with that have enabled us to complete these works and look forward to seeing the buildings in full use proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Newbury area and beyond.

# NOTICES



## World Day of Prayer

The annual World Day of Prayer Service is being held at St Joseph's Church, 105 London Rd, Newbury RG14 1JP, on Friday March 6th at 11am. The theme for this year's service is: 'I Will Give You Rest, Come' written by Christian women from Nigeria. All are welcome!

## Naomi Update

Naomi has provided a short update to let us know that life is largely continuing as normal for her and her team, following the attacks taking place across the Middle East. She reports that she is feeling safe and is grateful for your continued prayers.

## 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)

# PRAYERS



## Prayers and Reflection for the third week of Lent

*As we approach the halfway point of Lent, the initial good intentions that carried us into the season may be wearing thin. This is, perhaps, exactly where we can benefit most from Lent: Stripped of our spiritual self-sufficiency, honest about the gap between who we mean to be and who we are. The wilderness Jesus entered was not a retreat from ordinary life, but a confrontation with it. We follow him there not to perform devotion, but to be made truthful.*

### This Week's Prayer

Lord, we confess that we came into this season with good intentions, and have already felt them fray. Forgive us for trusting our own resolve more than your grace. In these middle weeks, when the novelty has faded and Easter still feels distant, hold us steady. Teach us that faithfulness is not the absence of struggle, but the refusal to walk away from you in the middle of it. Renew us, not in spite of our weakness, but through it. Amen.

## Prayers for the Middle East

Following the outbreak of war between the USA, Israel and Iran, we offer prayers especially for the civilian population across the Middle East, and for God to raise peacemakers from the ashes of violence.

**Almighty God, words fail us as we watch missiles being fired across the Middle East. Chaos appears to be reigning in our world, as more lives are lost and homes destroyed. We recognise that there aren't easy solutions. The complexities of political alliances, religious convictions, and the hunger for power and control make us feel helpless. Yet we know that none of these things are beyond You. No person or nation is beyond Your control nor the redemption found in Your son, Jesus. We pray for peace. We pray for constructive dialogue among world leaders. We pray for Your protection over Naomi and her team. We pray for the innocent lives caught in the midst of the fighting, using the words of Psalm 91: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty...He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge."**

**We pray this in and through the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, amen.**

## Prayer Board Prayers

The following prayers have recently been written on our prayer board in church:

**Please pray** for the Pitman family in Dubai, including Elspeth visiting her sister. Pray for safety and eventual return for Elspeth.

**Please pray** for Georgia, a ritual abuse survivor. She lives with her son and is afraid of an uptick in gang violence in her area.

**Please pray** for Ssenyondo, George and Agape Orphanage in Uganda. The Christian orphanage has rapidly grown recently from 70 to 305 children. Please pray for protection and provision.

**To Jesus** please help mummy to be healed because she hurt herself.

**Thank you** for our school, friends, and our family, food and water.

**Thank you** Lord for your provisions and strength. Thank you for your guidance and protection. Thank you that you accept me and shape me in your way. Thank you for the church you put us in. Amen.