

News from Naomi

Naomi has shared how God is moving despite the growing unrest in the Middle East, along with some things she would like you to join her in prayer for.

The sound of sirens telling us to temporarily stay inside is becoming a normal sound of life here, alongside the 5 calls to prayer and the sound of the truck delivering gas to houses for their ovens (which plays an ice-cream van like sound!).

I am also getting used to seeing various military planes flying overhead (and hearing the sound of them too). We are lucky, we may hear the siren and temporarily stay inside as a precaution whilst things fly over us to a neighbouring country, but nothing is actually landing here.

Life here is continuing on as normal. I am continuing with my language lessons (apparently I am at toddler level Arabic now!) and all of the project work is going ahead as normal. I am currently reading through all of the annual reports from the projects, and it is encouraging to see the changes in people's lives that are happening.

Despite life feeling normal here, it is different for other countries around us. In one of the countries where we have projects, its foreign staff are taking a temporary break from the country whilst they see how the war unfolds and how the sentiment in the country develops but are hoping to return. In one of the projects there this has led to more project participants taking a lead in their own project, which has been encouraging to see.

The gulf state countries are actively being bombed with US sites and even some tourist areas being targeted. The situation is probably the worst for Lebanon. Thousands of people have been displaced and everyone in the South has been told to evacuate North. Two of the bridges linking this part of the country to the rest have been destroyed as well as homes in the area making it hard for people to return in the future. Team members have been telling us that many people are sleeping on the streets as house and hotel prices have increased dramatically. People are worried that even if this war ends the situation in Lebanon would continue.

Please pray for the situation across the region, for the gulf states and also for Lebanon who have all been brought into a war they don't want to be involved in. Please pray for the leaders in all of these countries involved in the war for wisdom. Pray for de-escalation, and for forgiveness and reconciliation between all the different groups involved.

Pray for the situation in Lebanon and for the churches there who are opening their doors to those who are displaced, and for the opportunity this provides. Pray for encouragement for churches across the region that they would be God's light and hope amidst the darkness.

We believe in a God who is in control and can use even the worst situations for good. Pray that he would do this here.

Naomi



by Naomi
in the Middle East

Coming Up @ NBC

First Thursday

Thursday 2nd April

12 noon

[BOOK HERE](#)

Maundy Thursday

Thursday 2nd April, 7.30pm

Thatcham Baptist Church

Good Friday

Friday 3rd April, 10.30am

CTNA joint service

St Nicolas' Church

Men's Breakfast

Saturday 4th April

8am

[BOOK HERE](#)

Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service 6.15

Greenham Control Tower

All-Age Service 10am

NOTICES



Prayer Meeting for a Second Minister

We would like to invite you to join us for a special prayer meeting at **7.30pm on Wednesday 15th April** as we continue our search for a second minister.

Deacons Elections

Our next Church Meeting on 19th April includes our AGM and the election of deacons. Now is the time to prayerfully consider nominations for the diaconate.

The following deacons are finishing their terms of office and are eligible for re-election:

Helen Andrews; Tom Clifton; Tim Dent; Jo Isherwood; Neal Rankin.

Additionally there is space for up to three more deacons.

Nominations require a proposer and seconder, and the agreement of the person being nominated.

They should be sent to Neal: churchsecretary@newburybaptistchurch.org by **Sunday 29th March**.

Easter Services

Journey through Holy Week with services here and across churches in Newbury:

Maundy Thursday we will join together with our friends at Thatcham Baptist Church for a service at 7:30pm.

on **Good Friday** there is a joint CTNA service at St Nic's Church at 10.30am which will be followed by a walk to the Methodist Church for singing and hot cross buns / refreshments.

If you're awake early on **Easter Sunday** morning, CTNA are holding a Sunrise Service at 6.15am at the Greenham Control Tower

We will celebrate Jesus' resurrection with an all-age service on **Easter Sunday** at 10am here at NBC - come along and join with us!

Theo's Half Marathon for CALM

Thanks to everyone for your prayers and encouragement for the Reading Half Marathon. More than £3,000 was raised for CALM, and I completed the run in my target time. It's great to have such a supportive church family! Theo

Venturers 2026

Nine young people from NBC will be joining around 35 other teenagers on the Norfolk Broads on Saturday for Venturers 2026, a week of sailing, fun and exploring faith. We'd value your prayers during the week. Flo, Jemima and Theo are taking on roles as young leaders, and Ben is joining the 'offsail' team for the first time. Claire is a Skipper again, sailing a yacht with young people each day, and Kev is in charge of the whole week! Things to especially pray for are: the 15 young people coming for the first time, two new Skippers, and good discussions from our talks and quiet times. Thank you!

Please also pray for some other younger members of our church who are attending Spring Harvest during the Easter Holidays. Pray that all these young people have fun, keep safe and meet with Jesus through their various activities.

NOTICES



The Bible Course

We are excited to launch The Bible Course, an eight-session journey designed to help you navigate the world's bestseller and see how the big picture fits together. We have split the course into two blocks of four weeks: the first begins the week of 27th April, and the second block starts the week of 8th June. There are two ways to participate to suit your schedule: join us online on Mondays 8 to 9.30pm or in person on Wednesdays (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start). Whether you are well-versed in Scripture or just starting out, this course is a fantastic way to deepen your understanding in a friendly, discussion-based environment. There is an optional book to accompany the course - [details here](#). We're hoping Small Groups might be able to get together and order in bulk to save money, but if you are not a member of a small group feel free to buy your own.

First Thursday

Jonathan will lead our "First Thursday" worship this week. Join us for a short service and meal afterwards. Please do let us know that you are coming - either by booking online [here](#), or if you prefer by emailing firstthursday@newburybaptistchurch.org or by speaking to Daph.

Men's Breakfast

Join us for Men's Breakfast on Saturday, 4th April at 8am. Derek will speak to us about being "under the influence"! Please book your place online [here](#)

Rotas

Please do have a look at the rotas from Easter onwards, and sign up where you're able - there are quite a few gaps for services in the Summer Term. If there is a role you'd like to do but don't have access to sign up to, please speak to someone who currently does the role or contact Emma in the office. Thank you to everyone who plays their part in making our services run smoothly.

CAP Money coaching course

This course is designed to help people understand their spending habits and create their own personal budget. The course can help anyone including students, employed people, families, retirees and is not only for those people with unmanageable debts.

NBC is hosting the next course run by Helen and David in the welcome area from 10am - 12noon on April 15th, 22nd and 29th. Register for free [here](#)

Please invite your friends and neighbours to come along to this course. We would appreciate it if you would pray for the course and the participants.

We are in need of one or two volunteers to help us do teas and coffees for people as they arrive and about half way through at 11am. If you're able to help please contact David Clark or Helen Andrews.

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 gam: office@newburybaptistchurch.org

PRAYERS

Prayers and Reflection for the 6th week of Lent

This week we stand on the road to Jerusalem. We hear the shouts of "Hosanna" and see the palm branches carpet the dust, but we also feel the shift in the air. Jesus enters the city not as a conquering hero on a warhorse, but as a humble King on a borrowed donkey. This is the week where expectations collide with reality. We want a God who fixes everything from the outside; Jesus gives us a God who enters the heart of our mess. Week 6 of Lent asks us to follow him not just when the crowds are cheering, but as the path turns toward the vulnerability of the cross.

Prayer:

Lord of the palms and the dusty road, we bring you our loud praises and our quiet doubts, the parts of us that want to follow you into the light, and the parts that shrink back when the cost becomes clear. We confess the times we have tried to make you a King in our own image—one who serves our comfort rather than our souls. We admit how often we prefer the spectacle of the parade to the stillness of the walk that follows.

Meet us in the city of our own hearts. Disrupt the tables of our self-interest. Quiet the noise of our own expectations so we can hear your heartbeat. Remind us that you are not a God who demands a performance, but the God who receives our simple "Hosanna" and stays with us even when the cheering stops.

As we walk through these early days of Holy Week, deepen our devotion. Give us the grace to not just watch you pass by, but to walk alongside you into the shadow, trusting that your love is all we need. Amen.

Church Family Prayers

Give thanks that Beryl's operation was successful and she is now out of ICU, been moved to a ward and is recovering. Pray for her continued progress and for those who are caring for her.

Christina has asked for prayer for her parents following the loss of two of her aunts back in Romania: Please pray for comfort for her parents as they mourn the loss of their sisters, give them strength to continue the journey they still have here on earth, and open their hearts to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Please Lord touch Angelica and Mihai with your healing hand, restore the eye sight and may the scan Mihai will have show nothing serious. Give them peace in mind and soul, take away the worries from their hearts. Lord, be with the wider family at this time. We pray all this in Jesus name , Amen
