

Reflect, Rejoice, Renew

It's April, spring has sprung, and lambs are gambolling in the fields. Back in February, as we spent day after day under some umbrella, it felt as if the weather would never change for the better.

April is also when we hold NBC's AGM. For your diaries, this year is it on Sunday 19th April after the morning service. You probably have a personal view of AGMs in general, that whilst being legal necessities they will never stir up much edge of the seat anticipation.

This year, may I boldly suggest there may just be something to look forward to? By taking the opportunity to look back over 2025, we can all be encouraged by how God has directed us, changed us and brought us to a different place. It is good to spend time reflecting on the journey we have travelled together, as this helps us prepare and recognise that change is happening and is positive, in fact necessary, for any living body, such as God's people.

On Sunday 19th April, the following areas will be a focus:

Finances: we began the year fully expecting a deficit of over £20k by December. Over the summer, in light of calling a second minister, we were challenged to review our personal giving. Through you, God spoke loud and clearly: the subsequent increase transformed the anticipated deficit into an actual surplus. Yes, it may be a modest surplus, but it shows we are moving into more financially robust territory, for which we give thanks.

Deacon's elections: the nominations are in and on 19th April we shall vote on those standing to serve in this capacity, for the next three years. The willingness of individuals to commit in this way, is not something NBC has always been able to celebrate. To have a large, representative and vibrant diaconate on which it is a joy to learn and serve, is a blessing, not just to us as Deacons, but to the whole church, for which we should give thanks.

Members: each year we remember those of our membership and wider fellowship who have been called "home" during the year. It is an occasion to reflect upon those who have gone before us, to remember their Christian witness and to remain thankful for their lives.

I am reminded of the words of the hymn "through all the changing scenes of life" sung at our wedding. By looking backwards, we can recognise how God's faithfulness is equally present through the processes of change.

May I encourage you to praise God for his protection and blessings throughout 2025 and to see this year's AGM as a useful pause in the calendar, for expressing your own thanks..

Neal



by Neal Rankin
Church Secretary

Coming Up @ NBC

Ladies' Breakfast

Saturday 11th April
8am

[BOOK HERE](#)

Prayer Meeting

for the process to appoint a
second Minister

Wednesday 15th April
7.30pm

Church Meeting & AGM

Sunday 19th April
Following the service

The Bible Course

Starts w/c 27th April

Online Mondays 8pm
In Person Wednesdays 7.15pm

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. This will take place in the Church.

Nomination of Deacons

Our next Church Meeting on 19th April includes our AGM and the election of deacons. The following people have been nominated to stand:

Helen Andrews - Nominated by Alice McDermott and Sarah Dent

Tom Clifton - Nominated by Nick Freeman and Dave Andrews

Tim Dent - Nominated by Valerie Vardy and Bruce Whorton

Jo Isherwood - Nominated by Simon Cutts and Hannah Swain

Neal Rankin - Nominated by Shirley Butler and Peggy Oxley

Ladies' Breakfast

Join us for Ladies' Breakfast on Saturday, 11th April at 8.30am. Judith will speak to us about her "Snippet of Joy" Please book your place online [here](#)

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 ([via this Google Meet link](#)) 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.

Rotas

Thanks to those who have signed up for the Summer Term rota online. If you haven't already, please do have a look - there are quite a few gaps still. 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.

CAP Money coaching course

We would appreciate it if you would pray for the upcoming CAP Money course and the participants. The course is designed to help people understand their spending habits and create their own personal budget, it's not only for those people with unmanageable debts - but for everyone. Please do invite friends and neighbours to come along. It's being run by Helen and David at NBC from 10am - 12noon on April 15th, 22nd and 29th. Register for free [here](#)

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

A Prayer for the Middle East

Lord, we come to you today after celebrating the joy of Easter. This season reminds us that even after the darkest times, there is a new beginning and a reason to hope. We carry this hope as we look toward the Middle East this week.

We give thanks for the two-week ceasefire. Like the peace of the first Easter morning, this pause in fighting brings relief. We pray that it is the beginning of something truly new and while the guns stay silent, we pray that this quiet time will lead to real and lasting peace.

We ask for Your guidance over the world leaders preparing to meet in the Gulf. May they use these fourteen days not just as a rest from war, but as a real chance to build a lasting harmony. We pray that their discussions will aim to uphold the ceasefire, and bring about a lasting resolution to the conflict. We also pray they find a way to restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

We pray for all those affected by the conflict, whether they have lost loved ones, been injured or displaced, for those directly involved in the military operations and for those watching from a distance in fear.

Help us to remember that peace is a gift we must work to keep. May Your spirit of renewal and reconciliation fill our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A Prayer for the AGM

Lord God, we thank you for the joy of Easter. Just as the stone was rolled away and new life burst forth from the tomb, we see your life-giving power at work in the world around us. We thank you for the signs of spring, reminders that you are always making things new.

Help us to carry the joy of the Resurrection into our AGM. May we be a living body that doesn't just look back at an empty grave, but looks forward to where the Risen Christ is leading us today.

We stand in a long line of witnesses. We thank you for your hand upon this church through centuries of change, where you have been our constant dwelling place. We praise you specifically for your provision in 2025. We thank you for the "loud and clear" way you spoke to us regarding our finances, turning our anxiety into a surplus which signals a robust future. We remember with love those members called home last year; we thank you for their Christian witness and the legacy they left within our fellowship.

We lift up those nominated to serve as Deacons. We thank you for their willingness to commit their time, energy, and hearts to NBC for the next three years. Grant us wisdom as we vote, and grant those standing a deep sense of your peace and calling. May everything discussed—from finances to elections—be an act of worship to you. Amen.
