

Leading Hearts in Praise

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." (Psalm 96:1)

There is something powerful about singing together. When we gather as a church and lift our voices in worship, we are doing more than just making music - we are joining in a shared expression of faith, declaring truth and turning our hearts towards God. In those moments differences fade and we become one body, united in praise. Whether we feel joyful, weary, or somewhere in between, sung worship gives us a way to respond to God honestly and wholeheartedly.

Music and sung worship are such an important part of our time together as a church family. Through song we express truth, give praise and unite our voices in a shared act of worship. It allows us to respond to God not just with words but with our whole hearts. Whether through familiar hymns or newer songs, our desire is always to help create space where people can encounter God, reflect on his goodness and join together in praise.

As one of the music team leaders, I wanted to share a little about who we are, what we do, and where we feel God may be leading us.

We are a team of 13 adults who lead the sung worship across our services. We are also blessed with a youth band of 9 teenagers who play monthly. Some of these young musicians are now joining the adult team at times, which has been a real joy to see. It's a wonderful way of encouraging and integrating the next generation, helping them grow in confidence, faith, and developing their gifts within the life of the church.

Looking ahead, our aim is to continue growing not only in musical skill, but in spiritual depth and unity as a team. We want to serve the church faithfully, support one another and remain open to how God is leading us. We have recently begun to consider a vision statement for the music group, in order to encourage a clear sense of direction and consistency, regardless of who might be on the rota on any given week.

We are gathering for a team meeting on Friday 17th April, where we'll be sharing pizza and spending time discussing how we can best use our gifts to serve both God and the church. We would really value your prayers for this time; that it would be fruitful, encouraging, and shaped by God's wisdom and direction.

As we look ahead, our prayer is simple: that our worship would always point beyond ourselves and towards God. By giving ourselves in praise, God might also gather us and meet with us.

As a team we are grateful for your encouragement, especially in the form of a congregation singing heartily and clearly engaging with God. It is a privilege to serve in this way, and we are excited to see what God continues to do as we worship him.

Claire



Claire Timothy
Music Group

Coming Up @ NBC

Prayer Meeting TONIGHT (Weds)

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

Rowena & Ian's Wedding

Saturday 2nd May 2pm

NOTICES



Prayer Meeting for a Second Minister

Please join us in church at 7.30 **this evening (Wednesday 15th April) for a special prayer meeting** as we continue our search for a second minister.

CAP Money coaching course

The next CAP Money course being run by Helen and David on Wednesdays at NBC begins today. Please pray for the sessions and for the participants. It's being held from 10am - 12noon on April 15th, 22nd and 29th. If you'd like to know more, or would like to come along you can register for free [here](#).

AGM and Church Meeting

Church members are invited to attend our next Church Meeting and AGM on 19th April. The papers have been sent already, and are available on the website once logged in. The meeting will include 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

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.

Church Picnic

Join us on June 28th for our church picnic. After the church meeting which is planned for that day, we will make our way over to Victoria Park for 12.30. More details to follow, but for now please pop the date in your diary!

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

Church Family Prayers

Beryl R - Is recuperating from surgery and is now back at home. Praise God for the success of the operation and for Beryl's recovering.

Laurence S - We thank God for Laurence as he celebrates his 90th birthday today (Weds 15th), and pray for him and his family as they celebrate this milestone.

Church AGM - As we hold our Church AGM this weekend we pause to reflect upon the past year, thanking God for his ongoing faithfulness to us. We commit ourselves afresh into his service, and give thanks that we belong to a church where the Spirit of God is stirring, and the people of God are responding.

We pray for the election of deacons, trusting in the wisdom of the Church Meeting as a place where the mind of Christ is discerned. Thank you Lord for the willingness of Neal, Tom, Tim, Helen and Jo to stand again and serve another term on the diaconate.

Naomi - Continue to pray for Naomi as she serves God in the Middle East. We ask God to stretch his protective arms over Naomi, her team, and all the communities she serves. May the light of Christ radiate from her in every conversation she has and in every place she goes.

A Prayer for the World

Lord of peace and protection,
We lift up our world to you in a time of conflict and shifting politics.

We pray for the Middle East as it faces a terrifying crossroads. Will you walk through the rubble and the fields where families seek refuge. Be their shield and their strength. We pray for a breakthrough in peace talks with Iran, and for a swift reopening of the Strait of Hormuz.

We lift up the people of Ukraine, pushed out of the headlines by the war in Iran, and yet still a place where war rages and lives are being lost. We pray for an end to the Russian occupation, and a just peace. We pray for the new government in Hungary, following 16 years of rule by Victor Orban. May they strengthen their ties with the European Union and present a unified front to Russia as they seek peace in Ukraine. Grant wisdom to people in power, that they may seek the path of peace.

Loving God, guard young and old alike, and all people who are made vulnerable by the shadows of trauma and the stresses of war. We ask for your intervention so that food, water and shelter can be provided to people in need. Strengthen your church to be a beacon of hope in places of darkness, and rally the church on a global scale to become agents of transformation. Use us to speak up with truth and hope for a just and lasting peace.

In the name of Jesus we pray, amen.
