

THE GATHERING 2026

Last weekend, a group of men from Newbury Baptist Church once again gave up their home comforts to camp in a field near Swindon. It may not sound particularly glamorous, especially with the hot weather we experienced, but the 11 men who made the trip soon discovered that this was far more than a weekend away. Of those who went, 4 were first timers, adding a fresh sense of anticipation to the group.

So what was the purpose of the trip? The Gathering for Men is an annual weekend aimed at sharing the good news of the gospel, giving men space to listen, worship, commit and be refreshed in their walk with God.

This year, as before, one of the highlights was the fellowship among the group. It is always a blessing to spend extended time together, far beyond the usual few minutes after a Sunday service. Whether chatting over meals, sitting in the sun or joining in conversations throughout the day, it was a chance to deepen



relationships, encourage one another and share honestly about faith and life. Even when the youngest member of the group appeared to spend much of Saturday afternoon asleep, he somehow remained part of the conversation and the shared experience! As you can imagine, there was no shortage of humour across the weekend. The heat certainly played its part, leading some in the group to compete to look the most sophisticated while cooling down with mist sprays. They all failed in their task!

As ever, the food was excellent. We were well looked after by the Newbury Baptist Gathering catering team, with cooked breakfasts each morning and exceptional dinners in the evenings. On the first night a man who was there by himself came and joined us in the evening to share time with us. And unbeknownst to us, he was to share a deeply personal and impactful testimony the following day. Mealtimes became key moments to gather and enjoy each other's company.

During the main sessions we heard amazing testimonies from brave men willing to share personal stories of struggle and transformation. Their honesty challenged and encouraged us, reminding us that God works powerfully through real lives and real situations. During an early morning Bible study, we reflected on Saul being prayed over before his conversion, leading to the striking thought that restored men restore men. It was a powerful challenge to consider how God might use us to support and build up others. On Sunday, the message centred on confidence in Jesus and obedience to Jesus. We were reminded that our confidence comes from Him alone and that true faith is shown through how we live in response to His call. This was both encouraging and personally challenging.

Worship was, as always, a standout part of the weekend. Led by Graham Kendrick and his band, the sound of hundreds of men singing together in praise lifted the tent roof. There is something uniquely powerful about joining with so many others in wholehearted worship.

Each evening, men were invited to come forward for prayer. We were encouraged seeing many respond, including those giving their lives to Jesus. It was a clear reminder that God is at work changing lives, even in a sunny field near Swindon.



We came back grateful, encouraged and refreshed. If this sounds like something that appeals to you and you'd be interested in going next year, speak to any of us who went.

The NBC Gathering team

NOTICES



The Bible Course

The very last session of "The Bible Course" will take place this evening (Wednesday 1st) in person at church at 7.15pm. We hope all those who have joined the sessions have enjoyed both the course and meeting with others. Small Groups will re-start again soon, and we'd love to see more people join them. We have a variety of groups that meet online or in person and at different times of the day/week. If you're not in a small group and would like to join one, please [contact Julie](#)

First Thursday

Our First Thursday service and lunch takes place tomorrow (2nd July) at 12 noon. If you haven't already, please do book your place [online here](#), or by speaking to Emma (in the office).

Men's Breakfast

Join us for Men's Breakfast this Saturday, 5th July at 8am. We'll enjoy a hearty breakfast and time together as we hear from Nick.

BMS Expect

If anyone would like to go to the BMS "Expect" event in Guildford this Saturday (4 July), please let Emma in the office know. A few people from NBC are going, and happy to share lifts. For more information on the event, [click here](#).

Mayor's Summer Variety Concert

This popular annual concert promises an enjoyable afternoon of entertainment while supporting local charitable causes. It's on Sunday 5 July 2026 at 2pm, at the Corn Exchange. Tickets are £6.25 each, and available [online](#) or by calling 01635 522733.

NOTICES



Missional Listening Challenge

At the Church Meeting on Sunday members were set a challenge to engage with our existing networks to listen to the challenges and concerns they're facing. We are seeking to listen carefully to our community in order to identify needs and to help us discern where and how God might be calling us to respond. The challenge is not to quiz people with a survey or questionnaire, but to gather information through natural conversations rooted in genuine care. We've created a card with some suggested question prompts which can be filled in after your conversation and handed back for us to process. A digital version is also available [here](#). Speak to Helen, Steve, Jo I or Debi if you have any questions.

Ladies' Breakfast

Ladies Breakfast is taking a break for the summer and will return in September.

Over the past months, Ladies Breakfast has become a really special place where women can come together in friendship and community. It's been a wonderful opportunity to build relationships, share testimonies, encourage one another in our faith and simply enjoy spending time together.

We would love to see even more ladies join us when we return, so please do consider inviting friends, neighbours, family members, or anyone who would enjoy a relaxed and welcoming morning in great company. Our autumn dates are:

Saturday 12th September – Beryl will be speaking

Saturday 10th October

Saturday 14th November

Thank you to everyone who has supported and attended Ladies Breakfast this year.

OM Logos Hope

The Logos Hope, a ship operated by Operation Mobilisation, is moored in London and open to the public until 5th July (also in Cardiff in September and other UK ports during the summer). You can meet her crew, enjoy the café and bookfair, and be inspired as the "Wave of Hope" tour aims to "renew the UK Church, raising a tide of faith to make God known both here and around the world". For more information [click here](#) or speak to Dave & Helen Andrews, who visited with friends this week.



Carl's Radio Show

Some will know Carl presents a radio show from 11am-1pm on Thursdays. He'd love it if you're able to support by listening [here](#) either live or by catching up afterwards. Song requests can also be submitted via WhatsApp. To join the group, please speak to Carl on Sundays or [email](#) him.

Made for you - Women's Conference

Saturday 26th September 2026 at Testwood Baptist Church, Southampton

A one day conference for women to equip, encourage and enjoy God together - with Lou Fellingham and guests. More information can be found [here](#) and if you click on 'tickets' it will show you the schedule for the day. For more information speak to Julie and if you book a ticket please let her know so we can coordinate lifts nearer the time. julieb@newburybaptistchurch.org

Want to include something next week?

Email Emma by Weds, 9am: office@newburybaptistchurch.org

PRAYERS

Church Family Prayers

Daph & Di - Please pray for Di who is now receiving palliative care at home. Pray for Daph and Dave as they care for her alongside the nurses and carers.

Beryl R - Please pray for Beryl who has been unwell recently.

John P - Please pray for John as he recovers from a chest infection and nasty cough.

Nursery & School Leavers - This month a number of our children will be finishing nursery or school and preparing for a new start in September. Pray that they would finish well and enjoy their final weeks with friends and teachers. Pray that they would manage the transition to a new environment well.

Arthur & Reeta July Prayer Update

Many will have enjoyed seeing and catching up with Arthur and Reeta recently when they joined us for Sunday worship. They will be staying in the UK for the next few weeks before flying to Nepal, where they will work remotely for BMS. They have shared the following prayer requests for July:

- Pray for over 100 vulnerable households who have recently received agricultural packages to support them during the cultivation season. May God bless them and the land with a fruitful harvest.
- Pray for the ongoing discussions concerning the possible appointments of several new team members. Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as the leadership team go through this process.
- Pray for the many communities affected by drought. May God have mercy and send exceptional rain.
- This month a new communications assistant is joining the team. Pray that he settles well, feels supported and builds good relationships with colleagues. Pray that his gifts and skills will be a blessing to the organisation.
- As Reeta continues to work remotely, pray for the finance office as they seek to develop effective new patterns of operating. Pray specifically for the implementation of a new inventory system which has been delayed. Pray that God will help the team think creatively to solve problems and perseverance to continue with Reeta working in a different country.
- Pray for the growing tensions with bordering countries, which are causing increasing uncertainty and risk for communities near the border. Pray for the safety of local workers and their families, and for all those affected by conflict, fear and displacement.
- Join us in giving thanks to God for a recent donation towards building a new operating theater at one of the clinics. Pray that enough money would be raised for this to be built and be a blessing to all those in the surrounding communities.