

TREASURING GOD'S CREATION

Several weeks ago I was lucky enough to spend a few days in Yorkshire travelling through the beautiful countryside of the moors and the dales. After several coffee stops (and opportunities to look in gift shops) I was touched by the nickname for Yorkshire, "God's own country". It celebrates the county's breath-taking landscapes, rich history and stunning unspoiled scenery. In truth, however, this is something that really applies to the whole of the world.

In our discussions as a Small Group we often touch on the beauty and fragility of God's world, the wonder of the whole universe, and the responsibility we have been given to care for it. Psalm 8 verse 34 causes us to pause and reflect as it celebrates God's work in creation "When I consider the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"

When we look at the sky, (whether we are standing in Newbury or even in Yorkshire), particularly on a clear and frosty night, we see a microscopic part of what is truly there. The stars that we see depend heavily on our latitude (north-south position) and hemisphere, as the curve of the Earth obscures different parts of the sky. While people at similar latitudes see the same stars, those in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres see different constellations. Here in the Northern Hemisphere, for example, we cannot see the southern constellations like the Southern Cross, while those in the Southern Hemisphere cannot see the North Star.

Creating something can involve a huge range of emotions – vision, patience, laughter, joy, satisfaction and sometimes even frustration. Imagine then, God's emotions when he was building the universe – His vision, His ideas, His humour, His joy, His satisfaction, His attention to detail and His timelessness. Reading through Genesis chapter 1 we see that God declares His work is good each time He takes the next step in creating something, until finally in verse 31 God sees everything He has made and declares it to be VERY good.

In Colossians 1:16-17 the apostle Paul reminds us that "For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

Creation

**When I see the blazing sun
I think of the world when it first began.
Sun, moon and stars to give us light
Showing to us God's wondrous might.
Trees and woods in bright array,
Flowers blooming from day to day,
Birds in the sky, fish in the sea,
Diverse animals for all to see.
God made this world of wondrous beauty.**

**To nurture it well is our Christian duty.
Treasure creation, value its worth.
Thank the Lord for this bountiful earth.**

(penned by Beryl)

We have an enormous blessing and privilege in being able to work alongside Him today to preserve and sustain and maintain His ongoing project.

With blessings, Barbara and Tuesday Morning Small Group

NOTICES



WorshipFest

Newbury Worship Fest is coming to Victoria Park **this Saturday** between 12 noon and 5pm, Worship with others, hear testimonies and join in with Newbury Churches. Free admission. If you can't attend in person but would like to take part, it is also being livestreamed on YouTube [here](#).

Creative Afternoon

Calling all our creative people! Ahead of our summer all-age services we will be making some decorations and setting up the church. We need your help! Please come along **this Sunday** (19th) 3-5pm. Contact Hannah for more info: hannahs@newburybaptistchurch.org

Missional Listening Challenge

At the last Church Meeting, 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.

Summer Socials

We know how hard it is to keep children entertained over the long summer holiday, so we hope you can join us for some free Summer Social events. Please do pick up a flyer in church too and give to friends and family - everyone is very welcome! The events are as follows:

Monday 3rd August 12 noon - Den Building & Ball Games at Snelsemore Common

Tuesday 1st September 12 noon - Splash Pad at Victoria Park

And then on 12th September at 6pm we'll have a Back to School Movie night. Wear your favourite PJs or onesie and enjoy a film on the big screen with Pizza! Please book your place [here](#) so that we can order enough pizza for everyone. Cost £5 per person or £10 per family.

Andy Kind - Christian Comedian/Preacher

Andy Kind is a comedian, preacher and writer. Andy's stand-up style is the joyful ranting of a redeemed alpha male. He has been featured on BBC1, ITV and Channel 4, while he's had jokes featured on Dave's One Night Stand and Live at the Apollo. He's coming to Newbury on Thursday July 23rd at 7.30pm in St Nicolas Church Hall. Tickets are £9 and available [here](#).

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

Mahon Family Update and Prayer Requests

Dear friends, thank you for your faithfulness in praying for us and the ministry of God in Peru over the years. We truly feel the impact of your prayers every day. Below are some updates which we would love for you to pray for:

After a strongly contested election, we finally have a new President of Peru. Keiko Fujimori has stood for election four times over last 15 years. Please pray for her to lead the country fairly and stand firmly against corruption. This is one of her stated core priorities and the country is in desperate need for this. Another priority for her government is modernising the police force and reducing crime. The major concern is for extortion to be dealt with, as organised gangs regularly target individuals and small businesses for exorbitant sums for 'protection' - this causes fear and destroys livelihoods.

The Peruvian Baptist Convention formed a Mission Board 5 years ago. Last year, they succeeded in sending their first international missionary couple to Brazil. They have also completed several training events to enable local and regional mission throughout the country. They have planted churches within the Awahun indigenous community and restarted their youth missions gap year called Radical. Please pray for fruitfulness in everything they are doing. Pastor Raul, the Chairman of the board, would also appreciate your prayers for them to stay united and for abundant provision of resources for their important ministry.

Pastor Luis is constantly teaching and encouraging the younger generation to follow Christ. He tirelessly visits remote river communities in the Peruvian Amazon, strengthening churches and counselling families in the ways of God. He has recently teamed up with Deber, a younger missionary, and we are praying that together they will consolidate and extend God's kingdom in the northern region of Peru called Loreto, working with other church leaders and servants of God. Pray for financial provision, unity and joy in the midst of many challenges.



Pastor Luis (left) with Dave, Michele and Pastor Percy

Michele will start teaching a class in Ecclesiology (the origin and purpose of the church) and Missiology (the origin and purpose of mission) at Lima Baptist Seminary in August. Please pray for God to guide me as I prepare and deliver, for my students as they learn, and for Dave as he teaches Ministerial Formation (developing new ministers) at Trujillo Baptist Seminary this coming semester.

Please also include the children as they learn, that they will thrive academically and grow spiritually, in their friendships and extra-curricular activities.

We appreciate your intercessions on our behalf, and those we serve here. Let's trust God together for His kingdom to come, on earth as it is in heaven.