

Weekly News

9th September 2026



Years ago, we were encouraged to practice telling others of the Good News by imagining we were talking to someone who was waiting for their train to arrive on the platform, so we only had 5 minutes to get our message across to them. There were even little books provided that explained all the relevant points you should include and even suggested that you practised your story so that you could be confident of getting your message across in the short time available.

If my last journey home from London by train is anything to go by, I could probably tell someone my entire life story whilst waiting for my train!

So how do we share the Good News that Jesus loves each and everyone who attends our Giggles & Wiggles sessions when our conversations are always so brief and usually interrupted by a small person demanding attention? Well, we try to show God's love by:

- * Providing a clean and safe environment - thank you, Newbury Baptist Church
- * Providing interesting activities and toys - thank you, Setup Team
- * Providing a drink and a slice of homemade cake - thank you, Bakers
- * Providing a time to all come together and sing thanks - thank you, Singers
- * Providing a warm welcome, a listening ear, encouraging words and even a supportive hug if needed - thank you, Team members

I have always been influenced by the belief that faith is expressed by deeds as well as words and I hope that this is reflected in the way we come alongside adults and children during our sessions.

At the end of the Summer Term, we said goodbye to 8 of our regular children, including Coco and Sienna, who were all off to Big School. This means that we will no longer have anyone attending that regularly worships at NBC but also that we will hopefully be welcoming in new families.

Please pray for all involved in Giggles & Wiggles that we might continue to serve our Lord in Newbury in showing his love by all we say and do.

Chris



Notices



Back to School Movie Night

Our Back to School Movie Night is this Saturday - 12th September at 6pm. We're looking forward to an evening of fun with Pizza and a showing of Toy Story 5 on the big screen in church. Please book your place [here](#) **before tomorrow (Thursday) night** so that we can order enough pizza for everyone. Cost £5 per person or £10 per family to cover the cost of food.

Mosque Community Open Day

West Berkshire Muslim Centre is holding a Community Open Day on Saturday 19th September 10am-2pm. All are warmly invited for a tour of the mosque, friendly conversations, and, of course, a cuppa. Book [here](#)

Church Meeting

Our next Church Members Meeting is on Sunday 20th September following the morning service.

Foodbank Vacancy

West Berkshire Foodbank are looking for a Foodbank Director. This is a paid role, helping to shape the future of the foodbank, supported by a team of staff and volunteers. For a full job description or more information email: chair@wetberks.foodbank.org.uk

Barn Dance

Dust off your dancing shoes and join us for a Harvest Barn Dance on 3rd October at 6pm. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy this fun social event, with Music by "Hulabaloo". There will be two sets of dancing, and in the middle we'll share a Ploughman's Supper together. Donations are invited towards the costs of the evening. Please make sure to book your place [here](#) before the end of September.

CTNA Joint Service

Join in with others from churches in Newbury on 18th October for a joint service to conclude the UK National Week of Prayer. The service will be held at St Nicolas Church at 6pm.

NBC Bake Off

Join us on October 18th for the NBC Bake Off. Whether you excel at showstopping cakes, beautiful biscuits or perfect pastries there will be a category for you. After the winners have been announced, goodies will be available to enjoy with your coffee or take home, with all donations given to Street Pastors. Details of how to enter will be available soon. For now please pop the date in your diary!

Shoe Bags 2026

Most of you are now familiar with our Christmas in a Shoe Bag appeal that we are repeating after great success last year. With the help several NBC members we have made up over 100 bags in attractive material. It's now time to get them filled, so please pick one or more bags up from the Church Foyer. Each bag contains instructions and suggested gifts.



QUESTIONING JESUS

Exploring the Gospel of Mark
Autumn 2026



On Sunday we began our new sermon series on Mark's gospel. As part of it, I (Peter) invited everyone to submit the questions they have about faith, the Bible and Jesus. There have already been lots of submissions on some tough subjects!

I'll use this space to share some of the questions I receive and my responses. You can submit your questions via our website and using this QR code:



Q. Where does baptism originate in the Bible? Is it in the Old Testament, or was John the Baptist one of the first to conduct them?

The short answer is 'no' they didn't do baptism in the Old Testament in the same way as John did.

However, the foundations of what baptism symbolises and the use of water do have roots in the Old Testament. For example:

- The importance of water to symbolise a crossing point from an old life to a new one (think Exodus and the parting of the Red Sea, Joshua 3 and the crossing of the Jordan).
- Water as cleansing and renewal (think Psalm 51:7-10 *wash me and I shall be whiter than snow...*)
- The case of Naaman in 2 Kings 5 is interesting. V14: *He dipped himself seven times in the Jordan*. The Greek translation of the OT uses the word *ebaptisato*, which shares the same linguistic root as 'baptism'.

The key difference is that these tend to be repeatable rituals which people do themselves. The practice grew in popularity between the testaments and there's some evidence the community at Qumran (where the Dead Sea scrolls were found) immersed daily as part of their practice of repentance.

So when it comes to John the Baptist it's not the use of water that's new, but what he does with it:

- Baptism once, rather than repeated
- Administered by another person
- It was for Jews, not converts (suggesting a prophetic call for Israel to repent)
- It was in preparation for God's judgement, which John believed was imminent.



Prayers



Church Family Prayers

Will & Dee - Thank you to those who came and supported them at their wedding last weekend. Please pray for the new couple as they begin this exciting new chapter of their lives together.

Beryl R - Please continue to pray for Beryl as she battles a number of health issues.

Kiara - We have been asked to pray for Kiara, a friend of Bella back in New Zealand. Over the past year or two she has been dealing with constant pain. She can no longer walk without pain and is having trouble doing day-to-day things, such as writing. The doctors can't quite figure out the cause and she just seems to be getting worse. Please pray for her healing and for no more pain. Pray that someone would be able to figure out how to help her. For God's will to be done in her life.

Arthur & Reeta Update and Prayer Requests

Following their move to Nepal, we have heard from our missionaries that they are safe from the recent flooding in the country. Reeta's father runs a charity which is responding to the devastation caused by the floods in the north of the country, so please pray that relief and rebuilding efforts would be effective. Pray that God would show Arthur and Reeta how they could best be used to support this response.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones and their homes, as well as for the many who are still missing.

Pray for Arthur and Reeta to adjust to the new way of remote working, and for the various challenges in communicating and working with colleagues in the country they are serving.

Pray for wisdom, protection and encouragement of all those who still work and live in the country, especially under an increasingly difficult government.

Pray for Reeta who is part of the planning team of a regional General Assembly taking place next month. Pray that preparations would go smoothly and God would bless the event and use it to encourage, build up and inspire all who attend.