Weekly News

25th November 2026

As a church we have committed to support several missionaries financially and in prayer. Arthur and Reeta, currently in Nepal, have sent us an update of the work they have been doing, along with ways in which we can pray for them.

Dear Friends

The last few months have been particularly busy as we continue working remotely from Nepal, whilst preparing for the final months of our service with our partner organisation in Afghanistan.

The last week of October saw our partner organisation's General Assembly take place in Sri Lanka. It was a real blessing to be joined by all our international volunteers, four of our Afghan colleagues and representatives from many of our supporting partners. Reeta had spent months organising the event, and it was wonderful to see her hard work come together. Alongside presentations and discussions, we enjoyed a cultural evening featuring everything from Norwegian rowing and Swedish frog jumping to traditional Sri Lankan dancing and Afghan singing! We both took turns as MC, and Arthur also presented Communications & Media and security updates, as well as developing an interactive app to accompany the event. Afterwards, we enjoyed a short holiday exploring Sri Lanka, including visiting the famous Nine Arch Bridge and trying our hand at picking tea, which is considerably harder than it looks! Sri Lanka is a beautiful country, with some of the friendliest people we have ever met.

Reeta has been busy developing funding proposals to help ensure that projects in Afghanistan can continue. She has also been handing over responsibilities to a new international colleague who will be taking over her role, which has taken a considerable weight off her shoulders.

Arthur completed the 2025 Annual Report in September, followed by a significant communications campaign marking World Mental Health Day in October. He has now begun redesigning our partner organisation's website and is exploring ways to pass on more of his graphic design knowledge to his Afghan colleagues before we finish our roles at the end of March. Unfortunately, Arthur recently fell from a stool whilst hanging out the washing, tearing a ligament in his right foot. Ouch!

We've submitted our proposed Home Assignment dates and are looking forward to catching up with many of you in 2027. Meanwhile, Arthur has created an interactive online Advent calendar, with music, stories and festive surprises behind the windows here. Visit from 1 December to join in the fun!

Please give thanks for a successful General Assembly and pray for our international colleagues returning to Afghanistan, Reeta's funding proposals, the recruitment of someone to join the Communications & Media team, Arthur's recovery, and wisdom as we prepare for the next chapter in our lives. Thank you for your continued prayers, encouragement and support.

We wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

Love and blessings,

Arthur and Reeta

Notices

Decorating the church for Christmas

Everyone is invited to a social evening this Friday, 27th November at 7pm in the hall. Bring along some snacks to share and we'll have a fun evening painting pictures that we'll use in our Christmas display.

Then on Saturday (28th) at 10am - we'd love people to come and help decorate the church ready for our first service in our Advent/Christmas series "Christmas Pieced Together" on Sun 29th. We'll get the kettle on and provide the Christmas music while we all work!

Can you help at the Family Craft morning?

We are still in need of volunteers to help at the Nativity Trail and Craft Morning on 5th December. Perhaps you'd like to chat to visitors, serve refreshments or help with crafts and games? We also need people to bake so that we can offer those coming along a little sweet treat with their warm drink! If you're able to help at all please get in touch with Emma in the office. Thank you!

Invitations to Christmas services and events

Christmas Pieced Together is our theme for Advent and Christmas this year. Cards with details of our services and events are available for you to give to friends and family to invite them along. Please do pick some up and hand them out! We know it's often easier to send things on a message so we've created digital versions of the invites too. Please download them (from here) and send them on.

Men's Breakfast

Book here for the next Men's Breakfast on 5th December at 8am and hear about Peter's Advent Challenge!

First Thursday

The Christmas First Thursday Service and meal is on 3rd December at 12 noon. Book your place here.

Ladies' Breakfast

It's been another wonderful year of Ladies Breakfast, and we'd really love to encourage more people to come along, enjoy the fellowship and invite their friends to join us too. To help you with some forward planning here are the Ladies Breakfast dates for 2027! More information can be found here

9th January, 13th February, 13th March, 10th April, 8th May, 12th June, 10th July, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November. We don't meet in August or December.

COMING UP AT NBC

27th Nov - Social Evening 7pm - creating Christmas displays

28th Nov - Decorating for Christmas 10am

29th Nov - First Sunday of "Christmas Pieced Together" 10am

3rd Dec - First Thursday Service & Meal 12 noon [BOOK HERE]

5th Dec - Men's Breakfast 8am [BOOK HERE]

5th Dec - Family Nativity Trail and Craft Morning 10am-12 noon

Prayers

Church Family

Kelvin Please pray for Kelvin as he undergoes hip replacement surgery TODAY (25th).

John P We are pleased to share that John is now home again, following a lengthy spell in hospital. Please continue to pray for him as he rebuilds his strength.

Claire T Thank you for the prayers for Claire's mum, Lyn. She underwent surgery on Monday and is now recovering in hospital.

Jeanette H Please pray for Jeanette who is in hospital after a couple of recent falls.

Prayer as we approach Advent

As we prepare to decorate the church and enter Advent, below is a prayer for us to say as a church.

Lord God,
This Sunday we begin Advent. Week by week, we'll be building the Christmas story together here at church, piece by piece, character by character.

As we do, help us to see what you were doing all along. You didn't drop Christmas into the world all at once. You pieced it together. A young woman in Nazareth who said yes. A carpenter who chose to stay. Shepherds nobody invited anywhere. Strangers from the east who didn't know the script. One by one you brought them in, and the circle kept getting wider.

Thank you that the circle is still widening. Thank you that there's room in it for us. For the ones who feel sure of their place, and the ones who aren't sure they belong at all.

This Advent, wherever we are and however we're feeling, meet us there. Some of us come to this season with joy. Some come tired, or grieving, or just not feeling it this year. You know. And you make room for all of it.

We pray for our town. As families follow the trail on 5 December, and as people come through our doors over the coming weeks, would they find a place in the story too. Help us to make space for them, and to welcome them well.

And as the scene comes together, keep our eyes on the one it's all built around. Jesus, the cornerstone. The piece that holds everything else in place. Come, Lord Jesus.
Piece us together, and make us part of your story. Amen.