

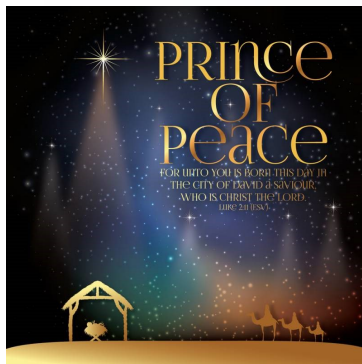


November/ December
2023



THE STREAM

Dear Church Family



As we enter this period of Advent (a time for looking forward) we focus on the love that God has for us and His creation. This year has been a particularly dark year from a worldly perspective, but the darker the world becomes, the brighter the light will shine...

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1 v 5.

The Leadership team are looking forward to the Christmas season and a time of joy when we celebrate our dear Lord's coming to earth.

Our hope is in the Lord's goodness to us in the New Year and we are looking forward to working out together

God's plan for New Barn Christian Fellowship.

Every blessing

The Leadership Team



Welcome to this new look Stream. The change is to allow everyone a briefer and quicker read as we believe many were finding the content too intense previously. Please let us know which you prefer. We are trying very hard to make this acceptable to all.

Another change from the previous Newsletter is that the financial figures for the month will no longer be included in the Newsletter and will instead be shown only on the Church overhead every Sunday.

As you can see, this issue covers two months which has been requested as a trial. Once again, please let us have your feedback on whether this is helpful, or not. Hopefully, the January/February Newsletter will be ready on 1st January for distribution.

November/December
2023

Christmas Services

- Sunday 17th December
Carol Service 4.30 pm—6 pm
Refreshments 6 pm—7 pm
- Sunday 24th December
Christmas Eve Service 10.15 am
- Monday 25th December
Christmas Day
No service
- Sunday 31st December
New Year's Eve 10.15 am
Normal Sunday Service

Prayer Diary

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5 v 16

Individual prayer

Please speak to one of the Elders or anyone on the prayer chain if you would like prayer for something specific .

Please also remember in your prayers our Church family and those who may need God's peace and healing at this time.

We also continue to pray for a new Pastor and our Leadership team.

Emergency Prayer Line

Anyone seeking emergency prayer. Please call Janet.

Weekly prayer meeting

We now have a weekly prayer time every Friday at 5pm on zoom. Please contact Janet should you wish to join.



*As Christians, **prayer** is our most powerful asset.*

Mission & Outreach

Mission Without Borders

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who generously supported the Operation Christmas Love appeal on Sunday 5th November for Mission Without Borders by buying preserves. As a result £100 has been sent to provide food parcels to needy families living in the Ukraine and Eastern European countries. This will cover the cost of three parcels which will not only provide food, but bring the gift of God's love and joy to them.

Thank you Janet.

Gravesham Foodbank

Dependency on foodbanks is soaring. Recent figures released this month by the Trussell Trust reveal that a record 1.5 million emergency food parcels were provided between April and September 2023. This includes food parcels distributed to over 265,000 children living in UK families.

Thank you to all who continuously contribute to the foodbank. As Ron, Mike and Nikki all work at our local Gravesham foodbank they are very willing to deliver our contributions.

Welcome Wednesday

We continue to welcome new people to this weekly gathering for the local community. We have now registered the group as a **Warm Space** for the Winter period. Everyone is of course most welcome every Wednesday from 1-3 pm.



Monthly Services

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
November			
5th	Ron	Simeon Garrett	Youth with a Mission
12th	Rowan	Mike Collins	Communion
19th	Mike Collins	Alastair Gregory	Dartford Community Church
26th	Rowan	Ron	Communion

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
December			
3rd	Lynne	Nigel	Communion
10th	Rowan	Peter Bundell	
17th	Mike Collins	Rowan	Carols by Candlelight 4.30
24th	Steve Rogers	Ron	
31st			Communion

Mid-week Groups

Current groups at NBCF – for further details please call Ron Owen (07850 004696)

Group	Day	Time	Details
Bible Study	Tuesday (1 st Tuesday of the month)	1.45 pm	Janet's home Matthew 5 & 6 - The Sermon on the Mount
Dartford Life Group	Tuesdays	7.45pm	Edna's home The Fruits of the Spirit / The Christmas Story
Welcome Wednesday	Wednesdays	1-3pm	Scout Hall / Community Hall A friendly get together with refreshments, board games, talks and demonstrations.
Gravesend Life Group	Thursdays	7.45 pm	Jenny and Ann's homes ALPHA - 23rd November (last meeting) December— Looking at The Christmas Story
New Barn Life Group	Thursdays	7.45 pm	At Eve's home (Nov 9, 23 Dec 7) At Nigel's home (Nov 2, 16, 30 Dec 14) For programme please contact Eve or Nigel.
Prayer Meeting	Fridays	5.00 pm	On zoom.

All groups are open to everyone. Please feel free to attend. For further details, please contact the organiser or email newbarncf@outlook.com.

Christmas Joy

When in awe my heart is still
and tries to grasp this miracle,
all I can do is pray to God
and feel how endless is His love.

God became man for our own sake;
God's Child, with us in flesh united.
How could God hate us, when He
gives us what He, past all measure,
loves?

Love Him who with love is burning,
See the Star who on us pours
Light and comfort !

Emmy Arnold
1883—1980



Christmas Programme

Carols by Candlelight

New Barn's Carols by Candlelight service will be on **Sunday 17th December at 4.30 pm.**

It would be lovely to welcome family and friends to enjoy the evening. Refreshments will be served after the service.



Christmas Story Treasure Hunt

We are now part of the **Gravesham Churches Together** group and on Saturday 9th December in Gravesend, there is a Christmas Story Treasure Hunt for families to enjoy. New Barn Christian Fellowship will be manning a station telling the story of the Wise Men. Anyone wishing to participate, please speak to Ron. Do look out for us in the town. Bring your family and friends to enjoy learning more about the Christmas Story.



Alpha

The Alpha Course has now finished for the Winter. As we experienced quite a bit of illness during the course, it has been decided to re-start again in the Spring. We will also run a further course in the Autumn for those wishing to join the next course.

Autumn Programme—Churches Together in Gravesham

There are many activities planned for November within the town.

Saturday 18th November—Gravesend Methodist Church—Autumn Market 10 am—2.30 pm

Saturday 18th November—North Kent Inter Faith Walk—from Christ Church, Gravesend 10.30 am

Saturday 25th November—St George's Church—Christmas Fayre 10am—2.00 pm

Blessings,

The Leadership Team

Keep in touch ...

Pastor:

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Trustees:

Paul Bishop, Ron Owen, Jenny Kelly

Leadership Team :

Lynne Bishop, Paul Bishop, Ron Owen and Jenny Kelly

Safeguarding Lead :

Nigel Bennett

Please contact any of the above on newbarncf@outlook.com

If you have something that you would like to be included in the next copy of The Stream, please speak to any of the Leadership Team, or email newbarncf@outlook.com with your article.

