



## The Stream

March 2025

Welcome to the March edition of The Stream. As the days grow longer we enjoy lighter morning and evenings and remember the one true light of the world.

### Message from Mike...

Hello church,

*I have started reading a book about a group of Christians called Puritans. They have had a bad press over the years and history tells us that they have caused atrocities, particularly in and amongst the indigenous peoples of North America. As usual, this is not the full story, and their real intent and focus was living a life of holiness to God. Even the term 'puritan' was not one they chose themselves but was given to them by those who wanted to put them down, sometimes even fellow Christians. The so called 'Holiness movement' has also had a bad reputation over the years.*

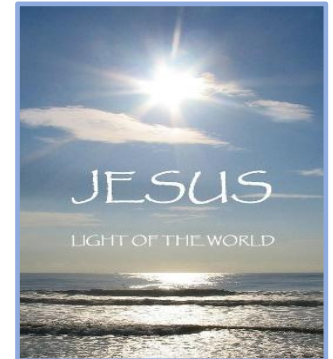
*It makes me wonder what possibly could be wrong with trying to live a life more set apart (for that is what holiness means) for God. Of course, there is nothing wrong but this does not seem to be the aim of many Christians I meet, but is something that we are called to as I mentioned previously in The Stream. I use the words 'seem to be' because that is merely my perception and 1 Corinthians 13 tells me that "7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." This means that rather than proclaiming judgement over them, I should believe the best and hope the best, that I should believe that they are following the same aim, to be more like Jesus.*

*We don't all follow the same path through life. The Holy Spirit deals with us as an individual. So while I am being challenged and need to submit to the Holy Spirit's work in one aspect of my life, you are being challenged and responding to something very different. The aim is the same, to be "changed from glory into glory, 'til in heaven we take our place. 'til we cast our crowns before Him, lost in wonder, love and grace."*

*It is very hard not to compare ourselves with others. It is difficult not to be proud that we have moved past a stage in our Christian walk that others are struggling with or to be envious of someone else's progress when we are still struggling. We all have a role to play. To guard our hearts against envy and jealousy. To not be proud and conceited. We owe it all to our heavenly Father who has extended to us all the same grace, the same mercy, the same love which we did not nor ever will deserve. It is all Him, by Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit.*

*Let us submit to living in Romans 12 v 1-8 and also the rest of Romans 12, 13 and 14. Give it a read and may the Holy Spirit apply it to all our hearts, yours and mine.*

*"12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers,<sup>[a]</sup> by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.<sup>[b]</sup> 2 Do not be conformed to this world,<sup>[c]</sup> but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.<sup>[d]</sup>3 For by the grace given to me I say to*



every one among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members,<sup>[e]</sup> and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup> Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup> if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup> the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads,<sup>[f]</sup> with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”

May our Lord bless you all abundantly this month ... Mike



### Barn Christian Fellowship’s 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



On the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 NBCF will reach our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Originally a church plant from Wilmington Christian Fellowship (now Wilmington Community Church) we would love us all to come together on the 9<sup>th</sup> March at the Community Hall to give thanks for the past 30 years that the Church has been worshipping in Longfield Hill and enjoy a fellowship lunch following our service.

### March’s Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Tunde (CPC)	Mike Collins	Prayer - Jesus Teaching on Prayer 2 (Mark 11 v12-25, Matthew 7 v7 -11)
9 <sup>th</sup> March	Mike Collins	Rowan Troy	Prayer - Jesus Teaching on Prayer 3 (Luke 6 v28, Matthew 5 v43-48)
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Rowan Troy	Ron Owen	Prayer - Jesus High Priestly Prayer (John 17 v1-26)
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Nicky Collins	Ron Owen	Prayer - Jesus in Gethsemane (Mark 13 v32-42, Matthew 26 v36-36)
30 <sup>th</sup> March	Beth Collins	Mike Collins	Prayer - Paul for the Saints Ephesians (1 v15-22, Philippians 1 v3-11)

### Prayer

“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” Psalm 46 v1. We think of all those who are facing difficult and challenging times at the moment and bring them before God in prayer:

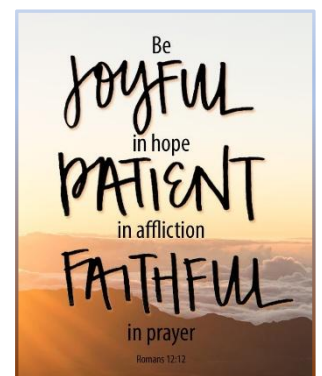
**Jenny Kelly** – Following some time spent recently in hospital Jenny is now home and we continue to hold her in our prayers and pray for her strength and health.

**Mary Weller** – Having recently started treatment we pray for Mary and that she is able to cope well with this. We also keep Ian, Lindsey and Gary in our prayers at this difficult time.

**Chris Troy** – We give thanks that Rowan’s mum’s leukaemia is now in remission, however she has recently had further health problems and spent time in hospital. Please can we pray for continued improvement on Chris’ health and for Rowan, his Dad and family as they support her.

**Edna Ferdinando** – We lift Edna to the Lord and pray for the health problems that she is suffering with.

**Kurt** - We pray for Julie’s cousin Kurt who is in Cape Town South Africa and is undergoing cancer treatment.



*If you have an emergency or particular prayer need please speak to any of the Leadership Team who will be happy to pray with you, or contact Janet for inclusion on the Emergency Prayer Line.*

## Dates for Your Diary



**5<sup>th</sup> March – Churches Together in Gravesham, Christian Aid Lunch** – 12.15pm to 1.45pm at St George’s Church Hall, Gravesend

**7<sup>th</sup> March** – 10.30am at the Salvation Army Citadel in The Grove, Gravesend, a World Day of Prayer Service will take place, all are invited to attend

**9<sup>th</sup> March – NBCF 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fellowship Lunch** – Following a service all are invited to join together for a hot lunch and fellowship together



**5<sup>th</sup> April – Gravesham School Pastors/Prayers Pastor/Street Pastors fundraising quiz** – 7pm at the City Praise Centre, Teams of 3, £20 per team and light refreshments supplied

**4<sup>th</sup> May – Joint Service with Darent Valley Community Church** – at the Anthony Roper Primary School, Eynsford - further details to follow



## Gravesham Foodbank



Thanks to all those who contribute goods for the Gravesham Foodbank is it very much appreciated. Don’t forget if you would like to visit the Foodbank and see the great work that it’s doing please speak to Nicky who would be delighted to arrange a visit. The Food Bank would appreciate the following items, particularly those in **red**.



Pasta Sauce  
Pasta N Sauce  
Tinned Fruit  
Ready-made Jelly’s  
Meat Pies  
Tined Peas  
Tined Cold Meat  
Tinned Vegetables  
UHT Fruit Juice  
Coffee

Tins of Mackerel/Pilchards/Salmon  
Cous Cous  
Bottles of Squash  
Peanut Butter  
Crackers  
Custard  
Rice Pudding  
Hot Chocolate  
Chocolate spread/Jam  
Meals in tins

Biscuits  
Shower Gel  
Toothpaste  
Washing up Liquid  
Ladies Deodorant  
Washing powder  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Bleach  
Anti Bac Spray

*Please don’t forget no baby food or baby milk – thank you ☺*

## Current Groups at NBCF

Group	Day	Time	Details
<b>Bible Study</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month	1.45pm	<b>At Janet’s home</b> – The Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost
<b>Dartford Life Group</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday monthly	7pm	<b>Edna’s home</b> – Varied themes looking at Faith
<b>Welcome Wednesday</b>	Wednesdays	1-3pm	<b>Longfield Hill Community Hall</b> – a friendly ‘pop up’ club with refreshments, board games, talks, demonstrations and activities, open to all
<b>New Barn Life Group</b>	Thursdays	7.30pm	<b>At Eve and Richard’s home:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> March – Prayer evening for our missionaries led by Janet 13 <sup>th</sup> March – The Chosen (series 4 Ep 5) “Sitting, Serving, Scheming” led by Eve 20 <sup>th</sup> March – The Chosen (series 4 Ep 6) “Dedication” 27 <sup>th</sup> March - Surprise Us! with Andrew & Annette
<b>Weekly Prayer Group</b>	Fridays	5pm	<b>Via Zoom</b> – please contact Janet for joining instructions
<b>Monthly Prayer Meeting</b>	Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	9am	Meeting in the building adjacent to Community Hall and Zoom link also available.

**All groups are open to everyone and all are most welcome** - For further details, please contact the organiser, Ron Owen on 07850 004696 or email [newbarncf@outlook.com](mailto:newbarncf@outlook.com)

## **The Leadership Team**

Keep in touch and please contact any of the below at [newbarncf@outlook.com](mailto:newbarncf@outlook.com):

Pastor: Mike Collins

Trustees: Paul Bishop, Ron Owen, Stephen Paddock & Mary Bourne (external Trustee from CPC)

Leadership Team: Lynne Bishop, Paul Bishop & Ron Owen

Safeguarding Lead : Nicky Collins

*For further details on any of the above, please see our website at [newbarncf.org.uk](http://newbarncf.org.uk).  
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](mailto:newbarncf@outlook.com).*