



## The Stream

April 2025

### Message from Mike...

Hello church,

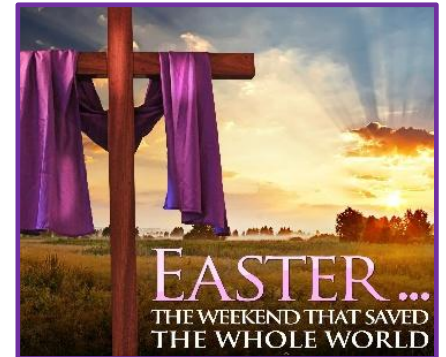
*I often wonder whether I have fully grasped the significance of Easter. These thoughts this year are inspired by my sermon of 30th March. As I prepared the sermon I felt myself challenged. Have I had the eyes of my heart enlightened so that I know what is the hope to which He has called me. Do I know what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. Have I experienced the immeasurable greatness of Him towards me. I don't think I have got anywhere near grasping these things. Add to them the understanding all that Jesus worked for me on the cross and through the Father resurrecting Him from the dead. I can maybe talk about all the theory and all the theological writings that try to explain it but have I really experienced the power of the cross and the resurrection. It is perhaps like people who have a near death experience and are then are resuscitated. There are stories that are told of people who have seen the horrors of hell. When resuscitated they are energised to tell as many people as possible with the desperate desire to rescue everyone they know from that terrible destiny.*

*Which reminds me of the story Jesus told about the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16 verses 19-31. Having experienced hell he was desperate for Lazarus to return to life and tell all his relatives. Easter is all about someone who returned to life to provide a way to escape the horrors of hell.*

*If then I could somehow experience the cross and what it meant to Jesus and to the Father, I could get a better grasp of what was achieved by Jesus' death and resurrection. I have no old life to compare my life to as I accepted Jesus as my saviour at a young age and have known little more than life as a believer in Christ. I can though, look at others and say "I would be there myself if it was not for God's amazing grace". I could say with the hymn writer; Give me a sight O Saviour of Thy wondrous love for me. Of the love that brought Thee down to earth to die on Calvary. It is not necessary to actually experience these things when we have the Holy Spirit to reveal them to us.*

*One additional thing that got to me was a sermon by J John. He said our worst sins could be put on us as a label. Whether a liar, or an adulterer, or thief, or murderer, a person who did not honour their parents etc etc. Just imagine wearing that label around so everyone could see. Then imagine Jesus taking your label, your worst sin, from your chest and sticking on His own. Then imagine His Father having to look on Him with all ours sins on Him. Perhaps we should stop this Easter and give the Holy Spirit time to reveal a little more of what Jesus' death and resurrection achieved for us.*

*I pray that His would inspire us a little more to tell our friends, relatives and neighbours about Jesus. That this revelation would compel us to want to speak of Jesus wherever we are not hide our lamp under a basket. Matthew 5 verses 14-16. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to*



all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

1 Give me a sight, O Saviour,  
Of Thy wondrous love to me,  
Of the love that bro't Thee down to earth,  
To die on Calvary.

Refrain: Oh, make me understand it,  
Help me to take it in,  
What it meant to Thee, the Holy One,  
To bear away my sin.  
Was it the nails, O Saviour,  
That bound Thee to the tree?  
Nay, 'twas Thine everlasting love,  
Thy love for me, for me.  
Oh, wonder of all wonders,  
That thro' Thy death for me,  
My open sins, my secret sins,  
Can all forgiven be.  
Then melt my heart, O Saviour,  
Bend me, yea, break me down,  
Until I own Thee Conqueror,  
And Lord and Sov'reign crown.



Have a great Easter month, God bless, Mike

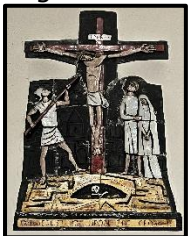
## Easter Services



**Maundy Thursday (17<sup>th</sup> April)** we will be holding a Maundy Thursday Service at the Longfield Hill Community Hall starting at 6.30pm. It would be lovely to see as many as possible there to remember the

Last Supper together.

**Good Friday (18<sup>th</sup> April)** we will be joining with Churches Together in Gravesham on the Walk of Witness. This is an



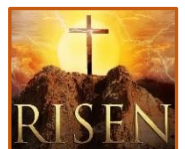
opportunity for Christians in Gravesham to unite in the hope of the gospel and proclaim its power as we walk the streets of Gravesend. Please join us to start at 10:30am in St George's churchyard. Everyone is invited and if you require transport or further details, please speak to the Leadership Team.

*Walk of witness*  
GOOD FRIDAY 2025 // 10.30AM - 12.30PM

- 10.30am St George's Church  
Songs & readings
- 11.15am Community Square  
Prayer for Gravesham
- 12.00pm Windmill Hill  
Worship, talk & egg hunt  
with hot cross buns & drinks

BRING YOUR KIDS:  
Collect an Easter sheet and find the  
eggs around Windmill Hill for a prize!

**Easter Day (20<sup>th</sup> April)** join us for our Easter Day service at 10.15am at the Community Hall and celebrate together Christ's resurrection.



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

30  
ANNIVERSARY

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March we came together for a thanksgiving service for New Barn Christian Fellowship's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having been planted by Wilmington Christian Fellowship (now Wilmington Community Church) in March 1995. We enjoyed sharing memories of the past and prayers for the future followed by lunch and fellowship together. A big thank you to Eve, Richard and Janet for organising and cooking the delicious lunch.



## Rowan Troy

In March Rowan left NBCF after feeling called to work at St Barnabus Church in Istead Rise. Rowan has been with NBCF for many years, having served on the Leadership Team and being instrumental in our IT and setting up Zoom to get us through the particularly difficult period of Covid. He also regularly leads and speaks at services. We all wish Rowan and his family well as we send him out to new pastures.

## April's Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
6 <sup>th</sup> April	Mike Collins	Sarah Green	Prayer - James on prayer: James 5 v13-18, James 4 v1-10, James 1 v5-8
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Richard (CPC)	Ron Owen	<b>Palm Sunday</b> - John 12 v12-19
17 <sup>th</sup> April	Mike Collins		<b>Maundy Thursday (6.30pm)</b>
18 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Good Friday - NB: there will be no service at the Community Hall on Good Friday as we will be joining with Churches Together in Gravesham for the Walk of Witness in Gravesend town centre</b>		
20 <sup>th</sup> April	Nicky Collins	Mike Collins	<b>Easter Day</b> - John 20 v1-19
27 <sup>th</sup> April	Beth Collins	Emma Ho	Galatians 1

## Prayer

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Jer 29 v11. We remember and lift in prayer those who are facing challenging times:

**Jenny Kelly** - We bring Jenny to the Lord in our prayers as she goes through cancer treatment. We pray for strength and the knowledge that God is near to her particularly during this time.

**Mary Weller** - We continue to hold Mary in our prayers and pray specifically for her ongoing treatment. We also pray for her family and particularly for Ian.

**Rowan Troy** - We pray for Rowan as he moves from NBCF to join with St Barnabus Church and for his and his family's future serving the Lord.

**Edna Ferdinando** - We lift Edna to the Lord and pray that she is soon able to have a pacemaker fitted and that this won't be delayed due to other health concerns. We also pray for her family and loved ones.

*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.*

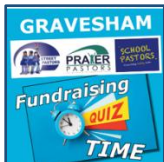


## Wanted:

Willing volunteers are required to help with the logistics of Church on Sundays. This includes putting equipment away and washing up duties after refreshments to ease the burden on those who do it week by week. Please let Janet or the Leadership Team know if you are able to volunteer, all help is greatly appreciated.



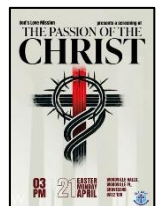
## Dates for Your Diary



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

**18<sup>th</sup> April - Gravesham Churches Together Walk of Witness** in Gravesend Town Centre. please see above for further details.

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April at 3pm** - Special screening of "The Passion of the Christ" arranged by God's Love Mission will take place at the Woodville at 3PM. Tickets are £12.50 each and can be booked at <https://woodville.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173659514>



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

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Churches Together in Gravesham picnic and celebration in the Fort Gardens, Gravesend. Further details to follow

**June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm** - Joint baptismal service at Wilmington Community Church, further details to follow

## NBCF on Facebook



facebook

As you may be aware NBCF have a new Facebook page which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4014339788781889/> . Interesting articles and the activities that are going on at the Church will be posted here and the page is being administrated by Ron and Ann Owen. New members are warmly welcomed to join and please feel free to post any appropriate items.

## Gravesham Foodbank

Thanks to all those who regularly contribute goods for the Gravesham Foodbank is it very much appreciated. The Food Bank would appreciate the following items, particularly those in **red**.



Ready-made Jelly's	Cous Cous	Wrapped Chocolate Biscuits
UHT Milk	Pasta N Sauce	Cereal Bars
Tined Peas	Biscuits	Bottles of Squash
Tined Vegetables	Tined Cold Meat	Toothpaste
Tinned Fish (NO Anchovies)	Chocolate spread/Jam	Ladies Deodorant
Peanut Butter/Honey	Crackers	Anti Bac Wipes
Meals in Tins (NO Hot Dogs)	Sweets/Treats	Bio Washing tabs

*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> – How God Speaks
<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> 3 <sup>rd</sup> April - The Chosen (series 4, episode 8 'The Last Sign' with Ron 10 <sup>th</sup> April - Visit to the cinema to see season 5 of The Chosen : 'The Last Supper' 17 <sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday details to be confirmed 24 <sup>th</sup> April – 'Surprise Surprise' with Andrew and Annette
<b>Weekly Prayer Group</b>	Fridays	5pm	<b>Via Zoom</b> – please contact Janet for joining instructions
<b>Monthly Prayer Meeting</b>	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9am	Meeting in the building adjacent to Community Hall - 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).*