



The Stream

June 2025

Message from Mike...

Hello church,

I have a question to ask, and it is 'Why do we sing in church?' Looking in from outside it seems rather strange that singing should be an integral part of church. Singing in church must be more important than just singing nice songs. You can do that at a choir or a singing club. At Welcome Wednesday we will often sing along to the music played, often with enthusiasm, if it is a song we know and like. Singing in church must have more point than a nice singsong.



As early as Genesis 4 musical instruments are alluded to but it is not until Genesis 31 that singing and music are directly mentioned. Celebration and joy seem to have been their purpose as can be found in verse 27.

"27 Why did you flee secretly and trick me, and did not tell me, so that I might have sent you away with mirth and songs, with tambourine and lyre?"

It is not until the start of Exodus that the real purpose of singing to the Hebrews becomes apparent. Following the miraculous deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians at the Red Sea, Moses, and the Israelites break into joyful celebration of that victory giving praise to God by singing in Exodus 15 v 1; Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying,

*"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider^[a] he has thrown into the sea"*

Here the true purpose of singing to God becomes evident. The purpose here, of singing to God, was to declare what He had done, the aspects of His character that make us grateful and happy, and our response to what He has done. That is, how we trust Him more, how we will follow Him faithfully and do what He tells us. Miriam and the women then lead the singing with tambourines and dancing.

This is then essentially the basis of our singing in church. We worship God for what He has done, we praise Him for who He is, and we declare the impact that has on us and respond to His greatness. We are not just singing songs. We are not just making music and singing nice words. The music is a vessel to express how wonderful God is and what he has done.

So, although the tunes are helpful and make the music accessible, it is the words that are really important. Although familiar songs are nice to sing, we often get complacent and sing the words without thinking about them. New songs and songs of a different style and feel can make us once again concentrate on the words we are singing. The worship of God should always get hold of us. We should celebrate the truths of God in the words, and they should provoke a response in us to love God more, to serve Him better and to tell of what God has done for us.

This can all be summed up in the words of Jesus to the women at the well of Samaria in John 4 v 23 - 24.

"²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth"

In spirit - that our spirit connects with the Holy Spirit in sung worship and allow Him to work in our hearts.

In truth - that the words we worship with are true about God, and that our hearts response is genuine.

Let us pray that we sing to God with hearts full of genuine love and worship and that the words grow in our hearts producing a response worthy of what He has done for us.

God bless you all, Mike



June's Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
1 st June	Nicky Collins	Mike Collins	Galatians 5
8 th June	Richard (CPC)	Luke Guest	Galatians 6
15 th June	Beth Collins	Martin Chapman	
22 nd June	Churches Together in Gravesham picnic and Open Air Service at the Fort Gardens, Gravesend. Also Baptismal Service at Wilmington Community Church		
29 th June	Mike Collins	David Collins	Ephesians 1

Prayer

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths" Proverbs 3 v5-6. We remember those facing challenging times and lift them in prayer:

Edna Ferdinando – We pray for Edna who is recovering from her operation to fit a pacemaker and thank God for his presence through this and its success.

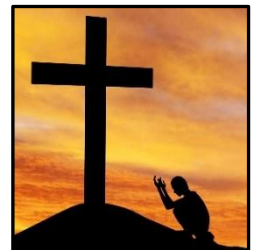
Pat Hall – We continue to pray for Pat as she recovers from her burn and subsequent operation as she regains better use of her hand.

Mary Weller – We give thanks for answer to prayer that Mary's recent scan showed that she is responding well to her treatment, is stable and will continue on her current treatment.

Jennifer Morris – we pray for Jennifer (a former member of NBCF) and her family following the sudden death of her son. We pray that they are aware of God's presence as they come to terms with their loss.

Nicola Thatcher – Nicola (a former member of NBCF) has recently broken her ankle in 2 places. We lift her in our prayers and pray that it quickly mends and for patience whilst it heals.

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.



Community Fun Day Hosted by New Barn Christian Fellowship

NBCF are hosting and organising a Community Fun Day at the Longfield Hill Community Hall on the 19th July (2pm to 4pm) bringing together other groups who use the hall including the Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Brownies, Rainbows, Welcome Wednesday and the Art Group for an afternoon of family fun. Please keep the date in your diary and there will be more news of what will be happening in next month's edition of The Stream.



What's Been Happening in May ...

On the 4th May **NBCF joined with Darent Valley Community Church for a joint service.** A wonderful time was had enjoying worship and fellowship together with our wider Church family.



On the 7th May **Welcome Wednesday celebrated VE Day** together and remembering the sacrifices made on the 7th May. Bunting and Union Jacks adorned the hall and war time tunes hit the air during a sing song and dancing were enjoyed by all. The fun was for a good cause with money being raised for The Armed Forces Charity and a big thank you to the Welcome Wednesday Team for all their preparation and organising.



Dates for Your Diary

June 15th – Janet Hall will be joining our service with homemade goodies to sell in aid of Mission Without Borders Summer Camp

June 22nd from 12 noon – Churches Together in Gravesham picnic and celebration service with Christians from around the Gravesham area in the Fort Gardens, Gravesend. 12 noon - arrive and picnic, 1pm to 2pm open air service, 2pm to 3.30pm fun and fellowship

June 22nd at 4pm – Joint baptismal service at Wilmington Community Church

July 19th 2pm to 4pm – Community Fun Day hosted by NBCF. Come and join the fun bringing the community together at the Longfield Hill Community Hall, something for all ages

July 20th – NBCF Church Meeting and fellowship lunch, to follow the morning service

July 26th at 2pm to 4pm – The School, Street and Prayer Pastors would love you to join them at Dene Holm Methodist Church, Northfleet for an afternoon tea. For further details or if you would like to help please contact Sylvia at

theangels474@gmail.com

September 24th – McMillan Coffee morning organised by the Welcome Wednesday team – further details to follow



Gravesham Foodbank

The Gravesham Foodbank is always very grateful for the donations made by our Church and across the community to support those facing difficult times. Thanks to all those who regularly contribute goods. This month the Foodbank would appreciate the following items:

Tinned peas
Tins of ravioli/spaghetti
Tins of sausages/beans & sausages
Meat pies
Cous cous
Tinned fish (no anchovies)
Crackers
Ketchup/mayonnaise/salad cream

Tinned vegetables
Tinned cold meats
Tinned fruit
Evaporated milk
Pasta 'n' sauce
Bottles of squash
Packets of mash potato
Biscuits

Chocolate spread
Wrapped chocolate
Multi packs of crisps
Anti bac wipes
Conditioner
Deodorant (mens & ladies)
Bio & non-bio washing tablets



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



Current Groups at NBCF

Group	Day	Time	Details
Welcome Wednesday	Wednesdays	1-3pm	Longfield Hill Community Hall – a friendly ‘pop up’ club with refreshments, board games, talks, demonstrations and activities, open to all
New Barn Life Group	Thursdays	7.30pm	At Eve and Richard’s home: 5 th June–J.John 10–the 7 th Commandment with Eve 12 th June–J.John 10–the 6 th Commandment with Mike 19 th June–J.John 10–the 5 th Commandment with Ron 26 th June–J.John 10–the 4 th Commandment with Rupert
Monthly Prayer Meeting	Saturday 21 st June	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

The Leadership Team

Keep in touch and please contact any of the below at 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.
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.*