



The Stream

April 2026

Message from Mike...

Hello church,

Solomon writes in Proverbs that “The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.” Proverbs 4 v 7.

This says that the first and wisest thing you can do is get wisdom. But what or whose wisdom is he talking about. The world around us is full of wisdom from Plato and various philosophers to Confucius. Even our postmodern world is full of wisdom that seems to suggest that we can develop our own wisdom based of what we feel or have experienced.

I don't think that this kind of wisdom is what Solomon is talking about. He views wisdom as being more than a collection of clever sayings. That wisdom's source is not man's brain or intellect but something more, that it is not a changeable thing but a constant. The wisdom Solomon talks about does not change with experience, learning or culture.

That is why Proverbs says this in chapter 9 v 10; The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

This does not indicate that we should be frightened of God but that we should be in awe of His might, His glory, His majesty and that getting to know Him in our limited way. It seems to assume that wisdom is not so much to know ourselves but to know our loving Father and see ourselves in the in the light that He shines into our hearts.

This is why Solomon asked God for wisdom because he knew where the source of wisdom was. James repeated this very thing by saying in chapter 1 verse 5; “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him”.

James and Solomon both knew that true Wisdom had only one source, God. Solomon gave wisdom a personality, (interestingly a woman, but that's another story) and all the traits described can be found in Jesus. How else could he at the age of 12 debate with the lawyers and scribes. How else could it have been said of Him ‘and coming to his home town he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?” Matthew 13 v 54.

So, if the wisdom of God is found in Jesus, what things did He say?

“Love your enemies, do good to those who treat you wrong”. How can that be wisdom? Surely that just makes us weak and foolish but Jesus goes on to say “this proves who you belong to, whose children you are”. God's children only seek to show the world that they belong to God by their words and actions. They let God deal with those who are not His children. God is quite capable of dealing with your enemies, but He shows mercy and grace to them too in order to bring them into His kingdom.

Loving our enemies is probably one of the greatest challenges we face, especially if they have been particularly horrible to us. But if Jesus can cry on the cross; “Father forgive them for the don't know what they are doing”. Surely we can work through our pain and hurt to show love and forgiveness to our enemies.



Not that we have many enemies in our life in western society we must practice loving those we have in case our lives are not always so easy. We must ask God to help us with this. If Corrie Ten Boom can forgive her Nazi gaolers and Jesus can forgive us, who are we to deny this wisdom;

Matthew 5.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



God bless you all, Mike

April Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
5 th April	Nicky Collins	Ron Owen	Easter Sunday – John 20
12 th April	Beth Collins	Mike Collins	Why Do We Have? Series - "Have Services"
19 th April	Richard Braund	Dorothy Hutchinson	1 Thessalonians 1
26 th April	Mike Collins	Mike Collins	Why Do We Have? Series - "Prayer Meetings"

Prayer

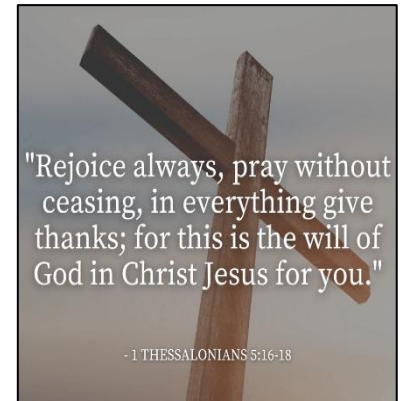
Prayer firmly connects us with God, strengthens our faith, provides guidance and offers emotional and spiritual support. We pray for those facing challenging times.

George Britton – We pray for God’s support and love for George who has recently spent time in hospital along with Eileen and their daughters as they care for George.

Sarah Barnett – We pray for Sarah and that she knows the Lord’s presence, peace and support as she goes through challenging times as she seeks to conclude her divorce.

Julie Willingham – Please pray for Julie’s 98 year old Auntie Maisie who has recently been in hospital and for Julie as she supports and helps her Auntie.

Mike Collins and Peter Field – We lift Mike and Peter in prayer for their 13 mile sponsored walk on the 11th April and that they are able to complete this without injury or problems.



Prayer is vital for us all, if you would like prayer, either after a service or at any other time, please speak to Mike (or whoever you feel comfortable with) to request this. Mike can also be contacted at 07599 833151 or emailed at mikecollins69@hotmail.co.uk and he is happy to meet with you. If you have an urgent prayer request, please contact any of the Leadership Team for this to be included on the NBCF Emergency Prayer Line.



Come and Join Us for Our Easter Services

This Easter there is something for everyone over the Easter weekend at NBCF.

We start with a Time of Reflection at 6pm on Maundy Thursday at the Longfield Hill Community Hall. On Good Friday NBCF will join with Church Together in Gravesham on a Walk of Witness through Gravesend Town Centre and finishing at Windmill Hill. Then on Easter Sunday Nicky will lead us in an Easter Sunday celebration service at the Community Hall followed by refreshments. It would be great to have the hall filled and a good contingent of NBCF members at the Walk of Witness.

Gravesham Foodbank



Our regular contributions to the Gravesham Foodbank are very much appreciated in support of those in our local community. A big and continued thank you to all who regularly contribute it is very much appreciated. This month the Foodbank would appreciate the following items (particularly those in **red**).



Cous Cous
Pasta N Sauce
Rice Pudding
Tinned Cold Meat
Biscuits

Multi packs of Crisps
Readymade Jelly's
Shampoo/Conditioner
Men's/Ladies deodorant
Anti Bac wipes and spray

Bio washing tabs
Tinned Mixed Vegetables (NO Peas or Sweetcorn)
Tinned Mackerel/Sardines/Pilchards
Long Life Milk

Please don't forget no baby food, baby milk, water or fizzy drinks – thank you ☺

GRAVESHAM SCHOOL PASTORS
Mike and Peter's SPONSORED WALK
Friendship Safety Care

Saturday 11th April
13 miles from Lullingstone Park Golf Course starting at 8.00am

You could join Mike and Peter for the whole walk or just part of it and raise your own funds for us. You could sponsor them per mile. You could sponsor them with a one-off donation. Scan the QR code to make your donation, or Bank Transfer to; Lloyds Bank Sort code 30-93-60 Account No. 36312568 (use your surname and walk as a reference)

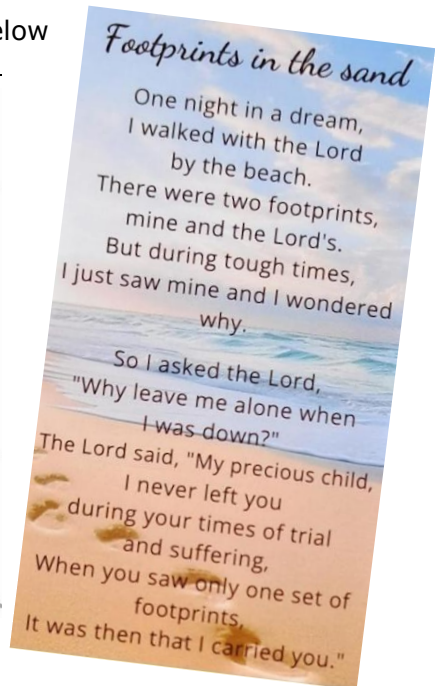
RAISING FUNDS FOR GRAVESHAM SCHOOL PASTORS

Email mikecollins69@hotmail.co.uk with sponsorship pledges

Charity Reference Number: 1138386

Gravesham School Pastors Sponsored Walk

On Saturday 11th April, our very own Mike Collins & Peter Field will be taking part in a sponsored walk in aid of Gravesham School Pastors. If you would like to join them please contact Mike Collins at the following email address: mikecollins69@hotmail.co.uk. You can also contribute directly to their fundraising by visiting the GoFundMe page below <https://gofund.me/d2d2a0876>



Spotlight on Who NBCF Supports AMEN

AMEN is a UK based charity set up 30 years ago by Gareth Bolton who at the time worshiped at Wilmington Community Church. Their vision is "To work with Christian partners around the world; supporting holistic ministries and to share God's love." AMEN channels resources to many overseas Christians including in India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania and Serbia, working to make a difference in their own countries with AMEN partners across the world who are serving God and their communities. For further information on AMEN please visit their website at the following link: Amen Trust.



Dates for Your diary ...

GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS

Friday 3rd April
10:30am - 12:30pm

Showing our love of God as we consider Good Friday through the eyes of Jesus

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

- 10:30am - St George's Church Songs & Readings
- 11:20am - Community Square Worship & Prayer
- 12:15pm - Windmill Hill Time of Reflection

"For the joy set before him he endured the cross" (Heb 12:2)

2nd April at 6pm - NBCF Maundy Thursday Service at Longfield Hill Community Hall.

3rd April at 10.30am – Easter Walk of Witness with Churches Together in Gravesham (see opposite).

11th April – Mike Collins and Peter Field's sponsored walk in aid of the School Pastors (please see further details above).

TBC (June/July) – New Barn Community Fun Day (organised by NBCF) – watch this space for further details.

16th August – Churches Together in Gravesham Event at the Prom, Fort Gardens, Gravesend.

Date TBC – NBCF summer picnic (further details to follow)

Current Groups at NBCF

Group	Day	Time	Details
Welcome Wednesday	Wednesdays	1-3pm	Longfield Hill Community Hall – a friendly club with refreshments, board games, talks, demonstrations & activities - open to all: 1 st April – Easter Raffle & Hot Cross Buns 15 th April – Bingo Session 22 nd April – Guest Speaker Alan on the 1960's
New Barn House Group	Wednesday	7.30pm	At Eve and Richard's home: 1st April - The Chosen (Series 5 Episode 8) The Upper Room Part 2 with Mike
Chalk House Group	Thursdays	7pm	At Beth and Naomi's home:
Monthly Prayer Meeting	Saturday 18 th April	9am	At Paul and Lynne's home

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.