



The Stream

January 2025

Message from Mike...

Hi Church,

I pray every blessing on you all for the New Year. That God would richly bless you, that you would be built up and encouraged in your faith as we face another year. We don't know what is coming in the next year, but we know that God does. He has it all under control, and He knows exactly what He is doing.

But how do we live with that attitude and, even more importantly, how do we explain our thoughts and feelings to our friends and relatives who perhaps do not believe in God? This is particularly difficult when we experience the same things happening throughout the world. We are affected by the same wars, the same natural disasters, the same changes in wealth and poverty. How can we show Jesus in these situations and how can we be Jesus to our friends and relatives?

I'm not sure that I have all the answers to these questions, but I will try and give some hints.

I know I keep banging on about this but the first place I must go is 'how is my relationship with Jesus?'. Is it a 'shopping list' relationship where I list all the things I want to happen and then quickly stop so He doesn't ask me anything. Do I spend any time at all with Him? Is it a 'tick box relationship' where I do my daily devotional and then forget Him for the rest of the day? Does He fill all my day and direct all my thoughts and actions. Do I really believe He sees all I do, hears all my words, understands all my thoughts, and is He ever present in my every activity?

Do I know who I am in Him?

1 Peter 2 v 9-10 - ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Am I really aware of all He has done for me?

We looked at this earlier this year, but it is so easy to forget what He has done and the difference He has made in our lives. A lot easier to forget it seems than to remember. Yet, we are reminded to count our blessings. We could do worse than to look back and remember when and how God has blessed us. I have included a prayer from my devotional this morning. Perhaps you could pray this with me:

"As I reflect on this year, I'm so deeply encouraged at the ways you have been at work in, through and around me. Lord on the cusp of a new year, I give myself to you again - body, soul and spirit. Be glorified in and through me, my Lord"

Having an attitude of gratitude should really stand out amongst the people we meet, not complaining about our lot but being content with what we have. Our actions should support our words, and we should clearly demonstrate that we are people of faith not of fear.

We need to be consistent in our witness. There is no point moaning about things that are happening around us and then telling people that we have faith. That undermines our witness and makes us look the hypocrites that Christians are so often accused of being.

Yes, we must be honest with people, but this should always be balance with a 'But God has/can/does' attitude.

I pray that 2025 would be a year of growth in our relationship with our Saviour, that we would be willing to stand up and be counted as children of the King and that people would see this and ask questions that He will give us the best answers to.

God bless you all, Mike



January's Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
5 th January	Mike Collins	Mike Collins	Intro - What is prayer?
12 th January	Rowan Troy	John Johnson	Prayer - Abraham - Sodom and Gomorrah Genesis 18 v20-33
19 th January	Beth Collins	Rowan Troy	Prayer - Moses' special relationship - Exodus 32 v7-14, 33 v12-23
26 th January	Steve Rogers	Mark Leveson	Prayer - Solomon - Asking for the right things 1 Kings 3 v3-14

Prayer

We thank God for the past 12 months and look forward to the coming year with hope and trust in Him. "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 (Prov 3 v5-6).

Mary Weller – Following a recent stay in hospital, Mary has been diagnosed with cancer. We uphold her, Ian, Lindsey and Gary in our prayers at this difficult time and pray that the most effective and least invasive treatment plan is put into place for Mary.

Sarah and Tom Barnett – We continue to pray for Tom and also for Sarah who have been going through challenging times recently and for their family as they support them.

Tiger – Julie has received an update that her friend's son, Tiger, is hoping to have hip replacement surgery in the New Year. This is an answer to prayer and we continue to pray that his surgery takes place and for his quick healing.



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.

Current Groups at NBCF

Group	Day	Time	Details
Bible Study	1 st Tuesday of the month	1.45pm	At Janet's home – The visit of the wise men
Dartford Life Group	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday monthly	7pm	Edna's home – Varied themes looking at Faith
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
Northfleet Life Group	Wednesday	7pm	Suspended for the present time – please speak to Mike or Nicky for further details
New Barn Life Group	Thursdays	7.30pm	At Eve and Richard's home: 2nd Jan – no meeting 9th Jan – Evening of prayer into 2025, lots to pray about with Janet 16th Jan – Social and favourite song/music – bring your Christmas leftovers! 23rd Jan – Bible study – pick a Bible story and review 4 ways with Eve 30th Jan – Random thoughts with Rupert
Weekly Prayer Group	Fridays	5pm	Via Zoom – please contact Janet for joining instructions
Monthly Prayer Meeting	Saturday 25 th January	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

Christmas 2024 at New Barn Christian Fellowship

There has been lots going on over the festive period at NBCF with many opportunities for festive fellowship and fun. Welcome Wednesday held a film night and enjoyed mince pies and mulled wine before watching "Mrs Caldicot's Cabbage War" alongside a chip supper. There was even an appearance by Father Christmas!



On the 15th December many NBCF members joined with Darent Valley Community Church and the local community at Eynsford Castle for an open air Carol Service.

Joining with the City Praise Centre we, along with other Churches Together in Gravesham, sang carols to shoppers in Gravesend and collected donations for Christian Aid.



A number of us sang carols at The Green Man and around Longfield Hill before our own Carol Service at the Community Hall. A great and fun time was had and we were joined in our carols by a number of local people.

The festivities culminated in our Christmas Day service at the Community Hall where we came together to thank God for Jesus' birth.



New Year Word Search

With the dark evenings and lull following Christmas you may like to pass a little time with a Christian word search – all answers are references to and/or other names for God. The prize for completion is 'anything that you wish it to be' and we hope you enjoy it.

Gravesham Foodbank



A big thank you to everyone who contributes items for the Gravesham Foodbank and every week Ron is very pleased to deliver a box of non-perishable consumables to the them. Our Harvest Service in October contributed a fantastic 33 kilos

of food to help those in need and this is in addition to all that is donated throughout the year. The Team was very busy on the week before Christmas and even had a visit from Santa and his elves!



The Leadership Team

Keep in touch and please contact any of the below at newbarncf@outlook.com:

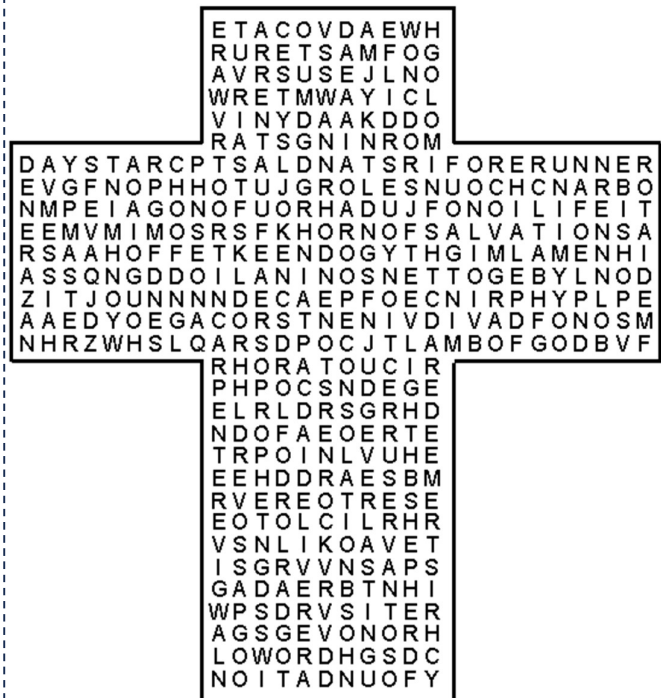
Pastor: Mike Collins

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

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?



- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Advocate | Door | Lawgiver | Redeemer |
| Almighty | Emmanuel | Life | Resurrection |
| Alpha and Omega | Everlasting | Light | Rock |
| Amen | Faithful and True | Lion of Judah | Savior |
| Apostle | First and Last | Lord | Servant |
| Beloved Son | Forerunner | Lord of Lords | Shepherd |
| Bishop | Foundation | Master | Son of David |
| Branch | Governor | Master | Son of God |
| Bread | Head | Mediator | Son of Man |
| Captain | High Priest | Messiah | Vine |
| Carpenter | Holy and Just One | Mighty God | Way |
| Chosen | Horn of Salvation | Morning Star | Wonderful |
| Christ | I AM | Nazarene | Word |
| Consolation | Jesus | Only Begotten Son | |
| Cornerstone | Judge | Passover | |
| Counselor | King | Priest | |
| Day Star | King of Kings | Prince of Peace | |
| Deliverer | Lamb of God | Prophet | |

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.