



## The Stream

January 2026

### Message from Mike...

*As we step into 2026, do we do so with anxiety, worry and fear? What will happen? Is WW3 inevitable? Who can we trust? Politicians are becoming discredited more and more. But then so are high profile church leaders. Can we even consider entering 2026 with any kind of confidence? I would suggest that it all depends on where or on whom our confidence is based.*

*If our confidence is based in politicians, or church leaders, celebrities, sports people or any other man or woman then we are undoubtedly heading for disappointment because they are human. Human beings fail, they let us down, they are unreliable as we all are.*

*So where do we start? We know that in reality we need to trust God but saying and actually doing are way apart. The things we can see happening, our fear of the unknown are much more real to us than God who sometimes seems distant.*

*To put God in the right context we need to understand who He is in relation to us humans. We need to understand why we can trust Him, we need to know His character and why that makes Him so much more trustworthy and reliable than any human being.*

*This is described in Proverbs 1 verse 7 as; The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Oh no, not something or someone else to be afraid of, but this is not that kind of fear. For the believer this is not a fear that God will punish us, or that will destroy us if we don't do what we are commanded. It is reverence, awe, respect, understanding what He can do, how He is sovereign, almighty, all powerful, all knowing and all seeing. That He loves us and we can love Him. That He has chosen us and guides us through life and has made a way of being with Him eternally.*

*The children of Israel had a choice as they stood around mount Sinai and God spoke the commandments to them. They could see God as frightening. A God who thundered commandments from a mountain covered in fire and smoke and cower in paralysing fear or they could see commandments set up to protect and bless them made in love. A God who warned them not to touch the mountain and even set up a cordon around the mountain to keep them and their livestock safe who's aim and desire was relationship not slavery. Their choice led to fearing the nations around them more than they trusted God. To rely on what they could see rather than relying on a God they couldn't see but absolutely had the best plans for them.*

*So going into 2026 we also have a choice. We can fear what may happen, fear what politicians and world leaders will do to promote themselves and their agenda or we can rely on God. We can trust the One who is all powerful, almighty, has things under control. We can choose to trust in the Father, who sent Jesus to die for us. To trust Jesus who willingly gave Himself for us and trust the Holy Spirit who guides us into all truth in this world of relative and personal 'truth'.*

*As Moses challenged the children of Israel;*

*"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that*



the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.” Deuteronomy 30:19-20

As Jesus said: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Choose life, choose to trust in Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Choose to trust the One who loves you so much that He gave His life for you.

God bless you in 2026 and beyond, Mike



## January Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Nicky Collins	Ron Owen	Psalm 1 – Introduction & Righteous vs Wicked
11 <sup>th</sup> January	Beth Collins	Mike Collins	Psalm 2 – Worldview
18 <sup>th</sup> January	Richard Braund	Alan Greenbank	Psalm 23 - My Shepherd
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Steve Rogers	Mike Collins	Psalm 8 - What is Man?



## Prayer

As we enter a New Year we give thanks for the past 12 months, pray for the coming New Year and pray particularly for all those facing illness, difficulties and challenging times:

**Edna Ferdinando** – We lift Edna to the Lord following her fall before Christmas and her health difficulties. We pray for her continued recovery and for her family as they support her.

**Pat Hall** – We continue to pray for Pat as she now recovers at home following her fall and operations and pray that she and her family continue to know God’s nearness to them.

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

## Christmas Services 2025

We came together to celebrate Jesus’s birth last month and enjoyed worship and fellowship at our NBCF Carols by Candlelight service and Christmas Day Service. Before our Carol Service a number of NBCF members visited the Green Man in Longfield Hill where we sang carols to all present which seemed to go down very well with the patrons and staff. We were then joined at the Carol Service by a number of local people who had seen our leaflets distributed before Christmas and all enjoyed fellowship afterwards over mulled wine and festive treats.



## Gravesham Foodbank



A big and continued thank you to all who contribute regularly to the Gravesham Foodbank to support those in our local community who face difficult times. It is very much appreciated This month the Foodbank would appreciate the following items (particularly those in **red**).



Bio & non-bio washing tabs	Cous cous	Peanut butter
Men’s deodorant	Small bottles of squash	Rice pudding
Ready-made jelly	Long life fruit juice	Toothpaste
Chicken in white sauce	Porridge oats/instant porridge oats	Anti bac wipes/spray
Tinned mixed vegetables	Crackers	Conditioner
Tinned mackerel	Long life milk	Multi packs of crisps

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

## NBCF New Life Groups ... Exciting news!

We are excited that a new NBCF House Group will be starting on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. Many thanks to Beth who will be hosting this at her home (at 1 Priests Walk, Chalk, Gravesend, DA12 4TJ) and Ron who will be leading the group. This will commence with a Bible Study on Romans.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026 will be the final Thursday meeting of the New Barn Life Group as from the 21<sup>st</sup> January they will be meeting on Wednesday evenings at Eve and Richard's home. All are welcome to come along to either group and it would be lovely to see as many people as possible join. For further information on both groups please speak to Beth, Ron or Eve.

## New Year's Cross Word



Get those thinking caps on during the long dark evening of January and enjoy our "Women of the Bible" Crossword.

No prizes I'm afraid, just the satisfaction of completing it without cheating!



(For the answers ask Mike 😊)

## Women of the Bible



### Across

2. a very wise judge
4. had twins
8. watched over her brother in Egypt
9. Had two sons...Joseph and Benjamin
11. Had to glean grain in a field to feed herself and her mother in law
12. went against her husbands wishes to save him from certain death
13. lost her husband and both sons
15. killed a man

### Down

1. was very old when she bore a son
3. made from a man's rib
5. First wife of King David
6. gave her son to God
7. used tears to bring about the demise of a man
10. had a daughter named Dinah
14. slept with her father in law

## Joint Service with Darent Valley Community Church

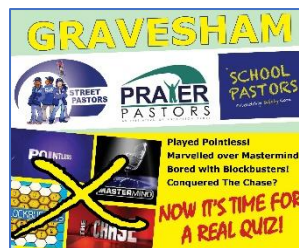
A date for your diary – on the 15<sup>th</sup> February NBCF and Darent Valley Community Church will join together for our Sunday service. It will be a great time of joint worship and fellowship for both Churches and it would be lovely to see as many of our NBCF family there as possible. Further details in next month's Stream.





## Dates for Your Diary...

**Every Friday 11am - 2pm – Friend's & Neighbours Warm Space** – run by Village Church South Darenth at 121 New Road, South Darenth, DA4 9AS. Enjoy lunch, drinks and company for a suggested donation of £5. For further details please call 07799 775675.



**24<sup>th</sup> January 7pm – Gravesham School's Pastors Quiz Night** – Get your thining caps on at the City Praise Centre, The Maltings, Lower High Road, Chalk for a quiz evening. Teams of up to 8 people £5 per person and light refreshments by donation. For further info telephone Ruth on 07765 197841.

**15<sup>th</sup> February 10.15am** – Joint service with Darent Valley Community Church, further details to follow 😊

**26<sup>th</sup> January 7-8pm – Churches Together in Gravesham Annual General Meeting** at the City Praise Centre, The Maltings, Chalk, Gravesend

**31<sup>st</sup> January 7.30 – 9pm – Churches Together in Gravesham Prayer and Praise** at the Salvation Army Citadel, The Grove, Gravesend. Please see the CTG website for further details.

**28<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm – Synchordia Orchestra and Choir presents "Planes, Trains and Automobiles"** – a concert of varying styles of music held at the Gravesend Grammer School, Church Walk, Gravesend. Tickets are £10 each and can be purchased at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/synchordia>. For further details please speak to Lynne.



**3<sup>rd</sup> April** – Easter Walk of Witness in Gravesend Town Centre.

**16<sup>th</sup> August** – Churches Together in Gravesham Event at the Prom, Fort Gardens, Gravesend

## Current Groups at NBCF

Group	Day	Time	Details
<b>Dartford Life Group</b>	Wednesday	7pm	<b>Edna's home</b> – dates subject to change please check with Edna 😊
<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 House Group</b>	Wednesday / Thursday	7.30pm	<b>At Eve and Richard's home:</b> <b>8<sup>th</sup> January</b> – New Year Social <b>21<sup>st</sup> January</b> – First Thursday meeting Please speak to Eve for further details
<b>Chalk House Group</b>	Thursdays (from 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan)	TBC	<b>At Beth and Naomi's home at 1 Priests Walk, Chalk, DA12 4TJ:</b> Bible Study on Romans (led on YouTube by Andrew Ollerton)
<b>Monthly Prayer Meeting</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> January	9am	<b>In the building adjacent to Community Hall</b> - 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](mailto: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).