



The Stream

August 2026

Message from Mike...

Hi Church,

I don't know what you do on your holidays or whether you have a holiday at all. As church activities go slightly on pause over the school break do the patterns we have practiced and developed over the year also go on pause.

As we rest, we perhaps take a well-earned break from our relationship with the Lord. Reading the Bible may have become a burden rather than a joy, and a meaningless habit as opposed to a delightful time hearing from God. Talking with Jesus has become a hurried list of people we feel we must pray for.

A slower pace of life should mean that during holidays we have more time to immerse ourselves in God's word. More time to make prayer less of a list of wants and more of a conversation. We should then have time to 'be still and know that He is God' as in Psalm 45 verse 10.

Even more we should remind ourselves that we have 'peace with God' through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Peace that we should revel in all the time but so much more when we have a time of relaxation.

It is when the pressures of life are put on hold that we can start to live in Isaiah 40 verse 31; "but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

And Matthew 11 verse 28 - 30

"Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

These promises, these verses are not just for holidays though. They are true in the darkest moments, the most stressful days, in the sleepless nights and the disturbing dreams. They are unshakeable in the highest mountain of joy and the valley of the shadow of death. God is still Almighty God when work seems to take over everything, all our time effort and ability. We also have an eternal hope beyond anything that this life can bring. That the Lord is on our side: "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

My prayer for us all is that we have found or will find time to rest and relax over the summer not from Jesus, who is our shepherd but from pressure that other humans put on us. That we will find that place of complete trust in God that lasts and remains beyond our holiday into our life as a constant. May we know that the Lord truly is our shepherd and that goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our life and that we will dwell with God forever.

Amen



August Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
2 nd August	Mike Collins	Testimony Service	Testimony Service
9 th August	Nicky Collins	Mike Collins	Matthew 5 v13-16: Salt and Light / Psalm 42 v1-9
16 th August	Richard Braund	Abi Pike	Matthew 5 v17-20: The Law / Matthew 23 v1-15
23 rd August	Mike Collins	Mike Collins	Matthew 5 v21-26: Anger/ James 1 v19-27
30 th August	Mike Collins	Rowan Troy	Matthew 5 v27-32: Lust and Divorce / 2 Samuel 11

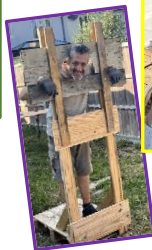


Community Fun Day

A great time was had by all at the Community Fun Day on the 4th July, organised by NBCF. With a wide array of activities including face painting, games, a book stall, arts and crafts, a penalty shootout and a bric-a-brac stall which raised £64.50 for the Gravesham School Pastors. Standout attractions were the 'stocks', expertly made by Stephen and kept busy with a rather soggy Ron and Mike throughout and the bouncy castle which the Church Leadership just had to try out and check for safety 😊



It was a lovely sunny day and all were kept refreshed with refreshments from the Welcome Wednesday Team. Many of our neighbours and community came along to join having seen our leaflets us and the generally consensus was that it was a great success. A big, big thank you to all who helped organise, took part of just came on the day to support.



Prayer

Loving Father,

I rest in the fact that You love me,

When there are more questions than answers, You love me,

When it seems my cry has gone unheard, You love me,

I surrender my life into the safety of your loving hands

Amen



For 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 on 07599 833151 or by email at mikecollins69@hotmail.co.uk and he would be happy to speak/meet with you. For urgent prayer requests, please contact any of the Leadership Team and your request will be placed on the NBCF prayer chain. Please also remember to join us at our regular prayer meeting on the 3rd Saturday monthly, for further details please speak to the Leadership Team.

Gravesham Foodbank



A continued big thank you to all our regular contributors to the Gravesham Foodbank it is very much appreciated and supports our local community. This month the Foodbank would appreciate the following items (particularly those in **red**).



Cous Cous	Tinned Fruit	Shampoo/Conditioner
Pasta N Sauce	Biscuits	Anti Bac Wipes & Spray
Cold Meat	Small Packets UHT Fruit Juice	Non Bio Washing Tabs
Tinned Mackerel/Sardines/Pilchards	Readymade Jelly	Ladies' Deodorant
Mashed Potato	UHT Milk	Washing Up Liquid
Tinned Rice Pudding	Crackers	Toothpaste
Tinned Mixed Vegetables (NO Peas or Sweetcorn)	Peanut Butter/Chocolate Spread/Honey	

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



NBCF Annual Church Meeting

We will be joining together on Sunday, 6th September for our annual Church meeting, along with a fellowship lunch and it is important that all members of NBCF attend and see what has been happening in the past 12 months and looking forward to the future of the Church. There will be opportunities to ask questions and raise any questions that you may have

or make any suggestions. If you would rather raise these privately, please speak to any member of the Leadership Team to ensure that they are included at the meeting.

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. 5th August – Rock Choir Advance Notice: there will be no WW on the 12th or 19th August – summer break
New Barn House Group	Wednesday	7.30pm	At Eve and Richard's home: There will be no meetings during August
Chalk House Group	Thursdays	7pm	At Beth and Naomi's home: There will be no meetings during August
Monthly Prayer Meeting	Saturday 15 th August	9am	Via Zoom (Joining details will be sent nearer the time)

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

Vacancy at Gravesham Sanctuary

A vacancy is being advertised for a new role at Gravesham Sanctuary Day Centre as *Day Centre Manager*, available from August. This is a part-time paid role of 25 hours per week until March 2029. They are looking for a highly motivated and relational person to oversee the running of the day centre as a welcoming, inclusive community for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness and others facing life challenges. The Manager will work with an enthusiastic team of volunteers and individuals with lived experience of homelessness to further develop the centre, strengthen existing activities, and implement new initiatives.



For further details please contact Carol Webster at carol.webster@graveshamsanctuary.uk or visit their website at [Job Vacancies • Gravesham Sanctuary](#), for an information pack, which will be available soon.

Dates for Your diary ...

1st August at 11am – St Paul's URC Summer Fair at the Church in Singlewell Road, Gravesend, DA11 7RE.

12th and 19th August – Please note there will be **no** Welcome Wednesday as the organisers take a well-earned summer break.



22nd August 11am onwards – NBCF Fellowship Picnic – a fun bring and share picnic at Camer Park, Meopham.

6th September – NBCF Church Meeting with fellowship lunch. Come and hear all the updates about NBCF along with plans for the future over a fellowship lunch together after our Sunday service.



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.