



The Stream

March 2026

Message from Mike...

Hello church,

How much would we all like to hear from God? – a word spoken directly into our ear preferably with undeniable evidence that this was God Himself talking.

It could take the form of an angel appearing to us. We read that this happened in the Bible. Or perhaps a dream of great significance giving us instructions. Even a prophetic word in church that we can hold on to.

The book of Hebrews begins with “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” Hebrews 1:1-2 ESV

We have a wonderful Bible with 66 books and a variety of authors. It is full of God speaking, the Word that became flesh and lived among us. Nothing more is needed. Nothing should be added to it. To use a term from theology the Bible is ‘sufficient’ for living for Jesus in this age or any other.

Every sermon, every prophetic utterance, every word of knowledge needs to be weighed against the what the Bible says. Prophets, teachers and theologians can only repeat the Bible in a different way that increases our understanding or be specialists in the languages that can make our understanding more profound. Our reliance on these people though is not strictly necessary as ‘the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth’ John 16 v 13 and , “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26 ESV .

So why do we think we need specific ‘words’ for us. The Bible is full of things that are for all the church of Jesus. We are all inheritors of those promises. The command to go into the world and make disciples is for all Christians not a specific few people, not just for evangelists and pastors. The ‘world’ does not necessarily mean remote places that have never heard the gospel but it is where you are right now, your place of work, the groups you meet with in retirement and your friends and family.

Every word promised to the church and the believer is relevant to each one of us and we only have to look in the Bible to find them and ask the Holy Spirit for clarity and understanding.

Perhaps start every Bible reading time with this prayer;

O Lord, Thank you for the gift of your Word.

As I read through Scripture, I invite you to speak to me. I set aside this time, not for my own thoughts, but to open my mind and soul to Yours. I trust that You, who spoke all things into being, are still speaking, even now, through Your Word.

Holy Spirit, illuminate the pages of Scripture, and speak to me, not in the way I expect, but in the way I need. Let Your Word cut through the noise of my life, sharpening my understanding, correcting my path, and revealing the depth of Your love for me.

Open my ears to hear Your whispers in the promises You make, in the commands You give, in the wisdom You offer. Bring to my mind that which I need to repent of, those who I need to serve this week, and that which you are drawing my attention to.

Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening. I long to be shaped by what You reveal, may Your Word be a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path, guiding me, comforting me, and calling me to follow.

Amen.

God bless you all, Mike



March Sunday Service Details

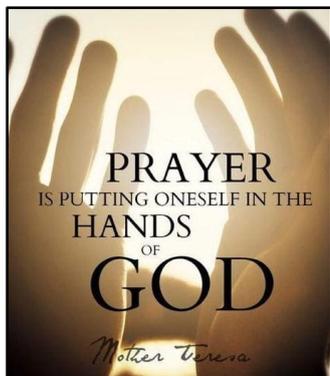
Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments	Communion
1 st March	Beth Collins	Ron Owen	Psalm 84 - Dwell in Your House	
8 th March	Nicky Collins	Mike Collins	Psalm 107 - Steadfast Love	Yes
15 th March	Richard Braund	Naomi Collins	Psalm 119 - Your Word	
22 nd March	Steve Rogers	Mike Collins	Psalm 139 - You Know Me	Yes
29 th March	Mike Collins	Mike Coveney	Psalm 24 - King of Glory	

Monthly Prayer Meeting

Prayer is imperative to the health of the Church and at 9am on the third Saturday of every month we gather together for a NBCF Prayer Meeting. This is a time where we are able to concentrate our thoughts and prayers on the needs of not only our own families and Church family but also wider needs of the UK and the world. If 9am on a Saturday morning is a little challenging for you, then you can also join us through Zoom; God (and no one else) will mind if your praying in your PJ's! 😊

The importance of Prayer

- ❑ Prayer is treasured by God
- ❑ Prayer brings **intimacy** between you and God through communication
- ❑ God wants us to pray
- ❑ God brings **change** through prayer
- ❑ Prayers show God's power
- ❑ Prayer is important to God
- ❑ Jesus is our example and teaches us to pray- Mt 6:9-13



Prayer

As we continue to uphold all those facing challenging times within our congregation and give thanks to the Lord for His goodness:

Joy Bennett – We lift our prayers for Joy as she recovers from medical procedures and that she quickly recovers. We also pray for Peter and their family as they support Joy.

Sarah Barnett – We pray for Sarah as she goes through a difficult divorce and also pray for Chloe and Tom at this time and that the Lord upholds them as a family.

Edna Ferdinando – We give thanks for Edna, her time with NBCF and all that she has brought to us. We pray that she quickly settles into her new church, that travelling there is easier for her and that she will continue to

exalt the Lord's name wherever she worships.

Julie Willingham – Julie has shared that she is supporting her elderly Auntie at the moment who has health issues. Please can we pray for her Auntie and also for Julie at, what can be, a very difficult time.

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.

Joint Service with Darent Valley Community Church

A great time of shared fellowship and worship was had by all when NBCF and Darent Valley Community Church joined together on the 15th February. The service was led by Richard with the NBCF Worship Group with other members of each Church also taking part with readings and prayers. Well done to Mike and Ron who took up the mantle to speak after unfortunately our speaker was not in attendance and thank you to all who came and particularly to those who took part.



Gravesham Foodbank



Thank you so much to all those who contribute regularly to the Gravesham Foodbank, providing support to those in our local community facing challenging times. This month the Foodbank would appreciate the following items (particularly those in **red**).



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|--|-------------------|-----------------|
| Tinned Mixed Vegetables (NO Peas or Sweetcorn) | Cold Meat | UHT Fruit Juice |
| Cous Cous | Washing up liquid | UHT Milk |
| Packets of Instant Noodles (NOT pots) | Shampoo | Peanut Butter |
| Pasta N Sauce | Conditioner | Crackers |
| Tinned Mackerel/Sardines/Pilchards | Toothpaste | Anti bac wipes |
| Rice Pudding | Readymade Jelly | |

Please don't forget no baby food, baby milk, water or fizzy drinks – 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 House Group	Wednesday	7.30pm	At Eve and Richard's home: 4th March – The Chosen – S5 Ep5 - Because of Me with Ron 11th March – Prayer evening: Our Missionaries with Eve 18th March – – The Chosen – S5 Ep6 – Reunions with Rupert 25th March – – The Chosen – S5 Ep7 – The Upper Room with Naomi & Nicky
Chalk House Group	Thursdays	7.30pm	At Beth and Naomi's home Lent Course
Monthly Prayer Meeting	21 st March	9am	At Paul and Lynne's home - 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

Dates for Your Diary...



6th March, 2pm - World Day of Prayer Service – commemorating the World Day of Prayer 2026 at Methodist Church, Gravesend.

2nd April - NBCF Maundy Thursday Service at Longfield Hill Community Hall – further details to follow.

3rd April – Easter Walk of Witness in Gravesend Town Centre.

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.



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.

Challenging Ourselves In The Lord's Prayer

I cannot say **OUR**, if I only live for myself,
I cannot say **FATHER**, if I do not endeavor each day to act like his child,
I cannot say, **WHO ART IN HEAVEN**, if I am laying up no treasure there,
I cannot say, **HALLOWED BE THY NAME**, if I am not striving for holiness.

I cannot say, **THY KINGDOM COME**, if I am not doing all in my power to hasten that wonderful event,
I cannot say, **THY WILL BE DONE**, if I am disobedient to His word,
I cannot say, **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**, if I do not serve Him here and now.

I cannot say, **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**, if I am dishonest or seeking things by subterfuge,
I cannot say, **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES** if I harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say, **I CANNOT SAY LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**, if I deliberately place myself in its path,
I cannot say, **DELIVER US FROM EVIL**, if I do not put on the whole armour of God.

I cannot say, **THINE IS THE KINGDOM**, if I do not give the King the loyalty due to him from a faithful subject,
I cannot say, **THE POWER**, if I fear what others may do,
I cannot say, **THE GLORY**, if I am seeking honour only for myself,
I cannot say, **FOREVER**, if the horizon of my life is bounded by the things of today.

Author unknown