



The Stream

November 2025

Message from Mike...

How does a church grow? This must be a question every church leader asks themselves from time to time. Surely, we want the church to grow, to be effective in our community. We want to extend our borders as Jabez prayed.

"Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, "Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory." 1 Chronicles 4:10.

Of course, there is more than one type of church growth.

It can be about numbers, having more people attend services and be part of a home group, bible study or prayer meeting. Numbers are not everything though. You can have lots of people but very few committed members. We should not make this an excuse not to desire our church to grow in number. Committed people make church easier with the work spread amongst more people.

Maturity is another factor in church growth. A full building is not a replacement for Christians that are growing in their relationship with Jesus. The Bible calls us to develop as Christians to become more like Jesus. The more we are like Jesus, the more we show our love for each other and our love for those around us, the more people can see that we are genuine and have a Saviour who cares. The Holy Spirit has already done His work and people are just waiting for an invitation.

Persecution by other religions or by the authorities can also cause a church to grow. Christians who are prepared to die for their faith demonstrate the reality of their love for God and the genuineness of their belief despite everything attracts people to faith in a Jesus Christ. I'm not sure that this is the way I would like NBCF to grow unless the Lord wills it. It has been though the way the underground church has grown in China for example and now we see so much more persecution across the world including Nigeria and Mozambique.

"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain" Psalm 127 verse 1.

It would be easy to hide behind this verse and say God will bring people in but that doesn't mean that we are not actively inviting our friends and relatives. We love our neighbours and our families even more. We should pray for them, of course, but we should also invite them to church. If we think that knowing Jesus is important to us we should desire the same relationship for our neighbours. It is unlikely to be automatic, we have to ask, to invite them and our Carol Service is a prime opportunity.

Let's be brave and try to invite as many people as we can. They might surprise you by saying 'yes'.

True growth happens only one way, and it is when people come to faith. They come to believe that Jesus is their personal Saviour. That He loves them and died to save them from the effects and damage of sin. He wants to give them new life, hope, and a purpose. Jesus wants to be their friend and their Lord.



"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16-17

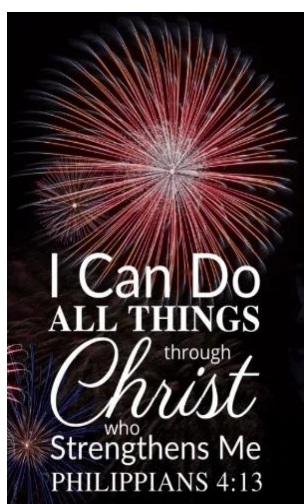
May God bless you all,

Mike



November Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
2 nd November	Nicky Collins	Sarah Green	Exiles - Esther
9 th November	Beth Collins	Mike Collins	Exiles - Nehemiah 1 v4 & Nehemiah 2 v8
16 th November	Richard Braund	Naomi Gibson	Exiles - Nehemiah 4
23 rd November	Steve Rogers	Ron Owen	Exiles - Nehemiah 8
30 th November	Mike Collins	Beth Collins	Advent: Joseph - Matthew 1 v18-25 & Matthew 2 v13-23



Prayer

As we pray this month we particularly remember those facing illness, difficulties and challenging times and give thanks for God's provision:

Pat Hall – following the shocking news of Pat's recent bad fall we pray for her quick healing following her operations, her swift recovery and that she knows that God is with her as she recuperates

Sarah Barnett – As Sarah recently shared, she has been going through some tough times recently and we pray that she continues to know God's strength and nearness with her as things progress

Rob Poole – We lift Rob in our prayers following his recent fall on an escalator. We pray that his injuries and bruising quickly mend and that he is in less pain.

Edna Ferdinando – We thank God that Edna has returned to Church following her chest infection and keep her in our prayers.

Marjorie Stubbs – We give thanks that Marjorie has returned home following a spell in hospital and that she is recuperating and recovering well.

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 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.

Gravesham Foodbank



A big and continued thank you to all who contribute 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**):



Tinned Cold Meat	Bio Laundry Tablets	Wrapped Chocolate Biscuits (Kitkat, Penguin etc)
Ready Made Jellies	Cous cous	Sweets & Treats
Hot Puddings	Squash (small bottles)	Multipack Crisps
Longlife Milk	Tinned Fruit	Anti Bac Wipes
Hot Chocolate	Crackers	Men's Deodorant

Please don't forget no baby food or baby milk – thank you ☺



Harvest Festival Service

NBCF gave thanks for the Lord's provision and fruitfulness in our lives on the 12th October at our annual traditional Harvest Service. During the service goods were collected which were donated to the Gravesham Food Bank which amounted to 400kg's, an amazing amount which will go to help those facing difficult times in our community. A big thank you to all who regularly contribute foodstuffs and to those who brought donations for the Harvest service.

NBCF Life Groups ... Hot Off The Press!



Exciting news for New Barn Christian Fellowship - in the New Year when a new weekly Life Group will be starting in Gravesend. This will be held at Beth's home on Thursdays in Chalk, further details to follow. There will also be a change to the New Barn Life Group which will start meeting on Wednesdays instead of Thursdays in the New Year at Eve and Richard's home. All are welcome to attend our Life Groups to enjoy fellowship and learn more about the Bible and our relationship with God.

Gravesham Place Chaplaincy – Volunteer Request:

Volunteers from across different Churches in Gravesend do Chaplaincy visits to the patients at Gravesham Place near St George's Church. They are currently very short of volunteers to continue this, so if you would like to join the small team, please contact Revd Jim Fletcher for more info at jim@stgeorgesgravesend.org or telephone 01474 532505. Most volunteers do a one to two hour visit per month and training will be involved.



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.

November 7th–9th – The Women's Retreat is a great opportunity for the ladies to get together, chat, laugh, eat and most importantly to have time and space with the Lord. Held at High Leigh Conference Centre further details can be found at: [Women's Retreat - Restore - City Praise Centre](#)



29th November 7pm – Quiz Night – Get those thinking caps on for the Longfield Hill Community Hall Trustees Quiz Night to raise money for McMillan Cancer Relief. Entry is be £6 per person and includes a jacket potato supper (please bring your own nibbles and drinks). To book please contact Eve on 07801 962617



30th November – Janet Hall will be joining us at NBCF bringing along her wonderful homemade preserves and chutneys and collecting donations for Mission Without Borders

1st December 6.30pm to 8.30pm – 7 Days to Save Christmas – A Christmas styled comedy musical for kids, all about a mischievous boy who learns 7 lessons. This will be a 'panto' like no other – as the actors will improvise around audience suggestions. Please click on the link for further details and ticket prices (including a free bag of popcorn!) [7 Days to Save Christmas - City Praise Centre](#)

December 13th – Christmas Treasure Hunt – Churches Together in Gravesham are holding their annual Christmas Treasure Hunt around Gravesend Town Centre. Come along and join the fun!

December 13th – Carol singing in the St George's Centre in Gravesend arranged by Churches Together in Gravesham – come along and join us!



December 14th – Carols in the Castle – Wrap up warm and come together to enjoy Christmas carols and festive music at Eynsford Castle, organised by Darent Valley Community Church

December 15th to 19th – Carol singing within our local community - further details to follow

December 21st – New Barn Christian Fellowship Carol Service with carol singing in the village prior to the start of the service and refreshments afterwards

December 25th – New Barn Christian Fellowship Christmas Day Service



Current Groups at NBCF

Group	Day	Time	Details
Dartford Life Group	Wednesday	7pm	Edna's home – dates subject to change please check with Edna 😊
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	Thursdays	7.30pm	At Eve & Richard's home, Lyndhurst, DA3 7NA: 6th Nov - The Bible Course - Session Six Jesus: The Story of Rescue with Ron 13th Nov - The Bible Course - Session Seven Acts: The Story of Mission with Rupert 20th Nov - Prayer Evening - Our missionaries and our own missionary ministry! With Ron 27th Nov - The Bible Course - Session Eight Revelation: The Story Completed with Mike
Monthly Prayer Meeting	15 th November	9am	Meeting in the building adjacent to Community Hall - 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

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.