



The Stream

October 2026

Message from Mike...

Dear Church,

One of the debates around Christian circles these days seems to be the new song/old song debate.

Are the old traditional hymns better because of the depth of theology they contain or are the more modern songs better because they appeal more to the Christians of today?

Are the hymns too full of old language for new believers to understand or do the new songs trivialise sung worship?

You would have thought that this was a worthy debate, something that should take up our time and effort and an issue that needs to be resolved before Christianity could move on.

Even more emotive is the thought that songs that have come from a church with possibly questionable theology should be rejected because they came from a church people do not agree with.

Surely though, we should decide what we sing by a number of factors. 'Does it agree with the Bible?' would be the most important question to ask first you would think. It would be easy to point to several songs both old and modern that fail to meet that test.

Another important factor is 'Can the Holy Spirit work through that song?'. This is harder to define and put a value on. Perhaps the questions better asked are; 'Does the song challenge us to renew our devotion, to change how we live, to re-commit our lives to the Saviour?' 'Does the song point people to Father, Son and Holy Spirit or to humankind?' 'Who is being worshipped?'

Of course, different songs have different purposes. Some are songs of adoration, some are laments, when lives are going wrong. Some songs are prayers, or responses to what has been preached. Others are songs of faith and encouragement. All are valid uses of songs in sung worship. The book of psalms is full of examples of songs like the ones mentioned above. There are songs of victory and even songs that seem to be songs of vengeance.

What about songs from questionable sources? Perhaps the worship leader has had an affair, or the church stands for something not generally agreed with? Do we reject those songs because of where they originated from? David was an adulterer and a murderer and yet we keep the Psalms in the Bible and many of our songs are based on Psalms. Some might argue that David wrote them before he was an adulterer so they are ok but who is to say that these modern songs were not written before they went wrong. Who are we to judge, as we could easily fall into sin the same way.

God chooses to use us all despite our sin. He uses our lives to help, warn and encourage others and sometimes that is through the songs people write. Their experiences, their knowledge of God, their devotion to Him all comes out in the songs they produce. Should they produce songs to make money, that is between them and God. He will judge them as He judge us all, but His judgement is right and fair.

This discussion of what music is right is somewhat of a rabbit hole that divides Christians when we should be united. The keys to this can be found the Bible;



John 4 v23-24 - “²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

Titus 3 v8-9 - “⁸ This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone.

⁹ But avoid foolish controversies and genealogies and arguments and quarrels about the law, because these are unprofitable and useless.”

Philippians 4 v8 - “⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

So let us not get bogged down in this debate but seek to glorify the Lord in all we do.

May the Lord bless you all, Mike



October Sunday Service Details

Date	Leader	Speaker	Comments
4 th October	Beth Collins	Naomi Collins	Matthew 6 vs 5-18: Prayer and Fasting Isaiah 58
11 th October	Nicky Collins	Mike Collins	Matthew 6 vs19-24: Treasure in Heaven Luke 12 vs 3-21
18 th October	Tunde	Ron Owen	Matthew 6 vs 25-34: Anxiety Luke 10 vs 38-42
25 th October	Mike Collins	Tunde	Matthew 7 vs 1-6: Judging Others James 2 vs 1-7

Prayer

As we pray we communicate with God, grow closer to Him, seek guidance and align our lives to Him and His will. We continue to pray for all at NBCF and especially remember those facing difficult times and lift them to the Lord:

Carol Burridge and family: We lift Carol and her family to you following the death of her niece, Natasha Lewis, and Natasha's friend, Steven Anscombe, in a road traffic accident in Sole Street, near Meopham. We pray for those who Natasha and Steven have left behind and that they may know the Lord's strength and peace at this distressing time. We also pray for a third person who was injured and for their recovery.



"Heavenly Father, we come before You with hearts open to Your love and mercy. We pray for every person on earth - those we know and those we have never met. Bless the children who need protection, the teenagers seeking their path, the adults carrying burdens, and the elderly who feel forgotten. Provide for the hungry, comfort the grieving, heal the sick, and give hope to those in despair. May Your wisdom guide leaders and Your strength empower the powerless. Help us all to walk in Your love, act with compassion, and live in harmony with Your will. Amen"

For prayer at any time, please speak to Mike or anyone you feel comfortable with. Mike can be reached on 07599 833151 or at mikecollins69@hotmail.co.uk. For urgent requests please contact any of the Leadership Team member for inclusion on the NBCF prayer chain. Our monthly prayer meeting is on the 3rd Saturday at 9am — please ask the Leadership Team for details.

Who NBCF Supports ... CRiBS

The work of CRiBS supports the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of children and young people. They seek to inspire growing faith and promote living values through sharing the light, love and life of Jesus with children and young people. Their desire is that all children have the opportunity to explore and think through the values they live by and the beliefs that underpin them. Starting with the Christian story, this provides a compelling framework to examine our own values and beliefs. Everything we do is designed to include people of all backgrounds and faiths and provide space for growth and exploration. NBCF has supported the work of CRiBS for many years. For further information please see their website at www.cribsonline.org.



NBCF Harvest Service

We invite all NBCF members along with our local community, family and friends to come together on the 11th October for our traditional Harvest Service. This is an opportunity to give thanks to the Lord, not only for the harvest and the food that we eat but for everything in our lives, big and small which comes from the Lord. The hall will be decorated for harvest and there will be a collection of non-perishable consumables for the Gravesham Foodbank to help those facing tough times within our local community. We look forward you joining us.



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**).



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| Cous Cous | Biscuits | Small Bottles of Squash |
| Pasta N Sauce | Crackers | UHT Fruit Juice |
| Tinned Mackerel/Sardines/Pilchards | Multi Pack Crisps | UHT Milk |
| Small Packets Mashed Potato | Readymade Jelly | Ladies/Men's Deodorant |
| Tinned Rice Pudding | Peanut butter/Chocolate Spread | Toothpaste |
| Tinned Fruit | Hot Chocolate | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| Tinned Mixed Vegetables (No Peas or Sweetcorn) | Coffee | No Bio Washing Tabs |
| | Sweets/Treats | Bleach |

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

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.
New Barn House Group	Wednesday	7.30pm	At Eve and Richard's home: 7 th Oct: The Fruit of the Spirit – Peace with Eve 14 th Oct: The Fruit of the Spirit – Patience with Eve 21 st Oct: The Fruit of the Spirit – Kindness with Mike 28 th Oct: No meeting - School Half Term
Chalk House Group	Thursdays	7pm	At Beth and Naomi's home: Working through Acts
Monthly Prayer Meeting	Saturday 17 th October	9am	At Paul and Lynne's home and via Zoom (Zoom details 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

Dates for Your diary ...

9th October, 7.30pm to 9pm – You are invited to the **Gravesham School Pastors 10 Year Thanksgiving Service** at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Gravesend, DA11 8AQ. For further details please speak to Mike.

11th October at 10.15 – Come and joint the **NBCF Traditional Harvest Service** to give thanks for God for his goodness and bounty.



14th October, 12.30pm to 1.30pm, 'Soupa' Meal in support of Christian Aid at St George's Church Hall, Gravesend, DA11 0DJ. The entry fee is £3.50 and there will be a home baked stall and Christian Christmas cards on sale.

8th November at 10.15am – **NBCF Armistice Day/Remembrance Service** at the Community Hall.

13th December at 4.30pm – **Carols in the Castle** with Darent Valley Community Church. Carols by Candlelight in Eynsford Castle, High Street, Eynsford, DA4 0AA. Please speak to Lynne or Mike or call/email Adrian on 07908 045445/pastor@dvcc.online



20th December at 4.30pm – Come and join us for the **NBCF traditional Carol Service** with all your favourite carols, followed by festive refreshments.



Hot off the Press ...

Well done to all at Welcome Wednesday who raised a stunning £747.14 for MacMillan Cancer Support. Thank you to all who organised this event, who baked cakes and other goodies and provided items for the raffle. A great time was had by all and all for a very worthy cause.



The Leadership Team

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

Pastor: Mike Collins

Trustees: Mike Collins, Paul Bishop, 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.

