



**Newport Pagnell
Baptist Church**



welcome

we're glad you're here

LIVING OUT GOD'S LOVE



Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.

Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12-14



Welcome to Newport Pagnell Baptist Church

If you want to find out more about who we are and how you can get involved, then you're in the right place. In these few pages, we've tried to give a flavour of what it means to us to be God's people in this community.

For 50 years, we've been a vibrant, multi-generational family of people exploring what it means to follow Jesus; discovering all the joys and challenges of doing life and faith together.

We have a passion to be God's love in this community and to see His Good News shared with all those we meet.

Knowing Jesus has changed our lives.
We'd love it to change yours too.

Steve Wood.
Pastor

Peter Young
Pastor

Setting the vision

Our vision isn't something we've made up, but is how we interpret God's calling on us, in this place, at this time.

You'll find the two Bible texts this is rooted in, at the start and end of this booklet. To us, although the challenge is a big one, what it means is intentionally simple.

Living out God's love to everyone as we grow together as a family of disciple makers

We want our lives, all our actions and words (even our facebook posts), to demonstrate how much God loves everyone; no one is excluded.

As we do that, we're committed to growing together as God's people; that means growing deeper in our relationship with God and growing because we're helping others encounter Jesus.

And then together, with Jesus at the heart of all we do, we keep on keeping on, trying to do all of that again and again. Of course, we don't always get it right and we're grateful for God's grace, enabling us to get up and try again.

Our values

To help us live this out our vision, we've developed a series of values. These both say something about who we are but are also intended to help us on the everyday journey to be the people that God calls us to be.

We are 1 family

It's our heart to do life and faith together as family. It's a family where we live, love, laugh and cry together; where we care and pray for one another; where we recognise that we each have a part to play; where we support one another to keep our eyes fixed on the only thing that really matters – Jesus.

We are 2 Bible centred

We believe the Bible is the primary way that God communicates with his people, so it's no surprise that we want it to be at the heart of all we are and all we do. We believe our lives are richer, bigger and more fulfilling when we allow God's Word to be part of our everyday lives.

We are 3 courageous in mission

Imagine having the best news ever and keeping it to yourself. We're desperate for others to know Jesus in the way that we do; for them to encounter the love and light and purpose that knowing him brings. That's why we want all of our activities to be outward-looking, so that we can share the Good News and see the lives of others in our community transformed.

More of our values

We are 4 Spirit led

Whilst life (and being a registered charity) means we have to have certain plans in place, we always want to start by giving space to the Holy Spirit, following his lead. We believe in doing this, we'll experience more intimacy and authenticity in our relationship with God; we'll see more Spiritual gifts exercised; and we'll experience more moments when we see God move. Of course, it may mean there's greater cost along the way, but...

We are 5 generous

God has given us everything we need and more. We have been blessed more abundantly than we could ever imagine, and we are called to bless others in the same way – with our time, our talents, our treasure and, of course our love.

We are 6 for everyone

We want everyone to be welcome here. We take our example from Jesus who frequently broke social and religious boundaries to ensure God's message of love and grace and forgiveness really was for everyone.

Get connected

**Life groups are the
main place that **we do
life and faith together,**
building our
relationships with God
and with one another.**

There are a wide range of groups that meet to explore what it means to follow Jesus and to build family through exploring the Bible, worship, sharing meals or gathering around shared interests.

These groups are also the primary way that we care and pray for one another at NPBC, recognising that there are times for all of us when we need the love and support of those around us.

The groups run at various times and locations through the week in and around Newport Pagnell and Milton Keynes, with the hope that everyone can find a group that suits them. As each one grows, our prayer is always that new groups will begin.

From time to time, we also start new groups specifically for those who might be beginning or even returning to their faith journey.

**They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching
and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread
and to prayer. Acts 2:42**

We love Sundays.

It's a chance to worship and be filled
(and refilled) as God's people all together.

We have two services on a Sunday, filled with worship, prayer, teaching and time to be together. Then, on the first Sunday of each month, we meet as One Big Family – a service that the whole family can enjoy together.

Sundays are important to us because they're also a great time to catch up with the wider church family. That's why we have a 30-minute gap between the two services every week, where you can grab a cuppa and catch up with friends.

Church Online has become a key component of our weekly worship, enabling those who can't be in the building otherwise to worship and stay in touch with church life. Available from 10.30am every Sunday.

Children are a huge part of our family here at NPBC. Every Sunday, there are age-appropriate activities centred around fun, friendship and Bible teaching for children and young people up to Year 9.

At least once a month, we share in communion together using the bread and wine to help us remember Jesus' death and the opportunity for life it has given us.

The shape of a month

First Sunday of the month

10.30am One Big Family service
A time of worship for the whole family to enjoy together

All other Sundays

9.30am The Early One
A more reflective time of teaching and worship

10.30am Coffee and a catch-up

11.00am The Later One
A Sunday gathering for all the family

Other Sunday gatherings

7.30pm Hungry for Worship
A alternative, intimate space for us to worship and be led by the Holy Spirit
First Sunday of the month

4.00pm Food4Thought
A short time of worship for older generations
followed by sandwiches, cake and a cuppa
Second Sunday of the month

Get involved

Life at NPBC is never dull, with a whole heap of activities designed to help people start or grow in their relationship with Jesus, and to have some good fun along the way.

For young families

- Weekly Parent & Toddler sessions
- Fortnightly MOPS (Mums of Pre-Schoolers) sessions giving Mum a chance to relax and reflect while her little one is looked after

For children and young people

- Flourishing Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade groups
- Sunday evening 'Baseline' for years 7-13
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme

For older generations

- Monthly Food4Thought service
- Wisdom House group meeting weekly to share their own wisdom and look at it from elsewhere

At key times of the year

We join up with Churches Together Newport Pagnell, working with the other churches in the town for events including: Nativity on the High Street; Songs of Praise; New Year's Day walks; and the summer children's Holiday Club.

Love in action

Many of our church family are involved in activities across Newport Pagnell, Milton Keynes and further afield. It's our heart that all of our people will find the thing that God has laid on their heart so that individually and collectively we can be the Good News that we're called to be.

Here are just some of the ways that we do that already, but we're always open to hearing where God might be leading us next...

WINTER NIGHT SHELTER – helping the homeless across Milton Keynes

WELCOMEMK – care and support for Afghan evacuees staying in our community

BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY – sharing the Gospel across the world

BRIDGEBUILDER – taking God's Word into schools across Milton Keynes

THRIVE YCN – sharing God's love in practical ways with young people in Uganda



We exist to share God's love, power and presence in our community and far beyond it.



Being a Baptist Church

NPBC exists to see God's kingdom come on earth. More than anything else, that's what we're about. Being church is simply a local expression of God's people organising themselves for worship, family and taking the Good News of Jesus out to the world.

However, also being part of a bigger family is definitely important to us. We've chosen to be a Baptist church which involves a few specific ways of operating and a constitution. It also links us to a heritage of 400 years and to a wider family of Baptists within the UK and an estimated 110 million around the world.

For Baptists, the concept of family is important. We gather together to discern what God is saying to us, and we believe everybody is equal, because everybody has a part to play in the service of God. However, that doesn't mean we all have the same role.

We appoint a leadership team, called Elders, including the Ministers who oversee our vision, values and mission. We also have charity Trustees to ensure good governance, as well as a paid office team who look after the building and church administration.

Building a place where community can thrive

We are blessed to own our building which is used for Sunday worship, all our church activities and as a space utilised by the wider community. In recent years, we have felt God calling us to redevelop the building so that we can serve even greater numbers of our community, sharing God's love with all those who come through the doors.

In response, in 2019 we launched an ambitious 4-phase building project which will (eventually) see us redevelop the full building. For now, however, we are focused on the first phase which will give us greater space for groups to meet, especially on Sundays; a new foyer area; a new kitchen and; so many opportunities to invite more people into the building.



We're excited about the impact this will have on our ability to serve and reach the community. The first phase is estimated to cost £2.7m, with the funds raised through a combination of church family giving, community fundraising, trusts and loans. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, giving is on course to start the build in early 2024.

Becoming part of the family

If you're ready to join us, here's how others at NPBC express their commitment. We'd love you to do the same.

1

We invest time

in being together, meeting regularly in weekly Life groups, Sunday gatherings and other activities..

2

We invest our talents

in serving where our hearts are, as well as developing a heart to serve wherever we are needed. Church, and all its activities inside and out, is never meant to be about a few people doing all the work and everyone else watching on. It works best when we all take ownership.

There are many ways to serve at NPBC and we always need people to volunteer on the following teams:

Worship | Media | Children* | Youth* | Prayer ministry | Welcome
Setting up and clearing away | Security

**Team membership begins with a short interview process and DBS checks
We provide training and guidelines for all of the above.*

3

We invest time

giving financially to the life of the church, its mission and all its related activities. It's a way of life that recognises that everything we own comes from God; we are simply stewards of the gifts he has given us. Plus, we're a self-supporting church so we can only spend what we first give.

Find out more at www.npbc.org.uk/give

Then Jesus came to them and said,
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.
And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:18-20

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Newport Pagnell Baptist Church is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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