

rooted

in order to bear fruit



Newport Pagnell Baptist Church
following God into 2024

Everything you need to know
about our focus in the year ahead
and how you can be part of it.

pause and pray

Before you dive in, we want to encourage you to pray before, during and after you've read what's here, asking God to speak to you through it.

As well as this, we pray you'll read it with a heart to be part of the journey.

Ask God to speak into your heart with particular areas that you might get involved in.

welcome to the year ahead

Our prayer for our church family in the year ahead, is that we end the year closer to God than we start it.

In 2023 we focused on what it means to be rooted in God. Whether individually or together, and whether intentionally or sometimes just because of circumstances, we often discovered that we needed that more than anything else.

As we continue to grow as a church, and as the world around us continues to change, we believe it's right for this to remain our focus in 2024, but with an intentional shift in focus to the second half of the verse.

Rooted downwards **in order to bear fruit upwards**

Choosing to root our lives in God can only be a good thing, but it's also a commitment to growth.

It's about acknowledging that the more rooted we are, the more our everyday, outward lives should demonstrate the love of God.

We pray that this will change the way we look at the year ahead. That above all of the things we might have on our hearts, we'll have the courage to commit this year to letting God work in us and through us in everything we do.

We look forward to journeying through the year with you.
With love and prayers,

Steve, Peter, and the Elders



The surviving remnant of the house of Judah
shall again take root downward
and bear fruit upward
Isaiah 37:31-32

These words will continue to guide us in 2024..

our mission is God's mission

Our mission is to participate with God as He builds His kingdom here in Newport Pagnell.

This means remaining rooted in order to bear fruit. Keeping our collective and individual eyes fixed on God, focusing on the spiritual growth of God's people in this community, which in turn will lead to more hearts that know him, and more hearts open to serve him.

As we continue to explore what it means to be God's people here...

- in the context of a post-pandemic, changing church
- with a community that is also changing significantly

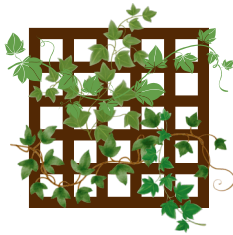
...we have a growing sense that the Holy Spirit is leading us to step out in faith and share his love in new and exciting ways across our community and city. This will almost certainly be our focus for 2025.

As we prepare for this in 2024, we have already identified two areas we need to focus on.

healthy vine fit-for-purpose trellis

The vine: our ministries (focused internally and externally); the living out of the Great Commission

The trellis: the resources – people, money, premises, systems – that support the growth of the vine.



Without a healthy vine, we are just an organisation.

Without an adequate trellis, the healthy growth of our vine is limited.

As we prepare for the next stage of growth, whatever that might look like, we know we must ensure our trellis is fit-for-purpose. However, our mission is vine-focused, so we have to find the right balance across these two areas, especially as we build towards 2025.

The status of our building project means that there will inevitably already be significant moments in 2024 when we place an emphasis on our financial resources and our premises.

Above this, however, we believe that in 2024, **God is calling us to focus on releasing His people, to step up and then step out together.**

releasing God's people to bear fruit

1 released into rest

We are a busy church.

Whilst this can be a good thing, in a busy world with so many distractions, we are called to be counter cultural. We always want to be people who start by resting in the presence of God, recognising that He is the one who renews our strength. In 2024, this means we will:

- begin the year with 3 weeks of restoration
- explore what the Bible has to say about rest in a teaching series throughout September
- build greater support for those, especially in our leadership, to find healthy rhythms of work and rest

2 released to use our God-given gifts

We are all called to use our God-given gifts to play our part in collective service. This is vital if we are to be the healthy and vibrant church that we are called to be.

In 2024, this means we will:

- explore our individual gifting in a special teaching and life-group series in May-June
- onboard at least 4 new elders, inc. a chair of trustees
- identify and equip up to 4 new Sunday service leads
- identify and equip a new Baseline lead
- review the roles and responsibilities of our staff teams

3 released to fulfil potential

The Bible is full of examples of people being given opportunity and support to step into places that only God could truly equip them for. As we seek more of this for our own church family, in 2024 we will:

- further establish opportunities and mentoring for young people across worship bands, audio-visuals, and other areas.
- build greater awareness of opportunities for people to be involved in mission through NPBC and other organisations.

4 released into deeper relationship

We know that ultimately, we can only be the people God calls us to be if we invest in an intimate, Spirit-filled relationship with Him. In 2024, this means we will:

- complete our journey through Matthew's gospel
- further build Wednesday as a weekly day of prayer for everyone in the church family
- continue our drive for everyone to find themselves a Life group, and the opportunity to journey in faith and life with a small group of followers.
- refresh Hungry for Worship

5 released to give

We want to rediscover the beauty of radical, Jesus-like generosity, connecting us to heart of our generous God, and bringing both freedom and joy when we think about money. In 2024, this means we will:

- explore the theme of generosity in Life groups.
- provide opportunities for people to participate in a giving campaign to the building project in March/April.
- ask everyone to increase their monthly giving by 5-10% in the first quarter of the year.

**and...
released to be people
sharing stories
of what God is doing
in our lives
and in this community**

the shape of the year

january

RESTORED

A chance to rest in God as the year begins.

february

TEACHING: COMPLETING MATTHEW

march

GIVING CAMPAIGN

Exploring financial generosity for the church and building development project.

april

may

TEACHING: FINDING YOUR S.H.A.P.E.

A church-wide focus on exploring and releasing our God-given gifts.

june

july

TEACHING: EXPLORING HEAVEN & EARTH

august

BUILDING RENOVATION

Church gatherings re-housed into a temporary home while the roof is replaced.

september

TEACHING:
EXPLORING REST
(AGAIN)

october

TEACHING: CALLED TO SHINE

Exploring the mission that God is calling us to in 2025

november

december

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

what else?

Everything you've read here is on top of everything else we're doing to help ensure a healthy church family where we remain fully focussed on God, while we also:

- care for one another
- offer a range of ministries and activities for children, young people and families
- love and serve our community
- provide numerous social opportunities for people just to enjoy being together

In addition, we also have planned for 2024:

- 3 baptism Sundays, currently scheduled for:
3rd March / 2nd June / 6th October
- A new Alpha course starting in the Spring
- Welcome events scheduled regularly throughout the year
- Church Family meetings scheduled for:
29th January (Zoom) / 22nd April / 24th June
21st October / 18th November
- A group trip to Big Church Festival (25-26 May)

And all this ahead of 2025, where our entire year will be focused on growing and living out our missional heart, as we:

- Go deep in exploring the New Testament book of Acts, as we discover what it means to follow the Holy Spirit's leading.
- Explore opportunities for new or renewed ministries
- Seek God further as to how we respond to a growing community.

**Are you ready then, to be rooted downwards
in order to bear fruit upwards?**



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