

Newark Congregational Church *The Envoy*



Spring 2026

Church Directory



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If you have any articles or photographs you think may be suitable for our magazine, we would love to receive them. Please email or post them to the editor.

Back Cover: Crocus from Lorna Caddy

The deadline for submissions to the Summer 2026 edition of the magazine is 1st May 2026

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Website: newarkcongregational.com

Facebook: Newark Congregational Church

What is a Congregational Church?

A Congregational Church is one that believes in the Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Congregationalists share and respect each other's gifts, and worship, serve and decide things together as guided by the Holy Spirit at church meetings.

There are three principles:

- A church where Christ is the head, with no external hierarchy
- A church based on a covenant relationship with God and with one another, where seeking the mind of Christ is the basis of all that is done
- A church where all members are considered equal before God, and all skills and giftings are valued and recognised

Newark Congregational Church Services

Services are now taking place in the church building for those who wish to attend in person, and are live on Zoom at the same time for those who are unable to attend in person.

To receive links to join the services, please contact newarkcongregational@virginmedia.com or scan the QR code.



Please keep an eye on our social media or website for information about services in the church building. Alternatively, please contact the above email address to be added to our mailing list. Your email address will not be shared.



Newark Congregational Church Services

01-Mar-26	Church Service with Communion	Victoria Bunn
08-Mar-26	Service with a Difference	Mark Taylor
15-Mar-26	Mothering Sunday Service	Irum Anjum
22-Mar-26	Cafe Service*	Mark Taylor
29-Mar-26	Palm Sunday Service	Trevor Pailing
05-Apr-26	Easter Service with Communion	Mark Taylor
12-Apr-26	Church Service	Deborah Taylor
19-Apr-26	Church Service	Richard Gascoyne
26-Apr-26	Cafe Service*	Mark Taylor
03-May-26	Church Service with Communion	Suzanne Nockels
10-May-26	Service with a Difference	Mark Taylor
17-May-26	Church Service	Irum Anjum
24-May-26	Cafe Service* at Pentecost	Mark Taylor
31-May-26	Church Service	Julia Gascoyne
07-Jun-26	Church Service with Communion	Catherine Booton
14-Jun-26	Service with a Difference	Mark Taylor
21-Jun-26	Father's Day Service	Julie Hill
28-Jun-26	Cafe Service*	Richard and Julia Gascoyne

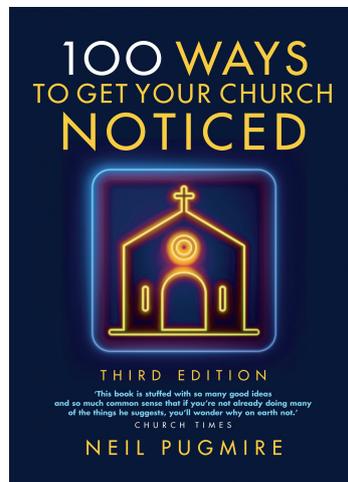
All services start at 11am unless otherwise specified.

** Cafe Service is held in the Church Hall from 10.30am. Bacon baps, sausage baps, croissants, tea, coffee (cost - cash donation).*



The Deacons have been thinking about what we might do to get our church more noticed by the community. We still hear that people think the church is closed – an idea that took hold almost twenty years ago when (for a short time) the church building was for sale as we considered moving worship into the hall.

We've been having a look at the ideas in this book:



As you will not be surprised to hear this book contains a hundred ideas to consider and the Deacons have been thinking about which ones might work best for us. In total we have identified twenty two of the ideas to take forward but many of these are linked so we have ten groups to submit to our Church Meeting for consideration. In summary the ideas are as follows (in no particular order):

- A. Appoint a team or individual to coordinate social media, website etc;
- B. Design and use a church logo to be used on everything we produce;
- C. Create a more modern look to the outside of the church building (one idea is to have glass entrance doors);
- D. To consider holding services in a local pub;
- E. To revamp our external notice boards and use them more effectively;
- F. To revamp our 'Welcome Pack' and distribute it more widely;
- G. To promote what we do through photographs and videos that show

people who are involved in church activities;

H. To relaunch our church magazine as a community newsletter and invite non-churchgoers to write for it;

I. To make better use of our website and keep it updated;

J. To take responsibility for keeping a public space near the church clean and tidy (Fountain Gardens – where the Irena Sendler statue is).

What do you think of our ideas? What priority did we ought to give them – which ones should we do first, we can't do them all at once? Are there other or additional things you think we should be doing?

We'd love to hear from you whether you are part of your church or not. Why not drop us an email at newarkcongregational@virginmedia.com?

Yours, in His service

Mark

Credo

Here is my latest Credo Article for The Newark Advertiser. What do you think?

Mark

It is recorded in John's Gospel that Jesus said "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.*"

What does this mean?

I'm a Christian, and as such I believe that Jesus has given us the best understanding that we will ever get about God. But if you were to ask me 'Why are you a Christian?' my answer would certainly include reference to the fact that I was brought up as a Christian in this country, which when I was born was predominantly Christian. (Over 90% of the people born in this country in the years around my birth identified as Christians.)

What is absolutely clear is that my chances of being born into a Christian family, being raised in a Christian church and being a Christian now would have been markedly less if I had happened to be born in China (I'd likely be

an atheist), or born in Saudi Arabia (I'd almost certainly be a Muslim.)

Does what Jesus said mean that, in those circumstances I couldn't 'come to the Father?' unless I had, against all the odds and all the societal pressures outside of my control, converted to Christianity. Some Christians would certainly argue this was the case. I'm not one of them.

There are a few things that lead me to that conclusion. Firstly I believe that when it says in the Bible 'God is love' it is true. And I couldn't square such a belief with the idea that same God would not love me if, because of an accident of birth, I wasn't a Christian. Secondly Jesus didn't spell out a whole list of things you need to believe about him. (By the way Jesus himself, and all the disciples he taught weren't Christians – they were Jews.)

Finally I think that what Jesus' life was all about was teaching those who would listen about how to live a good life for the benefit of themselves and society as a whole, in accordance with God's will. He called the society that would be formed if more and more people did this 'the Kingdom of God.' The world would be a much better, fairer, more just place if that were to happen.

I believe that anyone can strive to live a life that is in accordance with those principles.

Jesus also said '*In everything do to others as you would have them do to you;*' saying that this summed up all of the Bible. This is called 'The Golden Rule.' Words very like this appear in the holy texts of all major religions. My belief is that anyone who strives to live by the Golden Rule can 'come to the father' – because they'll be living how Jesus taught us to live.



Men's Group

Our first event of the New Year took us to the Holocaust Museum at Laxton on Sunday 1st February. It was a special time to visit actually on Holocaust Memorial Day. There were two changes to our normal activities on this occasion. One was that we changed from Saturday to Sunday, and the other was that we invited our wives and significant others to join us. I don't think any of us would say that we enjoyed the visit, but it certainly felt right to be there. It was a sobering couple of hours as we walked around reading about the plight of so many men, women and children, murdered for simply being Jewish. The museum is very well laid out, but the amount of information for you to read and see is overwhelming. Even though it was so daunting, we are planning another visit in the summer when the roses are in bloom.

Below are the next few dates for our meetings. Again, we will meet in the church hall at 9am to have breakfast and a chat before involving ourselves in some activity or listening to a guest speaker.

28th February when we will play "Manifesto"

28th March

25th April with guest speaker Mr Graham Keal

23rd May

Everyone is welcome, as long as you are a man! For more information call me on 07507560614

Cheers

Rich Gascoyne

Coffee, Craft and Conversation

In early 2025 Victoria talked to us about her studies and the need for her to undertake a project in the local community. She chose Baby Basics and invited Jennifer to come and talk to us about this charity. We wholeheartedly decided to support Baby Basics with the group knitting baby clothes and donating some funds to purchase much needed items. We bought two cribs from local charity shops and basic provisions for mums.

On 30th January 2026 Victoria visited Jennifer to deliver our contributions to their most worthy cause, donating provisions to new mums who can't afford to buy these items themselves.

All recipients are recommended by Midwives serving Newark, Mansfield and Ashfield. Our donations were most gratefully received, and we learned that the 100th crib has just been made up since this branch of the nationwide charity opened in October 2024. Amazing work indeed.



Later last year, in November, Victoria and I visited Lincoln Premature Baby unit to hand over the donations made by C,C,C. We discovered that not all our items were suitable for the Prem Unit itself and popped down to the unit where babies are born sleeping, where the remaining items were all most gratefully received.

Julia Gascoyne

Environment

Spring is here, and has been for some while if you've been looking. The weather has been so mild that all my snowdrops and irises were out on 1st February. Daffodils are flowering in the wild, and I saw catkins out in January in Scotland! Sadly, this isn't necessarily good news.

Plants flowering too early, if they're fruit bearing, may not survive to produce the fruit we need later on as the frost kills the flowers. For any bees and ladybirds looking for food it's great news. . . my small bay tree is being decimated, but on looking closer it's a single ladybird munching its way through my leaves, so I've left it alone and it's weathered the winter on this plant, bringing me great joy as it's just outside my French window.

I remember reading that we shouldn't cut all our flower heads down over winter as any remaining seeds will be eaten by bugs and birds searching for food during this sparse season. Falling leaves will die back and feed our soil, also providing a little warmth in the layer of covering they are providing. In terms of wildlife, keep feeding the birds and put your fruit peel out, the blackbirds are currently devouring my apple peel.

As the weather warms, early bees will be searching for nectar and seeds in our winter flowering plants, such as the Hellebores shown below. Be sure to keep fresh water available for all the birds and insects and enjoy the wildlife passing through your garden.

Julia Gascoyne



Live at London Road



We had a very different type of concert on Saturday 7th February. Not only were entertained by our good friends Alan and Katherine Clark, who are ARKangel, but we also had a very good Caribbean meal before the start of the concert. As usual when these two talented performers come along, we were regally entertained. The evening's music was based around the title 'Lullaby of Harlem -The Birth of the Blues' and I can truly say

we all had a great time.

The coming year promises to be very exciting indeed with three very special guests coming to play for us.

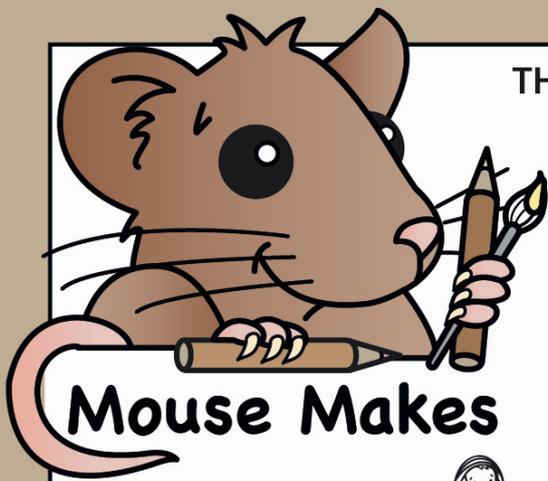
On Saturday 6th June we have the very talented Benji Kirkpatrick (Bellowhead and the Seth Lakeman Trio) who has to be one of the most innovative performers playing in the country at present. His skill on a multitude of stringed instruments has to be heard to be believed. We can safely say that you will have very special night out. Tickets are £15 from ricthevic53@gmail.com

On 18th October we are immensely proud to announce that one of the country's greatest folk musicians is coming to Newark. Phil Beer is on tour, and he has kindly agreed to play for us. Phil has played with most of the country's premier league of folk/singer/songwriters. For many years he was part of the Show of Hands duo, where he and Steve Knightley travelled the length and breadth of the UK as well as travelling around the world weaving their amazing brand of folk music. I would go as far as to say, "This is not to be missed". Tickets are £20 from ricthevic53@gmail.com

Our final event of 2026 will be a Celebration of Winter with three very talented local musicians as well as our good friends PlumHall who will be making this evening something really different. The date is 28th November, and we know it will be just the thing to wipe away those winter blues. More on this event very soon. Tickets are £15 from ricthevic53@gmail.com

We are keeping ticket prices as low as we can at all our concerts as we want as many people as possible to enjoy the music and have a grand night out. But artists have to be paid and the cost of the publicity and hall hire is not cheap. Having said that, we know from our research, and from attending concerts ourselves that our costs are often 50% or more lower than many others. So we do hope that you keep on supporting Live at London Road where we will continue to provide Live Music here in Newark. For further information please do get in touch either on the above email address or on 07507560614.

Rich Gascoyne



Mouse Makes

Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible

Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

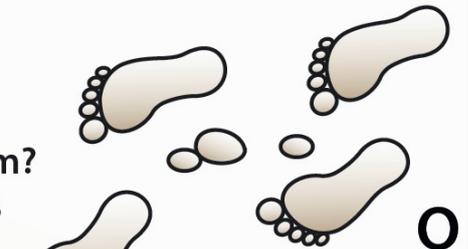
"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God first

Worship only Him.



O
T W L D G
R O G L O R Y L O
I B A P T I S E D
V O F O O T H D
S E R V E B T I
J O R D A N J E G
L O R D N H



F O R T Y D A Y S S O N K L O R D N H
T D O W N O N W O R S H I P
T E S T W O R L D L T U N B
L V T E M P T A T I O N G R
E I A M J E S U S F N G D E
N L K P D E S E R T E R O A
T H O L Y S P I R I T Y M D
I M J E R U S A L E M F S J
W I L D E R N E S S J U M P

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH
JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, trust

Him do not test Him.



Mencap

THE AVENUE is a day service for adults with varied learning disabilities based at The Congregational Church, London Road, Newark. It is run by managers Sharon, Diane and Tracy 4 days each week from Monday to Thursday between 10.00am and 3.00pm.

The clients take part in a variety of activities including crafts, drama, swimming, music, games, humanities and much more! New clients are always welcome and carers and prospective clients are invited to come along to one of our morning or afternoon sessions to see what a great, cheerful and active group we are!

Sessions run from 10.00am - 12.00 noon (12.00 - 1.00pm lunch)
and from 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Half day sessions cost £20.00 and full day costs £40.00

We also welcome any volunteer assistance as well as guest speakers and entertainers.

You can reach us for any questions or to arrange a visit by calling 01636 707593 or emailing dianenewarkmencap@gmail.com

THE AVENUE

By Carolyn Dewhirst

It's really not surprising
That THE AVENUE is GREAT
It has amazing staff
Who we all appreciate!

There's always lots to do
Like, music, swimming, crafts
With so much fun to have
There's always lots of laughs!

4 days each week they're open
From 10 right through to 3
It's always full of action
So come along and see!

Newark Foodbank Update



FOODBANK SHOPPING LIST February 2026

**PLEASE DO NOT DONATE ITEMS
CONTAINING ALCOHOL – THANK YOU**

Shortfall Items

Also check our website for other items we need

Food

- Long Life Fruit Juice
- UHT Milk
- Tinned Meat
- Tinned Potatoes
- Sachets of Instant Mash
- Tinned Carrots
- Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fruit
- Sponge Puddings

Other Items

- Toiletries

PLEASE!

Do not donate fresh food items without checking with us first.

**Check that your donation is well inside its use-by date.
It takes time for us to process donations and too often they pass the use-by date before
we can distribute the food to our clients.**

We cannot distribute out of date food.

We have plenty of: Tinned Spaghetti

- Our warehouse stock is being depleted due to demand. We appreciate any donations we receive.
- Please take your donation to one of our many collection points in supermarkets. See our website for a complete list.
- To donate money, which we can use to purchase stock, please see our website.



