




Our Sunday services are usually streamed live on the internet and video recorded. For GDPR purposes, it is presumed that people attending are happy to appear in it. If you would prefer not to, please feel free to sit near the back centre or back left as facing the front of the church which does not appear on film.

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026

“...according to my judgement, the most important point to be attended to is this: above all things, see to it that your souls are happy in the Lord...Day by day seek to make this the most important business of your life.”

*George Muller 1805-1898*

Welcome to this week's e-news.

A blessed and happy new year to everyone! What will you do for your soul? For 2026 our focus will be on sharing the Good News we enjoy! Sunday morning will help us focus on that – please remember to take your text card. In a few weeks we will return to our studies in John's Gospel which will take us through to Easter.

On Sunday evenings our series God's People-God's Story will take us through the Bible's Big Good-News Story, from the perspective of the people who encounter God. What is He saying to us, as God's people and our part in His Big Story!

If you don't yet belong to a small group, please consider joining one. It is the best way to grow in your faith and discipleship. We'd love everyone to be part of a small group on Tuesday evenings, or the men's or ladies Bible studies.

**10:30am Morning Worship led by Jonathan with our New Year Text. 2Kings 7:1-16 We have Good News – we Shouldn't keep it to ourselves!**

[Click here for morning service](#)

**6:30pm Evening Worship led by Jonathan.  
Adam and Eve – God's People, God's Story.  
Genesis 2:20-3:24**

[Click here for evening service](#)



## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**7:00pm The Art Fringe**

**TUESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> January**

**9:45 – 11:30am Ladies' Bible Study (at Jo's)**

**10:30 – 11:30am Tuesday Coffee at Claire and Bob's Tea Room.**

**3.00pm Men's Coffee at Claire and Bob's Tea Room.**

**7:30pm Small group fellowship. Please ask for details.**

**WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> January**

**9:30 – 11:30am Footprints**

**THURSDAY 8<sup>th</sup> January**

**7:30 – 9:30pm Ladies' Bible study (at Mand's)**

**FRIDAY 9<sup>th</sup> January**

**7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast. 8:00am for the study.**

**9:30 – 11:00am Ladies' Bible Study (at Church led by Cat)**

**SATURDAY 10<sup>th</sup> January**

**2:00pm Serving Our Streets. Meet at MBC.**

**SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> January**

**10:30am Morning Worship led by Jonathan, with Andrew and Bethany Walker.**

**6:30pm Evening Worship led by Jonathan. God's People-God's Story: Noah.**

# FELLOWSHIP NEWS

## NEW YEAR TEXTS and CHRISTMAS LEAFLETS AND MAGAZINES

Please take the New Year Text cards and the last remaining “ASK” Magazine or Light leaflets.

## OUR DAILY BREAD

The next quarter of Our Daily Bread will be in the foyer from 21<sup>st</sup> December.

Free for anyone to take.

Fiona Beber

## LADIES NEEDED TO HELP IN SCHOOLS

Would you be willing to give an hour in the week to help run some of the children’s clubs in schools with Jonathan? We need someone to help on a Wednesday lunchtime (Between 12:30 and 1:30 and Thursdays 3:20 to 4:30pm. Would need to be a woman and willing to do the DBS checks and safeguarding training.

## CHRISTMAS GIVING –

### *Tamara in Moldova and the Swartz Family in Princeton USA*

At this time of year, we often send a gift to Tamara Bucur in Moldova. Since 1996 she has started a church in her village that has a special focus on preaching the Gospel and sharing it in action through helping the elderly and children. She has facilitated building a church centre and also cares for 9 children who are orphaned. If you’d like to contribute to a church gift, please make an online gift to the church and put “Tamara” in the reference, or in a marked envelope in the church offering.

There’s also opportunity to do the same, through the church, if you’d like to make a gift to the Swartz family and their new church plant, St Andrew’s as part of the Anglican Network at Princeton. Again, please use “Swartz” for a special gift in your reference or envelope.

## WORLD FOCUS

### AFGHANISTAN

Even in the darkest corners of the earth, there is cause for praising our Saviour and prayer that His light will shine ever brighter. The Gospel is continuing to spread in Afghanistan, despite fierce persecution. In 2025 “more than 50 people were baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.....Remarkably, every one of them is under 30 years old.....This rising generation is desperate for truth, for hope, for a God who is living and real.”, said a church leader working in great secrecy.

Followers of Jesus are at constant risk in Afghanistan, both from the Taliban authorities and from extremists within the Muslim-majority population. Sharia (Islamic law) is strictly enforced by the Taliban who, on their return to power in 2021, warned Christians that they had three choices: leave, convert to Islam or face death. Despite the risks, small groups of believers are gathering regularly for prayer, worship and Bible study.

**Pray:-** Give thanks to the Lord that the Church is growing even amid the secrecy imposed by the harsh government in Afghanistan. Pray that believers will continue to grow in their faith and draw others to the truth.

## **NIGERIA**

Previously I reported that in November, 303 pupils and 12 teachers were abducted from a Christian boarding school in Niger State. Fifty of the pupils escaped. In early December, 100 were released. On Dec 22nd, it was announced that the remaining hostages had been released.

**Pray:-** Give thanks for this turn of events and pray for the victims of this abduction, that the Lord will heal and restore.

*Simon Beber*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please let us know if you would like the fellowship to pray for you.

Please pray for those who have health difficulties, and for those who find Christmas a challenging time.

Please pray for Helen Hopkins who was recently in hospital and for Janet Lloyd who begins treatment in the new year. Also for Mike North recovering from a recent operation.

Pray for all still affected by the after-math of the recent flooding.

*Continue to pray for the Middle East and for a just peace in Ukraine.*

### **A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR**

*Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.*

*We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.*

*In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.*

*In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.*

*In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.*

*And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient*

*Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).*

*We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.*

*Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psalm 33:12).*

*As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to [make You the foundation and centre of our lives](#) this year.*

*And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.*

*Amen.*

*Billy Graham © 2008 Saturday Evening Post Society.*

## **MBC GIVING**

**Thank you** for your continued giving to the work of the Church. As an independent church we receive no outside help – only your gifts. Giving is a joyful part of committed discipleship. Please consider giving regularly to God’s work in our fellowship.

Use the Monmouth Baptist Church details for direct giving: Sort code 20-00-85, Account number 10615668. And, if you are a taxpayer, we can arrange for Gift Aid to claim tax back. There are boxes in the chapel for those who like to give in person.

Thank you again for giving to the Lord’s work here.

If you know anyone in the fellowship in financial need, we may be able to help from our Assistance Fund. Please contact Jonathan.

And if you would like to contribute to the Assistance fund, please make your gift in a marked envelope, or online indicating “Assistance Fund”.

## **SPORTS**

All ages and abilities are welcome, including friends or people who aren’t regular visitors to the church. Some events need to be booked in advance.

Football - Jim Barker and James Endicott runs 5 a-side football sessions, currently weekly on a Friday at 7pm. We have a membership of 40 players, but there is room for more! If you are interested in joining, please speak to Jim or James to be added to the Football WhatsApp Group.

We have introduced Pickleball to the fellowship, which is an all-age (U3A-approved) racket sport, which we are playing indoors. All are welcome to join us. Pickleball’s unique selling point is that it can be learned in minutes without extensive coaching. If you’d like to know more then please reach out to Sean Lawson.

Basketball – Please ask for details

## **CONTACTS**

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