



Newbold Parish Church

The Evangelis

January 2026

80p



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*Thank you to all who have contributed articles to this edition. Items for the next edition to be with Emma, the editor, or Rhoda, the vicar, by **Sunday 11th January**.*

Articles received after the deadline will be published in the following month's issue.

emma@bluerosesystems.plus.com

vicar@newboldparishchurch.org.uk

Public Worship

Sunday 10am Mass

Please be assured that Communion is received in full with just the wafer (host). Please note that dipping the wafer in the chalice is not permitted.

First Sundays 4pm Messy Church

A time of worship based on craft activities, singing and stories, followed by food. Ideal for families.

Tuesday Morning prayer 10am

A 30min service of prayer on Zoom continues each week gathering at 09.50 for a 10am start. All Welcome.

Contact church office for Link on office@newboldparishchurch.org.uk

Wednesday 10am Mid-week Communion

A service of mid-week Holy Communion now taking place in the Parish Room

Sunday 4th January	Epiphany Mass	10am
	Messy Church	4pm
Sunday 11th January	Baptism of Christ Mass	10am
Sunday 18th January	Second Sunday of Epiphany Mass	10am
	Unity Service at Christchurch	6pm
Sunday 25th January	The Conversion of Paul Mass	10am

From the Vicar

Rev'd Rhoda



As a new year begins, it invites us to pause, reflect, and look ahead with fresh eyes. We are given a clean page, with a chance to re-frame our hopes, to leave behind burdens that have weighed us down, and to carry forward the blessings God has already placed in our lives. Some of those blessings are obvious (love, friendship, laughter, provision), and some are more subtle—inner growth, lessons learned from hardship, the gift of faith itself.

In this moment of transition, trust becomes our anchor. Trust in God doesn't mean we know exactly how the future will unfold; it means trusting that we are not walking alone. This isn't a promise of unbroken ease or certainty. Instead, it's a deep assurance that whatever comes, be it hardship or joy, plenty or need, we have a source of strength beyond ourselves. The promise that God is with us can bring a deep sense of peace within our circumstances.

In this journey, perseverance is what matters, keep on keeping on. There will be times when the path feels unclear or seems to disappear altogether; there will be times when we stumble, or fall, and feel discouraged. But faith and hope give us the courage to take the next step. And the blessings we receive remind us of God's constant goodness.

So, as we enter this new year, let's take a moment to notice our blessings. Let us pray for eyes to see the ways God has carried us through to this moment and trust God for the unknown ahead, stepping forward with the conviction that, through Christ, we can face whatever comes. And, when doubts whisper or when fatigue settles in, let us choose perseverance.

May this year be a journey of deeper faith, renewed hope, and steady growth. And may we walk in the confidence that God's strength, love, and presence accompany us — not just in the sunshine of success, but through every valley, every doubt, every longing.

The ancient tradition of **“Chalking the door”** or **“Epiphany House Blessing”** is a way of asking for God's blessing on our lives and homes. It is usually done when we remember the magi arriving to visit the baby Jesus (celebrated on Epiphany, January 6). If you would like to do this:

1. Light a candle - its light reminds us that Jesus came as light into the darkness of the world in which we live.
2. Using some chalk write 20 + C + M + B + 26 on the lintel of your door (or porch step or other convenient location). *The letters C, M, B have two meanings: they abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansionem benedicat, “May Christ bless the house”, and they are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. The “+” signs represent the cross, and 26 is the year.*
3. Then offer the following prayer:

Visit, O blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live or visit here with the gift of your love; and grant that we may show your love to each other and to all whose lives we touch. May we grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen us in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

Every blessing

Rhoda +

Churchwarden's Corner

Richard Peet



We are now in the month of January, the beginning of a new calendar year.

We may take time to reflect on the past year, remember what we have done, where we have been, and hopefully look forward to our plans for 2026.

In our church community, we have many special birthdays ranging from 60 to 70 and 80 to celebrate. In the coming months, work will hopefully begin on our roof project to get a new church roof.

During December, we had a full programme of Christmas services. As I write this article, we have had our Messy Church Christingle Service. Children made Christingles, and then we stood in a circle around the church. They were carefully lit, and the lights were turned off. It looked amazing. The children also did a word search, coloured Christingles, and played skittles.

Hilary and Chris did a sketch telling the story of the Christingle and what each part represents. We had food and drinks afterwards, and a great time was had by all. A big thank you to all the helpers and everyone who came and made the service so special.

During January, our Sunday services begin with Epiphany, followed by the Baptism of Christ, Epiphany 2, and the Conversion of Paul. On Sunday, 18th January 2026, at 6pm, the Newbold Churches Together service for Christian Unity will take place at Christchurch, 91 Sheffield Road.

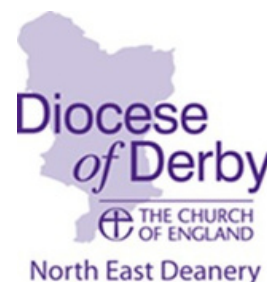
Have you ever thought about how many people are involved in the preparation, organisation, and presentation of our Sunday service? We give thanks for our vergers, sides persons, churchwardens, readers, intercessors, organist, choir, all the serving team: crucifer, acolytes, those distributing the chalice, our clergy and lay reader, and all who serve refreshments after the service in the Parish Room. I am sure our congregation appreciate what goes into our service each week and perhaps did not realise how many people are involved each Sunday.

Wendy and I wish you all the blessings a new year may bring us.

May we take time to love each other, be kind to each other, help each other, care for each other, and remember to say thank you. May this year be a good one for each of us.

Diocese Vision Prayer for 2027

Our Diocese celebrates its centenary in 2027 and as part of the preparation for this they are encouraging us all to pray this prayer:



*Gracious God,
in your mercy and for your glory,
renew us, reshape us, revive us –
with generous faith, courageous hope and life-giving love –
that, in transformed lives
through growing church and building community,
we may see your Kingdom come and be good news for all.
Amen.*



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CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP

After the December coffee morning, several people arrived to take part in making either a Christmas wreath or a table arrangement.

Once the room had been changed around to enable everyone to have a table and space, we were ready to start. The smell from the greenery felt Christmassy.

With lots of chatter and everyone helping each other, the time flew by. All the wreaths were different, showing the arranger's personality. One person made a table arrangement, with the rest making a wreath.



Thank you to Steve, who stayed to make drinks throughout the afternoon.

With many staying to help clear away, it did not take long for Steve to get the room ready for the parish breakfast the next day. Who would have believed we could make so much mess?

Thank you to all who came. We raised £155 for the flower fund.

Film recommendation: Heaven is for Real

Emma Lawrence

Searching for a film to watch on Netflix, we stumbled across a little gem called Heaven is for Real based on the biographical novel of the same name by Pastor Todd Burpo of the Wesleyan Church in Nebraska.

The film follows Todd, after his four-year-old son, Colton has emergency surgery. When Colton awakes he recounts his experience of leaving his body during surgery and entering heaven.

Not only did the film bring us close to tears and sent shivers down my spine, it also explored the nature of heaven whilst making it seem completely natural to question your faith.

It is easy to be sceptical of near-death experiences as they are easily explained away with a surge of brain activity near death and I love that the film didn't force you to believe in anything in particular. And yet, the way Todd tries so hard to believe his innocent son, makes you question everything and reforms your personal views of heaven.

The book is on my to-read list but the film is well worth a watch!

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WE NOW OFFER 30 HOURS CHILDCARE FOR THOSE WHO ARE ELIGIBLE

Find out more on our website! Your child will be eligible to start at The Nest in April

2026 if they were born between

1st Jan 2023 and 31st March 2023. Please fill out an application form before 28th February 2026. Application packs can be found on our school website, or a paper

copy is available from the school office. Please contact katy.lee@newbold-pri.derbyshire.sch.uk once you have completed your application form or if you

have
any questions.

Church School Christmas Nativity

Emma Lawrence

On the 8th of December, my mum and I were invited to watch the dress rehearsal for the Church School Nativity. We were given privileged centre-stage seating behind the nursery children, who had also come to enjoy the play, and soon a flood of reception, year 1, and year 2 children filed through the doors, ready to perform.



The music started, and after some shushing, the play began. Three narrators took to the stage along with a surprise fairy, who was quickly replaced with an angel by the narrators. Mary, Joseph and a donkey appeared, and everybody stood up to sing the first song.

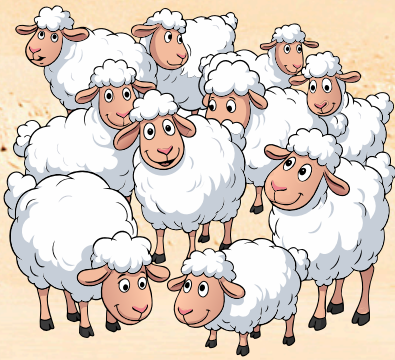


After arriving in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph found a crowd of children wearing ingenious window costumes to represent inns and their respective innkeepers. The children told the story of there being no room at the inn, in rhyme, one line at a time, followed by a song:



“Knock, knock here,
Knock, knock, there,
Knock, knock, pretty much everywhere.”

You could tell the children’s favourite parts were the songs, and there was some brilliant, excited dancing. One new thing in this year's nativity was the addition of sign language throughout the play and the songs, which was heart warming and inclusive for deaf children at the school.



The liveliest flock of sheep I've ever seen then danced onto the stage to big top circus music. Six little shepherds hastily followed them and worried about losing them in another song where they counted all eight sheep in perfect 4/4 time.

“We're all shepherds, and we're busy looking after sheep,
sheepy-sheep
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Are we missing any more sheep?”



All the children were very loud and projected their voices really well. However, it was at this point that we noticed a teacher stood at the back of the hall holding a laminated picture of two cartoon ears. The children all responded promptly and projected their voices even louder.

After the shepherds found all their sheep and left the stage, a host of angels arrived with some “big, big news for all of us,” in song form.

Three different narrators appeared and told the story of the wise men from the East following the star to Bethlehem. Lots of little special gold stars appeared, led by a big star in a tall hat and gold tinsel.



Up until this point, the stars had sat lovely and quietly listening to the other children play their parts. Despite three year-groups being involved in the play, there was no talking or disruption from any children waiting for their turn, and we thought it was wonderful how well behaved they were. They were a credit to their teachers.

As the story goes, three wise men and three children in camel onesies followed the stars and everyone stood to sing:

“We’re three wise men going on a journey,
Very wise men,
Very, very wise men.”



This happened to be my mum’s favourite song, and we both absolutely loved the camels and their multicoloured humps.

Back in Bethlehem, lying in a manger, Christ the King was born, and his first visitors, the shepherds, arrived. Another new trio of narrators explained this, and soon the stage was very crowded as the stars, the wise men and camels arrived as well for everyone to sing “Christ the King is Born”.



The play ended with a series of 'knock, knock jokes' at the end, which the children all found hilarious; a party song and a quick round of "We wish you a merry Christmas" with excellent sign language.

We had a fantastic time, and it was better than some musicals I've seen at the Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield. I couldn't believe this was only a dress rehearsal, as everyone was wonderful, and I'm sure there won't be a dry eye in the house for the final performance.



Congratulations to all the children and congratulations to all the staff who manage everything behind the scenes. Your hard work has paid off.



Find the Bible phrase challenge

In each monthly edition of the Evangelist, throughout 2026, I will be hiding behind a word for you to find. Remember each word because at the end of the year, all twelve words will make up a biblical phrase.

But be careful, I'm only small (especially when behind one or two-letter words) and easily missed so you may need your binoculars! Also, make sure it is me you find and not one of my birdy friends over on the Churchyard birdwatch page.

Have you found me in this month's edition yet?

Example 



Give your answer to Emma (details on page 35) any time during December 2026. All correct answers will be entered into a prize draw and the winner announced in Church and the magazine in January 2027.

Good luck!

Social Diary January 2026

Saturday 3rd January	Churchyard Birdwatch	8:30am
Sunday 4th January	Walking group	12noon
Wednesday 7th January	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm
Saturday 10th January	Churchyard Tidy-up	10am-12noon
Wednesday 14th January	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm
Saturday 17th January	Men's Group	10am-12noon
Wednesday 21st January	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm
Wednesday 28th January	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm

Wednesday Social Group is part of the Warm Welcome Space (see page 25) and we welcome people to join us for social time, refreshments, and reading material including books and newspapers.

All other social groups meet monthly. They are friendly and welcome new members. Why not come and see what we do?



All meetings are in the Parish Room, behind the Church, unless otherwise stated.

Upcoming Social Events in 2026

We have a number of social and fundraising events planned for 2026. There is room for more if you have an idea. As you can see some dates are yet to be agreed.

Remember the coffee mornings on the 1st Saturday of the month. If you or a team would like to run a coffee morning please see Ann Bennett.

The 200 Club takes place every 2nd Sunday in the month for more information see Lesley Howard or Evelyn.

January	Lesley Howard will be running a 'Guess the baby' competition.
Monday 2nd February	Quiz night with Ann and Stuart
Saturday 4th April	Easter egg hunt and raffle Julie and Christian
April/May	Open house with Ann Bennett
June	Dean will be running a World Cup sweepstake
Saturday 4th July	Church Fete
Saturday 11th July	Staveley and District Church United Choir concert in Church with Julie Hunt
August	Open garden at Chris and Hilary's
September	Murder Mystery quiz evening with Michelle Hague
Saturday 14th November	Christmas Fayre – Evelyn
Saturday 5th December	Make a Christmas flower arrangement with Julie Franks

From the Registers

Funerals

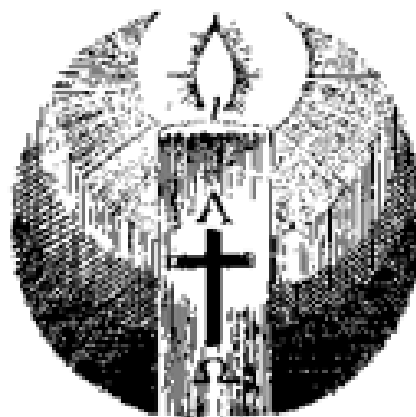
13 December	Avis Joan Whitehead	aged 99
17 December	George William Tomlinson	aged 91

Churchyard

[burial or interment of ashes]

13 December	Avis Joan Whitehead
-------------	---------------------

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



Word search: Epiphany



Words to find

Angel, Baby, Dream, East, Egypt, Gifts, Herod, Kings, Searched, Stars, Warned, Worship

All the words listed above are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally and may overlap. After you have found all the words, the leftover letters will form the mystery answer which is given on page 24.



Newbold Parish Church Pre-school
The Eagle Club, St Johns Road, Newbold, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire, S41 8QN

Telephone – 07944595092

Email – newboldparishchurchpre-school@hotmail.co.uk

Ofsted – 206826

Charity Number - 1084204



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- **Ofsted inspection overall mark GOOD in all area**

If you would like further information please contact the setting on 07944595092 to arrange an appointment or email us on newboldparishchurchpre-school@hotmail.co.uk to request a welcome brochure.

Women's Group



Wendy Drake

The group met in early December for a Christmas Celebration evening, when we were privileged to have all three of our clergy join us, Revs. Rhoda, Malcolm and Rebecca. Other guests were Hilary, who had kindly stepped in to accompany us on the piano, and Chris, our Lay Reader.

Firstly, thanks were given to Janet and Kath, who organised our annual meal out in November, at Chesterfield Golf Club and again to Janet for organising the food for the Christmas celebration evening, which everyone contributed to.

Rhoda opened the Christmas Celebration with a Prayer, after which Trish brought us a reading of 'The Advent Ring'. So followed the singing of 5 Carols and readings of the Christmas story, read by various members of the group. Evelyn then brought us a humorous poem of Christmas's past to which most of us 'older' members could relate.

Malcolm wound up the Christmas Celebration evening with a Blessing for all before we were able to indulge in the wonderful and appetising display of food and drinks.

Trish had prepared a quiz for us entitled '31 Days in December' to get our brains going again before the evening concluded with the 'Secret Santa' raffle, contributed to by all members.

Janet then presented Anne P with a special gift for all her years of helping out with the music.

Many thanks must go out to all who helped in the kitchen with the washing and drying up during the evening.

For various reasons, the group has decided to give the January meeting a miss so we shall next be getting together on **Wednesday 4 February, 2026**, when our guest speaker will be local author, Gaynor Walker. If anyone reading this would like to join us do have a word with Trish, Marilyn J or myself.

On behalf of the group, I would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year and look forward to seeing everyone again in 2026.

Mystery answer to the word search on page 21





**A Very
Warm
Welcome**



Warm



Welcoming



Free



Safe

Wednesday Social Club
1pm to 3pm
In the Parish Room behind
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St John's Road, S41 8PE

MESSY CHRISTINGLE

Chris Barnes



We had a much bigger and livelier Messy Church in December because Rhoda had invited the local scouts and they turned up in droves. As you can see from the picture, the service was packed. The craft activities consisted of making the Christingles, taking real care over the sharp points on the cocktail sticks and making sure not too many sweets were eaten before the right time.



The children were also invited to write prayer tags which they hung on the church Christmas tree, and word searches and colouring sheets that they took home. They also enjoyed a game of skittles down the centre aisle. You'd be amazed where the balls disappeared to!

During the worship, Hilary dressed me as a Christingle. In between the awful Christmas cracker jokes, she explained the purpose of each of the elements as she hung them on me.

The orange represents the world, the red ribbon the blood of Christ sacrificed for us, the fruits and sweets on the 4 sticks (knitting needles for dramatic purposes) God's love for all parts of the world and the candle because Jesus is the light of the world.

Because we had so many new people, we had to wheel the trolley of sandwiches and cakes into the church. We couldn't all fit in the Parish Room. Jo, bless her, had had to work extra hard to make up even more sandwiches than usual.

Join us for our next Messy Church at **4.00pm on Sunday 4th January**, when we will be celebrating **Epiphany**. We are praying that we have a full church once more for that celebration.

The Eagle Club

Littlemoor, Newbold

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- British Martial Arts Academy
- Theatre Group
- Pre-school



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Get ready for a



QUIZ NIGHT

Monday



2nd February



7pm

Hot pork, turkey or
halloumi burger

Ann and Stuart invite you to join
them for fun and food with
friends in the Parish Room

All money raised will go towards the Newbold Building Fund.

Tickets £10



Walking Group

Steve Franks



Sunday 7th December dawned wet and misty and that is how the weather remained. After a brief discussion between the core walkers and a weather forecast of more rain for the afternoon, it was decided to cancel the December walk.

If anyone wishes to join us on our next walk then meet us outside church at 12pm with a packed lunch on Sunday 4th January 2026 when we all hope the weather will have improved!

You will be made very welcome.





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reflections and prayers



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Colour

Full Page £150
1/2 Page £80
1/4 Page £45

Black & White

Full Page £120
1/2 Page £65
1/4 Page £40

Readings and Collects

Sunday 4th January - Epiphany

Isaiah 60.1-6, Ephesians 3.1-12, Matt 2.1-12

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: guide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 11th January - The Baptism of Christ

Isaiah 42.1-9, Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-end

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit: grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit, that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Heavenly Father, at the Jordan you revealed Jesus as your Son: may we recognize him as our Lord and know ourselves to be your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Readings and Collects

Sunday 18th January - Second of Epiphany

Isaiah 49.1-7, 1 Corinthians 1.1-9, John 1.29-42

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through past ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 25th January - Conversion of Paul

Jeremiah 1.4-10, 1 Acts 9.1-22, Matthew 19.27-end

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Giving

We are hugely grateful to those of you who already give regularly or who give what they can when they can, we could not function without your support, thank you.

If you are not currently giving to the church, you can support the work of Newbold Parish Church financially in all sorts of ways:

Standing order - This is the best way for us to keep track of our finances.

Regular giving allows us to budget and plan. If you don't give this way, and would like to, please contact us and we can send you a form.

Cheques - can be made payable to: 'Newbold Parochial Church Council'

These can be put in the collection plate on a Sunday or addressed to:
The Treasurer, Newbold Parish Church, St John's Rd, Chesterfield S41 8PE

The Direct electronic bank transfer details are:

'Newbold Parochial Church Council'

HSBC Bank plc

Sort Code: 40-17-15

Account No: 61331795 (please mark it 'donation')



And this **QR code** will take you to our giving page online.

Gift Aid – If you pay income tax do consider giving via the "Gift Aid" scheme.

We can claim back, from the government, an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. You will need to make a Gift Aid declaration for us to claim, so do let us know if you would like a form to join this scheme.

Finally, if you are struggling financially, do feel free to lower your giving. We don't want anyone to feel pressure to give.

St John the Evangelist Church, on St John's Road, is the Church of England Parish Church for Newbold with Dunston, in the North East Derbyshire Deanery, Archdeaconry of East Derbyshire, Diocese of Derby in the Province of Canterbury.

CHURCH DIRECTORY email: info@newboldparishchurch.org.uk
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Vicar	Revd. Rhoda Blackwell (Off Thurs)	07838 316610
Church Office	office@newboldparishchurch.org.uk (Avail. Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri)	07787 980961
Associate Priest	Revd. Malcolm Pyatt (Avail. Tue/Wed/Sun)	07734294475
Assistant Curate	Revd. Rebecca Landers (Avail. Tue/Wed/Sun)	07592 539054
Lay Reader	Chris Barnes	07753 835687
Church Warden	Richard Peet	07967 564302
Church Warden	Wendy Drake	07305 312894
Verger	Stephen Franks	01246 557059
Organist & Choir	Stuart Watkinson	01246 278862
Magazine coordinator	Emma Lawrence (email on page 2)	07917154954
The Evangelist Advertising	Elaine Lawrence	07770364953
Child Protection	Julie Franks	01246 557059
Adult Protection	Ena Johnson	01246 451426
Women's Group	Trish Law	01246 450407
Men's Group	Chris Burrows	07843 780880
Wednesday Club	Richard Peet	07967 564302
Parish Room (hire)	Evelyn Lowe	07791735204

For **Christenings, Weddings, and Funerals**, please contact our vicar, Rev Rhoda: vicar@newboldparishchurch.org.uk or 07838 316610

For **churchyard enquiries** please contact the church office in the first instance: office@newboldparishchurch.org.uk or 07787 980961



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