

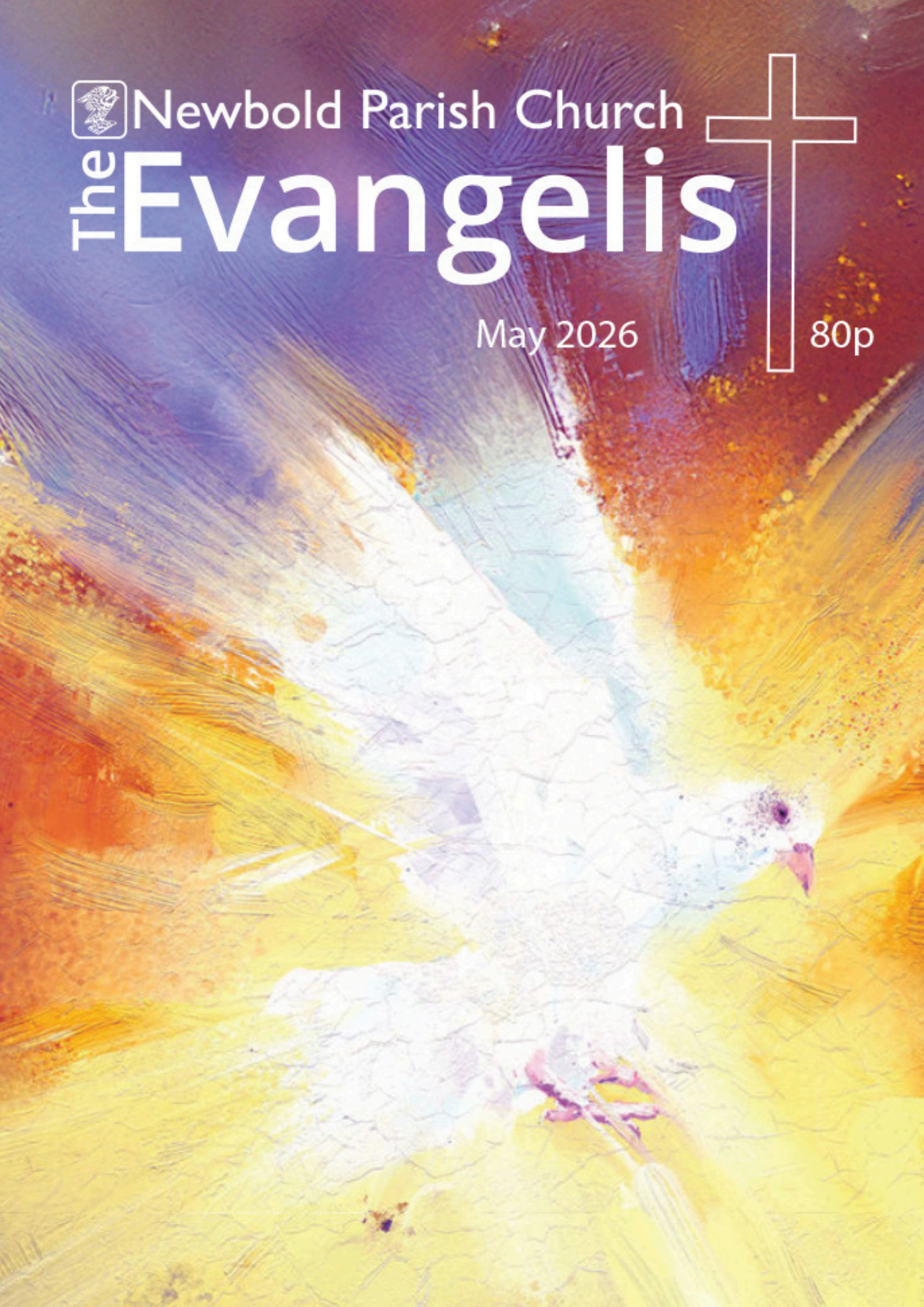


Newbold Parish Church

The Evangelis

May 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 17th May**. Articles received after the deadline will be published in the following month's issue.*

*Please note the **new email address** for Emma below.*

Emma - emma@blurosesystems.co.uk

Rhoda - 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 3rd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	10am
	Messy Church	4pm
Sunday 10th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter	10am
Thursday 14th May	Ascension Day	7:30pm
Sunday 17th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter: Family Mass	10am
	Celtic Service of Reflective Prayer	5pm
Sunday 24th May	Pentecost	10am
Sunday 31st May	Trinity Sunday	10am

From the Vicar

Rev'd Rhoda



Be more like Thomas

In the Church calendar, we are in a season of discovery, the season of Eastertide. As the first disciples gradually came to understand what the resurrection truly means, in their own individual ways, so we travel these fifty days that carry us from the wonder of the empty tomb to the Ascension and then the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

What is striking about the Easter story is how deeply human it is. It is not a tale of instant clarity or perfect faith. Instead, it unfolds through confusion, fear, and hesitation—before blossoming into recognition and belief.

On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene stood weeping outside the tomb, unable at first to recognise the risen Jesus, even as he spoke to her. It was only when he called her by name that everything changed.

Later that same day, the disciples were gathered behind locked doors, fearful and uncertain, when Jesus came and stood among them, offering peace.

But Thomas was not there.

When the others told him they had seen the Lord, he could not accept their testimony without experiencing it for himself. This is why he has so often been labelled “Doubting Thomas,” though that description hardly does him justice. Thomas is not faithless—he is honest. He refuses to rely on second-hand belief and longs instead for a real encounter with Christ.

Importantly, Thomas does not leave the community in his uncertainty, and the others do not exclude him. He remains among them, even in his doubt. A week later, Jesus returns—and this time, he comes for Thomas. Gently, without reproach, he invites him to see and touch his wounds.

Thomas' response is immediate and profound: "My Lord and my God." His doubt does not lead to shallow faith, but to one of the clearest declarations of who Jesus truly is.

Tradition tells us that this encounter transformed Thomas' life. He went on to carry the Gospel far beyond the familiar world of the Roman Empire, travelling as far as India, where Christian communities still trace their origins to his witness.

There is great encouragement for us in this story. It reminds us that doubt is not the opposite of faith, but often part of the journey toward it. Each of us comes to believe in our own way, shaped by our experiences, questions, and struggles. The risen Christ meets us where we are, with patience and grace.

It also challenges me, and the Church community. Are we a place where questions are welcomed? Where uncertainty is met with kindness rather than judgment? A community that makes space for honest searching is one in which faith can grow deeply and authentically.

So this Easter season, if faith feels strong, give thanks. And if it feels fragile or distant, take heart from Thomas. He took his time, and Christ met him in it.

The risen Jesus is not afraid of our questions. He comes to us as we are—offering peace, inviting trust, and leading us, gently, toward faith.

Every blessing

Rhoda +

Churchwarden's Corner

Richard Peet



Welcome to the May edition of the Evangelist, where is this year going?

Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day is a very special time in the Christian calendar. The journey to the cross is known as the Via Dolorosa or translated as the way of suffering which spans the final physically and mentally agonising hours of Jesus life, from the Garden of Gethsemane to his suffering and death on Mount Calvary. We then have the resurrection on the third day, with the glorious Easter Day service.

We give thanks to all involved in preparing the services during Holy week, taking part and joining us. We thank the sides persons, choir, organist, readers, those who do the intercessions, those leading the services, preaching, acolytes, crucifer, administering the chalice, vergers, and those who serve refreshments after the service. As you can see many people are involved in bringing us our services each week.



We thank the flower ladies' team for their magnificent Easter displays.



A thank you from me to Steph, Malcolm, Hilary and Chris, and Ann Peacey for leading the Stations of the Cross during Lent and Holy Week. This is a special part of Lent as we take the

6 journey of Jesus to the cross.

We had a wonderful party on Easter Day to celebrate Malcolm's 70th birthday. A big thank you to all who prepared or brought food, We had a fantastic spread. One highlight was the chocolate train cake.



So what is happening in our church life during May?

We have services for Ascension Day, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. Ascension Day takes place on **Thursday 14th May** with a service at 7.30 pm in church. The feast of the Ascension of Jesus Christ commemorates the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

Pentecost takes place on **Sunday 24th May** at 10am and commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles which empowered them to spread the gospel in various languages. The liturgical colours are red on this day so we have this colour for the altar frontals.

Sunday 31st May is Trinity Sunday and is celebrated at our 10am service. God is three in one: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity definition in a biblical context refers to the doctrine that one God exists as three distinct persons.

Please join our services if you are able. Remember to care for one another, be kind and helpful to each other, and most importantly LOVE one another.

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Diocesan Monthly Message

Revd Canon Matt Barnes writes...

“Talk to God about men before you talk to men about God.”

Those well-known words from E.M. Bounds capture something simple, profound, and deeply timely.



As we approach Thy Kingdom Come, we are invited once again into a season shaped not by pressure or performance, but by prayer. Sitting between Ascension and Pentecost, these days remind us that the disciples were neither inactive nor anxious. They waited. They prayed. They trusted that God was already at work, as He is today in our Diocese.

Thy Kingdom Come encourages us to do the same. At its heart is a very simple practice: to name five people we would love to see grow in faith—friends, family members, neighbours, colleagues—and to hold them before God day by day. Not to fix them, persuade them, or perfect our words, but to entrust them to the loving attention of God.

Prayer changes things. Sometimes it changes circumstances; often it quietly changes us. As we pray, hearts are softened, eyes are opened, and attentiveness to the Spirit grows. We become more aware of where God is already at work, and more ready to join in with what God is doing.

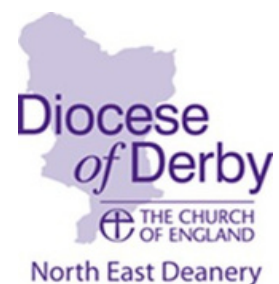
This season is a gift to the whole Church: a shared moment to pause, to hope, and to pray together across parishes, traditions, and generations. Whether you are confident in prayer or finding your way, whether your five names feel close to faith or far from it, God welcomes what you bring. We can pray alone, we can pray in groups, we can pray as a church or we can pray at one of our Diocesan events. However, and wherever, and with whom, please pray!

May this be a season where prayer is renewed, hope is rekindled, and love quietly grows. Who are your five?

The Revd Canon Matt Barnes
Director of Mission, Evangelism & Parish Revitalisation

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.*



Transformed Lives | Growing Church | Building Community
THE KINGDOM OF GOD - GOOD NEWS FOR ALL

Praying for the Parish of Newbold with Dunston Area 2

Please pray for the following places in your own way, or use this prayer:

Generous and loving God, we pray for the people of this parish. We pray that where there is discord, you will bring peace; where there is injustice, you will bring fairness, and where there is fear, illness and loss you will bring healing and hope.

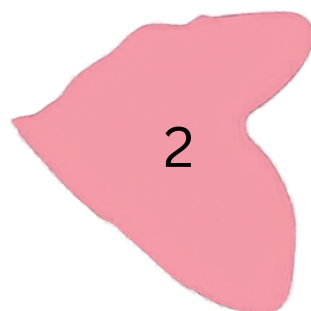
This month we pray especially  for all those who live or work in the **Newbold West** area of the parish:

Barholme Close; Barlow Road; Dunston Road; Newbold Road

We pray that God might bless the green land and rivers in the parish, we pray for:

Upper Newbold fields and Sudbrook

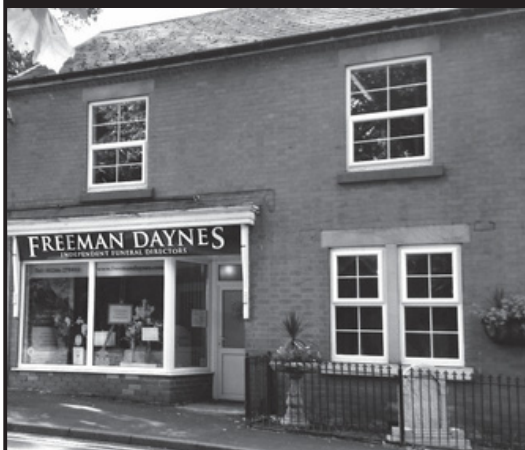
In the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen



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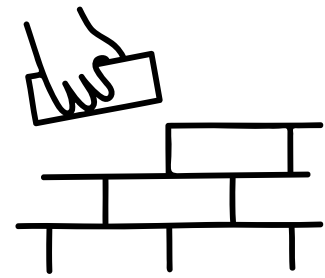
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The Building Project Prayers

Chris Barnes



- Pray that our roofer will make good progress and that there are no unforeseen problems to delay or add cost to the works, particularly that no water will get into the building during the works.
- Pray that the roofer and his staff always remain safe.
- Pray for wisdom for our Building Committee as it considers the plans, specifications and costings prepared by JBKS architects for the next phases of the refurbishment works.
- Pray that we can find the substantial additional resources we will probably need to complete all the works.

Collect Prayer for the Building Project

Father God, guide us as we work to improve our church buildings. Grant us wisdom, that every decision we make may build your Kingdom of love and grace in this place.

We humbly ask for the resources needed to complete this project, knowing that all good gifts come from you and everything we have is yours.

Bless all involved in the process, especially our building committee, our architects, our contractor and staff, and those involved in the approval process.

We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

LIMITED EASTER 2026 PLACES
AVAILABLE AT THE NEST@NCS



What are parents saying?

“I have two children who have attended The Nest and in their time there they have been made to feel welcome, safe and happy. They have enjoyed the engaging activities and always had something new to tell me at pickup time. I couldn't recommend the nursery high enough. When I have had questions about my children's development or had any issues, Mrs Johnson has always kindly helped, providing me with information and ways to support my child at home.”



WE 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 September 2026 if they were born between 1st April 2023 and 31st August 2023. Please fill out an application form before 30th June 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 or call on 01246 232370 once you have completed your application form or if you have any questions.

Readings and Collects

Sunday 3rd May - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7.55-60, 1 Peter 2.2-10, John 14.1-14

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 10th May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17.22-31, 1 Peter 3.13-22, John 14.15-21

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; 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.

Thursday 14th May - Ascension Day

Acts 1.4-11, Ephesians 1.15-23, Luke 24.44-53

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings and Collects

Sunday 17th May - Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1.6-14, 1 Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11, John 17.1-11

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 24th May - Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21, 1 Corinthians 12.3b-13, John 20.19-23

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 31st May - Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31, 2 Corinthians 13.11-13, Matthew 28.16-20

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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.



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



We welcome all children from 2 year old to 5 Years Old

Our pre-school has been based at The Eagle Club on St Johns Road for over 50 years.

Our Pre-school offers:

- **A friendly, warm and secure environment**
- **Long serving staff that are highly qualified and dedicated to helping all children develop and reach their potential.**
- **Specialised staff for children with additional needs**
- **Inclusion for all children**
- **Different areas of learning**
- **Healthy snacks**
- **Breakfast and lunch club**
- **Safe and secure drop off area**
- **Affordable prices, with discounts available**
- **Sessional or full day care, 38 weeks per year, term time only**
- **Up to 15 hours free funded hours for 2, 3 & 4 year olds and 30 hour funded hours for those entitled.**
- **Additional place available**
- **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.

COFFEE MORNING



The coffee morning on the 6th of June will be hosted by Bev and Brian Speed alongside their friend Emily.

Emily was crowned Queen of Derbyshire and as part of her year reign she has chosen to fund raise for MacMillan cancer support. She has raised so far around £800. All funds raised on the day will be going towards her target.



Hope to see you all there.
Thank you, Bev Speed

WORLD CUP SWEEP

Dean Lawrence

The world cup will start on Thursday 11th June, and as is traditional, I will be running a sweep.

Tickets will cost £3 with the winner taking £30 and losing finalist taking £15. All proceeds will go to Church.

Given the status of a couple of the teams, I am not yet in a position to confirm how many teams will be involved.

I will start selling tickets from **Sunday 17th May**. You can find me in the Parish room after this service if you wish to buy a ticket.

Social Diary April 2026

Saturday 2nd May	Churchyard Birdwatch	8:30am
Saturday 2nd May	Community coffee morning	10am-12noon
Sunday 3rd May	Walking group	12noon
Wednesday 6th May	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm
Wednesday 6th May	Women's Group	7pm
Saturday 9th May	Churchyard Tidy-up	10am-12noon
Wednesday 13th May	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm
Saturday 16th May	Men's Group - Crich Tramway Museum	10am-12noon
Wednesday 20th May	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm
Wednesday 27th May	Wednesday Social Club	1pm-3pm

Wednesday Social Group occurs every Wednesday. Each month they go out for a meal, which will be put on the church notice sheet when the location is confirmed.

Contact Church Warden Richard for more information, see page 31.

The men's group usually meet in the Parish Room on the third Wednesday of each month, however this month we are hoping to visit Crich Tramway Museum. Details will be put on the church notice sheet, or contact Chris Burrows, see page 31.



EASTER EGG TRAIL IN THE



PALM SUNDAY



Holy week begins on Palm Sunday, the day we remember that Jesus was welcomed into the city as a King with the crowds waving palm branches and shouting for joy. They thought they knew what kind of king he would be. But Jesus came in peace, humility, and love.

HOLY SATURDAY



On Saturday in Holy Week (Holy Saturday) we think about waiting in the silence. After Jesus died and was buried on Good Friday, everything must have felt quiet, empty, and uncertain. Holy Saturday is a day of waiting, when hope can feel hidden.



EASTER DAY

On Easter Day we remember that joy comes alive. The tomb was empty. Jesus was alive. Death did not have the final word. Easter is the promise that hope, love, and life are stronger than fear and darkness.

CHURCHYARD DURING HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY

On the Thursday in Holy Week (Maundy Thursday) we remember love that serves. On the night before he died, when they arrived at the guest house with dirty dusty feet from the road, Jesus knelt down and washed his disciples' feet. He showed them that real love is humble, kind, and willing to serve others. Then he shared the last supper with them.



GOOD FRIDAY

On Friday in Holy Week (Good Friday) we remember love that suffers. On Good Friday, Jesus carried the cross and gave his life for the world. It was a day of pain, sadness, and sacrifice — but also a day of deep love.



From the Registers

Holy Baptism

19 April Rex Jude Noble

*May all things belonging to the Spirit
live and grow in him.*

Funerals

31 March Jacqueline Cheryl Fuller aged 70

Churchyard

[burial or interment of ashes]

28 March Maureen Ann Hicklin

May they rest in peace and rise in glory



AN EGGCELLENT MESSY EASTER

Chris Barnes



You probably noticed the large wooden eggs that went up in the church yard over Easter (see pages 20 & 21). This year, we used them in a different way to tell the Easter story - through crafts.

Egg 1. Palm Sunday: A welcome for the King.

The children cut out palm leaves and wrote a word of welcome for Jesus such as joy, peace or love.

Egg 2. Maundy Thursday: Love that serves.

Hearts were cut out and the children were asked to write one kind thing they would do for someone that week.

Egg 3. Good Friday: Love that suffers.

Two lollipop sticks were tied together that they could hold quietly for a moment and think about what Jesus did for us.

Egg 4. Holy Saturday: Waiting in Silence

A heart or a cross or a hopeful word was drawn or written on small pebbles to remind us that God is with us in the waiting. See Ben's excellent example on the right.



Egg 5. Easter Day: Love comes alive.

Flowers were decorated, with words full of hope written on the petals.

We had a good time worshipping God and remembering the Easter story. Come along to our next Messy Church and join our fun and lively worship. It's at 4pm on Sunday 3rd May.

Women's Group



Wendy Drake

The Group had a good turnout of 21 members as we met to listen to a talk from Wendy Kenyon representing a charity called 'Mary's Meals'. Their aim is to provide daily meals for schoolchildren around the world.

The venture was founded by Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow who was born in Dalmally in Argyllshire. He was from a devout Catholic family, whose house after he had left home had become a Catholic retreat centre. As a teenager and, with his parents' blessing he and some friends had travelled to Yugoslavia after hearing that six teenagers there had seen a vision of the Virgin Mary at a place called Medjugorje. Magnus and his friends all came home feeling changed and exhilarated knowing that 'Our Lady' had appeared to the locals saying that 'I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is fullness of life, and to enjoy the fullness and obtain peace you must return to God.'

It was to be ten years later when Magnus heard that Yugoslavia was tearing itself apart with civil war and, Slovenia and Croatia had declared themselves independent. Bosnia-Herzegovina to include Medjugorje, also became independent and, 'Our Lady' was still appearing to the same six young people. There followed reports of bloody massacres, ethnic cleansing and mass rape. Hearing that a group in London was organizing the transport of aid to Medjugorje, Magnus and friends were prompted to help, and organised their own small appeal, using his Dad's old shed in the garden to collect and store donations.

This shed had doubled as his Dad's garage and workshop and was later converted into a playroom for him and his two brothers. Little did he realise then that after having driven that first little collection of aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1992 his life, and thousands of others would be changed for ever.

After 23 visits to Bosnia-Herzegovina by Magnus and supporters calling themselves Scottish International Relief, he had a call in 2002 to visit Malawi, during a terrible famine. The communities there were so poor that children were having to beg for food and too hungry to go to school. It was here that Magnus met a mother, Emma, who was dying of AIDS. She had already 'lost' her husband to the disease and was attempting to bring up six children on her own. He had asked the eldest son, Edward, what his dreams were in life, when he simply replied, 'I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day'.

Becoming a registered charity the name was changed to 'Mary's Meals', which firstly fed 200 children at a school in Malawi and today feeds more than 3 million children around the world! The work is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, and consists of, respect, and being able to reach out to people of all faiths and none. By providing a daily meal at school, hungry children are encouraged into the classroom where they can gain an education that can provide an escape from poverty. The programme is owned and run by local communities in the 16 countries where they work, with food sourced locally wherever possible to support the economy. Many mothers volunteer their services to cook.

Today there are 71 million primary school-age children out of school around the world in 16 countries.

In Malawi in 2002, 70% of the population lived below the poverty line, 39% of whom had stunted growth and almost half never reached school age.

In 2006 in Haiti, there occurred the worst hunger crisis in history, which created violence so that children were being lured into gangs by the offer of food.

In Benin in 2011, two-thirds of the population were illiterate and 52% didn't complete their primary education.

The low-cost approach means that, with 'Mary's Meals', a hungry child can learn on a full stomach for just 10p a meal and can be fed for a whole year for £19.15 and, educated as well!

Our speaker, Wendy, wrote after the meeting to tell Trish that along with the £40 donation given her, the total money given in cash alone amounted to an amazing £185.50. She herself is planning to up that sum to £191.50 knowing that 10 more children can be fed at a place of education for a whole year. She was certainly very thankful on behalf of 'Mary's Meals'. She had suggested that more info was available online and three videos were worth watching – 'Generation Hope', 'Child 31', and 'Love reaches Everywhere'.

The Women's Group will be meeting again on Wednesday 6 May at 7pm, when John Bown will be talking to us about 'The Prayer Stall and Street Pastors' in Chesterfield.

As ever, if you would like to know more about the Group, do speak to Trish, Marilyn J or myself.

MEN'S GROUP

MARCH 2026



We continue to meet regularly on the 3rd Saturday of each month in the Parish Room. We have welcomed some new members which was great to see. We have had a relatively busy February for the Men's Group.



Firstly some of the Men's Group attended the CAMRA Beer Festival at the Winding Wheel on Friday 6th February, on a dark rainy evening. As expected there was a great selection of beers, ciders and wines. Apparently there were 88 different beers to try.

Needless to say we did not try all of them but selected our favorites to sample. Inevitably, after a few beers we became peckish and the lure of the Pork Pie stand became

overwhelming! Secondly, we met to celebrate St Davids Day early on Saturday, 21st February. Brian provided homemade Leek & Potato Soup followed by Welsh Cakes. Both were excellent and went down a treat and washed down with a couple of cups of coffee.



For the March meeting that took place on Saturday 17th March, Brian once again kindly provided the food which was homemade Irish Stew including sausages to celebrate St Patrick's Day, accompanied by a homemade Barn Brack loaf that helps 'mop up' the gravy. We fondly remembered John Drake since Barn Brack was his recipe.

A trip to National Tramway Museum at Crich is being planned on Saturday 16th May. This is open to all, and partners are invited. There is no need to book, anyone who wishes to be part of the visit are to make their own way there on the day and pay the normal entrance fee. If a lift is required, we will try and accommodate this. If you are interested, please contact Chris Burrows.

In June some of the Men's Group will be attending the cricket in the Queens Park when Derbyshire will be playing.

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.

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



NEWBOLD CHURCH SCHOOL, CRANBORNE ROAD, CHESTERFIELD

NCS Fest

**WEDNESDAY
17TH JUNE**

**1.15PM -
3.30PM**

**ENTERTAINMENT
CRAFT STALLS
FOOD STALLS
PRIZES TO BE WON
GAMES
AND MORE!**

**TICKETS:
NCS CHILDREN - £5
(INCLUDES MORNING ACTIVITIES)
ADULTS - £3
EXTRA CHILDREN - £1**
TICKETS CAN BE BOUGHT FROM THE
SCHOOL OFFICE

Holidays during a Middle East War

Steve Franks

Last year Julie and I decided our next foreign adventure would be to Jordan. Our trip would include visits to the desert castles near to the capital, Amman, the ancient 'Rose-red City' of Petra, seen as a backdrop on many films, Wadi Rum where much of 'Lawrence of Arabia' was filmed and finally the Dead Sea.

Looking forward to our adventure in mid-March, we paid the final balance and received our holiday itinerary documents in mid-February. All was going as planned until the morning of 28th February when we woke up to news of USA and Israel air strikes on Iran.

We scanned news reports, initially Jordan was not in the news. If you look at a map of the area you see that Jordan is under the flight path of any missiles or drones fired at Israel. Further investigation found that on the first day a couple of missiles had been shot down over Jordan but not much else – our holiday still seemed to be on! A day or so later we heard a news report of 101 instances of falling shrapnel over Jordan with no major injuries reported – our holiday was still on?? Daily Royal Jordanian flights seemed to be getting in and out of Amman airport unlike flights from many countries bordering the Persian Gulf.

Finally Foreign Office advice changed and all but essential travel to Jordan was advised against. We soon heard from our holiday company that our trip had been cancelled, we took the option to try again later this year.

So, what do we do with our time off? - we decided on a different trip to foreign parts – Wales!

I had received an offer of discounted accommodation at one of the National Trust's Historic House Hotels – Bodysgallan Hall so I booked three nights and with the weather set fair off we went.

Our mini break started with a visit to Llandudno, a walk along the front, on the pier then a visit to the Great Orme. Sadly the tram was not taking passengers until the weekend so we had to walk all the way up.

The weather was sunny and mild although when we reached the summit it was blowing a gale. Great views but hard work.



On to our hotel. Bodysgallen Hall has been owned by the National Trust since 2008. It is a Grade I listed building, primarily from the 17th century with several later additions. It may have started as a tower house in Middle Ages to serve as defensive support for nearby Conwy Castle which we

could see from the dining room.

Our room was on the second floor immediately above the main entrance. On the staircase just outside the door to our room was a locked door which led to a spiral staircase up to the old central tower.

As the weather warmed up even more, we visited the nearby Bodnant gardens, another National Trust property. Here we saw hosts of golden daffodils – the national flower of Wales.

Nearby Conwy was well worth a visit with a walk along its medieval walls. One problem we found driving in Wales was the current speed limit of 20mph in most built up areas – it seemed so slow and difficult to keep to.

The next day was not as warm but still clear, sunny and mild. We drove down to the village of Betws-y-Coed, had a scenic walk along the River Conwy.



Followed by a drive through the breathtaking Snowdonia National Park along the Llanberis pass with outstanding views of Yr Wyddfa (Mount Snowdon), the highest mountain in Wales and England at 1,085 meters (3,560 ft). Stopping in the village of Llanberis we spotted the steam engines of the Snowdon Mountain Railway being steamed up in preparation for the season starting at the end of March.

Our final stop of the day was Caernarfon with its impressive 13th century castle although we only had time to walk outside its impressive walls.

After three nights in our hotel, we made our way home via another National Trust property, Erdigg.

Erdigg dates from 1684. The house and its estate was inherited by Simon Yorke in 1733, and remained in the Yorke family until it was given to the National Trust in 1973. The Yorke's commemorated their servants in a unique collection of portraits and poems. This collection and the servants' quarters and estate workshops give an insight into how servants lived between the eighteenth and twentieth centuries.

Our visit to Erdigg over, we made our way home across the moors, Buxton and the Peak District.





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Walking Group

Linacre Woods

Evelyn Lowe



Seven of us, including our new member Pat, Julie's friend Mary and Victoria, set off for Linacre Woods. We parked in a lay-by in Old Brampton and walked towards Chesterfield, turned left on a tarmacked road and left again onto a narrow, stony road with green fields stretching away on each side.

We soon entered Linacre Woods and beside the river on our right we spotted carpets of yellow celandines and white wood anemones with lone bluebells, dotted around. Surely a good sign that spring is here.



The paths alternated between flat and uphill so that by the time we arrived at the toilet block I could certainly see what a good spot it was to place a defibrillator!

Continuing alongside the upper reservoir and rising above more patches of celandines, the trees were noticeably bare of leaves. In one spot there were half a dozen silver birch trees lying on the ground as if they had simply given up. Pat pointed out a small group of purple violets amongst the dandelions but apart from small holly bushes and hawthorn saplings struggling to push out of the ground, there was very little greenery on the trees.

We walked along the wooden bridge at the bottom of the reservoir where a bird feeder hung from a tree containing only a

small amount of suet ball. Birds could be heard around us and we felt warm from the cold wind in the sheltered part of this area.

Mallards were drifting along the water as well as black and white tufted ducks and we heard the sound of a coot. There was a line of trees, all bent towards the water, looking forlorn and droopy, although some had velvety, pussy willow buds trying to burst out into the sunshine.

We passed a family having a picnic at a bench and it was noticed by one of our party that they were eating very healthily.

After walking past the middle reservoir we were suddenly out of the woods and into open fields and going towards Old Brampton on a lovely, warm and sunny afternoon.

We learnt something new when we approached a fenced-off area for horses. It is actually called a Manege, which is a French term for a fenced dressage arena where horses are trained.



At the red telephone box, now a book store and notably very clean and tidy, Mary pulled out a book entitled “This is Going to Hurt” by Adam Kaye and recommended it to Julie*, who instantly carried it away to return when read.

This was, as usual, a very enjoyable walk led by Steve and anyone thinking of joining our group will be made welcome. The leader tries to find walks of only four miles with as few hills and stiles as possible. Our next walk on Sunday 3rd May will be the Peak Forest with everyone meeting at the church gates at 12noon with a packed lunch.

*I recommend this book also (Emma Lawrence - magazine coordinator)



HOW GOD WORKS - A JOKE

A grandmother was taking her young grandson for a walk in the park. The daffodils were in bloom, and it was a beautiful Spring day.

Wanting to encourage her grandson's spiritual understanding of the world, she said, "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Do you know that God did all this?"

Her grandson replied: "Oh yes and God did it left-handed too."

In astonishment the grandmother asked what he meant.

"Well, He must have done," said her grandson, "because we learned at church that Jesus sits on God's right hand."

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- Pre-school



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The 100 Club draw for April

1st prize	£30	Chris Barnes	Number 105
2nd prize	£15	Martin Cooper	Number 75
3rd prize	£5	Elsbeth Robinson	Number 3

The next draw will be held on Sunday 10th May. New members are welcome to join at any time. Please speak to Lesley Howard or Evelyn Lowe.

Lesley 07712921585

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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:

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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.

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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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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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