



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 of the church which does not appear on film.



Sunday 31st December 2023

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Dear friends,

Welcome to this week's E-News. Let's hear what God says to us through His Word this New Year's Eve about the destiny of Jesus from Luke 2, and that His years will never end in Hebrews 1

Please bring **SUGAR** for the "reverse" Advent calendar for today. www.food.gives – see below!

Please also note our Christmas collection for the work for Tearfund in this week's news.

10:30am Morning Worship led by Jonathan. Luke 2:22-40 Destiny's Child

[Click here for Morning Service](#)

6:30pm Evening Worship led by Jonathan. Hebrews 1:1-12 "His years never end"

[Click here for Evening Service](#)

THE WEEK AHEAD

TUESDAY 2nd January 2024

10:30am – Tuesday Coffee – at The Malthouse. (Please note The Malthouse only takes cash).

7:30pm Small Groups meetings

SUNDAY 7th January 2024

10:30am Morning Worship led by Jonathan. Hebrews 6:1-15 What God will not forget. The service is followed by the Lord's Supper

6:30pm Evening Worship led by Jonathan. Ephesians 5:1-20 Walking Wisely

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR FOR FOOD.GIVES

This Christmas, we are supporting the work of Tearfund (see below) and gathering specific food gifts to help brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

Each week we invite friends in the fellowship to bring a specific item of food each week, to put in the box at the front as follows:

HOPE	December 3 rd	Dried Lentils
PEACE	December 10 th	Dried Chick-peas
JOY	December 17 th	Rice
FAITH	December 24 th	Salt
LOVE	December 25 th - 31 st	Sugar

CHRISTMAS APPEAL FOR TEARFUND

Giving envelopes will be available in church

Tearfund is helping communities in more than 50 countries to break free from poverty by partnering with and training local churches.

The global cost of living crisis means the funding Tearfund receives does not go as far as it used to. Rapidly escalating conflicts around the world, including Ukraine and the Middle East, are putting even more pressure on where funding is needed – and families are paying the price. Countless people are living in extreme poverty worldwide, places like Chad, where millions of people are facing ongoing climate catastrophes with limited provisions to survive, let alone thrive.

Isaac lives in Chad and struggled with extreme poverty for years. Then he heard about the training offered in his village by Tearfund's partner, the Christian Centre of Development Support (CECADEC). Isaac was desperate to learn new farming techniques to grow enough food for his family to survive on. 'I was living in extreme poverty. We had nothing to eat. It was a difficult life,' Isaac says.

Around the world, rising costs mean our resources are stretched, at a time when we are responding to greater needs than ever before – and families like Isaac's in Chad are facing unthinkable suffering. 'I ask God to bless me, to keep me and my family, and to give us food.'

Any gifts, large or small, would be a great help to communities like Isaac's. It takes a total of £125 to help train a community such as his in climate-smart farming techniques, so there's no going back to extreme poverty. *Elaine Adams*

Nunc Dimitis, The Song of Simeon

1 *Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:* your word has been fulfilled.

2 My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people;

3 A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2.29–32

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

Please continue to pray for Bert and Maria and for all whose Christmas is overshadowed by bereavement.

Pray for the Christmas message of Jesus to shine through to our community

Please pray for Morgan as he visits churches seeking new ministry. Please pray for the Lord to open the door to guide Morgan to his next step in Christian service.

Pray for Israel and Palestine.

Pray for an end to the ongoing war in Ukraine.

WORLD FOCUS

2024 predictions

Nigeria – 160 Christians killed over Christmas, over 6000 in 2023, churches destroyed, people forced to flee their homes. Persecution is set to rise again in 2024.

India – Increasing anti-conversion laws are being misused to arrest, imprison and sometimes kill Christians, especially pastors. The 2024 elections are expected to exacerbate this.

Pakistan – Continued and rising persecution results in loss of jobs, increasing violence and killings.

China – Increasing harassment, social control, monitoring, discrimination, imprisonment, online censorship and bans on unauthorised religious content, all with a view to “sinicization” of Christianity.

Afghanistan – Continued crackdown from the Taliban, plus growing persecution and intolerance from family and neighbours is leading to ever increasing daily fear.

Eritrea – The number of Christians in prison continues to increase, with no trial and indefinite imprisonment.

North Korea – The spread of covid provided cover for disseminating Biblical material. 2024 is unlikely to provide the same opportunities.

Iran - Persecution is tightening in Iran, as the authorities try to prevent the rapid growth in Christian converts and the rise of house churches in that country. 2024 will be worse.

Pray:- The Lord is building His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against her.

Simon Beber

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.

Tennis - Please speak to James Endicott to play at Monmouth Tennis Club's excellent facilities on Monmouth Sportsground; cost £4 per session for non-members (free for members).

Football - Jim Barker runs 5 a-side football sessions, currently fortnightly on a Friday at 7pm. If you are interested in joining, please speak to Jim or James Endicott to be added to the Football Whatsapp Group.

Basketball – Please ask for details.

MBC GIVING

Thank you for your continued giving to the work of the Church. Please use the Monmouth Baptist Church details for direct giving: Sort code 20-00-85, Account number 10615668.

Also, if you are a taxpayer, we can arrange for Gift Aid to claim tax back.

You can also give online at www.give.net/monmouthbc.

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".

CONTACTS

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Fellowship Zoom Meetings please use this link for midweek fellowship and Church meetings: [CLICK HERE](#) Meeting ID: 864 3571 5316

Passcode: mbc123

One tap mobile +442034815237,,86435715316#,*272170# United Kingdom or phone 0131 460 1196 United Kingdom Meeting ID: 864 3571 5316 Passcode: 272170