

# Connections

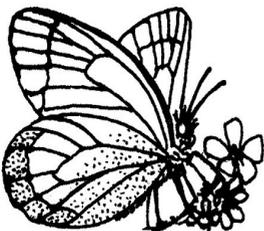
*The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit*

<http://www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk>



'Even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.'

Matthew 6:29



June 2015

## Letter from the Minister

The Manse 16 Booth Drive Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1SZ  
Tel: 01335 342408 email: revtimmorris@aol.com

May 2015

Dear Friends,

### **“Pilgrimage – a voyage of discovery”**

A few years ago my brother was visiting us. As we drove up the Buxton Road he saw the sign to Ilam. “What’s at 11am?” he said. Now I’d seen that sign many a time, but never in that way – and, yes, it could be seen as saying 11am!

He’d seen something different to what those of us who see it daily take for granted, because we know that Ilam is a place, not a time.



The day I write this, a group of Christians were beginning a pilgrimage from Ilam to Eyam, the plague village of 1665, further up in the Peak District. This year commemorates the 350th anniversary. They were piloting a walk which will take walkers

and pilgrims up to three days, passing a number of churches and chapels, including our very own Chapel at Milldale. The pilgrimage has a booklet and a website and it is hoped it will become another attraction to the beautiful Peak District. It will also enable more visitors to enter our sacred



spaces, offering us the opportunity to supply spiritual refreshment.

Tissington Chapel has recently played its part during the Well Dressing festival, with hundreds and hundreds of people coming in to enjoy the quite, calm and peace of the place. Whether someone was there to greet them, or not, each one will have been offered something to help them in their journey. Prayers left, words of welcome spoken, a burden shared, a joy given thanks for; visitors become pilgrims who are on a voyage of discovery.

We are blessed to be able to share in the journeys of others, and are reminded to take note of our own journeys too. May we know that God is with us on the journey; may we meet him in the places of pilgrimage; and may we be strengthened on the return for the work we have to do.

Your minister and friend,

**Tim**

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### *Tuesday Fellowship*

There are just two meetings left in the summer programme. On **2<sup>nd</sup> June** the new regional representative from **Action for Children** will be with us, to introduce himself and tell us something of the current work being undertaken by AfC. It is important to keep our links with AfC open, although we do not have a fund raising committee as the present time. You are welcome to come along to find out what is happening. Our last meeting is on **16<sup>th</sup> June**. If you have ever had a wish to keep bees now is your chance to discover a little more about it. Richard Odell will give us a talk on the subject.

Sadly, this will in fact be our very last meeting. Our numbers have fallen so low that we feel that it is no longer viable to continue holding the meetings. There are many more opportunities to meet during the day than there were when the Women's Fellowship, as it was then, was formed, and no-one can attend them all. We thank all of the people who have so willingly come to talk to us on so many and varied interesting subjects. We have learned a lot, and been wonderfully entertained in the process. Thank you from us all.

*Betty Hadley, Margaret Heaton, Brenda Micklethwaite.*

## *Ashbourne Circuit Church Services*

### *Sunday June 7th*

Ashbourne	9:15am	Miss Diana Whitmill	Café Style
	10:30am	Miss Diana Whitmill	
	18:00pm	@ Brailsford	
Brailsford	10:45am	Mrs Ann Parkinson	United Service at Methodist
	18:00pm	Rev Tim Morris	Circuit Service at Village Hall
Hulland	18:00pm	@ Brailsford	

### *Sunday June 14th*

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Loraine Mellor	
	18:30pm	@ St Oswalds Church	ACT service for Patna
			Partnership
Brailsford	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Hulland	18:30pm	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Chapel Anniversary
Kniveton	14:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Parwich	14:30pm	Mr Stuart Mustow	

### *Sunday June 21st*

Ashbourne	10:30am	Mr John Dyster	Theme Preach 1
	18:30pm	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30am	Fiona Green	All Age, 9:15am Breakfast
Hulland	18:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Parwich	10:00am		United Service at Parish
Tissington	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

### *Sunday June 28th*

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris/ Fiona Green	Communion, Theme Preach 2
	18:30pm	Mr Tom Parkinson	
Brailsford	10:30am	Mr Stuart Mustow	
Hulland	18:30pm	Mr John Dyster	Theme Preach 1
Kirk Ireton	18:30pm	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Chapel Anniversary
Kniveton	11:00am	Miss Diana Whitmill	
Parwich		no service	

### *Sunday July 5th*

Ashbourne	9:15am	Mr Peter Dawson	Café Style
	10:30am	Mr Peter Dawson	Theme Preach 3
	18:00pm	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Brailsford	10:00am		United Service at Parish
Hulland	18:00pm	Fiona Green	Theme Preach 2

## *Theme preaching June – August 2015*

### *“Living as exiles – studies in 1 Peter”*

This summer there will be a short series of theme preaching based on the first letter of Peter. This was written from Rome to various churches in Asia Minor, at a time when all these churches were living in a hostile world and subject to persecution. The letter refers to them as ‘exiles of the Dispersion’ or ‘strangers in the world’.

For hundreds of years in Europe, Christians have lived in a culture profoundly shaped by the Christian story, its values, priorities and expectations. Historians have called this culture ‘Christendom’. With the benefit of hindsight, we now recognise that this culture was far from truly Christian and was shaped by other influences, but Christians generally felt ‘at home’ in Christendom.

This has not been the experience of Christians in many other parts of the world, where minority status, discrimination and sometimes persecution have required a different perspective on faith and discipleship. Nor was it the experience of the Christians to whom Peter’s letter is addressed, and increasingly, as Christendom fades, it is not the experience of Christians in Western societies. We no longer feel at home in the way we once did.

The purpose of these studies, therefore, is to explore the advice given in 1 Peter to see what it has to say to Christians who are living as ‘exiles’ in a non-Christian, or post-Christendom, culture. The dates are as follows:

<b><i>Theme</i></b>	<b><i>Ashbourne mornings</i></b>	<b><i>Hulland</i></b>	<b><i>Brailsford</i></b>
Living as exiles: – with a living hope	21 June	28 June	26 July
Living as exiles: – being the people of God	28 June	5 July	2 August
Living as exiles: – among strangers	5 July	12 July	9 August



## *MISSION MATTERS*

Although I reported on the year at the Ashbourne Annual Church Meeting I just want to expand on a few issues.

We know that “Supporting mission” is far more than fundraising, valuable though money is. This is why some of us thought about mission under four headings: pray, give, go and share. It is also about catching a vision of what God is doing around His world and has been doing since He first breathed His Spirit into Adam. We can be part of this exciting venture where He calls us, both on our own doorstep and at “the ends of the earth”.

To join in we need to be informed and inspired. You don’t have to read everything on mission but there is mission literature near the missions notice board in the church vestibule at AMC, mostly related to our partner organisations. You may have noticed the gold-coloured ‘Mission Matters for Prayer’ leaflets near the notice board, please use them and pray, looking for answers. Look at your giving practices (time, talents and money) and pray for wise decisions. Rather than responding to ‘begging’ letters make a prayerful, and preferably long-term, decision.

Pray about /going somewhere/doing something. I am excited about the work of ACE Trust among needy young people in Ashbourne. They need volunteers (ask David Bale). But God can use us in any situation, even over the garden fence! Let’s encourage and inspire each other in His service.

Methodist Homes (MHA) are having a talk about “ageing, spirituality and faith” on 11<sup>th</sup> June at Nuthall. It will be good to address the spiritual needs of elderly people as well as their physical ones. Ask Tom Parkinson for details including help with transport.

*(EDITOR - see separate Notice on page 16 )*

### **Update on Nepal earthquakes:**

Thank you for praying. The weeks since their first big M7.8 quake have been tough times for Nepal as well as for the myriad of international helpers from all over the world who have provided help. My admiration goes to the people who coordinate them all, but also to the Nepalis in cities and remote villages who have shown immense fortitude and courage in helping themselves and their own communities.

Since the first shock on 25<sup>th</sup> April there have been many aftershocks (seventy tremors greater than M4.0 including one of M7.3 on 12<sup>th</sup> May) which have brought down already unstable buildings and hillsides and caused more avalanches in the mountains. They have also frightened many people and fear has been experienced by even the most experienced and professional of expatriate helpers.

A Nepali friend of ours reported her family's experience at home in Kathmandu when the first quake hit.

Anu says: "How do I even begin to describe the past one week and how it changed the lives of so many? You were able to see the devastation on TV much before we got to see it. So, I will tell you my personal experience.

It was just another usual Saturday morning. We were all in the living room when suddenly the floor began to move. At first, we just thought it was one of those usual tremors we experience. We all went to different parts of the room that were considered safe and waited for the shaking to stop. But to our utter horror and shock, the movements increased every second. We could feel and see the whole house swing from side to side as things began to drop, fall, roll and break around us. We were screaming and shouting.

The wait felt like forever before it stopped and we all rushed downstairs to get out of the house and run to an open space. But when we reached down the main door was completely blocked as the cupboard with books had fallen and we were trapped. My father, I and the kids used all our strength to lift the cupboard and we were able to open a little part of the door from which we all managed to squeeze ourselves out.

I don't know how many more smaller tremors continued after that as we all held each other and waited in fear and panic. Other families from the neighbourhood joined and we all made make-shift tents at a close by space. The days that followed were difficult, especially when we were out of contact from all. There were no electricity, internet and phone lines. Soon batteries were dead and there was no water or shops open to buy food.

There was and still is a big problem of theft. Girls are going through a difficult time staying at tents especially when they have menstruation. News of them being sexually harassed in these tents is also common. Hundreds and thousands of strangers are huddled together in small tents and there is no toilet close by. Oh, the problems are numerous. I could just go on and on.”

Anu, with others, has now started a charity called *Saarathi* (meaning friend, guide, teacher). to counsel teachers, parents and children traumatised by the earthquake.

*Richard Odell*

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### ***Help for M'bungoni Methodist Church Kenya.***

The British Methodist Church entered Kenya in 1862 through the work of the then United Methodist Free Church. It started at Ribe station which was the base from where the mission was launched. Today, the work is concentrated in several of the main areas of the country as well as in Uganda and Tanzania.

M'bungoni Methodist Church is to be found in the Kilifi County, approximately 18 miles to the North of Mombasa. It forms part of the Ribe circuit, with three Mijikenda tribes inhabiting the region, namely, Kambe, Ribe and Jibana. My mother being a Kambe, I naturally attended M'bungoni church whenever I was staying with my grandmother who happened to be a Ribe girl. Upon my graduation from Jomo Kenyatta University, I ended up living with my grandmother while searching for employment and volunteering as high teacher at Kambe Secondary School. I also spent a lot of my time helping with the youth activities at the church and getting myself involved in building a strong church choir. This was in essence following in the footsteps of my dad who was a superintendent minister of the then KARIJI circuit in the

early 80s a name coined from the three tribes mentioned above.

The church has managed to build a pre-school partly sponsored by *Compassion International*.



The pre-school helps to serve the local community, particularly, in taking care of orphans and those who cannot afford to provide a single meal a day for their children. The church has a good way of vetting these so that the most needy, (the majority of them are), 'children can get the assistance they so much require. The maintenance of the school buildings also

falls on the church whose membership is mainly composed of peasant farmers with very little income. In the meantime, the focus is to renovate the church first by taking care of the cracked walls and floor and changing the corrugated roofing which leaks in some areas whenever it rains. It is one of the largest buildings that sometimes ends up being used for circuit gatherings. They have given themselves an enormous challenge of raising £400 to cater for all this and have already raised almost £100 since last year with £300 remaining.

They have asked my wife Lillian and myself to help them raise the balance so that they can be able to finish the repairs possibly by the end of this year. To this end, we are appealing to you to prayerfully consider giving towards this worthwhile cause. Be blessed as you consider helping us in assisting our friends at M'bungoni Methodist Church in Kenya with the church refurbishment.

*Onesmus Mwabonje*

*We have known Onesmus for 12 or so years and have visited his parents in Kenya. We remain in touch with him and his wife and he has visited AMC many times often helping in The Cornerstone. We will pass on any contributions you feel able to make.*

*Joy & Arthur Watts*

## *I Took My English Patchwork to India!*

I really did! It sounds incongruous I know, but an opportunity arose for me to teach a group of Indian girls and women some hand-sewing skills associated with patchwork. This all came about through an Indian friend of mine, Ella Sonawane, who is the Mission Secretary for the I.S.P.C.K. (Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) – a worldwide charity that has travelled through three centuries.

The story of the charity began way back in 1710 when the Germans, Dutch Lutherans and British Anglicans got together to establish the S.P.C.K. in South India. Since then, the S.P.C.K. has traversed through a long and rewarding journey of Indianisation and diversification. Initially a Christian communication organisation with its publications and retail outlets, the charity now outreaches into mission support with book grants, Bible and Bicycle Programmes for evangelists and pastors, scholarships, writers' workshops, women's empowerment projects, free schools, 'Disha' (Direction), self-help groups, refugee services and much more.

*The Women's Empowerment Programme* – literacy and vocational skills training for women at grass roots level – is an instrument for transforming the lives of women victims of migrant labour, human trafficking, widows and former sex workers. I was working in a Women's Empowerment Centre in Tigri Village in Ghaziabad in the State of Uttar Pradesh, on the outskirts of N.E. Delhi. It is one of the very poorest villages in a very deprived area. The three-storey concrete building in which I was based has a Free School for about 120 children on the lower and middle floors and the women sew on the top floor.

Up to 20 women at a time are given the opportunity to learn sewing skills on hand-operated sewing machines, on the floor of the small room I was working in. There were also three old treadle sewing machines. The women are taught pattern cutting and sewing of the school uniforms for the children in the Free School. It is a 6 month course, 5 afternoons a week for three hours. The women gain a certificate if the course is completed satisfactorily and sewing skills acquired. Some of the women walked miles from outlying villages to



attend. The course is free and there is a waiting list.

My friend, Ella, was in my home last summer and was fascinated by some patchwork sewing she saw. She invited me to India to teach her group of women the skills required – that was my opportunity! I devised and prepared three small individual projects for the women to sew by hand that were achievable and pleasing to make. Yes, I took everything with me, and yes, I was nearly overweight on the B.A. flight from Manchester to Delhi!

It was a pleasure to teach the women. They were delightful; shy at first, but ‘opening up’ as we grew to know each other. They did not speak English and I do not speak Hindi. Surprise! Surprise! Ella was my interpreter some of the time. It was not a problem! A few beaming smiles can say it all or a slight rolling of the eyes followed by a quick smile whilst I quickly sorted the sewing problem out worked just fine. Working conditions were challenging! I had 26 girls and women in a small hot room, all working on the floor. Their only ‘table’ was the floor – grey, dusty concrete. It was extremely hot. There was a ceiling fan that worked only intermittently.

The whole experience was very humbling. The women were so

appreciative and happy. These girls and women have nothing to give except their smiles and love and on the last afternoon I was presented with one or two small hand-made gifts that were wrapped in a bag made from newspaper. A few of the girls wanted to stand up and say a few words, which they did. Ella translated for me. Yes, it was emotional for me and hugs and tears followed. They did not want me to go home...

I was the paying guest of the Rev. Dr Ashish Amos most of the time I was in India. He is the I.S.P.C.K. General Secretary. He came in one afternoon to see us in action. He spoke to some of the women. He said they were so happy that someone had come especially to work with them and show them different skills, possibly skills they could take back to their villages and make small articles to sell.

I was pleased that I was able to do that for this group of ladies. I would like to thank the many friends and neighbours who gave me cottons, embroidery threads and money to help 'my' ladies. Thank you.

There is such disparity between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', I can scarcely get my head around it, but if we all give just a little of what we can offer, surely my world and my ladies' worlds will be a little richer. I thank God that I was given the opportunity to make my small offering.

*Janet Hall*

*Editor - Janet worships at St John's Church and is a member of the Ashbourne Churches Together Patna Partnership.*

Ashbourne



## **ASHBOURNE PATNA PARTNERSHIP**

### ***CAN YOU HELP?***

We are hosting four (male) Pastors from the Patna Diocese from **12th - 29th June**. A full programme of activities is planned but we are still in urgent need of offers of hospitality. Could you offer accommodation for one or two of them for a week or so? Or offer a lunch or evening meal? If you can help please contact John or Elizabeth Hurfurt on 01335 342859

# Ashbourne Church Family News

On Pentecost Sunday (24 May) we welcomed Roy and Jan Atkinson, Jim Harper, John and Helen Barker, Brian and Lorraine Hawkins and Steve Haines into membership and pray that they may be happy amongst us.

We pray for those recently bereaved, their families and friends, especially Sheila Cook.

We continue to pray for Tim's parents as his father remains very unwell and for Tim, Alison, Samuel and Jacob. We pray for those who remain unwell, for those recovering from surgery and those who care for them including Margaret and Don Cox, Ena and Trevor Staniforth, Wendy Haslam, Doris Harrison, and Maureen and Mike Gilbert, Margaret Smith, Brenda Hallam, Joan Constable and Cherry Dennison.

Others are undergoing tests, or waiting for tests, or waiting for appointments with consultants or on a waiting list for an operation. This can be a very worrying and difficult time. We pray too for others who are in a period of great difficulty for whatever reason, who prefer not to be named, including those with concerns over health issues, concerns for members of their family, those unhappy in their work or looking for work and those with mental health difficulties. Some have had changes of circumstances which they would not have chosen. Some have a great deal of pain in their lives, often unseen by others. Some find their difficulties cause their faith to be severely tested.

Our best wishes to Heather Mawdsley, daughter of Liz who marries Richard on 6 June.

We continue to pray for Stephen, son of Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe, who is studying at Derby.

If anyone would like prayer, there are people who pray regularly, normally on a Thursday at 1pm in the Vestry. Anyone is welcome to

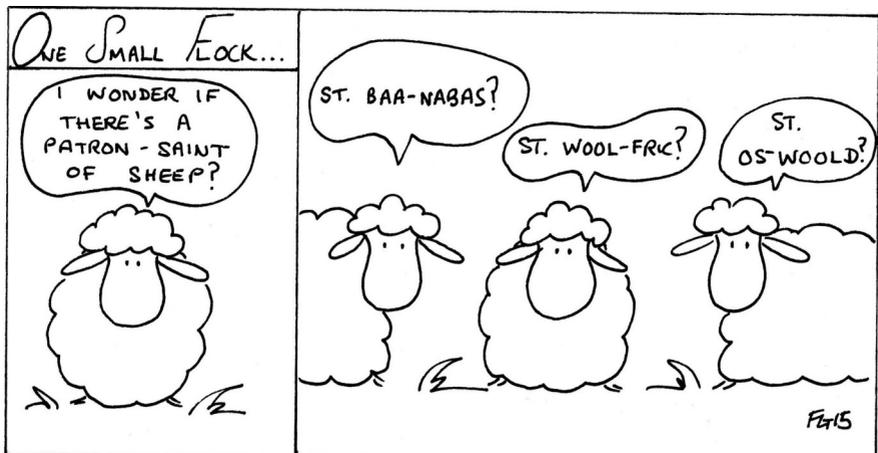
attend. Please contact Liz Mawdsley (344420) or Margaret Sharples (310072) if you want to know more. After worship on a Sunday, there are people available to pray with you or for you. Please ask a steward who has a list of people willing to do this.

As you are probably aware we have many job vacancies including crèche co-ordinator, Powersource staff, workers at The Cornerstone and Leadership steward. **All these roles need filling urgently.** Could you do one of these? If so, please speak to Tim Morris or John Dyster or Jacqui Marsh or Pat Fielding for further information. If you cannot, please pray the right people will come forward.

Elizabeth Spencer is part of the Chaplaincy Team at the Royal Derby Hospital as a Chaplaincy Visitor. She is also a Hospital Visitor at St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne. Could anyone who knows of people who are in hospital, or due to be, please let her know, if you would like prayers or for her to visit (348482).

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will direct your paths.” Proverbs Chapter 3 v 5-6 (NIV)

*Daphne Dyster, Pastoral Secretary 18.5.15*



## *Who's Who in ACT Now?*

The election for officers for ACT, *Ashbourne Churches Together* was a very dull affair – no tantalising pre election opinion polls, no disturbing exit polls! There was only one candidate for each vacancy. So who is who now?

Mike Warner who represents the Clifton part of the Ashbourne Benefice is Chairman and Mary Sharpe from All Saints Catholic Church is Vice Chairman. David Barrie of Ashbourne Methodist Church is Treasurer. Our Secretary is Clare Lewcock, St Oswald's Parish Secretary.

All the local clergy are ex officio members. Each Church in Ashbourne is entitled to send 2 lay representatives to the meetings. The Ashbourne Methodist Church representatives are Arthur Watts and Jacqui Marsh at the moment although Ian Marsh will probably replace Jacqui. The Methodist Circuit is represented by Val Kirkham from Parwich Chapel. Each of the Anglican Benefices in the Ashbourne Deanery can send a representative. In addition Jane Methuen speaks for the Patna Partnership and Elizabeth Hurfurt for Christian Aid and the *One World Group*. Dovedale House in Ilam has recently become associated with ACT.

This is all very mundane information but we hope that what ACT does is not. We try to show the community that although we come from different denominations we are all motivated by the same Spirit and that we want to witness and serve together. Most of the local Churches are part of ACT. If you are a member of a local church you are part of ACT. Please come and join your fellow Christians in ACT's activities.

*Elizabeth Hurfurt*



### **JMA Lunch.**

JMA members and friends are invited to our June lunch event on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 12-2pm** in The Cornerstone. Bring and Share lunch with special guests visiting us from India. If possible please let Ruth know if you can come along.



## *Surprised by Age?*

To explore how ageing, spirituality and faith are at the heart of the Church's Mission, based around MHA's own story. **Thursday 11th**

**June 9.30am - 1.00pm.** at Nuthall Methodist Church, Nottinghamshire NG16 1DW

Includes lunch .(Please let either myself or Lesley know if you are planning to attend as numbers are needed for catering purposes.)  
The aim is to provide church members, clergy, pastoral leaders, informal carers and older people themselves with both inspiration and ideas that will help the Church to continue recognising and addressing the needs of older people in the future.

This event is free and will be led by Rev Dr Keith Albans, MHA's Director - Chaplaincy & Spirituality.

Two breakout sessions will explore a variety of relevant topics, including Dementia, Spirituality and Later Life, Dying and Death and Serving Older People in the Community.

Lesley France. Faith Communities Relationship Co-ordinator, MHA.  
Tel: 01332 296200 / 07899 074269 [www.mha.org.uk](http://www.mha.org.uk)

*Tom Parkinson*, Ashbourne Circuit MHA Representative, 01335 324918.

## *Miscellaneous musings on life*

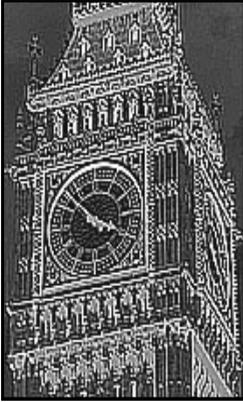
Anger is just one letter short of danger. - *Anon*

The world is the first Bible that God made for the instruction of man.  
*Clemens Alexandrinus*

Nature is the art of God. *Thomas Browne*

The Himalayas are the raised letters upon which we blind children put our fingers to spell out the name of God. *J H Barrows*

People treat the Ten Commandments like a history test - they attempt only three.



## *Connecting the Connexion*

### **Support the vulnerable**

Leaders from four major UK Churches (including the Methodist Church) have signed an open letter to the re-appointed Prime Minister, David Cameron, encouraging him to hold 'truth, justice, peace and wellbeing' at the heart of the government.

With a focus on 'loving our neighbour', the letter reminds the Prime Minister that a wholesome society should be concerned for the weakest and most vulnerable, both locally and globally.

The letter, signed by leaders of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church, highlights several of the key concerns that the Churches believe should be high on the agenda of the new government, calling for:

- a full review of the impact of the benefits sanctions system
- a postponement of further spending on Trident and a serious re-assessment of the need for nuclear weapons
- assertive international action to uphold human rights and deliver humanitarian assistance in Syria
- action to make freedom of religion a human rights priority in all aspects of foreign policy.

"Remembering our neighbours is vital for a healthy society," said Rachel Lampard, leader of the Joint Public Issues Team, which works on behalf of the Churches. "Whilst policies protecting the most weak and vulnerable of society may not always be the most popular, they are necessary to live out the common good, regardless of political perspective."

## **Celebrating the work of small rural churches**

In July the Arthur Rank Centre (ARC) invites congregations to join them for the launch of Rural Mission Sunday - an annual event celebrating the work of rural churches. The ARC has created unique materials enabling churches to run a special service on the theme of bread.

“We have dozens of resources to help,” says ARC Development Officer, Claire Hackwood, “including Bible readings, sermon ideas, prayers and recipes.”

The ARC aims to encourage and equip rural churches as they engage in mission, and Rural Mission Sunday is just one of numerous training programmes and resources designed to bring new life to the countryside. Download your free pack from [www.germinate.net](http://www.germinate.net).

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## **Beckly Lecture 2015: Monday 29 June at 7.15pm, Southport Convention Centre**

[The Beckly Lecture](#) takes place annually at the Methodist Conference. This year's lecture is entitled "*Magna Carta, the rule of law and access to justice in the age of austerity: a concern for the Church?*" The speaker is Andrew Caplen, President of the Law Society.

The lecture has been organised by the Joint Public Issues Team, the North Western Baptist Association and the Industrial Christian Fellowship.

The lecture is open to all and tickets are free, but please [book](#) early as space is limited.



## Methodist Women in Britain

### **Easter Offerings 2015**

A big Thank You to all who contributed to Easter Offerings. We are pleased to inform you that **£1110.25** was collected and sent to the World Mission Fund. £490.00 of this was gift aided so a further sum to come. Well done everybody!

### **AGM & Supper - Wednesday 24 June**

Please reserve this date and come along to our AGM and Supper which will be held in the Century Hall. The AGM will commence at 7 pm and will be followed by Supper. Tickets (price £5.00) will be available shortly. Watch the Notices for further information.

### **District Day - Monday 13 July**

This District Day will be held at Ripley. It will commence with business at 11 am with a break for lunch (packed lunch required) at approximately 12.30 pm. The afternoon session will commence at 2 pm when the speaker will be the Rev Dr Keith Albans of MHA who will speak on *Dementia Friendly Churches*. If you cannot get along in the morning, please try to come in the afternoon. Put in your diary **NOW**

### *Serving abroad – are you up for it?*

The Methodist Church is looking for people who feel called to cross-cultural mission overseas, who have a vision for mission and are willing to serve under local leadership. Might that be you?

Mission partners work alongside local people, and in many different environments from large cities to remote villages – often alongside the poorest and most marginalised.

The Methodist Church is currently looking for doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants, development workers and administrators to serve for three to six years in countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean and the South Pacific islands.

*More details by emailing [wcr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:wcr.admin@methodistchurch.org.uk). Or call 020 7486 5502.*

*Editor: Canon David Williams, a chaplain with the Thames Gateway NHS Trust (latterly, in retirement, in a voluntary capacity), finds the only basis for a new beginning in life.*

### **Repentance - a hopeful word!**

Much churchy language we use in worship is hard to understand for those who are unfamiliar with it. What, someone may ask in the C of E, is a 'gradual hymn'? Why not 'the next hymn'? Or what is a 'collect'? Why not a 'prayer'? True, but there are some words we should explain rather than stop using.

Meaning is important and we should not dumb down a profound word with a trivial one, like using the word 'sorry' instead of the Bible's word 'repent'. Sorry is a weak word, best used to apologise for trivial transgressions, like stepping on someone's toes, or arriving late, or getting the wrong end of the stick. When we confess our sins we need a stronger word than sorry, which we can almost say without thinking.

Repentance includes being sorry, but goes deeper; it is not just about what we say but about what we do. The word literally means 'to turn around', to go in a new direction, to resolve to put things right. That is why in our liturgy we say, 'I repent of my sins' rather than 'I am sorry'. Our sincerity is proved not just by what we say we regret but our resolve to change it.

In years gone by it was common to see black-suited men with grim faces on street corners holding placards with a mortal warning to passers-by, '**Repent – Flee from the Wrath to come**'. It was unhelpful to put such menace into the word 'repent'. Jesus certainly warned of the dire consequences of failing to repent, but his attitude to repentance was far more positive than that. When Jesus was scolded for keeping company with sinners, he replied, in St. Luke's Gospel: '*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*'

Repentance opens us to the forgiving love of God. When we admit our sins, to God and to one another, we repent, we don't just say sorry. Repentance leads to reconciliation and a new beginning. That's why Jesus also said, '*...there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who have no need to repent.*'



Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...

***On what security cameras in church will tell you***

From The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Much against my better judgement, after a recent series of small thefts, we have installed security cameras here at St. James the Least. At least the suggestion for trip wires that opened the gate to Mrs Poppleroys' garden next door, thereby setting loose her deranged Pekingese, were narrowly defeated – though I had to use my casting vote.

So now we have a complete record of everything that goes on when no one is about. It makes such interesting viewing that I have cancelled my television licence and spend every evening watching the antics of my parishioners. I wonder if there is some niche television channel which would be interested; it could help the tower restoration fund no end.

Miss Margison seems to imagine she is now part of some theatrical performance every time she cleans the church; her body language as she wields a feather duster is of operatic proportions, as is her final bow to the cameras as she leaves.

I have at last found the several hiding places where Mr Prentice secretes his bottle of whisky every week when he comes to wind the tower clock.

Colonel Wainwright, who served for some time in the security services, is now worried that pictures of him cleaning the brass will be circulated in Russia. He fails to appreciate that his disguise as a French onion seller, with striped jersey, beret and waxed moustache does tend to make his presence rather more interesting than he

imagines – to us, if not to the KGB.

The flower arrangers seem to imagine that we are recording sound as well as pictures and so whenever they are in church together, all gossip is written down and passed round by hand as they work in total silence. So far, they have remembered to take their pieces of paper home with them. One slip and I shall probably learn more about my parishioners in five minutes than I have done in the last five years.

The cameras have also solved the mystery of who has been pilfering the items - and even the nest where they have hidden it. If only I could teach the magpies to extract money from pockets and place it on the collection plate.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



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## *Smile Lines*

No doubt some of you like me over the weeks in April and May have reached for the Teletext button, or another channel, when the news was scheduled, (thank goodness also for Freeview!) as the incessant media have over hyped the coverage of the General Election and its aftermath. But the following article was in my son's South Devon Herd Book Newsletter For May, with thanks for the article from another organisation, the RASE Newsletter, caught our eye and I thought it was worth a laugh in this post election time for the readers of "CONNECTIONS"

While stitching the hand of a 75 year old farmer, the doctor struck up a conversation with him. Eventually the topic got around to politicians and their role as our leaders.

The old farmer said, "Well, as I see it, most politicians are post tortoises!"

Not being familiar with the term, the doctor asked what a post tortoise was?

The farmer said, "When you're driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a tortoise balanced on top, that's a post tortoise".

The farmer saw the puzzled look on the doctor's face, so he continued to explain.

"You know he did not get up there by himself; he does not belong up there; he doesn't know what to do while he's up there; he's elevated beyond his ability to function; and you just wonder what idiot put him up there to begin with!"

*Tom Parkinson*, (with thanks to the South Devon Herd Book Newsletter and the RASE Newsletter).

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### **Quote of the month**

Grandma: Would you like to go to the fair and ride on the merry-go-round, dear?

Modern child: I don't really mind, if it will amuse you.

## **ASHBOURNE CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Sun	6:30pm	Mustard (Youth Fellowship)
Mon	10:00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - David Heaton (343418)</i>
	2.00pm	Craft and Chat in The Cornerstone <i>Contact - Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	7:30pm	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - Helen Walker (343910)</i>
Tues	9.00am	kids@cornerstone <i>Contact - Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	10:00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - John &amp; Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
	12:30pm	Luncheon Club: last Tuesday in month, Century Hall <i>Contact - John &amp; Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
Wed	9:30am	Walk and Talk Group: 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday Amble & Ramble (easier walking): 2nd & 4th Weds <i>Contacts - Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i>
	7:30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact - Ken and Margaret Sharples (310072)</i>
Thurs	7:30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly - 1st and 3rd Thursdays <i>Contact - Jeff Ffoulkes (300443)</i>
Thurs, Fri, Sat	10:00am	The Cornerstone Coffee Shop <i>Contact - Pat Fielding (345695)</i>

## **BRAILSFORD CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Sun	9:15am	Breakfast: monthly, 3rd Sunday
Tues	9:30am	Coffee Shop: weekly
Wed	12:30pm	Luncheon Club: monthly, 2nd Wednesday

## **HULLAND CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Wed	7:30pm	Bible Study: monthly, 3rd Wednesday
Thurs	2:15pm	Women's Fellowship: monthly, 1st Thursday

## **KIRK IRETON CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Wed	7:30pm	Fellowship: monthly, 3rd Wednesday
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