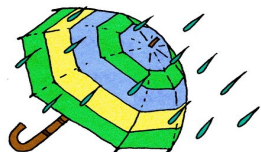


Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



March 2017

Letter from the Minister
The Manse 16 Booth Drive Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1SZ
Tel: 01335 342408 email: tim.morris@methodist.org.uk

March 2017

Dear Friends,

“For the journey!”

The whole of March is taken up this year with Lent. From Shrovetide through to Easter, we are on a journey from pancakes to Palm Crosses and hot cross buns. These symbols remind us, in an unspoken way, of the journey Lent takes us on, from our “giving up” to Christ’s “giving all”!



In church and chapel there will also be those visible signs that the people there are journeying through a particular season of the Christian year. Some places of worship won’t have flowers on the altar until Easter; others will have a garden tomb displayed; some will have crosses placed inside or out, draped, as appropriate, near Easter in purple cloth and crown of thorns, then a white cloth, or adorned with flowers for Easter.



The impact of these is for all to see. Yet, greater still is the witness in our lives of the journey we are on. Our lives have to show the nature of that journey and the God we travel with. The pilgrimage through Lent is not just about the outward and visible signs that we cherish, but about what’s going on inside us.



I hope and pray that through our worship, housegroups, lent lunches, lent courses and privately, other people will witness the journey we are on and enable us to invite them too, to reflect on the season of Lent – the offering of

God’s love and forgiveness, friendship and grace.

May this Lenten season prepare us for the celebration of Easter this year.

Your minister and friend,



Ashbourne Church Family News

We send our congratulations to Rebecca, daughter of Jonathan and Rosemary Webb who will marry Sam at Riverside Church, Derby on March 11th. Church friends are welcome to attend the ceremony if they would like to.

Please remember to pray for those who remain unwell, for those recovering from surgery and those waiting for tests or results and those having ongoing treatment. These include Mary Murphy, Margaret Allen, Margaret Cox, Doris Harrison, Maureen and Mike Gilbert, Marjorie Stephenson, Josie Winbow, Nerida Maddock, Doris Titterton and Derek Blenkinsop. Let's remember carers too.

Thank you to all who visit those in need and all who encourage others by sending cards and making phone calls. For some just daily living is difficult. You will know the names of those for whom you will be prompted to pray. Some of us have family members who are seriously ill and we are concerned for them. If you hear of anyone in our fellowship who is unwell or in difficulty, could you please inform their pastoral visitor or housegroup leader or let me know (unless they have specifically asked you not to). If people wish to be included for prayer in the future, please do let me know.

Tom and Ann Parkinson have transferred their membership to Kniveton Chapel. We are thankful for the way in which they support so many of the Circuit Chapels and are assured that we will still see them at Ashbourne.

We continue to pray for Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe and their children. Stephen has completed study in Derby and needs guidance for his future and Suzanna continues study in Cambridge and has a part-time job.

It is the time of year when our young people are working towards exams. Josh Dutton will be taking A levels and Joy Mallard and Samuel Morris take GCSE this May. Prayer for them and their families would be really appreciated.

A number of our fellowship continue to travel to care for elderly parents and relatives or care for them at home. We pray for these and others who must travel a lot for their work in this winter weather. After worship on a Sunday, there are people available to pray with you or for you. Please ask a steward who knows people willing to do this. The weekly prayer meeting takes place at church at 9.30 am on a Thursday. It is a time for us to pray together for needs of the church and the wider world.

This month I want to highlight those many of our fellowship who volunteer by giving of their time and gifts to the benefit of so many. I started to make a list of all those activities where people volunteer but gave up for fear of leaving some out! So this month my particular focus for prayer is for the Property Development team; John Barker, Catherine Green, Paul Haslam, Ian Marsh, Tim Morris and Tony Walker. Many have heavy jobs in the week too. If you are one of the many volunteers in any area of church life, your contribution is greatly appreciated as we all benefit.

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 prayer, or for her to visit (348482). I have her e-mail address if you prefer to use that, please ask.

David says in Psalm 86 verse 11 "Teach me your way O Lord and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart that I may fear your name."

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 13.02.17

Distribution of Connections magazine

Each month a number of magazines are not collected. Do you still wish to receive a named copy of the magazine? Perhaps you prefer to read it from the website? Would you like to be added or removed from the distribution list?

Please send details to Carole Thorpe on cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535.

Dates for your Diary

March

Friday 3	11:00	Women's World Day of Prayer, AMC
Tuesday 7	10:00	Tissington Church Council
Wednesday 15	14:00	Hulland Church Council
Sunday 26	18:00	"Agent of Change" Youth-led service at Cotgrave
Wednesday 29	19:30	Brailsford Church Council

April

Saturday 8	10:00	District Synod
Wednesday 12	10:00	Messy Church at Ashbourne
Thursday 13	19:30	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 14	10:30	Good Friday Service
Friday 14	12:15	ACT Walk of Witness
Saturday 15	11:00	Walk at Milldale
Saturday 15	14:00	Milldale Easter Service
Sunday 16	8:00	Early Easter Communion Service, Ashbourne
Monday 24	19:30	Circuit Meeting at Hulland village hall
Saturday 29		"Being God's People in an Age of Injustice" at Loughborough University

May

Sunday 14 Ashbourne	10:30	Easter Offering Circuit Service,
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For more information please see the Circuit Plan.



METHODIST HOMES

It's that time of year again when I ask you for your MHA collecting boxes, or any other spare cash you may have from Off Shore Accounts, Buried Treasure, Dormant Deposit Boxes, Gold Bullion or stuffed under the bed, etc, that can be given to MHA to be cleared before the end of the financial year.

Ideally I would like everything by the last week in March, 18th to the 25th to ensure everything is delivered to MHA by the end of March.

I would be quite happy to come and collect your box if you cannot get to bring it to church. Also, if you wish to convert the cash into a cheque and send it to me if that simpler for you that would be fine.

Tom Parkinson MHA Ashbourne Representative. ☎324918.

Lent 2017 in Ashbourne

Please come and join in...



Lent is a time leading up to Holy Week and Easter when Christians traditionally make time for study, prayer and fellowship. To provide resources for that, Ashbourne Churches Together offers a series of frugal lunches and reflections.

In addition, you are invited to join a group for a course over the five weeks starting from Wednesday 8th March. The course, "*Pilgrim: a Course for the Christian Journey*" focuses on the Ten Commandments and their relevance and application today, and is available at two different times each week.

The dates and venues are as follows:

Wednesdays Lent Lunch – 12.30pm. A simple lunch is provided by the hosts at each church, donations welcome. You are then welcome to stay on for the lively and reflective time at the Lent Course (1.15pm-2.30pm):

8th March @ Ashbourne Methodist Church
15th March @ Elim Pentecostal Church
22nd March @ Ashbourne Methodist Church
29th March @ St Oswald's Church Hall
5th April @ All Saints Church, Belle Vue Road

Thursdays 10.00am - 11.30am

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th March and 6th April (NB: six sessions)
@ 1 Hambleton Close, Ashbourne DE6 1NG, hosted by Canon Edmund Urquhart



The course booklet will be available at each session. If you miss one session you can go to a different time. Drop in for one, two, or all.

When *Craft & Chat* started three years ago, we had no idea that it would become such a vibrant, supportive, and outward-looking environment for those of us who attend.

If you don't really know what we do, the clue is in the title... but it's so much more than that.

Yes, we bring our crafts – knitting is easily the most popular. Yes, we chat – which is always popular!

But we also support a range of projects. We have raised money for Mind, the mental health charity. We have supported Careline by selling off the flowers from the Alternative Flower festival. We are currently knitting twiddlemuffs (google it!), that are used in the care of dementia patients. It is actually remarkably rare to find us working on things that are just for ourselves. Our outreach is in the things we make as well as in our openness to the community.

Our Easter and Christmas cross stitch banners on the front railings of the church (with which church members helped) told our Christian story in a public space. And our *Facebook* page has 75 followers who week by week see what we do – though it has to be admitted that a fair few of the pictures show biscuits and cups of tea!

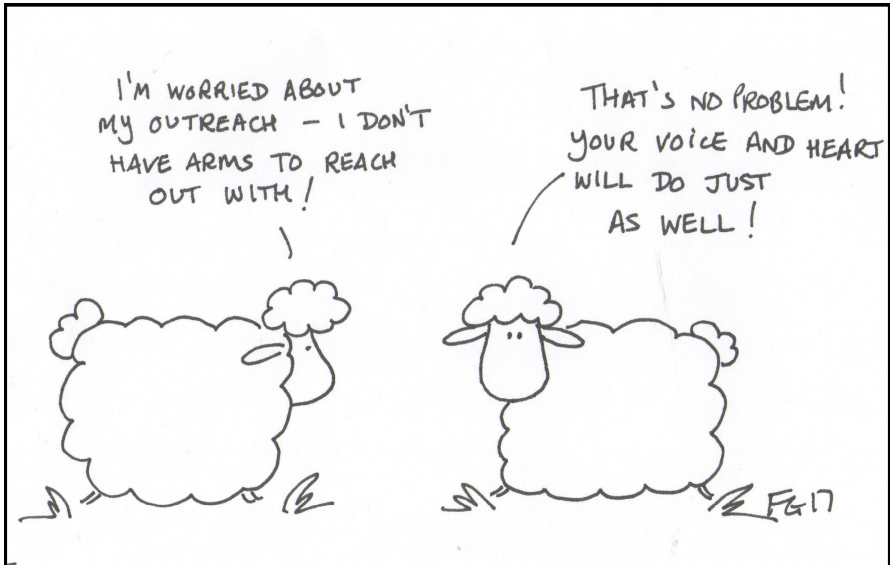
We have plans for another yarn bombing event this year to coincide with the Ashbourne Festival. Last summer's event brought a great many people to and *into* the church building – often a difficult first step if it's an unknown quantity.

We welcome anyone and everyone as long-term or short-term members and we welcome occasional tourists who fancy a cup of tea and want to tell us about their own church. We have heard some wonderful stories, brilliant ideas and shared experiences.

Although many of those who attend are from Ashbourne Methodist, we also welcome people who have no other connection with our church. Over a cup of tea and biscuits, links are made with people from our wider community. Jane has joined our group since becoming our Family Outreach Worker so making another link.

We'd love you to join us at **Craft & Chat** – either regularly or once in a while. We always have fun and the chat is interspersed with a great deal of laughter. See you soon!

Fiona and Clare



MISSION

MATTERS

ACE YOUTH TRUST February 2017

The following fascinating and, for some of us, disturbing report from David Bale is well worth reading. The work of the ACE Trust here in Ashbourne is invaluable and worthy of our prayers and support.

Since 2006 ACE Youth Trust has delivered life changing pastoral support and youth services to young people aged 11-19 living in Ashbourne and the surrounding area – young people who are in some way vulnerable, disadvantaged and/or hard to reach and for whom

there is no other comparable provision. The aim is to help these young people to grow as individuals and to improve their quality of life.

Many young people today face a range of difficulties - exclusion from school, trouble with the police and prosecution, bullying, social ostracisation, truancy, low self-esteem, teenage pregnancy, alcohol, drug and substance abuse and dependency, stress, anxiety or mental health issues. Many also are victims of loneliness, family breakdown, bereavement, sexual abuse and/or rural isolation. The rise of new threats brought on by the proliferation of mobile Internet devices and the universal use of social media, such as cyberbullying and sexting, is particularly worrying. Quality of life is poor and the future uncertain for those who struggle with isolation and loss of confidence.

ACE supports young people by providing a range of services which are targeted to meet their individual needs - pastoral support, one to one mentoring, recreational and leisure activities, opportunities for socialisation, support for schooling, training and coaching as well as practical help and advocacy for those who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) e.g. with job applications, benefit claims, work experience, interviews, advice and guidance and for Education Health and Care Plans. New projects include spACE4u which was established to provide support for 11-16 year olds dealing with issues affecting their mental and emotional wellbeing and most recently a new Nurture Group initiative which is run in collaboration with QEGS for selected pupils in Years 7 and 8.

ACE enjoys a close working relationship with QEGS and its services are available by referral only from QEGS, Derbyshire County Council – Children Services and Social Care as well as NHS GP practices. At any given time, we work with approximately 50 young people and their families and currently have 30 active volunteers, 2 qualified part-time youth workers and a part-time administrator.

Example of a recent ACE initiative:

Those who attended the ACE Chameleon Choir concert in December will know that ACE has produced a short promotional video, containing true story animations and interviews with young people, volunteers and trustees, co-funded by the Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services - *Better Derbyshire Dales Fund*. This has provided a fantastic

learning and work experience opportunity for our young people. One young person who is not in employment, education or training and suffers from mental health problems and autism has spent several days on a work experience placement with the video production company, learning about the development of storyboards and undertaking some filming. Another has spent half a day in the studio learning about animation, others have helped plan and organise activities to provide filming opportunities for the video crew and still others have participated in interviews.

For ACE young people the production of the video has been an exciting project, opening their eyes to a world of possibilities beyond their immediate horizon. It has provided opportunities to build on life's experiences, increase confidence and self-esteem, and created a focus for those who lack motivation and purpose. One young person is now signed up for a Level 1 course in Media Production at Derby College. Another has decided to return to Joseph Wright College to complete A Level English and is talking about exploring the possibilities of further English studies at the University of Derby.

A short version of the video can be seen at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnYsgmQSbPe8jTfDQ9oxzMw>

Please continue to pray for ACE and all of its young people, volunteers and staff and especially for:

- the young people attending the new Nurture Groups at QEGS and those who are giving up so much time to help make them a success;
- the young people of Wednesday Club, that further volunteers will come forward to enable us to accept more young people and reduce the waiting list of referrals;
- the young people attending the weekly Homework Club and the small group of committed volunteers who provide much needed support and mentoring services;
- the one-to-one mentoring scheme and, in particular, those experienced volunteers who are bearing the load of difficult situations; and
- the trustees as they continue to seek God's will for the future direction of ACE, enabling them to embrace and respond to change, so that ACE continues to deliver services that are relevant and life-enhancing to those who are most in need.

- ACE Induction and Safeguarding Training – 18th March 2017

If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering for ACE and would like to get a flavour of what is involved, please come along to the next volunteer training session to be held at Clifton Village Hall 9am to 1pm on Sat 18th March. RSVP to Louisa Duckmanton, ACE Project Administrator, at admin@aceyouth.org.uk or telephone 07468 424287.

Thank you, David. Please remember to collect and use *Mission Matters for Prayer* in the church vestibule.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary AMC

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE - *Sponsored by Ashbourne Lions Club*

We have these plastic bottles on the bookcase in the entrance lobby at AMC but no-one seems to know what they are for so here's some information.

This is a voluntary scheme for anyone living at home who might be reassured to know that essential information would be readily available to the Emergency Services should they suffer an accident or sudden illness. The scheme ensures that vital information is available not only to identify you, but to advise of relevant illnesses, allergies, medication and contact addresses.

When emergency services see medical information and personal details of a patient they can render safer and speedier First Aid by shortcutting time consuming fact-finding enquiries about the patient.

Supported by Ambulance, Police, Fire & Rescue Services, Emergency Doctors and NHS Primary Care Trusts. If you'd like one please help yourself.

Kay Orme

CAR STICKERS POPULAR WITH WOMEN (*I'm told*)

1. My mother is a travel agent for guilt trips.
2. Princess, having had sufficient experience with princes, seeks frog.
3. Coffee, chocolate, men. Some things are just better rich.
4. Don't treat me any differently than you would the Queen.
5. If you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen.

I need your old laptops!

Following the decision to set up a fundraising team for the AMC Church Development Project, I am making an appeal for your old laptops. I am proposing to renovate old laptops, and then sell them on E - bay or locally. I am not charging for my time, so the money will then be donated to the building appeal.



You need not worry about old data on the hard drives, as these will be forensically erased using a special “scrubbing” program. If extra memory can be added, this will be done also. I will then install Windows 7 on these machines, plus Office and an antivirus program.

Don't worry if the laptop is damaged, in most instances I can replace the keypad, screen or sometimes the casing. Otherwise I will use the components as spares for other machines.

As many of you will already know, support for Windows XP has long passed and support for Vista expires this April. Many of these laptops will still be able to be elevated to Windows 7 provided they have the potential to be physically upgraded.

Similarly, if you have a machine that you just want to be upgraded, then just contact me and I will be happy to work on it. This applies to repairs and things like virus removal, software fixes and general diagnostics.

Windows 7 is supported until January 2020, although this may be extended. Windows 8 is basically unstable and can be upgraded to Windows 10, which Microsoft has stated will be their last operating system and as such will be continually updated.

Gareth Rutledge.

ASHBOURNE WEEKLY NOTICES

Three people have been sharing the production of the Ashbourne weekly notices for some time now. While we are quite prepared to carry on with this, perhaps there is someone who would consider taking over this role or joining us. It is an excellent way of finding out what is going on in our church. More information from *Clare Sales, Helen Walker or John Hurfurt.*

No Holds Barred!

I am writing this brief article from within the Derby Women's prison, HMP Foston Hall. So no holds barred!

I have just completed Rota visit B on behalf of our 10 person **Independent Monitoring Board** (IMB): seven members and 3 Probationers We visit the prison as voluntary community members employed formally by the Ministry of Justice on a rota visit 3 times per week. We talk to the prisoners and monitor their well being; taking secondary complaints from our collection boxes on each wing and also if we are stopped " on the hoof"! We are not counsellors but are community " eyes and ears" and have access to almost anywhere in the prison and records under 1952 Prisons Act.

Meeting once a month as a board we compare notes and bring any live issues to the Governor ranging from treatment concerns relating to staff or fellow prisoners, health matters, property, accommodation and so on.

The prison was calm on this visit but this is not to disguise the multiple problems which face remand and convicted prisoners here. Recent feedback from prisoners indicated:

- I. Drugs and alcohol were the highest perceived contributory factors in offending.
- II. 2/3 of the women acknowledged mental health issues and many had self-harmed (2/3 again).
- III. 50% were on medication.
- IV. 1 in 3 had no fixed abode.
- V. A significant number had no job or had never had a job:1 in 3 had no qualifications.
- VI. 2/3 were caught up in domestic violence.
- VII. 85% said they needed advice in financial matters, benefits and debt.

In the men's prisons particularly, you will have followed in the news the waves of concern at the greatly increased violence, assaults(on staff and fellow prisoners), self -harm and suicides. Most people in the Prison Service see this mainly due to the cuts in staffing.

The Government are rushing to rectify this situation but the damage has been done and the effects will last for some years.

For most of us these problems are remote but surely a nation is judged by its treatment of the vulnerable. Over the last 1-2 years some of us have been trying to connect an arm of *Youth For Christ*, that works with offenders, with Foston Hall. The worker engages with drama, modern music leading, if successful, to life -skill training.

Could you consider praying for the success of this venture over the following weeks/months?

If you feel you can pray regularly for the well-being and rehabilitation of the prisoners, staff and ourselves, (the IMB) we would be very grateful.

Mike Dennison

Editor - If you'd like to know more about Foston Hall, apart from talking to Mike, you might like to read the Report of the official unannounced inspection last October of Foston Hall by HM Inspector of Prisons at

<http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmiprison/inspections/hmp-yoi-foston-hall/>



District Day - 8 March 2017

Our next District Day will be on **Wednesday 8 March** at Bethel Methodist Church Mansfield. Registration (£2.00) and Coffee will be from

10 am with the business meeting commencing at 10.30 am. We shall break for lunch at approximately 12.30 pm (packed lunch required). The afternoon service will commence at 2 pm when the speaker will be from the Alzheimers Society. It should be an interesting day - why not come along?

Fair Trade Quiz Night - Saturday 18 March 2017

We are holding a Quiz Night on Saturday 18 March commencing at 7 pm and ending at 9 pm. We hope to make it a family friendly evening based on *Fair Trade*. Admission is £5.00 with children free. The proceeds will be equally divided between Traidcraft Exchange and the Mambabu Project, Sierra Leone.

Do come along for a fun evening!

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall – how do you see yourself this Lent?

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: social action, political power, and religious identity (Luke 4: 1-13). It is as though Jesus looked into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He would be.

We can also think of Lent as an opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It is a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and the world in which we live. How will you keep Lent period of 40 days running up to Easter? What will you see when you hold up the mirror to yourself? Alongside taking time to read Scripture, study a Christian book and pray with fasting, why not give up texting for Lent and simply talk on the phone; commit ourselves to just working 40 hours a week or spend five minutes each day in silence!

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.

Rev Paul Hardingham

QUOTE With MOTHERING SUNDAY IN MIND

I learned more about Christianity from my mother than from all the theologians of England. *John Wesley.*



Have a Fairtrade Easter....

Celebrate Easter by giving your neighbours and friends a Real Easter Egg, the only chocolate egg to tell the real Easter story.

Each box contains a Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (125g), a 24 page illustrated Easter story booklet and a 25g Fairtrade milk chocolate bar. Eggs cost £3.99 each, and for every egg you buy 10p is donated to Traidcraft Exchange to help small scale farmers and producers to trade their way out of poverty. They are available to order from Clare Sales (gatefarm1-btinternet.com / 01335 342321). Please place your orders as soon as possible as every year stocks of Real Easter Eggs have run out well before Easter, but by **Sunday 2 April** at the very latest.

The Spring *Traidcraft* catalogue is also now available showcasing many other chocolate treats and craft and food gifts. Please ask Clare if you would like one.

Editor: Nigel Beeton observes: New life, new growth, and an annual reminder of our own hope of resurrection – who can fail to love Spring ?

SPRING

Another winter finished;
Our hearts are full of joy!
The icy frosts diminish
And summer sun's ahoy!

Last summer seems so distant
The autumn leaves long gone;
But now, each passing instant
Is full of sunny song.

The seasons flow reminds us –
The climbing, sinking sun;
That death's dread cords won't bind us
Our time with Christ will come!

Nigel Beeton

THE WAY I SEE IT – the strange rise of ‘Post-Truth’

The strange phrase ‘Post-truth’ emerged, the media tell us, as ‘the Word’ of 2016.

But as Post-truth, put crudely, is the assumption that nothing we read, see or hear is reliably factual, we may presumably take that claim, too, as unproven.

Thirty years working in the media convinced me, long ago, that quite a lot of what passes for ‘news’ is in fact either fiction or highly decorated fact. Try looking at the newspaper headlines this morning, and then read the story below them carefully. Very frequently the eye-catching headline (‘Fish and chips postpones dementia’) is only true in the sense that someone has said it. The full story (in a responsible paper) finally sets it in context. It’s based on a small piece of research by a group of students in California and professional medical sources have ridiculed the suggestion.

Post-truth takes us further, however. It implies that the ‘truth’ is less important than the impression. This apparently follows from the dominating influence, certainly with people under 50, of the ‘social media’ – Facebook, Twitter and so on. A great deal of what people post there, to be read often by a huge number of people, is simply fabrication. It is read and passed on not because people think it is true, but because it is interesting, amusing or shocking. Somehow it then becomes part of the social climate. ‘Have you seen the post in Twitter about the lady who sent her dog to school instead of her daughter?’

Post-truth is a menace because it devalues the currency of debate, distorts our decision-making and in the end turns us all into sceptics. Whatever happened to the ‘honest truth’?

Canon David Winter

Editor - David Winter was the former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC. This article caught my eye as recently we have heard the phrase “fake news” being banded about by politicians and others. It seems a close relative of “post-truth” and one we should be aware of.

The Transfiguration – a glimpse of Jesus' future glory

The story is told in Matthew (17:1-9), Mark (9:1-9) and Luke (9:28-36).

It was a time when Jesus' ministry was popular, when people were seeking him out. But on this day, he made time to take Peter, James and John, his closest disciples, up a high mountain. In the fourth century, Cyrillic of Jerusalem identified it as Mount Tabor (and there is a great church up there today), but others believe it more likely to have been one of the three spurs of Mount Hermon, which rises to about 9,000 feet, and overlooks Caesarea Philippi.

High up on the mountain, Jesus was suddenly transfigured before his friends. His face began to shine as the sun, his garments became white and dazzling. Elijah and Moses, of all people, suddenly appeared, and talked with him. A bright cloud overshadowed the disciples.

Peter was staggered, but, enthusiast that he was - immediately suggested building three tabernacles on that holy place, one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. But God's 'tabernacling', God's dwelling with mankind, does not any longer depend upon building a shrine. It depends on the presence of Jesus, instead. And so a cloud covered them, and a voice spoke out of the cloud, saying that Jesus was his beloved son, whom the disciple should 'hear'. God's dwelling with mankind depends upon our listening to Jesus.

Then, just as suddenly, it is all over. What did it mean? Why Moses and Elijah? Well, these two men represent the Law and the Prophets of the Old Covenant, or Old Testament. But now they are handing on the baton, if you like: for both the Law and the Prophets found their true and final fulfilment in Jesus, the Messiah.

Why on top of a mountain? In Exodus we read that Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the sacred covenant from Yahweh in the form of the Ten Commandments. Now Jesus goes up and is told about the 'sealing' of the New Covenant, or New Testament of God with man, which will be accomplished by his coming death in Jerusalem.

That day made a lifelong impact on the disciples. Peter mentions it in his second letter, 2 Peter 1:16 - 19 - invariably the reading for this day.

The Eastern Churches have long held the Transfiguration as a feast as important as Christmas, Epiphany, Ascension and Pentecost. But it

took a long time for the West to observe the Transfiguration. The feast starts appearing from the 11th and 12th centuries, and the Prayer Book included it among the calendar dates, but there was no liturgical provision for it until the 19th century.

Editor– The Transfiguration is depicted in our cover picture this month.



On Weddings in Spring

The Rectory
St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Just as undertakers, or Funeral Directors as I believe they prefer to be called, rub their hands in glee at the coming of Winter frosts, so hoteliers with banqueting suites become animated at the first signs of Spring. We have arrived at the first phase of the marriage season. As the days begin to lengthen and trees start to bud, young men find it irresistible not to propose to potential brides. Some people wait to hear the first cuckoo to let them know Spring is on its way; I wait to hear the first knock on the Rectory door from couples wanting to book their wedding.

Naturally, my first job is to try to put them off; it would save them a great deal of money and give me many more free Saturdays. But I always fail, and so the big day is booked. Nowadays, there is such a time lag between booking a marriage service and it taking place, I sometimes think it would be easier to book the service first and then look for someone to marry at a later, more convenient, time.

Last year, it was somewhat different with one couple. They were both in their late eighties (a good time to contemplate a first marriage, in my opinion) and asked if they could arrange to get married as soon as possible. The usual reason for a hurried marriage seemed unlikely at their age and so I asked why. Their answer was charming: “At our age, we might not still be here if the great day is much delayed.”

Of course, booking a marriage is the simplest part of the whole procedure. There are florists to negotiate with - made even more complex should there be more than one marriage that day. One bride wants all white, the other red, and so one set of priceless flowers is trundled out of church by one set of florists while a competitor barrows in the next confection.

Photographers are inclined to think aisles are racetracks, pews for standing on and that all church furniture is moveable - generally once the service has started. I place all photographers in the west gallery before the service and lock them in - apologising for my fit of absent-mindedness afterwards.

Courses should be offered at theological colleges on placating irate bell-ringers when the bride is half-an-hour late, cooling down organists when the happy couple ask to come in to an organ arrangement of a Led Zeppelin number, and re-assuring the choir that the guests meant no disrespect as they made mobile phone calls in church while the choir sang Ave Maria, once we had disappeared to sign the registers.

However, nothing will ever calm down a vergger who has been left to sweep up several hundredweights of confetti once everyone else has gone home. Personally, I find a restorative sherry back at the rectory works wonders.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

BOOK REVIEW - Editor—*Our Mission Partners in Zimbabwe are the Hill family so I thought this might be of special interest.*

The Axe and the Tree - How bloody persecution sowed the seeds of new life in Zimbabwe

By Stephen Griffiths, LionHudson, £9.99

This is a powerful account of British missionaries, Peter and Brenda Griffiths, who played a critical role in the development of the Elim church in the aftermath of the Vumba massacre. Peter and Brenda Griffiths, Stephen's parents, and their team had set up a superb secondary school, only for guerrillas to slaughter almost all the staff. After their funerals Peter maintained that forgiveness for the attackers was the Christian thing to do. This is an inspiring story of Peter and Brenda's courage, sacrifice, and faithfulness in God, who despite the atrocities, continues to build His church in Zimbabwe.



SMILE LINES

Ask children about angels...*(and this is what you get!)*

Angels talk all the way while they're flying you up to heaven. The main subject is where you went wrong before you got dead. - *Daniel, age 9*

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. - *Reagan, age 10*

Angels have a lot to do and they keep very busy. If you lose a tooth, an angel comes in through your window and leaves money under your pillow. Then when it gets cold, angels go south for the winter. - *Sara, age 6*

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his son, who's a very good carpenter. - *Jared, age 8*

All angels are girls because they gotta wear dresses and boys didn't go for it. - *Antonio, age 9*

On the road

A teenager was always asking his parents if he could borrow the family car. Pushed to the limit one day, the father demanded of his son why he thought 'The Almighty' had given him two feet. Without hesitation, the son replied: "That's easy, one for the clutch and one for the accelerator."

The following appeared in the magazine of the Light Music Society:

Sign on door of music shop: Gone Chopin, but have Liszt, so Bach in a Minuet!

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday March 5th

Ashbourne	10:30	Jane Bowley	All Age
	18:30	Stuart Mustow	
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	United Service at Methodist
Hulland	14:30	Fiona Green	

Sunday March 12th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	18:30	Tim Dutton	
Brailsford	10:30	Ann Parkinson	
Hulland	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Kniveton	14:30	Tom Parkinson	
Parwich	14:30	John Dyster	

Sunday March 19th

Ashbourne	10:30	Robert Sales	
	18:30	PRAISE	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Diana Whitmill	
Hulland	14:30	Tom Parkinson	
Tissington	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	

Sunday March 26th

Ashbourne	10:30	John Whitehead	
	18:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion,
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age
Hulland	14:30	Stuart Mustow	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Peter Dawson	
Kniveton	11:00	Tim Dutton	
Parwich	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age

From the Editor

Dear Friends,
 Hope you enjoyed this month's edition. Feedback, ideas and especially contributions welcome. Front cover art work welcome.
 Deadline for April edition **15th March** published **26th March**.
 Arthur Watts

E-mail - postmaster@arthurandjoy.plus.com

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 & Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
	12:30pm	Luncheon Club: last Tuesday in month, Century Hall <i>Contact - John & 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

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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CIRCUIT STAFF

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How we achieved our target of £5000 for the Burkina Faso Project