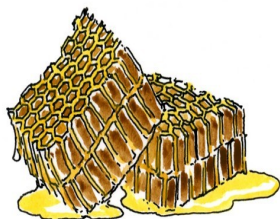
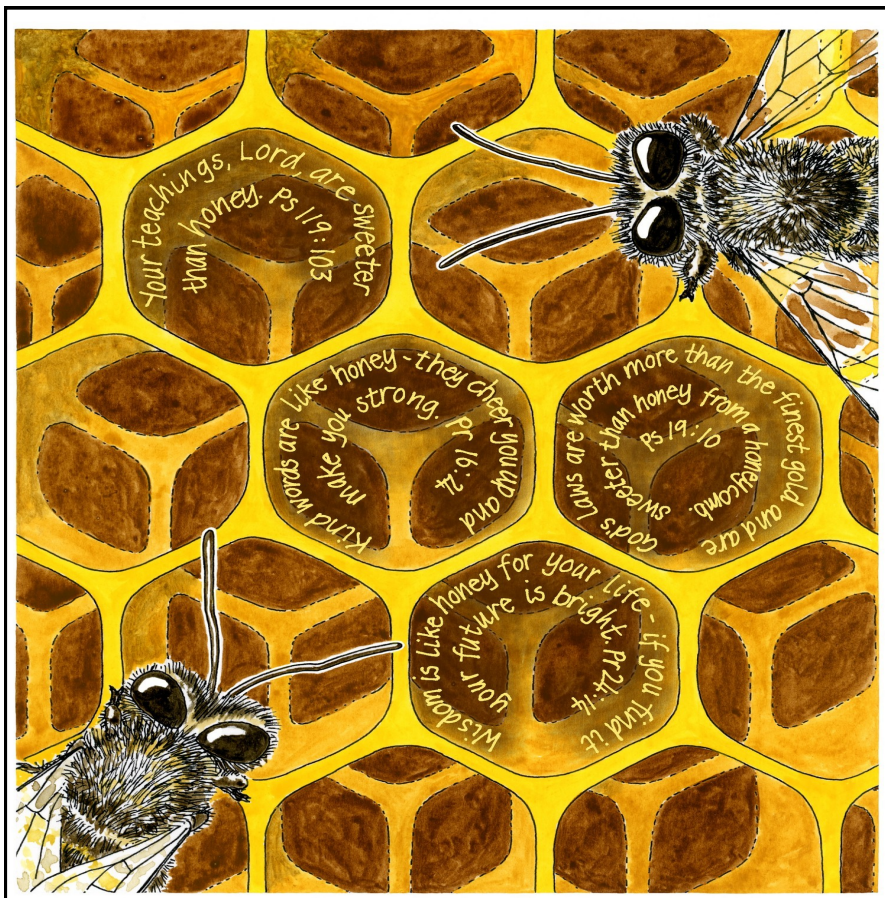


# Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



July &  
August 2017

**From Jane Bowley,  
Family Outreach Worker at Ashbourne Methodist Church**

Dear friends,

It is my honour and pleasure to be writing to you this month. As I sit at the computer in the office I can hear the pigeons call and the gentle hum of traffic with the sun shining through the window. The weather has been very changeable lately. Last week I was at Cliff College participating in my final week of degree study of the year. I stayed through the weekend for *Connecting Disciples*, the annual conference for Methodist lay workers and volunteers. The weather was also mixed then; we had wind rain and sun, all the seasons in one week!

As a student of Cliff my week was taken up with lectures on the subject of leadership, culminating in a communication skills exercise. The whole week was rounded off with a moving service of Holy Communion at which the Chair of District and President Designate Lorraine Mellor spoke about our leadership role as ambassadors as in 2 Corinthians 5:20, '... we are Christ's ambassadors.'

It is the season when lots of us will be taking our annual holiday and when our church provides hospitality at the Ashbourne Show. These occasions are examples of times when we can be clearly seen as ambassadors for Christ. The definition for an ambassador implies high office often in a foreign land. We may not be holidaying abroad and certainly Osmaston is not far to travel, but these events are beyond our everyday life and arguably in a 'foreign land' alien to the kingdom of God.

As ambassadors we carry Christ's message to a world where Christianity is almost a second language. We are the interpreters, envoys and hinges for the door to be opened for people to see Jesus. My challenge to you is to be 10% braver this summer in a role as ambassadors for Christ wherever and whenever we have the opportunity.

Have a great summer and may God bless you richly,

*Jane*

# **Ashbourne Church Family News**

*“For the LORD Most High is awesome, the great King over all the earth.” Psalm 47.2*

With the events of the last couple of months in our land, let’s remind ourselves again and again of the verse above. Indeed God reigns and He knows the hurt and confusion that we see.

We give thanks for Rev Tim Morris who has completed 25 years as a Methodist minister.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Ken Wall who passed away recently. Marion Cruikshank is now settled back in Scotland. Her daughter, Tia, remains in Ashbourne.

As I look back on the names of those for whom we have prayed over the last months, I see many answers to prayer- God upholding those through bereavement, those who have benefitted from surgery, those who are in a stable but continuing position and those who are healed and whole again.

There are those for whom we continue to pray either because they are unwell or because there are ongoing tests; Margaret Allen, Jean Bailey, David Heaton, Barbara Holland, Maureen Gilbert and Rev Tim Morris and family.

Arthur Watts and Kay Orme are recovering from broken arms! Just talk to God for these people and for others who have needs that you know about who prefer not to be named.

Let’s listen to God for his promptings so that He can remind us of people for whom to pray as we go about our daily routine. Your visits and phone calls to those who are ill or housebound are much appreciated. Remember those who make long journeys to see loved ones. You can always contact a pastoral visitor, house group leader or me if you hear of anyone who is unwell or in difficulty. (Unless they have specifically asked you not to)

Congratulations to Andrew Lewer on his election as Member of Parliament for Northampton South.

Congratulations to Rachel and Simon Lewis on the birth of their son Jacob Phillip on 14 June, a brother for Sophie and grandson for Helen and Tony Walker.

Most of our young people will have exams behind them by the time you read this. Let's pray they and their families will enjoy a stress free summer.

We continue to pray for Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe and their children, Stephen and Suzanna. Stephen graduates on 13 July from Derby and Susanne is completing her second year studying in Cambridge. Jonathan and Isabel will be in the UK for about a month from 10 July.

On August 14, for three days, Kirsty Durose will be swimming in the World Masters in Budapest (25years or over). Her qualifying times were such that she is able to compete in the 100m butterfly, the 100m front crawl, and the 100m with 4 strokes (25 strokes each of breast, back, butterfly and crawl) Go for it Kirsty!

We are glad to have Ruth Barratt appointed as a Lay Chaplain to be part of the Ashbourne Town Chaplaincy and we need to support the team in prayer.

As we see encouraging progress in the Link Development Project we need, as a church, to pray for an understanding of God's purpose for us and how the new premises will facilitate it.

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.

If you know of anyone in the Royal Derby Hospital or in St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne who would like a visit or prayer you can contact Elizabeth Spencer (348482), a Chaplaincy Visitor in Derby and Hospital Visitor at Ashbourne.

*Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 14.06.17*

## **Royal Derby Hospital**

Many of you know I have been a Chaplaincy Visitor at the Royal Derby Hospital for over ten years where I visit wards, praying with patients and their families, staff and arranging communion for them.

In addition, I have recently been chosen and trained to become a Eucharistic Minister on a Sunday, taking and giving communion to patients and staff on the wards, so still being part of the hospital's chaplaincy team. These two roles extend and complement the role of the chaplains in offering companionship and support to patients, their visitors and staff.

We offer our time, patience and presence in the service of God and have been called upon to accompany others as they face injury and illness. Above all, our concern is to care for those in need with compassion and humility, respecting and upholding the dignity of all the people we meet, being ever mindful of the trust and privilege of our position.

The Sunday service in the Faith Centre at the hospital no longer takes place, as patients who were well enough to attend are sent home to recover, thus leaving more poorly people in over the weekend. So now more patients are requesting communion and prayers on a Sunday.

Rev Lew Greaves, who was with us here at Ashbourne for a short while, now joins us in Chaplaincy as a Chaplain and will be working across the children's wards, starting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

Lord God, whose we are and whom we serve, we place our lives into your hands. Take us as we are and make us what you would have us to be. So fill us with your love that we may be strong in your service and wholly used for your glory. For love's sake. Amen

*Elizabeth Spencer*

### **QUOTE OF THE MONTH**

Seek in reading and thou shalt find in meditation; knock in prayer and it shall be opened to thee in contemplation. - *St John of the Cross*

**Attacks against Christians in India have been rising at an alarming rate,** according to new reports. They are politically motivated, and have increased since the March 2017 elections, which saw a landslide victory for Hindu nationalists.

The latest report of the All India Christian Council records an increase of almost 20 per cent in attacks against Christians in 2016. It says physical violence against Christians is up 40 per cent and murders have doubled.

In states across India, church workers have been beaten, threatened and killed.

Attempts have been made to force Christians to renounce their faith and convert to Hinduism. Church services and prayer meetings have been disrupted, churches and Christian school have been bombed, torched, vandalised and demolished. Bibles have been torn to pieces and burnt. Militants beat one evangelist with chains, stripped him and forced him to drink urine. A Christian cemetery was desecrated and skeletons dug up and strewn across the graveyard.

The report, *Atrocities on Christians in India* records a fresh attack every 40 hours. It says: 'The attacks have become severe and more frequent. Incidents used to be confined to a few states. Now the violence has spread to 23 states.' The sharpest rise has been recorded in Uttar Pradesh and the state of Telangana.

Right-wing Hindu nationalism has been gaining ground since the BJP took power in 2014. Since further gains for the radicals in the March elections, five Indian states have now imposed anti-conversion laws. There have also been moves to bring in nationwide legislation aimed at outlawing evangelism, to prevent Hindus from converting.

*Release International* reports that in Andhra Pradesh a pastor was beaten to death by a Maoist. In Assam, a couple who had recently converted to Christianity were murdered in their home. A pastor and his seven-month pregnant wife were doused with petrol by religious extremists, who threatened them with swords and demanded they chant, 'Hail Lord Rama'.

*Derbyshire Churches Together* groups have links with the Church of North India and in Ashbourne we are in partnership with the Patna Diocese and recently had a visit from Bishop Phillip and Rev Francis Hansdah. **Please remember all Indian Christians in your prayers.**



## **MISSION MATTERS**

### **June 2017 News and Prayers from Methodist Homes (MHA)**

Chris Swift joined MHA as Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality on 1st June. He'll be working alongside Keith Albans who leaves MHA on 31 July. Chris will continue Keith's work to fulfil MHA's strategic aspirations for faith in ageing and establish MHA as the leading organisation in the UK on spirituality in later life. He's also the functional lead for Volunteering across all MHA services. Chris said, "I'm delighted to be joining MHA. The support and care of older people is an important part of our national life, to which MHA is making an ever greater contribution."

#### **A Prayer from Caroline Dobinson - Regional Chaplain**

*(Caroline led our worship at AMC on June 11th)*

Proverbs 29:18 'Where is no vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.' (ESV) or: 'If people can't see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; but when they attend to what he reveals, they are blessed' (MSG).

Father God, in Jesus we thank you for the Vision that birthed MHA, a Vision that has blessed many all over the country in their hour of need. Thank you for all who have worked tirelessly over the years to keep MHA growing. For those who have carried its torch and kept it burning wherever they are; Thank you Lord for blessing the vision, blessing the seed that was sown through prayer and nurturing it all this while. We rejoice because you are a faithful God, a Covenant keeping God, whose blessings continuously pour out.

As MHA looks forward, Lord we pray you are in the boat with us, we

pray you guard and guide us as we soldier on into the future. Psalm 37:5 'commit your way to the Lord: trust in Him, and he will act'; Lord we commit every part of MHA into your hands, We pray divine protection upon the organisation, Lord we ask for your righteous right hand of Grace to remain on MHA.

We pray for our Residential Homes, for our Care Homes, our Dementia Homes, our Independent Living Schemes, and for Live at Home Schemes, we place them into your hand, trusting that, as the heart of the King is in the hand of the Lord, so each project is in your hands, Lord we entrust each to your care, where there are problems, where that are difficulties, we call on the name of Jesus, Lord make a way where there seems to be no way.

We pray for the next three years of MHA, for the next ten years of MHA, committing every plan into your hands, for MHA's hopes and dreams, for all that it aspires to be, Lord it cannot be done in human strength, so we pray for your strength, for your guidance, for your lead, and for your blessing.

Heavenly Father, we who pray take on the mantle of authority that Jesus delegates to us and in his Name we speak to every aspect of MHA.

We bless MHA in the Name of the Lord, praying it be strong and whole, we bless relationships across the organisation that they be strong, merciful and forgiving, and above all loving. We bless all intergenerational relationships within MHA that there may be peace, understanding and nurturing.

We bless the health of all in our homes, and all who work for MHA that all may be strong and well. In Jesus Name we resist any sickness or disease or outbreak which seeks to invade our homes, we pray that all in our homes and schemes will be well, strong and healthy. To any who are sick right now across MHA residents and staff alike we say we bless you in Jesus' Name.

I heard about MHA as a student years ago in this country, I remember every church we arrived at for mission had a strong MHA presence, in my own circuit where I worship, but I am also very aware that those faithful networks of supports are all frail and many are no longer with us.



Many now know little or nothing about MHA.

So Lord we continue to pray trusting you to raise up an MHA army across the land, in every church and chapel, though the power of your Holy Spirit, open doors, create opportunities so many more will hear about MHA and take the lead in championing its cause in Jesus Name

We bless all who work and volunteer across MHA that the overspill of the blessings of the presence of the Kingdom of God may fall upon all and rest upon them as they serve. **Amen**

*An updated copy of "Mission Matters for Prayer" is available in the church vestibule. Please take a copy and supporter our mission partners in prayer. Richard Odell*

## **THANK YOU**

I owe a huge thank you to Tim and all the church members who welcomed my mum, Marion Cruickshanks, when she moved here last year. Mum adored Ashbourne; she marvelled at the friendliness of the church and your vibrant services cheered her Sunday. Particular thanks has to go to the ladies at the Craft and Chat and Cornerstone Cafe....you can have no real idea how much you meant to mum (and I).

This last year has been the hardest of our life but the warmth and kindness shown has given us strength. It is with a heavy heart that I have taken the decision to place mum in a home...she is back in her village in Scotland , and though not yet settled she is surrounded by people and surroundings (and accents!) with which she is familiar. The move was very sudden so I apologise for the lack of proper goodbyes, but truthfully this would have been harder on mum. Dementia is a cruel disease, kindness is priceless. Thank you.

*Tia Mukherjee*



## **JMA Breakfast (advance diary date!)**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September – 9-10am** in

The Cornerstone.

We look forward to seeing JMA members

Further details from Ruth Mallard.

and their friends.

## **REFLECTIONS.**

As a small note of introduction to this "Reflections" article, I need to point out that a similar copy goes to the Mayfield Parish Magazine, and I correspond with the editor, Joyce, not only for the magazine, but, as said in the article, to inform her of the bird life around Harlow Farm, so read on!

I do like reading the Parish Magazine, and in regard to this article I have been inspired by Joyce Beeson's articles on the bird life in her garden, and by the fact I also keep her informed of what I have seen around our farm.

I might add that on my rounds of the farm to check on our animals or whenever our son, Adam, and I are outside working in the fields on gates or fences, I always carry a small pair of binoculars that Mary, my sister in law, bought me some time ago, which I have found invaluable to look at birds, and, due to my past days in the aircraft field, if I see an aircraft in an unusual flight path to look at that also.

Sometime ago, when working outside, Adam and I heard the call of a Skylark, we looked all around us, and up into the sky, but did not see the little bird, but, listening to its call reminded us of years ago, when we went to the air displays at RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk.

During the 6 hour show, we saw some of the most powerful, (and noisy) aircraft from the air arms of the RAF, USAF and NATO. From single engine fighters, to immense bombers were performing. Sometimes even the ground shook as say, the Vulcan bomber powered into the sky as it went into a steep climb, and setting off innumerable car alarms in the process!

But what caught our attention, was in the midst of this cacophony, you could see Skylarks hovering on the wing and hear their singing, sometimes, even above the noise of the jets.

In remembering this and the recent call of the Skylark over our fields I thought of the prophet Elijah, on the run from Jezebel, in 1 Kings Ch. 19., and in the desert he was told the Lord was about to pass by. The story says there was a mighty wind, then an earthquake, followed by a fire, but, it says the Lord was not in them. After the fire came a gentle whisper and it says Elijah went out, stood at the mouth of the cave to hear the voice of God!

When today, hearing the noise of aircraft, while walking the fields and hearing not just the Skylark, but all our wild birds call, I am reminded of that tale in the life of Elijah, and, as the hymns says, "*That still small voice of calm*" that is the voice of God, still speaking to us in the cacophony of the world, if we can be still for a moment and take time to listen!

God Bless you all.

Tom Parkinson.

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## **Message from the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference following fire at Grenfell Tower.**

The horror of the burning tower in Notting Hill will be imprinted on many people's minds for a long time. Our shared grief has, however, only intensified as we heard the stories: of the people who are lost, people who have lost everything, and people still searching for the lost. Few of us will have been able to witness these events unfold without weeping. And now comes the anger, at those with power, at past decisions, at powerlessness.

The Methodist Church in Notting Hill has been at the forefront over the last few days. It is the first public building outside the police cordon, and has been a focus for grief and practical help. The people there and its leaders will need our prayers and support long into the future.

At times of such heartbreaking events we risk being overwhelmed. How can we respond?

Our first response, along with the prophet Ezekiel who was among a people from whom everything had been taken, has to be one of being alongside people and holding silence (Ezekiel 3.15). To sit with people. To listen to them. To lament for and with them. To offer care and to remain silent as we feel the loss, the pain, the fear, the anger. For there is certainly anger, and it is not to be dismissed or condemned. There is much to be angry about. People will feel angry at God. Angry at those who had the power to act, but didn't. At a society which values less those who are the poorest or most disadvantaged in society.

We are often afraid of anger. We have an image of Jesus as "meek and mild". But we also see Jesus in the temple, who was angry to the point of overturning tables. Yet this was not an act of violence but a symbolic expression of anger in the prophetic tradition, disrupting the actions of those who would discriminate against and exploit the poorest at the door of God's house. We should be angry at the kind of injustices emerging from this catastrophe: the apparent under investing in the well-being of poorest and the ignoring of their concerns. And we should all repent where we have been complicit with injustice in the past.

But the anger of Jesus is focused not on retaliation but on the righting of injustice. Matthew tells how, after overthrowing the tables, the blind and the lame came to Jesus, the very people who had been excluded from the temple by those with power. They came to Jesus and they were healed. Jesus' anger led to justice. It showed that a different way was not only possible, but was required of the people who followed Jesus.

Our time as President and Vice-President has been one of change: we have had the resignation of a prime minister, the signing of Article 50, a new US President and a General Election. We have had horrific terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, as well as in so many countries around the world. And now we are rocked by Grenfell Tower. It is increasingly clear that we are a divided country, and a much more divided world.

Is this a turning point? Is God asking of us a new and radical response? The love of God, and the command to care for our neighbour, does not finish at the end of our street, or even at our national borders. And if that is the case, then we have to consider - and prioritise - the needs and voices of the poorest and the most disadvantaged, not only in this country, but in around the world.

So what do we do? We face the reality that we cannot change everything tomorrow. But we must hold in front of us this alternative way, the picture of the kingdom of God. And then we have to proclaim it and live it out, in our own lives and in our communities. But it must not stop there. It needs to spill out into a passion for transforming the

political and economic world, working with all who share a vision for justice and the common good. We remember that judgement in Matthew 25 is reserved for those who have not lived out the ways of the kingdom.

During this year as President and Vice-President we have taken the text from Micah: "*What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God*". Now is a time to cling to those words, realise that they demand of us repentance for our past actions and present privileges, and to commit ourselves to love without measure, act for justice whatever the cost, and do so whilst walking humbly with a God of love and justice.

**The Revd Roger Walton**

President of the Methodist Conference

**Rachel Lampard**

Vice-President of the Methodist Conference

## **A Prayer**

*Gracious God*

*We pray for those caught up in the fire at Grenfell Tower, for casualties, for the wounded, for the bereaved, for the missing and the traumatised.*

*We pray for the emergency services and for those who are responsible for co-ordinating the response to this major incident.*

*In despair bring hope*

*In injury bring healing*

*In fear bring comfort.*

*In our helplessness be our strength.*

*In your mercy hear our prayers.*

*In Christ's name.*

*Amen.*

## **From the Editor**

Dear Friends,  
Here is the Summer edition of "*Connections*" I hope you find something here of interest. and stimulation. I will aim to produce the September edition on 27th August. Deadline for contributions please **14th August**.

*Arthur Watts*



### **Easter Offerings**

A big Thank You to all who gave so generously to Easter Offerings. The magnificent sum of £1,232.00 has been forwarded to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund.

### **AGM and Supper Evening - Wednesday 5 July**

You are all invited to our AGM on **Wednesday 5 July at 7 pm** in the Century Hall. This will be followed by a Supper (menu - Ham Salad and new potatoes followed by trifle or fresh fruit - special diets can be catered for). The after-dinner speaker will be Sue Draper on Dementia Friendly Churches. Tickets for the Supper priced £5.00 will be available shortly. All welcome!

### **District Day - Saturday 15 July**

Our next District Day will be held on **Saturday 15 July** at Ashbourne Road MC, Derby. This is a very convenient site which can be reached easily by the Swift bus. The day will commence with registration (£2) and coffee from 10.00 am. There will be a short business meeting at 10.30 am followed by our speaker at 10.45 am who is Chandra Mowbey on the Derby Night Shelter and the Susanna Wesley House Project. If you wish to stay for lunch, please bring a packed lunch. I am sure it will be a very interesting meeting. Why not give it a try?

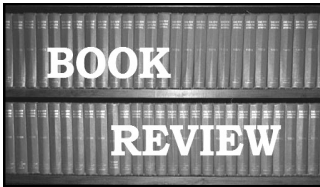
### **Meeting at Hlland - Thursday 7 September**

There will be a meeting at Hlland on **Thursday 7 September** commencing at 2.15 pm The Speaker will be the Rev Duncan Ballard, the Vicar of St Oswald's Church. There will be refreshments and a bring and buy sale at the close. Proceeds will be for the World Mission Fund. Please come - all welcome!

### **Dates for your Diary**

**17 October** District Day at St John's Church, Carlton - Speaker - Barbara Maddison (National Council of Women)

**1 November** Supper Evening, Century Hall - Speaker - Rev Dr Moira Biggins (Chair of Workplace Chaplaincy in Derbyshire and Chaplain at East Midlands Airport)



### **Prayers, Texts and Tears – a creative response to grief**

*By Dai Woolridge, Bible Society, £7.99*

How do we respond to God, our family, and our colleagues when our whole world is shattered by the death of a loved one? For Spoken Word artist Dai Woolridge, there were sometimes no words. In this honest and personal story of grief, Dai offers a creative response to God in psalm-like poems, prayers and beautifully expressed 'scribbles and inner monologues.

Whatever the bereavement, grief is something we all encounter at some point in our lives. Having lost his dad suddenly, Dai Woolridge knows well the 'hope-thieving nature of grief'.

### **Still Valued and Blessed**

*By Patrick Coghlan, Kevin Mayhew, £12.99*

What exactly is old age? Grey hair? A pension? A state of mind? Whatever it is, and however it is defined, one thing is for sure: God wants our lives to continue to be valued and blessed.

And so Patrick Coghlan encourages everyone entering and journeying through old age to do so with a positive attitude and to live a spiritually fruitful and fulfilling life. "We still have spiritual needs to be met, callings to fulfil, and new things to learn!"

### **Cancer: A Pilgrim Companion**

*By Gillian Straine, SPCK. £9.99*

A cancer diagnosis is a seismic event. It divides life into before and after, and propels the diagnosed into places of suffering, pain and isolation; life is turned upside down.

In this wise and compassionate book, cancer survivor Gillian Straine proposes that this journey through illness, pain and anxiety be reconceptualised as a pilgrimage of discovery.

## ***Methodist Diary 2018***

The hard-back Methodist Diary gives you the essential information you need whenever and wherever you need it. Contents include: Diary 2018 - One week per view, starts each Sunday with extra space for notes; Diary 2019 - Jan-Jun: two weeks per view, Jul-Dec: two months per view; 2018-2023 Christian calendar dates.



There are 3 colour options – red, purple and blue. The Interleaved edition includes an extra blank page between each week for notes. The cost is £12 for the interleaved version and £8 without the extra pages. The cost is £12 for the Filofax version. If you would like to order a copy please contact Carole Thorpe on 346535, cethorpe@hotmail.com or at 12 Cavendish Drive, Ashbourne, DE6 1SR.

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## ***Methodist Prayer Handbook***

### **Jesus the First and Last**

An order for copies of the Methodist Prayer Handbook will soon be sent off. This resource will help you with your prayer life and the cost is only £3.50. If you would like a copy, please contact Carole Thorpe details as above.

## ***Outreach Opportunity! – Ashbourne Show 19th August***

The circuit's stand at the Ashbourne Show, is part of our outreach & witness to the community. Are you able to help serve tea and coffee or just to chat with people?

Lots of help is needed to set up and assist during the day.

Help may be available with the entrance cost

Please contact Carole Thorpe as above if you can help.





### **From the “Loose Canon” -**

The Rev Giles Fraser is a columnist for the *Guardian Newspaper* and the following extract is from an article he wrote following the terrorist attack on Westminster Bridge, having just opened his church for prayer. Maybe you will find it helpful as I did.

*“Prayer is not a way of telling God the things he already knows. Nor is it an act of collective lobbying, whereby the Almighty is encouraged to see the world from your perspective if you screw up your face really hard and wish it so. Forget Christopher Robin at the end of the bed. Prayer is mostly about emptying your head waiting for stuff to become clear. There is no secret formula. And holding people in your prayers is not wishful thinking. It’s a sort of compassionate concentration, where someone is deliberately thought about in the presence of the widest imaginable perspective - like giving them a mental cradling. But above all, prayer is often just a jolly good excuse to shut up for a while and think”.*

Arthur Watts

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### **Not much of a doubter, really**

It’s a strange nickname for a man whose burning faith in Jesus took him, so some accounts say, all the way to India to found a Christian Church there (Mar Thoma). But ‘Doubting Thomas’ he is, and in one way it’s good to have someone in the early band of disciples who represents all those of us who tend to find unquestioning faith difficult.

His tendency to ask the searching, even perhaps sarcastic question, can be found in the Gospel (see John 14:6), but his reputation was set for ever on the first Easter night. Thomas was not in the Upper Room when the risen Jesus appeared for the first time to the apostles, and when they told him what had happened he was unimpressed. “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my fingers in his wounds I will not believe.”

A week later Jesus appeared again, and this time not only was Thomas there, but Jesus singled him out for special attention. "Come on," he said, "here are the wounds. Do not doubt, but believe." That was the end of the Doubter, who fell to his knees to exclaim, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus observed that he had seen and believed. There would be many in the future, He said, who would not have such evidence set before them, but yet would believe. Among them, I like to think, are many Thomases, people for whom faith (in the sense of believing propositions) is seldom easy. I suspect Thomas's favourite saying of Jesus was "Seek and you will find." It's not a bad one to have in mind this year on St Thomas's Day, 3rd July. *Canon David Winter*

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## **LOCAL METHODIST HISTORY - part 2**

In the April edition of "CONNECTIONS" with the help of Don Cox our organist at AMC, we told the rather sad story of an abortive proposal in 1965 to establish a new Free Church in Ashbourne by the merging of Beulah (Primitive) Methodist Church with the Trinity Methodists, our present AMC, to form a new Central Free Church.

May 1988 marked the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's conversion and the event was marked in Ashbourne by a re-enactment of John Wesley's visit to Ashbourne in 1772. I am again grateful to Don Cox for sharing with me a press cutting and photographs of the event which took place in the Market Place. The then Superintendent Minister, Rev Peter Evan dressed as John Wesley, arrived in the Market Place by a horse drawn carriage accompanied by Derek Gillespie of Brailsford as John's brother Charles. Many of the gathered ecumenical crowd were also dressed in period costume.

Mr Evan took as the text for his sermon from Isaiah "*Seek ye the Lord while he may be found*", the same text that Wesley had preached on his visit to the town. As well as members of the then eleven circuit chapels the event was attended by Christians from other churches in the town and by the Mayor Councillor Fred Elliot and his wife. John Wesley had however paid a much earlier visit to Ashbourne. The Methodist Society (ie. the present Ashbourne Church) was formed on Tuesday, 8th April, 1755 when John Wesley visited Ashbourne for

the first time. He was on his way from Barton-under-Needwood to Hayfield, and arrived in Ashbourne at 7. 00am. He tells us in his Journal, *'I preached to a deeply serious congregation. Seventeen or eighteen then desired to join in a society to whom I spoke severally. I was well pleased to find that near half of them knew the pardoning love of God. One of the first I spoke to was Miss Judith Beresford -a sweet but short-lived flower.'*

Judith Beresford writes subsequently to one of Mr Wesley's preachers, John Johnson, about her struggles with her faith. She died at the age of 24 years. You can read more about this in Trevor Stainforth's account of early Methodism in Ashbourne on our website -

<http://www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk/places/ashbourne/ashbourne-history/methodism-in-ashbourne.php>

Arthur Watts



**SMILE**

**LINES**

### **Medical knowledge?**

If you have never worried about the NHS before, perhaps it is time to begin now... here are eight actual sentences written in patient's notes

- The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
- Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.
- Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
- Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40-pound weight gain in the past three days.
- Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.
- On the second day the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.
- I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.
- Skin: somewhat pale but present.



## Dates for your Diary

### July

- |              |       |  |
|--------------|-------|--|
| Monday 3     | 12:00 | ACT noon prayers at All Saints Church                  |
| Saturday 8   | 10:00 | Spirit and Song training event at Littleover Methodist |
| Wednesday 12 | 19:00 | Milldale Summer Service                                |

### August

- |             |       |                                      |
|-------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 3 | 19:00 | Milldale Summer Service              |
| Monday 3    | 12:00 | ACT noon prayers                     |
| Wednesday 9 | 10:00 | Messy Church in the Century Hall     |
| Saturday 19 | 9:00  | Ashbourne Show, Osmaston Polo Ground |

### September

- |             |       |                |
|-------------|-------|----------------|
| Saturday 16 | 10:00 | District Synod |
|-------------|-------|----------------|

### October

- |            |       |                       |
|------------|-------|-----------------------|
| Saturday 7 | 10:00 | Reaching Older People |
|------------|-------|-----------------------|

For more information please see the Circuit Plan.

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## *District Event*

### **Reaching Older People.**

**Sat 7<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 4pm.** Venue tbc

With Debbie Thrower, of Gift of Years, on resourcing the spiritual journey of older people and Graham Horsley, Methodist Fresh Expressions Missioner, on engaging with Baby Boomers. Plus workshops to help you in your ministry & mission with older people. Watch out for publicity.

Book with Michele Simms, District Fresh Expressions Pioneer Enabler  
[fxpe@icloud.com](mailto:fxpe@icloud.com) 01629 824700

## *Ashbourne Circuit Church Services*

### *Sunday July 2nd*

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green/ Rev Tim Morris	Theme Preach 3 Communion
	18:30	Ann Parkinson	
Brailsford	<b>10:30</b>	Diana Whitmill	United Service at Methodist
Hulland	18:30	Robert Sales	Theme Preach 4
Parwich	<b>11:00</b>		United Service at Parish

### *Sunday July 9th*

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style	in Century Hall
	10:30	John Dyster/ Lorraine Hawkins	Theme Preach 4
	18:30	Diana Whitmill	
Brailsford	10:30	Fiona Green/ Rev Tim Morris	Theme Preach 3 Communion
Hulland	18:30	Tom Parkinson	
Kniveton	14:30	Robert Sales	Theme Preach 4
Parwich	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	<b>Chapel Anniversary</b> Communion

### *Wednesday July 12th*

Milldale	19:00	Peter Dawson	
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### *Sunday July 16th*

Ashbourne	10:30	Powersource	Chapel Anniversary, All Age
	18:30	PRAISE	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	John Dyster/ Lorraine Hawkins	Theme Preach 4
Hulland	18:30	Sister Merle Wilde/ Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Tissington	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	

### *Sunday July 23rd*

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Tim Dutton	All Age
Hulland		<b>at Kniveton or Kirk Ireton</b>	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	Chapel Anniversary
Kniveton	11:00	Jim Titterton	Chapel Anniversary
Parwich	14:30	Peter Dawson	

### *Sunday July 30th*

Ashbourne	10:30	Tim Dutton	
	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Hulland	18:30	John Dyster/ Lorraine Hawkins	

### *Wednesday August 2nd*

Milldale	19:00	Rev Tim Morris	
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### *Sunday August 6th*

Ashbourne	10:30	Ruth Barratt	
	18:30	Fiona Green	
Brailsford	<b>10:30</b>	Ann Parkinson	United Service at Methodist
Hulland	18:30	Stuart Mustow	

### *Sunday August 13th*

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev David Leese	Communion
	18:30	Stuart Mustow	
Brailsford	10:30	Peter Dawson	
Hulland	<b>14:30</b>	<b>at Kniveton</b>	
Kniveton	14:30	Tom Parkinson	<b>in the Village Hall</b>
Parwich	14:30	John Dyster/ Lorraine Hawkins	

### *Sunday August 20th*

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30	PRAISE	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Sue Leese	
Hulland	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Tissington	10:30	Jim Titterton	Chapel Anniversary

### *Sunday August 27th*

Ashbourne	10:30	Peter Dawson	All Age
	18:30	Tom Parkinson	
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age, Communion
Hulland	18:30	<b>Flower Festival</b>	<b>United Service at Parish</b>
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Fiona Green	
Kniveton	11:00	Sister Merle Wilde/ Ann Parkinson	Communion
Parwich	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	

Any item in **darker type** is a change to the usual plan.

### **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 - Eric and Jenny Williams 346155)</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**

Tues	7:30pm	Bible Study: monthly, 2nd Tuesday
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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Tel: 01335 342408  
E-mail: revtimmorris@aol.com



**Hulland Chapel Ladies Fellowship enjoyed an afternoon visit to Longnor for tea at the Old Market Hall Tea Rooms. We visited the Church and had a short walk around the village. Enjoyed by all.**



**“Cross in the Hand” Part of AMC’s Displays of our faith both inside and outside the church during Ashbourne Festival 2017**