

Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit



Letter from the Minister

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Dear friends,

I've had the privilege to be a Methodist Minister for the past 25 years. I know, I don't look old enough! But there it is, it's true. Where on earth have those years gone, and what has happened along the way? Well, along the way I got married (also for 25 years this year), we had two children, moved from Lancashire, to Yorkshire and then to Derbyshire.



I've met some amazing, gracious and kind people, as well as some difficult, awkward and challenging folk too!

I'm a different person to the one I was when I started and I'm glad I couldn't see then what was to happen later. Some of the basic things about ministry are those that still feel important - pastoral work, sharing in worship and being with people at particular times in their lives. One of the greatest privileges has been to "laugh with those who laugh, and weep with those who weep".

I find though that increasingly the ministry I thought I was called to is being squeezed out as the role of the minister has changed and developed over the years, and as my ministry has changed too. Now I'm a Superintendent Minister with responsibility for the life of the Circuit. I have District responsibilities for Ministerial Sabbaticals and ministers in their first two years of service (probationers). This year I am also chairing the Probationers Committee whilst our Chair of District, Rev Loraine Mellor, is the President of the Methodist Conference. I also serve on the District Executive.

All this means that my time and energy are pulled in lots of different directions. Safeguarding requirements, endless meetings, serving on oversight groups and countless other "business" meetings seem to take on a life of their own, and swamp out what I had originally thought being a minister was all about. They never told me that at college!

Yet I guess most jobs change and grow and develop over time. Why should this one be any different? For me the difference is that it is not so much a job, as a way of life. It's not so much of a career as a calling. The difference is that the calling to the ministry hasn't changed, but the nature of the work required in the place you find yourself in has. Sometimes you feel ill equipped, out of your depth and of little use. But then you remember that you are not alone. We work together with people with some amazing gifts, graces and energy, and we all work with a God whose Spirit enables us to do far more than we could ever hope, or imagine. And that, more often than not, can re-energise and enable us to fulfil our calling.

So as I start my eleventh year in this Circuit, I look forward to all the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. And as I reflect on my years of ministry, I am grateful to God and His people who sustain, encourage and enable me to fulfil my calling.

Your minister and friend,

Tim Morris

Funeral Preferences

We have developed a form for those who wish to inform the church of their preferences for funeral arrangements following their death.



Copies of the form are available in the vestibule at Ashbourne Methodist Church. If anyone in our village churches requires one, either call in to the Church in Ashbourne (open during the day), or contact the Minister. The form would be kept by the person concerned, and a copy given to the Minister, where it will be kept safe for future reference.

Please contact me for any further details - Rev Tim Morris



MISSION MATTERS

Floods in Bihar and Patna

Patna Diocese, in the Church of North India (CNI), is a long-standing mission partner of Ashbourne Churches Together. You will have heard of the recent Monsoon floods in North India, including the area covered by the Diocese. The end of the Monsoon is always a difficult time with the accumulated effect of heavy rain for the 3 months of June to September and this year's rain was excessive.

(See pictures on back cover)

Bihar is India's most flood-prone State, with 76% of the population in the North Bihar living under the recurring threat of flood devastation. This year the floods affected 19 districts of North Bihar causing death of more than 500 people. 2,371 panchayats (like parishes) have been affected in the flood. Around 17.1 million people have been hit by the floods and the 2017 flood has broken a 9-year record of deaths in Bihar. By contrast almost half of Bangladesh is under water. Crops worth £16.5m have been damaged in the floods and food shortages are a looming problem as most of the crops in the ground are destroyed. *(adapted from Wikipedia)*

There has been significant criticism of the media who give vastly disproportionate coverage of flooding to richer countries like the USA.

On 26 August 2017 the Indian Prime Minister allocated 78 million USD for central assistance for flood hit areas of Bihar and ex gratia payments of £2,000 to the next of kin of each of the deceased. The governments of Bihar and Jharkhand (states that make up most of the Patna Diocese) have also allocated relief funds.

Surprisingly the CNI website makes no reference to the flooding in Bihar. This may be partly due to the fact that their main involvement is with the hill tribes of Jharkhand where, of course, flooding is less of a problem.

So please pray for our mission partners in this diocese, for those who are suffering as a result of the floods, and for those who are trying to help them. (see *pictures on back cover*)

Pray also for the outreach of the church that the presentation of the Gospel of Jesus will be made relevant to the millions on the plains who know nothing of Him, let alone the church's largely western formalities and structures.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary

Outreach

MY STORY

To encourage each other and to build each other up in our faith, the Outreach Group would like to invite people to share their story of how God is working in their lives. If you feel that you would like to share your story, and you are unable to write it down, then please contact Jane Bowley who is more than happy to come and chat to you and do the writing for you!

'Our Story' - The certainty of God's presence in our lives – Heaven Sent.

Becky's story

I know I am not alone in saying that I find it hard to pray. In our lives, we have so much to do and so little time and my mind is very good at wandering as I am praying too! So, for the past few months, I have been writing to God. I use the ACTS format to help me. I still find timing a bit of an issue, but what happened to me when I did spend time with God, surely shows the amazing gift of prayer that we have all been given. I want to share an occasion when I spent time with God

and how he worked through me one day. Wednesday is my day off and it is usually filled with catching up with household chores. So, on one particular Wednesday I had miraculously managed to do all my jobs at home and I felt that I needed to spend more time with God. So, out came my journal. I asked God to use me as he saw fit and to show His love through me in my day to day life. (*Fruitfulness on the Frontline* has been an empowering revelation to me too!). I needed to pop into town. On my way, I went to see my Emily and stayed a few extra minutes. I went to Boots the Chemist and as I was paying, I saw Kay Orme sat looking extremely grey with a sling holding up her arm.....I was meant to stay and talk with Emily for the those extra minutes!

Becky Dutton

Kay's Story -

In May this year I had the misfortune to fall in the Shawcroft Car Park, resulting in a fractured arm. I realised from the pain that I would be unable to drive home. Then a lady, unknown to me, rushed to pick me up and lovingly and carefully guided me into Boots the Chemist, where she knew there was a chair. A second unknown lady, collecting a prescription, said that she was a nurse and then fitted a sling to make me more comfortable. Meanwhile, Fiona, the pharmacist, was telephoning my husband. Then, to my utter amazement, I saw a face I knew so well - Becky (Dutton) had come into the shop. What a wonderful relief to see a familiar face! As my shocked husband arrived, Becky offered to help solve the problem of getting both cars home so that we could then proceed to Derby A&E.

Unknown angels and a very familiar one. I know, without a doubt, that on that fateful day my ever-loving Heavenly Father was with me.

Kay Orme



The latest edition of "Heart & Soul" Magazine, is now available, I have distributed them around the Church and Circuit. Some are in Ashbourne Church vestibule, and in The Cornerstone. If you have not received one and would like a copy, please let me know and I will get one to you. *Tom Parkinson*.(324918.

Ashbourne Church Family News

As we think of harvest, I am reminded of the verse, *“Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give, go in My Name and because you believe, others will know that I live.”*

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Hazel Dakin who passed away on 23 August and with Richard Barratt on the death of his father.

We pray for those who remain unwell, those recovering from surgery, others waiting for tests and results or surgery including Sister Merle, Barbara Hollands, Catherine Green, Maureen Gilbert, Margaret Cox, Cherrie Broadhurst, Chris Dakin, Eric and Marianne Matthews, Jenny Waring, Nerida Maddock and Derek Blenkinsop. There are others you know who would rather not be named but do remember them in prayer.

Pray for those who have family at a distance and have worries about their wellbeing. 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.

It is great to be able to share a lot of good news this month.

Congratulations to several of our young people. Josh Dutton has gained a place at Loughborough University but has deferred entry till September 2018 so that he can recuperate from surgery on knee ligaments. Joy Mallard and Samuel Morris got grades required to move into 6th form at QEGS. Kirsty Durose enjoyed her three day swimming in the World Masters in Budapest (over 25s).

Congratulations Kirsty on coming first for Great Britain and 23rd in the World for butterfly as well as exceptional results in the other two races.

Susan and Ken McKeown and Jean and David Barrie have celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversaries and Tim and Alison Morris celebrate their Silver Wedding Anniversary on 10 October. Congratulations to Emily, older daughter of Nigel and Sue Marsh, on her engagement to Michael.

Also congratulations to Theresa and Jonathan Buckley on the birth of Alfie James on 8 Sept , a grandson for Judith and Phil Hall and to Andrew and Katie Starkie on the birth of Sienna Belle, a granddaughter for Judith and Bob Starkie.

We continue to pray for Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners who have recently returned to Zimbabwe. Stephen Hill has gained a place at Leeds University to study a Masters in Mechatronics and Robotics and Susanne has begun her third year studying in Cambridge. Andrew Sales and Emily Peers are now in their second year studying in Sheffield.

Let us pray for Jane Bowley our Family Outreach Worker, for all the leadership and the various committees especially the Link Development Team.

These past weeks it has been good to welcome to our services those who have moved into the area - Peter Richards, Philip and Rebecca Barrett, Rev Rosalind Franklin and her husband David, Maureen Chacksfield, Helen Thrupp and Gwen Kelsey. Forgive me if you are new and I have missed you out - just tell me.

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, a good time 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 20.09.2017

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“A church which starves itself and its members in the contemplative life deserves whatever spiritual leanness it may experience.”

Michael Ramsey, former Archbishop of Canterbury

A CELEBRATION - THANK YOU!

To all, from all over the Circuit, who sent cards, gave flowers, gifts for MHA and Release International, and came to our Open Farm Day, to help us celebrate our Ruby Wedding Anniversary.

We calculated there were about 40 to 50 people who came at some time during the day, it was good to see all of our friends filling our living room, and enjoying conversation, looking at wedding and family photographs, and having refreshments.

A total of £500 was given, a sum which we were staggered by, and we will honour those who specified their gift to *MHA*, and those for *Release International*. Those gifts that were not specified will be shared fifty-fifty between the afore mentioned charities.

As for the rest of the Anniversary, many asked, "What are you doing tomorrow, on the actual date, (3rd), and have you anything else planned"

I told those who asked that we had been instructed by our son, Adam, to be ready by 11.30am, on Sunday, which we were, and Adam drove us to Woore, on the Staffordshire-Cheshire border, to "The Coopers Arms", a favourite pub / restaurant of ours, where the food, Gluten Free too, is excellent.

When we walked in the call of "Surprise!" greeted us, as there, in the porch, was Ann's sister, Mary, and her husband Graham, and my sister Jayne, and her partner Andrew. Seems our son had been planning this for months, with Mary, by text, to and from both parties to arrange this get together. It was a great surprise to Ann and I, but a very, very, pleasant one too, the meal went very well indeed as we celebrated our time together, reminiscing over things that happened 40 years ago.

On the Monday, Ann and I set out for Anglesey, where we had booked a few days holiday.

We had a pleasant time there, our hotel was very good, looking after Ann's diet very well, and it was quiet and comfortable.

Seems it is a hotel used by a lot of walkers, as they attempt the Coastal Walk all around the island, and stop here and there at hotels on route.

We set ourselves a few things to do. 1. Relax, 2. See a Puffin, 3. Walk on a beach, 4. See the Cliffs at either the North or South Stack, (two beauty spots near Holyhead) and 5. See a Red Squirrel!

We managed four out of the five, unfortunately the Puffins had finished nesting for the year, but we did relax and walk on some beaches. We walked on the cliff near the South Stack, and saw the lighthouse being replenished by helicopter, from a ship about half a mile from the cliffs.

At the RSPB lookout we saw Fulmars, Gannets, Choughs Porpoises, and at other places around the coast, Oyster Catchers, Sandpipers, Egrets, Cormorants, Curlews, and a few Grey Seals and their Pups.

On our final day, leaving our hotel, we visited the harbour where we stayed, Caemas Bay, to walk the beach and watch the tide come in. Then we set out for a place called "The Dingle", in Llangefni, where there is a wooded valley, and a group of Red Squirrels, and we were so happy to see not one, but four of them, picking nuts from a box and chasing each other around the trees. Then it was time to come home.

All in all, we had a very happy time over our anniversary, and again, we thank you, and God Bless you all, both family and friends for your participation in it.

Ann & Tom Parkinson.

October Count

During October all sorts of statistics are collected within the Methodist Church. This information is then collected by Methodist Church House in London to analyse the shape of the whole Methodist Church. The Statistics for Mission report was discussed at the Methodist Conference in June this year.

If you would like to know more have a look at www.methodist.org.uk/mission/statistics-for-mission.

Stewards within each church are asked to count their congregations on the first four Sundays of October to give an idea of how many adults and children attend our churches. Also collected is information about any activities within the life of the church to see what influence we have in the community.

Speak to Carole Thorpe for more details.

THE WAY I SEE IT - *Well why do the nations?*

‘Why do the nations so furiously rage together?’ we used to sing from Psalm 2. We’ve just had a summer of international discontent, war-like words shouted across the oceans, accompanied by blood-curdling threats of fire and fury ‘such as the world has never seen’. So the question is eternally relevant: Why do nations threaten, rage and conspire? What is it in human nature that makes people who would actually prefer to live in peace act in warlike ways? The psalm, having posed the question, offers us an answer, but it is in the context of Israel 3000 years ago rather than the present world. The nations were conspiring against God’s chosen nation, so watch out!

The truth is that fear of ‘the other’ usually lies behind national anger and threats. We do not trust those strange people over there, so we will conspire or rage to stop their supposed threat to us. Fear and ignorance generally lie behind international disputes, just as they often do in domestic or personal ones. Reverence for God (‘fear’ of him) is the psalmist’s answer, and probably those who truly believe that ‘our times are in his hand’ will find it easier to replace fear and anger with prayer and trust.

That’s not a diplomatic or political answer to a real military threat, of course. But perhaps understanding other people’s fears may help us to find a solution to our own.

Canon David Winter



On Sunday 13th August a good congregation was in Kniveton Village Hall, to hear Ben Huxtable, a representative of *Release interna-*

tional, an organisation that supports persecuted Christians around the world, spoke about his work and what it does for Christians.

Using a portion of scripture from *John Ch. 15. v. 18 to 27* Ben spoke on the meaning of the scripture in relation of how Christians are seen in the world. He said that while we are in a relatively safe country, he has noticed the increase of acts against Christians and the Christian Faith in our homeland.

He then told us of the work of *Release International* with people in various countries and how it supported them.

Using as an illustration the story of a Christian woman in Mombasa, Kenya, who lost her husband and her home to those who opposed their faith. She now lives in Nairobi, but her words were only of love and forgiveness to those who had turned her world upside down. The power point slides showed her children, beaming with joy, when they read cards of support that had been sent from *Release International* supporters, who were praying for them.

Another story was of a Pastor in India, who had been beaten up and thrown out of his village for being a Christian. His brother also a Christian, was murdered at the same time. The Pastor returned to his village, saying he would never leave, and prayed for his attackers to come to the Lord Jesus.

Later Ben asked us to join in prayer for 173 days for 173 Christians who are in prison in Eritrea, their "prison" is not like HMP Dartmoor, but is usually a metal container, the type that shipping companies use that we see being loaded and unloaded at our ports around the country. Little if any sanitation, boiling hot during the day and freezing at night.

In the Prayers of Intercession Ben prayed for those we had seen on the screen and for those in Eritrea, and all those persecuted Christians worldwide.

Ben gave us an insight into the plight of Christians around the world and showed that the word's of Jesus to His disciples in the scripture reading from John's gospel was still taking place 2,000 years after it was written.

No offertory was taken but a basket was placed for all to donate as they wished. A goodly sum of £382 was raised for the charity. Those attending were very moved by what Ben told us and in closing he asked us if you cannot do anything else, please pray for him and the work of *Release International*. **Tom. P.**

Phakamisa Beadwork

There will be a stall in Century Hall on **Sunday 15th October** during coffee time. Please come along to support the work in South Africa organised via Pinetown Methodist Church.

There will be jewellery, cards, bookmarks and small Christmas decorations. Ideal for gifts.

JOB VACANCIES FOR ASHBOURNE

There are a few vacancies that need to be filled at Ashbourne. Please pray for the right people to come forward but if you feel the call to find out more about the roles, please contact Rev Tim Morris or the Leadership Stewards (Robert Sales, Becky Dutton, Brian Hawkins, Jennie Ferry and Helen Barker). As the jobs will be working with children and vulnerable adults, you will be required to follow the procedures as set out in the Safeguarding Policy.

- Church Council Secretary (from September 2018).
- Mustard Leader and helpers
- Powersource Leaders and helpers
- Worship Stewards
- Safeguarding Representative

Becky Dutton



Methodist Women in Britain

District Day - Tuesday 17 October at St John's MC, Standhill Road, Carlton. Registration (£2) and Coffee will be from 10 am After devotions at 10.30 am, Julie-Ann Wells will give us an update about the Karibuni Trust, having recently been on one of their working parties to Kenya. The business meeting will follow with a break for lunch at approx. 12.30 pm. The afternoon service will commence at 1.30 pm when the speaker will be Barbara Maddison of the National Women's Council. Altogether, an interesting day. Why not give it a try?

Supper Evening - 1 November

Our next Supper Evening will be on Wednesday 1 November, when the speaker will be the Rev Dr Moira Biggins. She is the Chair of Workplace Chaplaincy - Derbyshire and is Chaplain at East Midlands Airport. I am sure she will be very interesting and enlightening. The tickets are likely to be £5.00 ,the menu is yet to be fixed. Please look out for more information in the Notices.

But book the date **NOW!**



MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

October

Mon 2nd 12:00 ACT noon prayers at St Oswald's Church
Mon 2nd 19:30 Ashbourne Church Council
Wed 4th 19:30 Circuit Meeting at Ashbourne
Sat 7th 10:00 Reaching Older People at Nuthall Methodist Church
Mon 9th 14:00 Joint Church Council at Tissington
Thu 12th 19:30 Ashbourne Worship Stewards meeting
Mon 16th 19:30 Brailsford Church Council
Tue 17th MWiB District Day at Carlton
Wed 18th 9:30 Ashbourne Housegroup Leaders meeting
Thu 19th 14:00 Kirk Ireton Church Council
Thu 26th 10:00 Messy Church, Century Hall, Ashbourne
Sun 29th 10:30 Circuit Service for World Mission at Ashbourne

November

Wed 1st 19:30 MWiB Supper Evening
Thu 2nd 19:30 Ashbourne Leadership Team meeting
Mon 6th 12:00 ACT noon prayers at St John's Church

WERE YOU A WESLEYGOG OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO MEET ONE?

7.30pm Saturday, 11th November

Century Hall or Waterside (to be confirmed), Ashbourne Methodist Church

An evening of entertainment, reminiscence and fun focusing on Ashbourne Methodist School. All are welcome.

Donations in aid of the Link Development project.

Further details in the next edition.

Advance notice for your 2018 diary !

As many might be already planning things for next year please note that the Ashbourne Circuit Weekend away at Swanwick is planned for the weekend of **September 21st - 23rd 2018.**

Helen Walker

Ashbourne Circuit Directory and Prayer Diary

A new edition of the directory and diary will be produced this autumn. Please let me know if any corrections need to be made to your entry. Also, if you know of any other changes that need to be made. I will be writing to anyone who is new to the area to see if they want to be included.

Please send the details to Carole Thorpe 12 Cavendish Drive, Ashbourne DE6 1SR, cethorpe@hotmail.com or telephone 346535

HELP NEEDED



The Methodist Conference 2018
Nottingham University - 28th June- 5th July

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AS -

Stewards

Help Desk

Collators and paper distributors

Creche

Drivers

‘Meeters and Greeters’ (Birmingham Airport)

**Interested? Please make initial contact with
Carole Booth of The Methodist Conference Arrangements
Team**

Email: Caroleabooth@hotmail.com



THE CORNERSTONE COFFEE SHOP

Is part of AMC's outreach to the local community. Could you help? We need help on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday with serving and washing up.

Other options such as cake making, cleaning of equipment, laundry are other possibilities. Contact Pat Fielding—01335 345695

500th Anniversary of the Reformation

October 31st marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg church door in 1517, signalling the start of the Protestant Reformation. He was protesting against the practice of indulgences, where the good deeds of the saints could be purchased to reduce time spent in purgatory, before arriving in heaven. For Luther, this cheapened grace, repentance and forgiveness: 'You can't buy God's friendship!'

Luther rediscovered the truths of God's grace: 'For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith'.' (Romans 1:17). He recognised that righteousness (being right with God) and forgiveness is not earned by good works, but faith. The undeserved love of God and His acceptance is a matter of trust. This challenge to the Church of Luther's day remains so today! At the Diet (Council) of Worms, he refused to recant his views: 'Here I stand; I can do no other!'

Luther stood for the free forgiveness of the gospel, by which God accepts us because of the death of Jesus on our behalf to deal with our sin. Is this what we believe? Only trusting Jesus can make us right with God. In what ways can we slip into a mindset that seeks God's approval for what we achieve in our spiritual lives, rather than in how we can serve as a response to all He has done for us? We will continue to get things wrong, but God never gives up on us!

'Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong (sin boldly), but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world.' (Martin Luther)

Paul Hardingham

A "thank you" prayer

Father,

You are almighty and all powerful. You created the universe and yet you love and care for each one of us. Thank you. Thank you for loving us so much that you sent your precious Son Jesus to save us when we couldn't save ourselves. Thank you for offering life forever with you to all who trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross. Thank you for today. Help us to use it to reflect your love to others.

In Jesus name, *Amen*.

Time to speak out on behalf of persecuted Christian women

The Church worldwide must break the cycle of shame that forces persecuted Christian women to keep silent, according to a recent international conference.

‘These women are being targeted for two reasons – because they are Christians and because they are women,’ said Kate Ward, an organiser of ‘Christian Women Under Pressure for their Faith’ conference, held in Leuven, Belgium.

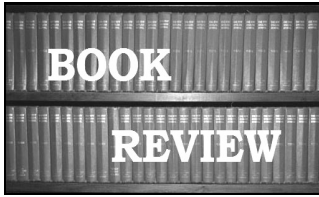
For example, in Nigeria, Christian girls are being abducted and impregnated by Boko Haram. In Egypt and Pakistan, Christian women are being kidnapped, raped, forced into marriage and forced to convert to Islam.

In many countries, ‘women’s bodies are being used as weapons of war against their own communities. For along with sexual attack comes shame, and shame forces women into silence,’ said Kate Ward, of *Release International*.

The Leuven Consultation, made up of academics and activists from 23 nations, met to address the growing problem of persecution facing Christian women. 215 million Christians experience extreme persecution in more than 50 countries worldwide. More than half of these are women, and Christian women suffer disproportionately, as they are doubly vulnerable to discrimination and violence. Yet, all too often, their voices are not heard.

Ms Sapna said Christian women in Pakistan were the most vulnerable members of their society. Under Sharia law the legal evidence of women is worth only half that of a man, and in certain cases, the evidence of a Christian is worth half that of a Muslim. Joint conference organiser Helene Fisher from *Open Doors International*, said: ‘The vulnerability of Christian women is being deliberately exploited to maximise the damage to the entire Church.’

Paul Robinson, the CEO of *Release International*, said; ‘*Let’s make sure there are protected places, safe places for the women-only voice, so that we can hear them and give them the value they deserve. Let’s break the cycle of shame. And only then can these women be fully healed and restored in Christ.*’ (Ed - also see Tom Parkinson’s report on p 11)



Travelling Solo – and celebrating life’s new opportunities

Jo Cundy, LionHudson, £7.99

This book’s starting point is an unexpected bereavement. It then walks the reader through the first steps of travelling through life alone. It is both anecdotal and reflective.

The book draws on Jo Cundy’s journal writings and reflections, and is themed around the last few years of learning to 'travel solo' after the death of her husband, Ian.

She writes: ‘I hope that other people in similar situations will be encouraged to grasp the opportunities that are on offer in their lives. God does not abandon us, but remains as active in our lives as we allow Him to be.’”

What’s age got to do with it? Preparing for a great old age

By Louise Morse, Monarch, £8.99

Most of us can expect to live longer than our parents, and much longer than our grandparents. But for some people, getting older has a negative outlook, as it seems many are isolated, suffer mental and physical ill health, are beset by worries about money, and feel lost in a swiftly changing environment.

It doesn’t have to be that way. There is a huge amount that we can all do to live well as we live longer. The basics are not complex, but they do require thought and preparation, and many of the solutions touch on the spiritual – issues of respect, belief, purpose and outlook.

God sees old age as a time of harvest; of fruitfulness and wisdom, of the crown of splendour the Bible describes. This is a straightforward, wise, practical book which offers real benefits in terms of fruitfulness and cheerfulness – and shows how all of us can continue to play a part in tomorrow’s world.



Alpha in Ashbourne,.... not to late to sign up

Following the Alpha Supper on 25 September, which introduced the next Alpha course, the course will start in the second week of October. As *Connections* goes to press the evening of the week and therefore available venue had not been set, as this is done to suit the greatest majority of people. The dates and venue will be published in the Ashbourne notice sheet but the course is open to anyone, across the circuit and beyond.

No one has to commit to do the whole course at the start, they will not be chased up if they decide that it is not for them. All the sessions will be held in a local home, start with a meal and finish by 9pm. At each session, after the food, the group watch a DVD together and have a brief discussion about the topic of the talk. No pressure, no follow-up, no charge. For more details, or to book a place on the course please contact **Jacqui Marsh 01335 345201 or jacq.marsh@gmail.com**

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year I indicated that having edited this magazine for over 10 years, I felt it was time for a change, to someone who could bring some fresh ideas to the role. I have not been overwhelmed by the response.

One of the benefits of this role is that providing you meet the publishing deadline each month you can fit the task into your other commitments. We are fortunate in that Sonya from *Ashbourne Secretarial and Printing Services* provides an amazingly quick 'turn round' once she has the copy, often within 48 hours. Thanks to desk top publishing (DTP) assembling each edition is made very easy and the finished product can be E-mailed to Sonya. I'm sure the church would help if you needed to acquire a DTP programme. Happy to chat with anyone who would like to know more.

Deadline for November edition, published on **October 29th** is **October 18th**.

Arthur Watts - postmaster@arthurandjoy.plus.com Tel 342542

Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, takes a humorous look at what happens when a lawyer gets involved

LEGAL ADVICE TO THE PRODIGAL SON'S PARENT

A parent goes to his lawyer and tells him or her that he has two sons. One wants some money. He wants to enjoy himself while he is still young and has some ideas for making money. The son says he can pay it back by having a smaller inheritance. What advice would the solicitor give?

First of all the lawyer would ask is it a gift or loan? What are the terms? Will interest be added? Will there be security for the loan? If the son is buying a house he could give some security. There may be tax benefits for the father in making a gift.

How will it be funded? Has the father got the ready money? If dad hands over most of his cash, he will not have any money for any unexpected expense.

Is it fair to the other son? It might be better to give a smaller amount to both. The best advice is to think carefully about it and not be rushed into making rash decisions.

Supposing it all goes wrong and the son wastes the money. He then wants to come back home. The father then goes to his solicitor again and asks for advice. Legally he does not have to have him back. It would be wise to think carefully and if he is allowed back he should be asked for proposals to repay the money. He should not be lent any more money and the father could change his will.

The father thanks the lawyer for his wise advice. He goes home and looks out of the window hoping to see his son whom he misses and thinks about every minute of the day. Far in the distance he spots him on the road home. He welcomes him and forgives him everything.

The other son then goes to see his solicitor for some advice....

As always this is a light-hearted guide and always take proper advice.



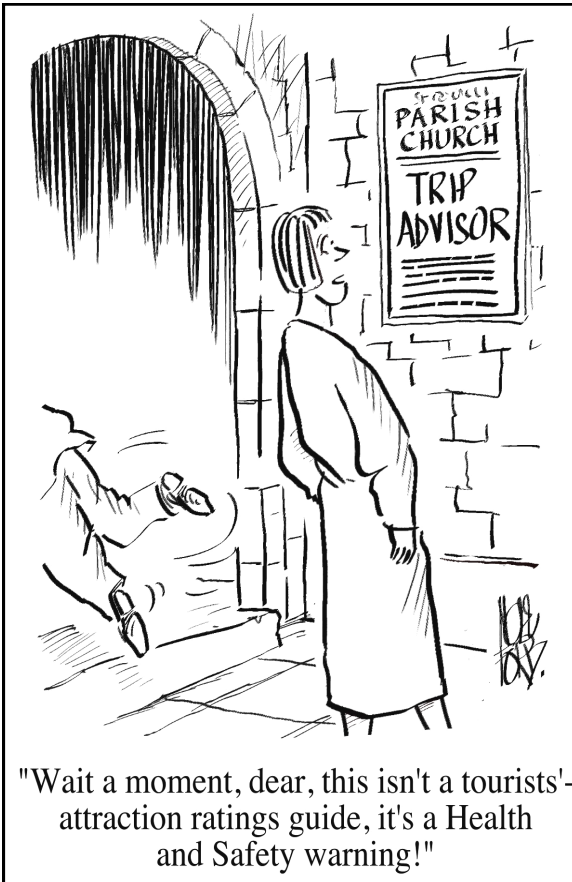
SMILE LINES

GIRLFRIEND

When our minister and his wife visited our neighbour, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. "Mum!" she yelled toward the living room. "God's here, and he brought his girlfriend."

THE COW AND THE BIBLE

A religious farmer lost his Bible out in the field. A few days later he went to answer a noise at his door. Standing there was a cow, with his Bible in its mouth. The farmer raised his eyes to heaven and thanked the Lord for this miracle. "Not really," said the cow. "Your name was written inside."



STICKS

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

THE GLASS

To the optimist, the glass is half full. To the pessimist, the glass is half empty. To the engineer, the glass is twice as big as it needs to be.

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday October 1st

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age, Harvest Festival
	18:30	Robert Sales	Harvest Festival
Brailsford	10:30	Ruth Barratt	United Service at Methodist Harvest Festival
Hulland	14:30	Tom Parkinson	

Sunday October 8th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style	in Century Hall
	10:30	John Dyster	
	18:30	Rev David Leese	Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Hulland	18:30		at Kniveton
Kniveton	18:30	Rev Alan Griggs	Harvest Festival
Parwich	14:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion

Sunday October 15th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	18:30	PRAISE	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Sue Leese	All Age
Hulland	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Tissington	10:30	Tom Parkinson	Harvest Festival

Sunday October 22nd

Ashbourne	10:30	Peter Dawson	
	18:30	Ann Parkinson	
Brailsford	10:30	Stuart Mustow	
Hulland	14:30	Fiona Green	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Ruth Barratt	
Kniveton	11:00	Lorraine Hawkins	
Parwich	14:30	Tom Parkinson	

Sunday October 29th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Jimione Kaci	Circuit Service, All Age, JMA
	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Brailsford	10:30		at Ashbourne
Hulland	10:30		at Ashbourne

Sunday November 5th

Ashbourne	10:30	Tom Parkinson	
	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	United Service at Methodist
Hulland	18:30	Tim Dutton	

Please note that the items in **bold** are a variation to the normal

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 - 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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Floods in Bihar and Patna
More than 500 people dead, many more made homeless
See Mission Matters page 4

