

Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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

**Blessed
are the
peacemakers**

**for they shall be called
the children of God**



November 2017

Letter from the Minister

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November 2017

Dear Friends,

“Memories remembered”



On a recent visit to my parents I had to find a photograph of my father to go with his “This is Me” folder for the Care Home where he now lives. We chose a picture of my father steering his narrowboat on the Thames one holiday. It was probably taken when he was about the age I am now!

Sifting through the photos to find the right one was not a simple exercise. You are suddenly confronted with pictures of people and places, including yourself, and the memories and experiences come flooding back. With my mother there to share them with and talk over, it took even longer!

How fortunate I am that the pictures brought back only happy memories of our life as a family, for which I am very grateful. We can look back at the people and places and be reminded of good times, happy experiences and loving moments.

The folder and photo will help those who care for my father to know a little about his life: what work he did, where he’s lived and what family he has. But they won’t know what he was like as a person. Not unless we share his story with them by what we tell them about him. And even then they’ll only get our side of the story – not his!

As the year moves towards its conclusion and our thoughts turn to remembrance time, we can all recall in our minds people whose lives

we have shared in – those who were “ever loving and ever loved”. When those memories warm our hearts and bring a smile to our face, we are truly blessed. How fortunate we have been.

As we share their stores, we keep their memory alive, and the words so often seen in the anniversary of bereavement announcement in the local paper ring true – “gone, but not forgotten”.

Thank God for the ability to remember. And with it, make sure you are thankful. And as you give thanks, retell one another’s stories, keeping their memory alive. In the words I saw on a plaque in a Methodist chapel: “Love’s last gift, Remembrance”.

Your minister and friend,

Tim Norris



**Does The Bible Really Say That? -
challenging our assumptions in the light of
Scripture**

by Mark Woods, Monarch £8.99

Does God have a specific plan for your life? Does God want to heal us all? This book started as one article, looking at whether God has a plan for our lives. But then the idea grew and the author wondered whether there were other things that deserve a hard look.

What about forgiveness, evangelism, and spiritual growth? What about Genesis? Are we missing some of the richness and depth of our faith because we don’t like to ask the questions we ought to ask? Are there different ways of thinking about old truths that might challenge and inspire us? Are there, even, old truths that turn out not to be true after all?”

In this biblically faithful book, Mark Woods takes a forensic look at some favourite evangelical assumptions and asks whether they are built on strong Scriptural foundations. Is the truth deeper, more radical and more dangerous?



MISSION MATTERS

40 years of doing God's mission the Zimbabwean way

By Alison Judd (www.methodist.org.uk)

In August I had the enormous privilege of representing the Methodist Church in Britain at the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe's (MCZ) annual Conference and fortieth anniversary of autonomy. (see *picture back cover*).

It was an unforgettable experience and one that was marked by surprises, the first being our enthusiastic welcome by ululating women at Harare Airport, complete with a TV crew for an interview. The next day, 500 women from across the country met at Trinity Methodist Church, Harare, where worshippers were enthralled by an address by the Revd J Dube on the topic of Gender Justice. The MCZ's new Gender Justice Officer, Lillian Chikara, was present to hear discussion touching on treatment of widows, gender based discrimination, the effects of adultery and HIV/AIDS on family relationships, and the need to speak up on behalf of other women seeking to reach their potential, both within the Church and beyond.

Back in Harare, we embarked on the four-day event at the National Sports Stadium to celebrate MCZ's 40 years of Autonomous Mission, under the theme of 'Warmed Hearts'. The days were filled with singing, dancing, worship, preaching, processions and performances by choirs of all ages, and greetings from special guests and representatives from the diaspora in Canada, South Africa and the UK. The stadium resounded with the voices of 40,000 Methodists, including several from the MCZ UK Fellowship.

The celebrations also included recognition of 40 years of women's ordination in MCZ. The first woman to be ordained, the Revd Margaret

James, was awarded several medals for outstanding service. She spoke of the need to include women in the leadership roles of the Church, including as bishops. Later, at the Conference, the Revd Evermary C Nyabonda was elected to that role, MCZ's first woman district leader in 20 years.

The Conference took place at the Flamboyant Hotel, Masvingo District. The Presiding Bishop was the Revd Dr Solomon Zwana, and the Lay President was Mr Brown Sanyauke. I again brought greetings from the MCB and on behalf of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. I assured them of our desire to continue in partnership with them through the World Church Team and spoke of how we appreciate the contributions made to the life of MCB by the MCZ UK Fellowship. I paid tribute to their initiatives that empower women, care for orphaned children, encourage men in the faith, ensure Christian education and outreach, and for taking the issue of gender justice seriously.

Our lasting impression of the Methodist people in Zimbabwe is that their faith is strong and resilient. They demonstrate a joy and trust in God that is an example to follow. They still manage to be generous in their giving, and demonstrate concern for others who are suffering in other parts of the world. It warmed our hearts to be with them as they celebrated 40 years of doing God's mission the Zimbabwean way. Thank God for 40 years of autonomous mission by the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, and 40 years of women's ordination in MCZ.

Do also pray for the ministry of Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our own mission partners in Zimbabwe.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary



An invitation to Coffee and Cakes!
(tea and juice too!) at 38 St. Oswald Crescent.
Saturday 18th November 10-12.

There will be a small Bring and Buy table as well.
All proceeds to be donated to the Arunima Hospice in Kolkata where we will do volunteer work in December.

Ruth, Joy and Christian Mallard.

'From Kniveton to Kenya'

FURTHER COPIES NOW AVAILABLE

Sister Merle's book has been reprinted. It tells the story of her call to ministry in East Africa and the UK, with colour photos of Merle in Kenya and a map showing the places where she worked.

Available from Ashbourne Methodist Church.
Ask a steward, or contact John or Daphne Dyster
01335 344086

Price £5.00
All profits to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund.



From Kniveton to Kenya



Sister Merle Wilde



Methodist Women in Britain

Advent Displays

Our Advent Displays this year will be in place from **30 November** until **26 December 2017**. The Theme this year is 'Stars of Christmas'. We look forward to entertaining children from nurseries during the first few days. We hope you will all take advantage of looking round and maybe meditating on the displays during this time.

District President

We are pleased that Mrs Sue Leese will be our District President from July 2018. She was elected and installed as Vice-President at the District Day at Carlton on 17 October. Sue will be inducted as District President at a District Day at our Church here in Ashbourne on **18 July 2018**. Please place this date in your diary **NOW** so you can come and support her on this occasion.

ASHBOURNE FOODBANK

Ashbourne Foodbank based in Elim Pentecostal Church, has been supporting clients in Ashbourne and surrounding villages, including Mayfield, for over five years. We support people during crisis times in their lives with emergency parcels. Due to changes in the time it takes to process benefit claims now, we often find ourselves supporting families for longer. Clients can only access food parcels from a referral from a bona fide agency.

Due to the reasons which were causing clients to be referred for support, as a church it was decided to set up a Social Action Ministry. This has now been in place for over two years. We have partnered and trained with Christians Against Poverty to deliver free courses including a Money Course, Job Club and Release Group (Release Group supports people trying to become free of addictions.) As of September we can also offer Debt Centre support. These courses are run by our trained managers, coaches and befrienders.

We also support families with Care for the Family, Time Out For Parents courses which include the Early Years, Primary Years, Teenage Years, Dads, How to Drug Proof Your Kids and for Parents of Children with Special Needs. These courses are run by our trained and licensed facilitator. We also offer an Empathy Hub once a month for parents/carers of children with special/ additional needs. A small cost is charged for these parenting courses. Our free Cooking on a Budget course is also popular.

Ashbourne Foodbank, as of the 20th September 2017 will be changing how we support clients.

Collection of parcels will be moved to Wednesday only from 9.30am to 2.30 pm. Instead of a 3 day parcel, clients will receive a weekly parcel. All clients will have the opportunity to access a hot lunch, homemade cakes, tea and coffee at our donation only café, Café Plus, on each Wednesday of the last three weeks of the month., during the time of 12.30 to 2.15pm.

At each session of Café Plus, volunteers from our trained Christians Against Poverty team will be present to advise clients on the courses

and support available free of charge.

To contact us regarding any of the above please phone Di Lambert on 01335 661238.

As Jesus taught in Matthew 25 v 40
“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Di Lambert, *Social Action Pastor/ Foodbank Manager*

Ashbourne Church Family News

“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” Hebrews 10.23

Let’s be reminded that God is faithful to His promises and He never changes however we feel.

We pray for those who remain unwell, those recovering from surgery, others waiting for tests and results or surgery including Sister Merle, Barbara Hollands, Mary Murphy, Maureen Gilbert, Kath Brown, Eric and Marianne Matthews, Jenny Waring, Cherrie Broadhurst, Dennis Foster 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.

Congratulations to Rachel Sales on gaining a Maths degree from Durham University. Rachel has now embarked on a yearlong research MSc in Statistics back in Durham and we wish her well with this. Congratulations to Helen and Tony Walker on the birth of their granddaughter, Lucy Frances, on 15 October, a daughter for Matt and Molly Walker and sister for Max. We (Richard and Joyce Odell) are grateful

for the safe delivery of our little granddaughter, Elizabeth Maya (Libbie) on 9 October.

Jonathan and Rosemary Webb have moved home to Brailsford and we pray for God's blessing on them as they settle into a new community. We continue to pray for Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe. Let's remember Stephen Hill studying at Leeds University and Susanne studying in Cambridge. Andrew Sales and Emily Peers are now in their second year studying in Sheffield.

Let us continue to pray for Andrew Lewer, our church member and MP for Northampton South as he manages his role.

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.

Elizabeth Spencer is part of the Chaplaincy team at the Royal Derby Hospital as a Chaplaincy Visitor and also as a Eucharistic Minister taking Holy Communion round the wards on a Sunday. If anyone would like to receive Holy Communion, prayers or a visit, do let her know. (348482) She is also a visitor at St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne. I have her email address if you prefer to use that.

Joyce Odell Pastoral Secretary 25.10.2017

The Brick

The bricklayer laid a brick on the bed of cement.

Then, with a precise stroke of his trowel spread another layer

And without a by-your-leave, laid on another brick.

The foundations grew visibly.

The building rose, tall and strong, to shelter people.

I thought, Lord, of that brick buried in the darkness at the base of the big building.

No one sees it, but it accomplishes its task, and the other bricks need it.

Lord, what difference whether I am on the roof-top or in the foundations of your building, as long as I stand faithfully at the right place?

Michel Quoist

THE LINK PROJECT – AN UPDATE

As most of you will know, a team has been working for some time planning a major upgrade to the church's main property in Ashbourne. The aim is to develop the facilities we will need in the church over the next 10 – 20 years. We are giving this programme the title "The Link" project, a reference to the potential construction of a new foyer building linking the main church, Century Hall and Cornerstone and also providing greater opportunity to build links between our church and the community. Early, but detailed, plans were shown to the church during the last consultation period during July of this year. We received very positive feedback about the scheme itself and about the idea of creating some older people's housing at the southern end of our site. Based on this feedback revisions to the plans have been made and approved by the Church Council.

Over the last few months, the team has continued its work, concentrating on:

- Seeking formal consent to make changes to the property, which is Grade 2 listed
- Working out costs, timescales and potential sources of funding for the project
- Developing further details of the proposal, based on the extensive feedback we have received
- Starting some initial fund-raising activities
- Setting up the commercial arrangements for further architectural work and for the subsequent development programme
- Further progress is currently dependent on gaining listed building consent from the Methodist Church's Conservation Officer based in Manchester; we had a visit on 17th October from the Conservation Officer together with members of the Church's Listed Building Advisory Committee and, although they were supportive, it is clear that this is going to be a slow process, taking a further 6 months or so. In the meantime, we will continue to develop details of the scheme and we will keep you informed of developments!

The Link Project Team

Postcard Plan

Twenty years ago I came across a circuit plan for the Ashbourne Wesleyan circuit for the quarter November 1906 to January 1907. To myself, keenly interested in Methodist history, good enough, but this was special.

Firstly it is in the form of a postcard, -yes a preaching plan on a postcard,- and this was a new thing to me. I can only read it with the aid of a magnifying glass ! However even more importantly Connexionally it is the only circuit plan we have ever found that was issued as a postcard. No one is aware of any other plan on a postcard. The reasons for this unusual form of plan distribution is not known— unless someone reading here knows the answer. As a card it was posted on October 24th 1906 from Ashbourne to an address in Lincoln.

The plan tells of chapels that are no longer open, Mayfield, Rodsley, Wyaston, Shirley, Clifton, Bentley, Parwich and three still open at Ashbourne, Hulland, and Brailsford. It is a snapshot in time, and in typical Methodist style the circuit levy from the individual chapels is given high prominence ranging from the £23-10 shillings from Ashbourne to Shirley's £1-10 shillings.

Frustratingly the card is unsigned but has a fascinating message, reflecting the life and view of a Wesleyan at the time. It reads as follows:

“Dear Sir,

You will see what this view is. It is a very pretty view in certain parts, particularly about Christmas. Am well happy, comfortable and hopeful. First home from the sewing meeting tea. Kind regards to all. EB.”

I've heard of members of churches who plan watch, and attend worship depending on the preacher. From the postcard message I can only assume that the 'pretty view' about Christmas refers to the perception of the writer about the preachers over Christmas.

David Leese

I DID IT MY WAY

Who am I?

Well I've become one of your newish members at this wonderful church. How did I become a Christian? I suppose it all began when Mum sent my sisters and I to church on a Sunday morning. Just like your young ones I joined the Boys' Brigade at the age of eight and enjoyed it for six years, going once to 'camp' at Weymouth just after the war, and finally left to join a 'Boys' Club' where I got interested in a gymnastic session, quickly becoming very good at it, entering competitions and displays with various clubs all around the Bristol area.

I became an apprentice at the age of 14 as a blacksmith, until conscription got hold of me. Nevertheless I did manage to become a physical training instructor – really a life of sport. When I finally left the army I went back to blacksmithing.

On one of my holidays I went to Jersey, where I met a Birmingham, girl, travelling every fortnight to see her and her parents. Then I upped sticks, left home and came to live there. Later in life I had the chance to buy a smithy and my skills became quite good.

I've been a pencil drawer since a very young age, and now in my later years took up painting, joining a class here in Ashbourne. So do you think I have been lucky? No, I think it's all down to being a Christian and **GOD** giving this ability to share with others, His and mine gifts and I thank Him from my heart.

I also became a collector of antique bicycles, ending up with over twenty – including three wooden-wheeled boneshakers dated 1860, three penny-farthings from 1890 with solid tyres and lots more. They were no static displays as I rode them each month to a veteran cycle group. (I also rode a boneshaker from Birmingham to Harrogate and a penny-farthing for 50 miles.)

So that is my colourful life and a potted history of me, but I will leave you with one of my late wife's sayings: *"Prayer is the key to the day and the lock at night."*

God bless

Peter Richards



Our Coffee Morning on 9 October raised the magnificent sum of £641.14, including donations. Well done to everybody and big thank you to all who supported this event.

Our Shoebox Blessing service takes place on **Sunday 26 November**. We do not know to which country our boxes will go, we just know that they are sent with our love to children who would not otherwise receive a gift.

Your help is needed!

On **Monday 27 November** we need to move the boxes from church into Monday Morning Housegroup's cars, outside Century Hall. This is best achieved by a human chain.

Are YOU willing to help with this, please?

The boxes will be checked at the warehouse in Derby, which is a change to our previous routine.

Very importantly, box checkers are needed at the warehouse to ensure that the contents of all the boxes from the Derby area comply with the relevant customs regulations. In the past we have had a wonderful number of helpers to do this in Ashbourne, could you continue to help, but at the warehouse in Derby? It would be good to be able to car-share for this.

As yet we do not have the address and dates when the warehouse will be open; these will be advised in the weekly notice sheet when known.

Please speak to Chris, Sheila, Brenda or Margaret if you can help with either of these tasks.

Margaret Heaton

From the Editor

Dear Friends

Just space to thank our contributors this month and to encourage you to think about contributing yourself.

I would like to hand over the Editor's chair by next Easter, happy to chat through what's involved without obligation!

Deadline for copy for combined Dec/Jan edition **22nd Nov**, publication **3rd December**.

Arthur Watts



MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

NOVEMBER

Wed 1st	19:30	MWiB Supper Evening
Thu 2nd	19:30	Ashbourne Leadership Team meeting
Mon 6th	12:00	ACT noon prayers
Sat 11th	18:00	Ashbourne Film Night
Sat 11th		Wesleygog evening - Postponed
Mon 27th	9:00	Circuit Leadership Team meeting

DECEMBER

Sat 2nd		MWiB Advent Display at Ashbourne
Sun 3rd		MWiB Advent Display at Ashbourne
Mon 4th	12:00	ACT noon prayers at St John's Church
Tue 5th	19:30	Local Preachers meeting
Wed 20th	10:00	Messy Church, Century Hall, Ashbourne

CONCERT for ACE by Chameleon Choir.

This is advance notice of a concert to be held in Ashbourne Methodist Church on **Saturday 2nd December at 7.00.**

Tickets will be available from *Avanti*, price £8 with under 16's free, to include seasonal refreshments.

The evening will include contributions by young people from ACE and QEGs.

Watch this space.

P.S. On moving to Ashbourne last year I sought to join a choir and would recommend this small friendly choir for male and female voices. I would be happy to provide any further information.

David Leese

Ashbourne Circuit Directory and Prayer Diary

A new edition of the directory and diary will be produced this month. This is your last chance to 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. Note to pastoral visitors and house group leaders – have you checked your pastoral list yet?

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

A one-time refugees story!

Born in Neumunster, Germany in 1940, my Father was in the navy and I have only a few memories of his visits while he was on leave. Towards the end of the war we had next to no food and lived mostly on porridge provided by my uncle. I still cannot face porridge to this day! My brother was born in 1944. When the war ended my Mother-who spoke some English and was a secretary, married one of the British soldiers of occupation. He adopted my brother and I. At the age of eight, I arrived at an English school with only a smattering of the language and was made fun of because of my strange (German) clothing and some children threw stones at me on the way home! My brother did not escape either; but my Mother went to the Headmaster and that was the end of that!

By ten and a half I had passed the entrance examination for Bishop Fox's GS in Taunton, but more change was on the way. After the birth of her fourth child my Mother had a stroke. Her husband left her and my aunt came from Germany to look after us all for a year, at the end of which we returned to Germany for some time, much against my will. It meant relearning German and a German school!

My Mother realised that she had to return to England within a year to retain her British citizenship, so we ended up on the Somerset CC doorstep, homeless and penniless. My Mother and the rest of the family were accommodated some distance away, but fortunately I was allowed back to the Grammar School and boarded out until there was a space for me in the boarding house attached to the school. It was good too that the County paid for my board, my uniform, my casual clothes and somewhere to stay during school holidays.

This wonderful support continued until I went to Birmingham University on full grant.

In the early days at Bishop Fox's GS I made friends with another new girl. She went home and told her parents that I ate up all the "left overs" at school dinners. They discovered that the food at my temporary accommodation was not very adequate, so they started inviting me to their house for Sunday lunch. I found that my new friends were Christians, they were regular church goers and ran a Crusader Class in their home, which I attended. Subsequently I attended another church and the Bible class leader and his family became firm long-term friends. They regularly invited members of the school boarding house to church and lunch. The leader later "gave me away" when I married

I am so grateful for all the Christians who took me under their wing during my early years in England as "a refugee" and for being challenged as a teenager to commit my life to God. Thankful too to all the other Christians who helped me in the difficult times.

My Mother died in her late forties and it was then that my Grandmother was released from her promise to her and told me that my Father was not dead but alive! I got in touch with him and had very happy visits to him with the children. Something else to thank God for!

Sigrid Mustow

REFLECTIONS.

It is hard to reconcile, where, in one place the weather can wreak devastation and tragedy, where in another place a hundred plus miles away can produce some stunning sights! I am talking about the Hurricane-cum storm, named Ophelia, that passed by these islands this week and caused so much devastation in Ireland, and the deaths of three people.

Here, on the farm, we had strong winds, which, stripping leaves off the trees surrounding the farm and in the woods, caused a sight of leaves falling like a golden snow as they caught the sun as they fell to earth, and, also, a curious phenomenon, a red sun. Caused, I was told by the storm picking up dust from the Sahara, and ash from the forest fires in the Iberian Peninsula. At sometime around noon, the atmospheric

colour made it seem like we were on Mars!

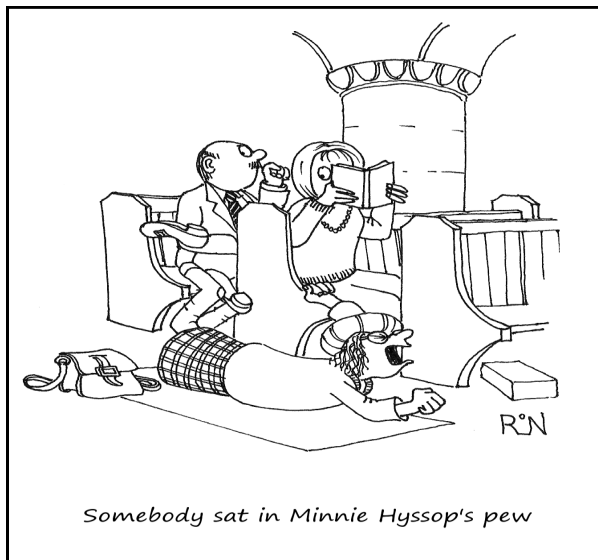
Also in the news was the "theory" of Gravity Waves, sometimes called Einstein Waves, being proved as the Earth has been washed by waves from a collision of Neutron Stars that happened billions of miles away, millions of years ago!

Closer to home, sometime ago, I saw a calf having a scratch, using the underside of the neck of our bull, "Digger" as "its scratching post!" *Digger* let it do so for about five minutes, then moved off without hurting the calf!

Lately, I was watching a calf, in what I could only describe as "playing", by running between its mother and another cow of the herd 50 yards away, in an oval circuit for about five minutes off and on. It had a short rest near its mother, then off it went again!

While we mourn the tragedies of some, as what happened in Ireland, and to a greater extent in the Caribbean and other natural disasters. There are things in this world that we can still thank God for, to quote the hymn, "*This, this is the God we adore*", last two lines. "*We'll praise him for all that is past, and trust Him for all that's to come.*"

God Bless. **Tom. P.**



MARY'S MEALS

Back in July this summer(!?), Alma Swan, Betty Douce, Anne Wills and myself spent a few days near Arrochar at the head of Loch Long. Arrochar is not far from Dalmally- the seemingly unlikely location where the above Charity had its origins. This Charity was founded by the family-and friends of Magnus Macfarlane-Barrow - a young fish farmer in the area. On our final evening there, we had a 'chance' encounter with one of his close associates - she works with him in 'The Shed' and had been a school pupil with him in earlier days. 'The Shed' belonged to his father which was used initially to store donations of aid for refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina. To this day Magnus uses this humble shed as his office.

His book ,'*The Shed that Fed a Million Children*' makes for inspirational reading and yes - over A MILLION otherwise starving children world-wide are given a nutritious meal every day. This is allied with their schooling - and local helpers do the cooking.

The Charity exercises no religious barriers in the aid it provides, though Marcus himself is a devout Christian stalwart. I've been so touched spiritually by his book - and in the final words - '*thank you Jesus for it all. It is all yours, the praise, the glory the things that have happened and those still to come*' emphasise the firm foundation of the work.

Some of our *Pennies for Lent* have been part of all this - thank you Pat (Fielding) for making this happen. Our contact that evening in Arrochar recognised your name!

Please look at www.marysmeals.org.uk - there's so much that is uplifting to read there - and of course the book is amazing!

Margaret Hasler

Thought for the Day. (*Eric and Marianne Matthews found this comforting, perhaps you will too*).

Enjoy the blessings of the day...
and the evils bear patiently: for this day is ours:
we are dead to yesterday, and not born to tomorrow.

Bishop Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

STOP PRESS!

News from the Hills in Zimbabwe:

Things are not getting better in Zimbabwe with inflation caused by the cash crisis. Cash is very difficult to obtain. The general economic situation has driven many people to poverty and it seems to be hard to escape.

The education system is going down, though it used to be one of the best in Africa.

Health services are also suffering from a lack of medical supplies. People are often discharged from hospital when they are still ill, or they are asked to go and buy their own medicine or needles or pint of blood and bring them with them to the hospital. Many people simply can't afford to do that so they just go back home and wait to die. Pray for God's intervention in these areas.

There is misunderstanding amongst our government leaders of late. Pray for a strong team spirit and good relationships between the leaders. Pray for God's guidance and wisdom and favour. Pray for a free and fair election next year.

We give thanks for the few showers of rain that we have already experienced this early in the season and we pray for a good rainy season. The livelihoods of the majority of Zimbabwe's population depend on how good the rains are.

We give thanks for the fellowship and support we enjoy in our Fellowship and Bible Study group at Hillside Methodist Church and knowing that others around the world, especially at Ashbourne, are also supporting us.

We give thanks for the thriving Sunday School at Hillside Methodist and pray that we continue to have the energy to lead them!

There is much turmoil in Zimbabwe's schools after the hurried and poorly planned introduction of a new curriculum at all levels at Primary and Secondary school. The least of the troubles is that teachers are 'tearing their hair out' in frustration and work overload. The plans seem good in principle, but not well implemented so far.

Having turned 60 last year, I (Jonathan) have decided to start
(*contd on p 21*)

Did St Paul text the Thessalonians? Or WhatsApp the Corinthians?



The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

No, I do not think it would be a good idea for us to correspond by your wretched 'e-mail' in future – as I am sure you know I do not possess an email apparatus. At St. James the Least, we may well be poised to make the great leap forward into the next century, but when we do so, we shall leap forward into the nineteenth; it will be enough for future generations to give consideration to progression towards the twentieth. Beyond that does not bear speculation.

Pen and ink has been the medium of choice for generations of clergy, as they should be for you too. St. Paul, may I remind you, did not send a WhatsApp to the Corinthians - and was even proud to mention that part of his letter was written by his own hand. And while I am on the subject, it would greatly please me if you stopped using ball-point pens; they may be suitable for tradesmen, but not for a Clerk in Holy Orders. Do get yourself a good fountain pen and some permanent blue-black ink. Beware of parishioners who write to you in green ink; it is a sure sign they are unbalanced.

Modern technology may well have a place in the commercial world, but it should not impinge on the life of the Church. Your photocopied monthly magazine admittedly looks rather grand, but it needs a smudged, cyclostyled edition to re-assure readers that this is a truly Anglican production. The sight of Miss Pemberton thumping out those stencils on her grandfather's typewriter, which he used during the Crimean campaign, running off the copies and emerging hours later liberally covered in black ink gives a re-assuring sense of continuity with the past. Seeing her days later at church, still stained with

printers' ink, makes those parishioners who don't know the real reason speculate on whether she is moonlighting as a chimney sweep.

When Jesus taught His disciples, did He have to wait until they could record Him on their smartphones? When He told them where they were to go, did they get out their electronic diaries to see if they had a 'window' that day? Or google 'maps' to make sure He knew the quickest way there? When St. Paul wanted to check on the well-being of the Thessalonians, did he think of texting them? I rest my case. Your loving uncle,

Eustace

(contd from page 19)

exercising encouraged by my children buying me a Fitbit and training shoes. Isabel, though some years younger, is already a regular exerciser and is now planning (as part of her work for the Bulawayo Methodist District Health Services) to set up an exercise class for women at Bulawayo Central Methodist Church. Please pray for the success of this ministry.

Isabel is also trying to set up Kids' Clubs at Methodist Church locations throughout the District. She is arranging for members of the youth at the churches to run the clubs under the general supervision of the Care Givers who are already there. One at Nketa 7 in Bulawayo is going well. Isabel will be starting a new one at Sigola Methodist Church outside Bulawayo today. These are to give a chance for orphans and vulnerable children to play outdoor games together.

We are glad and thankful for the progress being made by our children in their studies. Stephen is relishing his masters course at University of Leeds and Susannah is starting her final year at Anglia Ruskin. Tony is still working in Cambridge, but trying to find new accommodation outside the city, where prices are not so high.

All best wishes,

Jonathan and Isabel 26 October. 2017

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday November 12th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style
	10:45	Diana Whitmill
	18:30	Stuart Mustow
Brailsford	10:45	
Hulland	18:30	John Dyster
Kniveton	14:30	Ann Parkinson
Parwich	10:00	

Remembrance Sunday

in Century Hall

United Service at Parish

United Service at Parish

Sunday November 19th

Ashbourne	10:30	Ruth Barratt	
	18:30	PRAISE	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Fiona Green	All Age, Shoeboxes
Hulland	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Tissington	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

Sunday November 26th

Ashbourne	10:30	Tim Dutton/Rev Tim Morris	Shoeboxes, Communion
	18:30	Lorraine Hawkins	
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	
Hulland	14:30	Robert Sales	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev David Leese	
Kniveton	11:00	Diana Whitmill	Shoeboxes, Village Hall
Parwich	14:30	Peter Dawson	

Sunday December 3rd

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	
	18:30	Tom Parkinson	
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	United Service at Methodist
Hulland		no service	

Sunday December 10th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	18:30	Peter Dawson	
Brailsford	10:30	Diana Whitmill	
Hulland	18:30	Rev Tim Morris/John Dyster	Carol Service
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	Carol Service
Kniveton	14:30	Stuart Mustow	
Parwich		no service	

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: weekly <i>Contact - Jeff Ffoulkes (300443)</i>
Thurs, Fri, Sat	10:00am	The Cornerstone Coffee Shop <i>Contact - Pat Fielding (345695)</i>

BRILSFORD 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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**40th Annual Conference of Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
(see report on page 4)**



**Harvest Gifts at AMC were donated to Ashbourne Food Bank
(see report on page 7)**