

Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



February 2018

Letter from our Family Outreach Worker at AMC

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Dear Friends

Happy New Year to one and all.

It was such a delight to be in the congregation for Caleb Farmer's Baptism on January 14th. Rev Tim spoke about names and calling.

This service came just after I had completed my last week of teaching as part of the BA (Hons) Mission and Ministry degree course I have been working on over the last 4 years at Cliff College. One of the pieces in this final push towards Graduation is focused on 'Our Calling'. Rev Tim's words seemed to fit in beautifully.

Psalm 139 explains that God knows us all even before we were born and calls us to himself. Initially, he calls us to love him, because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). He calls us to offer our lives, our bodies and our abilities as living sacrifices in response to Jesus' offering of his life in total sacrifice for us.

God also calls us to specific tasks within his kingdom and the church, the body of Christ. From the beginning of time, God has used men and women to serve him. Moses, David and Joshua are three such people who were given a high profile task to complete for God.

Esther, Ruth and Naaman's servant on the other hand, had less prominent roles to play yet nonetheless just as important. Without their willingness to follow God's prompting, history would be different.

The season of Lent will be upon us shortly. Traditionally, it is a time of giving things up. Perhaps this year you may like to consider freeing up time to ponder your calling and discern your role in the kingdom of God and the church. Perhaps we could all be more intentional about telling others about the purpose we find in our lives when we follow Jesus.

However you spend the forty days of Lent, I pray that this will be a time of preparation for the mystery of Easter.
God bless you,

Jane.



Dates for your Diary

February

Thu 15th 10:00 Ashbourne Messy Church
Sat 24th 19:00 Jazz Evening at Brailsford Village Institute
Sun 25th 15:30 Parwich Church Council

March

Tue 6th 10:00 Tissington Church Council
Tue 6th 14:00 Kniveton Church Council
Tue 6th 19:30 Local Preachers Meeting
Sat 10th 19:00 Wesleygog event
Mon 12th 9:00 Circuit Leadership Team meeting
Mon 12th 19:30 Ashbourne Leadership Team meeting
Thu 15th 10:00 Ashbourne Messy Church
Wed 14th 14:00 Hulland Church Council
Sat 24th 19:00 Jazz Evening at Brailsford Village Institute
Sat 17th 10:00 District Safeguarding Conference at Bingham
Sun 25th 15:30 Parwich Church Council
Tue 20th 19:30 Ashbourne Pastoral Visitors meeting

Wed 24th 19:30 MWiB Supper evening

Tue 6th 14:00 Kniveton Church Council

Tue 6th 19:30 Local Preachers Meeting

Sat 10th 19:00 Wesleygog event

Sat 21st 10:00 District Synod

Mon 12th 9:00 Circuit Leadership Team meeting

Mon 12th 19:30 Ashbourne Leadership Team meeting

Wed 14th 14:00 Hulland Church Council

Sat 17th 10:00 District Safeguarding Conference at Bingham

Thu 10th 11:00 Tissington Well Dressings

Tue 20th 19:30 Ashbourne Pastoral Visitors meeting

Wed 21st 19:30 MWiB Supper evening

Sun 27 15:00 Songs of Praise at Carsington Water

Sat 30th 14:15 Opening of the Methodist Conference at Brailsford

at Nottingham University

Thu 10th 11:00 Tissington Well Dressings

June
Sun 17th 15:00 Songs of Praise at Carsington

Sat 30th 14:15 Opening of the Methodist Conference at Nottingham

Ashbourne Church Family News

“He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.” Ephesians 4.16. Isn't it good to know that as we each do our own special work, (and no one else can do it) we help other parts to grow.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Doris Harrison who passed away on 6 December, with Helen Barker whose sister passed away on 15 December and with John Barker on the death of his stepmother on 4 January. Our thoughts and prayers are also with Rev Tim Morris and family on the death of Tim's Dad on 17th January.

On 14 January, we were pleased to welcome many family and friends of Ian and Jacqui Marsh and of Jen and Tad Farmer as Caleb William Farmer was christened.

Jean Wathall has now moved into Ashbourne. Rev John Perkins has moved home to Ashbourne Lodge. Maureen and Mike Gilbert are moving to near Cannock Chase at the end of January and Roger and Helen Davies have now decided to remain in Bristol. We wish them all well.

As it is two months since I last wrote the family news there are those who have been in hospital who are now well on the way to recovery namely Peter Dawson and Dorothy Critchlow. Others would value prayer as they continue with tests and treatment or wait for results; Les Cole, Jenny Waring, Maureen Gilbert, Kath Brown, Barbara Hollands and Eric and Marianne Matthews. A number in our congregation are under the weather with colds and flu-like symptoms. Remember those who care for others too. We have a number who travel distances in the winter weather to care for parents.

Congratulations to Tony Walker who was recognised in the New Year Honours list and he will receive a CBE for his services to the motor industry. Stuart Green is to be encouraged in his involvement in Christian Aid's Salt Movement in promoting Christian values in businesses in the East Midlands (see

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved-locally/east-midlands>).

Congratulations to Gareth and Val Rutledge on becoming grand - parents to Elaine Alice Joy, a daughter for James and Becky and to David and Jean Barrie on becoming grandparents to Sophie Indira, a daughter for Jennifer and Sudip.

Anne Wills returned safely from a visit to South Africa, as did Ruth, Joy and Christian Mallard from their visit to India. Do ask them about their visits. John and Elizabeth Hurfurt visit India and Patna Partnership friends and Kolkata from 25 January to 19 February.

Beth Peers, Lucy Hibberd and Molly Dawson have just completed their mock GCSEs and are now working for exams in May. All our young people at school need our prayers as they face the challenges of life.

Please continue to remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners, in the uncertainties of Zimbabwe. Stephen and Suzanne continue study in the UK.

After worship on a Sunday, there are people available to pray with you or for you. Stewards know people willing to do this. The weekly prayer meeting takes place at church at 9.30 am on a Thursday. If the Lord lays it on your heart to pray with others for His work in our community and Thursday does not suit, just mention it to a steward or to me and alternative options can be considered.

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 on 348482. She is also a visitor at St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne.

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 17.01.2018



METHODIST HOMES. Over the next few weeks, up to mid March, I will be collecting the MHA Boxes from folk who have them to count and bank the contents before the end of the financial year. If you have one you can pass it

on to me at church, or leave it on the pigeon hole box. If you are unable to get to church, please give me a call and I will arrange a time with you to pick it up. *Tom Parkinson, (Tel 324918)*



Methodist Women in Britain

Willersley Week - 12-15 March

It is now time to book for a Day of Fellowship at Willersley Castle, Cromford. The Leader this year will be Sandra Goodwin, the current Connexional President of MWiB. I am sure she will give us an interesting and thought provoking day. The cost for the day is £16.00 which includes coffee, lunch and conference expenses. The day commences at 10.30 am (Coffee from 10.00 am) and ends at approximately 3.45 pm. If you would like to go, please let me know as soon as possible and the day on which you would like to attend. It is a great time of fellowship with other ladies from around the District.

District Day - Saturday 3 March

Our next District Day will be held at Ashbourne Road Methodist Church, Derby. Registration (£2.00) and Coffee will be from 10 am with Devotions at 10.30 am and Business from 10.45 am. At 11.30 am there will be a speaker - this will be Dean Gillespie from *All We Can*. At 12.30 pm approximately, we shall have lunch. Please bring a packed lunch. I am sure this will be an interesting time. This Church is accessible by the Swift Bus which stops very nearby. Please give it a try!

Dates for your Diary

21 March Supper Evening in the Century Hall - Marks Pies, Meringues and Gospel Magic with David Leese

14 April Prayer Walk from The Old House, Roston (Sandra and Cliff's) followed by breakfast.

Alma Swan (343751)

Women's World Day of Prayer - Friday 2nd March 2018 at 11 am St. Oswald's Church, Ashbourne

Women's World Day of Prayer is an opportunity to share in an ecumenical service with men and women throughout the world. The theme this year is 'All God's Creation is Very Good' and has been written by the women of Suriname. It asks us to think about how we care for the world's resources, as well as learning about, and praying for, the situation of women in Suriname, and their concerns for the

future. This is not simply a day of prayer for women, but is for all, yes – men as well - who care about our world and the people who live in it. The prayers and praise will begin in Samoa as the sun rises and will be repeated throughout the day in the world, ending as the sun sets off the coast of American Samoa. We are all invited to join in this act of continuous praise.

Further information available from *Sandra Lewer* or *Betty Hadley*.



Green Box 38

Plastic -again!

Plastic is much in the news at the moment; the problems of it littering our oceans have been highlighted by Blue Planet 11, there is a campaign to have a money-back return scheme on the sale of plastic bottles (already announced in Scotland, and also for glass bottles and aluminium cans), and our government is looking to develop ways of reducing and recycling over the next 25 years (the next 5 years would be better!!).

It has been found by researchers that the vast majority of plastic streaming into the oceans comes from 10 rivers in Africa and Asia, and there are plans afoot to remedy this situation. Many of the countries concerned are asking for help to educate their people and to devise clean-up plans. The global campaign organisation, Avaaz, is heavily involved in this.

BUT, although much of this might seem rather remote from us, as Christians we cannot evade responsibility for God's creation. This planet works as an integrated whole, not in separate parts as we humans tend to, and we must play our part. We might feel that our one effort will make little or no difference in the global scheme of things, but multiplied by 1 million, 2 million,..... 50 million..... The most important message is to **REDUCE**.

But plastic is everywhere, so **Practical Advice, part 1!**

Plastic film

One of the keys as to which types can be recycled is the 'chewing gum' test! If you can pull a piece of plastic film and it stretches, like chewing

gum, it can be recycled. Otherwise, not! The exception is cling film, which sort of stretches.

Recyclable – carrier bags, bread bags, cereal bags of porridge oats (not inners from boxes), wrappers and ring joiners from multiple packs of cans and plastic bottles, wrappers from packs of toilet rolls and kitchen towels, freezer bags, thin bags used for fruit and veg in supermarkets or greengrocers, bubble wrap.

Non-recyclable – Cling film, food and drink pouches, crisp packets, film lids from ready-meals and food trays.

All the recyclable plastic film can be put in the plastic bag recycling container at Sainsbury's, next to the photo booth.

If anyone has any queries or information, please do get in touch.

Pat Fielding

Powersource Film & Fun

On the 2nd Sunday of each month, when many of the children and young people come to the 9:15 service, we have a slightly different format for Powersource.

This came from feedback from the children and young people, some of whom were also coming to Mustard youth fellowship in the evening, that they would like a different style for this session. We think it's great that the young people want to spend several hours at church on a Sunday, and were happy to change the format for this session each month.



For the last few months, we have been using the “Torchlighters” animated short films, each of which tells the story of a “Hero of the Faith”.

So far, we have watched films about Gladys Alward, William Booth, Eric Liddell and John Wesley. Each film is about 30 minutes long and they are often very thought-provoking. They also have some activities that go along with them, and we sometimes also play some games rather than spending all of the session sitting down!

If you'd like to read more about Torchlighters or to see some clips, have a look at www.torchlighters.org

The Powersource Team

An alphabet of reflections on our December visit to Kolkata.

(see pictures on back cover)

- A** – Auntie - Ruth’s name with the children. **Arunima** Hospice – where the children from Snehakunja Children’s Home live.
- B** – Beetle, very large, which frightened Ruth in the bathroom! Blessings which we experienced during our visit.
- C** – Curry, Cows in the streets, Cricket, **CRS** – Cathedral Relief Service providing education, healthcare and empowerment to the disadvantaged.
- D** – Didi – “sister Joy” – Dada “brother Christian” – the names the children used for Joy and Christian. Dogs in the dust. **Dedicating** a sewing machine in a rural area on Christmas Day.
- E** – Excitement when a group of our children went to the seaside. Us too!
- F** – Football. Christian played a lot with the boys.
- G** – Goats usually in fields, frequently on the streets and once we saw 4 on the back of a motorbike! **Ganges** river.
- H** – Honking vehicle horns – very noisy driving. Happiness with the children at the hospice.
- I** – Invitation – thank you to Bishop Ashoke Biswas for providing an opportunity for us to visit.
- J** – Jumping up and down games and action songs.
- K** – Kolkata – our destination, a big bustling city.
- L** – Litter nearly everywhere. Lessons – Joy and Christian’s work with the children.
- M** – Monkeys. Making stronger links with folk in India.

N – Navi Dana – a women’s empowerment social business in Kolkata.

O – Opportunities for us to help and to learn.

P – Prayer – thank you for your priceless support. **Poverty. Pollution.**

Q – Quiet found occasionally.

R – Rice. Rickshaws.

S – Streetlife – never a dull moment. **St.** Paul’s Cathedral, Kolkata – a beautiful Christmas Day Service.

T – Taj Mahal - stunning. Tuk Tuks, Traffic jams.

U – Underneath the flyover in the city a classroom has been set up to help the children that live there.

V – Vibrant colours. Varanasi – alleyways and ancient temples. **Very** stiff joints after a cramped overnight sleeper train journey.

W – Work – our children’s programme for 46 children.

X – ~~Xxx~~ love shown to us.

Y – Yuk – lots of spitting on the streets.

Z- Zzz – many Bengali people take an afternoon nap.

Ruth, Joy and Christian Mallard



JMA breakfast in The Cornerstone

Sunday 25th February 9-10am.

All members welcome.



MISSION

MATTERS

Mission Matters for Prayer THAT MEANS US!

As many of you know the Ashbourne Circuit has a number of partners involved in mission around the world, including local ones. There are various important ways in which we can support them and the cause of mission in general: by prayer and by giving, not just of our money but by the giving of ourselves through direct involvement, hosting mission partners visiting the area and even by giving our time by going to visit them wherever they are! Recently church members have visited partners in South Africa and in India. But also by responding to the call of God in service with a local or international partner, as Sister Merle did in Kenya all those years ago. All of which needs covering in prayer.

To facilitate our prayer for these partners we produce *Mission Matters for Prayer* every few months. Copies (pink this time) are available in the entrance to Ashbourne church, in Tissington chapel and in Kniveton chapel. Do please help yourself to a copy and use it. I am always happy to incorporate any suggestions I receive in future editions. Please also make good use of the *Methodist Prayer Handbook*, which includes praying around the world.

The latest copy of *Mission Matters for Prayer* (November) includes the following:

ACE Youth Trust <http://www.aceyouth.org.uk/>

We thank God for the work of ACE alongside local young people and for the way in which young lives are being changed through the unstinting care and support of ACE volunteers and staff. Please continue to pray for ACE, asking for God's blessing upon everyone involved, young people, volunteers and staff.

Patna Partnership, N India

<http://www.ashbournechurchestogether.org.uk/patna.html>

Please pray for all those affected by the recent floods and the work that the church is doing in trying to help them; for all the pastors in the diocese, for the schools and the difficulties they face in appointing well qualified teachers in the rural areas. John & Elizabeth Hurfurt visit them in January.

Operation Christmas Child

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/look-where-your-shoebox-went/>

Last year's consignment, for Lithuania, was very well supported. Pray for those who assemble boxes this year; who provide materials to put in the boxes, who transport the boxes and those who eventually receive them.

Methodist Homes (MHA)

<http://www.mha.org.uk/about-mha/chaplaincy-and-spirituality/>

Please pray for MHA in their day to day business, with all the staff changes, and the changing of banks (HSBC to Barclay's) does not get in the way of their dedication to the care of the elderly and Dementia care.

Jonathan and Isabel Hill, Zimbabwe <http://www.isabeljonathan.org/>

[prior to the recent election] Things are not getting better in Zimbabwe, with inflation and the general economic situation which has driven many people to poverty. Pray for God's intervention in these areas:

- 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. Many people simply can't afford to do that so they just go back home and wait to die.
- We give thanks for the fellowship and support we enjoy in our Fellowship and Bible Study group at Hillside Methodist Church and for the thriving Sunday School. Pray that we continue to have the energy to lead them!
- Pray as Isabel plans to set up an exercise class for women at Bulawayo Central Methodist Church. She is also setting up Kids' Clubs at Methodist Church locations throughout the District.

Open the Book <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/> We give God thanks for the new website and a new series of Bible stories called *Christian Values*. Please pray for staff, trainers, volunteers and teams and for the schools they visit and those who would like visits.

Mamba-bu, Kailahun District, Sierra Leone.

David Bale has asked for our prayers for this community. As the villagers prepare to dig three wells to provide new sources of clean drinking water, we pray for all those who will be involved in the final planning and construction of the wells. We thank God for the generosity of everyone who has contributed towards Mamba-bu's work and helped to bring the project to the point where the construction of wells has become a possibility.

Junior Mission for All (JMA)

Please continue to pray for our own young people to have open hearts to others and the work of mission and our part in it. Pray too for Ruth Mallard and Liz Hibberd as they carry responsibility for JMA.

Ruth, Joy and Christian Mallard visited India in December to work with the Arunima Hospice and Cathedral Relief Service in Kolkata. Joy and Ruth spent some time with the children and young people (all affected by AIDS/HIV or orphaned due to parents with AIDS/HIV).

Phakamisa, S Africa <http://www.phakamisa.org/>

Thokozani [the Director] is very concerned for her Phakamisa family at this time following severe storms and heavy winds off the coast of Durban. Winds have swept through the area damaging homes and other properties. Thokozani says "thank you for the prayers - Some of our old folk and staff were affected by the storms. Part of one staff member's house collapsed and she is busy trying to sort it out. The damage was too much; please do keep us in your prayers because the heavy wind keeps on coming. Please give my love to everyone."

Anne Wills visited them in November.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary

Quote of the month

In a civilisation like ours, I feel that everyone has to come to terms with the claims of Jesus Christ upon his life, or else be guilty of inattention or of evading the question. – *C S Lewis*

REFLECTIONS.

"Happy New Year", as by now we are well into 2018, wondering where 2017 went to. I hope the new year is a happy one for you all and that, if, you make, or have made a New Year's Resolution you can keep to it.

I was watching the first "Countdown" programme of the year and the presenter Nick Hewer, said he was going to stick to his resolution of being better, fitter, and healthier, and added a few more other ideals to his resolution promise. When, during his discourse the camera flicked to Rachel Riley, by the letters and numbers boards, you could see her face say, "Whatever he's on I must have a drink of!"

I, for one, do not make resolutions. I find I cannot keep to them for long, although, some find it strange that I do not make resolutions as I am normally one who can keep his word, when asked to.

The roles that I do in church when asked to, are an example. If I make a promise of a visit, or a lift, I will keep to it. I try whenever possible, to keep to what Jesus said in *Matthew Ch 5. v. 37, (NIV)*. "Simply let your "Yes" be "Yes" and your "No", "No". Anything less comes from the evil one".

Yes, I know that is a very hard thing to do in the modern world, and I will admit that I too, find it very hard to achieve, sometimes I will fail in it, other times I manage, as the saying goes, to "*pull a rabbit out of a hat*". But I do try whenever possible to stick to it.

Instead of the word "resolution", I replace it with the word, "prayer" in that I constantly pray that I may not only be seen as up to the standard the Lord Jesus wants me to be, but to actually **be** up to the standard the Lord Jesus wants me to be! Again, a very exacting task, but again, prayer is the key to it all, constant ongoing prayer.

I had a friend, who, when asked when he became a Christian, replied, while looking at his watch. "A minute ago", and would say that every time he was asked. "*God is with us every minute*", and it was a reminder to my friend, to be with God every minute too. I hope you can be too!

God Bless. Tom. P.

BRIAN AND LORRAINE'S STORY

The year was 1998. Brian had been divorced for many years, after his wife had left him with three children to care for. Lorraine had been widowed for a few months. Neither of them had any intention of getting married again, after their previous unhappy experiences, although secretly they both longed to share their lives with someone.

They met at a house group meeting in September, but never really spoke to each other. Brian wasn't particularly interested in Lorraine, and Lorraine thought Brian was rather strange!

By Christmas, Lorraine had got used to Brian and was beginning to take an interest in him. Brian still wasn't particularly interested. By February, Lorraine was in love – to her great amazement and very reluctantly – even though she didn't know Brian at all. Brian still wasn't interested, although he'd got used to Lorraine.

They had their first time alone together when they were asked to do a little job for the church. In early March Brian invited Lorraine to become a guide at Tissington Hall, which he was already doing and took her to a guides meeting. A couple of weeks later, after Brian had talked about his recent visit to Moscow to help feed the homeless, Lorraine invited him for lunch to meet her Dad, aged 90, who was living at *Highfield House* and was desperate for some decent conversation.

That evening, Brian brought the Jesus video for her to watch. As Jesus was telling the rich young man that he must sell his possessions and give to the poor, God told Brian that he wanted him to look after Lorraine. He wasn't sure he was ready to give his possessions away, so he tried to ignore what God had said! When Lorraine went to make a cup of tea at the end, God told him a second time. So, being obedient to God, over the cup of tea, Brian began to talk about the future, in fact they talked for several hours, and eventually he said, "I'm going to shock you now".

Meanwhile, Lorraine had been like a teenager in love – off her food, not able to sleep at night. At three o'clock that morning she had told God that she didn't want to be in love, had no intention of marrying

again, and asked him to take the feeling away. God spoke to her very clearly, a voice in the room, saying, “Don’t be silly, Brian is going to marry you.” So, when Brian said he was going to shock her, she didn’t reply, or move, just thought, “No, you’re not. I know what you’re going to say.” And he did – he proposed. At 3 o’clock in the morning.

The next day they went to see Lorraine’s father and Brian asked for her hand in marriage. His response was a delighted “Yes”, as now he could die when he felt like it, knowing that she would be cared for. Their friends were equally delighted – once they had got over the shock. “I didn’t know you were going out!” “We weren’t!” It proved to be a wonderful opportunity for talking to Christians and non-Christians about what God had done for them.

The first Saturday on which they were both free was 19th June 1999, so that date was fixed for their wedding at the village church. Although they hardly knew each other at that time, God knew better than they did what they wanted and what was good for them, and the past eighteen years have been incredibly happy as they have worked together for God.

Incidentally, Lorraine’s father had a wonderful time at the wedding, having his first ride in a mule-drawn cart (brought along for the occasion by friends) and reading a lesson at church for the first time the following day, when Brian and Lorraine were taking the *Father’s Day* service. He died happily nineteen days after the wedding, having lasted long enough to see the photographs of the wedding and honeymoon.

Brian and Lorraine Hawkins

Kniveton News

Kniveton chapel had an enjoyable carol service led by Tom (Parkinson). Tom had asked chapel members to choose a favourite carol and explain why.

The reasons were varied and moving, and many brought back memories of families, friends and past services held in the chapel. We were blessed as usual by the contributions from children from the school, who sang beautifully and clearly for us. We usually donate the offertory to a national charity, but this year we asked Mrs Board, the

head teacher, who is going out to their partner school in The Gambia, to use the money to purchase 2 donkeys and 2 carts for the use of the villages. This will be in memory of Sister Merle and the donkeys will be called Merle and Helen (Merle's second name). To achieve the amount needed we made an additional contribution from the harvest auction funds.

We look forward to another year of friendship and fellowship as we continue to meet together.

Betty Hadley, on behalf of Kniveton members.

Lent Studies and Lunches

For anyone living in one of *the* villages to the north of Ashbourne, within reasonable reach of Tissington: We're offering a weekly gathering in Tissington Chapel for all; you don't have to be a regular church attendee to come along. Come to one, two or all, as suits you.

Refreshments are provided. For a lift share please contact Carollyn 01335 664132 or Richard 01335 419319.

7.00pm Wednesdays 21st, 28th February, 7th, 14th, 21st March in Tissington Chapel,

The book for this year is: "Lentwise, Spiritual essentials for real life" by Paula Gooder (2008) at £4.00 each or you can borrow one on the night. The writer is a British theologian who specialises in the New Testament and is Theologian in Residence for the Bible Society. She is a writer and lecturer in Biblical Studies. Her passion is to ignite people's enthusiasm for reading the Bible today, by presenting the best of biblical scholarship in an accessible and interesting way. She works full-time for the Church of England as the Director of Mission Learning and Development in the Birmingham Diocese.

It is also intended to run a Lenten Course in Ashbourne on Wednesday evenings, venues to be announced and on Wednesday mornings at 1 Hambleton Close, home of Canon Edmund and Diana Urquart . Details to follow.

LENT LUNCHES - Will be held on the following Wednesdays at 12.30pm - 21 Feb Elim, 28 Feb St Oswald's, 7th March, All Saints 14 March Methodist, 21 March Elim. A frugal meal will be served.

Why do you go to church?

This is an edited extract from an article by the Rev Graham Thompson, Chair of Plymouth and Exeter District in the current edition of "The Connexion"
(printed copies available in the vestibule at AMC or on line at www.methodist.org.uk/theconnexion)

"In his report to the 2011 Conference, the Revd Dr Martyn Atkins, then General Secretary of the Methodist Church and Secretary of the Methodist Conference, said that having travelled around the country for a few years, he had picked up a prevailing view that Methodist worship "neither reaches the heights nor plumbs the depths". Is Dr Atkins right? If he is, what has caused this and how might we change things?

I believe we get the worship we deserve. If we go to worship with a wrong frame of mind; without preparing ourselves (including praying for those who will lead worship); if we go with our minds made up as to what it is going to be like and what we will get out of it, questioning the length of sermon or choice of hymns, we then generate a self-fulfilling prophecy. You might find it helpful to think about other stumbling blocks to good experiences or worship, including these typically Methodist tripping hazards.

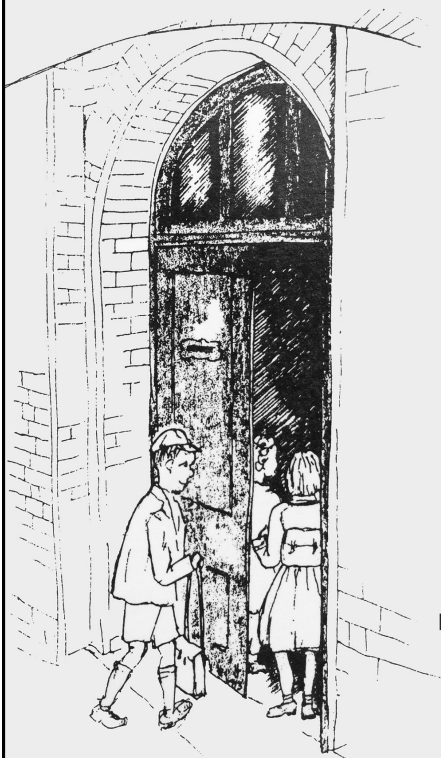
1. The free availability of the Preaching Plan listing who is taking the next service, along with announcing who is taking next week's act of worship. Instead of simply stating when the next service will be and inviting people to attend. We need to move the focus away from the leader of worship to the God whom we worship.

2. Busy office holders going to church with lots to sort out and people they need to talk to – focussing on the busyness of responsibility rather than in the One for whom we seek to be useful. The privilege of worshipping the God of love; the God of creation; to God who was, and is and is to come, means that our primary focus should be God".

What do you think? Can you think of any other "stumbling blocks to worship" after all worship is or should be the central activity of the Church."

Editor - We'll publish any responses in next month's "CONNECTIONS"

Do you know a Wesleygog?



'Wesleygog' was a nickname
for someone who went to
the Methodist School
in Ashbourne.

We're having a special
'Wesleygogs' event
on Saturday 10th March
for ex-pupils and anyone
interested in hearing
about the school.

6pm Come and look around
the old school

7pm Talks, interviews, songs &
refreshments in the Century Hall



LOOKING AHEAD TO SUMMER...

... please put in your diary **SONGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE** – the biennial *Songs of Praise* held in the amphitheatre at Carsington Water – at **3.00pm on Sunday 17th June**. The combined churches of Ashbourne and Wirksworth, who organise these events, hope that you will join us for an uplifting afternoon of song, dance, inspiration and prayer.

Perhaps you might also offer to help in a small way on the day.
Please contact Elizabeth Hurfurt or Lorraine Hawkins



Open Doors to Fairtrade – Fairtrade Fortnight 2018

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 26 February to 11 March

This year focuses on supporting the farmers and workers who grow our food by putting a spotlight on trade.

When trade is fair it has the potential to improve the lives of the farmers and workers who grow our food. When trade is fair, it can make the world a better place. It's a shocking fact that millions of poor farmers who produce the food we love still don't earn enough to feed their own families. It's time for this injustice to end. Through *Fairtrade*, millions of poor farmers and workers are already coming together to demand a change. They are working hard to close the door on exploitation and transform their communities, supported by *Fairtrade*.

How can you make a difference? This *Fairtrade Fortnight* you could commit to making your snack today *Fairtrade*. When you choose *Fairtrade* you are helping to ensure that the person who grew the banana you are eating, or the coffee beans used to make your drink, was paid fairly for their work.

Buy your *Fairtrade* bananas at Co-op, Waitrose or Sainsburys. Check the packaging on your teabags or coffee to ensure it shows the *Fairtrade* mark. Choose your chocolate carefully so that *Fairtrade* growers benefit. When you have done this, tell everyone about it: "*I'm making my snack today Fairtrade in support of the farmers who grow our food.*"

With *Fairtrade* we have the power to change the world **every** day.

For more information look at the Fairtrade Foundation website, <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk> or ask Clare Sales for an up to date *Traidcraft* catalogue.

All snarled up

With thoughtless and impatient hands,
We tangle up the Plans the Lord hath wrought;
And when we cry in pain, He saith,
'Be still, while I untie the knot.'

Anonymous



The Methodist Conference

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE METHODIST CONFERENCE 2018

28th June – 5th July 2018

Nottingham University

You are needed for the following

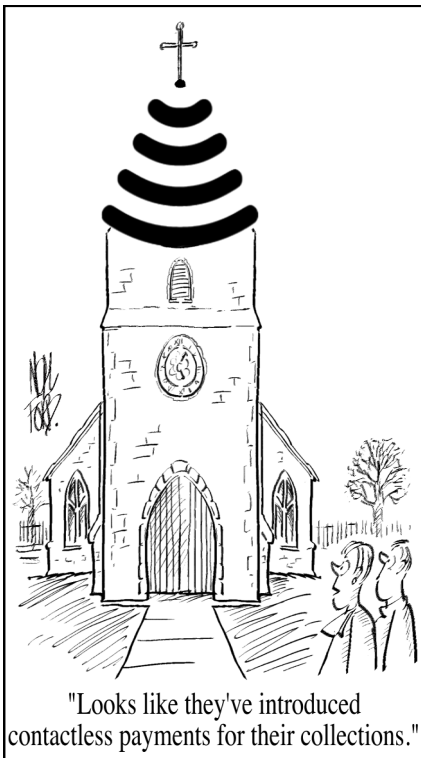
Stewards Collators and paper distributors Help Desk
Creche 'Meeters and Greeters' (Birmingham Airport) Drivers

Interested? Please make initial contact with

Carole Booth of The Methodist Conference Arrangements Team

Email: caroleabooth@hotmail.com

Please CC: chairpand@gmail.com



SMILE LINES -

with Valentine's Day in mind...

Lights - Halfway through a romantic dinner, my husband smiled and said, 'You look so beautiful under these lights.' I was falling in love all over again when he added, 'We really should get some of these lights.'

Love 'Love is when a little old woman and a little old man are still friends, even after they've been married forever.' Tommy - age 6

Work - First friend: 'Who are you working for these days?'
Second friend: 'Same people. The wife and four kids.'

Insanity - Doctor: 'Has there been any insanity in your family?'
Woman: 'I'm afraid so. My husband sometimes thinks he's the boss.'

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday February 4th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Chris Briggs	Communion
	18:30pm	Diana Whitmill	
Brailsford	10:30am	Rev Mark Broadhurst	United Service at Methodist

Sunday February 11th

Ashbourne	9:15am	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30am	Stuart Mustow	
	18:30pm	Fiona Green	
Brailsford	10:30am	Lorraine Hawkins	
Kniveton	14:30pm	Rev David Leese	
Parwich	14:30pm	Robert Sales	

Sunday February 18th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Tom Parkinson	
	18:30pm	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30am	Peter Dawson	All Age
Tissington	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Covenant, Communion

Sunday February 25th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris
	18:30pm	Ann Parkinson
Brailsford	10:30am	John Dyster
Kirk Ireton	18:30pm	Tim Dutton
Kniveton	11:00am	Ruth Barratt
Parwich	14:30pm	Rev Tim Morris

From the Editor

Dear Friends

HAPPY NEW YEAR! and I hope you find something to stimulate your thinking or even to amuse you in this edition.

Please think about writing something this year—it can be about your own faith journey, something you want to get off your chest or even something amusing.

The March edition will be out on **February 25th** with a closing date for contributions of **February 14th**.

Arthur Watts

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>

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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Joy joining in with others at Arunima - see page



One of the older girls at the hospice with the youngest, six months old.