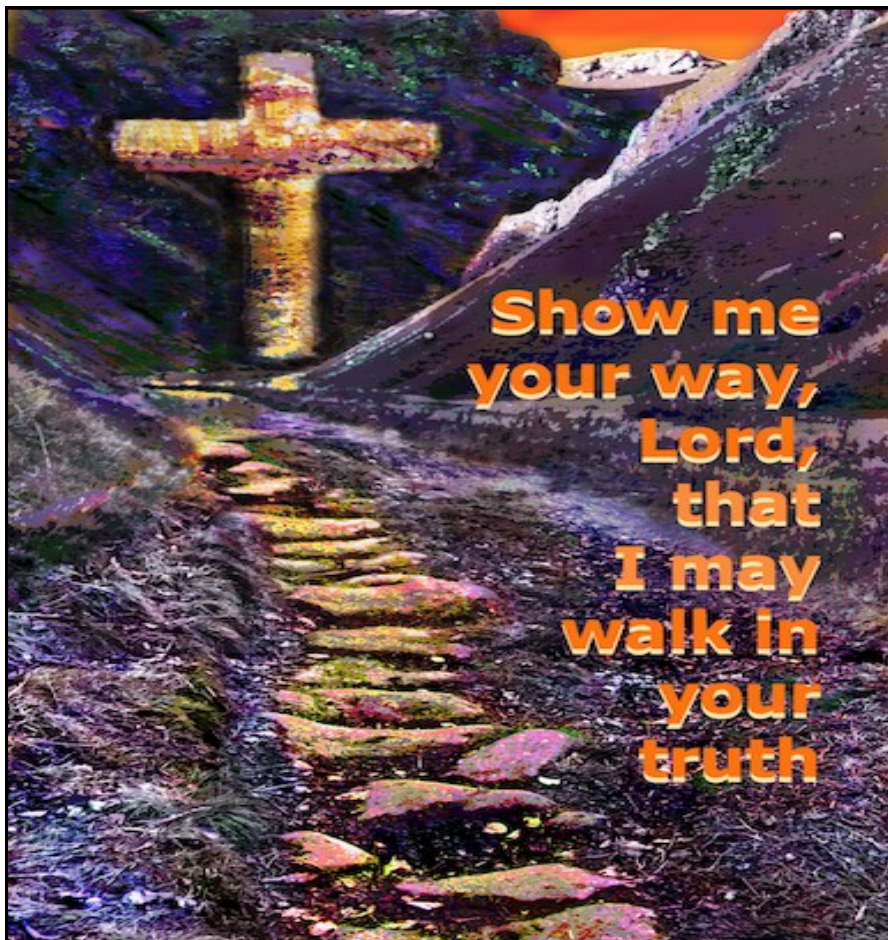


# Connections

*The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit*

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



**Show me  
your way,  
Lord,  
that  
I may  
walk in  
your  
truth**



March  
2018

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

**March 2018**

Dear Friends,

**“It’s all in the planning”**



How are your Lent plans going? Now, can I confess something? Lent has caught me out this year and I wasn't doing very well. It all came about a bit soon after new year and, with my father's death in mid- January and then planning a funeral in February, those "best laid plans" have gone out of the window.

So any thoughts of "giving up" and "taking up" have not materialised. However, salvation is close at hand! Going back to the old adage "keep it simple", I turn to the wonderful little booklet produced by our Ashbourne Church "*Lent Reflections*". Well put together and written by our own people, it is our Lent reflection. It's a corporate effort that speaks of the Gospel and shares our collective thoughts and expressions of faith. And how different each one is, but how unifying they are too!

A simple, straightforward and encouraging read every day to help me on my Lenten journey this year. They are so popular, we're already on our second print run!

Each reflection speaks of faith, hope and love, taking us through the season of Lent to Easter resurrection. Copies are available from the Church, or via Fiona Green, Stuart Green or Wendy Haslam. I hope our Lent reflections will help us all as we journey through the season, awaiting the day of resurrection.

Your minister and friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Morris".

## 70 years of Music, Love and sometimes Frustration - Donald Cox



In 1948, Beulah Methodist Church, Station Street, was the start of my playing the organ, which was forced on me when the usual organist, Mr. Sellers, was taken ill. My parents persuaded me to stand in for him, after a lot of objection on my part. I reluctantly found myself seated at the organ, absolutely terrified at 15 years old. There was no going back and I continued playing at Beulah, along with my cousin, until it closed in 1965.

After the closure of Beulah, we as a Church moved to Trinity Church, which is now known as the Ashbourne Methodist Church. They already had two organists and I was invited to go on a rota along with them. I also played at the Congregational (United Reformed) church when needed.

It was not easy to fit in, either for myself or for them, but after a while they allowed me into the team on certain occasions. After a number of years, they both passed on, leaving me as the organist, a position I have filled since 1966 (52 years).

In 2008 I was presented with a Long Service Certificate for 60 years service as an organist, and in March this year I will have completed 70 years (hard to believe).

All the drawers and cupboards are filled with music (much to Margaret's annoyance at times). There have been so many different Hymnbooks over the years. It is sometimes difficult to keep up to date with it all, but over the years I have to remember that it's a tremendous gift, and therefore it must be used to God's glory.

*Donald Cox*

### From the Editor

Dear Friends,  
I hope you found something in this edition to inform, inspire and even amuse you, thanks for your contributions, please keep them coming.

The April edition will be published on **March 25th**, contributions by **March 14th** please.

*Arthur Watts*

# **Ashbourne Church Family News**

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...*

*“ Heb 12.2*

We pray for Muriel Paton and family after the sudden death of Alistair on 6 February and for Bridget Lamburn after the death of Stan on 13 February. We pray for Helen Walker after the death of her mother on 30 January and for Helen Thrupp after the death of her mother on 3 February.

There are many who remain unwell and others who have been ill and recovered over the last month. Others would value prayer as they continue with tests, ongoing treatment or wait for results or need personal prayer; Pearl Webster, Les Cole, Jenny Waring, Rev John Perkins, Eileen Harrison, Kath Brown, David and Barbara Hollands, Eric and Marianne Matthews, Andrew and Lorraine Garside, Peter Richards and Jean Barrie. We should remember all those who care for others who feel ill at this time of the year and all those who make long journeys to visit loved ones. Thank you to all who visit those in need and all who encourage others by sending cards and making phone calls. For some just daily living is difficult. You will know the names of those for whom you will be prompted to pray.

Our love and prayers are with Don Cox who celebrates seventy years as a church organist this month. We thank him for his faithful service in this capacity in our church and circuit.

Congratulations to Naomi and Ollie Shaw on the birth of Edward John on 3 February, a grandson for Ruth Lowe.

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 you could join those who pray but the day or time does not suit, just mention it

to a steward or to me and alternative options can be considered.

I am grateful to those who keep me in touch when people are not well or need prayer. It is always better for me to hear twice than not at all. 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 14.02.2018

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## **Behold the Man**

He stands condemned, speaks not a word  
The crowds resolve that He should die,  
Forgetting all His miracles  
Hosannas turn to 'Crucify'.

They haul Him to the judgement seat,  
Pilate and Herod now become friends,  
Enemies no more but one in mind  
Together involved in Messiah's end.

Herod mocks Him as a king  
Pilate washes his hands of blame,  
The crowd now shout out for His death  
But He knows it is for this He came.

'It is finished' is the cry,  
The curtain rent, a way made in  
Upon the Cross the victory won  
Behold the Man – it's Christ our King.

*Megan Carter*

## **Ashbourne Vacancies Bulletin**

The leadership team is very pleased that we've recently been able to fill a number of vacancies within the church and we give thanks for the amazing wealth of talent within our fellowship.

There remain are a few roles available for you to consider. If you're interested in finding out more about any role, please have a chat with the named contact – with no obligation or pressure

### **Powersource Coordinator**

This role is not for direct involvement in *Powersource* on a Sunday, but is an admin role. You would be the contact for any enquiries, would produce rotas for leaders & helpers, take notes from leaders' meetings, be the designated person for safeguarding purposes, help to recruit new helpers as & when necessary, and generally be a source of support & encouragement for the team.

If you're interested, please speak to Stuart Green (300338).

### **The Cornerstone Coffee Shop**

More volunteers to work in the coffee shop are always welcome. There are a range of roles including washing up, making drinks, serving customers, preparing sandwiches or making cakes.

Feel free to talk to Pat Fielding (345695) or Joy Watts (342542).

### **Worship Stewards**

We have a good group of worship stewards, but more are always welcome. Working on a rota basis, you would help to make sure everything runs smoothly at our worship services.

For more info, speak to Robert Sales (342321).





## **MISSION**

## **MATTERS**

### **A visit to churches in rural Nepal 10 years ago**

*"Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Acts 15, 36.*

In December 2008 Joyce and I made a visit to Christian fellowships in the remote western hills of Nepal. Here are extracts from my report of the time which may be of interest. The purpose of this 2 week trip was mainly to follow up on progress with the International Nepal fellowship's (INF) community projects and visit the churches in the area. I was very aware of their need for teaching, training, especially of leaders, and networking with each other and, on our return to Kathmandu, followed up the need with ITEEN (Institute for Theological Education by Extension in Nepal) for their help.

Although I visited a number of churches I felt particularly burdened for the village of Burtibang, the focal centre for a group of 14 surrounding village areas. INF ran a community development project there from 1985-2000 and Joyce and I worked there for two years from 1990. But it was only when INF left that the church began and now there is a growing church of some 100 believers in Burtibang itself and many other churches and fellowships in the surrounding villages. Recently an 'Omega' course was conducted in Burtibang which was attended by 50 people - two from each of 25 surrounding village fellowships. So it is quite a 'hub' for the area, spiritually as well as socially.

Another church was in the small town of Baglung, two days walk to the east. Supported by a large city church in Pokhara, in turn it supports other small village fellowships. This is common practice in Nepal and not so different from the way Methodist Circuits are meant to function.

Our route took us further up into the mountains above Burtibang to the village of Taman where we stayed with Rhema, a school teacher and the only Christian in the village. 12 other believers from surrounding villages met in her house each week.

The next day we arrived at the small village of Sisneri which we had never been to before. As we stopped at the local tea shop we met two girls serving tea who “just happened” to belong to the village church. A new fellowship was established here when someone had heard from someone else about the Gospel of Jesus. They said “shall we show you our church?” They showed us the church building, well built and holding 50-60 at a squeeze. They have periodic visits from leaders in larger churches from as far away as Pokhara, several days journey. Before we left we gave them a Bible Society pack and some Christian magazines for the church.

At dusk we arrived at our second destination, Takum, a beautifully located village looking out on the vast Dhaulagiri Mountains. INF had worked in and around this village for 5 years until 1996. How much of the work had survived the past 12 years? All we spoke to were very positive about INF’s contribution and had fond memories. Several commented that INF “woke them up” to change and its possibilities. Although some of the activities were not adopted they did help expose people to new ideas in general; an unwritten and valuable outcome of community-based development the world over.

The Takum church of around 20 adults met the next day in someone’s loft – very suitable for the Christmas story we shared! Most of the 30 or so present had only become Christians in the past year and this was their first Christmas. They had links with ‘El Shadahi’ (see below) and use their hymnbook, so most songs were new to us! There has been some opposition to new Christians from local Brahmins, but this could be generally bad inter-caste relationships rather than religious persecution. Most believers we met were also local members of the ‘*Faith Home*’ church, a few hours up the valley. On the way up to visit them we saw a child vaccination programme and the woman in charge said that some of the local Christians refuse to have their children vaccinated because it is against their religion. We urged her to challenge them to show her where this is found in the Bible – on the contrary Jesus urges us to care for the children (Luke 18, 15ff).



The establishment and growth of these churches was by far the most exciting and significant aspect of development in the villages we visited. It was as though all villages of any size had a Christian presence, either a church or small fellowship of isolated believers worshiping in a nearby village. Although as yet weak in numbers and experience, their great strength lay in the simple fact that this is the Lord's doing. This growth is both a religious phenomenon and a social one and is worthy of serious attention. But this rapid growth results in particular needs:

- Ownership is the key operating principle in all aspects of community development. It is vital that outsiders or established denominations do nothing to weaken local ownership, or pre-empt the sovereign will of God.
- With such a high proportion of new believers there is a major need for the comprehensive discipleship programmes run by the larger churches.
- In new fellowships leadership can be a challenge as the only potential leaders available have little experience. This is why in 2017 I was involved in the launch of a basic leadership training manual for such remote churches.
- False teaching: When churches are new, isolated, resource-poor and with little teaching there is a real risk of outside groups coming in with attractive packages, often involving money. Groups now active in the area over which there is some concern are Gospel for Asia (GFA, with a reputation for 'sheep-stealing'), Faith Home, El Shaddai and 'the Koreans'. None of these groups seem to find it easy to integrate into the wider work of God in Nepal. The way to counter this risk is not only in teaching and strong local leadership but in establishing links with larger more established churches. Such churches should, of course, be willing to take these new churches under their wing and many do with commendable commitment and results.

God answers prayer! Not only in our own experience but in the daily reality of the many believers we met on the road. We constantly heard testimony of miracles and visions, all pointing to God's gracious involvement in their lives at a level that they can understand. One church roped Joyce and I into helping pray for a middle aged woman who had taken to wandering off in a way that was understandably alarming her husband. The church had them on their knees

confessing their sins before they got prayed for. It was clear to us that God is doing a major work in rural Nepal. There is little understanding of theology but plenty of the reality of God.

In the **intervening** 10 years there has been rapid Christian growth in Nepal, in both breadth and depth. Today church leaders are well able to challenge government in its attempts to prohibit evangelism as it did up to the 1980s.

Richard Odell, *World Mission Secretary*

*Editor - See pictures on back cover illustrating this article.*

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## Outreach

### **CRAFT AND CHAT**

We continue to welcome a dozen or so enthusiastic crafters and chatters to The Cornerstone each Monday afternoon, including several not from our Church.

We were delighted with the way in which the Christmas Angel project we coordinated came to fruition. Over the course of the last six months or more we knitted and crocheted (and encouraged others to) 810 small angels which we labelled with a Christmas message, had blessed by Rev Maggie Rode in a short service in our Church, and yarn bombed the town with at 7.30am on Saturday 16 December....it was very cold that morning!

This was part of a nationwide initiative which saw over 50,000 angels put out around the UK. We worked with people from St Oswald's Church and Ashbourne Churches Together also came on board.

The response on social media was amazing. The angels reached people because they chose them rather than being given them. As someone said, the town really was buzzing! We had help from knitters, labellers, people who came to the service, people who put them out, people who did the publicity...everyone was vital in this outreach project.

We are still thinking about our projects for this year, and who knows, we may do the angels again! But week by week we continue to meet, to form community and to offer welcome. Come and join us!

*Clare and Fiona*

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## **WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR FREEDOM OF RELIGION?**

Barnabas Fund provides 'hope and aid for the persecuted church'. In the past, their work has been concentrated on other countries, but, in the light of events over the last few years in the UK, they are calling for our government to take action.

"In the light of the British tradition of fair play, tolerance, diversity and equality we call upon the British government to introduce a new law to enshrine fully and permanently the hard-fought-for religious freedoms we have gained over the last five centuries in the UK."

Barnabas Fund is calling for a law to protect seven aspects of freedom of religion:

- Freedom of worship.
- Freedom to read Scriptures in public.
- Freedom to interpret Scriptures without government interference.
- Freedom to choose or change your faith or belief.
- Freedom to preach and try to convince others of the truth of your beliefs.
- Freedom to build churches, synagogues, mosques etc
- Freedom from being required to affirm a particular worldview or set of beliefs in order to attend university, hold a public sector job or stand for election.

In 2017 a Crown Prosecution Service lawyer claimed that publicly quoting parts of the King James Bible in modern Britain should "be considered to be abusive and is a criminal matter". In 2016 a student was thrown off a university social work course because of a facebook post affirming a traditional Christian view of marriage. In 2015 a prominent Northern Ireland pastor was prosecuted for a sermon, also published online, in which he strongly rejected the Islamic doctrine that Jesus was a Muslim.

If you are unhappy about these and other similar actions, perhaps you would consider signing Barnabas Fund's petition, which is available online, together with other information, at [www.ourreligiousfreedom.org](http://www.ourreligiousfreedom.org) or ask me for more information and/or the petition form.

*Lorraine Hawkins*

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## **Why do you go to Church?**

This is a response to the invitation in the last '*Connections*' to react to the premise that Methodist worship neither reaches the heights nor plumbs the depths. It was suggested that this is firstly because the free availability of the preaching plan allows a focus on the leader of worship rather than the God who is worshipped, and secondly the emphasis on the busyness of office holding prevents our being useful to God.

It would be my wish to contest the premise and the two causes, but I will limit myself to the premise alone.

We will all define the height and depths of worship in different ways but in December 2017 I attended an act of worship in a small village Methodist chapel and it was the most inspiring service I have heard for many years. I would have felt honoured to have led it myself.

I have though to admit that I did not know who the preacher was before the service, and I hold no office in that chapel.

The preacher was in fact not an accredited Methodist local preacher. The service culminated with an address that was passionate, compulsive and converting.

It was a demanding all age family carol service and preached to all ages, the congregation varying from four years of age to the very elderly. A fifth of the congregation was under 12. Yet it was readily understandable, accessible, and interactive in a lively way.

The structure of the address was logical and compelling,-- and gospel passion run through every phrase. Assisted by three striking visual aids it was soundly and evidently based on the authority of

scripture, and it sought to convert the faithless and strengthen the faithful. Above all it was spoken in the language of everyday, yet led to the heavenly praise of God's eternal Son. The passion was generated by the intensity of the communication delivery between the preacher and the congregation.

It was a privilege to attend this worship, for me-- this was a high spiritual feast.

In large part I would suggest that much depends upon our expectation. Taking vestry prayers as an indicator, in January I preached at a chapel where the vestry prayer was stunning. As I recall it the prayer went the following way-- , the steward first held both my hands and said-- "O Lord we have been so excited in waiting to hear the word you have given David today, and now the time is actually here, we can't wait to hear what you have to say. Fill this place as we ask your blessing on him as he speaks your word, and on ourselves as we listen, that you will open our minds to understand and our hearts to experience more of the wonder of your love. Now come Spirit come."

Wow!

*Rev David Leese*

**Nottingham and Derby District  
The Methodist Church**

**DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE**  
**'Good practice in our work with survivors'**

**Saturday 17th March 2018**  
**10.00am - 3.30pm**

**BINGHAM METHODIST CENTRE**

**To reserve a place, contact**  
***padistrictsafeguarding@methodist-nd.org.uk***

***Charge to defray costs; £5 per person***

## THE CHURCH LIBRARY at AMC

The church library is kept in the foyer – on the left as you come through the second set of doors. The leadership team is considering its future, and would be glad of your help.

Do you use the library? If so, how often, what sort of books do you find helpful and what might help you to make more use of it? If not, why not, and what, if anything, would encourage you to use it? Do you think people are aware that it exists? Does it need to be ‘advertised’ more? Are there any specific books, or topics, that you think need to be added to it?

Would you be willing to look after the library? It isn’t a very onerous task, but it does need someone to take charge of it.

And now the big question – if it turns out that the library isn’t being used a great deal, is it worth keeping it?

Please contact Brian Hawkins if you are willing to answer the questions about it, or if you might be interested in looking after it and would like to know more. If you prefer to make your comments anonymously, please write a note and put it in Brian’s pigeon hole in the office

Thank you.



### Methodist Women in Britain

#### **District Day - Saturday 3 March**

This will be held at Ashbourne Road Methodist Church, Derby . Registration (£2.00) and Coffee are from 10 am with Devotions at 10.30 am and business from 10.45 am. At 11.30 am our speaker will be Dean Gillespie of *All We Can*. Lunch will be at approximately 12.30 pm - please bring a packed lunch. I am sure Dean will have lots of interesting things to tell us. It is easy to get to this venue by the Swift Bus. Why not come along!

#### **Supper Evening - Wednesday 21 March**

This will be our next Circuit event. It will be held in the Century Hall commencing at 7.30 pm. The menu is Mark's Pies and Meringues (special diets can be catered for, please let us know in advance).

The Rev David Leese will then give us a time of Gospel Magic! I am sure this will be a lively time! Tickets will be available shortly priced £5.00 from the usual outlets. Do come along for an evening of good food, fellowship and fun!

### **Easter Offerings**

On Palm Sunday (25 March) and Easter Sunday (1 April), envelopes will be in the pews for Easter Offerings. All the proceeds are for the Methodist Church World Mission Fund. It is allocated for the work in our 65 Partner Churches around the world. Please give generously for this worthwhile cause. The Offerings will be dedicated at a Circuit Service at Ashbourne on Sunday 29 April at 10.30 am.

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### **ROSE ...**

The first day of school our professor introduced himself and challenged us to get to know someone we didn't already know. I stood up to look around when a gentle hand touched my shoulder. I turned around to find a wrinkled little old lady beaming up at me with a smile that lit up her entire being. She said, "Hi handsome. My name is Rose. I'm 87 years old - can I give you a hug?" I laughed and enthusiastically responded, "Of course you may!" and she gave me a giant squeeze.

"Why are you at college at such a young, innocent age?" I asked. She jokingly replied, "I'm here to meet a rich husband, get married, and have a couple of kids ..."

"No seriously" I asked. I was curious what may have motivated her to be taking on this challenge at her age. "I always dreamed of having a college education and now I'm getting one!" she told me.

After that we became instant friends. Every day for the next 3 months we would leave class together and talk nonstop. I was always mesmerized listening to this "time machine" as she shared her wisdom and experience with me.

Over the course of the year, Rose became a campus icon and she easily made friends wherever she went. She loved to dress up and she revelled in the attention bestowed upon her from the other students. She was living it up.

At the end of the year we invited Rose to speak at our football

banquet. I'll never forget what she taught us. She was introduced and stepped up to the podium. As she began to deliver her prepared speech, she dropped her 3 by 5 cards on the floor. Frustrated and a little embarrassed she leaned into the microphone and simply said, "I'm sorry I'm so jittery. I'll never get my speech back in order so let me just tell you what I know"

She cleared her throat and began, "We do not stop playing because we are old, we grow old because we stop playing. There are only four secrets to staying young; being happy; and achieving success. You have to laugh and find humour every day. You've got to have a dream - when you lose your dreams you die. We have so many people walking around who are dead and don't even know it! There is a huge difference between growing older and growing up. If you are 19 years old and lie in bed for one full year and don't do one productive thing, you will turn 20 years old. Anybody can grow older. That doesn't take any talent or ability. The idea is to grow up by always finding opportunity in change. Have no regrets. We elderly don't usually have regrets for what we did, but rather for things we didn't do. The only people who fear death are those with regrets."

At the year's end, Rose finished the college degree she had begun all those years ago. One week after her graduation, Rose died peacefully in her sleep. Over two thousand college students attended her funeral in tribute to the wonderful woman who taught by example that it's never too late to be all you can possibly be.

Remember: growing old is mandatory. Growing up is optional. We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give. God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage. If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

*Contributed by Ann Wills.*

**Editor's note** - *Although "CONNECTIONS" has only a small circulation and we don't charge for it, I understand we are still subject to the copyright laws. Happy to reprint articles that have had an effect on you that you'd like to share, but if possible please include details of the source and at the very least we can include an acknowledgement.*





It's not too late to take up a book with a Christian theme this Lent, here are a two suggestions; -

**Eat, Pray, Tell - *a relational approach to 21st century mission***

**By Andrew Francis, BRF, £7.99**

Community theologian Andrew Francis believes that eating together could be what saves the Church from the threat of extinction in one generation. Drawing on the example of Jesus' own mission, Francis says that 'hospitality is central to our committed life together. Welcome and bring-and-share tell much of who we are as Jesus' followers.' Referring to the story where Jesus told his disciples to go to a town and find someone who would receive them, Francis points out that the disciples were directed eat within the community, build friendships, teach the gospel, pray for people and heal them.

Based on the principle of 'no meeting without eating', this book shows how a strong commitment to eating together can build a welcoming, authentic community. 'Eat, pray, tell is not a lightweight commitment,' says Francis, 'but if it becomes rooted in our month-by-month, home-based pattern of mission, it creates a 52/7 agenda.'

**Paul: A Biography**

**By Tom Wright, SPCK, £13.99**

One of the world's leading New Testament scholars here tells the story behind the story, the story of the Apostle Paul, whose letters have shaped so much of world history. Tom Wright has drawn on his own decades of acquaintance with Paul, as well as on other Pauline scholarship.

This really excellent book not only brings Paul to life, but then places that life in the complex and overlapping array of Jewish and non-Jewish communities, all set within the Roman empire. The result provides such a helpful picture, both of Paul and of the early Christian communities of which he was so significant a founder and shaper.

## God So Loved the World

*'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'*  
(John 3:16)

This verse has been described as 'the greatest verse in the Bible', as it enables us to understand the events of Good Friday and Easter Day. The cross and resurrection reveal the depth of God's love for each of us.

**God's love is unconditional:** God demonstrated the extent of his love by sending His Son into this world, to show us what it looks like: 'God with skin on'! God graciously loves us, as none of us deserves it. 'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.' (*Philip Yancey*).

**God's love is sacrificial:** The cross is the supreme demonstration of God's love, as Jesus identifies with a fallen, suffering world. He died for our sins, removing the barrier between us and God, giving access into God's presence and release from the power of sin and death. God's love is accessible: Jesus' resurrection makes His eternal life available to all who put their trust in Him. It's an offer of life with purpose, in which we can know God personally, both now and for eternity.

Bobby Moore described receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966 as terrifying: 'I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud'!

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, by the cross and resurrection, we can shake hands with a holy God. He offers us 'life in all its fullness', with healing, forgiveness, peace and a fresh start in life!  
*Revd. Paul Hardingham, Rector of Bolton*

### DIARY DATE

Please keep the evening of the **28th April free if you can**. It will have an Indian theme and ***there will be food!*** Details to follow.



*Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...*

## **On the perils of ladies cleaning the church**

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I must begin with a confession. I know it is wrong of me, but last Wednesday I coveted your modern, purpose-built, user-friendly worship centre. Your concrete cube may have all the aesthetic charm of a suburban bus shelter, but it is clean, bright and does not have the propensity for sheltering dead animals in dark corners.

March at St. James the Least brings an annual event I dread: the Boon Day. There is a certain irony in the ladies of the parish – who without exception employ dailies to do all their domestic cleaning and dusting – getting together to wash, polish and scrape 12 months-worth of accumulated dirt from the church interior.

Having very obviously put in hours of thought about correct dress – not looking as if they're set for drinks at the golf club, but equally not giving the impression that wielding a mop and bucket comes naturally to them – they arrive equipped with the Cartier equivalents of bleach and dusters. I am slightly surprised Admiral Wetherspoon's wife knows which end of a brush should be held.

Miss Pemberton's over-enthusiastic use of bleach for cleaning the sanctuary floor in the Lady Chapel makes one feel one is entering a public lavatory rather than a house of God. Books, service sheets and collection plates have all been so efficiently tidied away that it will take months before anyone can find anything. Lost coins are placed in the collection box, long-forgotten gloves and scarves put out for the next jumble sale, and dead pigeons and mice placed on the compost

heap.

Just as archaeologists date various layers of a dig from the artifacts they recover, the ladies cleaning the choir stalls have determined precisely when the tenors changed from spearmint to peppermint chews during the sermon, as they shoveled through 52 Sundays-worth of lost mints.

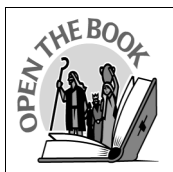
Our great moment of crisis came when Lady Dawes decided to clean the statue of St. James the Least, standing in his niche above the high altar. An eight foot, 50 year-old step ladder and an 18 stone seventy year-old dowager are not an ideal combination. St. James had stood on his plinth, unmolested, for the best part of 500 years, two fingers held in a sign of blessing. Until last Wednesday.

For Lady D's last flourish, removing the cobwebs from St. James' head, caused her to lose her balance. She grasped for something for support, failed, and hit the floor still holding one of our saint's two fingers. He now stands – admittedly very clean – but with only one finger raised to the congregation in a far from saintly gesture. A little judicious application of glue will be necessary before he makes his true intentions clear.

And so we now live in a state of uninhabitable order and hygiene. Within a month, the skills of mice and men should hopefully return us to our preferred ambience for Christian worship.

Your loving uncle,

*Eustace*



We are delighted that ***Open the Book*** grew by an average of 83 new Storytellers and 25 new schools nationally every month during 2017. (*Bible Society*)

Praise God for his faithfulness as we seek to share his word with children in primary schools in the Ashbourne area and across the country.

*I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore nations will praise you for ever and ever. Psalm 45.17 (ESV)*



## SMILE LINES

### **What now?**

Today, I was using the toilets at a popular coffee chain. Someone had written "What Would Jesus Do?" on the wall. Another person had added, directly underneath: "Wash His hands." Then a third person wrote, "And your feet."

### **Scared**

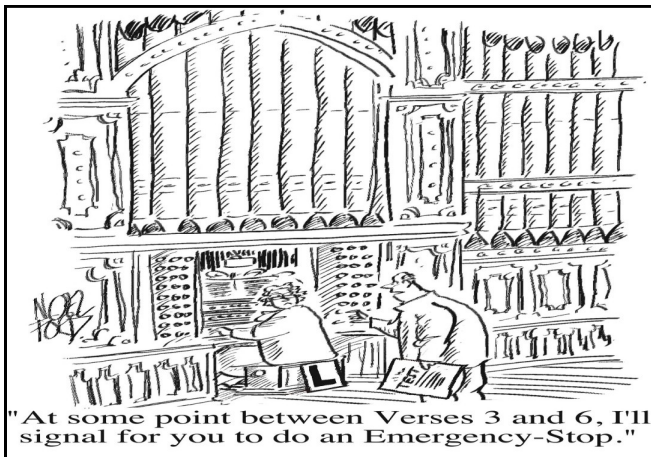
Some people are scared of church like they are scared of helicopters – they are frightened of being sucked into the rotas.

### **What the teacher says and what the teacher means....**

*If you have ever wondered what the teachers really think of your child, you may enjoy these snippets from real reports....and the thought behind them!*

James has a remarkable ability in gathering needed information from his classmates. *(He was caught cheating on an exam.)*

Karen is an endless fund of energy and viability. *(Your hyperactive monster can't stay put for five minutes.)*



## *Ashbourne Circuit Church Services*

### *Sunday March 4th*

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

### *Sunday March 11th*

Ashbourne	9:15am	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30pm	John Dyster	
Brailsford	10:30am	S Leese	
Kniveton	14:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	
Parwich	14:30pm	Lorraine Hawkins	

### *Sunday March 18th*

Ashbourne	10:30am	Robert Sales	
	18:30pm	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30am	Ruth Barratt	All Age
Tissington	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	<b>Communion</b>

### *Sunday March 25th*

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30pm	Tom Parkinson	
Brailsford	10:30am	Tim Dutton	
Kirk Ireton	18:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	Songs of Praise
Kniveton	11:00am	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
Parwich	14:30pm	Peter Dawson	

### *Thursday March 29th*

Ashbourne	19:30	Rev Tim Morris
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### *Maundy Thursday*

Communion

### *Friday March 30th*

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris
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### *Good Friday*

### *Saturday March 31st*

Milldale	14:00	Rev Tim Morris
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### *Sunday April 1st*      *Easter Day*

Ashbourne	8:00	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	18:30	Fiona Green	
Brailsford	10:30		United Service at Parish

NB Items in **bold** are different to the plan.

### **ASHBOURNE CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Sun	6:30pm	Mustard (Youth Fellowship)
Mon	10:00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - David Heaton (343418)</i>
	2:00pm	Craft and Chat in The Cornerstone <i>Contact - Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	7:30pm	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - Helen Walker (343910)</i>
Tues	9:00am	kids@cornerstone <i>Contact - Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	10:00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - Alma Swan (343751)</i>
	12:30pm	Luncheon Club: last Tuesday in month, Century Hall <i>Contact - John &amp; Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
Wed	9:30am	Walk and Talk Group: 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday Amble & Ramble (easier walking): 2nd & 4th Weds <i>Contacts - Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i>
	7:30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact - Eric and Jenny Williams 346155)</i>
Thurs	7:30pm	Housegroup: 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**

Rev Tim Morris  
16 Booth Drive,  
Ashbourne DE6 1SZ  
Tel: 01335 342408  
E-mail: revtimmorris@aol.com



**Takum Church** (above) **Takum Village** (below) see article on p 7

