

Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



May
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Letter from the Minister
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May 2018

Dear Friends,



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that began in the Church of England in 2016. The Archbishop of Canterbury is inviting people around the world to join the movement, and the Methodist Church of Britain has become a partner in the initiative. The World Methodist Council is also encouraging Methodists across the world to take

part.

The aim of *Thy Kingdom Come* is that Christians pray that people might know Jesus Christ during a focused time between Ascension and Pentecost from 10 - 20 May 2018.

The hope is that:

- People will commit to pray with God's world-wide family - as a church, individually, or as a family
- Churches will hold prayer events, such as 24-7 prayer, prayer stations and prayer walks, across the UK and in other parts of the world
- People will be transformed through prayer by the Holy Spirit, finding new confidence to be witnesses for Jesus Christ

The invitation is simply for people to pray in whatever way they want, with whoever they want and wherever they can, that others might know Jesus Christ.

Further details and information on how to take part, sign up and 'pledge to pray' is on the *Thy Kingdom Come* website: www.thykingdomcome.global. There are also a huge range of helpful resources to resource individuals, families, and churches wishing to engage with the initiative. These include materials to download on

prayer, liturgical resources, Novena booklets, packs on helping families pray together, details of prayer events, and tips on organising local events.

As part of our involvement with this movement, we are joining our friends at St Oswald's on **Sunday, 6th May at 6.30pm** for the evening service, when the preacher will be Rev Chris Briggs, our Methodist District Mission Enabler. He will talk about the movement and inspire us to get involved. We hope to have prayer activities together during this time. Watch this space.

And this year, Christian Aid Week falls within these 11 days. So that's prayer in action!

Your minister and friend



Tom Jones

HOUSE GROUPS

When Lorraine and I joined Ashbourne Methodist Church, the first thing we did was to join a house group. From past experience we knew the importance of belonging to such a group – learning from each other, sharing our joys and our burdens, laughing or crying with each other, loving and supporting each other. In some churches, the house group is the church more than the Sunday services, and I believe that it is in a small group setting that we find out who we are, and that our faith is strengthened. Some people have said that they are not comfortable speaking out, even in a small group, but they are happy to just be part of the group and to pray for other members, so they do value the fellowship they find there.

A few people at AMC don't yet belong to a house group, but I encourage you to consider seriously whether you want to continue missing out on what so many other people find invaluable, and to give one (or more!) of the house groups a try. House groups are held weekly or fortnightly in different places on different days and at

different times, to suit everyone – details appear in the AMC Weekly Notices and on page 23 of this magazine. If transport is a problem, why not ring one or more of the ‘contacts’ listed to ask for a lift from someone. If you attend a chapel that does not have a house group I am sure you would be welcome to one of AMC’s groups.

During May the house groups are studying:

Monday morning	Phillipians
Monday evening	St Mark’s Gospel
Tuesday morning	Acts : Building a People of Faith
Wednesday evening	Aspects of prayer (Ezekiel and Paul)
Thursday evening	Philippians
Friday evening	‘The Lord is Risen’ (Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances)

June is Bible Month across the Connexion, and the plan is for everyone to study the book of Jonah during that time – in their house groups and through a series of Theme Preaches in the Circuit.

Brian Hawkins

Ashbourne Church Family News

‘The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.’
James 5.16

We pray for the family and friends of Rev John Perkins who went to be with the Lord at the end of March. John was Minister here from 1988-1996.

There are those who remain unwell and those who have recovered over the last month. There are a number who would value prayer as they continue with tests, ongoing treatment or wait for results or need personal prayer; Les Cole, Jenny Waring, Barbara Hollands, Marianne Matthews, Andrew and Lorraine Garside, Derek Blenkinsop and Fiona Green. We remember all those who care for others; David Holland, Eric Matthews and others. Thank you to all who visit those in need and all who encourage others by sending cards and making phone calls. I have been told by a number how ‘drop in’ visits are really

appreciated. When we follow God's prompting to ring or visit when someone comes to mind, that can be a real blessing.

Congratulations to Margaret and Brian Hasler who celebrate their Diamond wedding anniversary on 2 June.

Chris and Chris Morris celebrate their pearl wedding anniversary on 23 April and they give thanks to God for all the support they have received from Church families and friends over the years.

Congratulations to Molly Phipps who recently celebrated her 80th birthday and to Rosalind Franklin who celebrates her 80th on 1 May.

Joan Jones has now moved to live at Derby Heights Care Home. David and Rosalind Franklin will move to their new home towards the end of April. We pray each will settle well.

For many of our young people, the month of May is the beginning of exams and this year Lucy Hibberd and Beth Peers are taking GCSE. Others have school exams and some will move to secondary school in September. Rachel and Andrew Sales, Emily Peers and Stephen and Suzanne Hills continue with university exams. For Jane Bowley there is the deadline of June 4 for her dissertation.

Continue to remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners, in the uncertainties of Zimbabwe. For more information see the *Mission Matters* article.

Elizabeth Spencer is part of the Chaplaincy team at the Royal Derby Hospital as a Chaplaincy Visitor and if you are in hospital and need a visit, you or a friend could let her know on 348482. Elizabeth is also a visitor at St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne.

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 18.04.2018

From the Editor

Dear Friends,
I hope you found something to inform or inspire in this edition of "CONNECTIONS"
Next month copy please by **30th May** - publication day Sunday **10th June.**

Arthur Watts

Summer Displays at Ashbourne Methodist Church

Once again this summer we are planning to take part in the Ashbourne Arts Festival as a Fringe event – and we hope as many people as possible from Ashbourne church and the wider circuit will take part in this witness and outreach.

Our theme is *'Pilgrims on a Journey'* taken from the hymn 'Brother, sister, let me serve you'.

Craft & Chat will be yarnbombing the front of the building on Church Street again and there will be a variety of displays inside the church for visitors to enjoy and interact with.

There are two interior displays which we need your help with, please.

Firstly, like last year we aim to have a photographic art installation at the front of church. This time we're not asking you to bring anything to hold. We simply want to photograph your hands – your hands as you might have them whilst you pray.

After all, we are a praying church and if we can encourage one another and our visitors, then why not! Have a think about how you usually hold your hands when in prayer...do you clasp them together, or fold them or have them open...or...?

We're taking photos after morning worship on **20th, 27th May** and **3rd June**. We'll be at "Praise" and Church Lunch too.

Secondly, there will be a display about places we feel are special to us because they are where we feel especially close to God. It might be at home in a favourite chair, somewhere you've visited on the other side of the world – or anywhere in between! We'd love a photo and a few words (less than 50) to say where it is and why it's special. Or just a picture or just the words is fine too. You can email us or give us hard copy of a photo to scan. You can talk to us about your special place and we'll write the words for you if that would enable you to take part. As with last year's displays, we won't be putting our individual names on these pictures because we want to be the whole church, with each other as pilgrims together on the journey.

Do join us.

For more information contact *Sandra, Clare or Fiona*

MARJORIE STEPHENSON.

Marjorie who passed away in March was one person whom I visited in Dove House, yet, as she had not been to church for a while due to ill health, many did not know her as I did, which was a shame, as she was a very kind and loving person.

Yes, as her family said at her thanksgiving service, she could be stubborn, and one occasion that came to mind as I thought of this tribute was that I ensured all her correspondence, and especially items from church, her membership ticket, and *Connections* magazine, was labelled to Stephenson, and not Stevenson! A very rampant Bee in her bonnet!

From what we heard from her family's tribute, being stubborn helped her through the rigours of life that she had to endure, which she shared with me on many a visit. Sometimes my visits were short, as she liked to be involved in the events at Dove House, sometimes they lasted awhile, as she asked of events on our farm, as she was of a farming family. Marjorie was always interested of what had been happening at Harlow.

One of the benefits of having a mobile phone was I could take pictures of the animals, scenery and the flora and fauna of the land to show her, which she was always happy to see, which brought back memories that she would share with me.

I was surprised to find out how she occupied her time, in the latter stages of her life, with various evening classes, on geology for example, and wished I had known it when we spoke, so I could share some more conversations with her.

Many remember her for her Orange coat, which she wore for church, but of the pictures on display in the Century Hall after the service, the one that brought memories to me was the photograph of Marjorie sat in her chair, on the veranda outside her room, in a Grey cardigan and Mauve skirt, a pose that I saw many times on my visits, and the beginnings of many a conversation and a great time of fellowship.

Tom P.

The General Synod of the Church of England welcomes move towards communion with The Methodist Church

At their February meeting, Members backed a motion welcoming a joint report published last year, which sets out proposals on how clergy from each church could become eligible to serve in the other.

The report, *'Mission and Ministry in Covenant'*, which was co-written by the two churches' faith and order bodies, also sets out how the Methodist Church could come to have bishops in the historic episcopate.

The motion acknowledges that there is further work to do to clarify a number of areas, including how the proposals would be worked out in practice. It also calls on the Church of England's Faith and Order Commission to update Synod at its next group of sessions in July of this year on this work.

Speakers in the debate included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and by invitation, the General Secretary of the Methodist Conference Rev Gareth Powell and a former President of the Methodist Conference, Ruth Gee.

Locally the Rev Duncan Ballard, Vicar of Ashbourne and Rev Tim Morris, Superintendent Minister of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit give their reactions -

Rev Duncan Ballard - "You probably saw in February that the Church of England's General Synod voted in favour of the next step in the Anglican-Methodist Covenant, specifically the interchange ability of ministries between our two churches (that is, Tim being able to function fully as a minister in St Oswald's, for example, and I in Ashbourne Methodist Church).

Other wings of the church may argue the terms of the agreement and the theology of the covenant (focused upon, in my view, an unhelpfully literal understanding of theology based upon an inaccurate reading of history) but there is no doubt in my mind that full communion is now on the horizon. What does this mean for us in Ashbourne?

Well, for me it comes not a moment too soon. Already our churches work closely together in various projects, and we will need to work even closer in the future if we are to keep the flame of the Gospel alive in our generation. The challenge is simply too great for us to waste our resources on stubbornly remaining separate. Yes there will be issues we need to face as we work together – the greatest being, I believe, lethargy – but future generations will not forgive our failure to find a greater vision than two churches, a bare fifty yards from each other, minding their own business!

I am not calling for everyone to become Anglican, or everyone becoming Methodist – I believe God loves diversity (that’s why we are all created weirdly and wonderfully different) – but we must urgently find ways to grow together in Christ, respecting our differences but celebrating our family likeness. St Oswald’s has so much to learn from the Methodist church – the Methodist theology of class meetings, the experience of liberating lay folk to play their full part in church – and the time to learn from each other is now.

This desire for our two churches moving closer together needs to be seen as more than just words. How we do this – fully and visibly – I’m not entirely sure. But I do know we need to start praying and talking now: for our part, St Oswald’s is ready.”

Rev Tim Morris - “Starting out on a journey, the end of which is unsure, is a risk taking thing to do. But there’s good Biblical precedent. The report co-written by both churches faith and order bodies, which has been received and agreed by the Church of England’s General Synod will come before the Methodist Conference this coming July. Being “methodical” it will get sent to Districts and Circuits to discuss, debate, pray over and decide, before coming back to the Conference of 2019. We look forward to being a part of that conversation.

But for me, it’s grass roots stuff that make our working together, our unity, happen. And I have been privileged to serve in a number of churches where good local ecumenical relations over many years have led to a healthy united Christian community, where people outside the church are more surprised that we know how to work together!

We’re pretty good at that here in Ashbourne, though there is always

room for more collaborative ministry. Around the Carsington Deanery and Ashbourne Circuit we are facing very big challenges about buildings, staffing and ministry. “*Better together*” is a term we could probably use, as going it alone will be harder work. I certainly look forward to encouraging the two denominations to work closer together nationally, but at the same time doing all we can locally to show a united witness and ministry to the people we serve, which is where people will really see if we mean what we say.”



MISSION MATTERS

Our partners in world mission.

World mission involves a wide variety of activities, from evangelism to grass roots development and poverty alleviation and last month we looked at Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) and Rachel Burton’s work with Novō Ministries in Bolivia. I received this news from our mission partners, the Hill family, in Zimbabwe on 2nd April, just before updating the Mission Prayer leaflet. It makes interesting reading. Do let’s pray for these mission partners of ours.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary

“Dear Richard and Ashbourne Methodist friends, please continue to pray for our work.

Jonathan says:

“I am busy teaching O-level Statistics and A-level Pure Mathematics, Additional Mathematics and Mechanical Mathematics. Thekwane High School is making very good progress in academics and sports. We have a new chaplain and the new Principal has completed his first year and seems to be very keen to help the school to develop.

There was a long dry spell in the middle of the rainy season, but those who planted a bit later than others have been able to salvage at least part of their crops. Others have replanted and are hoping to harvest something from that, so the harvest is expected to be mixed, good for some and not so good for others.

We have restarted the provision of daily cooked meals for the children at Thekwane Primary School and extending this to some of the older children as well as the infants. The government is helping by providing maize and we are adding dried beans, soya chunks, dried fish and cooking oil. The children are starting a vegetable garden at the school, where there is now a relatively good water supply and parents or guardians (usually grandparents) are being asked to try and contribute US\$1 per child per term, which is a token amount, but important to show that they are not just folding their arms and waiting for aid. A team of volunteers is doing the cooking on a rotational basis.”

Isabel says:

I am continuing to work as District Child Care Officer and I am setting up Kids Clubs around the circuits, to be run by youth volunteers. The latest issue that I am trying to tackle is that of the mobility of the leaders. Both of the very enthusiastic youths running the club at Nketa have moved away from the circuit so they now have to look for new leaders. I still provide a sympathetic ear for people who come to the office with various problem situations.

Sunday School at Hillside Methodist Church is going well, but we really need to encourage new teachers to come forward, so we are planning a Youth Teaching Sunday in the near future, in which we the regular teachers will stand aside and let the youth group take over running the Sunday School for a day, supervised by the youth leader.

Family news:

Tony is still working in Cambridge and working through the various levels of his accountancy examinations. Stephen is very busy going for his MSc in Intelligent Robotics at Leeds, but he has been a bit frustrated by the strike of lecturers. Susannah is in her final year at Anglia Ruskin doing Literature. They will all be glad when the weather warms up a bit!

Zimbabwe:

Parliamentary and presidential elections are due this year, probably in July. Pray for elections without violence. Many political parties are mushrooming - there are well over a hundred officially registered political parties at the latest count. Pray for harmony and unity. Proverbs 29 v2 says: *"When the righteous rule, a city is at peace."* Pray that the righteous be voted for in positions of influence.

and may we have God-fearing leaders.

A lot of the people are jobless and some are working without pay. Pray for the improvement and stability of the economy. Because of poverty brought about by economic hardships some school leavers are resorting to drugs, alcohol and even prostitution. Pray for God's intervention.

There has been an outbreak of cholera in some parts of the country. Pray that resources be found for water treatment and the improvement of sanitation services.

Thank God that water rationing is behind us and power cuts are also less frequent than before.

On the political sphere, since the new President and government took over in November, most people are adopting a 'wait and see' attitude. Thank God for the relatively smooth transition of power. The President seems to be on a 'charm offensive' and is keen to re-establish good relations with the international community including investors. A return to the Commonwealth is also being suggested.

On a personal note we are looking forward to joining in a retreat later this year being organised by the Methodist Church Britain where Mission Partners from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean will spend a week together. This will be very much welcome and very valuable for us and, I expect, for all who will be there. We really appreciate the efforts that the World Church Relations team in London have put in to realise this project. We do need to get a break from time to time and a change of scene and to share our experiences with others who can understand. In this way I am sure that we will be able to gain vital support from each other. Please pray with us for the success of this new idea.

Jonathan and Isabel Hill

Tissington Well Dressings 10 - 13 May 2018

Each year the ACT One World Group organises a stall at the Tissington Well Dressings. We sell slices of cake to the visitors and some *Traidcraft* goods. The proceeds go to Christian Aid.

This year we are there from **Thursday 10- Sunday 13 May**. We hope you

you will help again and we would also welcome new people. We need at least 2 people at a time in 2 hour stints from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. That makes 6 or more people per day and so a minimum of 24 people over the 4 days!

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? No previous experience necessary. Please consider carefully and prayerfully whether you could spare a couple of hours (or more!!) to help. It is not onerous work and it is a good opportunity to meet both visitors to the Well Dressings and your fellow helpers from other churches or none.

We also need people to bake tray bakes and cakes for the stall that we can sell by the slice, not as whole cakes. **We sell between 200 and 300 slices per day!** It would be helpful if cakes and tray bakes were **not cut up** in advance, then we can ensure consistency in size of portions. Cakes can be left in our garage at 81 Derby Road from Wednesday 9th May.

Lists are up in the various churches for staffing the stall and for providing cakes. Please try and help this very worthwhile event.

John Hurfurt tel 342859 email jandehurfurt@supanet.com

MARTIN LUTHER

One of the organisations that we have supported for a number of years is the Good News Broadcasting Association, a not-for-profit charity which produces a variety of Christian radio programmes to be broadcast by stations in this country and around the world. We thought that the following article from the Winter 2017 newsletter by GNBA Director, Tom Ward, gave a very good, clear, brief account of Martin Luther's actions which triggered the Reformation. The article is reprinted here with permission. For more information about GNBA see their website www.gnba.net

Margaret Sharples

2017 marked 500 years since the birth of the Reformation. Tom Ward tells us how it all began...

“On 31 October 1517, a devoted Catholic monk named Martin Luther took the short walk to Wittenburg Cathedral and nailed his 95 theses to its large wooden doors. Little did he know that he had just lit the fuse for the Protestant Reformation.

Luther had excelled academically through his youth and his father had aspirations for him to become a lawyer but, on one fateful night in July 1505, he found himself caught up in a terrible thunderstorm as he rode back to university. In fear for his life he cried out to Saint Anna to help him and vowed to become a monk if he survived. He did survive and immediately sold his books and joined the St. Augustine's Monastery in Erfurt.

Luther pursued his spiritual life with the same vigour as he did his studies, spending countless hours in prayer, confession and fasting. He believed that he must earn God's approval through good works and was in despair over the state of his soul. Academically though, Luther thrived and became a Bible lecturer at the University of Wittenburg.

It was around this time that a gifted monk named Johann Tetzel was commissioned by the Pope to raise funds to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Tetzel planned to do this by selling indulgences which were said to reduce the time that deceased loved ones had to spend in Purgatory.

Catholics believed Purgatory was a place believers were sent to after death to purify them for heaven. They believed that people could spend thousands of years in the fires of purgatory before being 'clean' enough for heaven. An indulgence would reduce this time significantly... but at a price.

Luther was outraged at this abuse and wrote his 95 theses in protest. The document challenged the current doctrines of repentance, purgatory and the Pope's authority to forgive sin. No one knows who made copies of the theses but within weeks thousands had been distributed through the recent development of the printing press.

Luther's plan was clearly to challenge the Church from within and he continued to teach and study at the University of Wittenburg. His next assignment was to teach on the epistle to the Romans, but he didn't get far before he stumbled across chapter 1 verse 17: *'For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.'*

All Bibles at the time were Latin and the word for 'righteousness' was understood to mean our own righteousness earned from God through the sacraments of the Church. But Luther was studying the text in the original Greek and realised that the righteousness referred to was actually God's righteousness, given to us through faith. To put it another way: we are justified by faith alone. Luther, writing of this moment, said *"When I discovered that, I was born again of the Holy Ghost. The doors of paradise swung open, and I walked through."*

No longer was Luther weighed down by legalism and trying to earn God's favour but was filled with the joy of the true gospel of Jesus Christ.

It was now Luther's turn to take advantage of the printing press and he started to print copies of his sermons to distribute to the German people. They spread like wildfire and before long Luther was summoned to defend his radical views at the Diet Of Worms. After taking some time to consider whether he would recant his writings Luther is believed to have said these famous words:

"I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, God help me. Amen."

There was no going back for Luther now. His reforms would not be done 'in house' but with a new movement- a protest movement. The protestant reformation that would in time change the world as we know it.

Make no mistake, Martin Luther was no saint. He had a fiery temper, was fond of foul language and beer and some of his views were pretty obnoxious. But it was no coincidence that he nailed the 95 theses to the cathedral door on All Saints Day. He was pointing to the fact that we are not to worship anyone - neither 'saint' nor reformer - except God alone."

Contributed by Ken and Margaret Sharples

FAVOURITE HYMNS: A Personal View

Tens of thousand viewers voted for their favourite hymn for a recent BBC *Songs of Praise* programme. 'How great Thou art' was voted the nation's favourite hymn. Other favourites: (2) 'Dear Lord and Father,' (3) 'The day Thou gavest,' (4) 'Be Thou my vision,' and (5) 'Love Divine.' A hymn published only this century, 'In Christ alone,' was ninth.

We are often asked what our favourite hymn is, or to suggest a hymn for a service. Usually, we discount seasonal hymns, and find it depends entirely on our mood ! The choice also depends not only on the words, but the music – as a teenager, (2) above was my favourite, sung to 'Repton,' but now I would prefer the four-part harmony (easier to sing!) of 'Rest' by F.C.Maker (*Methodist Hymn Book Additional Tunes* 23), a tune long consigned to obscurity.

I well remember the disappointment of discovering a favourite hymn (*MHB* 602) was omitted from *Hymns & Psalms* – and then, finding out that my favourite hymn (*MHB* 163, *H&P* 522) had been omitted from the latest hymnbook, '*Singing the Faith*.' –

Dear Master, in Whose life I see
all that I would, but fail to be,
Let Thy clear light for ever shine
to shame and guide this life of mine.

Though what I dream and what I do
in my weak days are always two,
help me, oppressed by things undone,
O Thou, Whose deeds and dreams were one !

The hymn was written by John Hunter (1848-1917), born in Aberdeen. Starting life as a draper, he was affected by Revivalist meetings in 1860 and was called to the Ministry. Trained in Birmingham, he served as a Minister mainly in Trinity Congregational Church, Glasgow. He wrote several hymns, publishing them in 1889 as '*Hymns of Faith and Life*.' He retired in 1913. His hymn is found in 19 different hymnbooks (but *not* in '*Singing the Faith*' !) The words have also been set to music as a 4-part anthem by the composer Anton Arensky.

Hunter's words have been slightly changed in later hymnbooks: verse 1 line 2 was originally 'All that I long..' and verse 2 line 2 read 'In my poor days.'

The hymn badly needs a distinctive Long Metre tune. It has been set to 'Gillingham' (MHB) and 'Herongate' (H&P), which is an English traditional melody arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams and named after a village in Essex where he first heard the tune. In America, where the first line usually starts 'Dear Jesus' the hymn is set to 'Hursley,' more usually set to the hymn 'Sun of my soul' (another hymn omitted from the new Methodist hymnbook).

That's it, my favourite hymn, just two verses. When announcing the hymn in school Assembly, I would say, 'Just the first and last verses.' It is a prayer. It is my favourite hymn.

David Franklin

Editor - David and his wife Rosalind a retired Methodist Minister, have moved to Ashbourne and following a three month visit to their daughter in Australia will shortly be moving into their new home.



Methodist Women in Britain Dates for your diary

Saturday 23 June	2.30 - 4 pm	Afternoon Tea at Magfield Farm, Hlland Ward
Wednesday 11 July	7.00 pm	Circuit AGM and Supper Evening in Century Hall
Wednesday 18 July		District Day at Ashbourne Methodist Church
	10.30 am	Coffee and registration
	11.15 am	Business meeting
	12.30 pm	Lunch in Waterside (suggested donation £3.00 - book with Alma)
	2.00 pm	Service including commissioning of Sue Leese as District President

Please put these dates in your diary - you will be most welcome at them all! Watch out for further details.

REV JOHN PERKINS - A Personal Reflection

It is hard to think that I will not be visiting John again, having been his and his late wife Ruth's, pastoral visitor, I think they have been the people I have visited for the longest span of time.

His interest was aroused in my mother's maiden name, for when she came to stay with us and I introduced Mum to John and said that my mother's name was Perkin. (No "S" on the end of her maiden name), John pulled up a chair and said to Mum, "Tell me more!" and they spent quite awhile in conversation tracing a possible family tree connection! I doubt if they found one, but John wanted to see, just in case, as he and Ruth were looking into their family tree.

Those who attended will remember in the Century Hall, when John, at a Network event, as the speaker for the evening, went through his and Ruth's family tree, and when I visited, I always asked him of his family both at home and those in Canada, to whom he kept in contact via e-mail.

Of his life of being a minister to us from a personal stand point, I thank God for John's ministry to me and to us as a family of blood and of faith, specially at the time we closed Mayfield Chapel. John was a towering pillar of support at a traumatic time for us.

At my last visit to him at Ashbourne Lodge, I thought time was short, so on my departure I held his hand and prayed with him, but before my prayer, I thanked him on behalf of my family for all that he had done for us. He was in my last few visits very weak, and tired, he found it hard to speak very well, but as I finished the prayer and blessing, he raised his thumb in acknowledgement.

I am going to miss my visits very much for I felt very close to John, he was always welcoming, and for that he will always have a place in my heart, and mind and thoughts, as a minister and as a friend.

Tom. P.

Quote of the month

"Only Jesus Christ by His Holy Spirit can open blind eyes, give life to the dead and rescue souls from Satanic bondage." *John Stott*



Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum

As part of our commitment to the treasure of Methodist Heritage, since we came to Ashbourne, Sue and I have volunteered one Saturday a month at Englesea Brook. The former chapel, school room, adjacent cottage and graveyard form one of the Methodist Church's key heritage sites.

It takes under an hour to get to this delightful Cheshire hamlet, near to Nantwich. Sue and I are volunteering on the following Saturdays, May 19th, June 2nd, July 21st, August 4th, September 1st and October 13th. The site is open from 10am to 5pm.

There is no entry fee, refreshments are available, and if any of you are considering visiting we would love to welcome you.

Conveniently a trip out to Englesea Brook can include a visit to the lovely market town of Nantwich. Do let us know if you plan to visit.

David and Sue Leese (david.leese@hotmail.com)

Ashbourne Methodist Church – Annual Church Meeting

The 2018 annual church meeting is on **Thursday 21 June at 7:30pm** in the Century Hall. This is an open meeting for all members of the church.

We will hear about the work of the church through its various groups and have the opportunity to ask questions about the activities.

We will also appoint church stewards and church representatives to church council for the year beginning 1st September 2018.

If you would like to help influence the future of the church through serving on council, please talk to Rev Tim or one of the leadership stewards. Or if you would like to help with the pastoral work, giving leadership and help over all the churches activities, then you may want to volunteer as a steward – please speak to Rev Tim Morris or one of the leadership stewards to discuss this.

Come and share this important meeting with us.

Stephanie Cole

(Church Council Secretary).



JMA AND “Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Initiative”

will be holding a joint shared lunch in the Century Hall after the morning service on **Sunday 20th May** and everyone is invited to join in. Just bring along some food – tea, coffee and cold drinks will be provided.

After lunch, JMA will be going to The Cornerstone for their own event.

Everyone else is invited to stay in Century Hall for prayer until 4.30pm. Prayer Stations and prayer resources will be available. This is part of an Anglican / Methodist initiative called *Thy Kingdom Come* taking place from 10th May until 20th May. (See *Rev Tim's letter*).



Green Box 38

The Latest on Plastic Recycling in the Blue Bin!

Once upon a time we were asked to look at the number in the triangle on the bottom of a plastic container, and this was the magic way to knowing whether an item could be recycled or not.

Well..... now it seems the numbers are not always the key, according to DDDC. And this from the horse's mouth, not just their website! My yoghurt pot is 5, a food tray 1, the washing-up liquid bottle has no number but a circular arrow and 'widely recycled'. Another food tray has no number or arrows on at all, but I am assured it can be recycled!

Anyway, the advice now is to abide by the list on the website (with some clarification from a DDDC member of staff as well!) as follows:-

Cleaner and detergent bottles; toiletries and shampoo bottles (all including tops).

Food pots and tubs; margarine and butter tubs; plastic trays both clear, green and black; yoghurt pots; tetrapaks; drinks bottles (including plastic tops).

Good luck!

Pat Fielding

Meals with Jesus

The tax collector had climbed a tree
Trying to see what it was all about
'Come down Zaccheus, I'll eat at your house',
And Zaccheus' life was turned inside out.

Simon the Pharisee invited the Lord
And at the meal a woman came in,
With tears and perfume she anointed His feet
And Jesus responded forgiving her sin.

Breakfast was ready, fish on the coals
They'd toiled all night and were cold and tired,
'Put your nets down again' the Master called
And fish were caught on the other side.

And now we come to the feast of all feasts,
The Marriage Supper of the Lamb,
Hallelujahs resound over victories won
As we celebrate with the great I Am.

Megan Carter

HULLAND CHAPEL

As most of you are aware Hulland Chapel has ceased holding services as from December 2017, though our Bible study and ladies meeting are continuing.

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support to us during and after this difficult decision was made, and we look forward to seeing you and joining with you all in the future.

Peggy Spencer

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday May 6th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Fiona Green	
	18:30pm	@ St Oswald's Church	United Service at Parish
Brailsford	10:30am	Peter Dawson	United Service at Methodist

Sunday May 13th

Ashbourne	9:15am	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	18:30pm	Ruth Barratt	
Brailsford	10:30am	John Dyster	
Kniveton	14:30pm	Ann Parkinson	
Parwich	14:30pm	Stuart Mustow	

Sunday May 20th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Peter Dawson	
	18:30pm	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30am	Robert Sales	All Age
Tissington	10:30am	Lorraine Hawkins	

Sunday May 27th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Tim Dutton	All Age
	18:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Brailsford	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	
Kirk Ireton	18:30pm	Rev Mark Broadhurst	
Kniveton	11:00am	John Dyster	
Parwich	14:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	

Sunday June 3rd

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	Theme Preach 1
	18:30	John Dyster	
Brailsford	10:30	Ruth Barratt	United Service at Methodist

Ashbourne Show 18 August

The circuit has booked a stall at the Ashbourne Show, on **Saturday 18 August**.

This is part of our outreach & witness to the community. Are you able to help serve tea and coffee or just to chat with people? Lots of help is needed to set up and assist during the day.

Please contact Carole Thorpe on cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535 if you are able to help. Help may be available with the entrance cost.

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 & Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
Wed	9:30am	Walk and Talk Group: weekly <i>Contacts - Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i> Amble & Ramble (easier walking): 2nd & 4th Weds
	7:30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact - Eric and Jenny Williams 346155)</i>
Thurs	9:30am	Prayer Meeting: weekly <i>Contact - Brian Hawkins (310353)</i>
	7:30pm	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - Jeff Ffoulkes (300443)</i>
Fri	7.30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact Nick Flux (07764988479)</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

TISSINGTON CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Wed	7:30pm	Bible Study: monthly, 4th Wednesday
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CIRCUIT STAFF

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Proud recipients of Maundy Money from The Queen at a ceremony at St George's Chapel Windsor were Elizabeth Hurfurt and fellow Methodist John Whitehead.



Having fun at "Kids at Cornerstone"