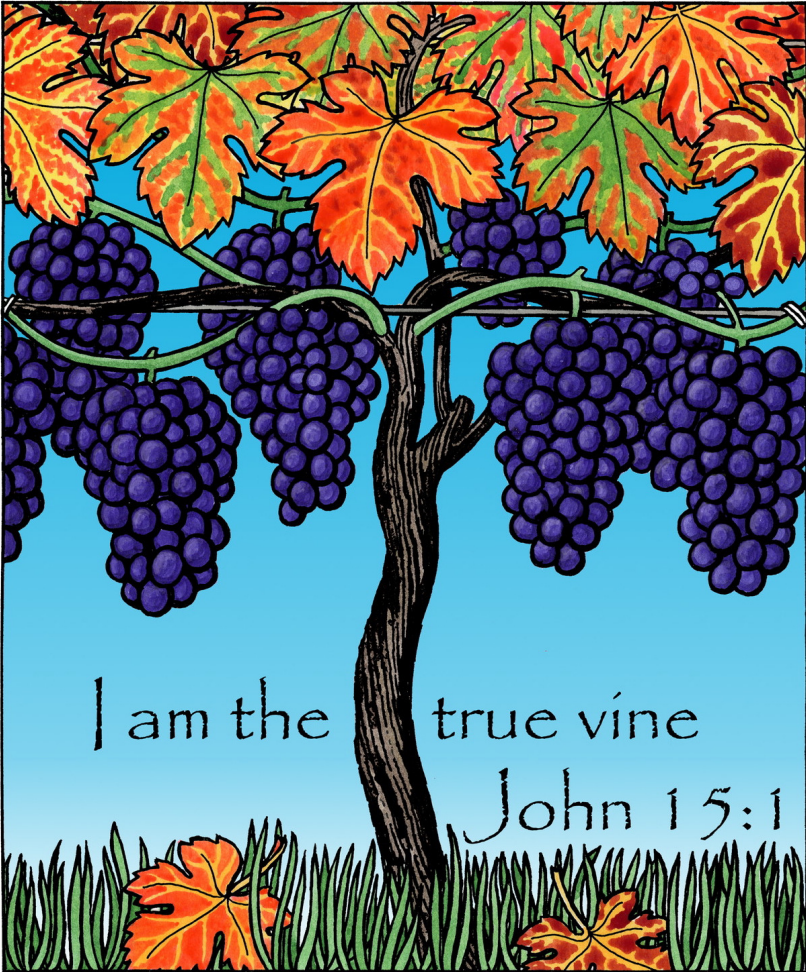


# Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit  
Magazine September 2018

## Letter from the Minister

The Manse, 16 Booth Drive  
Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1SZ  
Tel: 01335 342408  
email: tim.morris@methodist.org.uk

Dear Friends,

### “Pole to pole”

This summer I did something I’ve wanted to do for some time - that is to walk across to Holy Island (Lindisfarne), rather than drive over.



To walk, you turn away from the causeway and cross the sands (and mud) at low tide. Following the poles (you can’t miss them) you walk slowly across the flat, open, tidal sea bed from the mainland to the island. It wasn’t arduous, but it was the fulfilment of a long held ambition.

Walking in front and behind were various scatterings of people (and dogs) doing the same thing. Whether there was any spiritual intent in their walking, I don’t know. I’m not sure what mine was either, apart from the sense of walking the same way people have done for hundreds of years, stepping in their footprints, and following the poles! Of course, their footprints have been washed away, as mine were a few hours later, by the incoming tide. Each person has to step out and make own way across to Holy Island, each new pilgrim making their own mark, laying down their own footprints.

The common bond, I guess, is the poles that winsomely stand as way markers; friendly fingers, pointing heavenwards, yet leading us on from one to the other across the open landscape. Not reflective countdown posts on a motorway, but weather beaten, spindly fingers that look like they’ve been there for a millennia! Having stood the test of time (and wind and wave) they continue to guide and lead, direct and point the traveller on their journey.

I hope that my little life, in some small way, may help other people to be guided towards their holy island, journeying in faith, making their own footprints in the sand.

Your minister and friend,



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## **Ashbourne Church Family News**

*“The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?” Psalm 27.1*

In our day to day lives there are many situations which might cause us to be fearful but David, the Psalmist, assures us that the Lord is stronger than our fears.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barbara Blenkinsop, Sue Bull and family and Donald Blenkinsop and family with the loss of Derek on 12 August.

We pray for those who remain unwell, those recovering from surgery, others waiting for tests and results or surgery including Margaret Wright, Barbara Hollands, Wendy Haslam, Jenny Waring, Marianne Matthews and Les Cole. Remember those who care too; Alan Wright, David Hollands, Eric Matthews and others who are visiting friends to help in so many ways. There are others you know who are not named here so please pray for them, and we give thanks for all who pray, visit, make phone calls and send cards, texts, messages or e-mails.

There are a number of our congregation waiting for exam results, both university and school, so let's pray for decisions all have to make as they receive results. All will be moving to new classes so need our prayers. In September Josh Dutton commences studying Sports and Exercise Psychology at Loughborough University and Emily Peers and Andrew Sales continue third year studies in Sheffield.

On 5 August we were pleased to join in the baptism of Norah Magdalena Basak, daughter of Raj and Lorna Basak and may we be faithful in the promises we made. Bob and Judith Starkie have a new granddaughter, Mollie Ivy, a daughter for Ian and Tracy.

Mike and Cherry Dennison's son, Ollie, was married to Ali Harvey on 4th August. Tony and Helen Walker's son, Tim, marries Clara Atkins on 1st September.

Congratulations to Bob and Judith Starkie who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 9th September and to Tony Adlam (Carole's Dad) who celebrated his 90th birthday on 8th August and to Barbara Blenkinsop who celebrates her 80th birthday on 19th September and also to Bryn and Chris Evans celebrating their Diamond Wedding Anniversary on 28th September.

Andrew and Lorraine Garside, and Rebekah have moved house into Ashbourne and Kay and Barry Orme are settling into their new home in Ashbourne. On 3rd September Muriel Paton will be moving south to be near her daughter. We thank her for friendship and fellowship over the past years and pray for God's blessing in the move and settling.

Remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners, in the uncertainties of Zimbabwe and Stephen and Suzanne in the UK.

Don't forget the prayer time in the vestry on a Thursday at 9.30am for an hour but just drop in for a shorter time if that suits you. After worship on a Sunday, there are people available at the back of the church to pray with you or for you.

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 15.08.18*

## **From the Editors**

Thank you for all your excellent contributions.

Next issue – October 2018:

Last date for contributions: **Wednesday 19th September**

Publication date: **Sunday 30th September**

If possible, please e-mail us at [dysters@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dysters@tiscali.co.uk)

If this is not convenient, please contact us on 01335 344086

*John and Daphne Dyster*

## **MHA 75th Anniversary Service**

Derby Cathedral. Saturday 13th October at 3.00pm.

The service will include an act of remembrance for MHA's former residents and staff. A special hymn to mark the 75th Anniversary will feature music from MHA Music Therapists.

Due to the limited amount of folk the cathedral can accommodate it is by ticket only which can be obtained free by going to [www.mha.org.uk/75years](http://www.mha.org.uk/75years), or by calling 01332 221922.

*Tom Parkinson. Ashbourne Circuit MHA Representative.*

You are invited to join us for the first

**kids@cornerstone**

**Harvest Festival**

**Tuesday 2nd October**

**10.30am – 11.00am**

This Harvest time, we will be having our first ever kids@cornerstone Harvest Festival service. Everyone from church is invited to come and join us, to celebrate the Harvest and to encourage the children and their carers.

During the summer, kids@cornerstone have been creating a colourful rainbow picture for us all to enjoy as part of our church's Harvest Festival displays.

It will be a great opportunity to thank kids@cornerstone for their contributions and celebrate the Harvest together as a wider Church family.

**Please come and join us!**

## Milldale Chapel

The summer has seen the usual three mid week services being held at Milldale. June, July and August, each a very different service of about 3/4 hr allowing the 20 to 30 people who make the effort to climb the steep little hill to the chapel the opportunity to reflect and meditate in the wonderful, beautiful and peaceful surroundings of the Dove Valley. Several holiday makers have been a part of the gatherings which enhances our worship.

The Peak Pilgrimage continues to be followed by a large number of pilgrims and the visitors book in Milldale sees many comments from these travellers, as well as the thousands who pop in on their way up or down the road to Alstonefield. It is rare in the summer months to have a day without an entry in the book and then throughout the year rare to not have at least one or more entries per week.

This little chapel perched on the hillside is reaching out in a way was never imagined when it was built in 1835 as a place of worship for this tiny hamlet.

On December 24th at 4.00pm a candlelit service will be held to increase our sense of anticipation for the birthday of our Lord on the following day. The 36 seats are usually filled twice over, but please put it in your diary and join this unique experience of worship.

*Sandra Lewer*

**Ashbourne**

**Churches**  
**Together**



## Patna Partnership Celebration

The main Protestant Churches in Derbyshire formed a Partnership with the Church of North India (CNI) over 40 years ago. CNI is a united and uniting Church and is in communion with all the Churches that came together to form it. The governance of CNI reflects aspects of the Churches from which it was formed. There are Bishops but also a General Secretary. As a result of its origins, some or all of its leaders are invited to meetings such as the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Methodist Conference and the Lambeth Conference.

In July 2008, all the Bishops from CNI were invited to Derbyshire at the time of the Lambeth Conference. Bishop Philip Marandih, Bishop of Patna and at the time a very new Bishop, stayed in Parwich with the Revd. Christopher Harrison who was then Rural Dean. As a result of their meeting the Ashbourne Churches Together Patna Partnership was formed. Therefore, July 2018 was the time to celebrate 20 years of Partnership.

Bishop Marandih and 3 other presbyters, Revd. Francis Hansdah, Revd. Daniel Murmu and Revd. Manoj Singh, were invited to come to Ashbourne. All had visited before and all obtained visas. The main event was a Service of Thanksgiving followed by a meal and a presentation entitled “20 Years in 20 minutes” held at the Methodist Church. The Revd. Christopher Harrison preached at the service led by the Revd. Maggie Rode and Bishop Marandih presided at communion. The presentation was made up of photographs from the many visits that have taken place in both directions.

Our visitors were here for two weekends and on the two Sundays they visited services at St. Oswald’s and the Methodist Church. Old friendships were strengthened and new friendships made. A “WhatsApp” prayer group has been formed so that by using modern technology we can request prayer for each other. This has already been used and from time to time prayer requests will be made in all the Churches.

Despite modern technology, there is no replacement for face to face visits. Without a discussion the “WhatsApp” group would not have been set up. Christians in India are under increasing pressure from the current Indian government. Many are poor, being Dalits or Tribals. Visits in both directions remind them that they are part of the worldwide Christian family and that we care for them.

Our thanks go to those who hosted our guests in their homes, to those who provided meals, those who provided transport and those who went with our guests on excursions. Some of these people had helped before but we were very happy to have offers from those who have not been involved before. Our guests enjoyed themselves, we hope all our helpers did too.

*Elizabeth Hurfurt*

## **From Motspur Park to Mombasa** *by Rachel Murt*

In 1971 I was three years old and I woke up to find a climbing frame had been put up in my back garden. We lived in Motspur Park in New Malden, London and my family attended the Methodist Church. I can't be sure which Church (I was only three after all!) but I think it was Raynes Park. My Mum and Dad had been friends with a couple from the Church who had two young boys a little older than my brother and I and it was their climbing frame that had magically appeared one morning in our garden. But why? We were not very well off and to have a climbing frame of our very own was nothing short of a miracle! I was quickly corrected by my Mother, this was not 'our' climbing frame, it belonged to the two little boys and we were looking after it for them.



'But why didn't they want it?' I asked. I was told they had gone away. 'Where had they gone?' I asked, and I was told 'Mombasa'. The story that emerged was that the family had 'gone on mission' to Mombasa and they had sold everything they owned, taken everything they could, and left us the climbing frame. But my Mother was adamant this was not ours, we were to look after it for them. And so we did, for the next 10 years or so, until it rotted away. But the memory of it stayed, along with the memory of Mum getting out the atlas and showing us where Mombasa was, and how it was such a long, long way away from London, and 'no' we couldn't go and visit them because it was too far, and 'no' Dad wouldn't like it there because it was too hot, but 'yes' it did have a beach just like Scarborough where we used to spend our holidays.

So the climbing frame 'left' but Mombasa stayed, a magical place of mystery. I am 50 this year and have always wanted to go on safari. Life has not always been good to me and has thrown me some curve balls in recent years, so we decided to follow the dream and go on safari to Kenya, which happens also to be the home of Mombasa. Could we visit? Yes we could!

I could spend the next three pages telling you about the amazing safari and all the animals we saw, but I'd rather tell you about Mombasa and the adventure we had there. I had heard Arthur Watts read a Bible



passage in Church in Swahili and wondered if he had any contacts in Kenya. So after a service one Sunday morning, I asked him and he put me in touch with Onesmus, who comes from (you guessed it!) Mombasa and is closely involved with the Methodist Church there. His father is the retired superintendent minister. More than that, Onesimus lived with the Watts whilst he was studying in London, not far from Mootspur Park.

I talked at length with Onesmus about trying to visit the Wesley Methodist Church in Mombasa town for a Sunday Service while we were there. I also told Onesmus that I would like to make a donation to the Church in lieu of 50 years rent for the climbing frame, and I told him the story. 'Could I send him the money' I asked, and he said 'no'. I was a little taken aback. To be honest I wanted to write a cheque and walk away, but Onesimus believed that I should visit the rural Church where he had grown up and see where the money would be spent and what they would do with it – a wise man. And so began the adventure.

On Sunday June 16th this year, Edwin, Onesmus' cousin, picked me up with my husband Derek from our hotel in South Mombasa and drove us to the city for the Church Sunday Service. It was an early start and an interesting journey through some very poor and rural areas.



Derek is not a Methodist and does not attend Church. He had said that he would come along for the ride, but would wait outside the Church whilst the service was on. I was a little apprehensive about this, and by the time Derek had seen the district outside the church, the fortified gates and the armed guard who let our car in, he had decided to join Edwin and I for the service!

I was glad and a little nervous for him. I need not have worried: the service was a special celebration, a tent revival style where all the Methodist Churches in the area were coming together to celebrate mission. Edwin had not known the event was on, and was as surprised as we were to meet Onesimus' parents there. The service was everything you could expect from an outdoor vibrant 'African' event, uplifting rhythmic choirs dancing and singing in the aisles.

Most of it was in Swahili, but I do remember one song in particular when the lead singer called loudly “Who has the last word?” and nearly 1,000 voices shouted back “Jehovah has the last word”. And my husband? He LOVED it!

From Mombasa town Edwin drove us about one hour north of Mombasa to his own Church in M’Bungoni. We arrived just after 12.30 when the 8.30 service was still going strong. Edwin told me that the young people’s service would have ended at 10.30 and I asked him how many young people attended, ‘over 200’ he replied. The Church itself supports the local Primary School and runs an infants school in a single mud floored room for over 80 children from the ages of 4-6. I asked how they got here and was told in surprise ‘they walk’ and I asked ‘by themselves?’ ‘of course’ came the answer - from up to 3 miles away.



The Church building is a single room with a metal roof that can seat up to 400-500 people at a time. It has a tin roof and is almost unbearable to sit in during the summer months. I was struck by how the Methodist Church is an integral part of their lives. In our country we ‘choose’ Church - it is a life enhancing experience. In M’Bungoni their whole lives exist in and around the Church: it supports the families, the areas, the teaching, the development and the whole social network - the Church is life.

We spoke at length with the Church Elders there, who had gathered to meet us. I was a little overwhelmed and explained I was nobody special, I was not an ‘Elder’- I was not part of any Committee, or had any influence, I was just a member of the Ashbourne Methodist Church. But I told them the story of the climbing frame and how we came to be in Mombasa.

We were fortunate enough to be taken to the graveyard in Ribe where the first Methodist Missionaries are buried. Ribe is where the Methodist church began in Kenya. Ribe is right out in the countryside in rural Africa and reached only on foot and it is such a place of atmosphere and historical significance it quite took my breath away. I asked Edwin 'how is it possible that English missionaries could find their way HERE of all places' and his answer – 'they were very determined'.

It was sad to see some of the names and ages of the people who had died, sadder still to read of the missionary who was killed in retribution for the English taking to slave ships - deeply unsettling to read that his death was in 1874, 70 years AFTER slavery had been abolished in England and yet this inhuman trafficking continued in Kenya until it was banned in 1860. It was clearly still happening in 1874.



As I looked around at this incredible holy place in Ribe, I was suddenly struck by exactly where we were. We were in Kenya, out in the deep countryside in the middle of nowhere - no one back home knew where we were, we did not really know the people we were with and we had no means of making our own way out. And it struck me again that this whole journey had been an exercise in 'Trust'. I did not know Onesmus, but I trusted him because of his contact with Arthur and Joy and the Methodist Church; Edwin had collected us and we happily joined him because he was arranged through Onesmus, through the Methodist Church; we drove and walked deep into the countryside in rural Africa with a group of men that we did not know, but we trusted because of the Methodist Church in M'Bungoni. And I was completely at my ease.

But the person I have the most respect for on that adventure was Derek. Derek did not know Arthur, or Onesmus, or Edwin and had no connection to the Methodist Church, but he joined me on this great adventure because he trusted me. What a responsibility we bear when we meet and touch others. Who could ever have dreamed that a small kind gift, the 'loan' of a climbing frame would lead me to Mombasa, to meet the most amazing people, see wondrous humbling places and be part of a project at their Church which will change their lives, as mine has been changed by our journey.



## **Messy Church 5th Birthday**

This summer marks the fifth anniversary of regular Messy Church sessions at Ashbourne (see photo on back cover). We were amazed to realise that we have been doing this work for so many years.

Some statistics...

- Over 31 sessions
- 171 families have attended one or more sessions
- 63 volunteer helpers (not all at once!)
- Over 1000 fish fingers served and eaten (also not all at once!)
- Over 800 pizza slices served and eaten
- Over 200 different craft activities
- And countless people praying for us!

Thank you to everyone who has supported Messy Church with gifts of time, prayer, resources or by attending with children and grandchildren.

It has been a privilege to share stories, crafts and songs with people from the town who spend these mornings with us. Many children have been attending sessions regularly for several years and all of us on the team find that we are recognised in the town and are often asked eagerly, 'When's the next Messy Church?'

As we always say: Messy Church is church! We base all of our sessions on a Bible story or theme and we're clear in the importance of our worship and prayer activities. It's not just a craft club! Each session lasts two and a half hours – time spent as community and reinforcing the Gospel message. We have activities for families which means that adults also hear and interact with the Gospel message.

We have a session each school holiday.

If you are interested in joining the team or would just like to know more about what we do, do get in touch.

And again, thank you for all of the wonderful support given to us by our church – as a group and as individuals. We couldn't do it without you!

*Fiona Green and the Messy Church Team*

Could you write a letter to those attending 3Generate - a letter to help them be courageous in their faith by sharing something of your own faith story?

Could you share something about your experiences of being part of a church/faith community. Maybe you remember special people or moments from growing up in a church - could you share some of that story?

What is 3Generate? 3Generate is planned and shaped by children and young people for children and young people - alongside a team of adult facilitators from the Connexion (the Methodist Church in the whole of Britain), who specialise in working with children and young people.

It is a 'speak out' event for children and young people and is the Children and Youth Assembly of The Methodist Church (Standing Order 250). 3Generate is for children and young people from all over the Connexion, organised in three age-streams: 8- 11s, 11-18s, 18-23s.

Woven into each year's event will be:

- a chance for children and young people to have a say and vote for their representatives at the Youth President and Youth Rep elections
- a chance to meet up with friends and make new ones - from other Methodist Churches all over the country
- a weekend of conversation, debate, indoor and outdoor activities, games, music, sport, crafts and challenges
- time and space to worship together in a range of creative and imaginative ways
- an opportunity for children and young people to talk about the issues that affect and really matter to them, the world and the Church - to listen to each other and to God.

If you feel this is something you could participate in, please contact me for guidance about the length and content of the letter.

If you feel unable to write, please pray for the event, which will take place 23rd-25th November at Pontins, Southport.

*Jane Bowley 07941848234 or 01335 300276*



1000letters

Letters from one generation to another

## **Keswick Convention** *by Steve Haines*

The Keswick Convention started in 1875 with 300 people in a small marquee on the vicarage lawn. Roll forward 143 years and the Convention still takes place in a tent in Keswick, but numbers have grown, with 12,000 people attending this year. One thing that stands out in the conversations and new friendships made is that this is a place where people keep coming back year on year. Kids who came years back with their parents now bring their families, grandparents bring their children and grandchildren. As the convention prepares itself to move to a new site in the town, the emphasis is all about handing the Convention to future generations. But what makes it so special? For me this is the third year that I've been and as I left, I found myself saying to so many people that I looked forward to meeting them again next year – and I probably will.

At the heart of Keswick is quality bible teaching. People come seeking a greater depth in their spiritual lives, and they don't leave disappointed. Listening to so many sermons in one week may seem a strange way to spend one's holiday but when the Bible is expounded by some of the world's best teachers in a powerful, challenging and spirit filled way, lives are transformed, and tired / busy people find rest and a place to recharge. I heard of one couple this year from Cornwall who came across the live recording on the internet of one of the bible teaching sessions. They had never heard of the convention before, but were so impressed by the quality of the teaching, that they got in their car and drove eight hours up to the Lake District just to get more of it.



But Keswick is so much more than just studying the Bible. The motto of the convention is “All one in Christ Jesus” and this is lived out in such a powerful way. The convention is free to attend so there are no financial barriers. The gospel is so central to the event that there is no place for denominations or traditions to get in the way. Mission has always been a core theme and so welcoming people from different cultures and backgrounds happens with ease. With so many people coming back year on year, it’s so nice to see such a wonderful mix of ages - nobody is too young nor too old. Wherever one goes, wherever one sits, there is always a friendly face turning to welcome you, to ask you where you come from, to start a conversation. On my first evening this year, I said hello to a lady sitting next to me and it turns out that although she has lived in London for the last 30 years, she grew up living in Rochester – it’s a small world!

One reason so many families come to Keswick each year is the incredible work that takes place amongst children & young people. What a joy to see over a thousand kids each week having fun whilst learning about and praising God. It’s so encouraging to hear so many parents say that they came to faith whilst attending the convention as kids. But it’s the 19-24 year group that excited me the most this year. As I camped next to a few of them, I had the privilege of listening to them talk about their week. These were young people who could easily have stayed at home or done something else during their holiday, but to listen to them share the conversations and hear about the discussions they were having was incredible. Costa Coffee (where the young adults programme was held) seemed to be not only a place for good coffee but a place where God was touching and changing many lives.

The sheer beauty of the Lake District and staying in such a magnificent area just adds to everything else. There are no organised activities in the afternoons during the Convention, so people can head down to the shores of Derwentwater or head up for a walk in the surrounding hills or just spend time relaxing in the town or the surrounding area. There is a lovely balance between the organised events on the one hand and plenty of time & space on the other hand to relax, reflect and enjoy a break.

There are many church members who have attended the Keswick convention over the years. If it crops up in conversation, please don’t hesitate to ask them about it and about their experience. If, as you read this, you think that it might interest yourself, your family or someone close to you next summer, then take a look at the website, <https://keswickministries.org/convention/convention-2019>

# 9:15

## Why not try it?

On the second Sunday of every month at Ashbourne, we have our 9:15 service. We meet in the Century Hall for a very informal time of worship which is suitable for people of all ages.

There are typically 30-40 people and we enjoy very practical discussions which help us to think about our faith and what it means for our life.

At 10am, we share breakfast pastries and those arriving for the 10.30am service are always welcome to join us.

We asked a few regulars what they like about 9:15 and here's what they said.

*"The whole atmosphere is really good. The subject is always very relevant and the discussion points are all things that we can know something about."* Alma Swan

*"It is a relaxed way of getting real messages to all ages and getting everyone thinking about God."* Cliff Lewer

*"I like the conversational part & it being all inclusive."* Daniel Alton

*"I like the activities & songs which are always lively."* William Alton

The next 9:15 will be on Sunday 9th September and everyone is welcome to come and join the service. Why not try it?

*Stuart Green on behalf of the 9:15 team*







## **Ashbourne Methodist Church Auction of Promises Saturday November 24th 2018**

There will be an 'Auction of Promises' on 24th November to raise Funds for the Link Project. Everyone has a skill and everyone has something to offer. Have you got what I want?

A wide variety of items and services are going to be available to bid for, including a wonderful sculpture which has been donated by a local artist. Here are some ideas that may help you think about what you can give to the auction and what you can do to help raise funds for "The Link":

Gardening. Drive someone to the airport. Help put together a photograph album. Shredding and home office sort out. Take a Family Photograph. Offer to prepare and serve a meal in the winners own home. DIY Services, Baby Sitting. School pick up. Sit with someone and play cards/watch TV. Walk a Dog. Bake a cake. Be someone's personal shopper for the day to help choose a special outfit. Take a car load of waste to the Tip. Decorate a room. Service a car (or motorbike!)

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another: 1 Peter 4:10*

When you are ready to make your promise for this auction, please contact: Rachel Murt at: [secretaryamc1@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryamc1@gmail.com)

The Auction will be led by our own Graham Penny and a brochure with more details will be available nearer the date.

### **Shoe box Coffee morning in Cornerstone**

**Wednesday 17th October 10 am to 12 noon**

Stalls:

- Goods for shoe boxes
- Cakes and home made jam
- Refreshments
- NO WHITE ELEPHANT STALL

A welcome for everyone!

For more details speak to Chris Dakin or the shoe box team



## **MISSION**

## **MATTERS**

A few years ago I wrote in Connections about supporting God's mission around the world under these headings: pray, give, go and share. I mentioned that "Supporting Mission" is far more than just fundraising, valuable though money is. The key to all this is catching a vision of what God is doing around His world in our day. In our day the church of his son, Jesus Christ, is growing rapidly, even in some of the most unlikely places like North Korea and many Muslim countries. Least growth seems to be in "developed" countries like our own, where we treasure our independence, with confidence to manage our own affairs: "who needs God?"

I hope to have a new mission prayer update out in the next week or two for you to use. My focus here is on two countries particularly needing our prayers at this time: Nepal and Zimbabwe.

### **Nepal**

Nepal recently transitioned from a Hindu monarchy to a secular democratic republic, although certain provisions infringe the right to freedom of religion. The Criminal Code Bill, which comes into force on 17th August, has provisions that criminalise religious conversion and the "hurting of religious feelings".

The good news is that, unlike during the state-sponsored persecution of the 1970s, when the church was weak, today it is large with many well-educated and well-connected individuals willing and able to challenge the government. For this reason I was very interested to read this recent article of 9th August 2018 in:

<http://nepalchurch.com/15805/international-parliamentarians-raise-concerns-about-anti-conversion-laws/>

A delegation of international parliamentarians went on a fact-finding and solidarity mission to Nepal from 31st July to 2nd August, and raised Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) concerns with Nepalese government officials.

The mission comprised parliamentarians from Canada, Bolivia, Myanmar, South Africa and Georgia who are also members of the International Panel of Parliamentarians for Freedom of Religion or Belief (IPPFoRB). This is an informal network of about 250 former and present parliamentarians from 70 nations who are committed to promoting FoRB.

In order to better understand the FoRB situation in Nepal, the mission consulted with a range of stakeholders, including Nepal's members of parliament, permanent country missions and faith leaders from the Kirat, Baha'i, Buddhist, Jain, Hindu, Muslims and Christian communities.

The discussions were informed by a report commissioned by the IPPFoRB, which was launched in an event moderated by the Commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal. The report outlines obstacles to the realisation of FoRB in Nepal and includes recommendations to the government of Nepal.

This was seen as a timely engagement on FoRB in Nepal by the International Panel of Parliamentarians at such a significant point in Nepal's constitutional and political transition.

## **Zimbabwe**

Our mission partners Jonathan and Isabel Hill in Bulawayo have not been able to report to us yet on the impact in their area of this tumultuous time, but they do need our prayers at this time of change and uncertainty.

Many of us will have been following the political transition resulting from the first ostensibly free and fair election held since Robert Mugabe came to power in 1980.

The Constitutional Court is considering an appeal by the opposition Movement for Democratic Change party (MDC), alleging that the election was rigged by Zanu-PF in favour of Mnangagwa, Robert Mugabe's former vice president. MDC has also accused the election commission of ballot fraud in the July 30th vote. "It's now up to the court to decide."

<https://www.news24.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/zim-elections-mdcs-legal-challenge-has-little-chance-of-success-20180815>

*Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary*

## **Christmas Angels 2018**

'To share God's love and to bless the community in public places and community spaces with a Christmas message.'

Last year Craft & Chat co-ordinated 803 knitted angels which went out onto the streets of Ashbourne just before Christmas. We had a lovely Service of Blessing led by Rev Maggie Rode from St Oswald's and we were joined by knitters from St Oswald's too.

The angels were so well-received that we have decided to do it all over again this year. Our small band of knitters are already wielding their needles to produce a heavenly host!

Would you like to take part with us? The angels are very easy to knit or crochet – we have the patterns and can arrange for you to receive a copy. The angels bring a great deal of joy and offer God's love to our community in a small way. Do think about joining us in this work of witness and of offering. If you need help or advice, needles or wool just get in touch with us; we're happy to help.

Look out for a special 'Angel Knitters' Event' organised by Craft & Chat in the autumn.

And if you want to find out online about the nationwide 'angels' project go to [www.christmasangel.net/](http://www.christmasangel.net/) where you'll find information, patterns and encouragement.

*Clare Sales and Fiona Green*

### **Holy Socks**

At the Methodist Church Conference in Nottingham there was a stall selling Holy Socks. They had two designs featuring Jonah so it seemed appropriate to have some for Ashbourne Church / Circuit. We have Jonah and the Whale and Jonah in the Whale in sizes 6-11, 4-7 and children's 6-8½, 9-12 and 12½-3½. They cost £4.75 for children's sizes and £6.00 for adult sizes with £1 from each sale going to the Link project. We shall be selling them at the Weekend Away and again after services in October. They would make good Christmas presents as well as buying a pair for yourself. See the designs at [www.holysocks.co.uk](http://www.holysocks.co.uk)

*John & Elizabeth Hurfurt*

## Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

### Sunday September 2nd

Ashbourne	10:30am	Fiona Green	
	18:30pm	Steve Haines	
Brailsford	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	United Service at Methodist

### Sunday September 9th

Ashbourne	9:15am	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30pm	Tom Parkinson	
Brailsford			<b>United Service at the farm</b>
Kniveton	14:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Parwich	14:30pm	Peter Dawson	

### Sunday September 16th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	18:30pm	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30am	Lorraine Hawkins	All Age
Parwich	<b>10:00am</b>	Diana Whitmill	<b>United Service at Parish, Harvest</b>
Tissington	10:30am	Ann Parkinson	Harvest

### Sunday September 23rd

Ashbourne	10:30am	Diana Whitmill	
	18:30pm	<b>No service</b>	
Brailsford	10:30am	<b>No service</b>	
Kirk Ireton	18:30pm	Rev David Leese	Harvest
Kniveton	11:00am	Stuart Mustow	
Parwich	14:30pm	<b>No service</b>	

### Sunday September 30th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Dr Stella Mills	Harvest
	18:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Brailsford	10:30am	Tim Dutton	

### Sunday October 7th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Ruth Barratt	
	18:30pm	Peter Dawson	
Brailsford	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Harvest, Communion, United Service at Methodist

**Circuit website: [www.ashbournemethodist.org](http://www.ashbournemethodist.org)**

## Dates for your diary

### September

Tue 4th	19:30	Local Preachers meeting
Sat 8th		Ashbourne Safari meal
Sat 15th	10:00	District Synod at Riverside, Derby
Fri 21st		Circuit Weekend Away at Swanwick

### October

Mon 1st	19:30	Brailsford Church Council
Mon 8th	14:00	Joint Church Council at Parwich
Sat 13th	15:00	MHA 75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service at Derby Cathedral
Wed 17th	10:30	MWiB District Day at Willersley Castle
Wed 17th	19:30	Circuit Meeting at Ashbourne Church
Thu 18th	19:30	Kirk Ireton Church Council
Tue 23rd	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council

### November

Mon 5th	19:30	MWiB Supper evening in the Century Hall
Sat 10th		Fresh Expression workshop
Thu 29th		Advent Display at Ashbourne Church

## Methodist Women in Britain

### District Day - Wednesday 17th October



Our next District Day will take the form of the Day of Fellowship at Willersley Castle. The day will commence at 11 am, preceded by coffee from 10.30am. Lunch will be taken at 12.30 pm and the afternoon start at 2.00pm. The speaker in the afternoon is Judith Simms, MWiB Communications Officer, on her attendance at the European Festival in Germany. The cost of the day is £16.00. If you would like to go, please let me know asap, as we need to book in. I am sure it will be an enjoyable day.

**Date for your diary:** 5th November - Supper Evening  
Speaker - Robin Merrifield of the Mission Aviation Fellowship

*Alma Swan*

## **Ashbourne Church Activities**

Sun	18.30pm	Mustard (Youth Fellowship)
Mon	10.00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact – David Heaton (343418)</i>
	14.00pm	Craft and Chat in The Cornerstone <i>Contact – Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	19.30pm	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: weekly <i>Contacts – Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i> Amble and Ramble (easier walking) 2nd & 4th Weds
	19.30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact – Eric and Jenny Williams (346155)</i>
Thu	9.30am	Prayer Meeting: weekly <i>Contact – Brian Hawkins (310353)</i>
	19.30pm	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact – Jeff Ffoulkes(300443)</i>
Fri	19.30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact: Nick Flux (07764988479)</i>
Thu, 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**

Wed	19.30pm	Bible Study: monthly (1st Wednesday) <i>Contact – John Dyster (344086)</i>
Thurs	14.15pm	Women's Fellowship (1st Thursday)

## **Tissington Church Activities**

Fellowship Group  
*Contact – Richard Odell (419319)*



Hulland Ladies on an outing to Hopton Hall



Link Development event - Delightful Afternoon Tea



Sue Leese's induction as District MWIB President



Rev Tim Morris and Alfi at Messy Church