

Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit
December 2018-January 2019

Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

“Jesus is the heart of Christmas”

Every year we can try and re-package Christmas to make it brighter, clearer and more meaningful than the last. We can put a bit more glitter on our cards, be a bit more generous in our giving, and even try the newest hymn that tells of our Saviour’s birth.



But the message is the same, unchanging and really quite simple. The message is clear, it is about “God being with us”.

As Betjeman put it:

*And is it true, this most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue, a Baby in an ox's stall ?
The Maker of the stars and sea, become a Child on earth for me?*

*And is it true? For if it is, no loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies, the sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent and hideous tie so kindly meant.*

*No love that in a family dwells, no carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells, can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine, and lives today in Bread and Wine.*

So may the God, who comes for you, be born again in you this Christmas.

*Lord Jesus, friend to the weary,
be the strength of all whom come to you;
Lord Jesus, friend of the sick,
be the healing of all who come to you;
Lord Jesus, friend of the poor,
be the dignity of all who come to you;*

*Lord Jesus, friend of the excluded,
be the freedom of all who come to you;
until all humans stand renewed before you
and the whole world love to praise your name. Amen*

Your minister and friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Ashbourne Church Family News

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Psalm 119:105

As we come to the end of one year and begin another, let us move forward with confidence that God is always with us. Let us turn to Scripture in good and bad times to help us maintain a positive faith-filled mindset. Lord, let Your word light our path in the New Year.

There are many who need our prayers who are recovering from illness or remain unwell or who just feel under the weather, including Peter Richards, Phil Hall, Tom Parkinson, Edith Redfern, Barbara Hollands, Jenny Waring, Les Cole, Val Rutledge, Kerry Hall, Margaret Cox, Elizabeth Spencer and Margaret Wright. There are a number who prefer not to be named here, but who need our prayers, so if you know of those needs please pray on our behalf.

Many are caring for others, whether it is in the home, shopping, baking, delivering meals, gardening, taking out for a coffee, making phone calls, sending cards, texts, messages or e-mails, giving lifts or numerous other ways. If people wish to be included for prayer in the future, please do let me know.

As we celebrate Christmas and move into the New Year there will be times of joy, but there will be those of us who face Christmas alone or have lost a spouse this year. Let us remember especially Muriel Paton, Bridget Lamburn, Barbara Blenkinsop and Eric Matthews.

Congratulations to Sandra Lewer, who attended a special service at Westminster Abbey in recognition of 50 years of loyal service to Guiding. Congratulations to Jeff and Sue Ffoulkes who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 28 December and to Kirsty Durose who swam in the National Swimming Competition in October and won silver in the 50m butterfly. Her time was the second fastest in the UK in her age group 25 to 30 years.

Ann Howard moves to her new home in Chatsworth Court on 15 December. Some of our young people are working hard for their A levels, so let's pray for them - Joy Mallard and Samuel Morris.

Remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe as they have busy schedules. Stephen and Suzanne remain 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. This is a church prayer meeting so do come and seek the Lord together. We need to pray together for needs of the church and the wider world and for us to be in step with God's mission for Ashbourne. 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.

*"I do not know what lies ahead, the way I cannot see.
Yet one stands near to be my guide he'll show the way to me.*

CHORUS:

*I know who holds the future and he'll guide me with his hand.
With God things don't just happen, everything by Him is planned.
So as I face tomorrow, with its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles, give to him my all.*

*I do not know how many days of life are mine to spend.
But one who knows and cares for me, will keep me to the end.*

*I do not know the course ahead, what joys and griefs are there.
But one is near who truly knows, I'll trust his loving care."*

(Author: Albert B Smith)

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 13.11.18



The Fairtrade pioneers -an update

Traidcraft goes back to the future with a new pioneering plan for ethical trade. Board accepts a plan for a slimmed-down Traidcraft with Fairtrade, community buying, transparency and ‘market disruption’ at its heart.

The Board of Traidcraft has accepted a plan for the future of the plc which has room for 12 employees and will begin its work at the start of 2019. It will maximise the profitable parts of the business, phase out loss-making lines, create a membership culture and set a new high bar for ethical trading in the UK.

As such, Traidcraft wishes to build on the extraordinary success of fair trade for a new generation of trading, sourcing and buying, in the manner of its pioneering fair trade founders.

The plan came forward during a legal consultation process. It was written by a group of staff, supported by external advisers, and influenced by hundreds of well-wishers who offered ideas.

At its heart is an aspiration to make transparent the costs, prices and profits involved in every product it sells, which carries on the fair trade tradition of challenging and disrupting the market.

CEO Robin Roth said: “We want our members to be co-conspirators in changing how trade is understood and practised. We want to tell consumers who gets what from the Traidcraft products they buy. We want to annoy and irritate those who profit unduly through the non-transparency of their trading activities. We will cause good trouble, just as those six fair trade pioneers who started Traidcraft did back in 1979.”

Acknowledging the changes over four decades of fair trading, Robin continues:

“Traidcraft has transformed shopping in the UK, and now you can find fair trade everywhere, from online shops to petrol stations. But as times change, so must we. When new markets are searching for goods that are ethical, vegan and organic as well as fair trade, we need to be there. As

younger people demand cooperative models of doing business, we need to strive for that too.”

Traidcraft will initially focus more deliberately on its established partners and advocates, who are predominantly active in Christian churches. Traidcraft’s 4,300 Fair Traders, 85% of whom are motivated by faith, will be able to access a new version of the company they already do business with. Further to this, products will be available to all consumers through the online Traidcraft shop and by mail order.

Returning the business to profit will involve a simpler range of products.

The new Traidcraft will:

- establish core grocery lines
- carry fewer craft lines
- encourage communities to buy cooperatively and in bulk, saving on packaging and benefitting the planet
- deliver discounts through a membership model for supporters.

All of Traidcraft’s 67 members of staff have faced redundancy through the legal consultation process: 22 of whom chose voluntary redundancy, and a further 45 were issued notices of redundancy. There will be 12 roles available within the future plan for the organisation, which all staff will be welcome to apply for. Around 10 additional members of staff will remain on an extended contract for a transitional period.

Exciting news for 2019!

Clare Sales

Twixmas Trundle

On Friday 28 December, there will be the traditional Twixmas Trundle for people of all ages (see back cover). We will meet at the Century Hall at 10.00am and walk along the Tissington Trail. You can walk as far, or as little, as you like.

After the walk, there will be home made soup and roll, trifle and mince pies, coffee and tea, served in the Century Hall from 12.30pm.

There is a list in the Century Hall for you to put your names down.

Chris Dakin

METHODIST HOMES

75th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service Derby Cathedral, 13th October 2018



The service included a hymn from the Derby Cathedral Choir:
"Remember me, O Living One" (words by Cliff Graeme Jackson,
music by David John Wells) which I found very moving.

Tom Parkinson, Ashbourne Circuit MHA Representative

Remember me, O Living One

*Remember me, O Living One,
whose image rests upon me still;
complete your work in me begun,
according to Your perfect will.*

*When muddled words and clouded brain
make strangers of my family,
remind me of my worth again
in worship and community.*

*When waking thoughts give way to dreams
and sleep is close, yet hard to find,
and nothing left is what it seems,
O Lord, restore my peace of mind.*

*I warm to those who speak my name;
whose gentleness reveals Your care;
my comfort is their constant aim,
reminding me that You are there.*

*'Now' is the only time I claim;
a rumour of Eternity;
and in this moment I proclaim...
the Living One remembers me.*

Words © Cliff Graeme Jackson 2017
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Favourite Christmas Carols No.1

'In the Bleak Mid-winter'

(Hymns and Psalms 107, Mission Praise 337, Singing the Faith 204)

*In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid winter, long ago.*

This carol was voted 'Best Christmas Carol' in 2008 by a poll of 50 choirmasters from around the world. It was written by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), who was the daughter of the London University Professor of Italian. She also wrote 'Love came down at Christmas' (H&P 105, StF 210) and 'None other Lamb' (H&P 271), and was a fine lyric poet.

The hymn follows a tradition that it snowed at Christ's birth, to cover the fallen world with a pure whiteness. This idea was also famously used by Milton in his poem 'On the morning of Christ's Nativity.' Verse 1 sets the scene for Christ's coming, verse 2 the second coming, verse 3 the birth scene, and verse 4 demands a personal response:

*What can I give Him, poor as I am ?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him – give my heart.*

Both our usual hymnbooks omit a verse, written between the usual verses 2 and 3:

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day;
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.*

Despite the popularity of the hymn, there has been some criticism of its theology. Is it correct to say, in verse 2, heaven cannot hold God, nor earth sustain Him? And will heaven and earth 'flee away when He comes to reign'?

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain,
heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign;
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

Two tunes are associated with the words, each written specifically for this hymn. The best known was written by Gustav Holst (whose best known music is 'The Planets' suite), published in the 'English Hymnal' in 1906. It is called Cranham, after Holst's birthplace in Gloucestershire, and is a poignant and simple tune, coping well with the irregular metre of the poem. This is the tune to which the hymn is set in our hymnbooks.

The other popular setting is by Harold Darke (1888-1976), who composed his tune in 1909 whilst a student at the Royal School of Music. It became better known when Darke was in charge of King's College Choir during the 1940s, and it was included in several of the 'Nine Lessons and Carols' services.

His setting, different for each verse, with soprano and tenor solos, omits verse 3 ('Angels and archangels'), includes a lovely top G during the repeat of the last line of the carol, and includes the verse printed above ('Enough for Him'), which ends with the shortened last line ('which adore'), on first hearing sounding as if the tenor has run out of breath !

It was this setting which was mentioned specifically when the carol was voted 'best Christmas carol.' It is one of my favourites, and we happily sang it last Christmas in Australia, despite the 30 deg.C. temperature outside !

David Franklin

JMA (Junior Mission for All)

New Year breakfast

Sunday 6th January 2019.
9.00-10.00am in Cornerstone.

JMA Lunch event

Sunday 3rd March 2019.
12.00 noon in Cornerstone

For all JMA members and friends

Further details from Ruth Mallard



Do we really need Electricity?

The cost of electricity and indeed how it is generated is a vital debate in the UK today. Prices are going up and we are struggling to regulate costs. Coal-fired power stations are under question and nuclear power is not wholly supported. Our eyes are on 'green energy': sun, wind and wave power. Perhaps we should reflect on our dependence on electricity.

Of course, understanding what electricity actually is has only come in recent times. Benjamin Franklin in 1752 conducted experiments with keys and kites, flying them in stormy weather hoping to connect with lightning! Thomas Edison (in 1879) developed the first long lasting light bulb. Was this the forerunner of electricity in the home?

Accompany me now to our house, entering through the back door and the conservatory. Now in the kitchen, you will possibly be aware of the lighting, spotting the small bulbs in the ceiling. For heating, we have a storage heater (no gas in Hognaston) and a small electric fire. On one side of the kitchen, you will see the cooker, fridge and microwave (actually we also have a dishwasher). Don't forget the kettle, the toaster, food mixer and small radio - also a CD player!

On our roof we have 14 solar panels, which cut our electricity costs by about half. This had to be approved by the planning department, as we are in a conservation area.

Where is all this leading to? Yes, we have universal electricity needs - but do we realise our needs, as people, for spiritual resources? We need purposeful energy day by day, as well as love and tolerance for those with whom live (and them with us!).

The New Testament makes it very clear that every follower of Jesus will be given the gift of the Holy Spirit (surely our Divine electricity!).

Electricity is generally not visible, but is to be used and employed. We also have to have safety standards in our homes and work places. In the same way we have increasingly learnt how to respect and utilise this spiritual Power Source (does this name ring a bell?).

But am I on familiar ground here? Luke's Gospel constantly refers to people being inspired and filled with the Holy Spirit. He records Jesus' words "How much more will the Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to him that asks"(Luke 11:13). In practice, I do not find it so easy, and it depends on prayer, obedience to God's law of love and to attempt to live in His Presence day by day. It requires consistency and discipline. But it is exciting.....! WOW, again WOW!

St Richard of Chichester distilled it as: “Day by day, dear Lord, three things we pray: may we see You more clearly, love You more dearly and follow You more nearly”.

Perhaps think on this when you next put your kettle on?

Mike Dennison

(A reflection based on that given on Pause for Thought on Radio Ashbourne – Sunday at 8.30am)

Ashbourne Vacancies Update

The Leadership Team is pleased to report that Tony Walker has joined the team as Steward with responsibility for resources. This means that Tony will report into the Leadership Team on all resources matters, including premises, finances and staffing. Tony is also chair of the Link Team who are working very hard on the redevelopment of our buildings. With Tony on the Leadership Team, this will help to ensure that our buildings serve the mission and vision of the church.

Leadership Steward for Youth

We have a team of Leadership Stewards who act on the decisions and policies of the Church Council, share the vision of the church and seek to involve others in the realisation of that vision. We pray for the work of our Church and meet regularly to review progress and plan future work.

We are still looking for a Leadership Steward for Youth. This role will involve being a source of support for activities for children & young people and being a contact for Safeguarding in relation to youth activities.

Worship Stewards

Whilst we already have a fine team of Worship Stewards, who ensure our services run smoothly and everybody is looked after, we would be most pleased to have some new Stewards to share in this important and rewarding role, and share the load on the existing team.

If you might be interested in serving in either of these roles, please contact Robert Sales (342321).

Praise!

Praise services are now an embedded part of the worship at Ashbourne Methodist Church. Having started as a Saturday evening event, it is now well established on the third Sunday evening of each month.

For some time, we have been encouraged by many church members to extend the number of Praise services.

So from December, with full approval from the Leadership Team, the Worship Development Group and the Church Council, we will be having an additional Praise service on the first Sunday evening of each month.

This will be similar to the existing service in its informal cafe-style, set in the Century Hall, with refreshments on arrival and music worship from the Praise Band. However, it will be a bit different because it will be led by a local preacher, who will be named on the plan. It may include collaboration with other worship leaders, but is intended to include a sermon, as in other Sunday services.

For the other Sundays in the month, the more reflective evening services will continue as normal as we seek to meet the varying needs of all our congregation.

We hope you will see this as a positive move forward in our worship, and support this new venture by attending on 2 December at 6.30 pm.

Robert Sales - Leadership Steward for Worship

Prepare Ye The Way 2018

The biblical story of Jesus' birth is full of disruptive encounters. From Mary's visit from the Angel Gabriel to a group of scholars travelling thousands of miles to meet a teenage mum and her child – these encounters couldn't be more unlikely.

Yet these are stories of transformation, as people step into the presence of God and have their worlds changed.

This Advent, the Joint Public Issues Team (which includes the Methodist Church), has made available a four week series of studies which invites us to explore what it means to step into transformational encounter with the divine, in the context of some of the issues we currently face as a society. See: www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/prepare-ye-the-way-2018

Reflections

Fifty years ago, man seriously started his quest that would lead to Neil Armstrong putting his feet on the surface of the Moon.

Many thought it would never happen, as tragedy struck early in 1967. The crew of one Apollo, Grissom, White and Chaffee, were killed when a fire broke out during a ground test of the Saturn 1 / Apollo Spacecraft. But in about September 1968, a Saturn 1B rocket was launched and the crew of Apollo 7 tested the new systems for the first time in Earth orbit.

Then around Christmas 1968 the crew of Apollo 8 were the first to use the Saturn 5 Moon rocket and fly around the Moon, culminating in that famous reading from the first ten verses of Genesis Chapter 1 on Christmas Eve. They were the first to view with human eyes the Earth rising over the Moon.

The following year, Apollo 9's crew tested the whole apparatus in Earth Orbit, before Apollo 10's crew did a dress rehearsal, by flying the whole Apollo system around the Moon and returned without landing. Finally, in July, Apollo 11 was launched and Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the Moon.

I remember vividly watching the launch of the Saturn 5 / Apollo 8 rocket, with Borman, Lovell and Anders on board, on a Saturday morning with my mother. The wonder in my mind, thinking of the power of that rocket, 7.5 million pounds of thrust on take-off. It was said at the time that, if it blew up, it would produce a blast 17 times greater than the nuclear weapon which levelled Hiroshima at the end of World War Two.

Then I thought where those three men were going - beyond Earth's gravity, around the Moon, seeing what no human eyes had seen before - amazing!

Later, I found a poster for my room at home, about 6 to 8ft tall, of the Saturn 5 taking off, with the words from Psalm 139:

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there!"

Apollo is now part of history, but the words of the Psalmist, his reflection on God, will be with me, and with you, forever.

Tom Parkinson

CHRISTINGLES – A love affair over five decades



'Christingle' means 'Christ's Light' and as such is a symbol of the Christian faith. I love Christingles because they totally epitomise the truth that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

The custom of giving out lighted candles in these services began in Germany in 1747, but it wasn't until 1968 that the Church of England introduced Christingle services in England, the first being in Lincoln Cathedral on 7 December.

My first experience of Christingles was in the early 1970's when I received, as a Christmas gift, a beautiful drawing of one from a younger friend who had made a Christingle at Etwall Primary School.

The first Christingle service I attended, along with our elder son then aged about six, was in the early 1980's at Littleover Methodist Church. I recall that it was incredibly moving - and that there were buckets of sand and water around the church, just in case of fire!

By the 1990's, living in Bourne (south Lincolnshire) I had my first taste of a DIY Christingle service, along with local Cubs and Scouts. We all took along the required elements, making the Christingles as the service progressed. Great fun!

Around 2003-04, whilst driving through Melton Mowbray, I remember waiting at traffic lights while a whole Primary School crossed the road. Each child was excitedly clutching a Christingle. They were either on their way to, or returning from, a church service. Again, extremely moving.

Prior to retirement here in Ashbourne, one of the highlights of the Methodist year in Epworth was the annual All Age Christingle service. Usually a DIY event, we spent many a previous Saturday morning preparing the 100+ packs needed, ready for the next day. By then we were using glow sticks rather than candles.

One year we made a space hopper Christingle and a football Christingle. Another time we made a Christingle cake and we also shared the truths of the Christingle using the Millennium Development Goals. I never quite got around to the vegetable Christingle!

So this year, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of Christingle services in England. It will be my privilege to lead a Christingle service at Brailsford Methodist Chapel on Sunday 2 December at 10.30am.

Sue Leese

Book review: 'Phoebe' by Paula Gooder

Greenbelt 2018 was on the theme of 'Acts of the imagination' and I went to hear Paula Gooder talk about a book she has written called 'Phoebe'.

Paula is a New Testament theologian and this is the first time she has written a 'novel'. It was really interesting to hear about how she used her imagination, alongside her theological knowledge, to imagine what it must have been like for one of the early churches to receive a letter from Paul.

Were they overjoyed, confused, angry, questioning...?

How did the early Church worship?

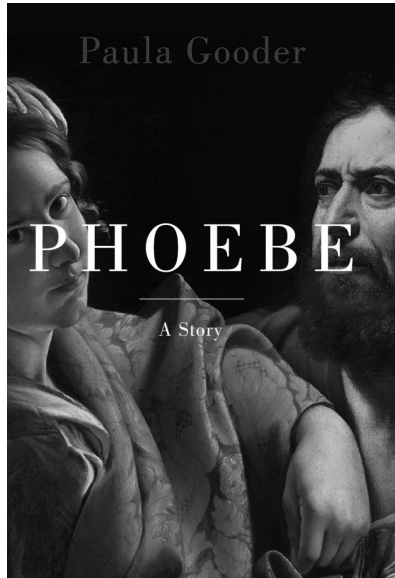
How did they support each other?

How did they grow?

We don't know the answer to most of these questions, but this book imagines what the answers to some of these may be. At the back, it also provides some arguments for the historical details in the book if you're interested!

The book tells the story of Phoebe (who is only mentioned once in the Bible in Romans 16:1-2) who delivered the letter from Paul to the Romans, and how her life changed. I found the book really interesting and thought provoking, as it brought the early Church to life for me, and helped me to understand the message from a different perspective. In particular, what it meant to make a decision to be baptised, and the role of women in the Church. If anyone would like to borrow the book please let me know.

Catherine Green





MISSION

MATTERS

Last month we looked at Zimbabwe, home to our mission partners Jonathan and Isabel Hill. This month we take a look at the wider context of South Africa where our partner Phakamisa, under its Director Thokosani, serve the Lord amongst the poorest of the poor outside Durban.

Do remember to pray for them, as well as President Ramaphosa and the nation. The Mission Matters for Prayer leaflet in the church vestibule will help. What strikes me, as I read it, is that the country is slowly emerging from internal conflict to a meaningful future. Like Nigeria it is one of the leading African nations, with a valuable continent-wide role to play.

South Africa, country profile:

(taken from www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14094760)

- Administrative capital: Pretoria
- Population: 50.7 million
- Area: 1.22 million sq km (470,693 sq miles)
- Major languages: 11 official languages including English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa and Zulu
- Religions: Christianity, Islam, indigenous beliefs
- Life expectancy: 53 years (men), 54 years (women)
- Currency: Rand

South Africa has one of Africa's biggest and most developed economies. Until 1994 it was ruled by a white minority government, which enforced a separation of races with its policy called 'apartheid'. The apartheid government eventually negotiated itself out of power after decades of international isolation, armed opposition and mass protests. The democratically-elected leadership encouraged reconciliation and set about redressing social imbalances, but the economy has struggled.

Cyril Ramaphosa was elected president by parliament in February 2018 after his predecessor, Jacob Zuma, resigned.

A successful businessman, Mr Ramaphosa was picked as leader of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) a few months earlier. He inherited a struggling economy, a divided party and the problem of entrenched corruption.

Unlike many senior party figures of his generation, Mr Ramaphosa was not driven into exile for opposing apartheid. He fought the injustices of white minority rule from within South Africa, most prominently by defending the rights of black miners as leader of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

He was heavily involved in talks ending apartheid and played an important role in the drafting of South Africa's post-apartheid constitution. After missing out on becoming President Nelson Mandela's deputy, Mr Ramaphosa withdrew from active political life, switching his focus to business.

South Africa is the continent's major media player, and its broadcasters and press reflect the diversity of its people. The established state-run and commercial TV companies broadcast nationally, and hundreds of thousands of viewers subscribe to satellite and cable. South Africa-based MultiChoice markets satellite pay-TV in dozens of African countries. See, for instance, www.sabc.co.za/sabc/

1910 - Formation of Union of South Africa by former British colonies of the Cape and Natal, and the Boer republics of Transvaal, and Orange Free State.

1912 - Native National Congress founded, later renamed the African National Congress (ANC).

1948 - Policy of apartheid (separateness) is adopted when National Party (NP) takes power.

1960 - Seventy black demonstrators killed at Sharpeville. ANC banned.

1976 - More than 600 killed in clashes between black protesters and security forces during uprising which started in Soweto. The challenge to white rule escalates over the years.

1991-1994 - Negotiated end to apartheid leads to first non-racial elections and formation of a Government of National Unity under Nelson Mandela.

2009 - Parliament elects Jacob Zuma as president.

2018 - He resigns over corruption charges.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary



ACT is for all of us in all our churches

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Sat 1st December 10am to 4pm	Lantern Workshop @ St Oswald's Church Hall Attend as available during the day to repair existing lanterns. Refreshments provided, but bring lunch if staying all day.	Ian Marsh 345210
Friday 7th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing road signs and setting up, three people from 2pm • 10 Marshals for the Lantern procession, meet at St Oswald's at 5.50pm • Lantern Carriers - 115 needed, meet at St Oswald's at 6pm • Procession walkers, the more the better, meet at St Oswald's at 6.15pm • 3 large vans to transport lanterns at 7pm • Clearing away, meet at Market Place at 9pm 	Ian Marsh 345210
Friday 7th December	Ashbourne Churches Together Christmas Choir. Meet in the Market Place at 6pm. There may be one rehearsal beforehand.	John Titterton 342904
Friday 7th December	Present Give-Away Preparing and handing-out gifts during Late Night Shopping.	Amanda Marshall 07557 67751
Christmas Eve 6pm	Ashbourne Town Council Carols Round the Tree in the Market Place	

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services - December

Sunday December 2nd **Advent 1**

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	
	18:30	Praise – Tim Dutton	
Brailsford	10:30	Sue Leese	United Service at Methodist, Christingle

Sunday December 9th **Advent 2**

Ashbourne	9:15	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30	Rev Stella Mills	Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Paul Taylor	
Kniveton	14:30	Ruth Barratt	
Parwich		No service	

Sunday December 16th **Advent 3**

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Loraine Mellor	Communion
	18:30	Praise – Steve Haines	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age, Communion
Kniveton	18:30	Peter Dawson	Carol Service
Parwich	14:30	Rev Carollyn McDonald/ Rev Tim Morris	United Service at Parish Carol Service
Tissington	16:00	Rev Tim Morris	Carol Service

Thursday December 20th

Brailsford	18:00	Rev Tim Morris	Carol Service
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Sunday December 23rd **Advent 4**

Ashbourne	10:30	Powersource	All Age
	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	Carol Service
Brailsford	10:30	Fiona Green	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Diana Whitmill	United Carol Service
Kniveton		No service	
Parwich		No service	

Monday December 24th **Christmas Eve**

Milldale	16:00	Rev Tim Morris	Christmas Service
Ashbourne	23:30	Rev Tim Morris	Christmas Communion

Tuesday December 25th **Christmas Day**

Ashbourne	10:00	Rev Tim Morris	All Age, Circuit Service
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Sunday December 30th

Ashbourne	10:30	Stuart Mustow	All Age, Circuit Service
	18:30	No service	

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services - January

Sunday January 6th			Epiphany	
Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris		Covenant, Communion
	18:30	Praise		in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	John Dyster		
Parwich	14:30	Rev Tim Morris		United Service
Sunday January 13th				
Ashbourne	9:15	Café style		in Century Hall
	10:30	Tom Parkinson		
	18:30	Rev Tim Morris		Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst		
Kniveton	14:30	Rev Tim Morris		Covenant, Communion
Parwich		No service		
Sunday January 20th			Pulpit Swap	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Ashbourne	10:30	Diana Whitmill/ Pastor Adam Venables		
	18:30	Praise – Gareth Rutledge		in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Steve Haines		All Age
Parwich	10:00	Lorraine Hawkins		United Service at Parish
Tissington	10:30	Fiona Green		
Sunday January 27th				
Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris		Communion
	18:30	ACT		United Service at Methodist
Brailsford	10:30	Robert Sales		
Kirk Ireton	18:30	John Dyster		United Service at Methodist
Kniveton	11:00	Ann Parkinson		
Parwich		No service		
Sunday February 3rd				
Ashbourne	10:30	Paul Taylor		
	18:30	Praise – Rev David Leese		in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris		United Service at Methodist, Covenant, Communion
Parwich	14:30	Peter Dawson		United Service at Parish

The details in **Bold** are changes to the usual plan.

Dates for your diary

December

Tue 4th	19:30	Local Preachers meeting
Fri 7th	18:00	Late Night Shopping, Ashbourne

January

Thu 3rd	10:00	Messy Church in Century Hall
Sun 20th		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Pulpit Swap
Mon 21st	12:00	ACT noon prayers at St Oswald's Church
Tue 22nd	12:00	ACT noon prayers at Methodist Church
Wed 23rd	12:00	ACT noon prayers at Elim Pentecostal Church
Thu 24th	12:00	ACT noon prayers at All Saints Church
Fri 25th	12:00	ACT noon prayers at Clifton Church
Sun 27th	18:30	ACT United Service at Methodist Church

February

Wed 6th	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council
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March

Wed 13th & Thu 14th		CRE Exhibition at Manchester
Sat 16th	10:00	District Safeguarding Conference at Littleover

From the Editors

We are grateful to all who have sent items for this magazine.

We would welcome contributions for future editions including from those who have not contributed before, and particularly from chapels other than Ashbourne.

We would also like more photos: we can include these in colour on the back cover, or in black and white inside.

Next issue – **February 2019:**

Last date for contributions: **Wednesday 16th January**

Publication date: **Sunday 27th January**

If possible, please e-mail us at dysters@tiscali.co.uk

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

Daphne and John Dyster

Methodist Women in Britain



Advent Displays

Advent Displays will be in place in the Church from 29 November until 26 December. The theme this year is 'Opening the Doors for Christmas'. We hope you will all take the opportunity to come and have a look round, maybe sit and meditate on them. We all hope also that you will bring your friends to have a look. It will be an event not to be missed!

Dates for your diary

March looks like being a busy month with three unmissable events taking place!

- **District Day – Saturday 2 March**

This will take place at Ashbourne Road Methodist Church, Derby (on the Swift bus route) when Dr Jill Barber of Englesea Brook Museum will be the speaker. She is a vibrant, enthusiastic speaker

- **Supper Evening – Wednesday 20 March**

Our District President, Sue Leese, will be the speaker on 'Transforming the World from the Kitchen'

- **Willersley Week – 25-28 March**

The Leader of this week will be Jill Baker, former President of MWiB and ex Vice-President of Conference. The bookings for this will open shortly into the New Year, so think about which day you would like to go.

All three ladies are well worth hearing, so book the dates NOW!

Alma Swan

Also for your diary

On Saturday 9 March, there will be a coffee morning and exhibition at Kirk Ireton chapel on what would have been Sister Merle's 98th birthday. All will be welcome. Further details to follow.

David Dorman

Circuit website: www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk

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 & Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
Wed	9.30am	Walk and Talk Group: weekly <i>Contacts – Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i>
	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)



Brailsford All Age worship with Winnie the Pooh and friends



Twixmas Trundle 2014 (see page 6)