

# Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit  
Magazine September 2019

## Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

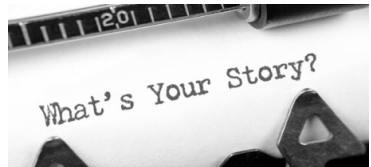
### “Moving stories”

No wonder our *Circuit Directory and Prayer Diary* needs updating! We’ve quite a few people who’ve moved recently – and we hope they will be very settled in their new homes soon. We’re also welcoming new people who have moved to the area and have started worshipping with us. We hope they will soon feel settled and “at home” too.

Trying to keep up with all these comings and goings, as well as with the changes and challenges of those who stay put, is no mean feat. We try very hard to be aware of people’s circumstances and situations, but can only do what we can do with the information we’re given. So please bear with us. We try our best to respond to the pastoral and practical needs of all our members and adherents.

Each of us has our own story to tell, for our lives are always on the move. Stories are going to be very much part of the theme of Methodism over this coming year (the Methodist year that is!). We want to encourage people to “tell their story”, or testimony, in times of worship, fellowship and witness.

The Methodist Church wants to encourage us all to re-discover the importance of stories – biblical, historical and personal. Telling and hearing stories is a key way of expressing and exploring our faith. We can all say something about God’s part in our life. Our stories can be told in so many ways. Listening to, and learning from, people we might think are very different is crucial for the peace and unity of our communities, both locally and across the world.



So we look forward to telling, and listening to our stories, and pray that through them we can all be encouraged to move on together, in our own lives and as a Christian community.

Your minister and friend,

*Tim Morris*

## **Ashbourne Church Family News**

*"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4.10*

We extend our love and prayers to the family of Edith Redfern and to the family of Peter Richards on their deaths, to Clare Sales on the death of her mother and to Enid Stubbs on the death of her sister.

Let's continue to remember in prayer Margaret Cox, Barbara and David Hollands, David Franklin, Eileen Harrison, Pearl Steeples, Kay Orme, Jenny Waring, Mary Philipson and Dorothy Critchlow. As it is two months since the last family news there are those who had falls and are recovering; Margaret Allen, Margaret Wright, Kathleen Cork, Margaret Cox and Pearl Steeples. Let's keep in mind those we know who are waiting for tests, results and appointments. It can be an anxious time. There are others you know, not named here, so do pray, ring, text or send cards to encourage. If you hear of anyone in our fellowship who is unwell or in difficulty, could you please inform their pastoral visitor or housegroup leader or let me know (unless they have specifically asked you not to), otherwise I will not know.

Congratulations to Jen and Richard on the birth of their second son, Elijah Jack, a brother for Caleb and grandson for Ian and Jacqui Marsh. Congratulations to Andrew Sales who has graduated in Urban Studies and goes to Leeds University in September to do a Masters in Transport Planning and to Stephen Hill who gained a Masters in Intelligent Robotics and to Emily Peers who has been awarded an inspirational student award from the health and well-being faculty at Sheffield Hallam. 40 students were nominated and 8 were awarded it.

Congratulations to Rosalind and David Franklin who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 16th August and to Daphne and John Dyster who will celebrate theirs on 6th September.

By the time you read this our young people who took exams, will know their results and be moving on to more study or work, so please remember Joy Mallard and Samuel Morris who have now left school, and remember those continuing study after their exam results - Darcey Dawson, Sam Glossop, Christian Mallard and Joseph Thrupp (apologies for calling you James in the last Connections!) We want to remember Jonathan Baker as he moves up to Anthony Gell School, Wirksworth, having been awarded a Church School Award in Derby Cathedral in the summer, and Esmee Haines as she moves to Ryecroft in Rocester. Our other young people will be moving to new classes so need our prayers.

It was good to see Jonathan and Isobel Hill, mission partners from Zimbabwe, with Stephen and Susanne at AMC in the summer. Susanne completes her study in December.

There are many changes in roles within the church and we appreciate all that each one does to see the Kingdom of God come in Ashbourne. Let's pray for Ken McKeown and John Barker as they take up the role of Circuit Steward. Sue Leese has transferred her membership to Brailsford and we pray the Lord will bless her ministry there.

Ruth, Joy and Christian Mallard have been invited back during the Christmas period on another mission visit for volunteer work in the Arunima Hospice, Kolkata. Let's support them all we can.

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 to pray with you or for you.

Pray for Ruth Barratt, Chaplain to Businesses in Ashbourne and for Elizabeth Spencer, part of the Chaplaincy team at the Royal Derby Hospital. 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 14.08.2019*



## **Methodist Women in Britain**

### **District Day – Tuesday 15th October**

Our next District Day will be held at Willersley Castle on Tuesday 15th October from 10.30 am until 3.45 pm. (Coffee from 10.00 am)

The cost for the day is £16.00 and this includes coffee, lunch and conference expenses.

The speaker will be Tim Baker from All We Can. I am sure this will be a very worthwhile day. If you would like to go, please let me know as soon as possible as we have to get booked in. *Alma Swan (347586)*

### **Date for your Diary**

Wednesday 6th November Supper Evening in the Century Hall

## **“God in Love Unites Us”**

This was the title of a report submitted to the Methodist Conference in July by the Marriage and Relationships Task Group, which was set up by Conference in 2016.

For many years, the Methodist Church has been debating the subject of human sexuality, including the relationships between people of the same sex. A major debate took place at Conference when it met in Derby in 1993 and a number of resolutions were agreed, including:

*“6. Conference recognises, affirms and celebrates the participation and ministry of lesbians and gay men in the church. Conference calls on the Methodist people to begin a pilgrimage of faith to combat repression and discrimination, to work for justice and human rights and to give dignity and worth to people whatever their sexuality.”*

This issue became more pressing following the passing of the Marriage (Same-Sex Couples) Act 2013. Methodists, along with other Christian denominations, have been considering how the church should respond.

The introduction to the report “God in Love Unites Us” says:

*“We, the Methodist people, have been on a ‘Pilgrimage of Faith’ over the last 25 years to discover how we can better express our love for God in how we love one another, and enable each other to love. Many courageous steps have already been taken. It has not been easy. We do not all agree. Sadly, we have sometimes hurt one another and have been tempted to part company over these issues of love. For the questions at the heart of this pilgrimage are fundamentally about how we can live and love appropriately.”*

The report reflects the different views within the Methodist people:

*“As a group, we have disagreed about how best to reach conclusions. While we all honour the authority of Scripture, some of us place primary importance upon Scripture and on particular interpretations of Scripture. Others emphasise the importance of interpreting Scripture with the benefit of insights from experience (not least, our experience of God), scientific discovery or the traditions of the Christian Church. In the past, the Conference has identified seven different attitudes to biblical authority, and indicated a range of ways in which Methodists use what is written in the Bible as a source for what they believe and do.” (0.3.3)*

Following the debate in Conference, the following Press Release was issued:

## **Methodist Conference commends marriage and relationships report**

A new set of principles outlining the qualities of good relationships has been commended by the Methodist Conference for prayerful discussion and response across the Church over the next year.

The report, "God in Love Unites Us", makes a number of proposals, including:

- principles or qualities of good relating
- an understanding of cohabitation
- to allow same-sex couples to marry in Methodist churches
- providing resources and liturgies to celebrate civil partnerships
- prayers for when marriages end in divorce

The debate, which took place on Monday 1 July and Wednesday 3 July 2019 at the annual Methodist Conference held this year in Birmingham, passed a series of provisional resolutions on the proposals set out in the Report. After District Synods have had the opportunity to consider the proposals, final resolutions will be voted on at the Conference in 2020.

The Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Conference, who presided over the debates, said: "The debate was full of grace and prayerful thought. There were many personal, often painful, stories shared and representatives listened with great care and attention. My prayer is that this spirit of generosity and love shown today will be reflected as the proposals are discussed across the Church."

In June/July, Rev Tim Morris, Carole Thorpe and I attended a series of meetings (advertised in *Connections*), related to the Conference report and organised by the Nottingham and Derby District, at which a range of different views were presented and discussed.

Rev Loraine Mellor, Chair of the District, indicated that a further series of meetings will be arranged in the Autumn, and a video will also be made available. The issues will be discussed by District Synods, Circuits and, if desired, by individual churches.

The report "God in Love Unites Us", which runs to 66 pages, is available on the Methodist Church website:

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/media/11672/conf-2019-10-marriage-and-relationships-task-group-2019.pdf>

John Dyster

## Reflections

No doubt like me you have, one day last June, been moved by the remembrance and recollections of the D-Day veterans at the 75th Anniversary event - an event brought back to the thought process by the remembrance in last month's Mayfield Parish magazine of the Wellington crew who perished in a crash near the village in the last war.

Of all those memories, there were two that really caught my attention. One was of two nurses, Dorothy Field and Mollie Evershed, who, just after D-Day, were on the hospital ship S.S. Amsterdam, when it was hit by a mine. According to the story, they saved 75 of the wounded on board by going below and getting them to the rescue ships, yet lost their lives doing so. One soldier stated that his last view of one of them was that she was stuck in the porthole as the ship slipped beneath the waves. A sad comment on the news report was that there was no photograph of one of the nurses on her records, so no one today knows what she looked like!

The second was at the Remembrance Service at Portsmouth, where President Macron of France read out the words of the French resistance fighter, Henri Fertet, aged 16, his last letter to his parents. He wrote it as the firing squad for his execution was marching down the path and he could hear them coming for him.

Such bravery by those I have mentioned and by all those who we remembered in June, and I hope still remember, and, above all: Never Forget!

I know of one veteran, a friend of my mother's, whom we all knew as "H". He was at Normandy, and yet does not say anything much about it. My mind goes back some years ago to one meeting with him. He was selling Poppies for the annual appeal in November at the local supermarket. Now here's a man who has been through the nearest thing on earth to hell, and yet that day he was not allowed to give pins out to attach the Poppy to your garment!! (health and safety gone mad?), I jest not, my friends, No, I jest not!

While we remember, let us also value in equal measure, with everything we hold dear today, our family, of blood and of faith, our freedom, our homes, our churches and chapels, and, to those we can still say, "Thank You"! Please do so and May God Bless them - and you all too.

*Tom Parkinson*

## **Mission Matters**

**World Mission Sunday: 20th October 2019**

*"Jesus said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation' " Mark 16:5*

World Mission is exciting! There's a big wide world out there and God is working in all of it. As a church we can play a part:

- This is primarily through informed prayer for our mission partners and others - please take and use the *Mission Matters for Prayer* leaflets in the church foyer.
- But also through giving - a small gift can go a long way in a third-world country.
- Then, by going on a long-term placement or a short visit - I am considering a visit to Jonathan and Isabel Hill to see, first-hand, what they are doing in Zimbabwe, perhaps next year. If you are interested in joining me do get in touch.

As we did a couple of years ago, Ruth Mallard and I will combine this service with JMA Sunday. It will also give us opportunity to pray for the Mallard family when they head off before Christmas to Calcutta, where they have served in the past.

As before, please could you bring a flag of a country in which you have a particular interest for us to peg up in the front of the church (*see picture on back cover*). If you let me know what flag you are bringing that helps me get organised for them!

Try:

[https://www.hampshireflag.co.uk/Flags.asp?gclid=CjwKCAjwzYDMBRA1EiwAwCv6JmdM82X3aB8Pc8iHKNRnZHRXMUqnoeZTIwNwyZo1JiCG7GbP-OofMxoCBdQQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.hampshireflag.co.uk/Flags.asp?gclid=CjwKCAjwzYDMBRA1EiwAwCv6JmdM82X3aB8Pc8iHKNRnZHRXMUqnoeZTIwNwyZo1JiCG7GbP-OofMxoCBdQQAvD_BwE) (£17 68x34 Dye Printed)

Similarly, if you would like to wear something from the country in question that would be great!

Also, please let me know if you would be happy to read a brief passage of Scripture in a language other than English. In 2017 eight people read in different languages from John 3:16.

After the service we will have a bring and share finger buffet in the Century Hall. If you could also bring a dish from your chosen country that would be great.

*Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary* [richard@richarddodell.co.uk](mailto:richard@richarddodell.co.uk)



## To all JMA members



Just a reminder: It is nearly the end of the JMA financial year which means getting up to date with the money! So please can you make sure your collecting boxes have been emptied and that at the very beginning of September you give the collecting books in. This really helps us, especially with Gift Aid. Mrs Liz Hibberd or I will be pleased to have these.

### JMA Breakfast in the Cornerstone

We have a JMA breakfast arranged for Sunday 22nd September 9-10 am in the Cornerstone. Ideally please let me know if you can come. However, if you are unsure, you can just turn up on the day. Feel free to bring a guest or two.



### JMA Presentations and Mission Service

We are having our annual JMA presentations on Sunday 20th October in our special mission morning service. Come along, wear your JMA badge and receive a new award badge and certificate.

Why not invite the people who donate to JMA so they can see our JMA presentations as well and learn more about JMA and World Mission?

God bless you and thank you for being JMA members – learning, praying and serving the worldwide church of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to all who support JMA and our children and young people too.

*Ruth Mallard*

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## Ashbourne Harvest – Sunday 29th September

We are supporting “All We Can” and the Ashbourne Food Bank.

Please bring suitable long-life food items for the Food Bank and, when you arrive, take these to the front of the church to add to the display. There will be an opportunity to make a donation to “All We Can”, the Methodist Church aid agency.

### “What does Harvest mean to you?”

Would you will be willing to express this by decorating a window in the church? Please contact *Enid Stubbs* if you are willing to help (342810).

Thank you to everyone who has been praying that we people will feel moved to volunteer for some of the roles in our church. We praise God that he supports all of us in our work, and that he encourages us to think of new ways we can serve Him.

We are thrilled that Gwen Kelsey and Sandra Lewer are joining our team of Stewards. Gwen will be a Worship Steward and Sandra will be the Leadership Steward for Youth.

If you're new to the church, there are lots of ways you can get involved in our mission and ministry. We realise that you might not always know who to speak to, so please feel free to have a chat with Rev Tim or Robert Sales.

We have a few roles that we are currently looking to fill. If you're interested in finding out more about any role, please have a chat with the named contact – with no obligation or pressure.

### **Gateway Centre Manager**

Helen Walker has been in the role of Gateway Centre Manager now for about 8 years and would like to hand over the role at the end of 2019. We are incredibly thankful for Helen's commitment to this role.

The role involves marketing the centre, admin of bookings and ensuring the smooth running of visits.

The tasks involved in the role are many and varied and can be quite different in time each week, but Helen estimates that it needs about 3-4 hours each week. Helen's summary is that it would suit someone who is interested in expanding the use of Gateway and has enthusiasm for publicity as well as organisational and administrative skills.

If you think this might suit you, please have a word with *Robert Sales* (342321) who can give you a more detailed job description. *Helen Walker* (343910) is also happy to talk to people about what the role involves.

### **Communion Stewards**

We have a group of people who help prepare the elements for Holy Communion at our services. There is a rota and each person helps once every 2-3 months. If you'd like to know more about what's involved, talk to *Judith Starkie* (347005).

## **Leadership Stewards**

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 looking for a Leadership Steward for Resources, who will work alongside the Resources Team. This team has oversight of our finances, our property and most importantly the people who give their time to work for our church.

To find out more, please speak to *Robert Sales* (342321).

## **Noticeboard 'Monitor'**

Do you have a penchant for creating order from chaos? We're looking for someone who can keep a regular eye on the pinboard at church to make sure that old posters are removed. If you're happy to pop in every now and again and check things, it would be ideal.

Contact *Stuart Green* (300338) for more info.

## **Can you read?**

Well, if you've got this far, the answer is "Yes!"

In virtually all of our church services there is a need for somebody to read aloud from the front – generally a portion of scripture but occasionally some other relevant material. For the Worship Stewards, it is very helpful to know who, within the congregation for that particular service, is both willing and able to do the reading. To that end we are now updating our list of readers. Please consider your own willingness to be asked to read by signing up to the list – and it is most definitely a list and not a rota!

There is a sheet in the entrance foyer available for you to sign until the end of September. The only proviso is that you have the physical capability to get from your seat and up the steps to stand at the lectern so that your voice can be picked up by the sound system for those using the hearing loop. (The appropriate page of the large Bible will have been opened by the Steward on duty prior to the service. Additional Bible readings will have the ribbon bookmarks in place.)

Please do add your voice to our worship in this way. If you have any queries please speak to one of the Stewards.

# Fundraising Dinner

with special after dinner speaker

## Lydia Slack

Ashbourne Golf Club

Friday 18th October 2019

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Dress Smart Casual

*Enjoy a three course dinner, followed by our entertaining after dinner speaker, Lydia Slack, who will share stories of her time growing up on a Peak District hill farm, surrounded by hills, animals and not many people.*

**Tickets priced £35**

available by calling

**Ken McKeown (01335 300462) or**

**Jon/Rosemary Webb (01335 360308)**

Proceeds will be split between Ashbourne Methodist Church's Link Development Project & Reviving Roots, a grass-roots social enterprise, set up to tackle drought vulnerability in the Kingdom of eSwatini (a project Lydia is involved in).



REVIVING ROOTS

## **Shoe Box news and dates:**

Please support the work of Shoe Boxes to provide gifts with love for children at Christmas:

- Coffee morning Wednesday 16th October 10 am to 12 noon in The Cornerstone to raise funds towards the cost of Shoe Boxes.
- Sunday morning stall after the Sunday morning service at Ashbourne on both 27th October and 3rd November for selling all goods suitable for the Shoe Boxes.
- Shoe Box blessing service on Sunday 17th November at 10.30am.

For more details please speak to *Chris Dakin* (345280) or the Shoe Box team

You are invited to join us for the

**kids@cornerstone**

**Harvest Festival**

**Tuesday 1st October**

**10.30am – 11.00am**

After last year's fantastic celebration, we will once again be having our kids@cornerstone Harvest Festival service in Church

Everyone 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 farm 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!**

**Phosphoros Theatre, in association with Ashbourne Churches Together One World Group, presents:**

## **Pizza Shop Heroes**

*We're going to tell you our stories how WE want to.*

*You're not here to judge if we're credible or not.*

*I am not here to make your conscience feel better. I don't need you to feel sorry for me.*



Shortlisted for the Amnesty Freedom of Expression Award 2016, this unique company stars four refugee young men who made the arduous journey to the UK on their own as children from Afghanistan, Eritrea and Albania. They have told their 'stories' repeatedly to the Home Office as part of seeking asylum and it is the desire to reclaim them that grounds Phosphoros Theatre's innovative work.

From the precinct of a pizza shop we embark on a journey across time and continents to explore how they got here, where they're going and what they've learnt along the way.

Powerful, celebratory, affirming, authentic; this is theatre that puts refugees centre stage.

**Join us at Ashbourne Methodist Church on Saturday 19 October 19:00 – 21:30 for this free, community performance, including a Q&A with the actors after the show.**

All tickets are free, but there will be the opportunity to make a donation on the night. Proceeds will be split equally between Upbeat Communities and Phosphoros Theatre.

**Tickets can be booked online at [www.phosphorostheatre.com/productions](http://www.phosphorostheatre.com/productions)**

**or call 01335 300338**

We hope you can join us for this special performance – and please encourage friends and neighbours to come too.

## **Book Review: 'Heimat' by Nora Krug**

This isn't really a review, it's a recommendation. If you want to read a book that stays with you, that asks you to go along on a difficult journey, but also offers hope and contemporary relevance, then this might just be the book for you.

'Heimat' is an untranslatable German word which loosely means 'home' or 'home-ness'. This book is in the form of a graphic memoir written by a woman who left her home in Germany and moved to New York.

In the book, Krug confronts her family history, explores it and evaluates it against a background of 1930s and 1940s Germany. She tries to understand the collective guilt that she feels her generation have inherited.

When Krug researches her family history, at first she is keen to try to discover that perhaps they had little or nothing to do with the horrors of anti-Semitism. But then she turns to the idea of what they might have been willing to tolerate, even if they were not personally involved. And all of this whilst seeing the history of an era through the experiences of one family.

The book asks so many moral questions, both of that generation of people in that place, and of us in our time and place. It's not as simple as 'Could it happen again?' The questions it forms are more subtle and more personal. By telling the stories of individuals, Krug makes us ask questions of ourselves not just of the past.

Most importantly perhaps, it doesn't ask the reader 'What would you do?' so much as 'What would you tolerate?' and 'What would you avoid seeing?' when groups are incrementally 'othered', then excluded and victimised.

It's a beautiful book and also a timely one. In a world where intolerance is on the rise, asking 'What would I avoid seeing?' is a desperately hard but also very necessary thought.

'Heimat' offers no easy answers. And it shouldn't.

*Fiona Green*

## **Ashbourne Annual Church Meeting**

The Century Hall was fairly full on Wednesday 17th July, when there was a good attendance for the Annual Church Meeting.

Written reports were available before the meeting which reflected the work of the church over the past year, and showed the wide range of activities in which the church is involved. Further information was available at the meeting and a lively question time ensued.

### **There are a number of changes to the Church Stewards:**

- Jennie Ferry has stepped down as a Leadership Steward, but will continue as a Worship Steward
- Sandra Lewer was appointed as a Leadership Steward, and it is hoped to fill the other vacancy for a Leadership Steward shortly.
- Gwen Kelsey was newly appointed as a Worship Steward.
- Arthur Watts has stepped down as a Worship Steward.

We are very grateful to all who serve, and have served, in these capacities and pray for God's blessing on their work.

### **A detailed report on the Link Development Project was presented:**

- Key dates were shared, including the earliest occupancy forecast of December 2021.
- Listed Building consent has been achieved and a pre-application made to Derbyshire District Council to establish whether full planning permission might be granted on application. Concerns have been raised about the size of the proposed housing development and flood defences.
- The church remains committed to the project and thanks were expressed to the Link Development Team.

### **The Mission Action Plan has been approved by the Church Council:**

- The church's 'Plan for Growth' document is being distributed, and a monitoring tool will be developed and issued soon.

### **Safeguarding**

- Rev Tim Morris talked through the safer recruitment of volunteers' process. Procedural questions were raised and answered.

If you have any questions, please talk to *Rachel Murt*, Church Council Secretary, or *Rev Tim Morris*.



## Summer Displays 2019

Once again this year, Craft & Chat worked with members of our church and local groups including Ashbourne WI to put on the yarn-bombing and the displays inside church.

We put out over 100 plant pots each filled with knitted or crocheted flowers, together with a watering can which was sustaining a large pot of allium. (As it turned out, the rain made any need for a watering can rather superfluous!!) We attached a guard of honour of bunnies up the railings on the steps, together with bees, birdies and lots of added extras.

New for this year was the Tree of Hopes and Dreams. We wanted to be more interactive, to invite people into our space and to be part of something which they could find meaningful. Not quite a prayer station but as near as you can get without it! So young and old, visitors and locals tied a ribbon over the course of the summer. And with each ribbon, a person remembered and offered something which was on their heart – a hope or a dream, but also a symbol of their ongoing concerns for the world and its people.

Similarly inside the church we offered displays which included an interactive element. After a display of woodland and pond creatures in the foyer –reminding us of our Creator God - three boards interpreted each person of the Trinity, with a prayer station and also a space to write a note about how the Holy Spirit works in the world. Comments included:

- 'Every time an open hand is held out in love'
- 'In the kindness of strangers'
- 'In the encouragement of friends'

And we were encouraged too by the comments in the visitors' book. It was clear that people had felt able to accept the invitation to come into our church and find space to encounter not just our displays but also their own thoughts. It was great to read that one visitor had taken photos to use back in their own church.

So we would like to thank everyone involved – those who contributed, those who encouraged, those who helped set it all up on two busy days, those who prayed that it would meet people in their lives. And especially thanks to all the knitters and crocheters at our church and at the WI; to Mustard who found fantastic images of crosses around the town, and to Kids @ Cornerstone who made lovely flowers.

We couldn't have done it without you!

*Clare Sales and Fiona Green on behalf of Craft & Chat*

## **Book review: ‘War Doctor’ by David Nott**

I found this book intriguing and very challenging. He says he is not religious, certainly not in terms of going to church every week. Yet he has put his life on the line repeatedly in order to save the lives of the casualties of war, regardless of who they are, and he recounts profound spiritual experiences when, in a tight spot, he decides to pray.

David Nott qualified as a doctor in 1981 and as a surgeon in 1992. His ‘day job’ is as a consultant in the top London teaching hospitals, but since 1993 he has also worked, on a voluntary basis, as a surgeon in many of the major war zones in the world: Sarajevo in Bosnia; Kabul, Kandahar and Camp Bastion in Afghanistan; Darfur in Sudan; Basra in Iraq; the Democratic Republic of Congo; Misrata in Libya; Aleppo and Atmeh in Syria; and the Central African Republic. He has worked mainly under the auspices of the Red Cross and Medecins Sans Frontieres.

In addition, he has developed training courses and material relating to surgical trauma skills for ‘austere environments’. On one occasion, whilst in the UK, he directed reconstructive surgery by an inexperienced surgeon working under war conditions in Aleppo – via Skype!

In Aleppo in 2013, he was operating on a severely wounded man when an ISIS leader walked in, with some of his soldiers, and demanded to know what he was doing. It transpired that the casualty David was working on was one of his people. Now his own life was in danger.

It was very difficult for him to proceed with the operation because his hands were shaking so much. “For the first time in a very long time I decided to pray.” He asked God to control his shaking hands. “Suddenly my hands relaxed. My legs were still shaking, and my body rippled with tension, but my hands were steady.”

The operation was completed successfully, the ISIS leader was satisfied and left. David found himself feeling somewhat confused, reflecting that he had saved the life of an ISIS soldier, who would quite likely go on to kill others. But he still felt it was right for him to save the man’s life.

He says that, while he’s not religious, he does believe in God. The following year in Aleppo, he felt a powerful urge to pray. He enquired of his Moslem colleague whether he knew of any Christian church in the city which was still open. He did, and took David to an old Catholic chapel, where the priest asked him his religion. David indicated he was a Protestant. The priest smiled and said we were all children of God. The priest gave him the sacrament, laid hands on him and prayed.

“For the second time in my life I felt this contact not as something physical but as a spiritual connection; it did not feel like a man’s hand but something much more powerful and profound, radiating energy. An electric shiver ran through me, filling me with love.”

The book can be obtained through Ashbourne Library. Highly recommended.

*John Dyster*



Nottingham and Derby Methodist District

## **Bible Festival**

### **Life Lessons in Mission from Luke**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>-Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

@Littleover Methodist Church, Constable Drive, Littleover,  
Derby, DE23 6EP



Information from  
The Rev'd Chris Briggs,  
District Mission Enabler  
07851 749215

### ***with The Rev'd Paul Smith***

#### **Evening Meetings, 8.00-9.30pm**

Tuesday — The Calling of Disciples, Luke 5:1-11, 27-32

Wednesday — The Church in the Community, Luke 6:17-26

Thursday — The Commissioning of the Church, Luke 10:1-20

#### **Lunchtime Meetings**

Wednesday, 12.00-2.30pm — The Community of the Church, Luke 9:18-27 (Circuit Staff Teams and Employees and open invitation to District. Soup and Roll Lunch)

Thursday, 12.00-2.00pm — The Caring of the Church, Luke 10:25-37 (Civic, Community and Ecumenical Church Leaders. Buffet Lunch)



*This is the confidence we have in approaching God:  
that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.  
1 John 5:14*

**ACT monthly prayer meetings, open to all, will be held at venues in and around Ashbourne as follows:**

- Thursday 5th September at 7.00 pm – Tissington Chapel
- Wednesday 2 October at 12 noon – The Empire Club, followed by a soup and roll lunch

We look forward to joining together in prayer, seeking God's will for Ashbourne and the surrounding villages. *Brian Hawkins*

### **Meditation in the Christian tradition**

We hear much today about mindfulness - Christian meditation combines this with an ancient form of prayer rediscovered a few decades ago.

Two introductory sessions on Christian meditation will be held on Wednesdays September 18th and 25th – 2pm to 3pm. It's fine to attend either or both of these. These will be held in All Saints' Church Hall, Belle Vue Road, Ashbourne, DE6 1AT

For more information contact *Mary Tyers* (07870362026)

### **From the Editors**

We are grateful for all your contributions.

We would welcome items for the next edition, including photos of church activities – **October 2019**

Please note we are unable to include items which are copyright, unless permission is obtained from the copyright-holder.

Last date for contributions: **Wednesday 18th September**

Publication date: **Sunday 29th 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

*Daphne and John Dyster*

## Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

### Sunday September 1st

Ashbourne	10:30	Peter Dawson	
	18:30	Praise – Rev Tim Morris	in Century Hall, Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Lorraine Hawkins	United Service at Methodist
Parwich	14:30	Steve Haines	

### Sunday September 8th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Diana Whitmill	
	18:30	<b>Ann Parkinson</b>	
Brailsford	<b>10:45</b>	<b>At the School</b>	<b>United Service</b>
Kniveton	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

### Sunday September 15th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30	Praise – Steve Haines	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Ann Parkinson	All Age
Parwich	10:00	C of E	United Service
Tissington	10:30	Peter Dawson	Harvest Festival

### Sunday September 22nd

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
	18:30	Paul Taylor	
Brailsford	10:30	Tim Dutton	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Canon David Truby	Harvest Festival
Kniveton	11:00	Tom Parkinson	

### Sunday September 29th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Alan Griggs	Harvest Festival, All Age
	18:30	Blayze White	Harvest Festival
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

### Sunday October 6th

Ashbourne	10:30	Robert Sales	
	18:30	Praise – Rev Chris Briggs	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev David Leese	Harvest Festival, United Service at Methodist
Parwich	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

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

## **Dates for your diary and your prayers**

### **September**

Mon 3rd	19:30	Ashbourne Leadership Team meeting
Tue 4th	19:30	Ashbourne Worship Team meeting
Thu 5th	19:00	ACT Prayers at Tissington Chapel
Tue 10th	19:30	Ashbourne Pastoral Visitors meeting
Mon 16th	19:30	Local Preachers meeting
Tue 17th	9:15	Circuit Leadership Team meeting
Tue 17th	19:30	ACT meeting
Wed 18th	19:30	Ashbourne Housegroup Leaders meeting
Sat 21st	10:00	District Synod at Riverside Church
Sun 22nd		District Youth Event
Tue 24th	19:30	Ashbourne Worship Coordination meeting
Mon 30th	14:00	MWiB committee meeting

### **October**

Wed 2nd	12:00	ACT Prayers at The Empire Club
Wed 2nd		Brailsford Ploughing Match
Wed 2nd	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council
Thu 3rd	19:30	Gateway Committee meeting
Sat 5th		Derbyshire Churches Together at Matlock
Mon 7th	19:30	Brailsford Church Council
Tue 8th	14:00	Joint Church Council at Tissington
Mon 14th	19:00	Kniveton Harvest Festival sale
Wed 16th	14:30	Ashbourne Learning and Caring Group meeting
Wed 16th	19:30	Kirk Ireton Harvest Supper
Thu 17th	19:30	Circuit Meeting at Ashbourne
Mon 21st	10:00	Kirk Ireton Church Council
Tue 22nd		Start of Bible Festival at Littleover
Thu 24th	19:30	Ashbourne Leadership Team meeting
Wed 30th	10:00	Ashbourne Messy Church

### **November**

Wed 6th	19:30	MWiB Supper in Century Hall
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### **Ashbourne Church Activities**

Sun	18.30pm	Mustard (Youth Fellowship)
Mon	10.00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact – Gareth Rutledge (418519)</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 (347586)</i>
	12.30pm	Luncheon Club: last Tuesday in month. Century Hall <i>Contact – John &amp; Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
	13.00pm	kids@cornerstone (not 3rd Tuesday of the month) <i>Contact – Clare Sales (342321)</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>
	19.30pm	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact Jo &amp; Paul Taylor (342897)</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 doing what they do best – tea and cakes on their annual trip



World Mission Sunday 2017 (see page 8)