

Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit
Magazine October 2018

Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

“Autumn days”

Harvest takes place all year round – so in a sense we can have harvest festivals any time we like! Traditionally though, we have a certain time in the year when we come together to give thanks to God for the harvest, a harvest we have enjoyed all year round, from all around the world.

I love autumn, the changing colours of the leaves, the earth being ploughed up and the branches thinned out. Nature is preparing to surrender her fruits and then rest. I don't see this as an end, but as a renewing time. The earth is resting, creating space, slowing down and preparing herself.



We find that hard to do in our own lives, but we know it is actually necessary. We too need to pace ourselves, follow the rhythm, seasons and cycle of life, offer our gifts back to God and in that action, find renewal. I'm hopeless at that, really, but it is an ideal we should attempt to strive for.

Sir John Betjeman in his poem 'Autumn 1964' says these beautiful words:

*The yellowing elm shows yet some green,
the mellowing bells exultant sound;
never have light and colour been
so prodigally thrown around;
and in the bells the promise tells
of greater light where Love is found.*

Autumn is a time of change – of apparent endings. Yet even now the signs of new beginnings will appear, along with wonderful colour and light – O yes, and the wind and rain too!

Enjoy the harvest.

Your minister and friend,

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

Ashbourne Church Family News

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.” Genesis 8 v 22

What a faithful God we serve.

We pray for the family of Joan Jones after she passed away at the end of August and for Eric Matthews and family as they come to terms with the loss of Marianne who went to be with the Lord on September 6th. May they know peace which the Lord gives. Let us remember others we know who are recently bereaved. Marian Cruikshank who worshipped with us for a while and returned to Scotland, has passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter Tia, and family who live in Ashbourne.

There are many who need our prayers. Those who have life changing decisions to make, those who remain unwell, those who are recovering, others waiting for tests and results or surgery including Chris Dakin, Peter Richards, Barbara Hollands, Jenny Waring, Les Cole, Margaret Cox and Margaret Wright. 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. There are others you know who are not named here so please pray for them. 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). If people wish to be included for prayer in the future, please do let me know.

Let's pray for our young people, some of whom have started new schools or new stages in their lives. Emily and Andrew have returned to University in Sheffield and Josh Dutton has gone to Loughborough for the first time.

Remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe. Jonathan asks for prayer for a school text book he is writing on O level statistics. Stephen and Suzanne remain in the UK.

Many people behind the scenes are preparing documents for the smooth running of the church. We pray for them and the Leadership team, the Preaching team and the Link Development team.

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. It is a time for us to pray for needs of the church and the wider world. 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 19.09.18

Prayer Walking

I had been released from hospital on the Sunday evening and was keen to help prepare for the monthly Church Lunch on the following Tuesday. When I arrived at church, some kind person had already set up the tables and chairs – normally my job – which was very helpful, because I wasn't feeling very strong.

Around 10.30am, everything was ready for us to break for our usual coffee and prayer time around the kitchen table. Afterwards, I returned our chairs to Century Hall and felt that I needed some air and sunshine, so I went out onto the steps and saw the labyrinth made by some of our young people.

Resting for a few minutes, I felt the Lord, by his Holy Spirit, guiding me to walk the labyrinth, so I went down past Cornerstone and started 'the walk'. Being aware that the Lord was with me, I asked "What do you want me to understand, learn and pray about?" I was seeking to pray in accordance with His will, not mine!

Following the path through the labyrinth, I noticed that some parts were wide, others were quite narrow, and I was reminded of the words, "Follow the narrow road". I also noted that my feet touched and occasionally went over, so I thought I must watch out! Arriving at the centre, I saw that it was absolutely bare apart from a tiny plant with a single blue flower – it was a forget-me-not – so I didn't!

Retracing my steps, I asked again, "What do you want me to see, Lord?" "Look up and down at the walls around you," was what I understood. As I did so, I imagined two changes to come in the future. The staircases, lift, ramp and all the glass, letting light into the foyer, possibly with large plants. The black half-round end bricks also caught my attention. What might they be salvaged for? I was reminded of similar bricks at the edge of a path in my father's garden in London during World War Two.

Returning to 'the walk', approaching Church Street, I noted the black door in front of me, before turning right across the front of the church. Under the main entrance steps was another, and further along a third. I wondered what was behind them.

Round the corner, walking below the ramp, I noticed that a doorway to Waterside had been bricked up – a possible fire escape for the future? I would look inside some time. There were more locked doors along this passageway, which I followed round to the 'playground' behind Gateway and Bentleys' shop.

It was time to return to Century Hall to welcome and serve our guests. As I went, I felt I was being reminded, "Remember what you have seen".

I have been told that I have an inquiring mind – perhaps a nice way of saying I'm nosy! This has led me to several places that would not have been explored by some people, and I learned from them. On this occasion, I learned that when God tells me to go somewhere, he wants me to really look at what is around me, so that he can show me something new. I have, since that day, looked at what is behind one of the black doors and have some ideas about what the space might be used for.

Have you ever wondered what God might be saying to you, but been too busy with the humdrum details of daily living? Try giving him some quiet time and see – maybe even walk!

Brian Hawkins

News of old friends!

We have recently returned from South Wales and en route we visited Cecil and Heather Broadbent who some of you will remember. We took greetings from our Local Preachers' Meeting which met earlier in the week. Whilst they were members of our church, Heather trained as a Local Preacher and was accredited in 2001. The following year they moved to Ross on Wye.



They now live in an MHA complex in Penarth, near Cardiff. They are aged 97 and 83 respectively and recently celebrated 61 years of marriage. Cecil has an incredible memory for his years, though Heather's is not so good. She recently had a pacemaker fitted. However they both wish to be remembered to those who knew them. They keep in touch by receiving this magazine every month, thanks to Betty Douce. We shared happy memories of times past and it was good to see them again.

Also news of Rev Harry Jones (our minister 1996-2002) and Lyn. Harry had a fall some weeks ago and broke his shoulder blade in four places. He is in considerable pain and has just started physio, but has been told it will take several months to heal. Harry is unable to drive and is getting about with difficulty. They thank all those who have sent cards.

Daphne and John Dyster

From the Editors

Thank you to all who have contributed to this month's magazine.

Next issue – November 2018:

Last date for contributions: **Wednesday 17th October**

Publication date: **Sunday 28th October**

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

The story of the origination of ‘The Cornerstone’ café at Ashbourne Methodist Church

“ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.” Ephesians 2 v.19-20

The premises of Ashbourne Methodist Church had seen little real maintenance for many years and, in 1996, the Church Council agreed to a major project of repairing and refreshing the whole premises from the sewers to the roof.

Ultimately this cost some £430,000 (and the church was debt free in two years).

What is now ‘The Cornerstone’ had been constructed as shops in 1902 and had had many varied tenants, the latest ones in the 60’s, 70’s and 80’s had been the Government Property Agency, and the building had served as the local employment exchange and the town’s driving test centre.

The Government Property Agency gave the Church notice to terminate its lease in the early 90’s, claiming the building was unfit for occupancy and sued the church for the rental of alternate premises (this was eventually avoided). The lease dating back many, many years had been drawn up in such a way that both parties – the Agency and the Church considered the other responsible for repair and upkeep – in fact neither party did anything until the building was a wreck.

Application was made by the Church to demolish the building and to create a ramp access to the church entering via what is now the office and including a community garden. This caused furore in the town and headlines in the Stunner. We were advised that, as the building was in the curtilage of the Church (a listed building), then the corner building was also listed and could not be demolished.

Plans were therefore developed, along with the overall refurbishment project, to bring the building back into use – estimated cost: £50,000 of the £430,000 stated above. The Church Council decided that, even though we had multiple applicants from the antique world to rent the building, it was to be used for mission, and the best way this could be achieved was as a café (the builders had been saying we needed a café as they observed people wandering along Church Street, turning and wondering where to go next). This decision was taken just in time to

allow a hatch to be put in during the refurbishment work. Please bear in mind the current long kitchen at the rear was an addition some years later.

If we were to have a café, the questions poured in – how often was it to be opened, who would organise people and products, who was qualified for hygiene etc, etc.

An article was placed in the church magazine asking if anyone had a calling to set up a café for church outreach, and we prayed - and wow! Helen Flinn came forward, a lady with all the skills and qualifications required.

Helen set up a group, set the very high standard we see today, specified quality at all levels and off the project went. 20 years down the line, and thanks to a driving committee and many, many volunteers from within the church, and friends of the church, we have the successful venture that is 'The Cornerstone' – notice 'The Cornerstone' and not just 'Cornerstone', this was decided in 1998 by ballot of church members!!

Cliff Lewer

This article is based on a presentation Cliff was asked to give at the 9:15 service on 9th September, when the theme was "turning unsightly articles into beautiful ones". The Editors

FAVOURITE HYMNS No.2

'Come Thou Fount of every blessing'

At one of our last Services at our previous church, the Local Preacher chose a hymn which I probably hadn't sung for nearly 60 years. As a young teenager, playing the harmonium in our small Cotswold Methodist Chapel, hymn 417 (in the 1933 MHB) was one of my favourite hymns.

There were two main reasons for this. First, the tune. Before the days of Beaumont, Appleford, Kendrick, Pratt Green, Kaan, Dudley-Smith and now Townend and Getty, most hymns and tunes seemed to be predictable C.M. and L.M. The tune to 'Come Thou Fount', Normandy, had a flow (even rhythm!) which seemed to me original and uplifting. Never mind the words, the tune was good !The tune 'Normandy' was written in 1833 by Christian Bost (1790-1874), from his collection 'Christian Chants.' Not much is known of Bost. In the USA, the hymn is usually set to an American folk tune known as 'Nettleton', composed by Asahel Nettleton, and this is given as an alternative tune in Singing the Faith 494. The 'Nettleton' tune is used extensively by the American

composer Charles Ives, in such works as the First String Quartet and the piano quintet.

The second reason for my childhood fascination with the hymn was the first line of the second verse: 'Here I raise my Ebenezer.' I never asked the meaning; Ebenezer was my uncle (my grandfather was Solomon, his other brother was Samuel). I could not imagine the connection!

The hymn was written by the 18th century preacher Robert Robinson, who wrote the words in 1757 at the age of 22 for his congregation in Bishopsgate, London. Robert Robinson was just a small boy when his dad died. In 18th century England, there was little in the way of a social welfare system and this meant that he had to go to work while still very young. Without a father to guide and steady him, he fell in with bad companions. One day his gang harassed a drunken gypsy. They demanded she tell their fortunes for free. Pointing her finger at Robert she told him he would live to see his children and grandchildren.



This struck a tender spot in his heart. "If I'm going to live to see my children and grandchildren," he thought, "I'll have to change my way of living. I can't keep on like I'm going now." He decided to go and hear the famous Methodist preacher George Whitefield. His sermon was based on the text: "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matthew 3:7). Robert left in dread, under a deep sense of sin that lasted for three years.

Finally, at the age of twenty, he made peace with God and immediately set out to become a Methodist preacher himself. Two years later, in 1757, he wrote this hymn which expressed his joy in his new faith. The words dwell on the theme of divine grace, and are based on 1 Samuel Chapter 7 verse 12, in which the prophet Samuel raises a stone as a monument, saying, 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.' The name Samuel gave to the stone is translated as 'Ebenezer,' meaning 'stone of help.' After all, how can we, mere humans with many failings, gain courage without our own Ebenezer, our Stone of Help, our Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ, to anchor us when the winds of doubt and fear try to tear us away from our journey back to living again.

The words have been altered in several hymnbooks, not always as improvements. By the 1933 Methodist Hymn Book, the first two verses were:

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious measure
Sung by flaming tongues above;
O the vast, the boundless treasure
Of my Lord's unchanging love.

'Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue from the danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

In Singing the Faith: verse 2
begins:

'Here I find my greatest treasure:
Hither by thy help I've come'

Robert Robinson's last stanza was:

'Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
Take my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above !'

Prone to wander Robert was. He left the Methodists and became a Baptist. Later on, having become a close friend of Joseph Priestly, he was accused of becoming a Unitarian. Priestly and other Unitarians denied the full divinity of Christ.

However, in a sermon he preached after he supposedly became a Unitarian, Robinson clearly declared that Jesus was God, and added, "Christ in Himself is a person infinitely lovely as both God and man."

Robert died on June 9, 1790. Had he left the God he loved? A widely-told, but unverifiable, story says that one day as he was riding in a stagecoach, a lady asked him what he thought of the hymn she was humming. He responded, "Madam, I am the poor unhappy man who wrote that hymn many years ago, and I would give a thousand worlds, if I had them, to enjoy the feelings I had then."

But thank God he did write the hymn, which has remained an inspiration to many for 250 years.

David Franklin

‘Threads through Revelation’ at Southwell Minster

Arthur and I visited this exhibition whilst it was at Guildford Cathedral recently and were overwhelmed by the panels depicting a visual interpretation of the book of Revelation.

‘Threads through Revelation’ is a display of textile art in fourteen large panels. They raise issues of life and faith, good and evil, death and resurrection, judgement and a New Heaven and a New Earth. The panels were designed by Jacqui Parkinson and are stunning in their colour and complexity.

This exhibition is coming to Southwell Minster from 16th October to 30th November and it is highly recommended by all who have seen it – I will be going again! If you want a flavour of the panels then visit www.revelation-threads.co.uk. Don’t miss this opportunity to see the exhibition as it will not be in this area again!

Joy Watts

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!



Understanding Autism - Strategies for living well

Presented by Debbie Austin from Autism East Midlands Training Working in partnership with ACE Youth Trust.

This workshop is aimed at those who wish to have a more detailed understanding of the spectrum and would like to learn about some practical strategies that can make life easier.

Friday 19th October 2018 7.00-9.00pm

Venue : St John's Hall, Auction Close, off King's Street, Ashbourne.

To book a place email: bookings@autismeastmidlands.org.uk or Tel: 01909 506678 or contact ACE Youth Trust The Parish Office, St Oswald's Church, School Lane, Ashbourne Tel: Jill on 07468 424287 or email admin@aceyouth.org.uk

Tickets £10

50% reduction for additional family members, 19's and under free

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



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

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

Christmas Cards, Gifts & Books from The Leprosy Mission

Copies of the Autumn-Winter catalogue from TLM, which includes a lovely range of products, are now available at church.

If you would like to place an order, please pass it to me. As well as the benefit to Leprosy-affected people, we earn commission which goes to The Link Development Project.

Stuart Green (01335 300338)



MISSION

MATTERS

The motto of the Keswick Convention is “*All one in Christ Jesus*”, taken from Galatians 3 v.28.

I have been struck over the years, and particularly recently, that Jesus’ intention is for his people, wherever they are on earth, to become one, united not just in a common faith but in our key identity as one family in Christ.

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you”. John 17, 20-21.

I have been amazed at the unity we can experience with fellow believers from very different backgrounds around the world; a greater closeness, with or without a common language, than we often experience with neighbours or family members at home. In Nepal, Joyce and I have known, over many years, the amazing unity of God’s people as we have shared our lives together.

By contrast how easy it is to define “Church” as a building rather than what it really is: a gathering of God’s people!

If we think of God’s global family we see how many are suffering persecution or poverty. But despite this (or because of it?) huge growth is taking place. The Muslim Middle East is one of these areas of persecution, as well as of great spiritual growth. China experiences some of the fastest church growth in the world, but also suffers significant persecution. And so it goes on around the world, underlining the link between opposition and Kingdom growth.

In Ashbourne we have brothers and sisters in Christ from the CNI churches of North India. The diocese of Derby, and several communities within it, have had significant links with them for some 20 years now, during which we have enjoyed frequent reciprocal visits. Those familiar with visiting them, or hosting visitors here, will know the joy of that relationship.

Last year some Fijians joined us in Ashbourne for a World Mission Sunday. Afterwards they issued an invitation to us to come to Fiji and stay with the church, who will look after us for free. No takers so far, but...!

But it doesn't stop there. We have many brothers and sisters in this country too, who are fellow believers and followers of Jesus and members of a variety of churches. Let's rejoice in that oneness in Christ.

All too often Christians of different denominations worship God in different places with little apparent sense that they are "one in Christ Jesus". It is therefore good to see, in a number of our circuit communities, a move towards fellowship united across these boundaries.

So that's the world, far and near. What about here in Ashbourne? Are relationships growing with other churches, worshipping together with labels left at home, apart from the one that says "all one in Christ Jesus"?

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary

'Christmas Angels Knit-In' at Craft & Chat

Monday 15th October at the Cornerstone 2-4pm

Do you remember the Christmas Angels we gave to the town last December? We're doing it all over again.

At this special event, we're going to see just how many people we can get knitting angels at the same time!

Knit a whole angel or knit just one row – even if you've never picked up a pair of needles before.

We've got the needles and we've got the wool – all we need is you!

Come and join this project which will share God's love with the town at Christmas.

Biscuits and tea/coffee will be served.

Contact Clare Sales or Fiona Green for further details.



A group of 18 of us recently attended the Greenbelt Festival at Boughton House, near Kettering, along with about 12,000 other people.

Greenbelt describes its mission as being “to create spaces, like festivals, where art, faith and justice collide. Where artistry and activism, spirituality and politics, faith and justice are held together.”

There’s a massive range of different things happening at the festival, which runs from Friday to Monday over the August Bank Holiday weekend. There’s worship, music, art exhibitions, drama, dance, comedy, talks, poetry, crafts, science, and various things which defy definition!

The amazing grounds of Boughton House are transformed into the festival village with big tops, marquees and canopies amongst the trees and formal lakes. There’s a wide range of attendees, from babies to pensioners, who join together in forming this special community for the weekend.

There’ll be a group going next year (23rd – 26th August 2019) and earlybird tickets are already on sale. Ticket prices for ages 18+ are currently heavily discounted, so if you’d like to come, you might want to buy now and save some cash! Tickets for ages 5-17 are fixed at £50 (no earlybird discount). If you’re interested, please speak to Catherine or Stuart Green.

We asked a few people to share their thoughts on the festival...

“Greenbelt was great! The incredibly popular festival was lively, inclusive and exciting. From a discussion between a victim and a terrorist to early morning yoga the festival catered for everyone. Communion was engaging and interesting with a main focus on the Windrush and Carnival. Our favourite, most entertaining activity was the Bhangra workshop (Indian dance) because it was really fun and we learnt some now moves. Also we went to watch a group of Russian feminist extremists called Pussy Riot talk about Russian society and their role in changing it. We found this to be very poignant and strong and we gained a lot from it. Overall we thoroughly enjoyed Greenbelt and we would highly recommend it.” **Darcey and Molly Dawson**

“I really enjoy Greenbelt because it lets you meet up with people who you haven’t seen for a long time and just generally have a good time. It is very nice on the site, and off for that matter, and gives you a sense of freedom. It’s a good time for all ages and has almost too much to choose from. There are, though, some times when you can just wander around aimlessly chatting and listening to the different performers. Overall I would say it would be a bit like I was missing a part of me if I didn’t go.”

Ethan Green

“Greenbelt never fails to challenge and entertain and this year was no different. Highlights for me were the intellectual and witty talks by Eve Poole, who teaches leadership and ethics and advises clients such as the BBC and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. Also the clever entertainment of both the musical comedy sisters Flo & Joan and Harry & Chris who were hot from the Edinburgh Festival.

Greenbelt uses its lovely greenfield site really well and I have to agree with the many people I hear say that Greenbelt feels like ‘coming home’. The Festival is a safe environment, where hopefully everyone feels welcome and I would highly recommend it. Oh, and you don’t have to camp, if camping is not your thing (it isn’t mine!), as there are hotels and B&Bs in Kettering and Corby.” **Jacqui Marsh**

“Greenbelt describes itself as ‘Engaged with culture, inspired by the arts, sustained by faith, we aspire to be an open generous community re-imagining the Christian narrative for the present moment’. Put in simple terms, it is a place where the church can meet & interact with the real world.

Greenbelt is an inspiring yet an uncomfortable place to be. Over the weekend, the challenge coming from the festival was ‘What does the world see when it looks at the church, what does the world see when it looks at Christians who proclaim faith in Jesus?’” **Steve Haines**



Ashbourne Vacancies Bulletin

The Leadership Team is thrilled that we have recently been able to welcome Becky Dutton as a new Powersource Coordinator, and that we have also been able to fill several other roles in the church.



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.

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 currently 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.

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

Church Library

We currently have a small library in the entrance to church, with a selection of books that people can borrow. We are looking for someone who would like to take responsibility for the library.

Please speak to Brian Hawkins for more information (310353).

Worship Stewards

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

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

The Cornerstone Coffee Shop

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

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

The volunteer organist

The preacher in the village church one Sunday morning said:
Our organist is ill today, will someone play instead?
An anxious look crept o'er the face of every person there,
As eagerly they watched to see who'd fill the vacant chair.

Refrain:

*The scene was one I'll ne'er forget, as long as I may live
And just to see it o'er again, all earthly wealth I'd give.
The congregation all amazed, the preacher old and grey
The organ and the organist who volunteered to play.*

A man then staggered down the aisle, whose clothes were old and torn.
How strange a drunkard seemed to one, in church on Sunday morn.
But then he touched the organ keys without a single word.
The melody that followed was the sweetest every heard.

Each eye shed tears within that church, the strongest men grew pale
The organist in melody had told us his own life's tale.
The sermon of the preacher, was no lesson to compare
With that of life's example, who sat in the organ chair.

And when the service ended, not a soul had left a seat
Except the poor old organist, who started toward the street.
Along the aisle and out of the door, he slowly walked away
The preacher rose and softly said: Good Brethren, let us pray.

This item was contributed by Pearl Steeples, but she was unaware of the original source. However, we discovered it is a popular song written by George L. Spaulding (1864-1921), and issued on a 78 rpm record in 1913.

If you would like to hear it, it can be found at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DppBgEHlrSE>

REIMAGINE CIRCUITS

Planning for Life



A day for all to share with neighbouring Circuits to:

- be inspired and encouraged to engage with your community
- learn from stories of good mission practice from around the District
- discover the resources available to equip you



This Roadshow will be facilitated by the District Mission Team and repeated around the District. If you can't attend your nearest event then please join in with one of these other Roadshows:

all 9.30 for 10am start – 3pm

24th November 2018 at Stretton Methodist Church, 22 Main Street,
Stretton, Burton on Trent DE13 0EA

9th February 2019 at Nuthall Methodist Church, Nottingham Rd,
Nuthall, Nottingham NG16 1DN

6th April 2019 at Newmount Methodist Church, Blagreaves Lane,
Littleover, Derby, DE23 1PS

Free to attend but limited spaces so please register by one week before with
Luke Mellor at District Office: chairpand@gmail.com 0115 937 5665
Bring your own lunch. Drinks provided.

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday October 7th

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

Sunday October 14th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Diana Whitmill	
Kniveton	18:30	Deacon Lorraine Brown	Harvest
Parwich	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

Sunday October 21st

Ashbourne	10:30	John Whitehead	
	18:30	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Sue Leese	All Age
Tissington	10:30	Rev Alan Griggs	Harvest

Sunday October 28th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
	18:30	Ann Parkinson	
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Baptism
Kirk Ireton	18:30	John Dyster	
Kniveton	11:00	Robert Sales	
Parwich	14:30	Lorraine Hawkins	

Sunday November 7th

Ashbourne	10:30	Stuart Mustow	
	18:30	Ruth Barratt	
Brailsford	10:30	Steve Haines	United Service at Methodist

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

Circuit website: www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk

Dates for your diary

October

Mon 1st	19:30	Brailsford Church Council
Tue 2nd	10:30	Kids@cornerstone Harvest
Sat 6th	10:00	Churches Together in Derbyshire Conference at Matlock Methodist/URC Church
Mon 8th	14:00	Joint Church Council at Parwich
Sat 13th	15:00	MHA 75 th Anniversary Service at Derby Cathedral
Mon 15th	19:00	Kniveton Sale of harvest goods
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
Wed 31st	10:00	Ashbourne Messy Church

November

Mon 5th	19:30	MWiB Supper evening in the Century Hall
Sat 24th	10:00	Re-Image Circuits roadshow at Burton on Trent
Thu 29th		Advent Display at Ashbourne Church

Methodist Women in Britain



District Day - Wednesday 17th October

If you would like to go to this District Day (details on page 22 of September Connections), please get in touch with Alma asap. I am sure it will be a very enjoyable day - price £16 which includes coffee and lunch. The afternoon speaker is Judith Sims on her attendance at the European Festival in Germany.

Supper Evening - Monday 5th November

Please make a note of this date in your diaries and come to hear about the work of the Mission Aviation Fellowship. The evening will commence with Supper and then Mr Robin Merrifield will speak on the MAF. Please watch the Notices for further information.

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 & 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)

Some of God's people!
(see page 14)



Joyce and Richard Odell in Patna, North India



People of Fiji