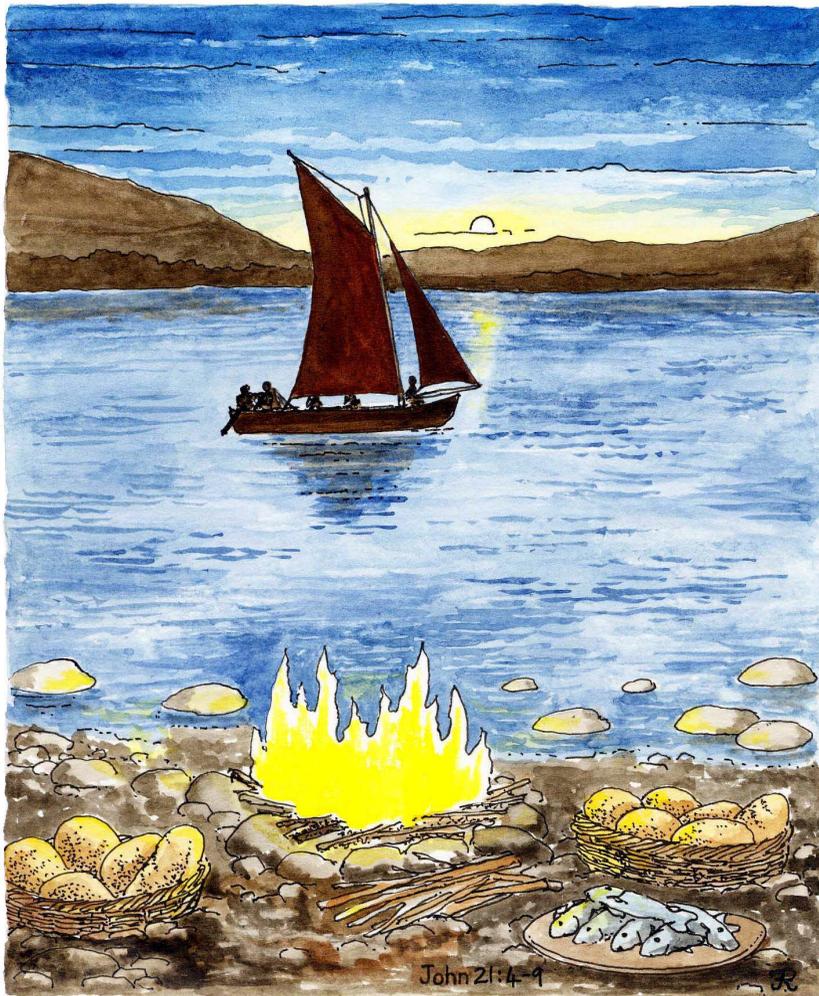


Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit
Magazine May 2019

Letter from the Minister

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

Dear Friends,



“Watching and waiting - wells and water”

May can sometimes feel a bit like an inbetween time. We’re still in the Easter season, but in our hearts and minds we can feel we’ve “done” Easter, and it’s not yet Pentecost! So “what are we to do now?”

The first Christian disciples were caught in that inbetween time too. After being witnesses to the resurrection, they caught glimpses of Jesus, here and there, sometimes known, sometimes unknown. Then they gathered together and watched and waited as Jesus ascended into

heaven, and they had to wait for the promised coming Holy Spirit.

What are we to do? Well, we can get on with the business of being witnesses, of being about God’s work, of recognising the presence of Jesus here and there, here and now.

The village of Tissington hosts the annual well dressing week, which begins on Thursday, 30th May (Ascension Day). The event attracts around 30,000 visitors, but lots of help is needed preparing for it. There are many ways in which you can support this event – volunteering on the Christian Aid cake stall, helping out at our chapel in the village to welcome the many visitors who come and value the space and peace of the place, or supporting worship events there.

I invite you to come and share this ministry. You could also just come and look around the village and enjoy the wonder and creativity of local people, giving thanks for the blessing of the gift of water.

So as we give thanks for the watching and waiting times, and also for wells and water, I pray that we may be refreshed and renewed by God, not for ourselves alone, but so that we can be used of God as his witnesses and for his work of love, in Jesus name.

Your minister and friend,

Ashbourne Church Family News

“You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2 v 5

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to Rene Hewes on the death of her grandson, Paul, to Judith Bale and family on the death of Judith's mother, and to Roger Key of Parwich on the death of his wife, Cathy.

There are many who need our prayers whether it be for mental or physical illness, emotional stress or because they care for others: David Franklin, Peter Richards, Stuart and Sigrid Mustow, Barbara and David Hollands, Jenny Waring, Richard Barratt, Val Rutledge, Sheila Hancock and Pearl Steeples. Pray for Mary Smail's daughter, Hilary, who has had an accident in the Dominican Republic. 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).

Congratulations to Jon & Gemma Bowley on the birth of Emilia Grace (Mimi) on 23 March, sister to Jack and granddaughter to Steve and Jane Bowley. Welcome to Ruth & Richard Barratt's first grandchild Ada Kathleen born on 31 March to Andy and Becca Barratt.

May and June are the months when a number of our young people have exams. Emily Peers is on her final placement of adult nursing training and Andrew Sales takes his finals at University, Joy Mallard and Samuel Morris take A levels, and Darcey Dawson, Sam Glossop, Christian Mallard and Joseph Thrupp take GCSE's. Let's support them these next weeks.

Remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe and Stephen and Suzanne in the UK, with Jonathan and Isabel hoping to visit UK this year.

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.

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 17.04.19

Craft & Chat

So far it's been a busy start to 2019. As soon as our 2018 Christmas Angels were off the needles, we started to knit squares which were joined together to make baby blankets. This was something that many people in the wider church have joined with and it's been wonderful to have a joint project. The blankets have already started being given out and are to welcome new babies into the Kids @ Cornerstone family.

Our newest venture is a joint one with Derbyshire Recovery and Peer Support Service. We aim to extend our workshops exploring easier crafts to achieve in an afternoon. We hope that the opportunity to enjoy friendship and creativity will all contribute to wellbeing – as well as a sense of achievement! Our first workshop was on 8th April. Sue Lovatt of Bright and Beautiful led an afternoon of flower arranging. Despite our doubts at our own ability with flowers, Sue's inspiration and guidance enabled everyone to go home with a beautiful table decoration – after a lot of fun and mutual encouragement!

We continue to prepare for the summer yarnbombing to coincide with the start of the Ashbourne Festival. If you'd like to contribute, do get in touch. (We have some very easy patterns!) So far people from our own church and Ashbourne WI have come on board and we're looking forward to seeing lots of lovely creations!

Our next workshop is Card Making on July 1st from 2pm -4pm in the Cornerstone, followed by a multi-activity workshop Aug/Sept (date tbc).

Everyone welcome – come and join us! And remember – you don't have to be a crafter to come along for a cuppa and a good chat on a Monday afternoon! For more information contact Clare Sales (342321) or Fiona Green (343011).

Dementia - signs and strategies for coping

On Tuesday 18th June, Paul Waters, Royal Derby Hospital chaplain, will be speaking on this subject. A bring and share finger buffet at 7.00pm will be followed by the talk at 7.30pm in the Century Hall. Please put the date in your diary.

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary

Summer Displays

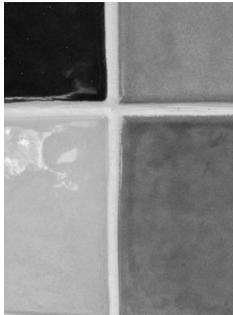
This year we are once again planning to install Summer Displays in the church as part of a fringe event in the Ashbourne Festival. The displays have proved very popular with visitors in recent years. It's clear from the comments in the Visitors' Book that our witness to our faith has been powerfully felt – as well as enjoying the arts installations themselves.

As ever, we'd like the Summer Displays to be 'whole church' and 'all age'. And we'd love as many people as possible to take part.

This year our theme is 'Celebrating our Faith, Sharing our Creativity'. We plan to explore aspects of the Trinity.

There are two ways to take part: both are part of the Display about finding Jesus in the world.

We'd like you to look for crosses – but not straightforward ones! Find a cross which is part of something else. Take your photo so that the cross leaps out! You could find crosses on doors, fences, tiled walls, tablecloths, even aeroplane trails in the sky! Here's two from a tiled wall and the sky:



If you're not sure that your idea will work, get in touch and have a chat!

We'd like a short piece of writing (100 words) – with an appropriate photo if you'd like to take one (it needs to be your copyright) – just saying where you find or see Jesus in the world - in everyday life, in different activities or situations. It might be something you do as part of your discipleship, or something you have noticed or read about. Or it might be something which for you illustrates one of the sayings of Jesus such as 'Love one another as I have loved you.' It might be something huge or something very small; a lifetime's work or the gospel glimpsed in brief moment. Or anywhere in between!

If you'd like to take part, but need someone to take the photos, or help you to write up your thoughts, please do let us know – we want to do everything we can to enable as many people as possible to take part in witnessing to our faith in this way.

You don't need to print out anything – just email your photo/written work to Fiona on onesmallflock@btinternet.com We're not planning to put names on contributions – just to let the words, images, thoughts and faith speak for themselves.

Thank you for taking part. *Fiona Green , Clare Sales and Sandra Lewer*

Relationships – Understanding each other's contradictory convictions

The Methodist Church is on a journey of discerning together what the future holds for all of us in a changing world of relationships and marriage. Why not come along to these talks to learn more?

- June 18th 19:30 at Gedling Road Methodist Church, NG4 3EX. Rev'd Moses Agyam 'How do we read the Bible today as part of an inclusive community. What difficulties do we encounter?'
- July 11th 19:30 at Nuthall Methodist Church, with David Hull, chair of MET (Methodist Evangelicals Together), will share a conservative, evangelical position.
- July 16th 19:30 at Langans, Burton on Trent, DE14 1DP. Eunice Atwood, ex-Vice-President of Conference and tutor at Queens College Birmingham. Eunice will share from the perspective of the Wesley quadrilateral.

Contact Carole Thorpe cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535 for details

Summer Circuit Event

Last year we had a very successful Circuit Weekend away. There is no weekend away this year, but we are planning an afternoon/evening event for us to meet together- Sunday 14th July. Plans are at a very early stage, but there will be a barbeque, followed by an evening service at Brailsford Institute. This will be the only afternoon or evening service in the Circuit. We plan to have an activity before the food – we still have to decide what that will be. Further details later, but please do put the date in your diary.

Elizabeth Hurfurt, Circuit Steward



For many people Cliff College is a place where they feel close to God, sometimes known as a 'thin place', with one student reflecting, 'I feel like I've grown in my faith and maturity in just a few weeks. I can't begin to describe how thankful I am for my time at Cliff.'

Since 1904 Cliff College has been a place of training where students have developed their knowledge, honed their skills and explored what God is calling them to. The Cliff College Facebook page is currently featuring 'Cliff Stories', a series of testimonies that explore how the College has played a key part in their faith journeys.

Today, encounter and equipping is still central to the life of Cliff College and this is experienced in a variety of ways:

- BA, MA and PhD programmes, focusing on theology, ministry and mission
- day, weekend and weekday courses, providing training for those in lay ministry roles
- training as a Local Preacher or Worship Leader
- the Church Leaders' Network, a regular morning for those in ministry offering space for learning and sharing
- a team of evangelists supporting churches in their mission to the local community
- a team delivering training to ministers in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda
- the 'Cliff Year', a gap year for those aged 18-29 who want to explore what God is calling them to
- Cliff Festival, an annual festival featuring Bible study, worship, music, reflection and relaxation



Cliff Festival 2019

This year's Cliff Festival takes place from Friday 24 to Monday 27 May, over the bank holiday weekend, and the theme is 'Into all the World' ... encouraging and equipping people to share the good news of Jesus. Each day includes Bible Study in the morning and worship in the evening, with food and drink, workshops, music, games and the opportunity to relax in the beautiful surroundings of Cliff in between. There are also vibrant groups for children, young people and young adults in both the mornings and evenings.

On Saturday 25 May 'The Hope Collective' is launched, a day of music and worship from 12 noon to 11pm, featuring Lou Fellingham, Lily Jo, Phillippa Hanna, The Moment and Rivers & Robots. The day also includes Evening Celebration with preacher Andy Hawthorne, from The Message Trust.

The cost:

- Festival Weekend pass: £36 for adults, £24 for concessions and free for under 18s
- Day passes: £14 for adults, £10 for concessions and free for under 18s

Passes are available on the day so you can check out the weather before travelling!

More information about Cliff College and the Festival visit the website at www.cliffcollege.ac.uk

Paul Taylor

Recycle your spectacles for Vision Aid Overseas

John Fell, the optician in Horse and Jockey Yard, welcomes donations of spectacles (minus the cases!). He is part of Vision Aid Overseas.

Second-hand glasses are no longer sent abroad. Instead, they are gathered at a warehouse and hand sorted for recycling for their precious metal content, as in gold frames; retro/vintage glasses are sold on eBay or to specialist buyers and they also recycle plastic frames.

Vision Aid receives around 3.5 million pairs of glasses each year which generate £105,000!

This income supports eye care programmes in partner countries, delivering eye tests and low-cost new glasses to those in need. They also train eye care workers and I understand that John Fell goes abroad from time to time to give his expertise to this programme, helping to train those on the ground.

There are currently Vision Centres in Burkino Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

So, please do support this valuable project. Thank you. *Pat Fielding*

9:15

Join us for a big breakfast!

You are invited to join us for a big breakfast at 9:15 on Sunday 12th May.

Just like our usual 9:15 services, there'll be plenty to discuss and great worship with our live band.

Instead of sharing breakfast pastries at 10am, we'll instead share a big breakfast together during the service, including cereals, fruit & toast.

The service will pick up on the theme of the Easter Offerings service, "Longer Tables, Lower Fences" as we explore what it means to offer radical hospitality and extravagant generosity.

We hope you can join us!





Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum

Since we came to Ashbourne, we have volunteered one Saturday a month at Englesea Brook. The former chapel, school room, adjacent cottage and graveyard form one of the Methodist Church's key heritage sites.

It takes under an hour to get to this delightful Cheshire hamlet, near to Nantwich. There is no entry fee, refreshments are available, and if you are considering visiting we would love to welcome you on the following Saturdays: 11 May, 15 June, 27 July, 3 August, 7 September, 5 October. The site is open from 10am to 5pm.

For further details and travel directions please contact us on 01335 344198.

David and Sue Leese

INSPIRATIONAL INTERGENERATIONAL IDEAS

from Lizzie Hackney and Mark Hackney,
Intergenerational Missioners
in the Hereford Diocese
Saturday 6th July at 10.00am
in the Century Hall



Our new 'Plan for Growth' states that we are an 'inclusive, intergenerational church' and, while knowing that we can always do better, we like to think we are quite good at being inclusive and intergenerational. But what exactly do we mean by an 'intergenerational church' and what more can we all do to improve in this area?

Lizzie Hackney is an expert on the subject, and an inspirational speaker. It is hoped that many will come to her workshop, not just those who work with young people, older people or any other group.

All will be welcome. Please put the date in your diary.

Experience Easter

'If we didn't have Palm Sunday there wouldn't have been any of the rest of the story' This is a summary of what one child said when asked what the most important part of Experience Easter was for them. Over 200 hundred children from our town schools, along with Osmaston and llam primaries, participated in the Experience. They were welcomed into our church with some words of safety to make sure they knew we were looking after them well. Practical arrangements for moving around the space safely were explained, then each group of up to six children shared in the five important events that happened in the last week of Jesus' life on earth.

The first of these was Palm Sunday where the youngsters were encouraged to consider their hopes and dreams. Next, they heard how Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example of how to serve others. Here the children were asked how they could care and serve their friends and community today.



The third station was the favourite for most of the classes because of the opportunity to taste the bread and grapes of the Last Supper.

Each child had the chance to make a model in the 'Garden' station where they heard about Jesus praying alone whilst his friends fell asleep. The Crucifixion was the fifth station where pupils heard how Jesus' suffering means that he understands and comforts those struggling with difficult circumstances.

The groups gathered together before moving into Century Hall where the children were challenged to think about how the women might have felt about the empty tomb. Both teachers and children expressed their delight about the Experience, as did the volunteers from the congregation that supervised each station, several of whom stepped out of their comfort zone to do so.

It has been such a privilege to share one of the most important aspects of our faith with so many children. People staying in Gateway also enjoyed Experience Easter; 'We also enjoyed looking in the church at the Easter stations, really beautiful. The kids have thoroughly enjoyed the adventure and didn't want to leave!!!!'

Jane Bowley

The Cornerstone Coffee Shop

It is a delight to know that the Coffee Shop has retained its 5* hygiene rating, but this comes with the need to maintain a high level of cleanliness as emphasised at the inspection. We are grateful to so many individuals offering their time as volunteers, but they currently do not have the time to give to routine tasks to keep everything as clean as necessary. If you feel that you have a small amount of spare time and would like to help, do have a word with either Elizabeth Hurfurt or Pat Fielding, who would be happy to elaborate on tasks that need to be regularly done from time to time.

Joy Watts

Open the Book

Open the Book has now taken two assemblies at Ilam Primary School and we have been delighted with the warm welcome. It is a lovely school in a beautiful setting so it seemed appropriate that our first story should be about creation. It was interesting to listen to some of the pupils telling us about the impending arrival of lambs on the farms so giving the story a personal touch.

Our second story was about Mary and Martha which was told through the eyes of their niece Becky using puppets. The emphasis being on the need to give time to listen to Jesus – and the prayer ‘Dear God, in our families help us to make time for each other, time to think, and time to talk about the things that are really important.’ A message relevant to us all with busy lives.

Ilam Open the Book Team

Shoe Boxes

Yes, we are doing Shoe Boxes again this year, and have already started fund raising and getting things ready. We would be grateful for any empty shoe boxes, or if anyone feels like doing us some knitting please see one of the Team. Wool can be provided. It is good to share our love with children who have nothing.

Margaret Heaton, Brenda Micklethwaite, Diane Warburton, Sheila Cook



Thank you to everyone who contributed to our consultation on the draft Plan for Growth – Our Mission Action Plan, 2019-2024.

Over the course of a month, we held 11 consultation events. These included consultation with young people in Powersource, open church meetings and themed meetings (e.g. ‘worship’ and ‘learning & caring’).

We received a total of 77 completed feedback forms and have been working through them to ensure we adapt the plan to take account of the feedback.

People were asked to rate to what extent they agreed or disagreed with the plan overall, and with specific parts of it. The table overleaf summarises the results. A printout of the full information is available on the “rotas” notice board in the corridor behind the organ at Ashbourne.

Statement	Disagree strongly or Disagree	Neutral	Agree strongly or Agree	Number answering the question
I agree the Mission Action Plan is right for Ashbourne Methodist Church	1%	10%	89%	73
I agree the Church's "Vision" is relevant and appropriate	1%	5%	93%	74
I agree that we should be an "Inclusive, Intergenerational Church and Community Hub"	6%	4%	90%	73
I agree with the direction to develop "Worship"	4%	5%	90%	73
I agree with the direction to develop "Learning and Caring"	3%	3%	94%	73
I agree with the direction to develop "Service"	3%	6%	92%	72
I agree with the direction to develop "Evangelism"	3%	7%	90%	72
I agree with direction to develop "Resources"	4%	12%	84%	74

The scores show that there was widespread agreement with all aspects of the plan, and very little disagreement.

A total of 323 comments were made on the 77 forms. All of the comments have been typed up and every comment has been reviewed.

The Leadership Team has made changes to the plan as a result of the comments. We also discussed some comments and ultimately decided not to make changes to the plan.

Here are some of the things we discussed, and our responses:

“When we say ‘inclusive’ do we actually just mean ‘welcoming’?”

- Our definition of inclusivity is that ‘anyone and everyone will feel welcomed and loved’. We believe that being inclusive definitely means that people feel welcomed, but it is more than that – that they also feel loved. Our love for all people comes from God’s love for everyone. We also recognise that the word ‘inclusive’ is something of a buzzword, but we genuinely want to be inclusive to everyone.

“I’m concerned that, when we say church & community hub, too much emphasis may be given to community rather than church priorities.”

- This is a very valid concern to raise and we need to maintain our focus to ensure that everything we do is centred on Christ. It is why our Vision begins ‘to be a church where people learn to know Jesus Christ’ and our Priorities for Change places ‘Christ at the centre and throughout’. The new Plan for Growth states that we should be a ‘church and community hub’, as we believe that this is the best way of us engaging with our community to achieve our vision and our priorities, especially in relation to service and evangelism. As we develop, we will need to ensure that our bookings policy keeps plenty of space available for church activities and checks that external bookings are in line with what we’re trying to achieve. We have added a comment to this effect to the Resources section of the plan.

“There is a need for much prayer coverage both individual and corporate.”

- As a team, we were clear that this plan will require a great deal of continued prayer. However, we now realise that this wasn’t clear enough in the draft plan document. We have therefore added a paragraph to the ‘Priorities for Change’ page: “As we work to implement our plan, we will need to continually pray for guidance, strength & encouragement. This is a role that everyone can be involved in, whether praying individually or together with others.”

“Need to get all churches working together and not replicate activities – consult Ashbourne Churches Together?”

- We have strong links with other churches in ACT and the Circuit, and play a leading role as we work together. We are working closely with St Oswald’s Church on “Thy Kingdom Come” and exploring how we can work together when the Airfield housing is developed. As we

formulate new ideas, the teams within our church will consider whether they would be best worked on with others.

“This can be seen as a 'come to' model whereas scripture requires us to look to a 'Go out' model.”

- This was a very important point and this serves to highlight the importance of the consultation. With the Link Development in our minds, many of the ideas had related to the opportunities that will come from the redeveloped premises. It is, of course, vital that we all ‘go out’ and we have therefore added this to both the Service and Evangelism pages of the plan.

“Outreach Team have too large a job with two sections and Service and Evangelism require in my view very different skills.”

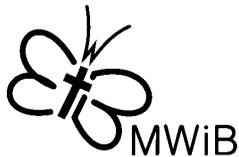
- Many of our activities are designed with both Service and Evangelism in mind, because we feel that evangelism comes best when we have already built up relationships with people and have served them generously. Examples include the Cornerstone Coffee Shop, Craft & Chat, Church Lunch, kids@cornerstone and Messy Church. The Outreach Team provides a forum for sharing between the activities and, because it is responsible for both service and evangelism, gives a regular reminder that the purpose of these activities is both service and evangelism. It is important to note that the Outreach Team are responsible for ensuring these aspects of the plan are implemented, but are not expected to run the activities themselves. The team are happy with the role and we feel it works well, so would not propose changing it.

There were also some comments which suggested additional ideas and so we have passed all of the comments onto the relevant team, to make sure they are considered when the teams develop their implementation plans.

The revised plan will be presented to Church Council on 13th May, with the final version being launched shortly afterwards.

If you have any questions, please speak to any member of the Church Leadership Team:

Rev Tim Morris, Robert Sales, Becky Dutton, Brian Hawkins, Helen Barker, Jennie Ferry, Paul Haslam, Stuart Green, Tony Walker



On being District President

March was a very busy month in my role, hosting two events and speaking at another, alongside attending my very first Nottingham and Derby District synod.

On Saturday 2nd, the spring District Day was held at Ashbourne Road church in Derby.

There we welcomed Dr Jill Barber of Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum of Primitive Methodism as speaker.

We were not disappointed! The fifty or so ladies present (plus a few husbands) sat enthralled as Jill, taking 'Hidden Voices' as her theme, told stories she had painstakingly researched of significant women in the early days of Primitive Methodism in the Derby and Nottingham area.

In a change to the usual 'bring a packed lunch' fish and chips were on the menu courtesy of a local shop.



On Wednesday 22nd, it was my privilege to share the story of women working together in British Methodism. In 2015 MWiB collected artefacts from all over the country which were duly collated and archived at Epworth Old Rectory. From this, researcher Sarah Braisdell wrote a definitive history and a major exhibition was held in 2016/17 under the title, 'Transforming the world from the kitchen?' This is what I shared. If you were unable to attend and are interested in the story, I have copies of the Exhibition brochure which takes the form of an explanatory illustrated Timeline.

Late in the evening of Sunday 24th, David and I collected Jill Baker from Derby station and travelled on to Willersley Castle, home for Jill and I until the following Thursday as speaker and host of the annual Days of Fellowship. During my time in other Districts I used to hear of the 'Willersley Week' and wondered what it was all about! Of course I now know, but it's quite different being in residence for the duration from attending for a single day as in the previous two years.

Blessed with glorious weather, it was an absolute pleasure to welcome different ladies each day, 300 over the four days.

In the preceding weeks I had been asked if it would be all right to bring a baby! Of course it was and we duly welcomed Joshua and his mum on the Thursday - lovely to witness a warm inter generational friendship between them and others from their home church.

Taking as her title, 'In a good place?' Jill expertly interwove stories of her own special places and sacred spaces with a Bible study on 'Bethel' and her many and varied experiences of Pilgrimage.

I returned home on Thursday teatime exhausted, but elated, for one day of respite before I was duly collected by John and Elizabeth to attend Synod in my MWiB role. This time, as a delegate, I could sit and relax a little!
Sue Leese (MWiB District President)

MWiB - Dedication of Easter Offerings 12 May 2019

Easter Offerings will be dedicated at a Circuit Service to be held on Sunday 12 May 2019 at 10.30 am at Ashbourne Methodist Church. The theme of the Service is 'Longer Tables, Lower Fences'. It will be led by the Rev Tim Morris and ladies from the circuit.

All Easter Offerings go to the World Mission Fund to support God's Mission in 65 partner churches outside Britain and Ireland. There will be an offering at the service for this fund also. We hope you will support this Service.

District Afternoon Tea at Willersley – Wednesday 22 May

The next District event will be Afternoon Tea at Willersley on Wednesday 22 May. The programme for the afternoon is coffee at 1.30 pm followed at 2 pm by the Rev Linda Williams on Church Embroidery. Afternoon tea will be at 3.30 pm. The cost for this event is £9.50. If you would like to go, please contact Alma (343751). I am sure it will be an interesting afternoon with good fellowship and food!

Dates for your diary

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Sat 1 June | Afternoon tea at Cliff and Sandra's in aid of The Link Project |
| Wed 10 July | District Summer Special Event:
At Home with Gill and Sue at 65 Glasshouse Hill, Codnor |
| Mon 15 July | Circuit AGM and Supper Evening at Brailsford
Speaker: David Bale on Mambabu |

Alma Swan



Christian Aid Week: 'All mums should live'

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows, it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went into labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking. Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

This Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May, our church is doing a door-to-door collection around Ashbourne. Last year we raised £2,336! Collecting in this way can be difficult, but it raises more money than any other event that we could organise and gives different people an opportunity to give. Last year we delivered over 1000 envelopes and visited just 3 houses to get a filled envelope back, with each envelope contained an average of £5.48. If you're new to the Church or haven't done this before, why not give it a go?!

If you're not able to help with the Christian Aid Week collection, maybe you can bake a tray-bake or help to sell them in Tissington 30 May - 2 June (see overleaf) Will you be a partner for change? Every £300 we raise could help provide a new delivery bed so more mums like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely.



Photo credit: Christian Aid/Tom Pilston

Speak to Catherine Green today and join us so women like Jebbeh can celebrate more happy birth days.



Tissington Well Dressings Cake Stall 30 May - 2 June

A reminder that each year the ACT One World Group organises a stall at the Tissington Well Dressings. See the article in last month's magazine. We sell slices of cake to the visitors and a selection of Traidcraft goods. The proceeds go to Christian Aid.

CAN YOU HELP?

No previous experience necessary. Please consider carefully and prayerfully whether you could spare a couple of hours (or more!!) to help. It is not onerous work and it is a good opportunity to meet both visitors to the Well Dressings and your fellow helpers from other churches or none. Many of the helpers make a day of it – spending a couple of hours on the cake stall, and then having a gentle walk around the village to enjoy the well dressings.

We also need people to bake cakes for the stall that we can sell by the slice, not as whole cakes.

We sell between 200 and 300 slices per day!

After Easter there will be lists in the various churches for staffing the stall and for providing cakes. Please try and help this very worthwhile event.

John Hurfurt 342859 jandehurfurt@supanet.com

'Being Real'

'Thy Kingdom Come' is the global wave of prayer - calling all Christians to pray for evangelisation from Ascension to Pentecost (30 May - 9 June).

As part of 'Thy Kingdom Come', a District event is taking place on 8th June, 1.00pm-5.30pm at Samworth Church Academy Mansfield, NG18 2DY. This will be an afternoon of worship, teaching, art, music, fellowship and prayer.

There is something for everyone starting with a picnic and entertainment, followed by worship and prayer. There will be "Ted Talks", sports and games, prayer stations, crafts and seminars. See posters for more details.

Transport can be arranged by contacting Carole Thorpe on cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535.

Our Creative Faith - a month of readings and reflections

This summer we're planning to do a new book of reflections on Bible passages, similar to the Lent Booklet of 2018.

In August, many of our usual church groups and activities take a break and often we're all busy coming and going; here in Ashbourne for a week or two or off to friends, family or for our own holidays. Sometimes it feels a bit like it's easy to lose touch with each other.

So this August the idea is that as we do all those summer things – some fun, some with responsibilities; some of us in Ashbourne and some of us away – that we also have a booklet of reflections on Biblical passages. Wherever we are, we can all join in working our way through a short devotional reading each day, knowing that our church family is doing likewise - and we're hoping that it will bring us closer together as we reflect on scripture together and appreciate one another's thoughts and prayers.

The theme we have chosen is 'Creativity' – a wide subject covering many different aspects of change, newness and renewal.

- We need 31 people each of whom will be given a reading of just a few verses on which to write a short reflection.
- We're looking for 100-150 words with a short prayer too if you would like to add one. This works out at no more than two or three paragraphs.
- What should I write? It's up to you! Perhaps it's something the passage makes you think of, or a memory it brings to mind or something you feel is important for us to think about. The choice is endless!

If you'd like one of us to work with you, we're good at encouragement! (If you can talk about what you mean but find it difficult to get on to paper, we can make notes and pull it into shape with you – but it'll still be your thoughts and your contribution!)

If you'd like to take part then do get in touch – we know that the talent is out there!

*Fiona Green 343011 onesmallflock@btinternet.com
Stuart Green and Wendy Haslam*

Around the world with JMA!

(Junior Mission for All)

For members, their friends and young people interested in JMA



Sunday 5 May - JMA breakfast in the Cornerstone 9.00-10.00 am

Learning more about Sierra Leone

Sunday 25 June - JMA lunch in the Cornerstone 12.00-2.00pm

Learning more about Venezuela

Further details from Ruth Mallard

Gift Aid

The churches within our circuit benefitted by over £16,000 in 2017/18 from claims under the gift aid scheme. The only eligibility requirement is to be a taxpayer!

If you wish to join the many church members who enhance the value of their donations in this way, please contact John Micklethwaite who can provide more details and a copy of the straightforward form needed for joining the scheme. He can be contacted by email to johnndale29@waitrose.com or by telephone at 347799.



What is Methodism?

Tuesday 7th May at 7.30pm

What does it mean to be a Christian in the Methodist Church?

A short introduction to its origins, character, belief, and practice of the Methodist Church - for those new, and not so new, to Methodism. Everyone welcome.

This event was originally organised for 29th January, but few were able to attend because of the weather. Another opportunity has therefore been arranged for Tuesday 7th May in the Cornerstone. The meeting will commence at 7.30pm with tea/coffee and nibbles beforehand.

*Led by Rev David Leese and
hosted by Rev Tim Morris*

BOOK AID

PROVIDING CHRISTIAN LITERATURE IN AREAS OF NEED

Book Aid supplies Christian books to Africa countries, particularly Kenya, Nigeria and Zimbabwe. The need for Christian books continues and they particularly request Bibles.

A big thank you to all who have contributed books to Book Aid over recent months and years. Spring is in the air and it is a good time to have another clear out of our bookshelves. I am collecting any Christian books or other reference books in good condition and will take them to Book Aid. So please start having a sort-out now!

Richard Odell

Bible Month: 30 Days in Colossians

Bible Month, supported by the Methodist Church, invites churches to engage deeply with Scripture by focussing on a single book of the Bible over a calendar month – through Sunday worship, home groups and individual study.

Focussing on a single book of the Bible allows us to gain a greater sense of the importance of context, both literary and historical. It encourages us to explore how a book develops, to identify links between passage within the book, and to engage with the whole of it.

For 2019, we focus on Colossians, a letter which presents a powerful vision of Jesus and his significance. At Ashbourne and at Brailsford, there will be a series of four morning services: based on Colossians:

Passage	Ashbourne	Brailsford	Preacher
1:1-23	26 May	2 June	John Dyster
1:24 - 2:15	2 June	9 June	Fiona Green
2:16 - 3:17	16 June	23 June	Diana Whitmill
3:18 - 4:18	23 June	30 June	Rev Mark Broadhurst

Home groups are encouraged to plan their studies to fit in with Bible month. Resources are available to assist preachers and group leaders.

John Dyster

ASHBOURNE COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



Work is under way to refurbish the Church Storeroom in the playground at the back of the church, and before long it will be a workshop where people can come to make, repair or upcycle various items of their choice.

Everyone will be welcome to come and enjoy using their skills and/or learning new ones from each other in a safe, friendly and sociable environment.

We need tools and equipment to fit out our workshop – hand tools, power tools, a lathe, workbenches, wood and metal vices, toolboxes/chests etc. We can collect, sort and hopefully repair anything donated.

Please speak to Brian Hawkins, Richard Odell or Erik Tettelaar

From the Editors

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

We would welcome contributions for the next edition – **June 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 15th May**

Publication date: **Sunday 26th May**

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

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday May 5th

Ashbourne	10:30	Diana Whitmill	
	18:30	Praise – Gareth Rutledge	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Peter Dawson	United Service at Methodist
Parwich	14:30	United Service C of E	

Sunday May 12th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Easter Offering Circuit service
	18:30	Rev Dr Stella Mills	Communion
Brailsford	10:30	At Ashbourne	
Kniveton	10:30	At Ashbourne	

Sunday May 19th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
	18:30	Praise – Sue Leese	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age
Parwich	10:00	Rev David Leese	United Service
Tissington	10:30	Robert Sales	

Sunday May 26th

Ashbourne	10:30	John Dyster	Colossians 1:1-23
	18:30	Tim Dutton	
Brailsford	10:30	Fiona Green	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Peter Dawson	
Kniveton	11:00	Ruth Barratt	

Thursday May 30th

Tissington	11:00		Well Dressing Service
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Sunday June 2nd

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	Colossians 1:24 – 2:15
	18:30	Praise – Rev Tim Morris	Century Hall with Communion
Brailsford	10:30	John Dyster	Colossians 1:1-23 (USM)
Parwich	9:30	United Service C of E	

Wednesday June 5th

Milldale	19:00	Rev David Leese	
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The details in **Bold** are changes to the usual plan.

Dates for your diary and your prayers

May

Thu 2nd	19:30	Bible Month Training at Littleover
4th – 11th		District Mission in Trent and Dove Circuit
Sun 5th	09.00	JMA breakfast – learning about Sierra Leone
Tue 7th	19:30	What is Methodism?
Sun 12th	15:30	#Be Courageous Youth Event at Littleover with Jasmine Yeboah, Youth President
Mon 13th	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council
Thu 16th	19:30	Brailsford Church Council
Wed 29th	10:00	Messy Church in Century Hall
Thu 30th	11:00	Tissington Well Dressing Service

June

Bible Month - Colossians

Sat 8th	19:00	Rhythm of Life concert at Ashbourne
Sat 8th	13:00	District Event “Being Real” at Mansfield
Tue 18th	19:00	Pastoral talk by Paul Waters – signs of dementia
Tue 18th	19:30	Relationship talk– Gedling Road Methodist Church
Sun 25th	12:00	JMA lunch – learning about Venezuela
Thu 27th	19:30	Ashbourne Annual Church Meeting

July

Sat 6th	10:00	Inspirational Intergenerational Ideas
Tue 11th	19:30	Relationship talk – Nuthall Methodist Church
Sun 14th		Circuit Summer Event
Tue 16th	19:30	Relationship talk – Langans, Burton on Trent

August

Sat 17th	9:00	Ashbourne Show
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Circuit website: www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk

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 (343751)</i>
	12.30pm	Luncheon Club: last Tuesday in month. Century Hall <i>Contact – John & 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>
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)



Rhythm of Life

**A Concert for a Summer Evening
featuring Chameleon Choir,
'A Little Light Music' Sax Quartet
Organist Greg Barker**



**7pm on Saturday 8th June
Ashbourne Methodist Church**

Tickets £8 (£1 for under 16s)

~ Refreshments served during the interval ~

~ All proceeds to "The Link Development", Church & Community Hub ~

To book a ticket call 01335 360308, email info@chameleonchoral.co.uk

or see our website www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk/events