

Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit
December 2020 – January 2021

Letter from the Minister

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Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1SZ
Tel: 01335 342408
email: tim.morris@methodist.org.uk

Dear Friends,

“I’ll be home for Christmas”

Where will you be and what are you doing this Christmas? It certainly looks as if things will be very different this year!



It’s fair to say we’re all a bit uncertain about what Christmas is going to look like this year. Perhaps we’re feeling a bit anxious, afraid, annoyed, or relieved! Yet the Christmas message of Emmanuel – the good news that God is with us – feels more appropriate than ever before in this extraordinary year.

The Methodist Church’s Christmas campaign for 2020 is called #GodsWithUs. It seeks to share this good news through stories of various individuals and their experiences of this extraordinary year.

Each day in Advent there will be a shared testimony from somebody connected to the Methodist Church, reflecting on what hope has looked like for them this year and how they have experienced God with them.

The stories include those who have felt the full effects of isolation, who have experienced extreme poverty, who have struggled with poor mental health, who have lost loved ones – like so many millions of others. But ultimately, incredibly, God’s loving presence radiates from each of them in beams of powerful hope. Hope that is so necessary for such a time as this.

GOD
IS WITH
us

Echoed by the reported words of John Wesley on his death bed: ‘the best of all is, God is with us’ the Christmas campaign reminds us that even in the times which feel most uncertain, we can be certain of God. Who do you know who needs to hear this message over the coming months?

We are encouraged to consider our own story of faith in 2020 and to share it with others - to reflect, share stories, and reach out to others outside the church and encourage them to do the same.

For further resources go to: www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/evangelism-growth/practising-evangelism/evangelism-in-a-digital-world/godiswithus-christmas-campaign-2020

In January, some way or another, we will be encouraged to renew our Covenant, the covenant with God. It's not just a Methodist "thing", but something all Christians can engage with, and others have found very powerful (see page 11).

We shall continue this in the new year as we begin to explore 'A Methodist Way of Life'. The calling of the Methodist Church is to "respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission".

It's a way for Christians in the Methodist tradition to express their discipleship and spirituality by commitment to a set of practices based on "Our Calling". It puts into words how we can live our lives in response to God's love made known to us in Jesus. Like the early Christians, we seek to express what it means to follow Jesus in the regular, practical actions of worship, learning and caring, service and evangelism.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved". Acts 2:42-47

The commitments of 'A Methodist Way of Life' – which were distributed with the membership tickets this year – remind us of, and provide a compass for, Christian living. This is a challenge for all Christians. So through preaching, articles and in housegroups we hope to share together in the themes of A Methodist Way of Life. For details go to: www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/a-methodist-way-of-life

As we start the Advent and Christmas season, and prepare for the coming new year, let us remember that: the best of all is, God is with us!

Your Minister and friend,

Ken Morris

THE BEST
OF ALL IS,
GOD
IS WITH US.

Circuit Family News

It is lovely to share good news with everyone, especially during these difficult times. We send our congratulations to Jennie and Harold Weston who married at Tissington Chapel on October 14th. Also to Don Cox's granddaughter Lydia who has just gained her MSc with distinction from Sheffield University. On 18th January 2021, Kay and Barrie Orme are celebrating their Diamond wedding anniversary and we send our congratulations to them both.

Our thoughts, love and prayers are with Val Kirkham of Parwich and her family following the death of her husband John.

Our best wishes for the future to Jane Bowley whose post as Family Outreach Worker has been made redundant due to financial restraints and the continuing Covid restrictions.

I know that there are several people in particular need of our love and prayers at the moment: Elizabeth Spencer, Kay Orme, Joyce Wood, Carole Thorpe, Jenny Waring, Chris Evans and David Franklin. I am sure there will be others that you may know about.

On Sundays from 6th December, Ashbourne Methodist Church will hopefully be open to enable people to join the pre-recorded service. This will be the same one that people are watching at home via the Circuit website/Facebook. Please see separate article on page 20.

As I write this, I know that people's thoughts are moving towards Christmas and wondering how we are going to celebrate the birth of Jesus with our family and friends. We still don't know what the rules will be. But please contact us if you know of anyone who would like company or a meal over Christmas.

If you have any people or matters which you would like to share with someone for prayer, then please contact Rev Tim, myself, your pastoral visitor or house group. Also, Time for Prayer, although not taking place in the vestry, is still meeting on Zoom every Thursday from 9.30-10.30am. Lorraine Hawkins can give you the details if you wish to join.

Wendy Haslam Pastoral Secretary 18.11.2020

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

James 1:17

Recent activities

Take-out Church

During the summer holidays, 40 packs of stories, activities, colouring sheets and games were packaged into Pizza boxes and advertised amongst Kids@Cornerstone and Powersource families - the uptake was excellent, and none were left.

For half term in October, 60 Pizza boxes for young children with the theme of Harvest were assembled and 40 bags put together for the older generation. Collection was organised outside of our Ashbourne Church on the Friday and Saturday as the holiday commenced, and a gazebo, buntings and posters were erected.

Despite the rain, take up and appreciation of these Bible based packs has been terrific and a further 15 Pizza packs were hurriedly assembled due to excess demand.

Feedback has been very good, plus the small team who arranged the whole event had a good Covid distanced time of fun and fellowship.

Sandra Lewer

Ashbourne Online Treasure Hunt

In mid-October, the One World Group (part of Ashbourne Churches Together) organised a Treasure Hunt to raise money for Christian Aid.

Six teams took part, with members joining by Zoom. Each team had one "hunter" in town, in the Zoom meeting on their mobile phone, who was directed around the town as the team tried to solve the clues. The clues had been developed by Geof Cole, who is one of our town Heritage Guides and part of Ashbourne Heritage Society.

The teams solved the clues using a mixture of local knowledge, Google, history books and phoning friends. Teams from Ashbourne Probus Club, St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne Methodist Church, as well as family teams, enjoyed the event, which was great fun, as people went jogging around town trying to find specific places to solve the clues (some of which were quite tricky!).

Three teams correctly solved all 12 clues, so the fastest team was declared the winner. The winning team was "Party Time", so called because one of the team members was celebrating her 80th Birthday!

Stuart Green

Online Christmas Concert

Virtual Ashbourne Methodist Church at Christmas



Sunday 6th December at 7.15 for 7.30pm

"Following the success of our 'virtual tour' in October we are playing a few Christmas shows in December in the same format, with concert quality audio, visual and lighting. In the very sad absence of a St Agnes Fountain tour this year we've decided to bring our seasonal repertoire to your living rooms featuring many of our "Aggie" classics. So put the mince pies in the oven, light the fire and spend an evening with us celebrating our favourite holiday season." Chris While and Julie Matthews.

Rev Tim Morris and Catherine Green of Ashbourne Methodist Church will be introducing the online concert as part of fund-raising for the LINK project which is currently awaiting planning permission.

Chris While & Julie Matthews:

"They light up the room with their amazing energy" - James Taylor

"Truly gifted human beings" - Richard Hawley

"Chris While is the best singer in England" - Eddi Reader

"The undisputed queens of British folk" - The Guardian

Tickets (£15) available on their website:
www.whileandmatthews.com/virtual-tour

Pay by PayPal or choose Credit/Debit card option.

OR cheque to Blue Moon Music, 57 Mortimer Road, Penistone S36 6DE (give your email address) OR online banking to Blue Moon Music Sort Code 30 97 88 Acc. No. 00134790 and confirm by email to Janet at jammyfx@icloud.com who will reply with the ticket weblink.

John Barker

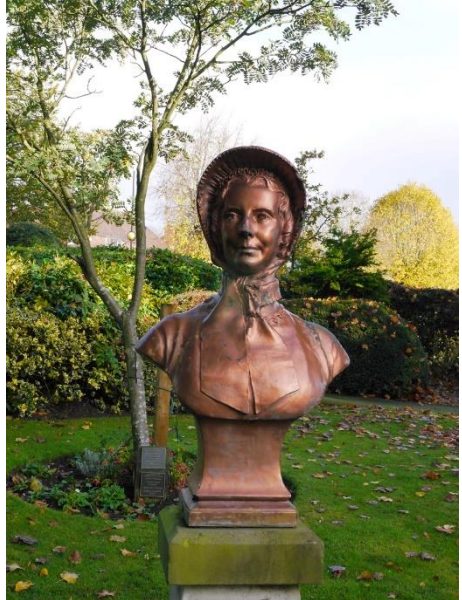
The Salvation Army and Ashbourne

Catherine Mumford

Ashbourne is the birthplace of Catherine Mumford who, in 1855, married William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. Catherine was born on 17th January 1829 at 13 Sturston Lane (now Sturston Road). This humble cottage is marked by a simple plaque above the door.

In 1834, the family moved to Boston, Lincolnshire, and then in 1844 to Brixton, London. By that time, Catherine was a committed Christian: she and her mother were devout and enthusiastic members of the Methodist Church.

She and William Booth first met in 1851 and became engaged in 1852. William was born in the same year as Catherine. At the time of their meeting, he was a Methodist local preacher but had been turned down as a candidate for the ministry. In 1855, he was ordained as a minister in the Methodist New Connexion and then married Catherine.



In 1860, Catherine also became a preacher and deputised for William when he was indisposed. William then felt called to evangelistic work, rather than circuit ministry. The following year, he broke free from the Methodist New Connection and set up an independent mission. Catherine was a full partner in this enterprise. In 1868, they acquired a mission hall in East London, and by 1874 the East London Mission had become a national institution. The title 'Salvation Army' was officially adopted in 1880. William took the rank of General and Catherine was regarded as the 'Mother of the Salvation Army'.

There is a bust of Catherine Booth in Ashbourne Park which was unveiled on Easter Sunday 1962. It was created by the Morris Art Bronze Foundry of London, based on work by the sculptor George Edward Wade (1853-1933).



The Army Mother



Major Dora Booth



Colonel Mary Booth, C.B.E.

THE SALVATION ARMY

Commanding Officers
Major and Mrs. WILF. BROWN



DERBY CENTRAL CORPS
OSMASTON ROAD

SOUVENIR OF EVENTS

on the occasion of the visit of

COLONEL MARY BOOTH, C.B.E.

accompanied by Major DORA BOOTH

Saturday and Sunday, November 23 and 24, 1946

Saturday, at ASHBOURNE, DERBY.

3.15 p.m. OPEN-AIR MEETING in Sturton Lane

Colonel MARY BOOTH will unveil Commemorative Tablet at Birthplace of The Army Mother, Catherine Booth

6 p.m. OPEN-AIR MEETING. Market Square

7 p.m. SALVATION MEETING in the Trinity Methodist Church

(kindly lent for the occasion)

Chairman : G. T. RUSHTON, Esq.

Sunday, The Salvation Army Citadel, Osmaston Road

11 a.m. HOLINESS MEETING.

3 p.m. Colonel MARY BOOTH, C.B.E.

(who has been a Prisoner of War) will speak of her experiences in Germany and Belgium
SIR ARTHUR AIRTON, C.B.E., accompanied by LADY AIRTON, will preside
supported by other influential Ladies and Gentlemen

SALVATION MEETING at 6.45 p.m.



Major DOROTHY MUIRHEAD, the Divisional Commander, will support throughout



The events of 1946

This notice was posted recently on a Salvation Army Facebook site. Paul Finnity, a member of the Derby Central Salvation Army who lives locally and is well known to Don Cox, thought it may be of interest to our church members.

In November 1946, Colonel Mary Booth, grand-daughter of William and Catherine Booth, visited Ashbourne, accompanied by her sister, Major Dora Booth.

Colonel Mary Booth was renowned for her welfare work amongst British troops in France 1914-18, for which she received the CBE. She was the leader of the Salvation Army's work in post-war Germany, then served in a number of other European countries. On the outbreak of World War II, she was in Belgium and consequently interned for three years in German camps, before being repatriated in 1943.

In the afternoon of Saturday 23rd November 1946 there was an open-air meeting in Sturston Lane, when Mary Booth unveiled the commemorative plaque which still remains on her grandmother's birthplace.



This was followed in the evening by a Salvation (evangelistic) Meeting in what was then known as the Trinity Methodist Church. Colonel Booth was the principal speaker. This meeting was attended by Don, as a boy of 14. Following the closure of the Beulah Methodist Chapel in 1965, Trinity became simply the 'Ashbourne Methodist Church'.

A long-standing association

The event in 1946 was the beginning of a long association between the Ashbourne Methodist Church and the Derby Central Corps of the Salvation Army, which was founded in 1882.

In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, the Derby Salvation Army Band regularly gave concerts in the church. Paul was Band Secretary at the time and worked with Don in arranging these concerts. He says that Don was very supportive of the band.

ASHBOURNE (Trinity) METHODIST CHURCH
Chairman : G. T. RUSHTON, Esq.

Saturday, November 23rd.
7 p.m.

PROGRAMME

OPENING SONG (Tune: 'Nativity,' T.B. 100)

OH, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise ;
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace !

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honours of Thy name.

He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
He sets the prisoner free ;
His Blood can make the foulest clean,
His Blood avails for me.

PRAYER Rev. G. H. LESTER (Superintendent Minister)

EXPRESSION OF WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
by Major DOROTHY MUIRHEAD (Divisional Commander)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

MARCH—' Victors Acclaimed ' DERBY CENTRAL BAND

VOCAL SOLO—' Unfathomed Love ' Songster JEAN GILLIVER

VOCAL MARCH—' Toward the Mark ' DERBY CENTRAL SONGSTER BRIGADE

COLONEL MARY BOOTH, C.B.E., will speak

SELECTION—' Banner of Liberty ' DERBY CENTRAL BAND

ANNOUNCEMENTS and OFFERING

CORNET SOLO—' Long, Long Ago ' Deputy-Bandmaster SMITH

BIBLE READING Major DORA BOOTH

COURTESIES : Major R. TRAINER, D.Y.P.S.

SONG—' Hark, 'tis the Master's Call ' DERBY CENTRAL SONGSTER BRIGADE

THE DOXOLOGY



The Derby Central Songsters also visited for concerts on a regular basis over the same period. The Songster Leader for most of the visits was Ian Hammond, whose mother, Jean Gilliver at the time, sang a solo at the 1946 event. Ian is still playing in the band. Graham Smith, the son of the Deputy Bandmaster Smith who played a cornet solo at the event, is also still a member of Derby Central.

The Army Band last visited the church in 2015, although two years ago a concert was given in St John's Church. Don was in touch with the band more recently to try to arrange another concert in 2020. This has of course been thwarted by the coronavirus, but it is still hoped that another concert can be arranged before too long.

John Dyster with assistance from Paul Finity and Don Cox

THE METHODIST COVENANT SERVICE

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” Matthew 16:24

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” Matthew 22:37



John Wesley is generally held in high regard for his strenuous pioneer labours in founding and establishing what was first known as the Methodist Society, or Connexion.

Connexion (spelt with an 'x') is an important word because it connected the various societies and members across the country, and the world. It was a society. It connected the wealthy and the poor, those in plenty and those in need. These societies were all founded on the personal experience of men and women who had encountered Christ's saving love and understood a corresponding call for a full individual response.

Although an Anglican priest, when Wesley encountered practices in other Christian churches that he found helpful, he was happy to adopt them.

He had exposure to the life and witness of the Moravian church (our nearest Moravian settlement is at Ockbrook), and so two practices, the Watchnight and the Lovefeast service, in particular, became part of Methodist life and worship, and have come to us today.

From 1755, Wesley incorporated the Covenant service, taken from the Puritan tradition. So it can be seen that Wesley, where he saw merit, was eclectic in moulding a Methodist spirituality. This is our spirituality.

The Watchnight was thankfulness for the past year, the Lovefeast a corporate expression of present spiritual experience, and the Covenant a renewal of our personal promise together to God.

The Covenant service is now normally held only once per year, usually in January, or sometimes at the start of the Connexional year in September. It is a response to God's abounding love and grace and, as the Methodist Worship Book states: *"the Covenant is not just a one to one transaction between individuals, but the act of the whole faith community"*. This includes me and you.

The challenge of Covenant is that it is a covenant - not a contract. Contracts have conditions, a Covenant is a total giving, there are no conditions - He is ours and we are His. It is all we are, hope for, and are yet to be. The service states: *"We are content that he appoint us our place and work, and that he himself be our reward,"* and our response is:

*"I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will...
let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you."*

It is sometimes said that, in the Christian life, the enrolment fee is nothing, but the annual subscription is everything - demanding words for us all to be reminded of. It might be considered that to become a Christian requires nothing but our consent to follow, but the years that ensue demonstrate that the annual subscription is indeed all we have and are. The Covenant service affirms this.

The service has traditionally included a Charles Wesley hymn (Singing the Faith 549). The second verse reads:

*"Give up ourselves, through Jesu's power,
his name to glorify,
and promise in this sacred hour,
for God to live and die."*

So we promise ourselves to God. In the words of Matthew's Gospel at the top of this article, it is about denying ourselves and following. Whether we be employed by God, or laid aside, exalted or brought low, whether we be full or empty, we are His and He is ours. So be it - no conditions! It is Covenant.

Rev David Leese

Worship at Home on Sunday 3rd January will be our Annual Covenant Service, led by Rev Tim Morris.



NEWS UPDATE FROM THE PHAKAMISA UK TRUST

The UK Trust held a meeting last week via Zoom and we were able to invite Zethu, the Phakamisa administrator, to join in and tell us about the current situation in Pinetown.

If we had been a little subdued, the mood of the meeting was suddenly lifted by the enthusiasm and energy of Zethu as she spoke of the arrangements they had in place to keep all safe and yet be able to restart the work.

The students have been allocated certain days when they can collect work and then return it, having studied at home. It is important that they are able to do this, as they should be graduating at the end of the year.

She then told us of the remarkable day when the Gogos (grannies) tried to storm the building. They needed to see that Thokozani was not in her office, clinging to the hope that somebody had got the story wrong. Eventually they were encouraged to go home, and stay there, as it was not safe for them to be travelling in overcrowded minibuses into Pinetown. The Monitors are trying to visit the care giver groups to support them in their vital work with the young.

The Wandering Schools are not yet open, but the teachers have collected materials and used them with a few of the children to make the Christmas Cards for us. Watch out for yours later on in December!

Covid 19 has left its mark on Phakamisa, and round the world, but it has strengthened the will and determination of the staff to continue, whatever the difficulties, with the work.

We thank you for your continued support. In due course we will let you know when Thokozani's successor is appointed. Meanwhile, please continue to pray for all involved in Phakamisa, both here and in South Africa.

via Richard Odell

Poems for Christmas

Mary

Mary, did you want this?

Did anyone ask you
if you wanted to be
the mother of a saviour?

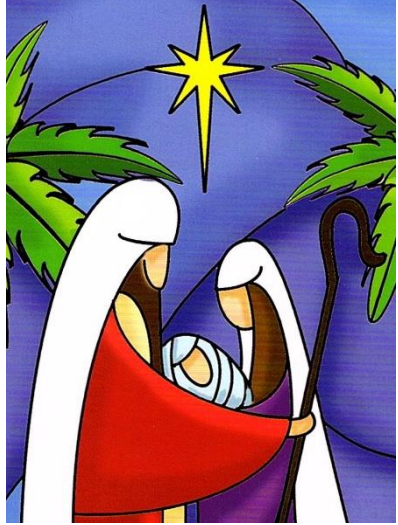
Did anyone grasp
that your humanity would be lost
in the God-ness of your son?

Did anyone remember
that this child – to you –
was yours before ever he was theirs?

Did you weep when you lost him
and lost him again –
to the crowds, to the lost, to the cross?

And as we hear in his first cry
the early echo of his last –
tell me Mary, did you want this?

Fiona Green



When the song of the angels is stilled

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the peoples,
to make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Three pages of ideas for Christmas presents...

Christmas cards & gifts from The Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission has a lovely range of Christmas cards, Advent calendars, gifts and Christian books available. By buying from TLM, you are supporting leprosy-affected people around the world.

Any items ordered via Stuart Green come with free delivery and a commission which goes to Ashbourne's Link Development Project.

You can view the product range online at www.tlmtrading.com, or Stuart can send you a catalogue (PDF or paper version) (01335 300338).

Body Shop products to benefit our Link Project

Would you like to buy ethically sourced Body Shop products for yourself or for gifts from the comfort of your home?

I can provide a link to the catalogue or deliver you a paper copy safely. Orders can be delivered directly to you or to an address you choose. A Christmas and special occasion gift wrapping service is available too at no extra cost.

10% of profits from any orders will be donated to the Ashbourne's Link Development Project.

Joy Mallard joy@mallards.me.uk 07960 592915

Traidcraft

Traidcraft is now going from strength to strength and sells a wide range of Fairtrade and fairly traded gifts, crafts, food and household products. Details at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

If you would like to order any Traidcraft products, including Christmas cards, I am very happy to place orders for you on behalf of the Ashbourne Churches Together Traidcraft Group. I can place orders of any size (no order is too small or too large) and deliver them to you.

We make a small amount of profit on everything we sell (in other words everything you buy) and we donate this back each year to Traidcraft Exchange, the charity which works alongside Traidcraft as part of its mission to use the power of trade to create lasting solutions to poverty.

If you would like to know more or place an order then please get in touch. *Clare Sales* 342321 gatefarm10@btinternet.com

Beside Still Waters – the book!



Beside Still Waters

A Time of Reflection

You may recall that back in July we organised a time of reflection and craft based around three Bible passages – Jesus calms the storm, Jesus washes the disciples' feet and Jesus, the water of life.

As part of the day we encouraged participants to make a prayer square which was their response to these passages and the lockdown challenges they were facing. Many also wrote about their creations and what they meant to them.

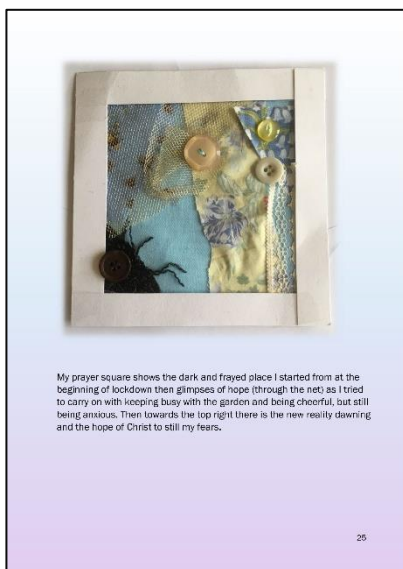
It quickly became clear that these visual and verbal testimonies, made with such thought and imagination, should be preserved as a record of a significant moment in the long history of our Circuit and shared so that others can reflect on them too. Thus the idea of 'Beside Still Waters' in book form came about, and thanks go to Stuart for making it happen. The prayer squares were made to be part of a banner which will unite our prayers, and this is still happening too.

The book is now available to purchase at £5 per copy and can be delivered locally for free. If you would like a copy posted out to you or a friend or family member I can do that for you. The postage cost is £1.40 (this will obviously increase for multiple copies).

Any profits we make from the sale of the book will go to the Link Project.

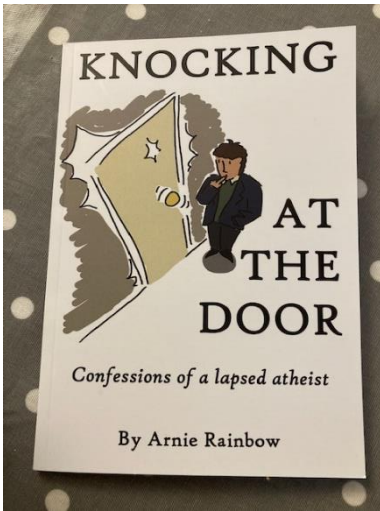
Of course they make ideal Christmas presents!

Please contact me if you would like any copies: *Clare Sales 342321*
gatefarm10@btinternet.com



My prayer square shows the dark and frayed place I started from at the beginning of lockdown then glimpses of hope (through the net) as I tried to carry on with keeping busy with the garden and being cheerful, but still being anxious. Then towards the top right there is the new reality dawning and the hope of Christ to still my fears.

25



'Knocking at the Door', subtitled 'Confessions of a lapsed atheist', is a 40 page booklet written by a friend of mine from the Ashbourne Writers Group, Arnie Rainbow. I am sure some of you will also know Arnie from other Ashbourne groups and organisations.

It tells the story of his own journey of faith from 'atheist to fan of Jesus', and he engages with some of the questions and issues which can be barriers to faith.

He explains in everyday words why he believes Jesus is the only solution for a broken world: a beautiful world broken

by selfishness and addiction to power.

It is easy to read and includes some helpful and witty illustrations. I passed my own copy on to Rosemary Webb, and this is what she said about it:

"Have read Arnie's book and am really impressed with it. It covers so many important thoughts in a very straightforward and easy to understand way and it is so un-pompous, which is really refreshing. I personally found it helpful and would certainly recommend it to others. Thank you for giving us a copy."

If you would like to purchase a copy from Arnie, at a cost of £4, please contact him at arnie.rainbow@btinternet.com

He would also be interested to hear from you if you would like a few copies (at no cost) for the purposes of mission.

Cathy Stubbs



"I have tried to write the book that I needed fifty years ago"

-Arnie Rainbow, Author



Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Due to the Covid-19 virus, normal services in our chapels are suspended at the moment, but we continue to meet and worship in other ways.

There is an online **Worship at Home** service at 10:30 each Sunday on www.facebook.com/ashbournemethodist or via the Circuit website www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk

These services remain on the website for some weeks and can also be viewed later.

With effect from 6th December, it will also be possible to participate in these services at Ashbourne Methodist Church – see page 20.

On the second Sunday each month, we can share in **Songs of Praise**. A sheet with web links is available on the Circuit website.

On the last Sunday each month, there is a service on **Zoom**. Details are in the weekly notice sheet and on the Circuit website.

We are all very grateful to everyone who makes it possible for us to worship together on a Sunday, including Stuart Green and Tom Haines who work behind the scenes and understand the technology.

10to10

This is our weekly 30 minute session for children in school years 1-6 starting at 9.50am on Sundays. It will include games, videos, a short Bible discussion & prayer time. If you know someone who would like to join in please contact Stuart Green (300338) for the Zoom details.

Open churches

Ashbourne Methodist Church is currently open for private prayer each week on Tuesdays and Saturdays 10am -5pm

Brailsford Methodist Church is currently open for private prayer each week on Tuesdays 9.30am – 11.30am.

Tissington and Milldale chapels are also open.

Services at Ashbourne Methodist Church

On Sundays from 6th December, the church will hopefully be open to allow people to watch the pre-recorded service, at 10.30am, which is also being shown simultaneously online.

We are still encouraging everyone to join this worship from home if they can. Those who are unable to do this, or feel they wish to attend in person, will need to book their seat in advance so that we keep the Church Covid compliant.

If you wish to attend the service at church, you will need to book your space by phoning the person on duty by 12 noon on the Saturday. This allows us to organize the seating to allow for social distancing. Other safety measures will also be required, including giving contact details, wearing of face masks etc.

For the services on Sunday 6th and 13th December please ring:
Wendy Haslam: 01335-345560, or Mobile: 07813456943

Future details will be available in the weekly Circuit Notices. But if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Wendy Haslam



National Methodist Youth Brass Band Christmas concert

If you enjoy some seasonal brass music, then look out for the NMYBB Christmas concert which will go live on You Tube on Saturday 5 December in the evening. You may spot a familiar Ashbourne face amongst the players.

For more details look at the band's Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/NMYBB

And there will be some musical treats available on the Facebook page throughout Advent too.

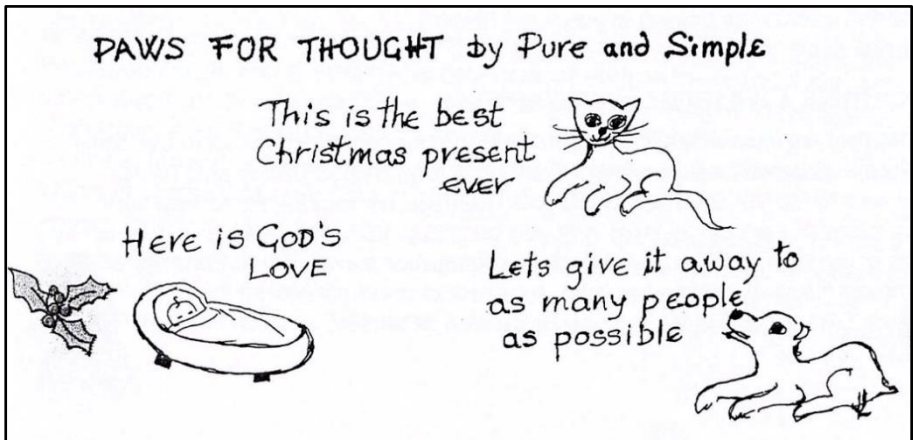
Clare Sales

From the archives

(used with permission!)



One Small Flock - one of a series by Fiona Green



Paws for Thought - one of a series by Jacinth Land

Dates for your diary and your prayers

Tuesday 1st December

Local Preachers meeting 7.30pm on Zoom

Wednesday 3rd February

Church Council 7.30pm - it is yet to be decided whether this will be at the Church Premises, or on Zoom, or a combination of the two.

Keep in touch by visiting the website for up-to-date news:

www.ashbournmethodist.org.uk

Contributions from the U3A

The computer swallowed Grandma, yes honestly it's true. She pressed 'control' and 'enter' and disappeared from view. It devoured her completely, the thought makes me squirm. She must have caught a virus or been eaten by a worm. I've searched through the re-cycle bin and files of every kind, I've even used the internet, but nothing did I find. In desperation, I even asked Jeeves my searches to refine. The results from him were negative, not a thing was found on-line, So, if inside your 'inbox' my Grandma you should see, please 'copy', 'scan and 'paste' her in an 'email' back to me.

Wonderful English signs from Around the World:

Cocktail Lounge, Norway: LADIES ARE REQUESTED NOT TO HAVE CHILDREN IN THE BAR.

On the main road to Mombasa, leaving Nairobi: TAKE NOTICE: WHEN THIS SIGN IS UNDER WATER, THIS ROAD IS IMPASSABLE.

On a poster at Kencom: ARE YOU AN ADULT THAT CANNOT READ? IF SO, WE CAN HELP.

In a City restaurant: OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK AND WEEKENDS.

On the menu of a Swiss Restaurant: OUR WINES LEAVE YOU NOTHING TO HOPE FOR.

In the lobby of a Moscow Hotel, across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery: YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY, WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET COMPOSERS, ARTISTS, AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY, EXCEPT THURSDAY.

Airline ticket office, Copenhagen: WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

via Richard Odell

“From Kniveton to Kenya”

The life-story of Sister Merle Wilde, a much loved personality in the Ashbourne Methodist Circuit who died in November 2017, at the age of 96. Undoubtedly a saint!

Merle was converted at Kniveton Methodist Chapel in 1952. Within weeks, she was called to be a preacher and then a deacon.

She became convinced that God was specifically calling her to serve in the Meru district of Kenya, and she maintained this conviction despite the differing views of those in authority. She finally sailed for Kenya in 1957.

After many years' service in the Meru district, she served in Notting Hill, Bristol and Coventry. Following her supposed retirement in 1981, she then remained active in the Ashbourne Circuit for 35 years!

This wonderful book tells Merle's story in her own words. Fully illustrated and highly recommended.

*Price £4.00 - All proceeds to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund
Contact John or Daphne Dyster (344086*

From the editors

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this issue.

Please send us an article for the next issue – even if you have never sent anything to us before. We also welcome photos for the magazine.

If you have an idea but are not sure whether it is suitable, we will be happy to discuss it with you. We are unable to include items which are copyright unless permission is obtained from the copyright-holder.

The next edition: **February 2021**

Last date for contributions: **Wednesday 20th January**

Publication date: **Sunday 31st January**

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

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



From Kniveton to Kenya



Sister Merle Wilde

Daphne and John Dyster

Will it be a white Christmas?



Thorpe Cloud



Ilam