

Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Church December 2024



Dear Friends

We are approaching that time of year that some love, others cannot wait until it is over, and many are wondering what they can afford to have the best Christmas ever. Like it or not so keen on it, the period of Advent and Christmas can be quite an emotional journey.

It is a time when we can remember the routines of Advent and Christmas when we were young, some of the things we miss in the commercialised Christmas world we live in today. It is a time when we can remember the special people we will not be spending time with this year, and it is a time that can feel very frenetic and stressful as we try to rush to every activity on offer.

This Advent across the Ashbourne Circuit we will be offering lots of different Advent and Christmas activities. There is no gold star for attending as many as possible!!! Much as I would love your company eating fish and chips, drinking non-alcoholic mulled drink and singing carols; I want you to ensure you find time to be with the people you love and find time with God in quietness, as well as in our community life together.

Don't forget, though, that this can be the easiest time of year to invite friends and family to church activities. Many, many people love singing carols so please take that step of faith and invite your family, friends and neighbours to join one of the myriad of opportunities that will be available.

Advent is a time of waiting, hoping and preparation for the birth of a Saviour amid the busyness of life. I hope and pray that you will find space for Christ in Advent and will help others to find Christ too.

With love and prayers
Nicola

ASHBOURNE CIRCUIT FAMILY NEWS

This month it has been my turn to experience the love and prayers of our Church family, having had a knee replacement. I would like to thank all those who have sent get well wishes, cards, phone calls, gifts of flowers, meals, hospitality and prayerful support.

But, I'm not the only one! Jeff F is recovering after having the same operation as me a week later. Anne Wa is starting radiotherapy. Anne Wi is recuperating after a fall. Ruth L has been ill in hospital. Margaret He is awaiting treatment. Chris D, Liz S, Margaret A and our own minister, Rev Nicola, also need our prayers. So please remember all of these people in your thoughts and prayers this month. There will be others in our families and community, who are suffering or going through challenging and difficult times and we lift them all up to God in prayer.

Sadly, I have to report the death of Doreen Stanley, a neighbour of John D, who had been coming to our Sunday morning services. She passed away on 26 October and we send our condolences to her family and friends. We continue to remember Carole T and her family following the death of her father, Tony.

Good news to share now: On 29 October Peter and Tracy D celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary. On 13 December Lorraine H will be celebrating her 80th birthday. So congratulations and best wishes to them.

Jean B and Tricia B also need a big mention for their sterling work looking after the Church finances for many years. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank you both for the hard work you have done behind the scenes.

2024 has been quite an eventful year for our church and it is not over yet! Christmas will seem quite different this year with us worshipping in different venues. But, God's message remains the same:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2: 10-11

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Secretary 7.11.24)

A MODERN NOAH'S ARK

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said: "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water and all the evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people, and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build Me an Ark", said the Lord. And in a flash of lightning He delivered the specifications for an Ark.

"OK," said Noah, trembling in fear and fumbling with the blueprints.

"Six months, and it starts to rain" thundered the Lord. "You'd better have my Ark completed, or learn how to swim for a very long time."

And six months passed. The skies began to cloud up and rain began to fall. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, weeping. And there was no Ark. "Noah," shouted the Lord, "where is my Ark?" A lightning bolt crashed into the ground next to Noah, for emphasis.

"Lord, please forgive me," begged Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project, and your plans didn't meet the Code. So I had to hire an engineer to redraw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system. My neighbours objected claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. "Then I had a big problem getting enough wood for the Ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the Spotted Owl. I had to convince MAFF that I needed the wood to save the Owls. But they wouldn't let me catch any owls. So no owls.

Then the carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the GMB before anyone would pick up a saw or a hammer. Now we got 16 carpenters going on the boat, and still no owls. "Then I started gathering up the animals, and got sued by the animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind. Just when I got the suit dismissed, Dept of the Environment notified me that I couldn't complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed Flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being. The Army wanted a map of the proposed new flood plan. I sent them a globe.

"Right now I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Opportunity Commission over how many women I'm supposed to

hire, the HM Revenue and Customs has seized all my assets claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country, and I just got a notice from the County Council about owing some kind of Council tax. "I really don't think I can finish your Ark for at least another five years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled. "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth?" Noah asked, hopefully.

"Wrong!" thundered the Lord. "But being Lord of the Universe has its advantages. I fully intend to smite the Earth, but with something far worse than a Flood.. Something Man invented himself."

"What's that?" asked Noah. There was a long pause, and then the Lord spoke his Last Word....

"Government."

A PILGRIM'S PROGRESS by Anne Wills.

(With a little help from Humpty Dumpty who sat on the wall).

Wham, bang! Such a simple fall, indoors . all in a second, one Friday afternoon at the end of September. Friends and neighbours made cups of tea, found my painkillers- all will be well. But it wasn't was it?

NHS 111 provided excellent advice, and a painkiller prescription to Boots.

Sunday, no better. You need an ambulance, say my friends. "Where's your family?" Spain, I say. I'll ring him. Where are you? I ask. At home, Robin replies "we came back last night," and they were with me within a couple of hours. I cry as I remember the Lord saying, "Before you ask, I know your need," You might think that was lucky-but I don't believe that!

And so the inevitable trip to Royal Derby, A&E, doctors, X-rays and admission. The next day a visit by Rev Nicola who met Robin and Julie and prays with us. How did she hear I was there? 'Behold I have prepared a place for you, says the Lord.

The break in my vertebrae, needed painkillers and rehabilitation. That assessment took several days. I want to go to St Oswald's in Ashbourne please God. At the appropriate time for discharge from RDH and a transfer for rehabilitation, 'Thomas Fields' in Buxton is the only place available . But I don't want to go to Buxton, Lord! And of course it's turned out to be the very best place for me. "you're not going to wash my feet" said Peter to Jesus (John 13, v8).

I'm decidedly independent, and this whole business has indeed been a case of me crying, "you're not going to wash my bum!" Just maybe. I needed to be brought down a peg or two? The rehabilitation itself is of course tailored to each person's needs, what disability there is, and do I want to get back to what is normal for me. So each day of rehabilitation is tailored accordingly, A slow steady process. I'm getting there.

Friends and family have been wonderful and so have all the King's men, my housegroup. A big thank you!

Thinking of Humpty Dumpty, *all the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again.*

But family and homegroup, friends, and neighbours have done everything I've needed as I undergo rehabilitation. Mobile phones are so useful.

Words of comfort

Voices of wisdom

Messages of hope.

Emails of encouragement

Visitors (on horseback?) to cheer me on. And technology expertise also, thank you David. And some fun and laughter as well, has all helped to put me, Humpty Dumpty together again!

And so to this Pilgrim's Progress:

He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster

Let him in constancy follow the Master,

*There's no discouragement shall make him once
relent*

His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Anne Wills.

January edition of Connections will be published in the week commencing 13th January therefore the deadline for items for insertion is Sunday 12th January.
May I thank everyone for your items and photos and ask that they keep on coming to clifflewer@aol.com
Cliff



A NIGHT OF SCARYNESS, OR A BRIGHT NIGHT OF FUN – YOUR CHOICE!

I was really pleased that again Ashbourne Churches Together decided to organise an alternative to Hallowe'en – not scary but LIGHT!

Children had been encouraged to come to the Bright Night of fun as superheroes or fairies/princesses – and there were lots of those, although there was also a very realistic-looking witch, a couple of skeletons and a young lady with a hatchet in her head!

The day had been a pretty dismal one, but it dried up nicely by five o'clock, and we again used Shrovetide Walk, which was an ideal venue. We were allowed to use the gazebos after the market traders had left, and we lit up them up with lots of fairy lights.

Coffee and music helped to create an amazing atmosphere of fun along with stalls offering the ever-popular face painting, plus a lot of games, including bash the rat, hook the duck (a good thing the RSPCA didn't hear about it!), bean bags in bowls, balls in buckets, 'What's in the Box?' (I never did find out what was in the box, but as Tracy was in charge I expect it was something really yukky!), a box full of wet spaghetti in which were lots of sweets – put your hand in and grab as many as you could in a minute...

Each child was given a 'Bag of Hope' on arrival, containing a small book aimed at 7-10 year-olds with Bible stories and activities, a flyer advertising Christmas services at all the churches and the Christmas Day party, and a voucher for free cheesy

nachos (which apparently were very good). The bag was also available for keeping all the sweets the children were given on each stall which they didn't manage to eat at the time. About 150 bags were given out and portions of cheesy nachos eaten.

It was brilliant to see people from all the churches working seamlessly together on the stalls, the welcome tables and the cheesy nachos station. Our sincere thanks to everyone who played a part in making it such a wonderful evening for the families who came along.

Lorraine Hawkins

Home-made Chutney in aid of the Snehakunja Children's Home and Arunima Hospice in Kolkata.

Joy has returned to this special place again in November and can share more if you ask her.

If you would like to support the work by buying our home-made chutney this would be lovely.

"Tropical" or "Apple and green tomato" available with a suggested donation of £1.50 per jar.

Available from Ruth - ruth@mallards.me.uk 01335 348342.

Many thanks,

Joy and Ruth Mallard

What is E D I ?

Over the past few months I am sure at some point whilst being at your house group or attending Worship you have come across the term EDI, or to give it its full title... Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

As a family we have over the years come up against prejudice in some form or another, as one of our daughters is neurodiverse. There will be many who read this and think, yes, so have I.

That experience can be extremely isolating for both the individual and also their family/carer, so much so that it can stop them from becoming involved in, well, almost everything, because that cost can feel too great.

As some of you may be aware, I am in training as a local preacher, and during my training thus far I have become acutely aware of the fact that I need to be far more accessible, without being patronising. I need to enable diversity and from that grows inclusion.

Now, as a church we know that the Methodist Church in Great Britain has a very clear understanding of what that can look like and also that it is in fact, Christ-like. What a blessing that would be for each of us to be more like Jesus, and for those meeting us, for them to receive through His love and full acceptance.

It is/can be a difficult transition to becoming equality, diversity and inclusion aware. Some of us have grown

up with prejudice in the house, knowing no other way, and of course as we become adults we can be the perpetrators of such a subtle exclusion, when all we are wanting to do is completely the opposite, to include.

Who falls under the category of E D I?

Well, everyone actually. Anyone who may have a physical disability, who may be hearing or sight impaired, anyone with mental ill health, people with neurodiversity.

Others to include are the LGBTQ communities, ethnic communities ,

Those who are of mixed race heritage. In fact, I think the more I reflect

on this matter the more I realise that this is about a level playing field for the whole of humanity, so that each of us can be truly embraced as we are, as others are and not as we would like them to be.

How do we start 'doing' EDI?

There are so many ways, being aware of our use of language ie: mental, nutter, handicapped, coloured, les, gaybo,indian, thick.... Just a few, I suppose pausing before we speak sometimes can help prompting a more appropriate response. `

That is something maybe to put to God... I leave that with you.

My parting thought is this, just imagine if we were all accepting of others' differences, if we, as God's people could truly love others for who they are without judgement or prejudice, then we could be one small step closer to becoming more like Christ Himself.

Tracey

Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine.

Thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," he asked.

"I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point he was making. Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your

years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled, and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle. They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer. These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home.

When my hands are hurt or sore I think of Grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

When you receive this, say a prayer for the person who sent it to you and watch God's answer to prayer work in your life.

Let's continue praying for one another
Passing this on to anyone you consider a friend will bless you both.

Passing this on to one not considered a friend is something Christ would have done.

Mince Pies at The Manse

Chris and I offer you a warm welcome to The Manse on Friday 20th December 2024 for Mince Pies and hot and cold drinks. Please feel free to drop in anytime between 4 and 8pm. Any donations during the evening will be shared between Derby City Mission and the Scoliosis Association
Nicola

Housegroups at Ashbourne

During this period of change at Ashbourne as we transition to our new buildings, it seems all the more important that we keep our sense of fellowship. House groups are a great way to meet with other members of our church during the week and strengthen our friendships and our faith.

We are blessed at Ashbourne to have 6 house groups, some meeting in the evenings and some during the daytime. If you are not a member of housegroup but would like to find out more about it, then please contact me for a chat helenwalker.walker@gmail.com

Helen Walker
Housegroup coordinator

There was a man trying to understand God, so he asked Him, "God, how long is a million years to you?"

God answered, "A million years is like a minute."

Then the man asked, "God, how much is a million pounds to you?"

God replied, "A million dollars is like a penny."

The man thought for a short time and asked, "God, will you give me a penny?"

"In a minute," God responded

You welcome us here, Lord, Our God of surprises.
We hear of Your teachings and prophets of old
Who knew Your Messiah would come to redeem us,
Our God of surprises, just as they foretold.

We learn of Your birth, Lord, Our God of surprises,
A babe in a stable, Your bed made of hay,
With visits from shepherds sent there by Your angels,
Our God of surprises, on that precious day.

When Satan accuses - then, God of Surprises -
Your grace and Your mercy You rain down on us,
We learn Your forgiveness, we thank You and praise You,
Our God of surprises, Your promise we trust.

In times of great challenge, Our God of surprises,
You hear our petitions, our cries of distress,
You send us Your friends who will walk close beside us,
Our God of surprises, Your arms will protect.

If illness should strike us, Our God of surprises,
We know You will heal us through those you have called.
You'll never desert us whatever the outcome.
Our God of surprises, and Father of all.

We thank You and praise You, Our God of surprises,
We'll tell of Your goodness, Your pow'r and Your love,
To share Your good news with the youngsters and
grownups
Our God of surprises, send help from above.

We've met in Your presence, Our God of surprises,
As we leave this building, we ask You to bless
Our lives as Your servants, as we seek to serve You,
Our God of surprises, wherever that is.

Sing praise to our Father, Our God of surprises,
Sing praise to Christ Jesus, our saviour and friend,
With Your Holy Spirit, together forever,
Our God of surprises, whose reign never ends.

Margaret Heaton

BETTY DOUCE, A Personal Tribute.

Attending Betty's funeral on the 23rd of October I was moved to hear all the tributes to her that day.

I knew a bit of what Betty did in the Church and Circuit of Ashbourne, Network, etc.

I knew of her supreme friendliness and welcome whenever I attended a "Network / Women in Britain Supper" in the Century Hall. She was always there with a lovely smile and a very warm greeting, which always came with the words "Well done Tom"! (What the "well done" was for, I never asked but it was always there!) Betty was also very welcoming when at Ashbourne, and was always enquiring about our home, the farm, and our animals.

She was always immaculately dressed whenever I saw her, and on the occasional visit to her home, I was always made welcome.

But at the funeral service, I was surprised at the range of her involvement for, to and in Ashbourne, and while listening to the tributes a "title" came into my head

which I thought appropriate, Betty, was, in every way, an "Unsung Hero"!

I am going to miss her, her kindness, her welcome, and her all round goodness. I will also miss those, which were called "Betty Moments" one of which was at my last conversation with her.

A group of us were together, including Rev Chris, Nicola's husband. As Betty joined us and said "Hello", she looked at Rev Chris, and said, " Hello"!, and then said "Ah, yes, you belong to Rev Nicola, don't you?"

I was chucking, as in my mind's eye, I thought of Rev Chris having a little tag attached to his dog collar, with the words "If found, please return to, (you can fill in the rest etc, etc,")

I am, in one way, sad that I didn't see her in her last days, but, I have to admit, not in other ways, preferring, instead to remember Betty in her good days, and remembering those wonderful "Betty Moments!"

Tom Parkinson.

Posada

Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds are journeying towards Jerusalem during advent. Could they stay at your house for the night? In previous years they have enjoyed days out with different households and have even been to work and to the dentist! They then visit the next household and share prayers, coffee, chat etc. We'll hear a bit about their journey in Church every Sunday.

This is based on a Mexican tradition at Christmas where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and

place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib. Our characters are fair-trade dolls, so a lot easier to host! Please sign up on the sheet on 17th or 24th November if you would like to host them, or contact Liz or John Hurfurt on hurfurtj@gmail.com .

Thanks
Catherine



Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Please check the website for the most current information,
<https://www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk/news>.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 24TH

Ashbourne	10:30	Allan Shaw	
Brailsford	10:45	At All Saints	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Tom Parkinson	
Kniveton	11:00	Rev Nicola Briggs	Holy Communion

SUNDAY DECEMBER 1ST

Ashbourne	10:30	Diana Whitmill	
	16:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	Afternoon Tea Service, Christingle
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	Holy Communion All Age

Parwich **No service**

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8TH

	10:00	Muddy Church	Biggin area
Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	Holy Communion
Brailsford	10:45	At All Saints	
	16:00	At All Saints	Christingle
Kniveton	14:30	Lorraine Hawkins	
Tissington	10:30	Peter Dawson	Carol Service

SATURDAY DECEMBER 14TH

Tissington 19:00 St Mary's Church United Carol Service

SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH

Ashbourne 10:30 Allan Shaw

18:30 Tim Dutton Christmas PRAISE

Brailsford 10:30 Rev David Leese

Parwich 17:00 Rev Nicola Briggs United Carol Service
Rev Nicola McNally

SUNDAY DECEMBER 22ND

Ashbourne 10:30 Robert Sales All Age, Carol Service

Brailsford 10:45 At All Saints

Kirk Ireton 18:30 Tom Parkinson Carol Service

Kniveton 14:30 Rev Nicola Briggs Carol Service

TUESDAY DECEMBER 24TH

Milldale 16:00 Rev Nicola Briggs Christmas Eve Service

Brailsford 23:15 At All Saints United Christmas Eve Service

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25TH

Ashbourne 10:00 Rev Nicola Briggs Christmas Day Service

SUNDAY DECEMBER 29TH

Osmaston 10:45 Village Hall

**United Benefice
and Circuit Service**

Changes to normal service are in **bold**

Dates for your diary and your prayers

NOVEMBER

Tue 19th 19:00 Foundation Safeguarding Training

Tue 19th 19:30 Housegroup Leaders meeting

DECEMBER

Wed 4th 19:30 Local Preachers & Worship Leaders
meeting on zoom

Fri 6th 18:30 Ashbourne Lantern Parade

JANUARY 2025

Sat 11th - Methodist President and Vice-
Sun 12th President visiting the District

Wed 15th 10-12 Advanced Safeguarding Training (on
7-9pm zoom)

Thu 23rd 10:00 District Day of Reflection at
- Rivergreen District Hub for anyone in
16:00 ministry

Wed 29th 19:30 Ashbourne Church Council

ADVANCED MODULE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING 2024/25

The training dates and venues are now available

Online sessions

Wednesday 15th January 10:00-12:00

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1047806727127>

Wednesday 15th January 19:00-21:00

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1047810337927>

Face to Face sessions

Saturday 15th March 10:00-14:00 Stonebroom
Methodist Church DE55 6JT

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1047828462137>

Saturday 10th May 10:00-14:00 Brailsford Methodist
Church DE6 3DA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1047834590467>

Brailsford & Ednaston Churches Working Together in the Community

Back in February, Lynne had an idea to have some poppies coming from the ringing room balcony down to the War Memorial in All Saints Church. It is now Remembrance Sunday as I am writing. What has happened in between is almost unbelievable!

Margaret started asking people to knit/crochet poppies or make them from felt. Collecting stations for

poppies and yarn donations were organised, patterns were shared and developed. Between March and November there have been poppies created at our Circuit Weekend Away in April, made during Bayeux Revisited in May, at The Rose and Crown, where we had 'Poppy and a Pint' sessions each month. Word spread and people got together and poppy fever grew!

Brailsford is part of the Ashbourne Methodist Circuit, and also part of the Brailsford Benefice, so we found ourselves encouraging others to think about doing something too. We visited Shirley Coffee Morning, Yeaaveley pop-up café, Edlaston breakfast Church. Members of our Circuit have also made for Brailsford, and for the Ashbourne Town, and for a lovely display at Hilltop School. We were grateful to members of Craft and Chat who shared some of their making with us. We went into Brailsford School with cut off plastic bottle bottoms and paint, each child and most of the staff, made a poppy. The older children also wrote their own poems to be displayed in Church. The children in nursery painted paper plates to be cut into shape. We went to 2nd Ashbourne Guides and helped with a felt poppy making evening. Not satisfied with all that Lynne began making organza poppies to hang in the porch.

A rough calculation of how many we needed gave us a target of 3000, we then got close and thought it would be great if we could reach 4000, and make individual window displays. We were keen to include white,

purple and black poppies. We ended up with over 7000 poppies in Brailsford.

And now came the test, how were we going to put it together. We decided on a netting backdrop, to give movement and flexibility. It had to be cut into manageable widths, and so from October we began holding sewing workshops in The Methodist Church on Thursday evenings and all day Saturdays, with people dropping in to help sew on the poppies. There were 2 Saturdays where we had soup and cakes alongside, bringing even more people in. We were contacted by Radio Derby, and so at 7.30am on Monday 21st we found ourselves being interviewed and broadcast. This then led to a slot on East Midlands Today in the week leading up to Remembrance Day.

During the last week in October, a dedicated team tackled the construction. It is enough to say that a very heavy pew, some timber, ratchet straps, cable ties and a risk assessment were needed to hold the netting and black fabric background in place. Broom handles and fishing line were also important!

So as I write this on Remembrance Sunday evening, I find myself reflecting on what has been achieved:

People have knitted, crocheted, and sewn poppies, helped with construction and displays, written poetry, publicity, photography, and made cakes. Somewhere in the region of 300 people.

We have welcomed visitors over these last 2 weekends. There have been 687 visitors.

But these are numbers, what has really been achieved is a sense of coming together to create something, to help people learn or revive a skill, to encourage new conversation and understanding, to provide a genuine welcome and hospitality. A chance to show God's love in action as everyone is included and their contribution valued. We hope and pray that our remembrance project has been a positive experience for all contributors and visitors and that our Anglican and Methodist Churches can continue to work together in such a positive way.

Jane Baker



Brailsford Church on Remembrance Day

