# Connections



# Ashbourne Methodist Church July 2025

#### Dear Friends

It has been a joy to be able to share in celebrating the richness of Primitive Methodism in the last few weeks. On 31<sup>st</sup> May we visited the Museum of Primitive Methodism at Englesea Brook. When you first see the address in Crewe it sounds like it will be a long journey to get there but it was less than an hour door to door mainly on main roads. We visited because the museum was exploring the way Primitive Methodism had spread out from our shores and we were warmly welcomed by the Museum's Project Director, Ruth Hilton. Revd's David Leese and Jimi Kaci both shared great stories of the growth of Primitive Methodism. The Museum's Learning Officer, Elizabeth Morris shared a brilliant dramatic piece of two Primitive Methodist women's stories of being called to serve overseas. We also had the opportunity to visit some of the archives housed by Englesea Brook which were fascinating. Some of you will know that Sue and David Leese volunteer at Englesea Brook once a month and I am sure they would help you to discover more about our history.

Our visit was partly for me to do some additional research on Primitive Methodism as later the same week we were celebrating the 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Milldale Chapel. It was great to welcome Ruth Hilton to share with us that evening and she had scoured the archives and brought with her some preaching plans from the early years of Milldale's life. Initially Milldale was part of the Leek Circuit but in 1906 it was reported that the chapel had been gladly given over to the Ashbourne Circuit. I for one am very glad that Milldale was handed over to us. We heard that evening that camp meetings were held in the field opposite the chapel into the 1950s and Enid Stubbs remembers attending one as a child.

Primitive Methodism was a revivalist movement in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, founded by Hugh Bourne and William Clowes. It aimed to return to a more "primitive" form of Methodism, emphasizing open-air preaching, camp meetings, and had a more workingclass appeal. It resonated with miners, factory workers, and other members of the working class, offering a sense of community as well as spiritual guidance. Primitive Methodism was unique among Methodist denominations in its acceptance and encouragement of women as preachers.

Whilst the Primitive Methodist Church no longer exists (Methodist union in 1932), its influence can still be seen in our broader Methodist tradition today. We are still a church that encourages lay people to be heavily involved at all levels of church life, we encourage women as well as men to preach, we try to relate to `ordinary' people by being `ordinary' people ourselves.

When we look at the past we often do so through rose-coloured spectacles, everything was so much

easier, so much more wonderful back then. But you and I are called to serve God here in the present for the future building up of the kingdom here on earth. We can look back and be encouraged by the phenomenal stories of our heritage, be it Primitive, Wesleyan or one of the other smaller branches of Methodism. We can see 'ordinary' people making a difference in this country and overseas by following God's call, serving Jesus in their day to day lives, fuelled by the power of the Holy Spirit. As a Circuit let us praise God for all that is past and trust him for all that's to come.

Blessings

Nicola

Ashbourne Circuit Family News For July

As July approaches I know many people will be thinking about holidays and a time for rest and relaxation from our often busy lives. I hope you have a good time whether you are spending it at home or further afield.

This month I have some good news to share. Firstly, I became a grandparent for the second time as Edward, Heather and George welcomed baby Oliver into the world. Also John and Mary H welcomed their new granddaughter Iris. We send our congratulations to both families.

We wish Tony W a very happy birthday, as he celebrates his 70<sup>th</sup> on 5 July. Other news we are

pleased to share, is that Peggy and George S will be celebrating their Diamond wedding anniversary on 24 July. Congratulations on your 60 years of marriage.

We continue to pray for healing and strength for all those who are unwell at this time. We particularly think of those who have undergone surgery recently including Peter D, Ruth L, Pauline W and Diana Wh. We also pray for comfort to those who are unwell including Nick F in hospital and for his wife Claire and family. Also for Chris D, Margaret He and Liz S.

Sadly, we offer our condolences to Susan P following the death of her daughter, Marie and for all the family in their time of sorrow and loss.

We also remember in prayer all those who are sitting exams at school, college and university and then anxiously waiting for results.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Secretary) 15. 06.25

Matthew 11:28-30 – "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

#### **The Link Project**

#### **Hopes & Fears**

Back in April, at a joint meeting with the Hub Planning Team and the Leadership Team, we discussed that one of the largest challenges we face is ensuring everyone in the circuit feels they know what the Link project is about and that they can express any "Hopes & Fears" they have about the changes that will be happening. It was agreed that it would be helpful to produce a communications document in a Q&A format.

Throughout April, at various services, members were given the opportunity to submit questions. Then at the One Church Meeting at Brailsford Chapel on 30 April, time was allocated for table discussions where many more questions were brought up. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to this exercise.

We are currently collating all the information into a Q&A document and we aim to circulate version 1 towards the end of June. It will be called version 1 as our plan is to update the document as and when we receive more questions that we feel should be included.

If you have any "Hopes or Fears" concerning the Link Project please contact any member of the Hub Planning Team. Our contact details are in the Circuit Directory.

The Hub Planning Team Rev Nicola Briggs, Catherine Green, Tony Walker, Jen Farmer, John Barker and Crispin Scott

#### <u>"What's in it for me?" - Inspired by the Iona</u> <u>Community, Rachel Murt</u>

Plastic. Plastic. Remember plastic? Well it's still here. We're all doing our bit right? Well maybe we can do a bit more. In 2024 it was estimated that 220 million tons of plastic waste was generated globally, that's about 28KG per person per vear . one third of the world's waste, or 14 Hippopotami for each of us. Most of what we carry home comes in plastic wrap, no matter how we try to reduce our usage, it keeps creeping back in! In Wirksworth there is a shop called 'Skopa Zero Waste' take your own containers, tubs, jars, bottles and weigh them at the shop, and then serve yourself, plastic free. They stock what you would expect, beans, pulses, nuts etc, but they also stock a wide variety of shampoos, washing detergents, oils and CHOCOLATES!!! They are now in the old bank in the market place and are a sizeable operation at good prices too.

### John 6:12 "Gather the pieces that are left over. let nothing be waste







#### RESULT !!!

Pray to bless : Bless to pray Give to thrive : Thrive to give Share to care : Care to share
Good to work : Work to good Joy to please : Please to joy Know to learn : Learn to know
Rest to rise : Rise to rest God to die : Die to God Love to live : Live to love

Alan Coker Mayes.

#### "REFLECTIONS ON REMEMBERANCE"! (Part One).

With many others, Ann (who was, at first, going to speak on something she had contributed) and I attended the Celebration of V.E. Day, on the bank holiday Monday at All Saints at Brailsford, and what a brilliant celebration it was too.

While there, and taking in all that was sung, said and displayed some memories I had of my past came flooding back of past days when I sometimes wondered, what this was for, what that was for, as although I was born in 1951, remnants of the war still persisted in those early days of my life.

Nana, always had a large photograph on the wall of "Uncle Jessie", who was in a Navy Uniform, I think he was Nana's brother, but I was too young to enquire at the time.

In those early days of my life, there was one of those homemade bomb shelters in our, and other back gardens, "Anderson Shelters" I think they were called, made out of wood and corrugated metal curved roof, semi submerged in the soil.

For years it was the playground of my late brother, Charles and I, and, too, of all the local friends we had in the street where we lived.

Around the area where I lived were larger bomb shelters, for the whole community, they were there well into the 1960's and took a bit of time and effort to demolish them, especially the roof as it was over a foot thick of reinforced concrete!

Jump forward a few decades as Ann and I were with my Mum in Stockport, and saw a book, "Memories of Stockport".

On the front cover was a photograph of a street party, with a caption, "School Street V.E. Party"! I heard Mum, pointing at the photograph, say, "That's me, and Nellie" (Nellie was Mum's sister!) I bought her the book for Mother's Day, and it was the best present, she said, that she had been given, for later when we left to come home, she was looking through the picture, and trying to identify who she knew. She was so entranced by the photo and the memories, trying to identify long ago families and friends. She phoned when we got home for she thought she had not said "Goodbye" to Ann and I as we left. (She didn't, but we did not mind as we saw the pleasure the book had given her!)

i mentioned the following in a sermon once, so, forgive me for repeating it here. In the early sixties, I went on holiday with my school to Belgium. We stayed in Ostend, and visited various places, the capital Bruges, where we actually saw the Royal Family of Belgium.

We went to Middleburg in the Netherlands, and to Dunkirk in France, and, it was at the latter, I saw somethings I will never forget to the day I die.

Our coach stopped at this car park and we all got off, and walked around a hedge. As far as the eye could see were white tombstones, perfectly symmetrical in whatever line you looked. Impeccably tidy, nothing out of place. We walked around there for a long time, and were guided by veterans of that country too.

Later we visited an area kept as a remnant of the trenches of the First World War, and we were, again taken round by a guide.

At one point, we went through a tunnel, hanging on to one of our teachers, who was a bit afraid of the dark. While going through it, I could sense a smell, yet I could not identify it, one thought that it was the smell of death, still prevalent in the 1960's and one wondered if it would ever go away.

Tom Parkinson

## **PARWICH FLOWER FESTIVAL** ST PETER'S CHURCH

SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025

COMMENCING AT 10.00AM WITH SONGS OF PRAISE.

FOLLOWED BY TEA AND CAKES SERVED UNTIL 4.30PM

DISPLAY OF WORK FROM EVIE'S ART AND CRAFT GROUP

#### TOMBOLA

FLOWERS IN CHURCH UNTIL THE FOLLOWING SATURDAY

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

#### **NET ZERO**

The 202I Methodist Conference, seeking to build on past work and with a renewed sense of urgency, agreed an aspirational target to become a net zero Church by 2030.

Since then political guidance has not been clear with the dates moving on a regular basis.

I attended a session at District level to update information that would help our Circuit to plan appropriate actions to support this initiative. Moving forward the first steps are to understand the carbon footprint (amount of greenhouse gases generated) of each of our Church premises and look at practical ways of how we can support this initiative.

It is quite clear that the cost of moving fully to utilise renewable energy to meet this target in all of our sites is both practically and financially impossible. However, the chapels only have low energy use and Ashbourne church has been professionally redesigned within the requirements of a listed building. We will continue to look at ways of making reductions.

Ken McKeown – Circuit Steward – Property

Our former Superintendent Minister, Rev Tim Morris, Alison and family are moving to Hathersage in the Peak District in August. Tim will be the Superintendent Minister of The Peak Methodist Circuit. A welcome service is taking place at Bakewell Methodist Church on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm. Further details from Enid S.

tim.morris@methodist.org.uk

Mrs. Smartt was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle.The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, "Do you always carry your TV remote to church?""No," she replied, "but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally."

#### **Topping Out**

It was an historic day for Ashbourne Methodist Church yesterday as it celebrated a significant milestone in the transformation of its buildings to serve as a new hub for the community.

Revd Andy Fyall, Chair of the Nottingham & Derby District of the Methodist Church, climbed to the top of the scaffolding accompanied by project partners for the act of 'Topping Out' for The Link Centre. Revd Fyall prayed for the project, the Ashbourne community and the church as a replacement finial was placed on the top of the church building.

The finial, a decorative ornament on the very top of the building, included a capsule containing a prayer for the church and community signed by members of the congregation, and photographs of congregation members taken on Sunday.

Accompanying Revd Andy Fyall in the Topping Out ceremony were Councillor David Hughes of the

Ashbourne Reborn Programme Board, Tony Walker of Ashbourne Methodist Church, Ian Bird of Messenger Construction, Laura Simpson of Derbyshire Dales District Council, and Anne Wright of Ashbourne Town Team.

The redevelopment of Ashbourne Methodist Church's buildings is one of two major projects in the UK Government funded Ashbourne Reborn programme is finished. Once completed, the building will be known as The Link Centre, and will be a new hub for the community serving local residents, businesses and visitors. Led by Ashbourne Methodist Church, the project will transform the existing church buildings on the corner of Church Street and Station Road. When it is finished The Link Centre will be a huge asset to the town, able to be used as a flexible space for performing arts, community events, worship and as a conference centre.



Messenger Team (Contractors)



The Brave rooftop Group



The Finial

#### **GOD-INCIDENCES**

We recently had a wonderful holiday on a small boat visiting several Croatian islands. Of the thirty passengers, at least ten of us were Christians, including one lovely couple, Val and Alan, who were especially helpful and thoughtful.

The day after we got home there was an email from Val ("How did she get our email address?" I wondered)." Whilst telling my friend Tricia about our Croatian Island Explorer holiday, and the lovely Christian couple we met from Ashbourne, it dawned on us that you could be the Brian and Lorraine Hawkins from Wholeness Through Christ who've been praying for us for years!!? If so, what a God-incidence – if only we'd known!"

If only we'd known, indeed! But then we'd have spent so long talking about people events and that everyone else would have been neglected!

I told Val that Tricia would remember another Godincidence. She and her husband had been staying in a holiday cottage for three years running, which was 100 yards from our house at Alstonefield – and they didn't realise. When she found out our address (by chance!?) they came to see us and we spent time together whenever they visited for several years.

Don't let anyone tell you God isn't alive and active today!

Lorraine Hawkins

#### Chapel Anniversary at Parwich on July 6th.

The service is at 2.30pm in St Peter's church and will be led by Jim Titterton, formerly of Tissington, who many in the circuit will remember for his preaching and musical items. We hope that some of the circuit will support this special occasion and help us to make it a time of celebration. Many thanks and Best Wishes, Jan Smith

#### **Tissington Chapel**

The Tissington congregation are very grateful to those who were available to give a welcome to the many visitors in the Chapel during the time of the Tissington Well Dressing. We give a hearty thanks to the Tissington resident, Lauren, who used her gifts to arrange the wild flowers so beautifully.

During the six days we 'manned' the Chapel, many people commented. What visitors say; 'So peaceful and special and what a beautiful situation the chapel is in.' 'A room with a view- who needs stained glass when you have that view at the front.' There was much appreciation of the natural arrangement of flowers and the sound of water and gentle music.

People came from nearby villages and others on coach trips, or with cycling and walking groups and some were regular visitors to the Well Dressing. We had several visitors with special connections - Dorothy, from the well known Titterton family, said she played the organ before she married and moved away. George Edward Whitfield was the first child to be christened in the 'new' chapel in 1955, and he and his wife were on a tour of old contacts and haunts!! Another visitor was related to the Whitfields who had donated a chair at the front of the Chapel. A descendant of one of the Wright brothers visited. The brothers had built the original chapel in 1866 and four of the brothers played in the brass band as seen on the photo in the chapel entrance.

There was plenty of time to chat with people, to listen to their stories and for them to sit quietly and to take literature with words of encouragement. One of our members during quiet periods played the guitar and carried it out to the lane and a number of people commented it was a good to hear music. During the six hours we were at the Chapel each day there were between 180 and 200 people dropping in for each of the six days.

Thoughts of one of our members; 'The first time I visited Tissington, before we moved to the area, I felt the Chapel was a very special place. It was peaceful and calming and I felt very close to God. It isn't just the place and the building, it is the thought of all the people who built, rebuilt and maintained it, made music, brought flowers, cake and harvest gifts and worshipped there over many, many years. It is the feeling of a worshipping community past and present. Long may it continue to help and sustain people who visit and those who come to worship.'

May the Chapel continue to be a place where the good news of salvation through the sacrifice of Jesus can bring all who believe in Jesus into a relationship with Him with the promise of eternal life.

Joyce Odell and the Tissington team

Global Mission Conference Friday 30 May - Sunday 01 June 2025

I was able to join the conference for the main day, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May. This year's conference was slightly different to previous conferences. Although organized by Methodists for World Mission, the Global Relationship team played a major part in running the event.

The theme of the conference was "The World is my Parish – Celebrating World Mission in Methodism's past and exploring God's Mission in the future." The Methodist Church is in the process of closing the lay mission partner programme. So, much of the conference was focused on giving thanks for all the successes of World Mission in the past and thinking through the future of Global relationships.

The keynote speaker was Rev'd.Dr. Reynaldo Ferreira Leao Neto, who thankfully preferred to be known as Leo ! Originally from Brazil, he has served the Methodist Church in this country since 1996 in various roles. His talk was most thought provoking. With the high levels on immigration over the recent years, much needed mission work is needed right on our doorstep. The talk included how some inner city Methodist Churches have taken on this challenge.

The other major part of the conference was the opportunity to take part in three table talk sessions. My first session was with John and Sharon Harbottle, who are returned Mission Partners from Haiti. The second session was led by Cleo Sibanda and was about a new Methodist Church they are building in Zimbabwe. I found the third session the most interesting. John Howard, who is the current MWM President talked about the Israel / Palestine situation. He was a previous Methodist Liaison Officer in Jerusalem and has many contacts out there and still makes regular trips to support the work of the Methodist Church in this part of the world. The questions we had for John could have gone on for hours. I was fortunate enough to sit next to John at lunch where we were able to continue our discussions

In the afternoon there was a time of Celebration, Thanksgiving and Worship and we were invited to join in with some African dancing - I am hoping I was not caught on camera ! Overall it was a most interesting and enjoyable day.

Crispin Scott Mission Coordinator

#### **Ashbourne Circuit Church Services**

Please check the website for the most current information,

https://www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk/news.

SUNDAY J	UNE 1	5ТН	Trinity Sunday			
Ashbourne	10:30	Rev John Hellyer	Holy Communion			
	18:30	Paul Taylor	PRAISE			
Brailsford	10:30	Cathy Stubbs				
Tissington	10:30	Tom Parkinson				
SUNDAY JUNE 22ND						
Ashbourne	10:30	Allan Shaw				
Brailsford	15:00	At All Saints				
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	Holy Communion			
Kniveton	11:00	Tracy Dawson	Chapel Anniversary			
SUNDAY JUNE 29TH						
Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green				
Brailsford		Rev Bex Allpress & Rev David Leese	Benefice United Service at Saracens Head, Shirley			
WEDNESDAY JULY 2ND						
Milldale	19:00	Rev David Leese	Summer Service			
SUNDAY JULY 6TH						
Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Holy Communion			
	16:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	Tea Service			

Brailsford	10:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	All Age, Holy Communion			
Parwich	14:30	Jim Titterton	Chapel Anniversary			
SUNDAY JULY 13TH						
	10:00	Muddy Church	Hilltop School			
Ashbourne	10:30	Sam Cowling-Green	MHA Service			
Brailsford	10:45	At All Saints				
Kniveton	14:30	Allan Shaw				
SUNDAY JULY 20TH						
Ashbourne	10:30	Tim Dutton	All Age			
	18:30	Lorraine Hawkins	PRAISE			
Brailsford	10:30	Ann Parkinson				
Tissington	10:30	Tracy Dawson				
SUNDAY JULY 27TH						
Ashbourne	10:30	Allan Shaw				
Brailsford	15:00	At All Saints				
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Tom Parkinson				
Kniveton	11:00	Rev John Hellyer	Holy Communion			
SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD						
Ashbourne	10:30	Lorraine Hawkins				
	16:30	Paul Taylor	Tea Service			
Brailsford	10:30	Rev David Leese	All Age			
Parwich	14:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	Holy Communion			

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6TH

Milldale 19:00 Tim Dutton

Summer Service

#### Dates for your diary and your prayers

#### JUNE

Sat 14th	19:00	Kimber's Men in Concert at All Saints Church, Brailsford
Mon 23rd	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council
Tue 24th	19:30	Circuit Meeting at Tissington Chapel
Sun 29th		Parwich Wakes begins
JULY		
Wed 2nd	19:00	Milldale Summer Service
Thu 3rd	10:00	Circuit Leadership Team Meeting
Sun 6th	15:30	District Youth Event at Littleover MC
Wed 9th	19:30	Brailsford Church Council
Sat 19th	10:00	Advanced Safeguarding training at Beeston Methodist Church
AUGUST		
Sat 2nd		ACT Summer Fun Day, Ashbourne
Wed 2nd	19:00	Milldale Summer Service
Sat 16th	9:00	Ashbourne Show @ Osmaston Polo Ground

#### SEPTEMBER

Sat 13th	10:00	District Gathering including the business of Synod
Sat 20th & Sun 21st		President and Vice President of Conference in the Notts & Derby District

#### The Methodist Diary 2026

An order for copies of the Methodist Diaries will be sent off over the summer. The cost is £11.00 for the bound version or the personal organiser version. It runs from September 2025 to August 2027, with blank interleaving pages each week during 2026 for notes. The colours this year are red or charcoal. If you would like a copy, please contact Carole Thorpe on 346535, cethorpe@hotmail.com or at 12 Cavendish Drive, Ashbourne DE6 1SR.

#### Methodist Prayer Handbook 2025/2026

#### **Our Story, Our Song**

An order for copies of the A5 Methodist Prayer Handbook will be sent off over the summer. This resource will help you with your prayer life and the cost is about £4.15. Large print versions are available. If you would like a copy, please contact Carole Thorpe on 346535, cethorpe@hotmail.com or at 12 Cavendish Drive, Ashbourne DE6 1SR.



Bent over and obviously in pain, the old man with a cane hobbled laboriously through the sanctuary and into the pastor's office while the choir was practicing. Ten minutes later he came out, walking upright and moving with grace and speed. "Good gracious," the choir director exclaimed. "Did the pastor heal you by faith? "No," the old man said with a smile. "He just gave me a cane that wasn't six inches too short!"

The front cover picture has been taken by Mark Eden and is the view from Haddon Hall.

Deadline for the August edition of Connections is 13<sup>th</sup> July, items by email to <u>clifflewer@aol.com</u> or by hand/mail etc.

## LINK Construction Update - June 2025 –



### A significant milestone has been reached. The concrete floor slab of the Link Foyer has been poured

#### **Cornerstone Coffee House**

Table 9 is in the back room, the one with the neon sign, and is quite popular with our guests ... here's a typical day on table 9!

€Three friends having breakfast before a day walking in the hills – they also have takeaways for lunch

€A couple of local shop owners waiting for their takeaway before a busy day at work

€Two friends having coffee after their early morning Weight Watchers meeting

- €Friends from the local table tennis club relax after their morning matches
- €Visitors to Ashbourne enjoying lunch together
- €A group of mums taking the opportunity to feed their babies and enjoy each other's company
- €A group of cyclists taking a break for coffee and cake
  €A man and his wife, who has dementia, enjoying a coffee together
- €The local chess club move in and the atmosphere changes!
- €A dad and his children share drinks and cake after school
- €The three friends who had breakfast are back for tea and cake after their walk
- €In the evening a group of friends enjoy the Supper Club menu together

On Tuesday 22 July, Table 9 will have a new home in the worship area of the church – Trinity Hall. It is hoped that over the previous weekend we will move the whole of Cornerstone into the church so that work can begin on upgrading the current Cornerstone premises. It will be exciting to be in this new space, with all the opportunities it brings, but a bit daunting to be in somewhere new. We look forward to seeing you in our new location – come and enjoy coffee and cake and have a look at the work that has been done in this amazing space. Paul Taylor