

# Connections



Ashbourne Methodist  
Church  
April 2025



## Dear Friends

I want to start this letter with appreciation for all the support that has been offered to Chris and me in the recent weeks. Whether it has been phone calls, messages, emails, cards, flowers, meals on the doorstep or prayers, each and every one has been gratefully received. In particular I want to thank all those preachers who have stepped in and covered appointments and particularly Revd David Leese for the school assemblies, chairing of meetings and pastoral care of the Circuit. We are pleased to say that my denervation procedure will be happening on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which will take me out of action for a few weeks, but we are positive that all will be well for Holy Week and Easter.

Those of you who have recently attended Church Councils will have heard me talk about Albert McMackin. When I have asked who has heard of Albert, the majority of people have said no. Many of us, I am sure, will know people who have become Christians because of Albert McMackin.

Albert was an ordinary person, like you and me. He wanted his friends to know the relationship he had with Jesus, and the difference this made to his life. One of his friends was William, and Albert really wanted William to know Jesus. Albert knew that a preacher was coming to town and, ready to take any opportunity to get his mate to hear the good news,

Albert invited him along. William declined, but Albert persisted. Eventually, Albert said he would let William drive the bus (something he loved to do) if he agreed to come. At the very last opportunity, William drove the bus to the meeting and hung around on the edge of the gathering.

When William heard the message about who Jesus is, his need to be forgiven and know God, he decided to become a Christian. Not long after doing so, his life so dramatically transformed. William decided to become a preacher himself, and he was quite good at it. William is better known to you and me as Billy Graham.

William Franklin Graham Jr has spoken to more people than anyone else in history. A staggering 2.2 billion people heard about Jesus through his talks. He spoke to over 215 million people live from stages all over the world. At his meetings 2.2 million of these made decisions to follow Jesus. All because of the persistence of his friend, Albert. Praise God!

For those who are now worrying that I might be suggesting we should all become Billy Grahams and set up stages across the communities we live and work in, you can relax. Instead I am going to suggest that we become more like Albert McMackin and simply invite our friends to activities and services where they might discover Jesus for themselves.

We are approaching Easter and there are many events happening, particularly from Maundy Thursday through to Easter Sunday. We have the opportunity for

walks up Thorpe Cloud (Maundy Thursday), through Ashbourne (Good Friday) or around Milldale (Holy Saturday). There are a number of different acts of worship happening across the circuit over this period, some more reflective, others more celebratory. Why not be like Albert and invite a friend to join a walk or join us at worship – you never know they might be the next Billy Graham!

With my love and prayers

Nicola

## **Ashbourne Circuit Family News**

We have been very fortunate of late with some more spring-like weather. Looking around the garden the snowdrops are now coming to an end, but the daffodils and tulips are almost about to bloom. Personally, I always look forward to this time of year and feel my spirits lifting.

Last month saw the Ashbourne Shrovetide Football game take place in sunshine with glorious blue skies. Many of us were able to attend and follow Tuesday's game and see David Bott, from Kniveton Chapel, turn up the ball. Congratulations to him and his family.

Other good news to report is that there are several family celebrations being held in April. Chris and John D will be celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> (Diamond) wedding anniversary on 3 April. We send our congratulations to them both and no doubt they will be receiving a

special card from King Charles! Jonathan W will be turning 70 on 21 April and we wish him a very happy day. If you have a special event in the coming weeks and months, then please let us know so that we can share in your celebration.

Sadly, since our last edition of Connections, I have to report the sad news of the passing of Joyce W, who died peacefully at home on 19 February aged 92. We continue to hold husband Stephen, their family and friends in our prayers. Many of you will remember Gerald H, through his work with Ashbourne Churches Together. He died on 16 February and we pray for his family.

Unfortunately, quite a few in our church are currently unwell and in need of our support, both prayerful and practical. We pray for all those we know who are ill at this time and especially include Chris D, Margaret & David H, Kay O, Yvonne R and Rev Nicola.

As April approaches I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Easter.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Secretary)

### **John 3: 16**

*. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."*

The following article regarding 80 Candles Quilt was omitted from the March edition.

### 80 CANDLES QUILT

The 80 Candles Quilt is a unique piece of textile art, a community project envisioned by textile artist Laura Burrill, Textile Artist and Community Arts Practitioner, to commemorate the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. She describes it as a collaboratively created memorial quilt representing the stories of 80 individuals affected by the Nazi regime. The aim of the project has been to humanise the victims of mass genocide, encourage education through personal research, broaden understanding of the breadth of persecution and encourage active compassion.

The quilt is made up of 80 squares, each representing a particular individual, especially chosen and lovingly researched by each participant.

Some names will be familiar, others not; sometimes names or initials have been stitched on, but this was not a pre requisite.

A brief written profile accompanied each square, explaining reasons for choice, some of which are intensely personal,

eg: four members of one Jewish family who perished are represented, worked by descendants who settled in Derby.

The squares were worked at a series of 9 workshops throughout the region, including Derby Multi Faith Centre, the National Holocaust Museum, QEGS, Cornerstone Cafe and Brailsford Methodist Church by participants of all ages, both female and male. At each one, stories were shared about reasons for choosing the individuals with more than a few tears shed along the

way. Much collaboration about size and shape of candle, which colour fabric and which stitch to use also took place. And, as is so often the case with any form of collaborative group craft activity, new friendships were made and others rekindled.

Holocaust Day, Monday 27th January, was a busy day. It began with a Multi Faith Remembrance Event at the Multi Faith Centre at Derby University, the quilt taking pride of place. Those present included many participants and their families, members of the Derby Jewish community and a Rabbi from Nottingham, staff and volunteers from the National Holocaust Centre and other supporters of the project. Stories were shared, a poem written in one of the camps was beautifully read by 3 teenage participants, a film was shown and the Rabbi shared a poignant prayer.

(An ITV film crew also came; they quilt and Laura making a very brief appearance on the Central evening news).

The quilt was then taken to Derby Cathedral for further commemoration events. Rev Andy Fyall preached in the evening.

Later in the evening, in the darkness, images of the quilt were projected on the walls of some of the university buildings by a group of students.

All in all a day to remember.

It then travelled south, to Swadlincote Visitor Information Centre Gallery where it was on display for a week.

By the time this article is published, it will have been on display in Cornerstone Cafe.

(NB Date and time for it visiting Brailsford Methodist Church to be advised asap)

I think I speak for all the participants in saying that it has been an honour and a privilege to have taken part.

Sue Leese

The quilt can be seen at Brailsford Methodist Church on 29<sup>th</sup> March between 2 and 4

## **2025 Safeguarding Conference**

Will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 10am until 1.30pm at Nuthall Methodist Church, NG16 1DP. The theme of this year's is **"FORGET ME NOT? A SENSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE RESPONSE TO MEMORY LOSS AND DEMENTIA"**.

If you would like to attend and would like transport, contact Carole Thorpe on [circuitadmin@ashbournemethodist.org.uk](mailto:circuitadmin@ashbournemethodist.org.uk) or 346535.

## **ASHBOURNE ROTARY EASTER EGG APPEAL**

Easter is a time of hope and celebration, and you can help make it special for children in Ukraine by donating a medium sized chocolate egg.

For many, this may be their only Easter treat. With your support , we can make sure as many children as possible experience a little bit of joy and normality this season.

If you could drop them off at David Neill Mica on Compton by 26 March 2025 so we can then get them to Teams4U in time for delivery in Ukraine by Easter.

Alternatively, you could give them to Tricia on a Sunday morning.

Thank you

Kevin Barclay



## Data Protection

Every year we are required to carry out an exercise called Data Mapping. This means we need to check all our lists to make sure that we have made any necessary additions alterations or removals. In this context a list means any list, however held, which contains any personal information about the people or organisations concerned. A list containing just names does not count Please ensure that any list that you are responsible for is updated by April 15th. If you are not sure about this or you have a new list please contact me.

John Hurfurt

## **Bible Society Prayers**

30<sup>th</sup> March – 5<sup>th</sup> April

Pray for Open the Book teams in Africa that are working in Muslim majority contexts, like in Guinea Bissau. Pray that children will be impacted by Bible storytelling and that the Holy Spirit will keep staff safe.

6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April

Thank God for Jesus – for his birth, his ministry, and his death and resurrection. Praise God for his mercy

and Jesus for his amazing grace and beautiful promises. Hallelujah!

13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April

O Christ Lamb of God, thank you for your truly amazing sacrifice. Forgive me for the pain I have caused you. Embrace me with your love, and forgive me all my sins.

20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April

Risen Lord Jesus, I praise and adore you for your mighty triumph over sin and death. You are the King of kings and Lord of lords, worthy of all glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen

27<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Pray for forgiveness in the Middle East that hate will be silenced and peacemakers will be heard in those troubled lands.

## BRAILSFORD COFFEE SHOP

Brailsford Coffee Shop is open at the Methodist Church every Tuesday between 9.30 and 11.30. It has a loyal group of 'regulars' but everyone is welcome. Every so often we're in for a treat when children from the village school come to sing to us the songs they have been learning.

Tuesday 27 February was such a day. Miss Moore brought her Austen class of Year 2 and 3 children, accompanied by support staff and parent helpers. Other parents and friends also came along.

We were serenaded by happy and enthusiastic singers who really 'sang their hearts out' singing along to an iPad! Such is today's reality.

They sang five songs;

Steam Train - with actions of course

Colours of the World

Alfred the Great - but DON'T mention the cakes

Five little starfish -with actions and

From the Tiny Ant.

(I couldn't get the words of From the Tiny Ant out of my head for days afterwards!)

This was very much appreciated and we look forward to their next visit.

On Shrove Tuesday the treat was pancakes in addition to the usual drinks and biscuits. Visitors that day included a group of cyclists who regularly stop off at Brailsford on their rides.

All welcome always.

Sue Leese

## **Supporting Christian Aid with friends from other churches**

Christian Aid is a charity that works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

For many years, Christians from Ashbourne's churches have joined together to 'give, act, pray' with Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week.

Our Christian Aid Week collection is organised as part of Ashbourne Churches Together, and we get lots of support – so you'll be in good company if you join in!

Here's how you can get involved:

- Can you pray for the work of Christian Aid? We ask for your prayers for our local fundraising, and for the work of Christian Aid as they support the most vulnerable people and campaign for a fairer world.

### Christian Aid Week Collections

- Can you help to deliver donation envelopes to the houses of Ashbourne during Christian Aid week which is 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May. We aim to deliver an envelope to every house this year, including the new estates, to enable everyone to give if they would like to.
- Can you offer your letterbox as a drop-off point for envelopes? You'll get a small poster to display by your front door, and we'll put a sticker on each envelope to tell people where their local drop-off point is. We aim to have one letterbox for every small area. We'll collect the envelopes from you at the end of the week for counting. If you live in a village and would like to deliver around your village, please let us know.
- During Christian Aid Week in 2024, we raised £2126.56.

Will you help us this year, as we support the work of Christian Aid around the world.

Please get in touch with Catherine Green if you can help. 01335 300338



### **Christian Aid News – Unstoppable Hope amidst Aid cuts**

By Pete Moorey

Last month the UK government cut the Aid budget – a decision that, along with the decimation of US aid, is having a devastating impact on the world's poorest countries: from people in refugee camps whose food parcels will shrink to children awaiting life-saving vaccines. The support of churches is now more important than ever as Christian Aid is uniquely placed to bring hope and make a real difference by working through local partners.

We witnessed this unstoppable power of hope recently through a partner in Gaza, who formed a group called *Let's Create a Life* to give children respite from the trauma of war. Support from churches like yours

allows this group to provide fun learning activities for displaced children. Abdullah from *Let's Create a Life* told Christian Aid: "In the children's ward of a hospital, there was a child who wouldn't engage with the

doctors and was always depressed. I came dressed as a clown doctor, and we started playing and laughing with the kids. The doctors said it was the first time they'd seen that child laugh. That's what life is about.



In *Let's Create a Life*, we can shape the lives we want, despite the pain and wounds, the losses we've experienced."

To continue to support Christian Aid's work in conflict zones across the world, visit [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Photo by Majdi Fathi

*Abdullah, 26, Mossab (rabbit), and Mazen, 18, are children's entertainers in Gaza. Here they perform as clowns at a school fun day. The school is currently used to shelter families displaced from Gaza city. Mossab also lives inside the school. All of the performers are displaced.*



## **Easter cards & food gifts, plus lots more**

The Leprosy Mission Shop has a wide range of Easter cards and gifts, plus lots of other items that you might like, such as gifts for all ages, homewares, and Christian books.

Here's an idea: You might like to give a neighbour one of these lovely Easter cards (£4.50 for a pack of 5), and a matching pack of fudge (£4). That would be a nice treat for them, and also might just open up a conversation about Easter – a great opportunity for you to share something of your faith.

Every purchase contributes to the fight to end leprosy. As a church, we also make a small profit which goes towards the Link Project. So far, we have raised £1308.99 for the Link.

Catalogues will be available at church services and from Stuart Green [stuart@birchlodge.uk](mailto:stuart@birchlodge.uk)

## **Galilee Shipping Forecast**

### **(Matthew 8, 23-27)**

Here is the Shipping forecast for Galilee, at Matthew chapter 8, for the next five verses.

General synopsis low moving east, then uncertain.

Capernaum bight: wind direction east, sea calm, visibility good. Disciples set sail.

Tiberius automatic: Storm warning imminent, wind east by north, waves rough, cyclonic, precipitation rain, visibility poor. Disciples afraid, wake Jesus.

Magadala Head: Storm force wind and waves rebuked, decreasing quickly, then slight, fair, outlook bright. Storm and disciples calmed. Land safely.

David Leese

## **Called to Something Smaller?**

In the quaint terms used by the Methodist Church, one year ago a gathering of the Bristol Presbyteral session of the Synod gave me permission to "sit down." Many people would call it retiring. In the church we do not because ordination is for life so is the call to discipleship.

Every year at the Presbyteral Synod we are asked to affirm again that we continue to believe and preach our doctrines and that we will observe and administer



our discipline. We are being asked to say that we are still convinced that God has called us to ordained ministry. This is something I have always gladly done.

Church life in this country and our role in society is vastly different now from when I first sat in my study in Bradford on 1st September 1984 and wondered what I was going to do with the day. On my desk was an avocado green telephone and notebook detailing the incredible amount of visiting my predecessor had done. From serving three churches ranging from the predominantly Muslim area of inner city of Bradford to the village of Clayton on the edge of the city, we moved to Birmingham, serving first in the inner-city area of Saltley, then the suburb of Hall Green. After that, a move to serve the newly formed South-East District in 2006, and finally 5 years in Gloucestershire.

I have often been asked whether I think what I have done as a Methodist minister is what I was called to do when I started training. I have certainly found myself in unexpected places and spend my time doing things I never expected ministry to involve. Many I have enjoyed, others not so much. However, discipleship and ministry are never just about the things we do. It is about the people we are in Christ. That is people who experience the freedom and fullness of God's Spirit which by God's grace means we can be transformed into the people God wants us to be.

For a long time, I have been helped to understand God's calling by words from the ordination service of the Methodist Church in Singapore which are about the calling of the whole people of God. They are normally given the title "Called to Something Smaller." There probably needs to be a question mark after that

phrase. I have long believed that the call to discipleship lived out by lay people in the life of the world is a high calling. The call to ordained ministry is a complementary call to partnership in ministry where no-one is more important or needed than the other.

We are not ordaining you to ministry; that happened at your baptism.

We are not ordaining you to be a caring person; you are already called to that.

We are not ordaining you to serve the Church in committees, activities, organisation; that is already implied in your membership.

We are not ordaining you to become involved in social issues, ecology, race, politics, revolution, for that is laid upon every Christian.

We are ordaining you to something smaller and less spectacular: to read and interpret those sacred stories of our community, so that they speak a word to people today;  
to remember and practice those rituals and rites of meaning that in their poetry address human beings at the level where change operates;  
to foster in community through word and sacrament that encounter with truth which will set men and women free to minister as the body of Christ.

We are ordaining you to the ministry of the word and sacraments and pastoral care. God grant you grace not to betray but uphold it, not to deny but affirm it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

These words express what I have always and continue to understand God's calling to be.

John Hellyer.

## **Epitaph to an Angel**

We were blessed,  
Years of joy and laughter,  
A heart so full, so boundless—  
She touched lives, brought souls together,  
Gave all she had, and more.  
Her love lingers in the spaces she filled,  
Her kindness woven into every memory.  
Her legacy is not lost—  
It lives on, ever bright, ever strong.  
You will feel the ache of absence,  
Tears that speak of love unspent,  
For grief is just love with no place to rest.  
But look for her—  
In blue skies  
In the first bloom of spring,  
Soft and gentle as a whispered prayer.  
Find her in laughter, in kindness,  
In moments of quiet strength.  
Joyce was rare—

A soul of forgiveness and fire,  
Resilient, unwavering, endlessly giving.  
All the good a heart can hold.  
And though she is gone,  
She is never far.

## **Lucy Wills**

### **Grand daughter of Joyce Wood**

Joyce Mehrtens was born in May 1932 in Hull, where she grew up with her younger brother Michael. She experienced the war, initially at home, but as the bombing of Hull docks intensified she was evacuated with Michael to an impromptu boarding school in Goathland in the heart of the North Yorks Moors, where she stayed until mid 1944. During this time she saw little of her parents, but joined in all the antics one can imagine a 10 year old might get up to - midnight walks, tennis and late night chitter-chatter. On her return to Hull, Joyce once again regularly attended East Park Baptist Church, and, as was to become a trademark of Mum's character, organised the Youth Group - dances, games evenings, quizzes, and outings to far flung places like Scarborough. The group remained lifelong friends, with annual gatherings until very recently which Mum particularly looked forward to.

Joyce entered the world of work in 1949, training to be a shorthand typist at Hull City Wireworks, which she shared with the local rat population. Understandably, when the opportunity arose to escape, she did, and in so doing opened up a new chapter of her life. She went as Welfare Officer (what in today's parlance we would call Human Resources I suppose) to the Dettol factory in Skipton. Mum took to the role like a duck to water, overseeing the canteen, befriending the entire workforce of 100 and as ever arranging social events and outings. Outside of work, Joyce joined the Soroptomists, a group aimed at encouraging women to progress, where she became Vice President. Mum also immersed herself in church activities, and undertook local preaching in some of the Methodist chapels surrounding Skipton, following very much in her father's footsteps.

Mum lodged in Skipton, and normally walked uneventfully to work. One morning however, she watched as a young man, desperate to make an impression, leapt over a fence, only to stumble and knock himself unconscious at Mum's feet. Joyce of course immediately stepped in to the role of Good Samaritan and tended to this man - as she continued to do for almost another 70 years - the young man was of course Dad!

They married back in Hull at East Park Baptist church, settled into a new home in Skipton and started a family.

In 1968 the family moved down the Aire valley to Bingley to a house on a new estate surrounded by similar young families, which Mum recognised needed a baby-sitting circle. Spin off parties, shared taxi runs and the like resulted. Joyce joined Ladies Circle, and as ever rose to be President.

To help pay for the new house, Mum went back to work - market research in Halifax, sticking new computerised labels in library books, and office work at a local engineering factory. Joyce also launched a church magazine, The Good Neighbour - battling with an enormous typewriter capable of taking the double width Roneo duplicator stencils needed to print the pages of the magazine.

Joyce, with her war interrupted childhood never really got the educational opportunities she deserved, so in 1974, she enrolled on a City & Guilds Cookery course - 4 years later she was no longer the student but the teacher, and I have to say we as a family benefited from all the practicals Mum had to do - liver and onions were gone as beef wellington reigned. One project on the course was to review a household product - only Mum could choose Loo Roll! Mum circulated to all the neighbours samples of various loo rolls, asking for feedback on it's softness, durability, and effectiveness - she got a first!!

With Jane & I flown the nest, Mum & Dad moved once again back up the valley to Farnhill to a bungalow with panoramic views across the dale, and a wrap around garden in which she could indulge her appreciation of

annual bedding flowers, and grow fruit for jams and puddings. Mum once again led services at the local Methodist church they attended, joined and again became President of the local WI - and yes, she does make lovely marmalade, and her crowning glory was setting up what she termed "the Village Pump", a weekly gathering for over 50's. Five people attended the first meeting, the next it was 20. Quizzes, pantomines, outings, craft demonstrations, Lottery funding for a table tennis table - and home made biscuits, courtesy of Joyce.

Much to Mum's delight, she became a Grandma firstly to Lucy and then Christopher.

Joyce's health faltered in 2017, her diagnosis with Rheumatoid Arthritis, and the start of her macular degeneration combining to make it obvious that life in Farnhill would become increasingly awkward; a search for a place nearer Jane in Chorley, or Richard in Alton culminated in their move to Eliot Lodge in Ashbourne in 2019.

Right from day one, Mum badgered the Lodge Manager, Michael to allow her to organise amongst other activities, carpet bowls, which she had developed a passion for whilst in Farnhill. Whilst she never embedded that one, her quiz lives on, she organised an Old Time Musical Evening, with enthusiastic participation from numerous Lodge residents, and had recently brought Beetle back as an activity to the Thursday Games Afternoon.

Joyce was, above all, fascinated by people and couldn't resist helping out where she saw a need - baking cakes for charity events and celebrations, stepping in to nurse people at the drop of a hat, collecting for Christian Aid, offering a compassionate ear to anyone, and being a devoted wife and brilliant Mum.

This is the eulogy given at the funeral of Joyce Wood by her Son Richard who would like to express to the community of the Ashbourne Methodist Circuit the thanks of the whole family for the support Mum and Dad have received over the past period in Ashbourne and especially to his Father Stephen in the past few difficult weeks including the flowers that have 'appeared on his table'

### **Joyce Wood of Eliot Lodge -tribute.**

Steve and Joyce Wood moved to Ashbourne., leaving their beloved Yorkshire, in 2019. They have been enfolded in the warmth and care of the Eliot Lodge community, and not surprisingly Joyce became a member of the Tuesday morning housegroup, in company with then three others from Eliot Lodge.

Joyce gracefully muttered that this was the first chapel she had been to that she had not been in a leading role, having edited church newsletters, chaired ladies meetings, led services in various circuits, and



generally been an all -round organizer. There are times when we all need someone like that!

Not long after she came Margaret Hasler suggested in our housegroup that we go round and say a sentence about the person on our right. Joyce was on my right. My sentence was that though Joyce had not been with us long, how I appreciated her quiet words of wisdom. Words that were always worth listening to.

Joyce knew the fingerprint of God's love and grace in her life. Her carefully composed funeral service reflected this fingerprint of God's love too. Beginning with the affirmation of Jesus as Saviour - 'the way the truth and the life, the only way to the Father- and progressing through to the parable of the Good Samaritan. This reflected her life. In her time at Mornington Road Methodist Church Bingley Joyce had edited and written much of the Church magazine appropriately called 'The Good Neighbour.' Not all the articles have her name at the bottom but in many you can hear her typical expressions such as in reporting a 1985 harvest service. In her typical turn of phrase she wrote 'after the service 200 sat down to an enjoyable harvest supper, but my goodness, the washing up that followed!'

We thank God that the even if only for a few years the times of Joyce's life have been the times of our lives too. Amen.

David Leese

## **Milldale Methodist Chapel Easter events**

11 a.m. on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April (Holy Saturday) – a walk leaving from the village centre into some of the surrounding beauty

2 p.m. on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April – a service here in the Chapel to prepare for the Coming of our Lord.



## The seven “I am” sayings of Jesus



A Lent course at Kirk Ireton Methodist Church  
on Thursday evenings (7-8pm plus refreshments)  
led by Local Preachers and Ministers from

Ashbourne Methodist Circuit:

6th March - I am the good shepherd & I am the gate

13th March - I am the light of the world

20th March - I am the resurrection and the life

27th March - I am the bread of life

3rd April - I am the way, the truth and the life

10th April - I am the true vine



More information from:

Rev'd Nicola Briggs

01335 702174

[nicola.briggs@methodist.org.uk](mailto:nicola.briggs@methodist.org.uk)

The **Methodist** Church



## SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

My memory of school assemblies is not inspiring, perhaps like yours. As someone who still takes assemblies I hope those I lead are more memorable. This might be especially so when the school takes the assembly subject used, and in co-operation builds on it.

Last month at St Oswald's school I led one on healing, using the account of the healing of the paralytic. The best aspect was how the teacher who was with me built upon my contribution. He reminded the school that their way of looking at bible stories was the **Ow, Now, and Wow** method. This does just what it says in the phrase itself.

The '**ow**' is the problem, in the story used the man who cannot walk. The '**now**' examines the response in the story, and what might be our response. In this instance the friends respond by taking the man to Jesus, with their faith and hope. The '**wow**' is the outcome - healing -and the resulting sense of wonder.

I would be surprised if the 'ow, now, and wow' approach is formally a part of the local preachers syllabus, but it is a part of St Oswald's, and their way of exploring spiritual experiences. I commend it to you.

David Leese

**DISTRICT SAFEGUARDING  
CONFERENCE 2025**



**"FORGET ME NOT"  
A SENSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE RESPONSE  
TO MEMORY LOSS AND DEMENTIA**

**SATURDAY 7TH JUNE  
10:00am - 1:30pm  
NUTHALL METHODIST CHURCH**

An opportunity to:

- ✿ Find out how we can support those with memory loss and dementia, their carers and families in our churches and communities.
- ✿ Learn more about creating a dementia friendly space.
- ✿ Raise your awareness of the signs of early onset dementia.
- ✿ Consider how we can create a good safeguarding culture for those affected.



Why not bring your lunch and continue the conversation?

Cakes will be provided by members of the District

Safeguarding Group (DSG)

**To book a place:**

**Follow the link**

**<https://forms.gle/7erUg3V7TzUSGPNP7>**

**Scan the code**

**Email [Rosie.padistrictsafeguarding@methodist-nd.org.uk](mailto:Rosie.padistrictsafeguarding@methodist-nd.org.uk)**





Brailsford  
Methodist Church  
An opportunity to  
discover how we can  
share about Jesus using  
this exciting research

Wednesday 12th March 2025  
10.00am - 11.30am  
Every Wednesday morning up to and  
including 16th April

For more information contact Revd Nicola Briggs  
[nicola.briggs@methodist.org.uk](mailto:nicola.briggs@methodist.org.uk)

The Constant Sustenance of Love  
By Peter Dawson - 2023

If you were Him and had just been  
baptised by John, and this was seen:  
the Holy Spirit like a dove  
descending on you from above,  
what would you think, what would you feel?  
The implications very real!

Would you, as He did, go away  
and find somewhere to think, and pray?

Dizzy with a new-found power  
would you build yourself a tower  
from which, if you were ever thrown  
angels would catch you as their own?  
So easily we can be snared  
when our own ego's voice is heard,  
or would you panic and confess  
that you are lost in wilderness.

What He did was trust and see  
on those first steps to Calvary.  
But you are you and I am me  
and Jesus we will never be.  
And yet because of what occurred  
within us each the Spirit's stirred.  
That Spirit in our hearts will sing  
and like the dove, at last, take wing.

And on whatever path we take  
with all the twists and turns we make  
what is it that will keep us there?  
We are not Him we cannot dare  
to put our trust in God-above  
without the constant sustenance of love.  
So it's this that keeps us going;  
thinking, feeling, talking. Growing.

## **The Real Easter Egg - the only chocolate egg to tell the Easter Story**

The Real Easter Egg is made with super thick Fairtrade milk chocolate egg (150g) with a lovely creamy taste. 30% cocoa – Palm Oil & plastic free.

This year the free 24 page Easter story-activity book has had a whole new design. It is illustrated by award winning artist Martina Peluso and contains the story of the first Easter along with some fun activities. Over its 24 pages, the story covers the final week of the life of Jesus and includes the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. The book contains a prize competition worth £200.

They are available for £6.20 each from Stuart Green [stuart@birchlodge.uk](mailto:stuart@birchlodge.uk) Order soon – available while stocks last.





## THREE DAYS

Friday

The tier of tears comes around again,  
from sadness to gladness,  
as church does every year.  
After the trying of Lent, the crying of the cross.

A Jacob's ladder of stepping down and climbing  
back,  
a forsaken descent to God knows where.  
But the work will be done, and finished,  
and the promised ascent will come.

Saturday

Be still,  
Be patient,  
Wait just a little while,  
It will soon be time to dry the tears.

Sunday

The human down,  
The Eternal up.

*Alan Cocker*

## **Ashbourne Circuit Church Services**

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

### **SUNDAY MARCH 16TH**

### **Lent 2**

#### **10:00 Muddy Church**

#### **Bradley area**

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev John Hellyer	Holy Communion
	18:30	Tim Dutton	PRAISE

Brailsford	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Holy Communion
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Tissington	10:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	
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### **SUNDAY MARCH 23RD**

### **Lent 3**

Ashbourne	10:30	Tim Dutton	
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Brailsford	10:45	At All Saints	
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Kirk Ireton	18:30	Ruth Barratt	
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Kniveton	11:00	Cathy Stubbs	
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### **SUNDAY MARCH 30TH**

### **Mothering Sunday**

Ashbourne	10:30	Alan Shaw	
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Brailsford	10:45	Rev Bex Allpress & Revd David Leese	<b>United Benefice Service at Wyaston</b>
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### **SUNDAY APRIL 6TH**

### **Passion Sunday**

#### **10:00 Muddy Church**

#### **Kirk Ireton area**

Ashbourne	10:30	Robert Sales	
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	16:30	Tracy Dawson	Afternoon Tea Service
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Brailsford	10:30	Diana Whitmill	All Age
Parwich	14:30	Rev David Leese	

### **SUNDAY APRIL 13TH**

### **Palm Sunday**

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst
Brailsford	15:00	At All Saints
Kniveton	14:30	Rev Nicola Briggs

Communion

### **THURSDAY APRIL 17TH**

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

<b>Tissington</b>	18.45	Rev Nicola Briggs
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Refreshments and  
Holy Communion

### **FRIDAY APRIL 18TH**

### **GOOD FRIDAY**

Ashbourne	<b>10:00</b>	Rev Nicola Briggs
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### **SATURDAY APRIL 19TH**

### **EASTER SATURDAY**

Milldale	14:00	Rev Nicola Briggs
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### **SUNDAY APRIL 20TH**

### **EASTER DAY**

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Nicola Briggs
	18:30	Rev Nicola Briggs
Brailsford	10:30	Revd David Leese
Tissington	10:30	Rev John Hellyer

All Age  
  
Holy Communion  
  
PRAISE,  
  
Holy Communion  
  
Holy Communion  
  
Holy Communion

## **SUNDAY APRIL 27TH**

Ashbourne	10:30	Lorraine Hawkins	
Brailsford	15:00	At All Saints	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev David Leese	Songs of Praise
Kniveton	11:00	Ann Parkinson	

## **SUNDAY MAY 4th**

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	All Age
	16:30	Tim Dutton	Songs of Praise
Brailsford	10:30	Tracy Dawson	All Age

Changes to normal services are in **bold**

Dates for your diary and your prayers

### **MARCH**

Wed 19th	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council
Fri 21st	10:00	Circuit Leadership Team meeting
Fri 28th	10:00	Singalong Musicals at Elim Church
Wed 26th	19:30	Circuit Meeting at Brailsford
Sat 29th	10:30	Fundraising Walk to Tissington
Sat 29th	14:00	80 Candles Quilt display at Brailsford Chapel

### **APRIL**

Sat 5th	10:00	"Net Zero" - District Gathering including the business of Synod at Queen Elizabeth's Academy, Mansfield NG19 7AP
Fri 11th	10:00	Circuit Leadership Team meeting
<b>Thu 17th</b>	<b>19:30</b>	<b>Maundy Service at Tissington Chapel</b>
		<b>ACT walk the Cross up Thorpe Cloud</b>
<b>Fri 18th</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Good Friday Service at Hilltop School</b>
<b>Fri 18th</b>	<b>12:00</b>	<b>ACT Walk of Witness</b>
<b>Sat 19th</b>	<b>11:00</b>	<b>Holy Saturday Walk at Milldale</b>
	<b>14:00</b>	<b>Holy Saturday service at Milldale</b>
<b>Sun 20th</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>Easter Day</b> - Ashbourne All Age Holy Communion service
<b>Sun 20th</b>	<b>18:30</b>	<b>Easter Day</b> – Praise service with Holy Communion at St Oswald's Church Hall
Tue 29th	19:00	Launch of Christianity Month at Littleover Methodist Church
Wed 30th	19:30	Ashbourne Annual Church meeting at Elim Church

## **MAY**

Sat 3rd – Mon 5th		VE Celebration – displays at All Saints Church Brailsford
Thu 8th	12:00	Fish and Chips Church at St Oswald's Hall
Sat 10th	10:00	Advanced Safeguarding Training at Brailsford Chapel

Fri 16th            18:00    Gospel Magic at Brailsford Institute

Thu 29th           11:00    Tissington Well Dressing Service

If you would like your event in this diary, please let Carole Thorpe know at [circuitadmin@ashbournemethodist.org.uk](mailto:circuitadmin@ashbournemethodist.org.uk) or 346535.

### **What is My Story? Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

Do you struggle to share your faith journey with others? What does the Bible say about testimony? The District has arranged an event at The Hope Centre, Derby DE1 1LL to give you some ideas. It starts at 10am until 4pm with lunch included.

To book or for further details email Suzanne Morton - [dme@methodist-nd.org.uk](mailto:dme@methodist-nd.org.uk) or find via Eventbrite.

### **Next Edition of Connections - May**

Deadline for items to Cliff Lewer at [clifflewer@aol.com](mailto:clifflewer@aol.com) by Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April



Spring Sheep Mark Eden who also took the front cover  
entitles Pollinating