

Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit

Ashbourne, Brailsford, Kniveton, Kirk Ireton, Tissington, Parwich, Milldale



Robin Hood's Stride

Connections July 2026



Chocolatier performing
In Trinity Hall



Quiz Night held at Brailsford

Dear Friends in the Ashbourne One Circuit and beyond

As I have been watching news stories in recent weeks, I find myself reflecting on the huge difference between the behaviour of some of our world leaders and the behaviour expected of us as disciples of Jesus in the world today. It strikes me that there is a huge chasm between the two. As Christ's disciples we are called to be servants.

Jesus told his followers in Matthew 20:28: The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. In this one verse the world's definition of greatness is turned upside down. For, in the Kingdom of God, true influence is not measured by how many people serve us BUT in how many people we serve. As servants of Jesus Christ we are called to:

- Look out for the interest of others, rather than our own personal ones.
- Use the gifts God has blessed us with for the benefit of our church family and community
- Offer our time, even when that might require a personal sacrifice.

When we serve our neighbours, our friends, our families, those passing through our community we are actively following the example we see again and again in the gospel accounts of Jesus' earthly life. I am thrilled that across the Ashbourne One Church Circuit I regularly see people actively seeking to serve other

people and the needs they have. I see people stopping and listening to someone who is lonely or grieving, I see people offering food to the foodbanks so that the hungry may be fed, I see people giving hours and hours of time for mission and ministry in so many different ways. It is my privilege and joy to serve beside you and with you. There are so many people in our world today that long to know they are loved and we can reflect God's love and grace as we serve others.

All of us can play a vital part in serving others through the Ashbourne One Church Circuit, even those of us who are not quite as mobile as we used to be. We do not need to be given a job title before we can serve other people. The only name we need is disciple.

It may be that you are looking at specific ways of serving in the life of our circuit and our churches. Please contact a church steward or me if you would like to talk this through. Here are some ideas to consider:


- Commit to praying for our circuit and churches on a regular basis, for those who are serving in different ways
- Offer hospitality, invite someone to join you for a cuppa or a meal, especially if you know someone is particularly busy and could do with an opportunity to pause

- Lend a helping hand with preparing for worship or clearing up at the end

During June we are focusing on Bible Month in our worship, looking at Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. In Philippians 2:3-4 Paul writes: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be servants of those around us both inside and outside the life of the church. Let us commit to being Jesus' servants where we find ourselves. May we be his hands and his feet and together build a vibrant and loving church and circuit family that glorifies God.

Blessings to you and all who you serve.

Nicola


Church Family News July 2026

I am writing this from Cornwall, where I have been on holiday and where tomorrow I'm attending the wedding of a family friend. In the coming days please also think of Emily P, daughter of Amanda and James, and her fiancé Adam, who are getting married on 26 June. We wish them a very happy future life together.

Having been away from home for a number of weeks, I feel a bit out of touch with everything going on in Ashbourne. I apologise if I have missed sharing any family news. I was particularly disappointed to miss the unveiling of the Stitching Ashbourne project at our church. I shall look forward to catching up with it on display somewhere soon. But it sounds to have been a successful first event at our new Link Centre.

This coming month sees the 80th birthday of Richard Odell and we wish him a very happy day on 26 July.

We continue to pray for all those who are unwell at this time including: Brian H, Chris D, Diane P, Hyacinth S-D, Jenny W, Kay O, Liz Hi, Margaret He & Nina C.

We also note the passing of Marion Morris of Kirk Ireton, who died on Monday 18th May. We pray for her family and friends at this sad time.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral secretary 05.06.26)

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

WORSHIP AT ASHBOURNE METHODIST CHURCH

We are delighted to be back in the Trinity Hall which is our newly refurbished worship space. In the future, this will provide us with opportunities to worship in a range of different ways as we explore flexible use of our buildings. We are currently trialling a variety of formats to see how to use the space most effectively.

Church with Choices

Morning worship at 10.30 am continues to be Church with Choices, with the option to follow a sermon with a preacher or to engage in a more interactive style of worship in Seek and Share. There are also occasional services where we have altogether worship, suited to all ages and stages of Christian development.

We will also be continuing our established evening services, Afternoon Tea and Praise, which both take place once a month.

Afternoon Tea Service

The Afternoon Tea service is on the first Sunday of each month at 4.30 pm in the Century Hall. The idea originated from Helen Barker when she was steward for 'lifelong church.' It coincided with the end of Covid and was intended to be an alternative to the more "lively/modern" worship at 10.30 am and at Praise. There had been some people who were unhappy when the evening service stopped and wanted something more traditional. Various discussions had taken place within the Ashbourne Worship Coordination Team about additional evening or afternoon services and how they could be more accessible and dementia friendly. The format of the current service is to start with tea and cake, followed by the singing of more traditional hymns from Hymns and Psalms, a short message rather than a full sermon, readings and prayers, including the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer. The services are scheduled for 45-50 minutes but people are encouraged to stay afterwards for more tea and fellowship.

This is not set in stone so those leading the service can lead as they feel appropriate but using the guidance above.

Praise

Praise is on the third Sunday of each month at 6.30 pm in the Trinity Hall. For those who are not familiar with 'Praise', the format is informal, café style around tables, with coffee and tea (and biscuits, of course!) on arrival from about 6.10 pm. This allows people time to chat with each other. As the evening goes on, there are opportunities for table discussion about the theme and sometimes interactive prayers or a creative activity. services are quite music-focussed, with times of lively praise and then periods for reflection through more meditative songs. There is always time for prayer, bible readings and short comments, with opportunities for testimony and the creative use of AV resources. The worship normally lasts for 60-80 minutes, depending on the theme and worship leader. It is for all ages who want to worship in a slightly more informal setting.

Evening Communion Service

As we move forward, we are trying a new venture on the fifth Sunday of the month. This will be a quieter more reflective evening service with Holy Communion. In future, we hope to draw on experiences from communities like Lindisfarne, Taize, Iona and Northumbria. The first of these services will take place in the Trinity Hall on Sunday 30 August at 6.30 pm.

We are also discussing the possibility of services at different times of the week. If you have any ideas about worship, please come along to the next Worship Forum in the Trinity Hall at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 21st July.

Christianity Month – May 2026

As we reflected on the four events we organised for Christianity month, we all agreed it was a great time of friendship, fellowship and worship. It's not all about the number of people who attended each event, but we were uplifted by the number of people who attended each event and the help, support and enthusiasm we received from so many people. At all the events we welcomed new people, some of which have since joined us for our Sunday worship.

The month started with a full house for the Quiz night in Brailsford Chapel, where everyone was made to feel so welcome and the wonderful catering exceeded everyone's expectations. A fun night was promised and safe to say was delivered. We now truly know who the competitive members of the Church are, following some of Rachel's cunning bonus questions !

The next event was the "walk & talk " to Tissington Chapel followed by a picnic lunch. The walking party consisted of 14 people, and what really made this event was number of non-walkers who joined us and we ended up with just less than 40 in the chapel for lunch.

Our third event was the "Songs of Praise " with Ashbourne Band during Tissington Well Dressing. Although the day started with heavy clouds, it cleared by the afternoon. It was a lovely afternoon and the music and our singing was enjoyed by many who came to listen or were passing by.

The final event was an evening with Chocolatier David Greenwood – Haigh in our new Trinity Hall. Just less than 100 people enjoyed his interesting talk where he was able to share a bit about his Christian life.

On the inside front and back covers are a few photographs. We have already started to think about what events we can host next year, and so if anyone has any ideas, please do let us know.

Once again, thank you to everyone who helped make all the events so successful.

The Outreach Forum.

ACT Patna Partnership

Visit of the Rt. Revd. Francis Hansda, Bishop of Patna

Some of you may remember Bishop Francis visiting Ashbourne a few years ago when he was a Presbyter in the Diocese of Patna. He will be coming to Ashbourne on Friday, 10th July to Monday, 20th July. We are planning the programme for his visit. He will be at St. Oswald's on Sunday 12th and at Ashbourne Methodist on Sunday 19th. Visits planned so far are to the Picnic in the Park, the Monday Housegroup and the Food Bank. We hope that he will be able to meet as many people as possible.

Bishop Francis will be staying with Liz and John, one way of you getting to know him would be to invite him for a meal. If you would like to invite him to attend an activity, please let us know. We should also be glad of help with transport.

Liz and John

Pluck

O father God, help me not to be afraid of anything except disappointing you. When I grow tired of duty, make me ashamed of giving up, When I am startled into fear, remind me that you are near and teach me the joy of being safe with you. Give me courage to stand up to every evil thing, both in myself and in others, overcoming bravely in strength which you can give me.

Amen

Prayer

(from Aotearoa Psalms – NZ)

'Don't call me God, I'll call you'

Well I don't mean it to be that way
It's just that prayers tend to be on my terms
When I've got the time and the inclination
And even then, I do all the talking
As though God didn't already know
What was in my heart

Yes I am aware that conversation
Is a two way business
But I guess it's easier for me to talk
Because I've got a bit of a hearing problem
And God's voice is so terribly quiet
That listening can be hard work
It means tuning into a huge silence
In order to pick up a whisper or two

I'm not good with silences
They make me feel disconnected
I want to shout down the line
'Are you working – is anyone there'

I think I need some practice
Still times to sit with silence
And feel comfortable in it
So that I recognize the voice when it comes

And who knows? Maybe one day I'll discover
That the best part of prayer
Is to let God do most of the talking

There must be more to life than this?

Has the world gone mad? Is it out of control?
Are we spiraling to disaster, down some giant black
hole?

Is a time of cooperation, a thing of the past?
Has all integrity gone, or just sinking very fast?

Are things so bad upon the world stage/
That we live in fear of a dictator's rage,
Can the world sink any lower than a nuclear threat?

Is the course of self destruction already set?

We live in a consumer age that teaches us to 'have more'

Must have something better than, the people next door.

Happily getting richer whilst others are so poor.

Do we wear rose tinted glasses, like never before?

Are we any happier with possessions galore?

Is our joy only transient, and drives us for more?

Does our life have any meaning, any purpose at all?

Is this all there is, then life's just a crawl.

There has to be something better, or life's just a waste

Something very special, to remove the bitter taste.

Something to drive us on, each and every day.

Some absolute reassurance there is a better way.

You will know it when you find it, a life of total bliss.

Then you will truly know, there is so much more to life than this

**I'm looking for someone to
assist with milking cows on my
dairy farm.**

Must work well with udders...

A prayer for Justice

God is passionate about Justice. You can bring all your concerns to him and know that he will understand.

The Lord replies 'I have seen violence done to the helpless, and I have heard the groans of the poor. Now I will rise up to rescue them, as they have longed for me to do'

Psalm 12.5

God

We see injustice, inequality, and intolerance all around us.

God make things right; help us to make things right.

Give us the courage to fight for justice, to protect the weak.

To speak up for the ignored, to care for the poor, and to feed the hungry.

Let your kingdom come, and let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

A wealthy Frenchman was showing off his yachts.
“This is un, this is deux, this is trois, this is quatre,
this is six...” “What happened to five?” his wife
asked.

“Cinq” he answered

Trinity Hall artwork in use.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" Paul & Timothy's letter to the Philippians chapter 1: verses 3-5

The beginning of this letter to the church in Philippi is full of joy and love, even though Paul & Timothy were in prison

During our morning church service on 7th June, we gave thanks to God for one another, for our partnership in the gospel, and we prayed that our love will grow more and more – to the glory of God.

We added blossom to the Trinity Tree, with each piece of blossom representing someone from our church family, as we gave thanks to God for them. Sometimes blossom looks beautiful when it falls from a tree, and so some people chose to place blossom in God's hands.



REFLECTIONS

I think the title for this epistle should be, "*Reflections on a memory and another record*". Not the one of the Voyager I wrote in my last article, but something closer to my home and my heart,

As my mother, was in my thoughts as I wrote this, would have been 95 last Friday, (29. 05.2026). if she was alive today.

And as I thought of her, as I do often, my mind was taken back to a time that I spent with her, long ago, in my teens, and I was surprised how these memories tumbled together for this article, as the memory was also enhanced and triggered by the news that in July the United States will celebrate its Independence Day, it reminded me of that certain day long ago.

Picture this, a young teenage lad out with his mother shopping. In his pocket a bit of cash, enhanced by birthday money, with a couple of Ten Shilling Notes to boot. (Those old enough will remember, I hope, the joy of a Ten Bob Note in a Birthday Card you thought you were made with your first paper money!).

We went into Woolworths in my home town of Stockport, but nothing interested me on the toy stall, or the "Airfix" models of the day.

We ventured into the market, and we passed a shop called Eaglands, one of those shops, now long gone, but of that day, which sold everything, Hardware, Clothes, Furniture, toys etc, (You name it, it was there.)

I stopped dead, as in the window I saw a model, which said, "Lockheed YF-12A. Interceptor" made by the American Reville Model Company.

Mum saw me so enraptured by what I was looking at, and said, "Have you got enough to buy it"? A swift calculation and I did have enough and went in and bought it.

I took it home carefully tucked under my arm, and when home assembled it.

Since that day, long ago, I fell in love with the Lockheed A-11 family of aircraft that included the YF-12A, the A-12 and the SR-71.



(Left to right YF-12A, A-11 and SR-71).

Not long after its first flight, in 1965, the YF 12A set a new absolute airspeed record of 2,070.101mph at 80,000ft plus (Those of you who have flown on holiday usually fly from about 300mph to 600mph at anything between 20 and 40,000ft)

In 1976, on the 28th of July, as part of the Bicentennial Celebration's the SR-71 took the absolute airspeed and at a sustained altitude record 2,193.20mph at 80,000ft plus. It is still, even after its retirement in 2001 the fastest manned jet aircraft ever made!

That record, 50 years later, still stands, only rocket planes, and spaceships, e.g. the Space Shuttle, and unmanned aircraft have gone faster.

The crew, as you can see from the top right picture, wear full astronaut pressure suits, (The suits of the Space Shuttle Pilots are the next generation on from those suits shown above.)

The SR-71, the initials stand for Strategic Reconnaissance, it can film 120,000 square miles in an hour, using normal film, infra-red and radar imagery.

As well as Strategic Reconnaissance for the military it has also been used to scan in natural disaster areas to help aid agencies.

The YF-12A never made production, but there were about 30 plus SR-71'S It was made as a successor to the infamous U-2 of Gary Powers fame, but designed from scratch to fly at a 2,000 miles per hour cruise speed, (An "unofficial record" was that one flew at 2,400 mph for a short burst to avoid a missile that had been fired at it!)

It was made of Titanium from stem to stern, with some even more exotic alloys in sensitive areas of high temperature.

The flying control wires are made from Elgiloy, a metal usually used in the manufacture of watch springs!

(Yes, it was made in the days of what we call in the trade "Heave by Cable", before the modern-day aircraft that are computer controlled and known as "Fly by Wire"!)

The engines are two Pratt and Whitney J 58 Turbo Jets, and are known as "Continuous Bleed Turbo Jets", as at full speed it is said the turbine of the jet "gets in the way" and it operates nearly as a Ram Jet.

In 1974, an SR-71 came to the Farnborough Airshow, and I went to see it. On the way over it took the New York, London Record, 1 Hour, 55 minutes and 47 seconds.

On the way home it did an unofficial airspeed record, London Los Angeles, (near where the main force is based, Beale, in California.) It did the distance in 3 hours 45 minutes, (The Crew said if they could have done it totally on internal fuel it would have taken them 3 hours)!

My family and I went to the Mildenhall Airshow in the mid 80's knowing the SR-71 was going to fly in the show, and it did, boy did I love that sight!

I have multiple books on the aircraft collected over the years, and even have, a signed photograph of the SR-71 from the designer, Clarence "Kelly" Johnson, which I had framed and I treasure. Plus, a photograph of one autographed by Frank Stampf., the Reconnaissance Systems Officer, who sits in the rear seat, and in charge of all the systems that the SR-71 uses on a mission.

Those, along with the previously mentioned books, I have, I recently have obtained many of which were written by one of the pilots, Colonel Richard H Graham, and I have had the pleasure of meeting him a couple of times and he has autographed a few of my books that he has written.

The aircraft was retired in 2001, and, if you want to see one, there is one in this country at the Imperial War Museum facility in the United States Exhibition Hangar at Duxford, just off the M11 Near Cambridge.

On its retirement in 2001 the Farnborough record breaking, aircraft number 64-17972 was selected to be preserved and was sent from its base in California, to the Smithsonian Museum near Washington. On its; last flight, it crossed the United States in 65 minutes!

As said at the beginning of this article, it was strange to me how the memories tumbled through my mind of that day long ago, yet I am reminded every day of Mum, as I pass the protected plot on the farm where we have trees planted in memory of our families, my mother's is a Silver Birch tree,

There you have it, an unusual article, I am sure you will agree with. Some of you might find it boring! To those who did, I apologise, but it started with the memory of a beloved Mum, and a day, at least 60 years ago that has been etched into my memory for that long that I felt I needed to share. **Tom P.**

The Link Centre “Open Day” – Save the Date.

On Saturday 18 July we are hosting an “Open Day” at the Link Centre. This will give us a great opportunity to invite family, friends and colleagues to see our new Church and Community Centre.

The day will run from 11.00am to 3.00pm. Complimentary drinks will be available in the Atrium. In Trinity Hall we will have live entertainment throughout the day. In Century Hall there will be numerous exhibitions stands from various local organisations, and community parties. In Riverside Hall we will have a range of activities for children of all ages. More information will be available over the coming month.

Ashbourne town has a population of 11,000 people and another 10,000 people live in the surrounding villages. So we have an awful lot of people we want to come and see our new home ! So please put the date in your diary and start thinking who you can invite.

Any questions or suggestions for this Open Day, please contact Crispin.

Lord I see the winds of change

And I feel my faith sinking into my boots, Sometimes I feel so confident and then the chilling mists of doubt creep over me.....help me, Lord, convict my wavering heart....save me!

Save me from putting my trusty in myself, other people's opinions. Save me from putting special emphasis on things, from worshipping a person... Lord save me!

Peter got down out of the boat and walked on the water to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord save me!' Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. 'You of little faith' he said 'Why did you doubt?'

Matthew 14:30,31

God provides that trusted hand for us in our daily walk of faith. When we face the unknowns of life. He holds out his hand of reassurance to grasp our own. When we roll over life's roughhewn road of suffering, He offers his arm of strength to carry us through. And when it seems we must go on alone without the aid of friends, family, or work. God offers us the added promise of his abiding presence.

(from Footprints along the pathway of life)

Taking our faith and hope and love to people in Ashbourne.

A few of us from the Ashbourne Churches are planning to start a Healing Room in the renewed Methodist Church. A Healing Room is a place and a time when Christian prayer ministry is available to anyone. e.g. Thursdays 4.30 to 6 at Costa, Chellaston. Ashbourne Churches Together Committee have given the idea an enthusiastic welcome.

Healing Rooms UK is a long-established umbrella organisation which has helped start up Healing Rooms in many towns, and which gives Guidelines and Training. [Home - The Healing Rooms](#) We will be overseen by them and by a local Board of Reference.



We will have a banner inviting people to come in to pray with someone for a friend or for themselves. In my experience as a Vicar and Prison Chaplain, not everyone receives healing but most are grateful for a touch of something, usually of peace.

Three of us are from St Oswald's, with three from other churches. We would love a few more people to join us. We will always have two people praying;

one more comfortable with praying out loud, one more comfortable praying quietly. We will receive training from the national Healing Rooms and locally. No deep end shock. Might you like to make yourself available to join us praying for others for their peace?

Contact Roger Harper-Allen for more details
harperrog@gmail.com

Deadline for Connections for August will be Sunday 9th July to clifflewer@aol.com or by hand.

**Which days are the
strongest?**

Saturday & Sunday.

The rest are weak days

Dates for the Diary – Services

Sunday 21st June

Bible Month 3

Ashbourne 10.30 Diana Whitmill and Jeff Ffoulkes
Paul Taylor and Anne Payne

Ashbourne 18.30 Revd Nicola Briggs Praise
Holy Communion

Brailsford 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs
Altogether Worship

Tissington 10.30 Ann Parkinson

Sunday 28th June

Bible Month 4

Ashbourne 10.30 Tim Dutton and Stuart Green
Altogether Worship

Brailsford 15.00 Revd Bex Allpress at All Saints

Kirk Ireton 18.30 Peter Dawson

Kniveton 11.00 Revd Mark Broadhurst
Church Anniversary

Sunday 5th July

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs and Gareth
Rutledge
Becky and Tim Dutton

16.30 Revd Nicola Briggs
Afternoon Tea

Brailsford 10.30 Revd Arnold Dixon
Altogether Worship

Parwich 14.30 Lorraine Hawkins

Sunday 12th July

MHA

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Sam Cowling-Green &
Jonathan Webb

Catherine Green and Anne Payne

Brailsford 10.45 All Saints

Kniveton 14.30 Revd Nicola Briggs
Holy Communion

Muddy 10.00 Roston area

Tuesday 14th July

Milldale 19.00 Revd Nicola Briggs

Sunday 19th July

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs and Stuart Green

Baptism, Altogether Worship

Ashbourne 18.30 Lorraine Hawkins

Praise

Brailsford 10.30 Revd John Hellyer

Holy Communion

Tissington 10.30 Revd Mark Broadhurst

Holy Communion

Dates for the Diary – Events and Meetings

Sunday 21st June 16.00 District Testimony
Service for Revd Nikki Geeson

Melbourne Methodist
Church

Tuesday 23rd June 19.30 One Church
Circuit Meetings at
Ashbourne

Thursday 2nd July 14.30 Circuit Leadership
Team at The Manse

Friday 10th July 14.30 Outreach Forum at
Jacqui M's home

Saturday 18th July 11-3 Community Open Day
at Ashbourne



Tissington Walk



Songs of Praise at Tissington Well Dressings



Mother Nature – a part of the winning display at Chelsea Flower show 2026



Allium and Bee

