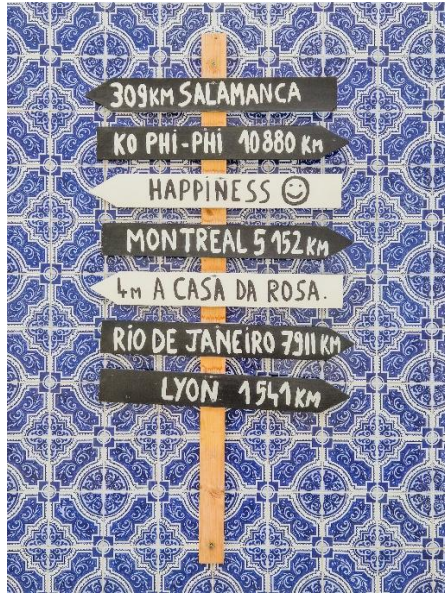


Connections



Ashbourne Methodist
Church

October 2025

Dear Friends

Welcome to the first edition of Connections for the Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit. We are now united as we seek to serve God in our different communities.

I write this letter following the District Synod that met in Grantham. Our theme for the gathering was 'Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples – Avoiding Mission Drift'. We were privileged to welcome Rachael Heffer, Head of Mission at the Evangelical Alliance as the keynote speaker. As we shared in groups we were encouraged and challenged as we noted that Mission Drift is the subtle, often unintentional shift away from an organisation's original mission and values. It can often happen slowly, often unnoticed, until the organisation is no longer recognisable.

As part of my preparation for the gathering I had begun to read a book that Rachael recommended 'Mission Drift by Peter Greer and Chris Horst'. It notes that many organisations wander from their original mission, while others manage to remain Mission True. You will see that this applies to all organisations not just churches, but their key focus is on faith-based organisations. It is clear from what I have read so far and from what Rachael shared with us that Mission True organisations do change and grow but they ensure that adaptation and growth does not alter the key identity of the organisation.

When I look at our Ashbourne One Church Circuit, I am not expecting us to look how our churches were when they first planted into communities. We have adapted as the needs of our communities have changed but is there more we should be doing so that we ensure we are focused on Jesus' mission to Go and

make disciples. Are we being faithful to our calling as the Methodist people of the Ashbourne One Church Circuit? Are there things we should be doing differently to ensure we remain Mission True? As we look into the future, the one clear piece of research on mission drift is that even if we have drifted, it is always redeemable. What does it mean to you for the Ashbourne One Church Circuit to be Mission True?

I would really love to hear your comments on this topic especially as we head into our first forum meetings and our first Ashbourne One Church Circuit Meeting and Church Council. Please do send me your thoughts by email, messenger, WhatsApp or we can meet up and enjoy a cuppa and maybe cake.

Now is a good opportunity to remind everyone that our One Church Circuit Forums are open to anyone interested in the topic. It is not mandatory that every church is represented but there is an open invitation across our communities.

Be assured of my continued prayers for us all as we seek to serve God in the places we are called to.

Nicola

A handwritten signature, likely belonging to Nicola, consisting of a large, stylized 'N' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Ashbourne Circuit Family News Oct 2025

An autumnal hello to all in the Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit. Here is October's update from the Pastoral team

There have been quite a few significant birthdays and family celebrations in recent months and October continues in this vein! Happy birthday to Gwen F will be 95 on 9 October! And on 25 October, Gareth & Val R will be celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary, so congratulations to you, too.

Other news is that Welly Club, our baby, preschool children with their carers group, has had a successful summer meeting at the farm. Many thanks go to the Burrows family for kindly hosting them there. Welly Club has now moved back to the Town Hall on Tuesdays 9.30-11am. All are welcome.

A number of members in our church circuit continue with health issues. This month please include Nina C, Margaret Ha, Margaret He, Kay O, Liz S and Jean W in your prayers. Please also remember Clare F and family on the sad and untimely death of Nick.

Finally, a warm welcome goes out to all those who have joined us in recent times. It is lovely to see new faces and make new friends.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Secretary) 14.9.25

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13: 11)

2025 Conference: For Goodness Sake!

A gathering of Christians who long for justice

Saturday 8 November 2025

10.25am-4.30pm

Reach Conference Centre Derby

Book now at <https://JPIT-Conference-2025.eventbrite.co.uk>

Are you a justice seeker, or just plain tired? Are you a petition signer, or an action taker? Are you a self-professed politics geek, or a church member searching for a way to make your voice count? If any of those words speak to you, and even if none of them do, there is a space for you. A space to connect with other people who yearn for justice and a space to re-group. A space to get practical and a space to be heard on the topics that matter to you. A space to share wisdom and a space to be inspired.

'For Goodness Sake!' is being organised by the Joint

Public Issues Team on behalf of the Baptist Union of

Great Britain, Methodist Church and United Reformed

Church, and in association with the Church of Scotland

and Iona Community. It is a gathering of people who

long for justice.

[Click here for more details about the plan for the day!](#)

We will meet in **Derby**, at the **Reach Conference Centre**, on **8 November**. [Please book your space](#)

[here!](#) Justice seeker or just plain tired? There is a space for you



ASHBOURNE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2025

Ashbourne Rotary Club, in conjunction with the charity Teams4U, are again collecting shoeboxes filled with small gifts, toiletries etc for children in parts of the world where they would otherwise receive nothing at Christmas.

We are inviting local people, schools, churches, clubs, businesses etc, to take part in filling some shoe boxes. This year's shoeboxes will be going to Eastern Europe; Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Bosnia and Romania. We hope you take part in making Christmas special for some children in need of a smile



In 2024 we collected 580 shoeboxes from the generous residents of Ashbourne and the surrounding

area, contributing to over 60,000 collected nationally.

Shoeboxes are filled for age groups, 3-5, 6-11 and 12+ years with such things as toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair accessories, socks, underwear along with treats such as toys, games and sweets.

You will need a shoebox and a leaflet for each box, which is attached. It contains a label specifying the age range and gender of the child for whom the box is intended and can be folded into an envelope to include the suggested donation of £3.50 (but you don't have to!) towards the transport costs.

Any medium-sized shoebox will be fine, but if you can't find one, flat pack versions can be ordered from the Teams4U website; www.teams4u.com/ordering-flat-packs-2

If you would like some ideas on what to put in a Shoebox these videos have some ideas: www.teams4u.com/video-content/

We have arranged local drop-off points for your shoeboxes at David Neills on Compton and Cornerstone Coffee House on St Johns Street (c/o Ashbourne Methodist Church) **from 26 October** but if you have a large number of boxes, we are happy to collect them from you direct at any time; just e-mail: ashbournerotaryshoeboxappeal@gmail.com when you have a car full! 😊

Here's a link, if you need any more information about our Charity Partner in the shoebox campaign:
www.teams4u.com/shoebox-appeal

If you would like to keep in touch with the progress of the Ashbourne Shoebox Appeal and access the latest information, please join our Facebook Group: [Ashbourne Shoebox Appeal Supporters Group](#)

If you need any further information or assistance, please have a look at the Shoebox FAQ: www.teams4u.com/shoebox-faq or send an e-mail to Kevin Barclay on ashbournerotaryshoeboxappeal@gmail.com

Drop off points are Neals Ironmonger in Compton or The Cornerstone Coffee House as follows

Collection dates:

from 26 October 2025

until 22 November 2025

LINK Construction Update – August 2025



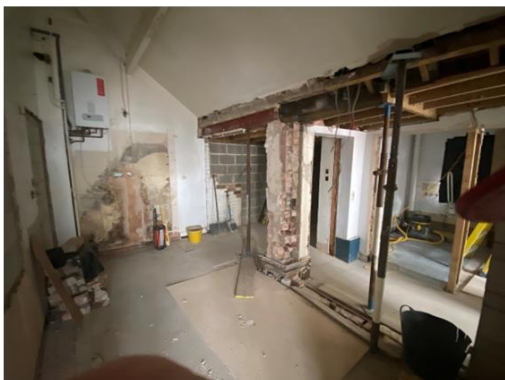
Cornerstone has temporarily moved into Trinity Hall whilst the renovation and remodelling of the Cornerstone building takes place.

If you haven't been in yet, why not pop in soon?

See how wonderful Trinity Hall looks (though it's not yet fully complete). Also see the great job Paul and Bethan have done with the Coffee Shop in the new space – and whilst there enjoy something to eat and drink! The new wall colours really show off the stained glass.



Meanwhile the Cornerstone building is being stripped out. The walls of the back room and corridor have gone, and the kitchen and toilet walls have been removed ready for the new layout



There is big progress in Gateway. The foundations and floor slab of the new Garden Entrance and Gateway extension are laid. The new Gateway internal walls are nearing completion— here you can see the new central corridor



This is a Gateway bedroom – you can see the door to the corridor, the door to the ensuite and electricity supply boxes in the walls



Some members of the Gateway Planning Team visited the site to better understand what the future accommodation will be like



The Link area is ready for steel erection. The new opening to Trinity Hall is clearly visible



The Century Hall steps have been stripped back. They need some refurbishment work

Ashbourne Harvest Celebration & Collection

We will be celebrating our Harvest Festival in Ashbourne on 28th September with an all-age service at Hilltop School at 10.30am – everyone is welcome to join us – why not bring a friend?

The service will focus on thanking God for the life-giving water he provides, and will be led by Allan Shaw and Stuart Green.

As part of our Harvest celebrations we'll be collecting for two very good causes:

- We will be collecting packaged food & toiletries for Ashbourne Foodbank. The Foodbank helps local individuals and families in crisis, through the provision of emergency food supplies.
- We will be collecting money for Christian Aid's Afghanistan Earthquake Appeal. The earthquake struck on 31st August, with thousands killed & injured. Christian Aid partner, OCHR (Organisation for Coordination of Humanitarian Relief) maintains a strong operational presence in Afghanistan and Christian Aid quickly made £50,000 available to aid an emergency humanitarian response. Although the earthquake has disappeared from the news, the need remains. Donations can be made using the envelopes available at church or online at www.tinyurl.com/AshHarvest

Big Fashion Day Out

On Sunday 07 September the retailers of Ashbourne pulled together to put on an incredible community town event to celebrate a major milestone of the Ashbourne Reborn project, with the opening on St John's Street.

A large stage was set up where Dig Street meets St John's Street and an impressive 40 meter red carpet catwalk stretched down St John's street to the Greenman. The afternoon included three fashion shows with the organizers reporting over 500 watching the first two and slightly less for the last one.

We had our Link Project stand set up in Victoria Square overlooking the end of the catwalk. So when we weren't talking to members of the public, we were able to watch the fashion shows and get some new ideas for our wardrobes !

Throughout the afternoon we had a steady stream of people visiting the stand. What was particularly encouraging is that most people were aware of the Link Project and wanted to know more about what was happening. We even took three enquiries which was an unexpected bonus.

A big thank you to all those who volunteered and helped man the stand. Although the feedback seemed to be that everyone found it an enjoyable and rewarding way to spend their Sunday afternoon, speaking with members of the local community and

sharing our vision for the Link Centre and Gateway Lodge.

We think we can safely say Ashbourne is on the way to being “reborn”!

Hub Planning Team



Death

What a Wonderful Way to Explain It

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said,
“Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.”
Very quietly, the doctor said, “I don’t know...”
“You don’t know? You’re a Christian Man,
and don’t know what’s on the other side?”
The doctor was holding the handle of the door;
on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining,
and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room
and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.
Turning to the patient, the doctor said,
“Did you notice my dog?
He’s never been in this room before.
He didn’t know what was inside.
He knew nothing except that his master was here,
and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear.
I know little of what is on the other side of death,
but I do know one thing....
I know my Master is there and that is enough.”

DISTRICT CELEBRATIONS 2025-2026

**Saturday 25th October 2025
7pm**

**Clay Cross Methodist
Church, S45 9EE
Worship led by Matt
Beckingham**



**Saturday 7th March 2026
6pm**

**Melbourne Methodist
Church, DE73 8EJ
Worship led by Lucy Bunce**



**Nottingham and Derby
Methodist District**

God is coming to get you...

Did you ever watch Dr. Who from behind the sofa?
Saw those ugly, crinkly humanoids approach?
Saw those scaly, lizard things coming your way?
You had to look, had to keep your eyes on them-
in case they jumped you.

Maybe you knew they couldn't get out of the TV,
But just maybe they could; they were supernatural!
Things were different in Dr. Who.

Did you ever hide behind the same sofa in a game of
Hide & Seek?
Curled up and quiet- you dare not look for fear of
showing yourself.

And when nobody came, you wondered why,
Are you forgotten?

Will you get cold? hungry? it might get dark...
You might have given a little tell-tale cough or stuck a
foot out, (inadvertently)

And when the footsteps came and the heart beat faster,
Was it an ugly, scary thing that found you over the back
of the sofa?

No.

It was a bright, sunrise-y welcoming smile,
And a tickle from a wounded hand,
And laughter and joy.

Found you!!

Alan Coker Mayes.

I.T. Matters

Windows 10 will be coming to its end of life support on 14th October 2025. after which Microsoft will no longer provide security updates, feature updates, or technical support. To continue using Windows 10 securely after this date, users can either upgrade to Windows 11 (if their hardware is compatible) or enroll in the paid Extended Security Updates (ESU) program. The ESU program offers critical and important security updates for one extra year for a fee of \$30, and the cost is likely to double for each year afterwards.

If you are using Microsoft 365 you can get free support for one year by turning on Windows Backup, which synchronises your key folders to your OneDrive account.

Microsoft recommends that you upgrade to Windows 11, and you can check for compatibility in Windows Update.

If you have an older (incompatible) computer then you have several options.

If you like the latest tech then buy a new machine with the highest specification you can afford (wait for the sales) as you might need it for the coming of Windows 12, although this is unlikely to appear before the end of 2026. To move all your applications, files, and settings you might prefer to use Laplink PCmover Professional. This can be purchased at a discount from the PCPro magazine website.

Buy a refurbished machine from a reputable seller that has Windows 11 installed with a limited warranty.

It is possible to run a special program that circumvents the hardware requirements of an upgrade, and then install Windows 11. This needs to be done by a competent IT person.

There will be some readers who are planning on buying a new laptop rather than updating their old one in order to be able to cope with Windows 11. If you are one of those then can I ask that you consider donating your old laptop to me for a good cause.

I am hoping to be able to upgrade old laptops to run Windows 11 and then sell them and donate the profit to the Link Project. If not, I may be able to use them for spare parts to help repair non-working machines and be able to upgrade them.

A similar scheme I ran in 2017 raised £300 towards the future project.

It is estimated if all the old laptops in the world that cannot run Windows 11 were stacked on top of each other, then the pile would reach the moon! Please help me to lessen this pile. If in doubt then get professional help and advice. You can always contact me on 07761 625940.

Gareth Rutledge.

KNIVETON METHODIST CHAPEL

INVITE YOU TO OUR



SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER AT 2.30.pm.

PREACHER

DIANA WHITMILL

HARVEST FESTIVAL PRODUCE AUCTION

MONDAY 13th OCTOBER AT 7.00.pm

Mission Update

On Sunday 07 September we hosted a Mission Sunday service at Hill Top school and it was so nice to welcome Zethu from Phakamisa in South Africa, who had only arrived into the UK the day before. She was joined by Rev Dennis Smith, Chair of Phakamisa UK Trust. It was a very thought provoking service, especially when Zethu told us that one of their major challenges at the moment is feeding the children that come to their schools, and that for the same cost of a cup of coffee, they can feed a child for a whole month. For those who didn't attend the service or didn't pick up information, I have listed below their bank details. A small standing order of just £3.50 a month will make will make a massive difference to them.

Phakamisa Partnership
Account Number: 06075372
Sort Code: 80-11-00

Zethu also brought some lovely beadwork which included Christmas tree decorations, pens and book marks. Thank you to everyone who bought items. I heard from Dennis the day after the service and he couldn't believe they raised £343.40! It got Zethu's two week tour off to a good start.

As many of you know, we have been looking for someone to be our main contact for Phakamisa, following Anne Wills needing to step down. I am delighted to say that Helen Barker has now taken on this role.

During the service, slides were shown illustrating the work of our five overseas' s mission partners. If you would like to know more about the work of any of these organizations, please either contact the main person contact or myself.

PATNA, North India; John & Liz Hurfurt

Cathedral Relief Service (CRS), Kolkata; Joy Mallard

Mambabu, Sierra Leone; David Bale

M'Bungoni Methodist Church, Kenya ; Rachel Murt

Phakamisa, South Africa ; Helen Barker

Although the aim of Zethu's visit is to raise awareness of their work and much needed funds, she also made it very clear that the most important gift we can give is our prayers. The same applies to the other four organisations we support.

God Bless

Crispin Scott
Mission Coordinator

The South Asia Forum

Earlier this year John and I attended the South Asia Forum which was held at the Luther King House in Manchester. The forum is a meeting between representatives of the Churches of South India, North India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (all four are United Churches) and their partner organisations in the UK

and Northern Europe. We were representing the Derbyshire Churches Church of North India Partnership. Other UK participants included representatives from The Church Missionary Society (CMS), The Church of Scotland, United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) and The Methodist Church and some European partners. The meeting was hosted by the Diocese of Manchester.

The theme for this year's Forum was "We Believe – celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea and the creed that is the basis of our unity". The keynote address was given by the Bishop of Bolton who considered the importance of the Nicene Creed for ecumenism.

"One in Faith" was the theme for the first day. What are the challenges to our faith and where to do we find support? Participants had been asked to submit reports on their work with this in mind. These reports were presented and discussed.

The second day was spent visiting works of hope in Manchester, the theme for the day being "One in Hope".

Finally under the heading "One in Love" we considered the future of the Forum. The Forum ended with the Eucharist and a reflection led by the Bishop of Manchester.

What did we gain from attending the Forum? There were 2 aspects - learning more about situation of the Churches of South Asia and learning how other UK

churches and organisations are interacting with the Churches of South Asia.

The Church of Bangladesh is navigating a rapidly changing political landscape which is bringing economic instability and rising social instability. All the Churches of South Asia are minority religious groups and often encounter discrimination and marginalisation. The Church in Bangladesh remains resilient.

The Pakistan church is small, described by the speaker from Pakistan as a small light in the country. There is persecution but we were asked not to sympathise but to pray for them. Conversion from the Muslim faith to another faith is illegal in Pakistan. However, Hindus are converting to Christianity which does seem to not cause concern to the government.

An ongoing problem for both CNI and CSI is the cancellation of licences (FCRA) to receive overseas donations. The Modi Government is trying to isolate the Churches from other Christians. However, both churches are active in evangelism. CSI has appointed "an army of evangelists". For the last 3 years the CNI Moderator has made mission his main aim.

All the South Asia Churches allow women to become presbyters. CNI has appointed 2 women bishops. However, women do not play any other major lay roles in the Church. They are seen mainly as Sunday School teachers, teachers in the Church Schools and nurses in the hospitals run by the Churches. This is a reflection of the situation in society, especially away from the major cities.

In the UK denominations and organisations like CMS and USPG appear to be withdrawing from long term projects with the South Asian Churches. This means that relationships between people are short term and this is a main regret for the South Asian Churches. Partnerships like the one between the Derbyshire Churches and CNI are increasingly important. The UK side is made up of volunteers who are willing to commit for a length of time. Money given can be quite important but the most important feature is the building of relationships that can last. This provides support in the difficult situations Christians experience in these countries. Locally the ACT Patna Partnership is part of the Derbyshire Churches CNI Partnership. We are hoping to revitalise both these Partnerships.

Looking ahead, there will be Celebration of the Derbyshire Churches/CNI Partnership on Saturday, 8th November at Littleover Methodist Church starting at 10 a.m. We shall be looking at what has been done, what is being done and there will be an opportunity to talk about the future. Everyone is welcome. More details will follow – lunch is included! Do come.

Liz Hurfurt

“Unschoolled Ordinary Men” 11th October

Unschoolled Ordinary Men is an event hosted by Ashbourne Elim Church in partnership with CVM, Christian Vision for Men. CVM see the event as a call for men to gather together and experience the presence of Jesus again.

"Introducing a 1,000,000 men to Jesus in the UK is the vision of CVM, and to do that we are calling the men who know Jesus as their captain, brother, rescuer and friend to join us, stand with us. Look again as a gathering of men to Jesus and catch his heart and mission." Nathan Blackaby, CEO of CVM

The CVM team (Carl Beech and Nathan Blackaby) will be leading and speaking, and the event also includes worship, refreshments, the CVM resources stand, and a free resource produced for this event only. Tickets priced £10 are available online at www.cvm.org.uk/uom

What's in it for me? – Inspired by the Iona Community

“One of the worst kinds of non-physical violence is complaining”

Complaining is when a person expresses dissatisfaction or annoyance with a situation or another person, it can be unpleasant, but is it 'violent'?

We all complain (don't we?!) we have a moan about things we see or read about, or events that have

happened to us or our friends and family, or indeed about the behaviours or beliefs of another age demographic! Complaining doesn't do any actual harm, or does it?

To complain or moan can have far reaching effects. If the complaint is directed at an individual it can undermine that person's sense of self worth, it can make them question the values that they hold, it can at the very least make them feel uncomfortable about themselves. This may be a good thing, but only if the complaining is then backed up by positive actions, support and suggestions for change, otherwise it's "just moaning".

And "just moaning" can be very damaging, it casts a grey cloud over all it touches, sucks the energy from the world and suffocates joy; it turns on the person who is doing the moaning and makes them bitter, dissatisfied and resentful.

I have no doubt that after watching (or listening) to 5 minutes of the television news we could all find ourselves 'moaning'. Moaning and complaining is not enough, if it's big enough to moan about, it's big enough to act upon. We are bound as Christians to challenge injustice and to work for equality and fairness for all.

If you believe strongly enough to speak and complain about an issue, find a way to respond to request change on that issue. Your member of parliament is your elected voice, write to him requesting him to act for you on issues such as Palestine and Israel. Email: john.whitby.mp@parliament.uk

Address: John Whitby, House of Commons, London.
SW1A 0AA

And if you are unable to act, or you choose not to act,
stop complaining.

**Philippians 2:14 "Do everything without
grumbling or arguing"**

Rachel Murt

Upturned Boat

Many of the readers will remember on the front page of the August edition of Connections was of Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Winefride R C Church in Amlwch on Anglesey.

I have recently visited Anglesey and drove past this church which is as impressive as its photograph. Built in 1932 and designed by Italian architect Giuseppe Rinalucchi it uses reinforced concrete and is now a Grade 11 listed building. The architect settled in Conway and designed a number of churches in Wales in the 30's. In 2004 the church was closed due to problems with the concrete and was scheduled for demolition. An appeal was launched and £1.4 million was raised via Heritage Lottery, Welsh government and general fundraising and was reopened in 2011.

It does not I am afraid seem to be an active church

The **Kirk Ireton Light Program**
IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Ashbourne Methodist Church
present

LEWIS CARROLLS'
"Alice in Wonderland"

A recitation for two voices
performed by Ron Middleton and Lewis Hancock on
Saturday, the 25th of October 2025
Commencing at 3.00 of the clock P.M.
including Afternoon Tea
at St Oswald's Church Centre



Admission - £15.00 per person

*Tickets available from – www.ticketebo.co.uk/.....
(full address to be published in future promotion
material)*

*Further enquiries contact – jonwebb.webb@gmail.com
Rosemary and Jonathan Webb – 01335 360308*

All proceeds towards
Ashbourne Community Hub

Dates for the Diary – Services

Sunday 21st September

Ashbourne	10.30	Paul Taylor Catherine and Stuart Green
	18.30	Tim Dutton PRAISE
Brailsford	10.30	Local Arrangement Led by Steward, Sue Leese
Tissington	10.30	Lorraine Hawkins

Sunday 28th September

Ashbourne	10.30	Allan Shaw and Stuart Green All Age Worship and Harvest Festival
Brailsford	11.30	Revd's Bex Allpress and Nicola Briggs Harvest on the Farm
Kirk Ireton	18.30	Graham Penny Harvest Festival
Kniveton	11.00	Ann Parkinson

Sunday 5th October

Bible Month

Ashbourne	10.30	Revd Nicola Briggs and Jeff Ffoulkes Holy Communion Becky and Tim Dutton
	16.30	Gareth Rutledge Afternoon Tea
Brailsford	10.30	Allan Shaw All Age Worship

Sunday 12th October

Bible Month

Ashbourne	10.30	Fiona Green and Ruth Barratt Lorraine Hawkins and Amanda Peers
Kniveton	14.30	Diana Whitmill Harvest Festival

Muddy 10.00 Marston Montgomery

Sunday 19th October

Ashbourne	10.30	Revd Nicola Briggs and Stuart Green All Age Worship and Baptism
	18.30	Revd Nicola Briggs PRAISE

Tissington	10.30	Tom Parkinson	Harvest Festival
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Thank you to everyone for your contributions to this Magazine, deadline for the November Magazine is Sunday October 12th, if possible by teatime to clifflewer@aol.com

The Link Project

There has been significant progress late August/early September with the erection of the steelwork for the Link, including the stairs and balcony, and the ground floor (street level) floor is installed”



