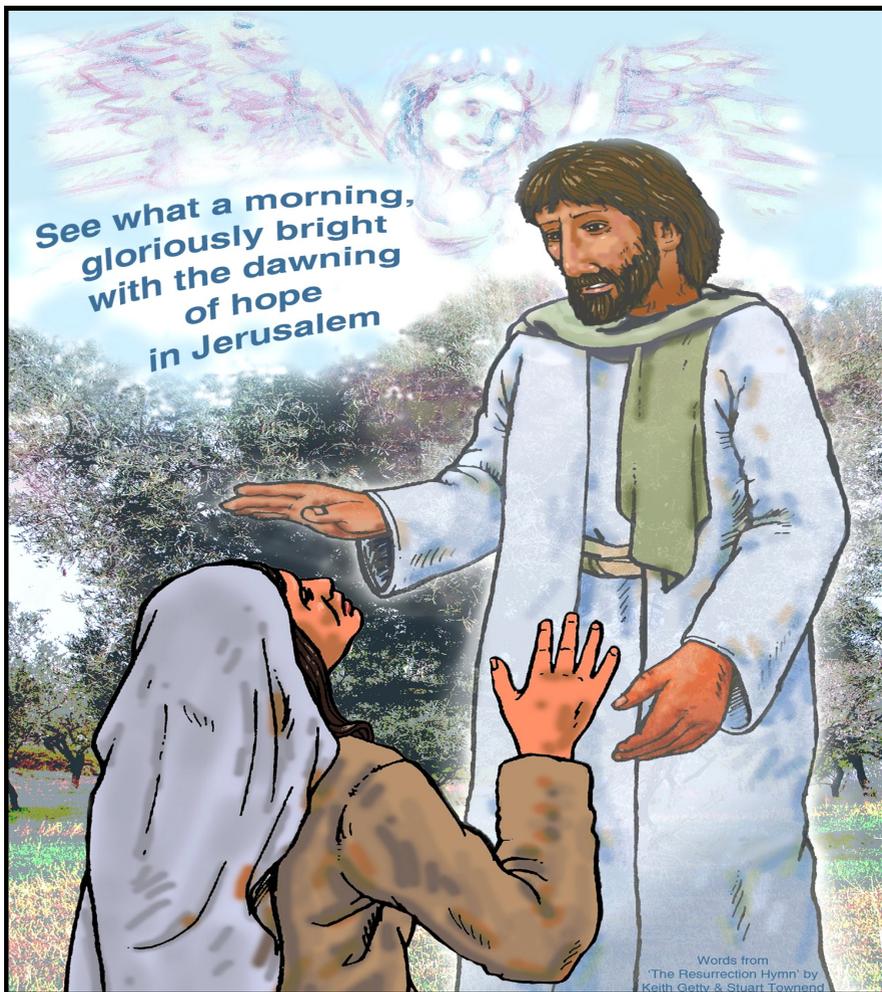


Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

<http://www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk>



April 2017

Letter from the Minister
The Manse 16 Booth Drive Ashbourne Derbyshire DE6 1SZ
Tel: 01335 342408 email: tim.morris@methodist.org.uk

APRIL 2017

Dear Friends,

“Journey’s end...or is it just the beginning?”

As we round the corner and head towards Easter, how has Lent been for you? Personally, I’m always full of good intentions about how I want to observe the season, but so often I feel I have failed in that. The good things I want to do I find I don’t have the time for, and the things I want to give up seem to have not gone away.



I guess the disciples also had feelings of failure and despair as they saw their hopes and dreams dashed as Jesus struggled through the narrow streets of Jerusalem under the weight of a wooden cross (a Roman apparatus of execution). As the nails were driven in and he was “lifted up”, and during that Good Friday

“suffered and bled and died”, maybe they too had the feeling that they had come to the end of the road.

As they carried his body to the tomb, the sense of despair, failure and emptiness must have been crushing and unforgiving.

What they didn’t know, despite being told, was that their disappointments, failures and defeats would be turned on their head – life would come from death, right would triumph over evil and hope would overcome despair.

For the tomb in Jerusalem isn’t a grave, marking the final resting place of a martyred rabbi. It is empty! Go there, and you won’t find



Jesus, because he's not trapped, tied down and nailed to the spot. He lives in the lives of those who share in the same feelings of the first disciples – despair, failure, hopelessness, regret, disappointment – but who also try and follow the living Jesus, who turns their lives upside down and can bring forgiveness, peace, purpose and reason to even the most testing situations of life.

May the celebration of the rising of Christ this Easter renew and restore your faith, and may you know the company of the One who journeys with you.

Your minister and friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Tomis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**“Being God’s People in an Age of Injustice”
29th April 2017**

A free day conference at The Centre for Faith and Spirituality, Loughborough University taking a look at the Christian response to injustice including issues around Brexit, the Refugee Crisis, Climate change & Poverty in the UK.

Starting at 9:45 until 16:00 - bookings now open. Contact Carole Thorpe for details cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535.

Speakers include:

Rev Dr Keith Hebden – Director of the Urban Theology Union

Dr Anthony Reddie – Learning and Development officer for the

Methodist Church and liberation theologian

Nicky Morgan _ MP for Loughborough

Paul Morrison – JPIT Policy Advisor

James Buchanan - Operation Noah

Ashbourne Church Family News

Congratulations to Rev John Perkins who has celebrated his 80th birthday. Congratulations to Nick and Becca Dennison on the birth of a son, grandson for Mike and Cherry Dennison and to Margaret and Alan Wright on the birth of a step great grandson, Rueben We were pleased to share with the Garside family in the baptism of Maisie Mae, daughter of Daniel and Estelle. Please pray for Lorraine Hawkins who is now training to be a local preacher.

It is with sadness that we learnt of the death of Joan Constable and our love and prayers are with Rose, Jonathan and their family. Helen Flinn has recently lost her father too and we remember her and Peter in their sadness.

Please remember to pray for those who remain unwell, for those recovering from surgery and those waiting for tests or results and those having ongoing treatment. These include Margaret Cox, Chris Dakin, Maureen and Mike Gilbert, Margaret Hasler, Brian Hawkins, Marianne Matthews, Elizabeth Spencer, Doris Titterton, and Alison Morris waiting for a procedure on her eyes. Let's remember carers too. Your visits and phone calls to those who are ill or housebound are much appreciated. Remember that you can always contact a pastoral visitor, house group leader or me if you hear of anyone who is unwell or in difficulty. (unless they have specifically asked you not to).

If people wish to be included for prayer in the future, please do let me know. A number of our fellowship continue to travel to care for elderly parents and relatives or care for them at home. Some of us have family members who are seriously ill and we are concerned for them.

We continue to pray for Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe and their children. Stephen has completed study in Derby and Suzanna continues study in Cambridge. Rachel Sales has final exams this year and Andrew Sales and Emily Peers will soon be completing their first year of study in Sheffield. Prayer for them and their families would be really appreciated.

Do we pray for those who will be taking part in our services each week? This month I am particularly reminded to remember those who share God's word with us each Sunday in the circuit. May they hear what God is asking them to share with us so that together we can grow in our faith.

After worship on a Sunday, there are people available to pray with you or for you. Please ask a steward who knows people willing to do this. The weekly prayer meeting takes place at church at 9.30 am on a Thursday. It is a time for us to pray together for needs of the church and the wider world.

Elizabeth Spencer is part of the Chaplaincy Team at the Royal Derby Hospital as a Chaplaincy Visitor. She is also a Hospital Visitor at St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne. Could anyone who knows of people who are in hospital, or due to be, please let her know, if you would like prayer, or for her to visit (348482). I have her e-mail address if you prefer to use that, please ask.

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 15.03.17

Christian Aid Week 14-20th May 2017



It's Christian Aid week's 60th Anniversary this year! British churches founded Christian Aid in 1945 to support refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. Twelve years later, they launched Christian Aid Week to help fund this ongoing work. Christian Aid provides immediate relief for those who are suffering and also campaigns to build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.

In Ashbourne we'll be doing a door-to-door collection which normally raises over £2,000. We aim to deliver envelopes to about 1400 houses, and get around 500 back, each with an average of £4 inside. So the more envelopes we deliver, the more money we can collect! New collectors are always welcome, you only need one evening to deliver envelopes and one to collect, and you can be reassured of the prayers and support of many in the Church family as you're on your way! If you are able to help, please speak to **Catherine Green**.



THE CORNERSTONE COFFEE SHOP

Whilst chatting to a friend this week I was struck by how diverse church cafes can be, with the focus always on meeting the needs of the local community and it made me reflect on the important role of friendship which we offer to those visiting *The Cornerstone Coffee Shop*. Most of us enjoy an environment where we are welcomed and made to feel at home – there are enough impersonal places around – but here we are different and each customer is valued individually. What a great way to show God’s love. However I can almost hear your response – *“I would love to help but physically I just can’t manage to offer a morning or afternoon in the Cafe”*. Then we would like to offer you other options. Please give this serious thought and as the saying goes, ‘every little bit helps’.

Could you

- make a cake from your favourite recipe perhaps once a month which we could sell?
- no good at baking! Well we are looking for someone to clean the fridge/freezer regularly – at your convenience.
- we want to maintain our 5 Star rating so could a couple of you get together to clean through the cupboards once a quarter?
- the weekly washing of the tablecloths and aprons do not do themselves, could this be a task you could offer to do?

Yes, we are also short on our pool of volunteers and it can be a real struggle to complete the rota each week to make sure there are no closures, but with the holiday season about to kick in, this will become a real possibility. This might damage our excellent reputation and adversely reflect on a church unable to commit to its outreach in the community. So please give some thought and prayer to this – people do not need to be affiliated with the Methodist Church and sharing time together is a way of witnessing to our faith.

If you want to know more or offer your time please have a word with *Pat Fielding, John or Elizabeth Hurfurt or Joy Watts*.





MISSION MATTERS

Here is an update on one of our Africa partners, Phakamisa (see <http://www.phakamisa.org/>). You may remember its Director Thokozani Poswa visited us in Ashbourne a couple years ago. This time she is arriving at Manchester Airport on Friday 28th April and staying in Birmingham. She will be in Nottingham on Sunday 30th at the Kingswood Methodist Church for the morning worship at 10 a.m. with a lunch afterwards. She will not be coming to Ashbourne on this visit to the UK but all are welcome at any related events.

“PHAKAMISA: uplifting and empowering people from impoverished communities:

Phakamisa is all about people and we are benefited by our team of highly skilled people, both volunteers and paid employees. Together with Thokozani Poswa, our Phakamisa Director, we have a paid staff of 25 full and part time teachers, trainers and mentors many of whom live in the communities we serve and are experienced and knowledgeable community workers.

We are a hardworking, committed, flexible people, devoted to being a sign of the Kingdom of God in a broken world.

PHAKAMISA responds to the needs of adults and children from poor communities who are living with HIV/AIDS through our uplifting and economically empowering programmes:

Early Childhood Development

Our courses offer basic, practical training for people from disadvantaged backgrounds and teaching:

0-3 year old children through our Childminders Course.

4-6 year old children through our Edu-care Course.

250 adults annually participate in PHAKAMISA's Educare training courses resulting in 10,000 pre-school children receiving a good education.

Wandering Teachers

PHAKAMISA employs 3 'Wandering Teachers' who provide a free education to children living in informal settlements. Children living in abject poverty receive a quality pre-school education in make-do surroundings. *Nonkululeko, Nomalanga* and *Thandi* are our teachers providing for these children.

Caregiver Programme We provide support, training and resources for mainly elderly women who care for and support children who are orphaned and vulnerable through HIV/AIDS.

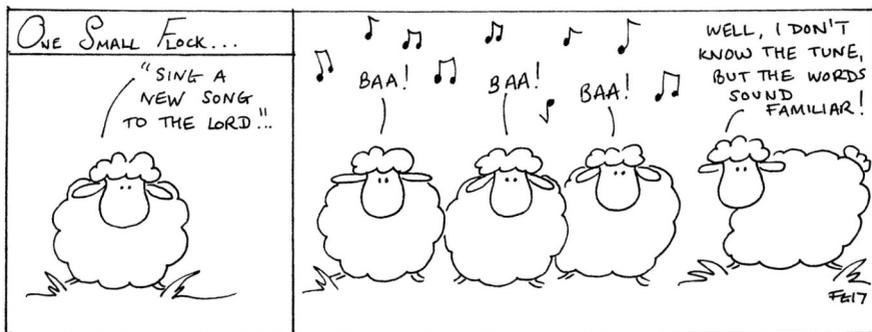
Our workshops provide life sustaining skills ; (vegetable gardening, beadwork, cooking, parenting, literacy,) spiritual and emotional support. [You will have seen examples of the beadwork for sale in Century Hall. See also forthcoming sale details opposite].

Tholuthando

The unofficial AIDS infection rate for many of the communities in the state of KwaZulu-Natal in which we work is 1 in 2 people. HIV/AIDS is devastating these poor communities leaving thousands of orphaned and vulnerable children. PHAKAMISA responds with a confidential HIV/AIDS support group that meets twice a month to celebrate life, living it positively. We promote a healthy lifestyle with education on HIV matters, counselling and social interaction and life skills”.

Please remember to collect and use a copy of *Mission Matters for Prayer* available by the World Mission notices in the AMC church vestibule. This includes prayer for Phakamisa.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary



Ashbourne Arts Festival 2017

Last year *Craft and Chat* took part in the Arts festival as a fringe event. We yarnbombed the front of the church and a team put together lovely displays inside the building too. Visitors and locals alike responded enthusiastically to the display and many also came into our church building.

This year we are planning to yarnbomb again and the Outreach Group has plans for the interior of the church as well. We want to involve as many of our congregation and groups as possible.

As a Circuit we are taking part in Bible Month and our displays are designed to reflect this. We'll be asking you to think about your favourite Bible quote or passage, with maybe a photo or something else of your choice to illustrate it.

Don't worry if this all sounds a bit complicated – there'll be a team who are here to help you!

On the stage area we are planning a display called the Cross Hands Project. This is where church members bring a cross and we simply take a close-up photo of the cross in their hand. The photos are then all put into a display that speaks of us as people of faith.

We'll be giving you more details nearer the time, and hope that you will feel you'd like to join with us in giving visitors to our church an insight into who we are as followers of Jesus.

And look out too for our celebration of *Worldwide Knit in Public Day* on **10th June!**

Fiona and Clare



Phakamisa Beadwork for sale on **Sunday 2nd April** in the Century Hall after the morning service.

New Easter beadwork, small crosses and purses available along with jewellery and other small items.

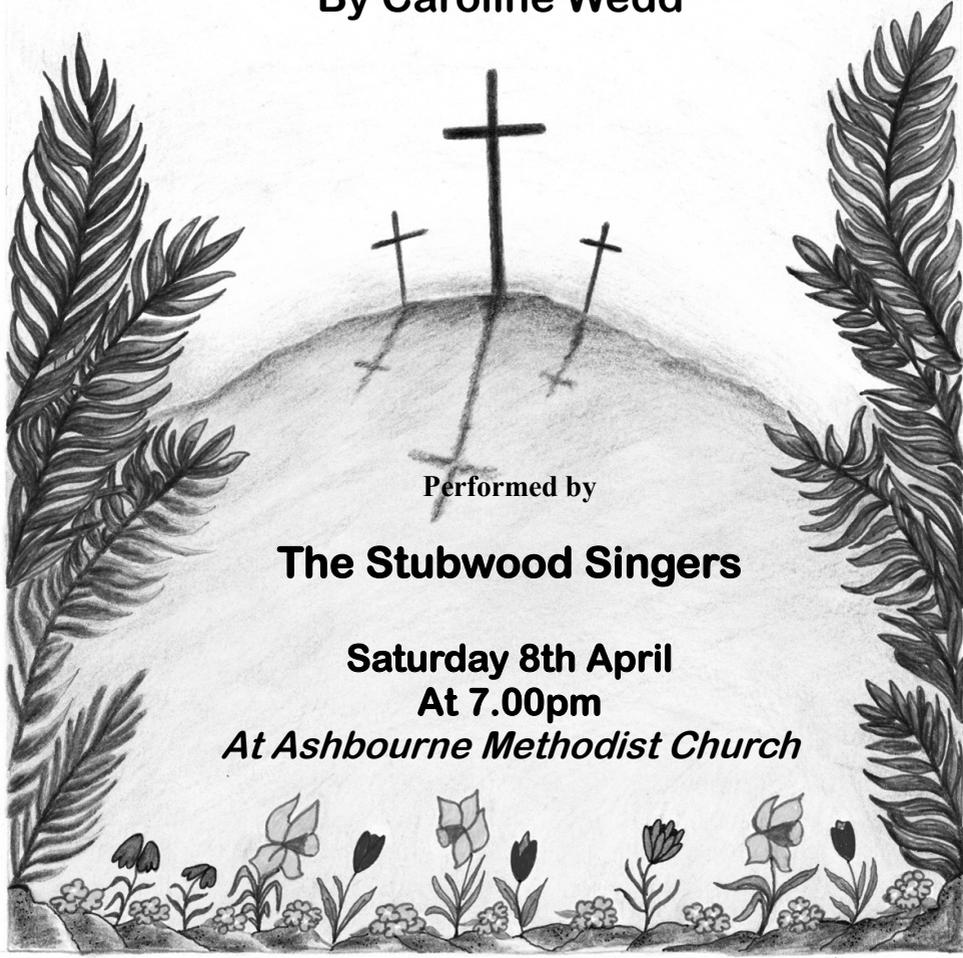
All proceeds for the Phakamisa Project run via the Pinetown Methodist Church in South Africa.

Ashbourne Methodist Church

Presents

“Song of the Morning” The Easter Story

By Caroline Wedd



Performed by

The Stubwood Singers

Saturday 8th April

At 7.00pm

At Ashbourne Methodist Church

REFLECTIONS.

I have been thinking a lot about prayer recently, what it is, how we do it, what we pray for, etc, etc.

I have to admit prayer spans quite a lot of things, to the short ones I say, "Give me a hole Lord!" if I am travelling somewhere and need a simple, stress free journey, to the deep long personal ones for family, family of blood, of faith and of friendship, when people are ill, stressful and / or bereaved.

To my shame, I have prayed for money! Once, when young and foolish, I wanted to see with my own eyes, the launch of one of the Saturn V/ Apollo moon rocket, and hoped the Lord would provide the funds. I had to make do with watching them live on television!

Later in life I dropped a hint to the Lord for the family funds that as the rugby club I support, Leicester Tigers, were doing a tour of South Africa, and supporters were invited to travel with them. If we had gone it seemed Adam, our son would have celebrated his birthday on Durban beach, and Ann would have had her birthday in the Kruger National Safari Park!

Nowadays, I hope I am more sensible and pray for the real needs in our community, in our church and in our land, for I believe prayer is a vital part of our being a Christian.

It's something we can all do, even those who are home or house-bound. As a preacher I know I am blessed by those who from their home, support me by prayer. I know while I go to take a service, there are those who are praying for me, it is a great blessing, I assure you.

Jesus himself valued prayer, scripture speaks of him up in the morning before anyone else, praying. Many miracles were preceded by prayer. He prayed the night before the Cross was to be faced, and prayed for those as they nailed him to it.

We would do well to follow Jesus' example in his devotion to prayer.

God Bless you all.

Tom. P.

We still have so much to offer

I may be getting on, but there's so much that I can do.
To share the love of Jesus, with those who haven't got a clue.
To offer a helping hand, and to show someone you care.
To make a call that tells the other, that you are always there.

A welcoming smile can lift the spirits of the lost.
A hug or kiss can melt even the hardness of the frost.
Making others feel welcome, can bring the greatest joy.
To a lonely broken heart, that events have tried destroy.

Above all, we have access to the world's most gracious power.
That brings us peace and comfort, each and every hour.
We have that special privilege, every single day.
To spend some time with God, every time we pray.

Our prayers can help a troubled situation, bring comfort to the sad.
Bring healing to the sick, and encouragement that life is not so bad.
Bring hope when life's uncertain, bring peace when life's a blur.
Bring encouragement when we need it, and be our constant spur.

It doesn't matter if we are aging, and not as fast as we used to be.
We still have so much to offer, I am sure you will agree.
Our prayers are so important, important beyond compare.
For in those conversations, God is always there.

Derek Marshall

District Treasurer - Nottingham and Derby District

THROUGH THE EYES OF A CHILD

Jesus told lots of stories to different people that were relevant to their lives. If he was talking to a 7 or 8 year old boy in 2017, what stories might he tell? William and Wesley at *Powersource* imagined what they might be, using the parables in Luke Chapter 15 for inspiration.

The parable of the School Trip (Parody of Luke 15: 1-7)

Suppose there were 100 children on a school trip going to Blists Hill museum, and one child called Bob gets lost. When the teachers

noticed Bob was not there they immediately stopped, so 2 of the teachers could go and look for Bob!

Bob was found in the toilet. The teachers were so happy they had found Bob safe and sound.

Jesus said God will be happier if one bad person says sorry, rather than ninety nine people who don't need to say sorry because they have done the right thing already.

William Glossop

The parable of the lost 3DS games (Parody of Luke 15:8-10)

Suppose there was a boy who had 10 3DS games. One day he lost 'Kirby Planet Robobot'. So he looked everywhere like the living room, car and his brothers bedroom but he couldn't find it. Then he found it in his Mum's handbag! Then he went and told his neighbours, friends and family because he was so happy.

God is so happy if someone says sorry like the boy was happy when he found his 3DS game.

Wesley Green

Tissington Well Dressings 25 - 29 May

Each year the **ACT One World Group** organises a stall at the Tissington Well Dressings. We sell slices of cake to the visitors and some *Traidcraft* goods. The proceeds go to Christian Aid.

This year, since it is Bank Holiday Monday, we are there from **Thursday 25- Monday 29 May**, one day more than usual. We hope you will help again and we would also welcome new people. We need at least 2 people at a time in 2 hour stints from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. That makes 6 or more people per day and so a minimum of 30 people over the 5 days!!

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP? No previous experience necessary.

Please consider carefully and prayerfully whether you could spare a couple of hours (or more!!) to help. It is not onerous work and it is a good opportunity to meet both visitors to the Well Dressings and your

fellow helpers from other churches or none.

We also need people to bake tray bakes and cakes for the stall that we can sell by the slice, not as whole cakes. **We sell between 200 and 300 slices day!** It would be helpful if cakes and tray bakes were not cut up in advance, then we can ensure consistency in size of portions. Cakes can be left in our garage at 81 Derby Road from **Wednesday 24 May.**

After Easter there will be lists in the various churches for staffing the stall and for providing cakes. Please try and help this very worthwhile event.

John Hurfurt tel 342859 email jandehurfurt@supanet.com

Drought and famine lead to East Africa Famine Appeal

While South Sudan is the first nation in six years to declare a famine, the UN has issued stark warnings that other countries face extreme food-shortages across East Africa.

Droughts and unpredictable rainfall, protracted civil conflicts and entrenched economic crises, have led to widespread food insecurity across East Africa. People are already dying. Without urgent support, many other communities across the region face the threat of famine in 2017.

Various relief agencies are currently trying to help in the region. Here are just two:

The Methodist Church in Britain are urging people to respond quickly, generously and collectively to this catastrophic situation by supporting the appeal being managed by *All We Can*.

www.allwecan.org.uk/currentappeals

Barnabas Fund has been reporting on Christians in Kenya who are appealing for help as the north of Kenya endures its worst drought for five decades. There has been no rain in East Pokot since June 2016. One pastor says that people are boiling fruits for several hours to

try and get the poison out, before they eat them, because there is nothing else left. If you would like to help: <https://barnabasfund.org/>

The Disasters Emergency Committee - have also launched an appeal, <https://www.dec.org.uk>.

See back cover for a prayer you may wish to use from Christian Aid.

A new way to read and enjoy your Bible

Bible Society has launched a new tool to help people search, read, engage with and share the Bible. It has a number of free-to-use features, specially created for the thousands of people a week who visit Bible Society's website to read the Bible.

Verse Builder is designed for those who like to share Bible verses via *Facebook*. This feature allows you to create an animated verse, set against a picture backdrop, which you can share to social media or download.

FlexiReader is an innovative way of reading the Bible, which automatically displays the text at the reader's chosen speed. There's no need to lift a finger to scroll down the page – and you can choose how many words should appear on screen at once, and the speed of reading.

The new online tool also allows you to compare versions side by side. There are English versions to choose from, as well as beibl.net (the Bible in everyday Welsh).

The final new feature gives people the option to leave a public comment, save notes on the text or tag verses with a theme. As the community of Bible-readers grows, it will provide a rich resource of people's thoughts and reactions to Scripture.

Find the tool at biblesociety.org.uk/explore.

Ashbourne



Patna Partnership

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Derbyshire Churches Partnership with the Church of North India of which we are part. There will be a celebration service at Broadway Baptist Church Allestree on **Sunday 21 May** at 3.00 pm and the Partnership has invited people from the various Indian Dioceses that we are linked with to be there. So we hope to have two people (Bishop Philip Marandih and the Revd Francis Hansdah) to be here in Ashbourne from **12 May to 26th May**.

So we are looking for help in various ways. We would like offers of hospitality (bed and breakfast) preferably for one person for a whole week: offers of help with transport to and from Birmingham airport; offers of events that they might attend; transport to those events; meals, particularly evening meals.

Any offers please contact John or Elizabeth Hurfurt 01335 342859 or jandehurfurt@supanet.com

LOCAL METHODIST HISTORY

At a time when at AMC we have committed ourselves to a major redevelopment of our buildings, it may seem strange to look back at where as a Christian denomination we've come from, but as someone who only arrived here 14 years ago and a committed ecumenist, it is of interest on my faith journey and perhaps yours too.

Don Cox, our organist at AMC, has passed me some newspaper cuttings which he felt may be of interest to our readers. One of these is about the decision to close Beulah Methodist Church which was in Station Street, in September 1965. Beulah was of the Primitive Methodist tradition. According to the newspaper report, two years earlier a proposal had been put forward by the Church Secretary and Treasurer Mr Donald Deakin in which he put forward proposals for a new Free Church of Ashbourne in which he invited the Trinity Methodists, (our current AMC) and the Congregationalists', to join Beulah in building a new Central Free Church.

It seems the then Ashbourne Urban District Council were prepared to provide a site for this. However the Congregational Church Minister , according to the newspaper report, though sympathetic himself did not think his people were yet ready for such a union. The Trinity Methodists for their part held a number of joint meetings with the Beulah Trustees but in the end felt the financial difficulties at that moment were insurmountable

Mr Deakin, according to the newspaper, expressed keen disappointment at the decision calling it “, short sightedness, a lack of faith and an absence of vision and crusading spirit in the other churches.”

Subsequently the Beulah Trustees decided that the cause of Methodism in the town could be better served by a united church and decided to join with the Trinity Methodists although hoping that eventually a new Central Church would be built. The Beulah Church Trustees sold the site of their church with the proviso that the building should be demolished, housing now being on that site. At the time of the amalgamation the Ashbourne Circuit had two Ministers.

If you are interested in finding out more about the origins of Methodism in Ashbourne, Rev Trevor Staniforth, a former Supernumerary Minister of the Circuit has pieced together some of our early history. It can be found on the Church website www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk/ go to **Places** and then click on the link to find list of previous Ministers. When you get to this page Trevor’s article can be accessed via the link “Methodism in Ashbourne” (Sorry that’s a bit long winded)! If you don’t have internet access let me know and I’ll print you off a copy). You can also access the history of some of the chapels.

If you’d like to share some historic anecdotes about past times about Methodist chapels including photographs, if you have them, I’d be pleased to consider them for inclusion in a future “Connections”.

Arthur Watts

THANK YOU

MARGARET ALLEN would like to thank everyone for their kindness shown towards her following her recent operation.

Editor: the Rev Paul Hardingham considers the thief on the Cross.

The thief on the Cross

Luke 23: 32-43

Luke's account of the crucifixion emphasises the mocking of the crowd, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself' (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the man who was crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

One Criminal's Taunts

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.' He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? And yet, unlike his companion, he failed to see that the cross itself is the means of salvation.

What kind of Messiah was Jesus?

One Criminal's Faith

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: 'this man has done nothing wrong.' He perceived the truth that Jesus' death was on behalf of all people. In a wonderful picture of grace, 'remember me', he confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In what ways have we experienced God's grace?

The Messiah's Promise

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of being with Jesus?

'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.' (1 Peter 3:18).



Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...

On the perils of letting the laity read the lessons

The Rectory
St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

It was good to see you last Sunday morning on your own home ground. The Service was interesting – although I have yet to recover from that period of frightful liturgical debauchery you call ‘passing the peace’. Why should I welcome total strangers grabbing my hand and smiling deep into my eyes? One lady would simply not let go – I had to shake her off.

As for the reading of the lessons, I was astonished that you allow members of the congregation (in shirtsleeves, too) to bring their own Bible to the front. It lacks any degree of solemnity and decorum. There should be a lectern Bible, preferably about four feet square in dimensions. And where was a suitable lectern? I admit that having a substantial brass eagle in your church would be like placing Nelson’s Column in a Scout tent, but surely something suitable in wood could be found.

We have quite gone with the fashion here at St James the Least of All, and now have members of the laity – even women! – taking our Bible readings. The decision may have been a mistake. Our lectern stands at 6 feet; Miss Peckham stands at five feet. When she is reading, as far as the congregation can see, we have God’s Word being proclaimed by a straw hat bearing imitation fruit.

The Major’s reading at last Sunday’s Evensong was Numbers 22, and his adoption of different voices for the narrator, Balaam and Balak was acceptable, if a little theatrical. But his use of a fourth voice for the ass turned the occasion into pantomime – a point picked up by our choirboys. When the ass asked: ‘was I ever wont to do so unto thee “the boys chorused ‘Oh yes you did’. (Surely it should have been “Oh yes thou didst’).

Mrs Smeed's rendition of the genealogy at the start of Saint Matthew's gospel clearly takes her back to the schoolroom. She sounded as if she is holding a roll call – and if Shealtiel were by any chance missing, she would demand a good explanation.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



SMILE

LINES

It's No Picnic...

Looking over the log book kept by the computer support staff at my office, I noticed several entries stating the problem was PICNIC. I asked one of the technicians what PICNIC meant. He laughed as he told me it meant "Problem In Chair, Not In Computer."

Contributed by Fiona Green

Twitter

A man walked into a church and approached the minister. "I need help. I think I'm addicted to Twitter." The minister looked at him and said gently, "I'm so sorry, I don't follow you."

Preach

When a minister rehearses his sermon, is he practising what he preaches?

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

I have been editing "CONNECTIONS" now for about 10 years and feel a) I'd like a rest and more importantly b) I think it's good to have a fresh approach. Happy to have a chat about what's involved, just speak to me.

Deadline for May edition **19th April**, published on **30th April**.

Arthur Watts



Dates for your Diary

April

Saturday 8	10:00	District Synod at Riverside, Derby
Wednesday 12	12:30	Brailsford Lunch Fellowship
Wednesday 12	10:00	Messy Church
Friday 14	12:15	Good Friday ACT Walk of Witness
Saturday 15	11:00	Family walk from Milldale car park
Monday 24	19:30	Circuit Meeting at Hulland Ward
Tuesday 25	12:30	Ashbourne Lunch
Saturday 29	9:45	Being God's People in an Age of Injustice

May

Tuesday 25	11:00	Tissington Well Dressing service
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June

Wednesday 7	19:00	Milldale Summer Service
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July

Wednesday 5	19:00	Milldale Summer Service
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August

Wednesday 3	19:00	Milldale Summer Service
Saturday 9		Ashbourne Show

For more information please see the Circuit Plan.



Methodist Women in Britain

Easter Offerings

On Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, envelopes will be in the pews for Easter Offerings. All the money raised goes to the World Mission Fund of the

Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to be allocated for the work in our 65 Partner Churches around the world. Please give generously for this worthwhile cause. The Offerings will be dedicated at a Circuit Service to be held on **14 May** at Ashbourne at 10.30 am. The theme of the service is '*Shine like Stars*'.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

There is no tribunal so magnificent, no throne so stately, no show of triumph so distinguished, no chariot so elevated, as is the gibbet on which Christ hath subjected death and the devil. - *John Calvin*

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday April 2nd

Ashbourne 10:30
18:30
Brailsford 10:45
Hulland 14:30

Passion Sunday

Rev Tim Morris
Rev David Leese
Fiona Green
Rev Tim Morris

United Service at Methodist

Sunday April 9th

Ashbourne 9:15
10:30
18:30
Brailsford 10:30
Hulland 14:30
Kniveton 14:30
Parwich 14:30

Palm Sunday

Café Style
Tim Dutton
Ann Parkinson
Rev Tim Morris
Ruth Barratt
Rev Tim Morris
Stuart Mustow

in Century Hall

Communion

Communion

Thursday April 13th

Ashbourne 19:30

Maundy Thursday

Rev Tim Morris

Communion

Friday April 14th

Ashbourne 10:30

Good Friday

Rev Tim Morris

Saturday April 15th

Milldale 14:00

Rev Tim Morris

Sunday April 16th

Ashbourne 8:00
10:30
18:30
Brailsford 10:45
Hulland 10:00
Tissington 10:30

Easter Day

Rev Tim Morris
Rev David Leese
PRAISE
John Dyster
Rev Tim Morris

Communion
Communion
in Century Hall
United Service at Parish
Communion
Communion

Sunday April 23rd

Ashbourne 10:30
18:30
Brailsford 10:30
Hulland 14:30
Kirk Ireton 18:30
Kniveton 11:00

Diana Whitmill
Tom Parkinson
Peter Dawson
Fiona Green
John Dyster
Ann Parkinson

All Age

Songs of Praise

Sunday April 30th

Ashbourne 10:30
18:30
Brailsford 10:30
Hulland 14:30

Stuart Mustow
Rev Tim Morris
Tom Parkinson
Peter Dawson

Communion

ASHBOURNE CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Sun	6:30pm	Mustard (Youth Fellowship)
Mon	10:00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - David Heaton (343418)</i>
	2:00pm	Craft and Chat in The Cornerstone <i>Contact - Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	7:30pm	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - Helen Walker (343910)</i>
Tues	9:00am	kids@cornerstone <i>Contact - Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	10:00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - John & Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
	12:30pm	Luncheon Club: last Tuesday in month, Century Hall <i>Contact - John & Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
Wed	9:30am	Walk and Talk Group: 1st, 3rd & 5th Wednesday Amble & Ramble (easier walking): 2nd & 4th Weds <i>Contacts - Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i>
	7:30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact - Ken and Margaret Sharples (310072)</i>
Thurs	7:30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly - 1st and 3rd Thursdays <i>Contact - Jeff Ffoulkes (300443)</i>
Thurs, Fri, Sat	10:00am	The Cornerstone Coffee Shop <i>Contact - Pat Fielding (345695)</i>

BRAILSFORD CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Tues	9:30am	Coffee Shop: weekly
Wed	12:30pm	Luncheon Club: monthly, 2nd Wednesday

HULLAND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Wed	7:30pm	Bible Study: monthly, 3rd Wednesday
Thurs	2:15pm	Women's Fellowship: monthly, 1st Thursday

KIRK IRETON CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Wed	7:30pm	Fellowship: monthly, 3rd Wednesday
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CIRCUIT STAFF

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Compassionate God,
while children in East Africa
suffer with hunger and malnutrition,
in desperate need of food,
may we refuse to look away.
Unite us in our desire to help.

While families and animals
in Kenya and Ethiopia
stand thirsty, waiting for rain,
may we stand with them.
Unite us in our wait for justice.

While mothers in South Sudan
walk through swamp water
up to their necks,
may they find the refuge they seek,
and not be forsaken.
Unite us with our sisters' struggle.

May we do our part,
giving what we can,
lifting them to you
trusting that your
compassion never fails.

Amen.



**christian
aid**

We believe in life
before death

Andreea Campeanu/DEC