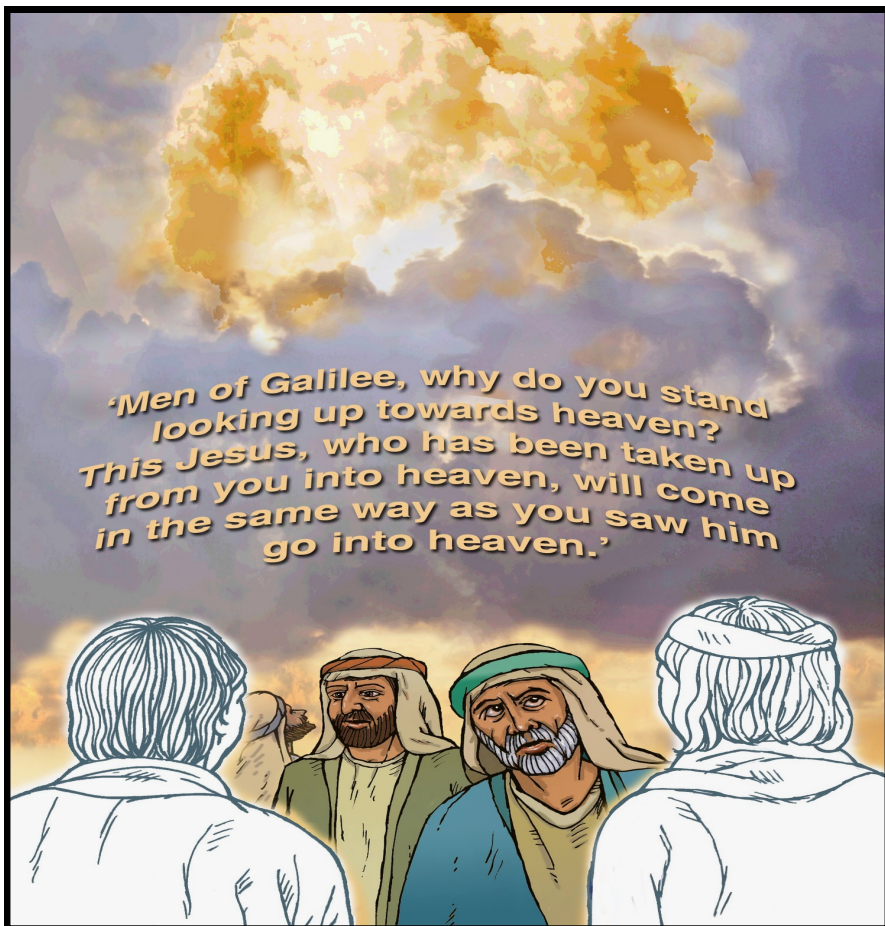


Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



May 2017

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

May 2017

Dear Friends,

“Well dressed?”

Our village of Tissington is gearing itself up for the annual well dressing that starts on Ascension Day (25th May). Do come and see the marvel that is Tissington Well Dressing – a wonderful blend of traditional Biblical themes and celebrations of anniversaries of more recent events.



But things like this don't just happen. Hours and days of preparation and planning go in to each well. A theme is decided, teams are formed, time is put aside, preparation of materials and design are done. It is a wonder to behold! The whole community takes part, and it is a real privilege to be the minister of the Chapel in that place, and have a small part to play in the Well Dressing event. Check out the website for a time lapse video of the making of a well dressing at:
www.tissingtonhall.co.uk/tissington-hall-village-well-dressing.

The wells give thanks to God for the gift of water.



The water in the village has supplied the needs of the people there during plague and drought – something to be thankful for.

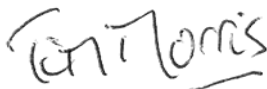
Yet, of course, the wells are there all year round, giving water, giving life. Dressed, or not, they stand as a reminder of the ever-flowing, life-giving love of God.

A booklet called "A Village Pilgrimage" is available from the Methodist Chapel, which takes you on a tour round the village, giving thanks for each well and reminding us of the journey we all take with God.

Ascension reminds us of the ascending of Jesus to heaven, before the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost – that moment of returning to the Father, with the disciples waiting and longing for the promise that was to come. However we are dressed, in whatever state we find ourselves, Jesus comes for each and for all, to love us and befriend us, to fill us and send us.

Well dressed? They will be, so come and be thankful for the gift of water, and go and be generous in your sharing of God's love to all.

Your minister and friend,



Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum

If you are interested in the early years of Methodism and in particular Primitive Methodism you may like to consider a visit to Englesea Brook which is only an hour or so drive from Ashbourne this summer.

The chapel is situated in a peaceful hamlet, with easy access from the M6 (J16), which seems a world away! Our beautiful Georgian Chapel dates from 1828, and the Museum is housed in Hugh Bourne's Memorial School, built in 1914. The Library is in the Bier Room, and the Caretaker's Cottage is now home to the Tea Room and Education Room. When the sun is shining you can sit on the patio and see the alpacas in the adjoining field.

Hugh Bourne, who organised the first Camp Meeting at Mow Cop in 1807, is buried here, and his monument tells us of the rapid growth of the movement which became known as Primitive Methodism, or 'the Ranters'.

More information including opening hours can be found on the website - <http://www.engleseabrook-museum.org.uk>

Ashbourne Church Family News

"But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body."

1 Corinthians 12. 18-20

As a part of the body of Christ, let's rejoice with those who are happy and pray for those who are finding life tough. We all need the prayers of others and there is power in prayer and God answers.

Congratulations to Dr James Peers who has passed his final GP exams and now has a job in Wirksworth. Beth Peers has also completed her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Well done Beth.

On 13th April, Elizabeth Spencer was presented by the Chief Executive of the Hospital Trust, with her 10 years Voluntary Service Award as a Chaplaincy Visitor, part of the Chaplaincy Team, at the Royal Derby Hospital.

Congratulations to two of our local preachers who are receiving long service certificates at the Circuit service on 14th May; Ann Parkinson for 40 years and Tim Dutton for 25 years.

Erik and Lena Tettelaar, Diane and Richard Warburton, Marion Cruikshank and Doris Titterton were welcomed to the church fellowship and were prayed for on 2nd April. Others who have joined us quite recently were welcomed too.

Let's remember to pray for those who are unwell and those waiting for tests or results and those having ongoing treatment. These include Ken Wall, Margaret Cox, Chris Dakin, Barbara Holland and Marianne Matthews. Alison Morris is recovering from surgery. Tim Dutton's father, Keith, is very ill and the family are making frequent trips to Southampton. Rev Tim Morris's father is now being cared for in a Care Home and mother is adjusting to the change.

Hazel Dakin has had a temporary move to Meadow View Care Centre in Matlock while The Leys is being renovated. Let's remember carers too. A number of us have family members who are seriously ill. If we know of those people, let's bring them to the Lord in prayer.

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).

Let us pray for those and their families who have recently had family bereavements; Rosemary Webb, Helen Flinn and Molly Phipps. Our love and prayers go to family and friends of Joyce Warren who passed away on 11th April aged 89 years.

It is exam time again and Rachel Sales and Hannah Marsh would appreciate prayer as they take their finals at University. Josh Dutton takes A levels and Joy Mallard and Samuel Morris take GCSE in May and June so we pray for them too.

We continue to pray for Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe and their children, Stephen and Suzanna in the UK.

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.

If you know of anyone in the Royal Derby Hospital or in St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne who would like a visit or prayer you can contact Elizabeth Spencer (348482), a Chaplaincy Visitor in Derby and Hospital Visitor at Ashbourne.

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 19.04.17

“GODLEY PLAY”

In a recent article on Children's spirituality, trainer-consultant and lecturer in child psychology, Dr Rebecca Nye states that **'most research studies have found that spirituality is common and natural for children of all faiths and none'** (The Spirit of the Child, London, Jessica Kingsley Publications, 2006) For many, this is an alien concept and flies against the idea that children are empty spiritual vessels needing to be filled, which is the basis for much of children's ministry in the

past. Informational ministry of previous decades needs to be replaced with transformational ministry involving creatively supporting children to become increasingly aware of the mysterious presence of God and to find 'shared language' to express their experiences. *Godly Play* is a programme of storytelling and the opportunity to encounter and respond to God.

Rev Dr Jerome Berryman developed the programme in the US based upon Sofia Cavelletti's work and Montessori techniques which was brought to UK by Dr Nye. This is one of the projects I am currently using with the schools of Ashbourne. A *Godly Play* session involves a presentation of a bible story with reflection time followed by the child's own response time and culminates with a feast together.

You may have attended a service before Christmas when I presented the story of the Holy Family in *Godly Play* style to the congregation. The story is from a learned script so that the storyteller can enter the story as well as inviting the children to enter. In following the story, there are 'wondering questions' to encourage the children to reflect on the meaning and relevance for them. At no time are the children directed or interrupted but are listened to in an atmosphere of safety and intimacy, through the humility and respect of the adult for the children's responses.

I would love to be able to share more about *Godly Play* with anyone who is interested in either finding out more about this incredibly powerful medium or even becoming trained to *Godly Play* storyteller status. I am hoping to organise an afternoon and an evening session for interested parties. Please get in touch via the office and leave a message if I'm not available, or email or text. God bless.

Jane Bowley Family Outreach Worker for Ashbourne Methodist Church
01335 300276 or familywork@virginmedia.com or 07941848234

Ashbourne Churches Together— You are invited to join with fellow Christians in the town for *Mid day Prayers* at AMC on **Monday 8th May at 12 noon**. The meeting usually lasts about 30 minutes followed by an optional lunch which on this occasion will be at the *Stepping Stones*.



MISSION MATTERS

Greetings from Nepal or, more precisely from Ghorahi (try Googling these names), a small town in west Nepal where INF (International Nepal Fellowship) has been active in medical work since the 1970s. Now there are many churches in the town and surrounding villages. Like Ashbourne they have an association that brings them together.

I arrived at 5.30 am today (18 April) on the night bus from Pokhara (having left at 4.30pm and travelled 195 miles for \$6,32) and was collected by Pastor Jeewan whom Joyce and I have known for many years. *(I hope this is intelligible but the unaccustomed heat and effects of a largely sleepless night make me less than reliable!)*

Arriving in Kathmandu on the 9th April, I had a bit of time to get over the journey and the time difference (4 3/4 hours) before meeting Pastor Dilliram who is heading up the the launch of the training manual. Together we planned the programme for the 4 venues in detail. I am down to speak about the author and his vision for the manual - a new generation of well-equipped pastors for a rapidly growing church, especially in rural areas. It was just as well that I met few Europeans in the first few days because it enabled me to brush some of the rust from my Nepali!

I took a tourist bus the 127 miles west to Pokhara (9hrs with 2 food stops) through beautiful and familiar scenery; down river gorges and over mountain passes. A real trip down memory lane! The following day was the first manual launch programme. There must have been well over 100 people there from the surrounding churches. It was preceded by communion and a time of worship and prayer for the new year, (2074 started the next day). There was a wonderful sense of unity in God's presence and it will be exciting to see how God uses the manual in the years to come. (see picture on back cover)

I took a couple of days off over Easter and visited the village of Ghandruk (Google), high in the Annapurna mountains where I had worked in the 1970s. I looked for old friends and colleagues but found that most had died. In fact the only ones of my generation left seemed to be me and a 'young lad', Ras Bahadur, who now lives in Basingstoke! However, I was able to see several of their children and hear stories of their fathers, including one, a Gurkha, who fought in the Battle of Monte Casino.

I was rather chuffed at being able to walk all the way up to the village, from 3,000 feet at the bottom to 6,400 feet, although I must admit being a bit puffed with the altitude at the top!

Back in Pokhara I booked the night bus to here. Interestingly, out of the blue, I "just happened" to meet a young man who is a youth leader in a church in Mugu, a district far to the north-west (Google). He was very interested to hear about the manual and I was able to give him my spare Nepali copy. You never know how God can use such "God-instances"!

Tomorrow, the 19th, is the second launch programme, here in Dang, when we expect around 70 [pastors](#). In the evening I and the team head further west for the next two programmes in Nepalgunj and Birendranagar. We then fly back to Kathmandu on the 21st and I hope to arrive home early on the 26th.

So by the time you read this I will be home again [but](#) just thought you might like to get the feel of things in real time from this part of God's Kingdom.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary. 18.04.17

Joyce adds: Easter Sunday was celebrated in a joyous procession through the streets of Kathmandu to the Central Park where a worship service was held. (This "You Tube" film clip is worth watching. Editor) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN-qoX1TxQg> See also picture on back cover.

That evening a church was set on fire. Nepali Christians need courage and a strong relationship with Jesus, knowing what they believe, to stand firm in the face of opposition.

JOAN CONSTABLE.

It was a joy to be the Pastoral Visitor for Joan. Every time I went I found her welcoming, whenever and wherever I visited her, whether at home, in Hazel Close, Chatsworth Court, or in St Mary's or the New Lodge, and for me, it was an ongoing journey for every visit gave me an insight into her life and her family.

Each visit took me on a journey, sometimes I would gain an insight on the triumphs and tragedies of her family of which you could see in her eyes and feel in her words the love and pride she had in each of her children and grandchildren. Joan's eyes would look to the photographs that adorned her wall as if she was revisiting those that she spoke about. One thing that caught my eye was that in all photographs she always seemed to be smiling, enjoying the company of family and friends and smiled as she looked at the photograph's.

Other visits gave me a view of Joan's long and distinguished career, nursing, missionary, wife and mother. She spoke a lot of her husband Guy and one could see how much Joan loved him and sorely missed him since his passing away.

There were visits that were totally focused on the sub continent of India and of her mission there. If I had noted something about India on the news I would note it down, just to see if Joan had insight into the area the news spoke of, which, often, she did.

Many visits were full of laughter, Joan could have fun as no other person I know could. Joan could have fun with me and I with her. Once toward the end of a visit at Chatsworth Court, she said, "I will have to throw you now, I am due out soon"

I, (jokingly), said, "Do you think you are big enough to throw me out?". Joan replied, "I have got my stick"! and reached for her walking stick by her chair. That stick became another source of laughter if I said something and Joan would reach for her walking stick.

Later, there was a really amusing incident which included her walking stick!

(For this portion of this story, I did ask Rosemary if I could use it in this tribute, to which she agreed).

I knew Joan was a teetotalter, all her life, yet on one visit just before

Christmas at Chatsworth Court, walking through the door I noticed three cases of wine! (note, three cases, not three bottles!) in her hall way.

"What's this!" I exclaimed, "This is not what I expected of this lady I have come to know!"

She told me it was for friends and those that care for her.

"I have heard that one before" I replied, with a few more choice phrases. Guess what? laughing, Joan reached for her walking stick, so I shut up very quickly, but we continued to laugh.

Above all I have spoken of there was one thing that shone through every fibre of Joan's life, it was above all else, her faith. Faith that at her thanksgiving service we were told that she found very early in Joan's life and faith that in all aspects of her life was paramount and which sustained her right through her life, nurse, wife, mother, missionary, friend, grandmother, etc, etc.

I came to know it well, for we never parted without prayer. I said a prayer, then Joan would pray, and the folk she included was amazing. Her family, her friend's, my family, my friend's and all those we had mentioned in our conversations.

At my last visit, a day before she died, Rosemary, thought she would not recognise me, but she reached out her hand and took mine, which was very moving for me, and my final words to her, not surprisingly, were in prayer.

I will miss my dear friend Joan.

Tom Parkinson, Pastoral Visitor.



Thank you to those that

support this project and especially for the beadwork purchases. Here is news, via Thokozani the project co-ordinator, from one of the ladies that make beadwork for us: -

"One care giver invited me to her house to come see her bed that she bought from the money she saved from selling her beadwork. She said what Phakamisa is doing for them is invaluable. Putting the skills, that they learn at Phakamisa, to use mean that their orphans don't go to bed hungry"



New Outreach: Ashbourne Town Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy is an expanding area of mission for churches. It recognises the idea of the mission of God expanding beyond the church context, mission outside the walls of the church. We believe that God is interested in the flourishing of all people and that God loves all that he has made.

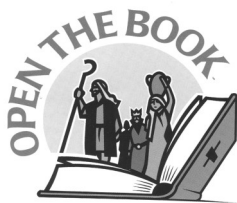
There is already an extensive network of chaplaincies across Derbyshire which are co-ordinated by Canon Paul Morris at Derby Cathedral. Town centre chaplaincies exist in Belper, Swadlincote, Buxton and Derby city centre; there are a network of lay and ordained police chaplains, chaplains to care homes, chaplains to schools, chaplains to leisure facilities, chaplains have been requested in all Derbyshire Community integrated Health teams and Derby City Council have requested chaplains for retail in the INTU in Derby.

Paul Morris co-ordinates recruitment and training of chaplains as well as initial set up and support of new chaplaincy work. Ashbourne Town Chaplaincy has been conceived of by inviting Rev Duncan Ballard our new vicar at St Oswalds who has experience as Chaplain to Birmingham Airport to consider with us the possibility of this work in Ashbourne; Ruth Barratt who has been exploring a call to lay Chaplaincy work; our minister Tim, who has encouraged and facilitated the process and not least Paul Morris who has enthusiastically supported the exploration and move towards making the possibility real.

Could you become a lay chaplain? Do you feel you could be someone prepared to listen and share peoples' journey in life whatever that is and wherever that leads?

Come and listen to:

**Canon Paul Morris at Pentecost in a Churches Together Service
4th June @ 6.30pm Ashbourne Methodist Church**



A team has been sharing Bible Stories at Hilltop School, usually on a fortnightly basis, for more than 10 years now.

We begin with the "Open the Book" song:
"Open the Book, and see, The Bible is the Book, so come on take a look, it's fun to turn

the page, find out what God's Word says."

An introduction to the story follows. Whilst the Narrator is speaking, the rest of the team will be performing an action mime, in costume and using a range of props, or using our growing collection of puppets, to help bring the story to life. We then have a time of reflection and finish with a prayer. It is 15 minutes of opportunity to share with the children and some of the staff, our much loved, but not always the most well known, Bible Stories.

Last term we presented Samuel and Eli, Samuel visiting Jesse, David and Saul, David and Goliath, and the parable of the greedy farmer.

At the end of term, Hilltop came to church, dressed in their wonderful Easter hats, to show parents and carers the songs they had learnt. We were invited to help Jane tell the Easter Story, with the puppets giving their performance, ably assisted by Arthur reading the story, of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. The children waved green ribbons to represent palm leaves.

Joy, Arthur, Sandra, Helen, Cherry, David and Margaret

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.**

Lists are up 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

Could you welcome visitors to the Chapel at Tissington during the Well Dressings 25-30 May?

Many visitors come into the chapel as they look around the village. We want it to be a time when they can sense the presence of God, enjoy the beauty of God's creation and the peace of the chapel.

It is a good opportunity to sit quietly in the chapel, chat if visitors want to, or just have time to yourself, meditate or read a book. There will be displays on the theme of "I am" so visual stimulus too.

This is for anyone, new or old and from any chapel in the circuit.

There is a **rota sheet** to sign up on in the vestibule at Ashbourne, **between 10.00am and 4.00pm** each day. **One or two hour slots** would be great. If you would like to be involved and cannot get to sign up, then ring me and I will add your name.

Joyce Odell 419319 E-mail joyceodell76@gmail.com

St Matthias – the replacement apostle

If you're saying to yourself, 'Who?' you'll be in good company. May 15th is the feast day of St Matthias the Apostle, and in describing him thus we have said just about all there is to know about him. He gets just one mention in the Bible, in the first chapter of Acts, immediately prior to the day of Pentecost, where it tells us that he was elected to take the place in the ranks of the twelve apostles recently vacated by the betrayer Judas Iscariot.

Eusebius, in the fourth century, says in his history of the apostolic era that Matthias was one of the seventy disciples sent out by Jesus (Luke 10:1), and that seems reasonable. When it was necessary to fill the vacancy among the apostles it would be natural to turn to someone who had followed Jesus from earlier years, as well as being a witness of the resurrection. Two names were suggested and prayed over. Then the apostles cast lots, following the Old Testament practice of the high priest's Urim and Thummim, one assumes. When they did, 'the lot fell on Matthias'.

Casting lots to fill vacancies on committees or councils, or even, I suppose, to appoint bishops, would seem to us a bizarre and risky practice, and it may be, as the great Victorian preacher Campbell Morgan suggested, that the eleven acted in haste and pre-empted God's choice of Saul (later known as Paul), who at that time was busy persecuting the Church, arresting Christians and having them thrown into prison. He hadn't yet travelled the Damascus Road.

Be that as it may, Matthias was elected, and for us he can stand for all those excellent, consistent, reliable and faithful servants of Christ who never make a headline, not even in the church magazine. He was chosen because he could be a 'witness', and so are we.

Doubtless he fulfilled that responsibility admirably, without, as we say, 'setting the Thames on fire'. Let's salute him on his day - the 'Unknown Apostle'.
(Source - "Parish Pump")

METHODIST HOMES.

My thanks to you all for the contribution you made to Methodist Homes, either individually, corporately, or as congregations.

The total for the 2016 / 2017 financial year was £1451.64p. (To be verified by MHA). For future reference, if anyone has a full collecting box, one does not have to wait till the end of the financial year for it to be counted. Just give me a call and I will be happy to pick it up. **Tom P** ☎342918

ACT – 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 all are welcome to attend. The Partnership has invited people from the various Indian Dioceses that we have links with to be there. So we hope to have two people from our link with the Diocese of Patna, (Bishop Philip Marandih and the Revd Francis Hansda) to be here in Ashbourne from **12 May to 26th May**.

We are looking for help in various ways; 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

REFLECTIONS.

In an article in a magazine that is sent from Central Office of the Methodist church, there was a paragraph that caught my eye. It was of the aftermath of an earthquake in the San Fernando valley, near Los Angeles in California.

People had inundated the local observatory with calls about, what they called a "strange sky" some kind of grey blanket over the city, and people were afraid.

The Director realised that the people were seeing the night sky, the milky way, stars in all their glory for the first time, as the earthquake had knocked out all light pollution from the city. This was the first time that folk had viewed the heavens, something that had been there all along!

Today, on the news there was an article on the increased "bleaching" of the coral of the Great Barrier Reef, off the coast of Australia, due to the increase in the ocean's temperature and it is causing the coral to die. Oceanologists think that if this "bleaching" continues there will one day be no Great Barrier Reef off Australia's coastline!

There has also been the ongoing tales of diminishing wildlife as poachers decimate, elephants, tigers, giraffes etc! Those articles, one in a magazine, and the others on the television made me think how easy it is to forget the bigger picture and neglect things that, for one reason or another drift, out of our view, or out of our minds, yet what would we feel if things, stars, nature, animals, one day, did not exist!

Then the thought brought me to think of God, that no matter what is our status and circumstances, he has us always in his eye, in his heart and in his mind's eye and the proof of his love and care for us, is exemplified in the giving of His son, the Lord Jesus Christ and by the grace of God, nothing, nothing will diminish or impede his view, his thoughts for us. God Bless you all.

Tom. P.



Christian Aid Week: standing with refugees like Nejebar

It is better to die in a camp than to die in a war.

That's what Nejebar thinks.

It's better to travel for months, in rain and snow, with young children.

To walk until you injure your feet. To risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy. And to leave everything you know behind.

When the alternative is fear and terror, almost anything is better.

When the alternative is bombs, bullets and war, almost anything is better.

Fleeing horrors

Nejebar's husband Noor was a teacher in Afghanistan. Imagine the horror the family felt when the Taliban announced they would kill anyone, like Noor, who worked for the government. Imagine how they felt when the Taliban carried out that threat on another family member, taking out his eyes before killing him.

Almost anything has to be better than that.

But now they've arrived in Greece, all they have is a tent. They have no other protection against wind and rain. There's no school for their five children. And they have no certainty or clear idea of what will happen

to them now. They thought they would stay here for 10 days, but it's already been six months and there's no end in sight. Noor describes their initial reaction to arriving in the camp in Greece: 'It was like suicide for us. But we took the decision that it is better to die here than to die there from war.'



Together

Throughout it all, Nejebar has desperately wanted what is best for her children. But her circumstances make it very difficult. Her youngest, Sudai, is five years old but looks much younger. He hasn't been growing as he should. His tummy is swollen and they don't know

Nejebar, with her sons Hinayat (left) and Sudai, outside their home in Agios Andreas, Greece (Photo Christian Aid)

what is wrong with him. And because the only on-site doctor is Greek, they haven't been able to find out. They don't have the language to explain that Sudai is much older than he looks.

Nejebar's strength and steadiness make her the rock at the centre of her family, holding them together in this difficult and uncertain situation. But she hasn't stopped there. Despite her circumstances, she has welcomed two brothers, Faraidoon and Farzad, into her home.

Faraidoon and Farzad don't know where their parents are, or if they're even alive. Nejebar has welcomed them into her family, giving them refuge as they wait for news.

An uncertain future

Nejebar says: 'We still have some hope that one day we will get out of here and we have hope for our children's future.'

'Our wish is to get out from this situation and to be able to go further. We only want a peaceful life. We want our children to have an education, to go to school. The most important thing is for our children.'

We won't turn our backs on refugees like Nejebar now

Christian Aid was set up by British churches in 1945 to support the hundreds of thousands of refugees who had lost their homes and possessions in the Second World War. We launched Christian Aid Week in 1957 to raise funds for vital work like this that was still continuing in the long running aftermath of the war.

For 60 years, tens of thousands of dedicated volunteers have come together for Christian Aid Week each May to raise vital money for those most in need. Thanks to you, we've been there for refugees, providing essential food, shelter and legal assistance.

This Christian Aid Week, **14-20 May**, our church is continuing to walk with refugees by doing a door-to-door envelope collection.

Your support is more vital now than ever. We're not going to turn our backs on refugees now. Speak to Catherine Green now to join us.

E - mail - catherine@greenofashbourne.plus.com Tel. 300338

Our World – God's World

Since last month's edition of "*Connections*" much has happened; the horror of the attack in Westminster, the triggering of Brexit,, the chemical bombing in Syria and President Trump's reaction ,the 'surprise' announcement of a General Election in June. Not to mention rising tensions between the US and North Korea. One could go on but what are Christians to make of all this?

It's easy to get caught up in issues that seem important to us in that moment. It's harder to stay silent when things upset us. But as Christians, we also have a responsibility to reserve our voices to highlight the issues and injustices that matter the *most*.

JPIT - Joint Public Issues Team is an organisation supported by The Methodist Church, Baptists Together, The Church of Scotland and the United Reformed Church. The Team aims to identify issues and provide briefing material for those that want to engage with issues that confront society. An ideal place for those who want to relate their Christian faith to the world as it is— plenty of material for house groups!

To find out more check out the JPIT website—
<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/about/>

New Opportunities

Are you interested in the future of the church? Do you want to help steer the church forward over the next few years? There is just the opportunity waiting for you now – the Ashbourne Methodist Church is looking for people to represent the congregation on the Church Council.

But what does church council do and how do I apply? The council meets three times a year. It hears from all aspects of the church's work, looking at what is happening now and deciding what should happen in the future. It is also responsible for making sure everything is done properly, meeting both legal and church requirements.

If you want to find out more about this or perhaps think this is the challenge you've been looking for, then please talk to either Rev Tim Morris or to Robert Sales. They will tell you more about it and help you to decide.

Are you looking for a new challenge? Do you understand how safeguarding issues affect everything we do? If so, we have just the role for you.

The Ashbourne Methodist Church is looking for someone to advise the minister and church leaders on safeguarding, recruitment and review. You will need to make sure that everyone who needs training has it and that people who need DBS checks apply for them. Training and support is available from professionals in the field.

If you would like to know more please talk to either Rev Tim Morris or to Becky Dutton.

From the Editor

Dear Friends,
Thank you to those who have contributed to this month's edition. The June edition will be published on Sunday 28th May with a copy deadline a little earlier than usual due to holidays, of **MAY 15th**.

Arthur Watts



SMILE

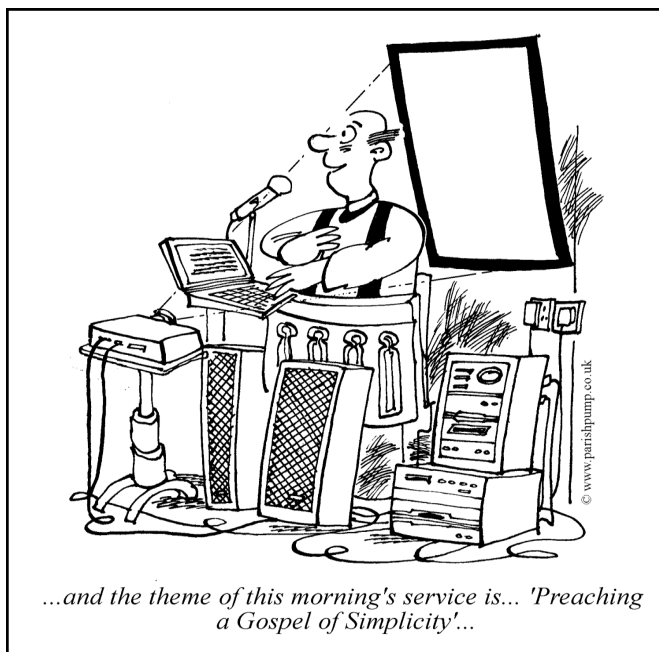
LINES

Money

There is the story of a minister who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: 'I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets.'

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, 'I finally figured out what the Bible means!' His father smiled and replied, 'What, then?' The son replied, 'It stands for "Basic Information Before Leaving Earth".'



Dates for your Diary



May

Wednesday 10 12:30 Brailsford Lunch

Fellowship

Tuesday 25

11:00 Tissington Well Dressing service

Tuesday 30

12:30 Ashbourne Lunch

Wednesday 31

10:00 Messy Church

June

Wednesday 7

19:00 Milldale Summer Service

Thursday 15

19.30 Ashbourne Annual Church Meeting

Saturday 17

10:00 Fresh Expressions Gathering - training

July

Saturday 8

10:00 Spirit and Song – training event *

Wednesday 12

19:00 Milldale Summer Service

August

Wednesday 3

19:00 Milldale Summer Service

Saturday 19

9:00 Ashbourne Show

October

Saturday 7

10:00 Reaching Older People – training event

* Dates in bold are corrections.

- See posters for more information or contact Carole Thorpe on cethorpe@hotmail.com or telephone 346535.

District Office

There is now a District Office! Opening hours will usually be Monday - Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) 10am - 2pm.

Address: District Office, Tollerton Methodist Church, Stanstead Avenue, Tollerton, Nottingham, NG12 4EA. Telephone: 0115 9375665.

Strange Weapons

Spend an evening of songs with Garth Hewitt on Friday 12th May at Sherwood Methodist Church starting at 7.30pm. Tickets £10 in aid of Maggie's Cancer Support Centre, City Hospital, Nottingham
Contact Margaret Worsnop Tel. 0115 953 1186
m_worsnop@ntlworld.com

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday May 7th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
	18:30	Ann Parkinson	
Brailsford	10:45	Diana Whitmill	United Service at Methodist
Hulland	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	

Sunday May 14th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Circuit Easter Offering
	18:30	Diana Whitmill	
Brailsford	10:30		at Ashbourne
Hulland	10:30		at Ashbourne
Kniveton	10:30		at Ashbourne
Parwich	10:30		at Ashbourne

Sunday May 21st

Ashbourne	10:30	Tom Parkinson	
	18:30	PRAISE	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Hulland	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Tissington	10:30	Robert Sales	

Sunday May 28th

Ashbourne	10:30	Ruth Barratt	
	18:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Healing and Wholeness, Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Rev David Leese	All Age
Hulland	18:30	John Dyster	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Kniveton	11:00	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Theme Preach 1
Parwich	14:30	Peter Dawson	

Wanted!

Volunteers are needed to join the District Equality, Diversity and Inclusion working group (EDI group). See the poster on the noticeboard at Ashbourne for more details.

A **Pioneer Worker** is needed at Denby Bottles Methodist Church, Ripley. Contact Carole Thorpe for more details cthorne@hotmail.com or 346535.

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 - Eric and Jenny Williams 346155)</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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16 Booth Drive,
Ashbourne DE6 1SZ
Tel: 01335 342408
E-mail: revtimmorris@aol.com



Launch of the Pastor's Training Manual at Surkhet Church (see page 6)



Palm Sunday Collage at Easter Messy Church