

Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



September 2017



Letter from the Minister

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

September 2017

Dear Friends,

“Holidays are Holy-Days”

We’ve just come back for a lovely week’s holiday in Northumberland, staying once again in a cottage we’ve been to many times before. The weather was kind and we all enjoyed the time away to do things at a different pace.

We stay near Lindisfarne (Holy Island), the sacred and awe-inspiring island, cut off by the tide each day, where St Aidan brought



Christianity to England from Iona. It has earned the description as “the Cradle of Christianity in England”. At the moment the Grade 1 listed castle on the island, owned by the National Trust, is undergoing a £3million

restoration programme, which will take 18 months to complete. But it is still a sight to behold.

Thousands of people visit the Island, Priory and Castle each year – when the tide is right! Many would call themselves pilgrims. A few hardy souls walk across when the tide is out. The rest of us drive on the causeway.

A holiday is a bit like a pilgrimage. A time away for refreshment and renewal. There are three vital parts to a holiday/pilgrimage:

the journey away from home, leaving things behind and “letting go”;
the destination, the “holy” place where we find rest and renewal; and the most



important part, *the going home*. That's because the purpose of a pilgrimage is to live the Christian life more fully once we return to our daily lives. So, too, our holidays should enable us to do the same.

As we approach the season for Harvest Festivals and give thanks for all that God has given us to sustain and make us flourish, let us do so with full, glad and thankful hearts, remembering all that "all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above". As we give thanks for all that we have received, let us be ready to offer much in return.

Your minister and friend,



Tim Tomis

Methodists respond to cholera outbreak in Yemen

As Yemen continues to struggle with one of the largest cholera outbreaks in recent recorded history, the Methodist relief and development agency 'All We Can' has extended its work in the country.

A recent joint statement of the World Health Organisation and Unicef warned that suspected cholera cases in Yemen could exceed 600,000 by the end of 2017. Yemen's health systems are collapsing. Water, sanitation and access to food is precarious. It is now estimated that 18.8 million of Yemen's 28 million people need humanitarian assistance and over seven million are on the brink of famine.

As a result of generous giving to its East Africa Famine Appeal, over £450,000 was raised for its East Africa Famine Appeal, and 2000 very vulnerable people in Yemen are benefitting from the distribution of food baskets. Tens of thousands more across East Africa in countries including Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Burundi are also receiving food aid and healthcare. Visit:

www.allwecan.org.uk/famine



MISSION MATTERS

World Mission Sunday 29th October

For JMA Sunday this year we are planning an emphasis, for the whole service, on world mission; on what God is doing around the world. This will be the first World Mission Sunday for several years I understand and will, hopefully, include representatives from the Circuit. It would be good if all the children stayed in for the whole service. Our speaker will be the Rev Jimi Kaci from Fiji; now a Methodist minister at Hatton. We hope Jimi will be bringing a Fijian choir and also video greetings from the young people in his home church in Fiji to our young people here (remember that Fijian for hello is “bola”!). His home is on the island of Fulaga – about 300 km east of Fiji (try Google maps!).

We would like everyone to be involved in the following ways. I know it's a few weeks ahead but it is good to start preparing!

- A) Please bring a flag representing a country you have particular links to or interest in. We will peg them all on a washing line in the front of the church to make a colourful display. If you have difficulty finding the flag of your choice you could contact the embassy concerned and specify the size - about A2 (35x58cm, ie the Ashbourne Telegraph opened out). Tom Parkinson has offered to help with contacting embassies for a flag if you need it. Tony Walker can help with a Japanese one if needed. You could also look on the internet, e.g. <https://www.hampshireflag.co.uk/Flags.aspx?clid=CjwKCAjwzYDMBRA1EiwAwCv6JmdM82X3aB8Pc8iHKNRnZHRXMUqnoeZTIwNwyZo1JiCG7GbpOofMxoCBdQQAvDBwE> (£16.50 68x34 Dye Printed);
- B) Please come wearing something different from usual. Especially if it represents your chosen country.
- C) I would like to invite people to read out a previously identified and well-known verse from scripture in their chosen foreign language (e.g. John 3, 16 or Is.42,10).

D) Similarly I would like to invite anyone who would like to, to pray a short prayer in a foreign language that they know – tell us what it is first and we can say ‘amen’!

E) After the service we will have a shared buffet lunch in the Century Hall. If you can bring a dish from your chosen country that would be great! Jimi will also give me a recipe of a Fijian dish which our experts should be able to put together.

Welcome to July 2017 News and Prayers from MHA

Chris Swift joined MHA as Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality on 1st June. He needs our prayers as he settles into the job.

“My first month at MHA has flown by – with lots of new faces; visits to MHA facilities; policies to read and core learning to complete. Learning new things is both challenging and stimulating and I look forward to continuing to immerse myself in MHA in the coming months. I’ve certainly been made to feel very welcome and have enjoyed meeting residents of homes from Edinburgh to Market Harborough (don’t worry – I’ll get further South in due course...).

Stepping out into a new venture can cause some level of anxiety. I imagine that for those moving into retirement living, a care home or nursing home, that feeling must be around, as well as all the questions that go with it: “Will I fit in? Will I want to fit in? How will people behave towards me?” The unfamiliar heightens our awareness and makes us sensitive to comments which we would normally shrug off. It can take a time for us to settle in.

It’s an experience which puts me in mind of Matthew 14: 22-33: Jesus walking on the water. Peter asks Jesus to call him, keen to make a move, and Jesus is happy to oblige. It’s one of many instances that tell us lots about the character of Peter. However, when the wind rose and the safety of the boat suddenly appeared attractive, fear took over. Peter began to sink.

Despite our faith and confidence we can all have moments of uncertainty. We imagined God was calling us this way, but suddenly we’re not so sure. Doubt enters our thoughts and we lose our self-confidence. In that night on Lake Galilee, Peter went to meet Jesus full of faith only to find his self-reliance was insufficient. Having taken the risk Peter discovered things he hadn’t anticipated. In the

moment when doubt undermined him, Jesus reached out and raised him up.”

Lord, we pray for all those who step out in faith,
following the voice of Your calling.

May they set their sight on You alone,
trusting in the constancy of Your love.

Then Lord, if the wind blows and the waves rise,
stretch out Your everlasting arms so that even in their sinking they
may be saved.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Chris Swift, Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality

Showers of blessing - news from the Hill family in Zimbabwe:

A double whammy of drought and an invasion of the armyworm caterpillar earlier this year left Zimbabwe struggling to feed its people. According to mission partners Jonathan and Isabel Hill, things are improving, but the struggle is still there.

“Everywhere you looked was dry and bare, but our good Lord has blessed us with plenty of rain,” says Isabel. “Thanks to the Almighty for covering our fears of running out of water. The city dams were running empty. Now water rationing has been lifted. While we are happy about the blessing of rains, a lot of destruction also happened: roads and bridges were washed away, some houses were destroyed and crops were destroyed in some areas.”

Methodists in Zimbabwe have responded to the crisis in a number of ways. In Bulawayo, the Matthew Rusike Children’s Home is setting up vegetable gardens. This will be as an income generating project, as well as providing food for orphans in the communities. Jonathan and Isabel have been supporting feeding schemes for young children at Thekwane Primary School Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal, and further south at Twayi-twayi. At Thekwane Primary School, the Zimbabwean government has stepped in and started helping by providing some ingredients for the children’s meals. “If the food situation in the local community improves, we may be able to divert resources to helping the children in other ways,” says Jonathan.

Prayer points: Praise God for the return of rain to Zimbabwe, and pray for all the projects Zimbabwean Methodists have got going to provide food for those who need it. See *World Church news July/August*.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary



OPERATION

CHRISTMAS CHILD 2017

We have already had several enquiries about what can and cannot go into Shoeboxes this year. So here is the answer from Adam Tankard at *Samaritan's Purse*.

"Sweets (date April 2018 and beyond) and toothpaste are fine for this year. We're looking for new or very good condition second hand items. The prohibited items include large items of clothing (hats, scarves and gloves are great though), chocolate, food (apart from sweets), toy guns or war items, anything political or religious in nature (although a card with a nativity or little bible message are fine - it is a Christmas project after all!), no liquids or anything which may harm a child or 4 suit playing cards."

Leaflets to go into the Shoeboxes will be on their way to us soon.

SHOE BOX COFFEE MORNING

In The Cornerstone on **MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 10am to 12noon**

All items for shoe boxes will be on sale also a stall selling cakes, jams and marmalade.

This year we **are not** having a white elephant or Bric a Brac stall.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served.

All welcome, please support if you can, for further details please see one of the team - Sheila, Margaret, Brenda or Chris.

Quote of the Month

We never do anything so secretly but that it is in the presence of two witnesses: God and our own conscience

Ashbourne Church Family News

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you...Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.” John 14:27

There is so much going on in the world and in our society that we may want to retreat in to our own world. There is so much going on in our own lives – family relationships, worries about our future or children, stresses at work and concerns over our health, that we could easily withdraw into ourselves. However, as followers of Jesus Christ we are not left alone. When Jesus talked with his disciples about peace, he had just shared some very worrying things with them around the Passover meal. They would question the purpose of God in all that was happening. Through the resurrection they came to realise there was hope beyond the turmoil. Our hope is built on nothing less than the resurrection of Jesus. He is the one who gives peace.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Helen Flinn, Helen Barker and Richard Warburton whose mothers have recently passed away and with the Fielding family in their bereavement.

We pray for those who remain unwell, those recovering from surgery, others waiting for tests and results or surgery including Maureen Gilbert, Margaret Wright, Cherrie Broadhurst, Chris Dakin, both Eric and Marianne Matthews, Mary Murphy and Jenny Waring. There are others you know who would rather not be named but do remember them in prayer. Pray for those who have family at a distance and have worries about their health and wellbeing.

If you hear of anyone in our fellowship who is unwell or in difficulty, could you please inform their pastoral visitor or house group leader or let me know (unless they have specifically asked you not to). If people wish to be included for prayer in the future, please do let me know.

Congratulations to Hannah Marsh who has graduated from Cardiff University with a first class honours degree in History. There are others waiting for exam results, both university and school, so let's pray for decisions all have to make as they receive results.

Remember those moving to new schools - Ethan Green to QEGS and Thomas Haines to Thomas Alleyne's, Uttoxeter.

Congratulations to Jen and Tad Farmer on the birth of Caleb William on 20 June, a first grandchild for Ian and Jacqui Marsh and to Gwen and Dennis Foster on the arrival of their first great grandchild, Albie, born on 14 June.

Helen and Tony Walker celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 20 August and Tom and Ann Parkinson celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 3 September. Geoff Buckley celebrated his 80th birthday on 8 August.

We pray for Helen Barker in her new role as Leadership Steward and Richard Barratt in his role as a Worship Steward. We thank the Lord for Chris Dakin and Liz Mawdsley as they have served as Worship Stewards.

It was good to have Jonathan and Isabel Hill with us, having come over for Stephen's graduation. Stephen needs guidance for the future and Suzanna continues study.

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 14.08.17

JMA Breakfast

Sunday 17th September - 9-10am in

The Cornerstone.

We look forward to seeing JMA members and their friends. Further details from Ruth Mallard.



REFLECTIONS.

I was thinking the other day of how some laws of the road seemed to have changed since I was a learner in the 1970's. I remember I still had to know the hand signals, despite indicators being fitted to cars for a long time. My instructor at the time told me that indicators were, at that time, not recognised in law, so you had to know the hand signals. He was a very good instructor, he also taught me some "unwritten laws", never to come out of a junction unless I had room to accelerate and not cause anyone behind to brake, to name one.

While driving he was constantly testing me on the highway code, and I was thinking of him while going down Mayfield Road toward Ashbourne, and cars not giving way, as it seems my instructor said if your side of the road is "clear", (no parked cars,) you have right of way. It seems not many know this as I have had many near collisions with a cars that come from the Ashbourne direction, and would not wait till I had cleared the cars parked by the side of the road. Another day, behind a car indicating right for the A515 toward Lichfield, on the by-pass, but in the left hand lane , went up the hill toward Derby. Seems today, one can indicate right if going straight on!

I thought to myself it's no wonder there are accidents, with all the different rules of the Highway Code that have come in over the years since my first licence because many are reading a lot of different rules than I did all those years ago.

I was reminded of a quote, which I think, is attributed to Napoleon, "*Order, then counter order equals disorder!*" I also thought of a place in California, there is a factory, which, has the words "KISS" on placards around the place. It's not for anyone to kiss someone in greeting, but is short for "*Keep It Simple, Stupid!*" One might think it produces very simple products, far from it, as it is recognised as the most advanced aircraft factory in the USA. Producing America's first jet fighter, the P-80, plus the U2, and SR-71 2,000mph spy plane, and the first Stealth Fighter the F-117, to name some of its products. God keeps it simple too, Jesus once said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man will come to the Father, but by me". And, that is as valid today as it was when first He said it in roughly 33.A.D. God still keeps it simple. God Bless you. **Tom. P.**



Alpha,.... coming soon to a home near you

Starting in October, we are going to be running **Alpha** again and we need your help. Can you be a leader, helper, host, cook, and/or pray for the course? Not all of you will be called to all of these roles but, as we learnt through *Fruitfulness on the Frontline*, we all have a frontline full of contacts, friends and relatives who we can invite to the Alpha Supper (details to follow through the Ashbourne Church notices and on our website). The Alpha supper will introduce the course and give those attending an opportunity to consider doing the course, with a free meal!

Ahead of further details, including the all important venue and date for the Alpha Supper, we are asking you to pray. Pray whether you should offer to be involved through one of the roles mentioned above, pray for guidance as to who you should invite to the supper, pray about whether you should do the course. And please look out for the prayer cards, supper invitation postcards and details of the leaders/ helpers/hosts training event in September.

As we strive to be an outward looking church, serving our local community, let us pray for God's blessing on this forthcoming Alpha course, helping people to discover for themselves some answers to the big questions about the meaning of life.

If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the Alpha planning team (Lorraine Hawkins, Jeff Ffoulkes & Jacqui Marsh).

Bible Society launches 'hybrid' magazine

Bible Society has just launched what it calls a "unique hybrid of magazine, journal and workbook - to help enhance and inform your spiritual life." It is called the 'Lyfe Journal', and aims to help Christians with little time to read full books, to still discover insights from theologians, art and experiences. The first issue looks at Prayer, and costs £4.99. Details at:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/product-search/lyfe+journal/>



FRIDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY 2ND OCTOBER

Over the past two years, thousands of communities in the UK, and across the world, have taken part in the National Prayer Weekend. Christians have covered their local areas in prayer. Hundreds of thousands of neighbours, local business owners, teachers, friends, bus drivers and strangers have been asked whether they would like to be prayed for.

This year Ashbourne Methodist Church is taking part, the main focus of the weekend being **24 HOURS OF PRAYER**. Invitations to submit a prayer request will go out to as many people in the community as we can manage and we hope everyone will take away an invitation card and give it to a friend or neighbour – more than one if you can. A small post-box will be available outside the church in which people can place their prayer requests.

The organisers of the event say, “We'd love the people in our communities, who we pray for during the National Prayer Weekend, to know just **how amazing prayer is**. We don't want just to be seen as friendly Christians who are offering something 'nice'. We want people to grasp **how incredible the gift of prayer really is.**”

You are invited to take part in the **24 HOURS OF PRAYER** by signing up on the sheets in the vestibule. The event will start at **6.30pm on Friday 30th September** with coffee and cake in Century Hall – everyone is invited to come along and encourage the pray-ers – and the prayer will take place in the vestry from 7.00pm onwards. At 7.00pm on **Saturday 1st October** there will be a very short time of worship to conclude the event, to which again everyone is invited.

We would like at least three people to sign up for one or more of the one-hour slots between 7.00pm on Friday 30th and 7.00pm on Saturday 1st October.

If you are willing to pray, but can't make it to the church, you can also commit to pray at home for one or more of the one-hour slots, and there is a separate sign-up form for this in the vestibule.

If you are unable to get to church to sign up, please ring Brian and Lorraine Hawkins on 310353.



Calling all Artists.

I have been thinking about fundraising for our church building project at Ashbourne, and realised that we have quite a few talented artists among our congregation.

I have been going to art classes for about 5 years now and seem to have accumulated a lot or nearly finished work. So I thought just maybe there are others in the same boat as me, a little bit more application would finish this artwork off. This always assumes that it is any good, of course.

I had an idea that we might be able to put on an Art Exhibition, possibly next summer. It could be in the Century Hall, for a few days. I have also had an offer by a local professional artist to come and run one or two "Art Workshops" which could be put on around the time of the exhibition. These workshops would be open to all abilities, running on Saturdays and covering possibly Watercolours and Acrylics in two sessions.

At present all I have is just this basic idea. A number of "amateur artists" willing to exhibit their work with the profits from the sale going to the fund would be a great way to get more people involved and understanding what the project is about.

If you are interested in this idea and would like to progress it further, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Gareth Rutledge.

Arunima Hospice Coffee and Car Wash

Christian, Joy and Ruth Mallard are heading for Kolkata, India in December to work with the Cathedral Relief Service at Arunima Hospice – specifically with the orphans/AIDS affected children and young people. We would like to offer some financial support to the work of the hospice which doesn't have strong regular funding. They have many needs that we could contribute to: School transport for the children, seating, solar installation, shoe racks etc.

We are having a couple of fund raising mornings at our home: ***Coffee and Car Wash*** on **Saturday 7th October** and a ***Coffee morning (tea and juice included too!)*** on **Saturday 18th November**.

Please note these dates in your diary and support the children of Arunima Hospice if you can. More details to follow in the AMC weekly notices. Your prayers for the planning and the arrangements for the visit would be much appreciated too.

Thank you.

CALLING ALL CARERS!

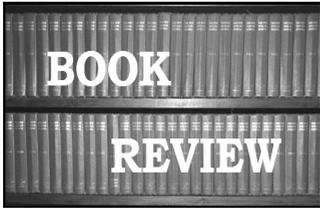
Do you care for someone, for whatever reason, or do you know someone who does, and would like the chance just to have somewhere you can have an hour or so respite with coffee and chat?

drop in to St Oswald's Hall, and you'll be assured of a warm welcome, a friendly face and a listening ear.

**DROP IN FOR COFFEE and CHAT
At St OSWALD'S HALL**

Between 10am and 12 noon on the
First Wednesday of the month
6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 6th December

For more information call 01335 664159



“The King in the North” – *The life and times of Oswald of Northumbria*, by Max Adams, Head Zeus, £9.99.

Have you ever thought who St Oswald was who is commemorated in the parish church of St Oswald’s, the hospital and local street names? This book, a challenging read of 400 pages, paints a fascinating picture of Oswald’s life and times in the 7th Century and beyond in Saxon England.

From his youth on Iona as a student under St Columba to taking the throne of Bernicia (Northumberland) in 634. His brief reign lasted 8 years but was a pivotal time in British history as he began to change the role of a King from a simple war band leader to a king who sought the wider benefits of his people.

In this he saw the crucial significance of the spread of the Gospel of Jesus and invited St Aiden of Iona to establish a presence on Lindisfarne and to evangelise his people, and farther afield including Deira (now Yorkshire), later to become part of his Northumbria. His reign ended with his death at Maserfelth in 642 at the hands of Penda of Mercia.

But the book is only half done! Oswald’s influence continued into the reigns of his successors through the gradual merging of the small Saxon kingdoms of which England consisted, his support and personal identification with the Gospel and the relationship between church and state that he established and which continues to this day, and the numerous miracles attributed to his mortal remains in the following centuries.

Richard Odell

EDITOR - Have you read a book that perhaps inspired you or gave you a new insight into an historic or living person? Or maybe a travel book that enhanced your visit to a place?

Would you like to write a review about it?

Ashbourne Town Chaplaincy

If anyone is wondering about whether lay Chaplaincy is for them, please come and experience a training day. Talk to people who are already lay chaplains. This is a great way to find out whether this is for you.

Next Derbyshire training day: 25th September 09.30-3.30pm at Cromford. Its FREE

Please contact Ruth Barratt email: ruthbarratt53@gmail.com OR 01335 324312 OR 07708252908 by 8th September and I will book

Methodist Women in Britain



Meeting at Hulland - Thursday 7 September 2.15pm

the Speaker will be the Rev Duncan Ballard, the Vicar of St Oswald's Church. There will be refreshments and a bring and buy stall at the close. Proceeds will be for the World Mission Fund. Please come - all welcome!

Dates for your Diary

17 October District Day at St John's Church, Carlton - Speaker - Barbara Maddison (National Council of Women)

1 November Supper Evening, Century Hall - Speaker - Rev Dr Moira Biggina (Chair of Workplace Chaplaincy in Derbyshire and Chaplain at East Midlands Airport)

Ashbourne

Dandelions

Bereavement Support Group

We provide a caring, safe place that allows time to talk and express grief, supported by trained facilitators on hand to listen and encourage..

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at The Cornerstone Café, Ashbourne between 1.30–3.00pm All welcome – no charge.

Brought to you by G Wathall and Son Ltd

THE WAY I SEE IT: The Blame Game

'It's her fault!' That, along with 'it's not fair!' is among the first sentences most children learn. Something's been broken, someone's in tears, and the Blame Game has begun. The awful truth is, we don't grow out of it. Look at any newspaper or watch daytime television and you'll see it played out endlessly.

Years ago, a battle-hardened journalist told me that 'in news there are no accidents'. Of course, in fact there are. But after every well-publicised incident the media and aggrieved parties ensure that the endless hunt for someone – anyone – to blame and punish goes on, even if it takes years.

When the tower in Siloam fell, the crowds didn't ask Jesus who was to blame (they simply assumed it was an 'act of God'). They wanted to know if the 18 victims were particular sinners, to suffer such a fate. No, he said, they weren't – though they should all amend their ways. The crowd weren't concerned with blame, but consequence. It sometimes seems we've reversed that, in the modern world, and replaced consequence with blame. Somehow it will all be better if someone is punished – or is made to pay heavy compensation.

Every time we say the Lord's Prayer we ask for forgiveness, but add 'as we forgive those who sin against us'. It may well be their fault, but we are not seeking a penalty for it. That seems a healthy, if radical, alternative to the Blame Game.

Canon David Winter

Prayer of thanks to our Faithful Father

Faithful Father,

Thank you for your presence with us, all the time. Thank you for your goodness towards us, all the time. Thank you for the forgiveness you offer when we put our trust in Jesus and what He did on the cross, so that not even the most desperate circumstances can cut us off from you. Thank you for the on-going possibility of a new start with bright hope for each tomorrow.

Thank you, thank you Lord,
In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

By Daphne Kitching

From Around the District - Ilkeston



Ann Richards, of Ilkeston Methodist Church, Derbyshire, led a united church effort to provide a 'Great Get Together' event celebrating community life.

Working together with local churches, the council, the park ranger and other

community organisations, the group provided an entirely free, family event for the whole town.

Family Worker Caroline Middleton said of the day: "One of the activities was a hook-a-duck game which was actually a thanksgiving prayer space. Throughout the day, we helped over 100 children express their thankfulness to God for different things (with a different topic stuck to the bottom of each duck).

"Erewash Borough Council and the park ranger were so pleased with the way the event was run, they have asked us to return to provide children's activities for their next park event!

"We are so thankful to God for the opportunity to build such positive relationships with our community."

Email: Caroline Middleton carolineeastowc@gmail.com for more information.

From the Editor

Dear Friends,
Hope you enjoyed your holidays, we are about to go on ours. The content of this edition suggests we shall all have a busy time this autumn! I shall aim to publish the October edition on 1st October with a deadline for your contributions of **20th September please. Your contributions** are needed, not just about forthcoming events but your thoughts and experiences too. *Arthur Watts*



On plums, dull sermons, falling leaves and Harvest

The Rectory,
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It is good to be back from my holidays – even if I discovered on arriving home that, as I motored back with my car full of my exchange colleague's plums in the boot, he was doing the same with my apples; I had expected better of him.

I was equally disappointed that he insisted on inviting parishioners back to the Rectory after Mattins for a sherry, as it creates a dangerous precedent. That he entertained them on my sherry was a step too far. I think a letter of reproach will be called for – or at least as soon as I feel he will have got over the discovery that I liberated the plums from his own orchard.

One of the main reasons I allowed him to come here was that I remembered his sermons being long and memorably dull. Sadly, he has had a conversion experience and they are now short and interesting, which was definitely not what I wanted. I am already making tentative plans to exchange with a colleague next year who has a heavy Welsh accent and speaks with a stutter.

You rather smugly commented that at least on the Norfolk coast I didn't have to worry about marauding pythons, as you did in your somewhat more exotic holiday. But had you had to deal with an irate dowager marchioness whose flower arrangement had been moved from the pulpit to the font without her permission, you would understand where real danger lurks. You can be inoculated before your holiday against typhoid; there is no known medical protection against a lady of substance in full charge.

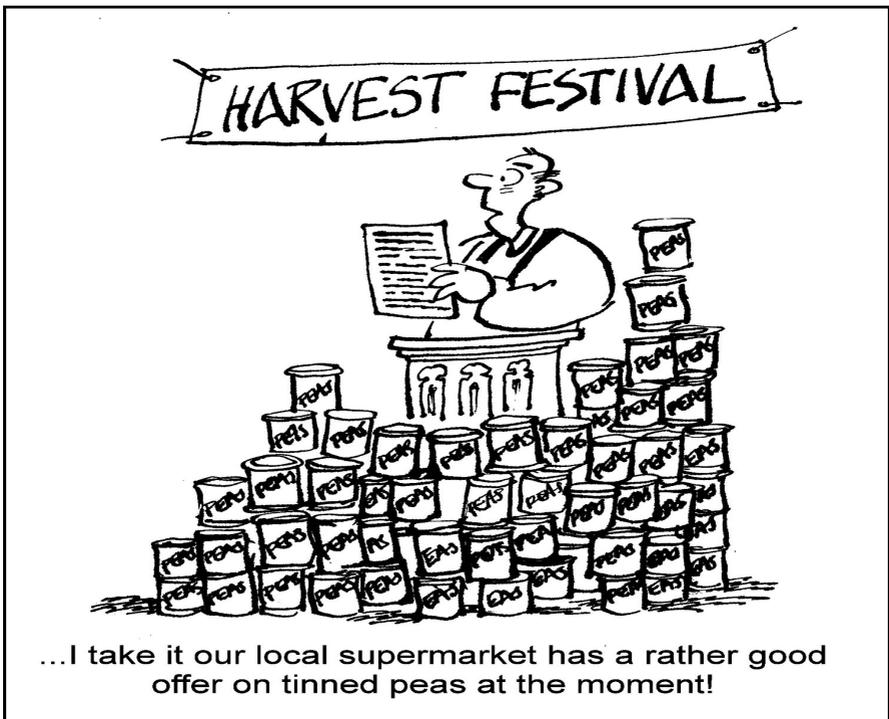
So the Autumn round approaches. Afternoons are occupied in sweeping up leaves from the lawns and evenings, after dark, of

tipping them over the wall into Colonel Adamson's garden. That will be an activity quite foreign to you, I know. Imagine your morning collection of discarded take-away containers dumped in your garden and you have a close parallel.

And then there is Harvest to prepare for. The plums that I brought back from my colleague's trees that remain uneaten should find a good home on the church window sills – which may almost compensate for the absence of the Rectory apples. They will sit, totally upstaged, alongside Miss Fanshawe's Harrod's hamper – which she always makes sure everyone knows she donated anonymously. Some, as they say, have their reward already.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace





MORE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

September

- Thu 7th 14:15 MWiB Fellowship Meeting at Hulland
Wed 13th 14:00 Hulland Church Council
Sat 16th 10:00 District Synod

October

- Mon 2nd 19:30 Ashbourne Church Council
Wed 4th 19:30 Circuit Meeting at Ashbourne
Sat 7th 10:00 Reaching Older People at Nuthall Methodist Church
Mon 9th 14:00 Joint Church Council at Tissington
Mon 16th 19:30 Brailsford Church Council
Thu 19th 14:00 Kirk Ireton Church Council
Thu 26th 10:00 Messy Church, Century Hall, Ashbourne

November

- Wed 1st 19:30 MWiB Supper Evening

DISTRICT EVENT

Reaching Older People.

Sat 7th October 10am - 4pm. Venue Nuthall Methodist Church.

With Debbie Thrower, of Gift of Years, on resourcing the spiritual journey of older people and Graham Horsley, Methodist Fresh Expressions Missioner, on engaging with Baby Boomers. Plus workshops to help you in your ministry & mission with older people. Watch out for publicity.

Book with Michele Simms, District Fresh Expressions Pioneer Enabler
fxpe@icloud.com 01629 824700 or visit:

reachingolderpeople.eventbrite.co.uk

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday September 3rd

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Diana Whitmill	United Service at Methodist
Hulland	18:30	Fiona Green	

Sunday September 10th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café Style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev David Leese	
	18:30	Tim Dutton	
Brailsford	10:00		United Service at Parish
Hulland	18:30	Peter Nelson	Harvest Festival
Kniveton	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Parwich	14:30	Stuart Mustow	

Sunday September 17th

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	Theme Preach
	18:30	PRAISE	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age
Hulland	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Parwich	10:00	Ann Parkinson	United Harvest Festival Service
Tissington	10:30	John Dyster	

Sunday September 24th

Ashbourne	10:30	Stuart Mustow/ Rev Tim Morris	Theme Preach Communion
	18:30	Diana Whitmill	
Brailsford	10:30	Lorraine Hawkins	
Hulland	18:30	at Kirk Ireton	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Ann Parkinson	Harvest Festival
Kniveton	11:00	Peter Dawson	
Parwich		no service	

Sunday October 1st

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	All Age, Harvest Festival
	18:30	Robert Sales	Harvest Festival
Brailsford	10:30	Ruth Barratt	United Service at Methodist Harvest Festival
Hulland	14:30	Tom Parkinson	

Please note that the items in **bold** are a variation to the normal

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

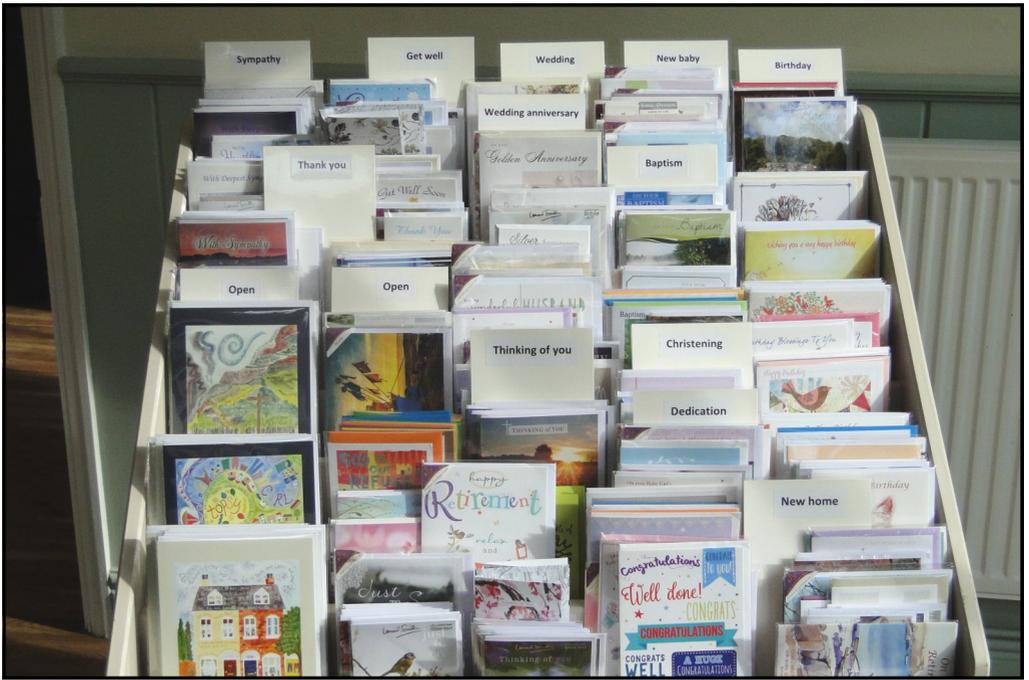
Tues	7:30pm	Bible Study: monthly, 2nd Tuesday
Thurs	2:15pm	Women's Fellowship: monthly, 1st Thursday

KIRK IRETON CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Wed	7:30pm	Fellowship: monthly, 3rd Wednesday
-----	--------	------------------------------------

CIRCUIT STAFF

Rev Tim Morris
16 Booth Drive,
Ashbourne DE6 1SZ
Tel: 01335 342408
E-mail: revtimmorris@aol.com



The Cornerstone Coffee Shop has an excellent choice of Christian Cards for that special occasion



Some of the Ashbourne Treasures on display in St Oswald's Church, others may be seen at the Heritage Centre and the Library until September 27th.