

Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



April
2018

Letter from the Minister
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April 2018

Dear Friends,

“Spring in to action”



“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven”, so says the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes.

It’s a reading I often use at funerals, but one that applies to so many other aspects of our lives too.

Having bared my soul about my Lenten plans, or lack of them, in my last letter, I have to now confess to needing to sort out my plans for my working life. There are lots of emails to file, delete, or even reply to! There is some correspondence to reply to and a pile of leaflets, fliers and articles, and a mountain of paperwork – so much for the paperless society!

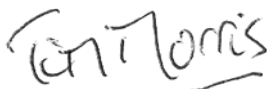
What I have to do is allocate one very important resource to get the job done. And that is time! Time set aside specifically to get on and do the job that’s needed. Time allocated for it in the diary. And later in April is going to be the time!!

We can so often find ourselves just dealing with the here and now and the immediate stuff, without clearing away all the back log of things that have been overlooked. So that’s my goal - to get sorting, sifting and, probably, shredding! I know it will be a cathartic experience – it always is – to de-clutter and feel I’m more on top of things, to “live life, rather than let it live you”.

April begins on Easter Day, when the dynamic power of God showed itself in resurrection light – empowering the first disciples of Jesus to take on tasks they never thought they could do. As followers of Jesus we too can know the power of God to change and to be changed, to turn things around, to put things the right way up and get our lives back on track with God.

So contender ready. Bring it on!

Your minister and friend,



Methodist Women in Britain

Dedication of Easter Offerings

Easter Offerings will be dedicated at a Circuit Service at Ashbourne at 10.30 am on 29 April. The theme of the service is 'Seek peace and pursue it' and will be led by ladies from the Circuit. We do hope you will come and support this service.

Prayer Walk - Saturday 14 April

Our next Circuit event will be a Prayer Walk on **Saturday 14 April**. This will commence at **8 am** from Sandra and Cliff's, The Old House, Bankend Farm, Roston. It will be followed by breakfast at 9 am. An early start, but well worth it! Do come along and join us - you will be most welcome!

Dates for your diary -

Saturday 23 June Afternoon tea at Magfield Farm, Hulland Ward
2.30 pm to 4 pm

Wednesday 18 July District Day at Ashbourne commencing at 11.15 am followed by Service at 2 pm to commission Sue Leese as District President.

Ashbourne Church Family News

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all.” Acts 4:33

Our love and prayers are with the family of Marjorie Stephenson on her death in March. We remember those who mourn the loss of loved ones during this past year. With Mothering Sunday just past, I am aware that at least eleven of our congregation have lost one or two parents this year and a number have lost other loved ones.

It is good to be able to mention names of those who would value prayer for treatment, tests or who are awaiting results and those who value personal prayer; Les Cole, Dorothy Critchlow, Jenny Waring, Rev John Perkins, David and Barbara Hollands, Eric and Marianne Matthews, Derek Blenkinsop, Andrew and Lorraine Garside.

There will be others who are regularly in your prayers because you know their needs well. We should remember all those who care and all those who make long journeys to visit loved ones. A number have told me how caring people have been to them over the bad weather and in times of illness. I know we are together practising what Jesus teaches, ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ There are a number who have concerns over health or family issues, have stress in their lives at work or have mental health issues or pain for other reasons. If you know of these individuals, bring them to the Lord in prayer.

We are glad that Nick and Claire Flux are using their home for a new housegroup and we welcome them to our church.

Congratulations to Kirsty and Gary Rackstraw on the birth of Charlie Thomas on 17 February, a grandson for Ken and Susan McKeown and to Sarah and Richard Bettany on the birth of Matthew Paul on 9 March, a grandson for Eric and Jenny Williams. We are so glad to be grandparents again to Otilie born on 16 February to James and Jodie Odell.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Hurfurt who will be one of the recipients of Maundy Money at St George's Windsor on 29 March.

Please continue to remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners, in the uncertainties of Zimbabwe. Stephen and Suzanne continue study in the UK.

It will be good to remember the Link team who are doing so much work towards the church development plan and that includes a number who are working full time too.

Many activities take place in Cornerstone; Craft and Chat, Kids at Cornerstone and the Coffee shop to mention a few. Pray for the teams who work there and that those who come in will feel the presence of Jesus as love is shown to them.

The weekly prayer meeting takes place at church at 9.30 am on a Thursday. If you would like prayer after a service please speak to a steward who can introduce you to someone who is available to pray. I have really appreciated being informed when people need care and prayer-keep it up.

Elizabeth Spencer is part of the Chaplaincy team at the Royal Derby Hospital as a Chaplaincy Visitor and if you are in hospital and need a visit, you or a friend could let her know on 348482. Elizabeth is also a visitor at St Oswald's Hospital in Ashbourne.

Joyce Odell, Pastoral Secretary 14.03.2018

**Extreme Cello Recital
Accompanied by the Stub Wood Singers
Saturday 7th April 7pm
St Oswalds Church, Ashbourne**

Join us for an evening of music

Book your tickets now!

Adults £8 in advance, on the door £10

Children Free with a full paying Adult

call or email Matt for tickets! on 01335 350525

<https://recital4chicks.eventbrite.co.uk>

CHICKS is a national charity providing respite breaks for disadvantaged children

A Little Note about Confidentiality

If you're someone who needs to share information with others, please take care about how you share it and with whom. This isn't because we have a big problem, but because it's important we wanted to share this with you.

Here are a few little tips:

- Make sure you have permission to share the information
- Take care that you're only sharing what's necessary and to people who need to know
- Watch out! You don't want the information to turn into gossip
- Emails are not a secure method of sending information, so avoid using them to send personal details (e.g. names & addresses)
- Some families use a single, shared, email address. If you need to send confidential information to just one of these people, it would be better to phone than email.

Overall, just take care with what you're sharing and use sensitivity and common sense.

Stuart Green on behalf of Ashbourne Methodist Church Leadership Team



MISSION

MATTERS

Our partners in world mission.

In February we reminded ourselves to pray for our mission partners. Over the next two months I want to introduce you to a few other organisations involved in world mission around the world. For more information see the relevant websites.

World mission involves a wide variety of activities, from evangelism to grass roots development and poverty alleviation. Internationally and in a wide variety of countries: Nepal, the Arab World, East Asia, Bolivia, etc.

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) <https://www.maf-uk.org/>

For 70 years, MAF has been flying for life. We help thousands of aid, relief and mission projects in really remote places because that's where some of the greatest human needs are.

In today's 'connected world', the irony is that never have so many people been so isolated. Flying onto desert and jungle airstrips, lakes and rivers, tracks and roads, MAF's light aircraft and their mission pilots go the extra miles to provide a lifeline.

Working in partnership with hundreds of other Christian and relief organisations MAF enables practical help, physical healing, and spiritual hope to be delivered to many of the most remote and inaccessible communities on the planet.

In 1979 SIL International (SIL) began to translate the Bible into the Baka language of Liberia. However, after a wait of more than 35 years for the first Baka New Testament, there was still no guarantee that the finished books would ever reach the remote people longing to read Scripture for themselves. The 180-mile journey from the capital Juba to Maridi was considered so dangerous that the road was, to all intents and purposes, closed. The UN wouldn't risk sending a convoy down that road. But roads aren't a barrier to the Gospel. With the handful of available commercial flights unreliable and expensive, the only option for the Baka Bibles was MAF who flew all 12,000 of them to Maridi – at no cost.

Novō Communities <http://novocommunities.org>

Rachel Burton of Novo Ministries, Bolivia will join us at Ashbourne Methodist on **Sunday 8 April from 12:30 – 2:00** and will be telling us about her work in Bolivia with Novō.

Novō is a new charity which is dedicated to pursuing a singular vision – the vision of creating transformational communities in developing nations where hurting and broken people addicted to drugs and

alcohol, marijuana and solvents, can find healing, wholeness and hope.

The first-step to fulfilling this vision will be to pioneer the first *Novō* community in Bolivia. This will be a pilot project. Once a sustainable and replicable *Novō* community is established our aim is to 'give it away' using a community-franchising approach and with the goal of seeing it replicated.

We want to support the Church in developing nations to respond to its own sense of calling by providing them with the start-up resources, training and support needed to launch and sustain a transformative community.

Yeldall Manor has been providing residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation for nearly 40 years and is highly regarded around the world as a flagship Christian response to addiction. *Novō* communities will build on the Yeldall approach in ways which fit the realities of their particular context.

Novō communities will be marked by a number of qualities.

They'll be:

- founded on Christ.
- focus on the whole person.
- partner widely with local churches.
- communities of love and discipline.
- characterized by grace and truth.
- promote freedom and responsibility.”

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary

ALISTAIR PATON.

Sometime ago when Alistair was approaching his 90th Birthday, I was looking for a special card for him and found one that listed a lot of the events that had happened in 90 years, inventions, milestones, historical events etc.

I bought it and took it home and signed it, but as I was reading the list of milestones of the last 90 years I started to have serious misgivings of presenting Alistair with the card.

However, I decided to give it to him and when I went to his home in Beech Drive and as I passed the card to him, I did apologise, in advance, as he proceeded to open the card, as I thought the list of events that happened during his life, would make him feel far older than the numeric on the birthday card.

Alistair took it in good heart and thanked me for it, in fact I never went to see him and Muriel, without feeling a deep feeling of gratefulness and thanks from Alistair and Muriel whenever I went to visit them.

Listening to his family at Alistair's thanksgiving service, I felt a kindred spirit with his Grandchildren as they spoke of their love for Alistair, how he told wonderful tales of his and Muriel's past, and how one of them would start the story, say Alistair, and sometimes Muriel would finish it, or vice versa. I noted also, the crossword, on the newspaper by his chair, and meeting Muriel and her friend Ann in the over 50's swimming sessions, when asking where Alistair was, Muriel would say Alistair was in the town library, reading, probably, I thought, adding to the vast knowledge that he had, which it was always a pleasure to listen to at my many visits.

I am sad that Alistair has passed from my life, not only as being his Pastoral Visitor, but also I feel, as a dear and cherished friend. It was an honour and a privilege to sit by him and be his friend.

Tom Parkinson. Pastoral Visitor.

Circuit Weekend Away September 21st to 23rd 2018
“imagining the future as God's family”

Lots of people are signing up to come on the weekend away at the Hayes Centre in Swanwick, so do get your booking forms in soon (by the end of April would be good, though there is always room for extras as we get nearer !)

The weekend promises to be very interesting , with Rev Anne Brown , who will share her ideas with us on imagining the future in new ways in our Church and community, with particular emphasis on valuing and including all . There will be lots of opportunities for relaxation, fellowship and fun. The en suite accommodation at the Hayes is very comfortable and the food good! Please talk to Helen Walker, Jane Baker, Elizabeth Hurfurt or Jane Bowley to find out more.

Hope to see you there!

Happy Memories of School Days

When Jonathan Webb phoned me back in the early autumn last year with an idea that he and Geoff Buckley had come up with, little did any of us know that it would result in a stupendous event held on Saturday 10th March in the Ashbourne Methodist church buildings. I believe that Geoff's idea had been something along the lines of: "Why don't we have a fund-raiser that would involve inviting people who have been pupils of Ashbourne Methodist School?" On behalf of the Link Project Jonathan had risen to the challenge and knowing that I had been a pupil there phoned me to see if I would like to get on board! Well, I didn't take much persuading (none in fact). Initially the evening, which we thought could be advertised around the idea of ex-pupils having been known as "Wesleygogs" had been planned for November. Clashing with other events in town on the date suggested we re-grouped and the March date was proposed.

After much planning and practical preparation, (which I confess I had little to do with), the "Were you a Wesleygog?" evening occurred. It had been widely advertised, in the local paper, on-line, in church and by word of mouth and the Gateway premises below the church had been opened specially for people to have a wander around between 6.00 pm and 7.00pm – the time when our evening was due to officially start.

Tracy, the girls and I arrived at about 6.15 pm and I immediately knew the evening was going to surpass expectation. There were, even at that time in the evening, dozens of us milling around downstairs all trying to remember exactly what it was like fifty and more years ago. Additional rooms had been made within what would have been larger ones, new ceilings had been constructed, toilets added etc. This all made it quite difficult to work out what had been where. But it didn't stop us trying. And remembering past times.

There was more of that upstairs in the Century Hall. Originally the idea for the evening had been to hold it fairly informally in the Hall. As Jonathan started to get wind of the fact that we might have a large amount of interest the contingency plan of holding the main event in the church itself was put into action. So, the Century Hall was also put to good use with photos of teachers and pupils in exhibitions

along the wall. Sheila Cook was kept very busy selling reprinted copies of her excellent book about the history of the school and there was also a display of the new plans for the building, with plenty of interest taken in that too.

I had written a small collection of poems for the evening and thanks to Stuart Green these were produced in an attractive leaflet which was also available. Equally importantly the Century Hall had plenty of cakes and biscuits covered and ready for consumption with tea and coffee at the interval.

By the time everyone had gathered in the church it was estimated that we had at least a hundred and twenty people in attendance. This number comprised of many ex pupils from at least the early 1940s onwards, one ex teacher, Mrs Ada Birch (nee Gosling), Mrs Pearl Webster who had with her late husband George, lived in the school house for over forty years and had over that period been care-takers of the school, and volunteers, supporters, family members and friends from church.

Jonathan took the role of compere and welcomed the throng. As you can imagine with that number of people he was playing to a packed house with an excellent, positive and lively vibe! Our first item was a setting of the scene historically, ably and professionally executed by Geoff Cole, a local historian known by many present. He used pictures on the screen to show us the history of Christianity in the town and area, putting the development of the school in the late 1880s into a context which provided a jumping off point for the rest of the evening.

This was followed by a clip from a film made for the BBC in the mid-fifties and featuring amongst other rural schools, Ashbourne Methodist School. This had not been intended as a compliment to any of the schools shown but had been made in order to underline the point that there were schools in England that were substandard and needed modernising. Be that as it may it was wonderful to see our old school depicted and to see some of the pupils of the time. Some of these very same pupils were present; Elizabeth Matthews (nee Dawson) for instance was seen clearly on the clip beavering away at her desk diligently while Mr Laughton the Head Master stood on the

desk in front of her to light the gas light hanging from the ceiling. As she is my sister I recognised her instantly. But I do know that there were other people present who would have recognised themselves and each other. Five “Wesleygogs” (Don Cox, Geoff Buckley, John Dakin, Jenny Williams and Judith Hall) from different periods of school attendance were interviewed by me and favourite school stories shared by them and members of the audience. (see picture back cover)

One striking tale was told by John Dakin. At a young age in the mid 1940s John was called out of school at lunch-time to be met by his mother and a man he didn't recognise. The man put John on his shoulders and they went home. John cried all the way home, not knowing who this stranger could be. It proved to be his dad who had been away in the army and who John could not remember having ever seen before! Life improved after that John says with sweets and Christmas presents being more abundant. But that single memory is one that will be forever associated with school in his mind and one that he will never forget.

There were opportunities later in the evening for more memories to be shared particularly from the audience. One theme that developed over the evening was the regime of corporal punishment (far from unusual at the time): canes and rulers being used fairly liberally! And yet it was agreed universally that it was a happy school and our times there had been greatly cherished. The friendships made (many of which have lasted life-times), the matters learnt, the skills and confidence gained and the fun that was had seem to over-ride everything else, even the outside toilets. One ex pupil commented that he “went” once in his school life and made sure he never went again.

The “talky” bits of the evening were interspersed with songs. Don - Captain of the AMS Football Team accompanied us on the piano while we all sung “*You are my sunshine*” and two verses of a school hymn: “*Now the Day is Over.*” A guitar band comprising of Geoff Foukes, Becky Dutton and Robert Sales played “*Heart Beat,*” “*The Sound of Silence,*” and “*She Loves You.*” In this way at least four decades of musical memories were covered. As the school closed in 1970 it was not necessary for us to get into punk or heavy metal! The music provided was of an excellent standard and singing which sounded as though it was coming from a hundred and twenty voices was

invigorating!

One or two things stand out for me from the evening. One was Mrs Pearl Webster telling us about her early days at the school house and saying how wonderful it was to see all us “children” that she remembered so well. One way to make an almost septuagenarian feel younger! Another highlight was just being together with so many other people who shared a bit of history, all of us, as John Dakin pointed out, still Wesleygogs.

Joy Mallard, a teenager, from a very different era of education joined us finally on stage and through Jonathan’s facilitation it was obvious that there were differences between then and now but there was also one important common factor shared by all – that school days are important and can and often do, contain many happy and vital memories.

It was thanks to the inspiration of John and Geoff that the evening occurred and to the hard work of all involved that it was such a resounding success. In recalling the past in such a dynamic and enjoyable way over £600 was raised to be put towards the future!

Peter Dawson

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

I would like to say thank you to everyone involved in organising the Wesleygogs Reunion. I’m sure every Wesleygog who attended will remember and reminisce well into the future of the joy of meeting up with old classmates, and the memories shared of their time together at Ashbourne Methodist School. I know I enjoyed every minute, and all the hugs and kisses from so many of those who were at school there during the time George was Caretaker there, from 1955 till the closing of the school.

It was heart-warming to hear them remembering ‘Mr Webster’ with such affection. I always see them as the children we watched growing up, moving from class to class until they left at eleven years old. There was one gentleman there, I think he said he was Fred Clarke, who is now ninety years old and was at school with George.

So thank you for making it possible for one very elderly lady to meet, and be greeted by 'My Children'. Chapel house was our home for 42 years, and it was the perfect place to bring up our four children. We have many treasured memories of living there. One of our Hindu friends always called it 'That Blessed Home'.

Pearl Webster

DO YOU THINK YOU'RE NORMAL?

Do you think you're normal?
What do you think normal is?

Suppose you were the only white person in a church full of black people?

Suppose you were the only hearing person in a church full of deaf people?

Suppose you were the only person in a church who didn't speak the language being used?

Suppose you were the only person who could walk in a church full of people dependent on wheelchairs?

Suppose you were the only single person in a church full of close-knit families?

There are many other ways in which people are 'different from us' – poor, homeless, with special needs, living with dementia....

Maybe you have been one of the 'only people' I've described.

How did you, or would you, see the 'norm' in that situation?

Might it have been you that was 'different' – or 'not normal'?

If a black or foreign or deaf or wheelchair-bound person fits in nicely, dresses tidily and speaks good English, then it may be quite easy to accept them as 'one of us'.

Perhaps if we see someone who is 'different from us', we think we're being kind if we go over and make a fuss of them, to show them we're not prejudiced. But how do they feel? Do they feel pleased to be accepted, or do they feel patronised, picked out for attention because they're different?

'Black theology' encourages us to affirm and celebrate a person's blackness, their culture, instead of expecting them to fit in. (I love the African songs I've heard, with wonderful harmonies and such great rhythms that I can't sit still!)

Could we say the same about people who are 'different from us' in other ways?

None of us chooses to be white or black, able to walk or not able to walk and so on, but each of us wants to be appreciated for what we are.

We are all created in God's image. God loves each one of us just as we are. Through the Holy Spirit, each of us can have a personal relationship with Jesus. Two of the central ideas of Methodist theology are the importance of personal experience as a source for talking about God and the belief that all people matter to God. The liberating God shows himself primarily in the saving actions of Jesus and his commitment to those who are being marginalised and oppressed. Some people have said that Jesus came preferentially to the poor, the outcast and the unloved. If we are to obey Jesus, who told us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul," and "Love your neighbour as yourself," we have to take these thoughts seriously.

We remember Jesus' words, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

So let each of us think a little more deeply about what is 'normal', what it feels like to be 'different' and how this might affect the way we serve Jesus better in the way we treat other people. How will you respond if the person sitting next to you in the pew next Sunday is black, or an abusive teenager, or a Muslim, or drunk, or has mental health issues – or 'different' in any other way?

(This article was written as an assignment for my portfolio, part of my Worship: Leading and Preaching course.)

Lorraine Hawkins

Editor - Lorraine has said she would welcome comments on this article which is meant for a church magazine. Comments directly to her please .

Visits to Kolkata (Calcutta), India

There have been two visits from Ashbourne to Kolkata recently. Ruth, Joy and Christian Mallard were there in December 2017 and John and Elizabeth Hurfurt in February 2018. On **Saturday 28 April at 7.00pm** there will be an illustrated talk, **with a meal**, in the Century Hall at Ashbourne Methodist Church when both parties will report on their visits. The Mallard family spent most of their time at the Arunima Hospice while the Hurfurts visited several projects in Kolkata.

Arunima is a hospice for people with AIDS but also runs an orphanage for children whose parents have died of AIDS. See http://cnicalcutta.org/arunima_hospice.html for more details of their work.

The Derbyshire Churches – Church of North India Partnership has been organising a teacher exchange between Derbyshire and Kolkata teachers as well as being involved with the work of the Cathedral Relief Service. John and Elizabeth will tell more of this.

Just come along on the evening, no charge, but donations welcome to help cover the costs of the food. If you are definitely coming it would help with catering if you could let us know at jandehurfurt@supanet.com or telephone 342859

REFLECTIONS.

I am indebted to Joyce Beeson, who distributes the Mayfield Parish News and writes articles for it, that lit the spark that helped this article to start.

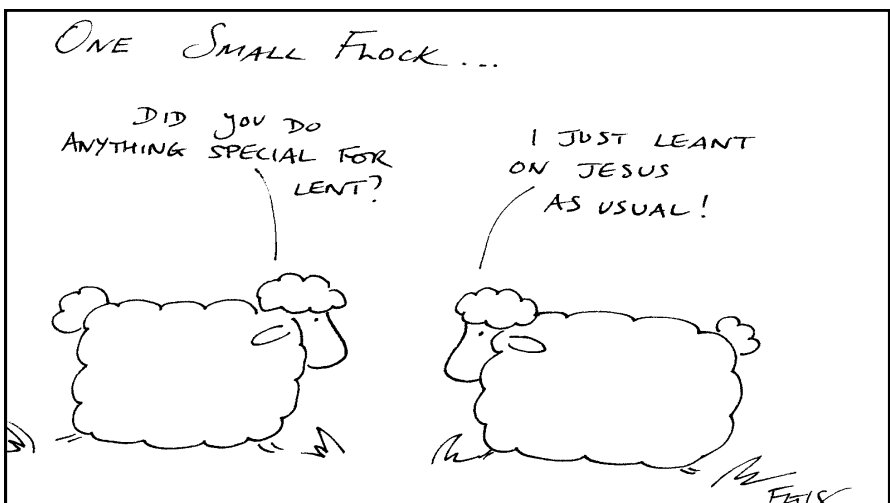
Joyce mentioned in the last Parish Magazine, one of her hobbies in times past was collecting P.G.Tips tea cards, which I used to do too. I still have three books, one on the race into space, the History of Aviation, and Prehistoric Animals. The space one says 5p (1/-) so gives a hint to its age, the others say 5p. I also have one that my mother in law gave me, this one issued by John Player (Yes, the old Imperial Tobacco Company), on "Modern Naval Craft" priced one

penny, which gives a bit of its age away, and if I list such ships as "HMS Warspite", "HMS Hood", "Admiral Graf Spee" and a French submarine called "Surcouf" gives its age even more.

Apart from the latter card book I mentioned, what I remember of all those cards I collected years ago, whether they were on animals, birds or butterflies and insects was that there was one card in each set that was always a rarity! "The Ring Tailed Lemur", or the "Lowland Gorilla" were two that came to mind. In the aviation one I have, it was the card of Spitfire, and schoolboys, and girl's no doubt), would trade almost all they had to get that one card to complete the "set"!

Jesus told stories of those who "traded" all they had to get something valuable. The man who found treasure in a field, buried it again, and sold all he had to buy that one field. (Matt 13.v 44.), or the merchant of fine pearls found one of great value and sold all he owned to buy that single one, (v 45 & 46).

Looking at my card books, and looking at my bible, I know I have a love for those "cards" I sought earnestly so long ago, yet I have a greater love for my bible and the treasure it contains which leads to the way, the truth and the life that Jesus gave by going to the cross, to save me. I hope you all have that same treasure that is Jesus.
God Bless. **Tom. P.**



From the Editor

“CONNECTIONS”

As a consequence of our holiday dates it is necessary to change the deadline for contributions and publication dates of “Connections” for the next three issues. Please make a note of them, especially if you are a regular contributor.

MAY - Deadline - 18th April - Publication 29th April

JUNE - Deadline - 30th May - Publication 10th June

JULY/AUGUST (Combined edition) - Deadline 27th June- Publication 8th July

As you will know a successor has been sought for the role of Editor for some time and I’m pleased to report that John and Daphne Dyster have agreed to jointly take on this task with effect from the September edition. It will be good to have a fresh approach to the role but as always your contributions will be vital.

Arthur Watts

Mothering Sunday at Brailsford

I am writing to share with you the wonderful welcome I received at Brailsford Chapel when I attended their Mothering Sunday morning service. The preacher was Sue Leese, what an inspiring service telling the story of Moses in the bulrushes. Told in such a way that reached the young and old present, very understandable, the gospel and the love of our Heavenly Father being in everything said. At the end, while enjoying coffee and fellowship, the children gave out Mothering Sunday cards which they had made during the service, signed with their names, together with bunches of daffodils. Thank you to Sue who had made and brought with her simnel cupcakes to give to everyone. It brought a tear to my eye to witness how God is working in Brailsford Chapel, they are reaching out to everyone and anyone and sharing God’s love.

I wonder what Father’s Day will be like!

Elizabeth Spencer

The road to Emmaus - one of the best short stories in the world

The story of the two disciples walking the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus on the first Easter day is 'one of the immortal short stories of the world' (W. Barclay). Their encounter with the risen Christ is also a model for how we can meet him in our lives. (You can find the story in Luke 24: 13 -35)

Hearts Opened. The disciples displayed 'downcast' faces (17), as their hearts were preoccupied with grief. They felt let down by God, as well as bewildered by all they had heard. No doubt their emotions prevented them from recognising Jesus walking with them, even though their hearts burned within them. Despite our feelings, Jesus is still with us in situations of loss or desolation, as well as when we feel let down by God or other people.

Minds Opened. Although this pair knew the Scriptures, they didn't understand what they said about the Christ. Therefore, Jesus opened their minds to make sense of the events they were experiencing. The Holy Spirit also brings God's word alive for us, as He challenges our preconceptions about Jesus.

Eyes Opened The couple only recognised Jesus when He broke the bread as they ate together. The turning point came when they invited Jesus into their home, and allowed Him to take charge. If we are to recognise Jesus' presence with us, we need to open our lives to Him. What part does Holy Communion play in this?

Open eyes, minds and hearts will lead to open mouths. Having discovered Jesus, the disciples can't keep the news to themselves. The Christian message is never truly ours until we have opened our mouths and shared it with others!

(Rev) *Paul Hardingham*

QUOTE - "It is the Holy Spirit's job to convict, God's job to judge and my job to love". *Billy Graham*

But who do you say I am?

A teacher, a good man, a story teller
All of these things people will say,
A prophet who spoke of heavenly things
But upsetting the religious men of His day?

He healed so many, raised the dead
Easy to see how these tales would grow,
Walking on water, stilling the storm?
These are just stories of long ago!

He loved little children, was friend of the sinner,
So many kindnesses He would do,
And then He said He was one with the Father,
Delusions of grandeur, this could not be true.

He said He would die and rise again,
He said He had come to seek the lost,
He'd come from the Glory and was going home,
This sounds like a mad man - or else He is God!

Megan Carter

DECLUTTERING

Decluttering a small space is on a par with spring cleaning. A more significant, grand-scale declutter is about completely changing the way you live.

As I write this I am facing the prospect of moving to a new house. What shall I pack? How much will fit into the new house? It is brand new (exciting) but its footprint is only half the size of the house I live in now (daunting). I can only take half of my belongings with me, unless I intend to live in a cluttered mess! How will I know I have enough to meet my needs?

Although my new house is surrounded by others that look alike, no .

two homes are ever exactly the same. No two people have exactly the same needs. "Enough" is not a fixed quantity. I can't look at somebody else to decide how much of anything is sufficient for me.

Before becoming a domestic declutterer I used to teach Biblical Studies. Studying the ancient texts opened up thought worlds outside British culture. I found insights into different ways to live. At first glance Nehemiah chapter 6 verse 15, in English, doesn't seem to say anything at all about decluttering:

"After fifty-two days of work the entire wall was finished" (Good News Bible).

However, the original text was not written in English but in Hebrew, where it says literally:

"After fifty-two days of work the entire wall was SHALOM".

Doesn't Shalom mean "peace"? How can a wall be peace?

When we say "peace" in English, it can sound negative. We are influenced by the Greek word for peace, *irene*, meaning "no noise", "no war", "no turmoil". We talk about "peace and quiet" together, so you can't have peace without something being absent.

By contrast, Shalom is a positive word, meaning blessing and completeness as an expression of peace. When Shalom is used as a greeting it is a wish for everything joy-giving and wholesome to come to the person you greet. Shalom invites the Spirit of God to be present, filling the space.

This is what I want for my new home. If there is not enough there it will feel bleak and unwelcoming, if there is too much it will be cluttered and stifling. I just have to keep on giving things away until it is finished - Shalom.

I pray that the Lord will help me to recognise how much is ENOUGH.

Jane Brocklehurst - has worked as a professional 'declutterer' for many years, helping people get their homes back under control.

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday April 1st

Ashbourne 8:00
10:30
18:30
Brailsford 10:30

Easter Day

Rev Tim Morris
Rev Tim Morris
Fiona Green

Communion
All Age, Communion

United Service at Parish

Sunday April 8th

Ashbourne 9:15am
10:30am
18:30pm
Brailsford 10:30am
Kniveton 14:30pm
Parwich 14:30pm

Café style
Ruth Barratt
Tim Dutton
Stuart Mustow
Tom Parkinson
John Dyster

in Century Hall

Sunday April 15th

Ashbourne 10:30am
18:30pm
Brailsford 10:30am
Tissington 10:30am

Diana Whitmill
Praise
Rev Tim Morris
Ann Parkinson

in Century Hall
All Age, Communion

Sunday April 22nd

Ashbourne 10:30am
18:30pm
Brailsford 10:30am
Kirk Ireton 18:30pm
Kniveton 11:00am
Parwich 14:30pm

Rev Tim Morris
Rev David Leese
Lorraine Hawkins
Tom Parkinson
Stuart Mustow
Rev Tim Morris

All Age
Communion

Communion

Sunday April 29th

Ashbourne 10:30am
18:30pm
Brailsford 10:30am

Rev Tim Morris
Ann Parkinson
@ Ashbourne

Circuit Easter Offering

Sunday May 6th

Ashbourne 10:30am
18:30pm
Brailsford 10:30am

Fiona Green
@ St Oswald's Church
Peter Dawson

United Service at Parish
United Service at Methodist

NB Items in **bold** are different to the plan.

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 - Alma Swan (343751)</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: weekly <i>Contacts - Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i> Amble & Ramble (easier walking): 2nd & 4th Weds |
| | 7:30pm | Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact - Eric and Jenny Williams 346155)</i> |
| Thurs | 9:30am | Prayer Meeting: weekly <i>Contact - Brian Hawkins (310353)</i> |
| | 7:30pm | Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact - Jeff Ffoulkes (300443)</i> |
| Fri | 7.30pm | Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact Nick Flux (07764988479)</i> |
| Thurs, Fri, Sat | 10:00am | The Cornerstone Coffee Shop <i>Contact - Pat Fielding (345695)</i> |

BRAILS福德 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 |

TISSINGTON CHURCH ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|-----|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Wed | 7:30pm | Bible Study: monthly, 4th Wednesday |
|-----|--------|-------------------------------------|

CIRCUIT STAFF

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PANEL OF FORMER PUPILS of ASHBOURNE METHODIST SCHOOL



Ranging from one who'd attended in the 1930s, to one who was at the school when it closed in 1970, having been an Annexe to Parkside School for several years. (see article on page 10)



Rev Tim Morris makes a presentation to Don Cox celebrating his 70 years as a church organist in the town.