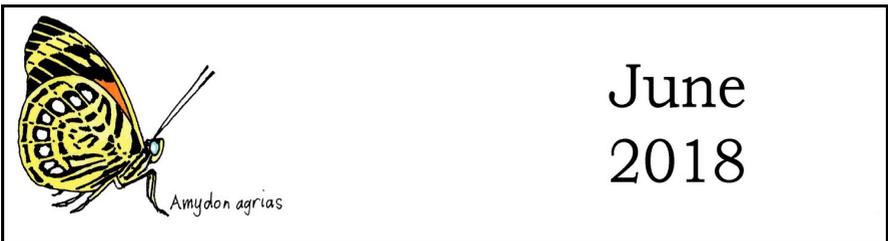


Connections

The Magazine of Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

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



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

June 2018
“Don’t panic!”

Dear Friends

It’s that time of year again, when many of our young people sit their exams. It’s a stressful time for their teachers, their parents/carers, and of course for them too. The pressure and expectation placed upon our young people to succeed and achieve is as great now as it has ever been.

The push, rightly, or wrongly, for improvement year on year for our schools, and their pupils, is growing all the time. Despite the best care and support, the level of “gentle” pressure put upon young people can also have a knock on effect to their well-being, both physical and mental. I do wonder if we are in danger of producing one of the most mentally stressed generations ever!

When it comes to taking exams, it’s very easy to say, along with Corporal Jones from Dad’s Army, “*Don’t panic, Mr Mainwaring*”. We certainly don’t want our young people to panic. We just want them to do their best and achieve their potential. But neither do we want to push them into a state of heightened anxiety, fatigue and burnout. We all grow and develop at different rates, and some of us achieve our goals later in life. There are often opportunities later on to get to where you want to be and make up for the things you found difficult when younger.



So can we, as a Church community, watch out for our young people, appreciate that the stresses and strains they feel at this time might be different from what our experience was “when we were their age” and

offer wise counsel, gentle care and a sympathetic ear. And to those taking exams, we assure them that people of Christian faith in our town are praying for them and care very much about them - when they do well, and when things don't go so well! Each of them is special, as in God's sight we are all loved, valued and have a future and purpose.

Your minister and friend,

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

Ashbourne Church Family News

"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." Acts 4.13

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jacqui Marsh after the death of her father last month. There are those who remain unwell and a number who would value prayer as they continue with tests, ongoing treatment or wait for results or need personal prayer; Andrew and Lorraine Garside, Derek Blenkinsop, Sigrid Mustow, Les Cole, Jenny Waring, Margaret Cox, Barbara Hollands, Marianne Matthews and Margaret Smith. We remember all those who have a caring role; David Holland, Eric Matthews, Stuart Mustow and others. Thank you to all who visit those in need and all who encourage others by sending cards and making phone calls. 'Drop in' visits are really appreciated. Let's follow God's prompting when He brings someone to our minds. We can pray for that person even though we don't know the detail of the situation.

David and Rosalind Franklin and Gareth and Val Rutledge have moved to new homes in the last month. The Franklins now live in Lower Pingle Road and the Rutledges in St Monica's Way. Barbara and Derek Blenkinsop are currently living at Ashbourne Lodge. We pray for Andrew, Lorraine and Rebekah Garside who have recently left the Cock Inn at Clifton and starting a new life in Ashbourne.

Congratulations to Tom Parkinson whose 40 years as a local preacher was recognised by the giving of a certificate. We pray for Tom's ministry as he continues as a local preacher.

Tony and Helen Walker and family will be going to Buckingham Palace on June 14th for Tony to receive his CBE, given in recognition of his service to the motor industry. We join in congratulations to Tony. Congratulations to Alma Swan who celebrates her 80th birthday on 9 June and to Eileen Harrison who celebrates her 90th on 25 June. Congratulations also to Lorna and Raj Basak on the birth of Norah Magdalena, a sister to Aditya and granddaughter for David and Judith Bale.

Earlier in the year I omitted to mention the success of Kirsty Durose in an international swimming competition – five gold medals! Congratulations Kirsty.

Continue to remember, Lucy, Beth and Molly as they complete GCSE exams. Remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners, in the uncertainties of Zimbabwe.

We thank the Lord for the 20 years of ministry of the *Cornerstone Coffee Shop*, for the vision of those who set it up and for the many who have worked there and those who currently work there so faithfully.

We need to keep the Link development team in our prayers as they put in many hours on the project as well as many of them working in their jobs too. Let's remember in prayer those who prepare for Powersource, Mustard, Messy Church, Open the Book and other school assemblies. May they be blessed as they serve. This month is the Church AGM, 21 June, when appointments are made. Do speak to Tim Morris or Robert Sales if you feel you could fill a vacancy.

Don't forget the prayer time in the vestry on a Thursday at 9.30am for an hour but just drop in for a shorter time if that suits you. After worship on a Sunday, there are people available at the back of the church to pray with you or for you.

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 30.05.2018



Christian Aid Week 2018: "Together we're stronger than the storms"

In Haiti, Marcelin raised his three daughters alone. They've endured some of the worst natural disasters on earth. They're not just survivors. They're fighters. But they're only so strong. They won't survive the next hurricane without your help. This Christian Aid Week, you were in their corner. You helped them build a home that will weather the next storm, so they won't need to fight to survive anymore. (see picture back cover).

Christian Aid Week unites kingdom builders like you from all walks of life. We step out in mission for our neighbours like Marcelin, because we believe in life before death. We believe God's kingdom is stronger than the storms.

Christian Aid Week was 13-19 May, and 21 people took up the challenge to deliver and collect envelopes from houses around Ashbourne. We collected **£2,301** between us. Which is an excellent amount. Thank you to everyone who helped, and all others who prayed for us and the work of Christian Aid during the week. £210 would pay for two days' construction training for a local builder in Haiti. The builder could then build secure, comfortable homes for people like Marcelin, giving them a safe place to weather the next disaster, and a fighting chance to build a better life.

Catherine Green

Quote of the month

'I am sorry' and 'I forgive you' are the hardest things a human being can ever say – but also, the most liberating. When the wars and scandals are over, those words can rebuild nations. *Tim Stanley*

On a Road Somewhere

The two set out for home, both dispirited and sad.
And talked freely about the tremendous week they'd had.
Just a week before, they had entered the city to much acclaim.
Now, there was nothing there, to make them want to remain.
Discussing "what ifs" or "what might have been".
A stranger, suddenly appeared, on the scene.
Walking in step, he questioned their distress.
But his real identity, they failed to acquiesce.

They explained to the stranger, the events of the past week.
But they still did not know him, as he started to speak.
He recounted the scriptures, like they'd never heard before.
And as they reached their destination, were still hungry for more.

They invited the stranger, to stay for the night.
Something about him, made their hearts ignite.
As they sat down to eat, the stranger took control.
And quietly slipped into the leadership role.

As he blessed and then broke the bread.
Something clicked inside their head.
And then they saw Jesus, and suddenly everything made sense.
And almost immediately, he was gone from their presence.

It seemed so clear now, the words that he said.
Explaining how the Messiah would rise from the dead.
How had they not known, how had they not seen?
When that stranger had suddenly walked into their scene.
Past weariness now gone, a new energy suddenly found.
With haste it was to Jerusalem, these friends, now were bound.
Such news they had to bring, they couldn't wait there to arrive.
It's the greatest news that we can bring – that Jesus is alive.

Derek Marshall,

(Nottingham and Derby District Treasurer)

Your country needs you!

What kind of upbringing and childhood did you have? I came from a loving and supportive family but my mother felt rather let down by her parents and somewhat rejected as they went abroad to work and left her as a teenager with a rather Victorian older uncle and wife(who had no children of their own). Her younger brother seemed to get the better deals. Only now do I understand a little of her feelings!

Well, where is this going you might ask? So many deprived children seem to exist if one takes the lid off our communities. Many boys who get into trouble first at school then later are excluded end up offending and then recreate the social cycle. In Ashbourne the ACE trust seeks admirably to supply support to young people with social/ educational difficulties and some of our members are involved in this good work .A large percentage of boys who are caught breaking the law have had no settled family life and as you know no father figure and often have siblings of different fathers. At present knife crime particularly in London is rising and featuring in the media but also the benefit and importance of belonging to active youth groups. Some young people get caught up in gangs, drugs and crime.

Would you like to make a difference and join a team of volunteers at a prison near you (HMP Foston Hall- Derby's closed women 's prison)? We are currently looking for fresh volunteers to join the Ministry of Justice's Independent Monitoring Board (known as the IMB) to help monitor respect and fairness for these people (often very vulnerable) in custody or awaiting trial. It is probably wise to be able to dedicate 4 days per month to this work and live within 30miles needing to provide your own transport. You do not need special qualifications or experience as we will supply all training and support in learning the role. We welcome volunteers of all ages over 18, of different walks of life and population groups.

At this time I believe we have a more significant role because of the unfortunate impact of the underfunding of the prisons and the IMB can highlight prisoners issues to the Governor and senior staff. Also we as " critical " friends " we provide an annual report to the Minister in the government.

For more information speak to Mike Dennison
(m_dennison@ymail.com or 01335 370908).

If you can't apply please can you pray for new recruits! Thank you for your consideration and concern.MD



MISSION MATTERS

Our partners in world mission.

A couple of months ago we reminded ourselves to pray for our church's mission partners. This month I want to look at a few other organisations involved in mission around the world. For more information see the relevant websites.

World mission involves a wide variety of activities and commitments around the world, from evangelism to grass roots development and poverty alleviation. Historically this has been the task of the rich West but today an increasing number of missions are based in the "two-thirds world". AMC currently has mission partners in S Africa, Zimbabwe and India as well as in the UK. Recent visitors have also exposed us to God's work in Fiji and Bolivia.

International Nepal Fellowship (INF)

<https://www.inf.org/about/our-story/>

INF is an interdenominational and international Christian mission that exists to help bring life in all its fullness to Nepal – as Jesus promised all who follow Him. The vision for this work began in India in the 1930s, before Nepal was open to outside people or influences, among Nepali people living on the border of Nepal. Here INF faithfully waited and prayed that one day they would be able to work in Nepal, which at the time was completely closed to foreigners.

When Nepal opened up in 1952, after 16 years of prayer and waiting, a small group of medical missionaries, together with some Nepali Christian friends, walked north from the Indian border to the Pokhara

valley. With permission of the Nepali Government they set up a clinic and a few years later the 'Shining Hospital' was the first hospital in the west of Nepal and the beginning of INF as we know it today. Since its humble beginnings INF has grown to be an organisation recognised for its innovative and successful approaches to community health and development work. Since the establishment of the 'Shining Hospital' in 1954 INF has gone on to establish further hospitals and clinics across the West and Mid-Western Regions of Nepal. Some of you will know that Joyce and I worked with INF in Nepal from the 1970s and to this day remain members of the "INF Family". Therein lies a long story!

Arab World Ministries (AWM) <https://www.awm-pioneers.org/>

AWM springs from a rich mission history rooted back in the 1880s. It all began in Algeria in 1876 when George and Jane Pearse arrived from England to share the gospel with French occupying troops. On their first night, they saw what seemed to be a pile of rags lying on the roadside. Early the next morning they discovered that the 'rags' were actually two men who had died of starvation during the night. The Pearses returned to England with a heart to reach the poor people of Algeria. They shared their passion with friends who encouraged them to begin a mission.

The ministry originally brought together North Africa Mission, Algiers Mission Band, Southern Morocco Mission, and Dades Valley Fellowship. Our particular vision was and is to glorify God by initiating church-planting movements among Muslim peoples of the Arab world.

Our passion is to glorify God throughout the nations of the world, through obedience to the Bible and by living and proclaiming the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. It is an act of worship to actively participate in some way in the Great Commission. Our primary goal is to impact people groups that have had the least opportunity to hear the message of Christ – areas, cultures and people groups where the gospel has yet to be effectively proclaimed. To us, church planting is not simply grass roots evangelism. It means long term commitment to the process of empowering and equipping local believers to become disciple makers. We seek to participate in church-planting movements through a huge range of diverse and creative activities.

Today, more than 380 people are involved in a wide variety of church planting activities among Arab world people. The unrest in parts of the Arab region coupled with the impact of Christian media in the region is providing much greater opportunities for the gospel.

Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) <https://omf.org/>

We share the good news of Jesus Christ in all its fullness with East Asia's peoples to the glory of God.

OMF is an international and interdenominational Christian missionary society with an international centre in Singapore. It was founded in Britain on 25th June 1865 by Hudson Taylor [who coined the phrase "God's work, done in God's way, never lacks God's resources" – worth remembering!].

OMF serves the church and seeks to bring the gospel to all the peoples of East Asia. Our work is as diverse as the places and people we work in and amongst. From church planting to missional business, student work to medical practice, we aim to present the gospel, in a culturally relevant way.

Through God's grace, we aim to see an indigenous, biblical church movement in each people group of East Asia, evangelising their own people and reaching out in mission to other peoples.

We care for the uncared, for sick people, alcoholics, the exploited, abused, poor, prosperous but lonely, young and old, religious and non-religious, businessmen, students, factory workers and many others.

We work closely with churches at home and in close partnership with the Church in East Asia; doing so in teeming mega-cities, remote villages and among tribal peoples.

Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary

Ashbourne Churches Together – Patna Partnership

Lambeth Conference, July 1998 – Bishop Philip Marandih, Bishop of Patna, visited the Ashbourne area, staying with the Revd. Christopher Harrison in Parwich. There already existed the partnership between the Derbyshire Churches and the Church of North India with some local links within that. Bishop Marandih asked if there could be an ecumenical link with the churches in the Ashbourne area.

The ACT/Patna Partnership was born! 2018 is the 20th anniversary of our Partnership and we are planning to celebrate in July.

We have invited Bishop Marandih and three others to visit Ashbourne between the **6th and 16th of July**. We hope that they obtain visas!

The main event of the celebration is on **Thursday 12 July**. There will be a Thanksgiving Service starting at **7.00pm** in the Methodist Church. The Revd Christopher Harrison, who was our founding chairman, will speak and there will be an ecumenical communion. After the service there will be a celebration meal with a birthday cake and a presentation "**20 years in 20 minutes**". All are welcome.

If there are any events in your church that you would like our visitors to attend please let us know as soon as possible so that we can arrange their programme.

We need accommodation on a B&B basis, offers of evening meals and help with transport. If you can help in any way please contact Clare Sales(01335 342321) or Anna Davis (01335 370665)

John Hurfurt

TWENTY YEARS OF THE CORNERSTONE—(it nearly didn't happen)

From 1980 to 1990 the property was rented out to the Ministry of Transport. This was known as the Driving Centre for anyone taking their driving test. In 1990 they decided to leave and go elsewhere, leaving the premises empty.

It remained empty until 1996 when the Church Property Committee, after inspecting the building, realised it was full of dry rot and other problems and decided to demolish it, just retaining the lower wall, making a small garden and seating area within the church boundary. The Committee submitted a planning application to Derbyshire Dales DC, which after some delay, was rejected. Also the local people objected to the plan and wrote to the local paper causing quite an uproar within the town. The Property Committee realised they would have to think again of other uses for the building — God moves in a mysterious way.

Harry Jones was our minister at the time and after lots of meetings

and discussions the idea of a coffee shop was suggested. It was taken to the people in the church and generally agreed upon. Then the hard work began of raising funds for the project, rummage sales, flower festivals, summer fairs, Christmas bazaars—an event each month. Margaret and Marianne organised the events with a lot of helpers. The flower festivals were closed with a visit by the Derby Central Salvation Army and Songsters. All this brought us together as a Church as we had a common purpose.

All that was then needed was someone to set up the Coffee Shop and Harry decided to ask Helen Flinn if she would take on the task—and the rest is history.

Contributed by *Donald Cox* - (Member of the Property Committee at time).

THE WAY I SEE IT – Holidays and Holy-days

‘Going to go somewhere nice for your holidays?’ is the standard hair-dresser’s opening gambit at this time of year. ‘Yes’, I reply, ‘I’m staying here’. They laugh politely, but clearly that’s not their idea of a holiday.

In an average life holidays go through stages. Do you remember your late teens, and the thrill of independence – hitch-hiking with a friend across Germany, or scuba diving, or climbing mountains or camping (in the rain)? Then it’s couples, and memorable meals in little cafes in Italy or France. Next, perhaps, it’s children – warm sunshine, beaches, Spain or Cornwall. Then it’s retirement, and apart from grand-parent duties it’s cruises (‘cheaper than staying at home!’ they tell me, but I don’t believe it).

The final stage is where I am now, the holiday season as a time when the fever of life cools, when there’s room on the buses and trains, and blissful idleness punctuated by the occasional theatre outing or visit to Lord’s to snooze and watch county cricket.

Each phase has its appeal, and each can fulfil the fundamental principle of a holiday, which is hidden in the very word. It is, of course,

a holy-day, because God commanded us to rest as well as work, and space and time to think, reflect and pray are precious holiday gifts.

At the different stages of life our holiday needs are different. What it should offer is a change from the normal, a new environment (even if it's only the local park) and new experiences to treasure during the months of winter. God invented the Sabbath because we needed it. Enjoy your holy-days, wherever or whatever they are.

David Winter

Ashbourne Town chaplaincy News

Chaplaincy to people working in the shops and businesses in Ashbourne started in December. I came with no experience of retail and really had no idea how it would work until I set foot on the streets of Ashbourne.

I started in quite a random place planning to just work my way round all the businesses. I also made myself a little rule, I would go into every shop and business no matter how I felt about it.

I quickly realised the scale of shops and businesses in Ashbourne was going to make meaningful relationships difficult to build if one person tried to go into every business.

I visit about 60 shops and businesses around Dig Street, St John's Street, Victoria Square and Market place and visit each about once a month. This is based on being in the town for a 2-3hr session every week.

I also realised that the way to work the chaplaincy in the town is for chaplains to work in a sector of the town covering set streets and businesses. So please think about whether you might join in and offer as a chaplain.

The wonderful thing about working with shops and businesses is the opportunity to meet people, to build relationships with them, to stick with them and to listen meaningfully to them. The chaplain in being there affirms Gods presence in all places and all people and that God is **for** all people.

New

The chaplaincy we have set up importantly is called Ashbourne Town Chaplaincy not just Town Centre and From June Ashbourne Lodge will start to be visited by Lay Chaplain Helen Foley. So, Ashbourne Town Chaplaincy will become a team of 2!

New

Derbyshire Integrated Health Care Chaplaincy has also been approached by GP's in Ashbourne requesting a Chaplain. I am starting meetings to progress this supported through Rev. Anita Matthews in Derby St Peters. This is rather different from Town Centre Chaplaincy. The skills are similar but it is by referral through GP and Community Health care professionals.

So, Ashbourne will have a Chaplaincy presence in the Town Centre, Care Home and GP practice!

Chaplaincy needs YOU as they say. Please reflect and pray about this to see if this might be for you a means to serve God in our town.

Ruth Barratt Contact details: ruthbarratt53@gmail.com,
Tel 01335 324312 OR 07708252908 (mobile signal poor at home)

70 years of the National Health Service

The National Health Service began operating 70 years ago, on 5th July 1948, when Sylvia Beckingham, 13, was admitted to hospital in Manchester to be treated for a liver condition.

It was the climax of a hugely ambitious plan by Labour Health Secretary Aneurin Bevan to bring good health care free to all at the point of delivery. The health service would be available to everyone and financed entirely from taxation, which meant that people paid into it according to their means.

It was based on a report by William Beveridge in 1942. The problem with it remains the huge increase in costs resulting from, among other things, advances in medical science, drugs and machinery. As Andy McSmith wrote in *The Independent* ten years ago: "It seems no amount of money will satisfy the infinite demand for better NHS care." Within a few years prescription charges were introduced, as well as a

charge for dental treatment. The current prescription charge is £8.80 per item, and dental charges are huge.

Saving the NHS seems to be a national preoccupation in the 21st century. The Christian Medical Fellowship is campaigning to emphasise the vital and radical need for Christians within it.

Tim Lenton

Editor; - What are your views on the future of the NHS? Would you be prepared to pay more in taxes to pay for it? Is the purchaser/provider split of it's organisation helpful or wasteful of resources?

REFLECTIONS.

Thursday 10th May, I am writing this at the end of beautiful day, one of a number that we have had recently, including, "The best Bank Holiday weather since records began", I believe!

Our resident Swallows and House Martins have arrived, and are sorting out their nest positions around the farmyard, as well as going through their aerobatic routine with each other. The Bluebells are out, in the woods and on the hillside to the right of the lane, and numerous other wild flowers are filling the fields with colour, and, lastly, thankfully, all our animals are out in the fields.

To watch the cattle on their release was very amusing, the calves were ecstatic with the room they had to run around. Within a minute of being released, their tails were up, and off they went! Occasionally they stopped, but then one would let off a bellow and the whole routine started again, while their mothers, jumped, then stood around, chomped grass and bellowed, hoping their offspring would calm down.

Our bull, "Star", who, for a while had four females with him, suddenly had nearly thirty in his company. His head was going from side to side trying to keep up with events that were going on around him, including a calf, who we nicknamed "*Kneecap*", (as he would butt you hard in the knees when you went into his shed to get your attention), He stopped from his racing, wanted to butt heads with *Star*, thankfully *Star* ignored the challenge.

As the night takes over one can see the Moon and the brightest stars, one of which is the planet Venus shining in the west, while another bright star rises later in the east, which actually is Jupiter.

The beautiful days, the scenery, the wildlife, the earth, the sky, brings to mind the hymn of Harvest time, "Yes God is Good, in Earth and Sky". Amen to that. May God bless you all. Tom Parkinson.



Methodist Women in Britain

Afternoon Tea - Saturday 23 June

Do come and join us for Tea and Cake on Saturday 23 June at Peggy's, Magfield Farm, Smith Hall Lane, Hulland Ward. Good Food and Fellowship will be on offer from 2.30 pm to 4 pm. Proceeds are for MWiB funds (mainly towards the Advent Displays event later in the year). All welcome!

AGM and Supper, Wednesday 11 July

We hope you will come to our AGM and Supper to be held on Wednesday 11 July in the Century Hall. The AGM will commence at 7.00 pm. This will be followed by a supper, the menu being quiche, new potatoes and salad, with trifle for seconds. (Special diets can be catered for if you tell us). Tickets, price £5.00, will be available nearer the event. There will be an after-dinner speaker - watch the notices for details. The proceeds again are for MWiB funds. Do come!

District Day - Wednesday 18 July

We also hope you will come to the District Day on Wednesday 18 July. Coffee and Registration will be in the Century Hall from 10.30am. There will be a business meeting in Church commencing at 11.15 am (not as deadly dull as it sounds!) This will be followed by lunch in *Waterside* commencing at approximately 12.30 pm (suggested donation £3.00 - please book in with Alma for this). The afternoon service will commence at 2 pm during which Sue Leese will be commissioned as District President. The preacher will be the Rev Liz Childs of Gainsborough and Dr Jill Barber of *Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum* will also speak. An occasion not to be missed! Make sure you are there!
Alma Swan

An Indian Dilemma

You have just become a Christian. Should you be baptised? Your first child has been born. Should you have him or her baptised? For us the answer may depend on our particular theological outlook or the allegiance to a particular denomination. For the Indian Christian there are other considerations.

The majority of Christians in India are Dalits. This name has been adopted by people who were formally known as Harijans or untouchables. The name Dalit means “oppressed” or “crushed”. The Indian Constitution calls them Scheduled Castes and they are entitled to representation in educational institutions and governmental jobs. If you are below the poverty line as many Dalits are, there are ration shops where food can be obtained at a very low price. Micro loans are available to help set up businesses. Christian Dalits are excluded from these entitlements. Why is this? Christians believe that all are equal in the sight of God. This puts the Christians outside the caste system and therefore there is no need for the entitlements. The same applies to Muslims.

Life for Dalits is still difficult especially in rural areas where your surname may indicate your caste. By accepting baptism life becomes even more difficult. Some of the escape routes into education have been blocked, cheap food is no longer available and micro loans are unattainable. Do you subject yourself and your children to this discrimination?

The Churches have been campaigning for some time for Christian Dalits to be given the same privileges as Hindu Dalits. Bishops and General Secretaries have been subjected to water canon and prison. At the moment 3% of the population is Christian. But it is suggested that if these restrictions were lifted this could rise to 10% which could change the political complexion of the country.

There are other groups in India outside the Hindu caste system. Many of them are Adivasis or tribals, the indigenous people of India, recognised by the Constitution as Scheduled Tribes. Most tribal people live in the hill country and many are very poor. They too have certain

entitlements but as they are outside the caste system the Christians among them do not lose the privileges. However many tribals are poorly educated and open to exploitation. The Churches have education programmes to help, especially with literacy.

The Constitution of India states that it is a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic. The word secular is very important to Indian Christians for it means that there is no state religion. All religions should be allowed to exist without interference from the state. The current Government would like to change this to make India a Hindu country.

For most Christians in India there is no physical persecution for most of the time. However there is no sense of security for them. For the leaders of the Church the dilemma is how to make a safe space in India. Can the Church be aloof from politics?

Elizabeth Hurfurt

Pennies for Lent 2018

Dear All,

As promised, here is a list of how the collection of *Pennies for Lent* has been spent.

Mary's Meals

£40

£12.20 feeds a child at school for an entire year, enabling them to go to school and to concentrate. They are now also operating in Syria, in Aleppo.

WaterAid

£50

Providing clean water, vital to survival.

Médecins sans Frontières

£40

Worldwide emergency medical care

World Vision

Goat (£20), Health kit for a community volunteer (£23), Chickens (£18), Mosquito nets x2 (£18),

Farming kit (£28).

We were able to spend a fantastic £234! I feel quite overwhelmed by how much was donated. Thank you all so very much and God bless you all.

Pat Fielding



**SONGS OF PRAISE at Carsington Water
3.00pm Sunday 17th June -**

“Songs of God’s People”

organised by Churches Together in Wirksworth
and District and Ashbourne Churches Together.

This event supports Water Aid and Chernobyl Children's Life Line. Please come along to support the event, which has proved very popular in previous years - especially as we always seem to have nice weather for it!. We need a few people to act as stewards – to arrive around 2.00pm and either guide people to the amphitheatre, or direct people to the seats and hand out programmes. If you can help, please speak to Lorraine Hawkins.

“A World Transformed”

Methodist Prayer Handbook

An order for copies of the Methodist Prayer Handbook will soon be sent off. This resource will help you with your prayer life and the cost is about £3.50. If you would like a copy, please contact Carole Thorpe on 346535, cethorpe@hotmail.com or at 12 Cavendish Drive, Ashbourne DE6 1SR.

Methodist Diary 2019

The hard-back Methodist Diary gives you the essential information you need whenever and wherever you need it. Contents include: Diary 2019 - One week per view, starts each Sunday with extra space for notes; Diary 2020 - Jan-Jun: two weeks per view, Jul-Dec: two months per view; 2019-2024 Christian calendar dates.

There are 3 colour options – red, purple and blue. The Interleaved edition includes an extra blank page between each week for notes. The cost is about £12 for the interleaved version and about £8 without the extra pages. If you would like to order a copy please contact Carole Thorpe as above.



Short prayers

Prayers don't need to be long to be acceptable to God. For instance, consider:

Peter (Matt 14.30): Lord, save me.

A Canaanite woman (Matt 15.25): Lord, help me.

Samuel (1 Sam. 3:10): Speak, for your servant is listening.

*Psalms 43.3: O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.*

Christians in later years have adopted the same form.

Michelangelo: Lord, make me see your glory in every place.

Gladys Aylward: O God, give me strength.

William Barclay: O God, keep me from being difficult to live with.

Francois Fenelon: Teach me to pray. Pray yourself in me.

*John Wesley: O Lord, let us not live to be useless,
for Christ's sake.*

Why not practise saying a simple sentence prayer of your own each day?

From the Editor

Dear Friends,

I hope you find something helpful in this edition.

Our next edition will cover both the months of July and August. If you are planning events in September and want to publicise them in "CONNECTIONS" you will need to send them in by **27th June** please. Send to postmaster@arthurandjoy.plus.com or post to 2 Hambleton Close, Ashbourne DE6 1NG Publication date **8th July**.

Have a good summer!

Arthur Watts



SMILE

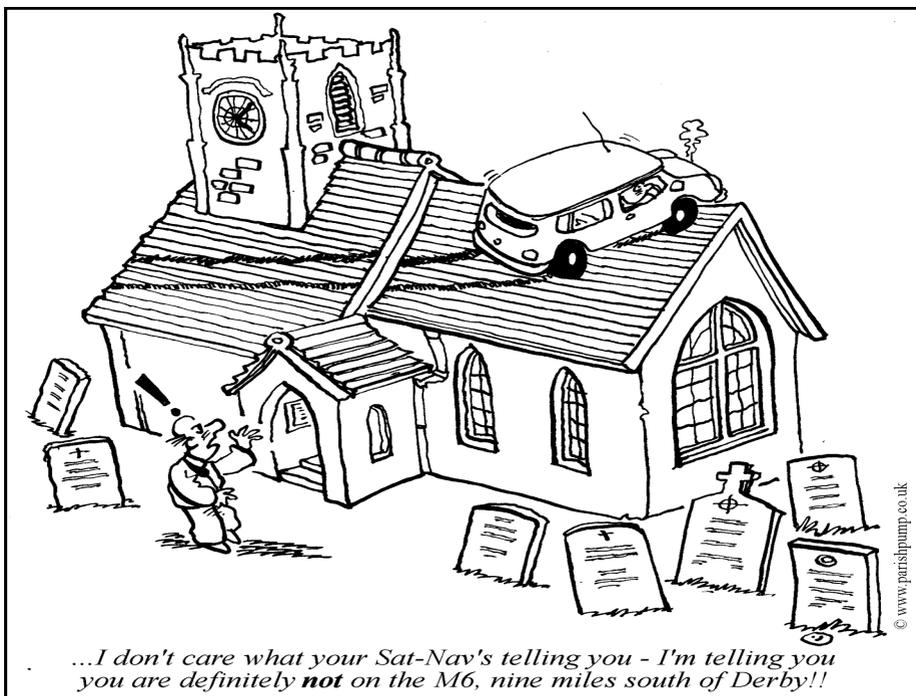
LINES

Not covered by insurance

A recent letter that appeared in *The Independent* newspaper:
'Following the recent major flooding, I find myself out of pocket, due to what I am informed is an "act of God." To avoid future financial embarrassment, please could you recommend an atheist insurance company?'

You know you are living in 2018 when....

1. You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
2. You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of five.
4. You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
5. You e-mail your children upstairs to tell them dinner is ready



Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday June 10th

Ashbourne	9:15am	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Communion, Theme Preach 2
	18:30pm	Ruth Barratt	
Brailsford	10:30am	Fiona Green	Theme Preach 1
Kniveton	14:30pm	Robert Sales	
Parwich	14:30pm	Rev Carollyn McDonald	Chapel Anniversary

Sunday June 17th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Theme Preach 3
	18:30pm	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30am	Sue Leese	All Age
Carsington	15:00pm	Songs of Praise	at Visitors Centre
Tissington	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

Sunday June 24th

Ashbourne	10:30am	Tim Dutton	Theme Preach 4
	18:30pm	Rev Tim Morris	Communion, Healing & Wholeness
Brailsford	10:30am	Rev Tim Morris	Communion, Theme Preach 2
Kirk Ireton	18:30pm	Peter Dawson	
Kniveton	11:00am	Lorraine Hawkins	
Parwich		no service	

Sunday July 1st

Ashbourne	10:30am	Tom Parkinson	
	16:00pm	@ St Oswald's Church	Ordination Service
	18:30pm	no service	
Brailsford	10:30am	Diana Whitmill	United Service at Methodist

Ashbourne Show 18 August

The circuit has booked a stall at the Ashbourne Show, on **Saturday 18 August**.

This is part of our outreach & witness to the community. Are you able to help serve tea and coffee or just to chat with people? Lots of help is needed to set up and assist during the day.

Please contact Carole Thorpe on cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535 if you are able to help. Help may be available with the entrance cost.

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>

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

TISSINGTON CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Wed	7:30pm	Bible Study: monthly, 4th Wednesday
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CIRCUIT STAFF

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It's over a year since Marcellin and his daughters lost their home but they are still living in a 2m x2m windowless concrete block. (see report page 5)



**The Cornerstone Coffee Shop celebrates 20 years of service.
Helen Flinn cuts the celebration cake.**