

# Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit  
Magazine November 2018

## Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

**“At the going down of the sun,  
and in the morning,  
we will remember them”**



Like most of those who served in the First World War, my Great-Grandfather – Hedley George Allen – apparently never spoke about it (he died the year I was born). Certain rumours and “tales” grew up around his time in WW1, but it has only been in recent years that we have uncovered his story – where he was, and what he did. For us as a family it is a remarkable story. We’ve uncovered that there is of course some truth in the tales we shared! He went to Mons in Belgium with the British Expeditionary Force (The Old Contemptibles) in August 1914, but was wounded and captured in one of the first battles of the war. He moved from one POW camp to another, escaped and was recaptured, until eventually, through a prisoner exchange towards the end of the war, he was returned to the UK. He went on to see his family grow with his own children’s children, and great-grandchildren – me being one of them. But so many didn’t.



It has been a privilege to attend the short ceremonies held at St Oswald’s Church remembering, 100 years to the day, each of the Ashbourne soldiers killed during WW1. I have been to most of the ceremonies to remember those whose names appear on the memorial in Ashbourne Methodist Church. Names on a plaque. People who never went on to develop their potential – to love and be loved.

Remembrance time is not everyone’s “cup of tea”. It can be a bit militaristic, or patriotic for some, and perhaps the terminology we have used in the past may not have been helpful. But for me it boils down to bringing the names alive of those who have been killed during some of the most horrendous times in our nation’s life. Whatever, or whoever they were fighting for, it’s not inappropriate to remember the people behind the names on a brass plaque, the lives they never had and the people and communities they left behind.

So this Remembrance time, especially, I shall be thinking of them, as well as giving thanks for those who came home and went on to live full and happy lives. And for that, in my own family, we are grateful. So I have reason, each and every day, at the going down of the sun, and in the morning, to remember them.

Your minister and friend,

*Terri Morris*

## **Marianne Matthews**

(7th Oct 1932 - 6th Sept 2018)

Friendship road is winding and long  
Bringing us close and binding our bonds,  
With laughter and love, fun and tears,  
Working tirelessly over the years.  
Flower festivals, Harvests, Christmas Bazaars  
Action for Children, Shoe Boxes and many more  
Cornerstone, Crafts and carrot cake  
(Every week another bake)  
Now you've reached your journey's end  
So goodbye, God Bless, my dear, dear Friend.

*Margaret Cox*



## **Ashbourne Church Family News**

*"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, yes, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10*

During the year we have lost a number from our fellowship through death. Let us remember the families of Alistair Paton, Stan Lamburn, Marjorie Stephenson, Rev John Perkins, Derek Blenkinsop, Joan Jones and Marianne Matthews. Quite a number of our fellowship have lost parents or siblings and so let us bring them all to the Lord in prayer, for His strength and comfort in those dark days.

There are many who need our prayers who are recovering from illness or remain unwell or who just feel under the weather, including Peter Richards, Barbara Hollands, Jenny Waring, Les Cole, Val Rutledge, Kerry Hall, Margaret Cox, Elizabeth Spencer and Margaret Wright.

Many are caring for others, whether it is in the home, shopping, baking, delivering meals, gardening, taking out for a coffee, making phone calls, sending cards, texts, messages or e-mails, giving lifts or numerous other ways.

There are many of our fellowship who experience real pressures in their employment and, if you know individual circumstances, why not pray for them and their families. That is such a worthwhile ministry you can have from your armchair. If people wish to be included for prayer in the future, please do let me know.

Congratulations to Jane Bowley who this summer gained her BA in Mission and Ministry.

I have recently learnt that it was Sid Harbey's 80th birthday on 7th October and so we want to assure him of our love and prayers as he begins a new year. Congratulations to Stuart Mustow who celebrates his 90th birthday on 26th November.

Some of our young people have mock GCSE exams commencing in mid November so let's pray for them: Christian Mallard, Darcey Dawson and Sam Glossop.

Remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe, as Jonathan continues writing the school text book on 'O' level statistics. Stephen and Suzanne remain in the UK. (See also page 15)

On 14th October, we were pleased to welcome family and friends of Ken and Susan McKeown, grandparents, and of Kirsty and Gary Rackstraw as Charlie Thomas Rackstraw was baptised.

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. This is a church prayer meeting so do come and seek the Lord together. It is a time for us to pray for needs of the church and the wider world. 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 17.10.2018*

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## **Idea for Christmas presents!**

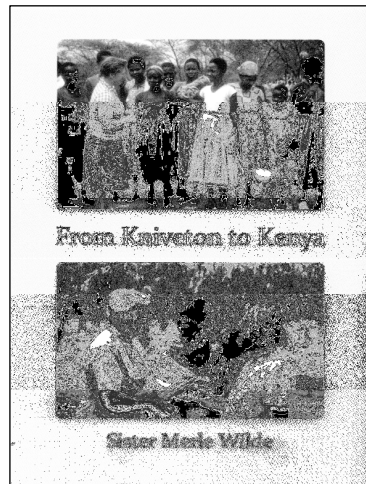
“From Kniveton to Kenya”

The thrilling life-story of Sister Merle Wilde, a much loved personality in the Ashbourne Methodist Circuit, who died in November 2017.

In September 1952, in Kniveton Chapel, Merle was called to faith. Before long she was also called to become a preacher and to serve God in Kenya.

Subsequently she also served in Notting Hill, Bristol and Coventry, before returning to this Circuit where she continued to serve for another 36 years.

Copies still available from Ashbourne Methodist Church (ask a steward), or contact John or Daphne Dyster 01335 344086  
Price £5.00 - All proceeds to the Methodist Church World Mission Fund



## **Circuit Weekend away at Swanwick**

We had an excellent weekend sharing together at Swanwick in September. Rev Anne Brown and her husband Andrew came to lead our thoughts about 'reimagining the Church as God's family'.

There were 60 adults and 12 children staying for the weekend, from Ashbourne and Brailsford Churches, with eight others joining for part of the time. We arrived in a deluge of rain on Friday evening, but that did not dampen our spirits. We enjoyed good food, great fellowship together and were challenged in our thoughts about how we can move forward in our life as a Church community, to include all, to serve our broken world and share God's love.



There was plenty of time for relaxation and fun, with outings, a walk on Saturday afternoon and a Quiz and Beetle Drive on Saturday evening.

Sunday saw us trying out workshops in art, drama, music, craft and prayer. Most memorable perhaps were Steve Haines as Spiderman and Arthur Watts as Donald Trump in the Superheroes drama!!

Our weekend concluded with a very moving worship session - our wonderful musicians of all ages, a real sense of God's presence and some of our young people sharing in giving communion.

I asked a few people for their comments:

- 'I liked playing the piano. I liked the food. I liked going on the walk with Jonathan and Rose.'

- ‘The circuit weekend was brilliant. I enjoyed everyone getting together and having fun and everyone being joyful. I enjoyed the activities and having fun.’
- ‘I particularly remember a time when 'apparently' nothing was going on. It was Saturday afternoon when, left to our own choice of activity, some of us remained indoors - weather not at its best. Initially I sat in the lounge with a book, but was aware of the fun and friendly banter from an adjacent group - knitting (some striving to!) and generally enjoying one another's company. Meanwhile I was joined, off and on, by others - one of whom put to rights the problem I was having with my i-Pad (you know who you are, Jim!). So, 'nothing' going on? Far from it - in learning to appreciate each other just that bit more, we were further being equipped as the body of Christ for the exciting times ahead in our Circuit.’



- ‘Being relatively new to Ashbourne and the church, we were a little apprehensive driving to Swanwick for the circuit weekend away. We weren't quite sure what to expect and felt a little out of our comfort zone. However, as we both should have known, God works wonders in such a situation, and we immediately felt welcome and at home. There were a variety of sessions planned, based around the theme of 'imagining the future', all of which were thought provoking and meaningful. I liked the honesty with which everyone spoke during the sessions - this was both refreshing and constructive. We won't forget the "puddle" at the end of the Saturday afternoon walk - which turned out to be a large stream!’

- ‘A lighter moment - Saturday afternoon - Clare organised a little craft group, most people knitting angels, also some "hangers on". Stuart Green learning to cast on and knit, laughter all round. A lovely, relaxed atmosphere.’
- ‘It was with mixed emotions that I signed up for my first Church Family week-end, would I be bored, would I be lonely, would I fit in? So many questions, plus what would the accommodation and food be like? Well it was great, my initial observation was that it was very relaxed, easy to be busy and easy to be quiet -that was up to me, yes there was a programme and it was hoped everyone would participate but there was no pressure to. Everyone just got on with being good friends and neighbours, meaning that there was a feeling of true family, shared commitment and openness which was truly refreshing. The accommodation and food were good, so yes I will go again. Thank you organisers!’

*Compiled by Helen Walker - see also the back cover*

## **Following on from the Circuit Weekend...**

At the Circuit Weekend, we had some very useful discussions about the type of church we want to be and also plenty of ideas for things we could do differently.

There were some ideas from the Circuit Weekend that we could act upon immediately, so we have already done the following:

- Ordered 50 copies of “Talking of God Together” – a new resource from the Methodist Church which encourages and equips Christians to speak comfortably about their experience of God and the Christian life. Some of the house groups will be using the book, and copies are available for £1.99 from church (or contact Stuart Green on 300338).
- Asked the Resources Team to find a suitable space that the young people can call “home” when they are at church.
- Asked the Outreach Team to come up with a proposal for how we could use screens in The Cornerstone, for example to live-stream services or to advertise our activities. Once they have a proposal, we’ll produce costings to take to Church Council for a decision.
- Bought two umbrellas which can be used by the welcoming team if they would like to stand outside the church to greet people.



On the Saturday after the Circuit Weekend, the Leadership Team of Ashbourne Church met to work on updating our Mission Action Plan. We believe that God has a great future for our church and community and we're excited for that future. The outputs of the weekend were included into our work, and we have now developed a draft plan for the next five years. The draft plan was shared with Church Council on 23rd October (after this report was written). We'll be running a consultation exercise before taking a final version to the Church Council on 6th February for approval. We're looking forward to sharing the vision with you all.

If you have any questions, please talk to one of the leadership team:

- Rev Tim Morris, our Minister.
- Jane Bowley, our Family Outreach Worker.
- Helen Barker, Leadership Steward responsible for updating the Mission Action Plan.
- Robert Sales, Leadership Steward for Worship and chair of our meetings.
- Becky Dutton, Leadership Steward for Outreach.
- Jennie Ferry, Leadership Steward for Older People.
- Brian Hawkins, Leadership Steward for Learning & Caring.
- Paul Haslam, Church Treasurer.
- Stuart Green, Publicity Officer.

*Ashbourne Church Leadership Team*

## **From the Editors**

We are grateful to all who have sent items and photos for this magazine. However, we would welcome contributions for future editions including from those who have not contributed before, and particularly from chapels other than Ashbourne. These can include book reviews, favourite poems and stories of faith, as well as reports of past happenings and notices of future events.

Next issue – **December 2018/January 2019:**

Last date for contributions: **Wednesday 14th November**

Publication date: **Sunday 25th November**

If possible, please e-mail us at [dysters@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:dysters@tiscali.co.uk)

If this is not convenient, please contact us on 01335 344086

*Daphne and John Dyster*

## **METHODIST HOMES**

### **75th Anniversary Thanksgiving Service Derby Cathedral, 13th October 2018**



It was a great pleasure and an uplifting experience to attend the MHA Anniversary Service in Derby. The Cathedral was full with folk travelling from near and far to attend. I talked to people who had come from Wolverhampton, Harrogate, Bristol, Leeds and London, to name but a few places, plus Richard and Joyce Odell, John Dyster and myself from Ashbourne.

One of those attending was Roger Davies, who was Chief Executive of MHA some time ago, and a member of our church. He asked me to pass on his greetings to all that knew him in the Ashbourne Circuit.

As we entered the Cathedral and picked up a programme, each of us was asked to walk to the front, pick up a flower and put it on a display board, which, once completed, showed the number 75!

The service was led by Rev Dr Clive Swift, Director of Chaplaincy and Spirituality, then prayers were said by Bala Gnanapragasam, Vice President of Methodist Conference.

Later in the service, prayers were said by members of staff, volunteers and residents of Methodist Homes, including at this time of prayer, the laying of 12 Poppies in the "75" floral tribute, in memory of those who have died, especially those who served in the armed services.

The readings from Genesis and Mark were by John Robinson, Chair of the MHA Trustees, and the present Chief Executive, Sam Monaghan.

An excellent address was given by Revd Michaela Youngson, President of the Methodist Conference, speaking of our calling to MHA. She referred to the readings which told of Abram and Sarai's move to Canaan, and the request of James and John to sit at Jesus' side in his glory. Michaela used these readings and her memories of a dear friend to urge us to care, no matter how long the journey, or where it takes us, and to ensure that the care MHA folk give, no matter what their role, is the finest we can offer - not for our own glory, but to those we care for and to God.

There was an act of commitment led by Rev Canon Gareth J Powell, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, when the whole congregation was asked to dedicate themselves to the care of older people, and all answered with the words, "We Will!"

All this was interspersed with hymns (one friend, with whom I was sitting, commented to me, "You can tell the Methodists are here"! ). There was also music by individuals and from the Derby Cathedral Choir, including a hymn: "Remember me, O living One" (words by Cliff Graeme Jackson, music by David John Wells) which I found very moving.

A service of great blessing, I thought, as we looked back on 75 years. We were reminded by Rev Dr Chris Swift that the 50th anniversary service was also in Derby Cathedral. He wondered if it was not too early to book for the 100th Anniversary service - which was a gentle reminder that MHA was, even in this anniversary year, still looking forward to the future.

*Tom Parkinson, Ashbourne Circuit MHA Representative.*

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The Rev Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy served as a army chaplain in the First World War. He distributed cigarettes to troops and gained the nickname "Woodbine Willie". He joined the soldiers on the western front when they went over the top, and won the Military Cross when he ran through shells into "no man's land" to obtain supplies of morphine. Sickened by the needless slaughter, on his discharge in 1919 he spoke all over the country, opposing war and calling for an end to unemployment and poverty.

He also expressed his views in poetry. One of his most famous poems summed up his feelings about the 1914-1918 war:

### **Waste**

Waste of Muscle, waste of Brain,  
Waste of Patience, waste of Pain,  
Waste of Manhood, waste of Health,  
Waste of Beauty, waste of Wealth,  
Waste of Blood, and Waste of Tears,  
Waste of Youth's most precious years,  
Waste of ways the Saints have trod,  
Waste of Glory, Waste of God, -  
War!

## **Ashbourne Methodist Church Link Development – update**

We would like to update you on the progress and current status of the Link Development. Since our last report in Connections a year ago a lot of work has been done to progress our plans.



### **Progress of building plans**

- Revised plans for the Link (Church) Development were submitted to the Connexional Conservation Officer in January and these were supported by the Methodist Church's Listed Buildings Advisory Committee (LBAC)
- These plans then went out for statutory consultation with Historic England, the Ancient Monuments Society, the Victorian Society and others. There were some concerns expressed which our architects have responded to. This process took some time
- Just in the last few days we have heard that the LBAC has now reviewed the responses of our architect and that soon the Conservation Officer will be able to let us know the outcome (informally we are told it is positive)
- We have also submitted a Pre-Application (Pre-App) to the Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) who are our Local Planning Authority (LPA). A Pre-App is a way of getting guidance from your LPA so that when you submit a full planning application it has the best chance of being successful. This covered both the Church project and also our plans for housing for older people on our land near the Henmore Brook. We are also applying for vehicle access to our site by a ramp from Station Road and some limited car parking and a drop-off/pick-up space at the back of the church
- DDDC supported our plans for the Church, recognising the benefits to our local community that will come from the changes we propose. However they have concerns about the size, and in particular the height, of the housing and also the vehicle access which we propose
- Our architects have submitted revised designs for the housing and vehicle access, but DDDC still have concerns, so there will be a period of discussion and revision in the coming weeks to get to a design which is acceptable to our local planners

## **Progress of financial matters**

- We have obtained complete Quantity Surveyor costings for the church development. These are somewhat higher than our budget planning so we are now working with the Architects and the QS to analyse and challenge these costs
- We have established a Development company (Ashbourne Methodist Developments Ltd) to enable us to manage VAT and other administrative matters properly
- Various fundraising activities have been undertaken, including a great “Wesleygogs” Reunion for those that attended the School below our church
- Full fundraising activities will start when we have obtained planning permission

## **Next steps**

- Our target is to submit a planning application for all the proposals (Church, housing and access) in January 2019 and we hope to get approval in April. We will report again on progress

In October it is three years since the Link Development Team started work. We have held 32 LDT meetings; visited nine churches that have done developments, to get ideas and understand potential problems; held many consultations with church members, buildings users and community organisations; had numerous meetings with our architects (Allan Joyce), DDDC etc; made regular reports to Church Council, the Circuit, the Leadership Team etc. - and before that the Property Team was progressing this subject for 5 years.

So we know that we have to persevere and believe “we can do it” – with prayer and in God’s strength - if we keep focussed on our vision of providing buildings that can enable our plans for our church and community to be achieved.

We are being guided by and working closely with the Leadership Team, who are developing our new Mission Action Plan.

We remember these words from Hebrews 12: “And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith”

*The Link Development Team: John Barker, Peter Flinn, Catherine Green, Paul Haslam, Ian Marsh, Tim Morris, Tony Walker, Jonathan Webb*



## **Ashbourne Methodist Church Link Development**

### **Auction of Promises**

**Saturday 24th November**

**at 7.00pm in the Century Hall**

The Auction of Promises is to raise funds for the Link Development Project, and will be conducted by Graham Penny. A wide variety of items and services will be available to bid for, including a wonderful sculpture which has been donated by a local artist.

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another: 1 Peter 4:10*

Everyone has a skill and everyone has something to offer.

Have you got what I want?

So far we have offers to cook meals, lifts to the airport, weekend holiday breaks, guided walks, a variety of craft items, cushions, cards, paintings, pom-pom sheep to name but a few! We also have a clerical car clean, a classic car ride, dog walking, personal coaching and a Reiki session.

Here are some ideas that may help you think about what you can give to the auction and what you can do to help raise funds for "The Link":

*Gardening. Help put together a photograph album. Shredding and home office sort out. Take a Family Photograph. Offer to prepare and serve a meal in the winners own home. DIY Services, Baby Sitting. School pick up. Sit with someone and play cards/watch TV. Walk a Dog. Bake a cake. Be someone's personal shopper for the day to help choose a special outfit. Take a car load of waste to the Tip. Decorate a room. Service a car (or motorbike!)*

When you are ready to make your promise for this auction, please contact Rachel Murt: [secretaryamc1@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryamc1@gmail.com)

**A brochure will be available by Sunday 18th November**



## **MISSION**

## **MATTERS**

For some years, our mission partners Jonathan and Isabel Hill have been working in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. I hope we all hold them up regularly in prayer. Their latest report featured in a Connections article in May this year.

To inform our prayers I have given below an overview of the country's current state to help us appreciate the broader context of their work (taken from [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14113249](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14113249)):

### **Zimbabwe, country profile:**

Republic of Zimbabwe, capital: Harare

Population 16.5 million

Area 390,759 sq km (150,873 sq miles)

Major languages English (official), Shona, Sindebele

Major religions Christianity, indigenous beliefs

Life expectancy 60 years (men), 64 years (women)

Currency Multi-currency system; US dollar and South African rand predominate.

The struggle for independence, land and power runs throughout Zimbabwe's history. Veteran President Robert Mugabe dominated the country's political scene for almost four decades after independence from Britain in 1980.

Landlocked, the southern African country is bordered by Zambia in the north, Mozambique in the east, Botswana in the west and South Africa in the south.

Once the bread basket of the region, since 2000 Zimbabwe has struggled to feed its own people due to severe droughts and the effects of a land reform programme, which saw the seizure of white-owned farms redistributed to landless black Zimbabweans, which led to sharp falls in production.

Cash-strapped and impoverished, Zimbabwe's economy faces severe challenges. Unemployment and poverty are endemic and political strife and repression commonplace. Many Zimbabweans have left the country in search of work in South Africa.

Emmerson Mnangagwa became president in November 2017, following a dramatic week in which the military took charge and Robert Mugabe resigned after 37 years in office.

After serving out Mr Mugabe's term, Mr Mnangagwa was narrowly re-elected as president in a July 2018 election. The result was questioned by his closest opponent, MDC Alliance candidate Nelson Chamisa.

Mr Mnangagwa previously served as first vice-president from 2014 until his dismissal on 6 November 2017. Known as "the crocodile" because of his political cunning, he is associated with some of the worst atrocities committed under the ruling Zanu-PF party since independence.

### **Some key events in Zimbabwe's history:**

1200-1600 Era of the Monomotapa Empire, noted for international trade, gold mining and the construction of Great Zimbabwe, now a World Heritage site.

1889-23 Cecil Rhodes and his British South Africa Company uses British mandate to colonise what becomes Southern Rhodesia.

1965 Prime Minister Ian Smith unilaterally declares independence from Britain under white-minority rule, leading to international isolation.

1980 Independence following lengthy guerrilla war. Zanu party wins elections and Robert Mugabe becomes prime minister.

1983-87 Gukurahundi campaign, in which 20,000 are thought to have been killed in Matabeleland by Mugabe's Fifth Brigade. The violence ends following a unity accord, when the Zanu party is absorbed into the renamed governing Zanu-PF party.

2000s Land redistribution: white farmers forced off land.

2002 Commonwealth suspends Zimbabwe after disputed presidential election.

2008 Opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai beats Mugabe in the presidential election, but is forced to withdraw from a run-off after his supporters become the target of increased violence.

*Richard Odell, World Mission Secretary*



## **Fairtrade Quiz with Cheese & Wine and Chocolate Tasting**

Join us for a fun evening, featuring a Fairtrade Quiz, Cheese & Wine and a Chocolate Tasting on Wednesday 14th November.

The event is being organised by Ashbourne Fairtrade Town with support from Central England Co-op, to celebrate the opening of the new Co-op Store on Blenheim Road which will sell a range of Fairtrade products.

During the evening, we will enjoy a fun quiz with prizes provided by the Co-op, cheese & wine and also a tasting of Fairtrade chocolate. There'll also be a raffle, with the chance to win a hamper of products from the Co-op.

Tickets cost just £2 per person, and all proceeds will go to Dementia UK, Central England Co-op's charity partner. Tickets are available at both of Ashbourne's Co-op stores, Natural Choice Health Foods on St John Street, or by calling Stuart Green on 01335 300338. Bring a team of four people, or come on your own and make a team with other people on the night.

The event will be held from 7pm to 9pm in the function room at Ashbourne Lodge Care Home on Derby Road, just across the road from the new Co-op store on Blenheim Road.

All food & drink is being provided by the Co-op, so all proceeds from ticket sales will go to Dementia UK, Central England Co-op's charity partner. The partnership raised £780,000 in its first year: over £280,000 was handed over in the form of donations, with a further £500,000 from money raised by Central England Co-op via the 5p carrier bag levy.

The money has been used to help pay for the creation of nine specialist Admiral Nurses, additional vital training and the ongoing staffing of the free Dementia Helpline. Following the success of the past year, the Co-op has recently announced that it has agreed to continue its fundraising partnership with Dementia UK for another 12 months.

*Ashbourne*

*Stuart Green*





## **The Fairtrade pioneers -a special report**

Back in 1979, six Durham University graduates, who wanted to do something practical to address poverty, famine and injustice, launched a new venture to work in a fair way with overseas producers. Theirs was a revolutionary response to a need, not working merely as importers but guaranteeing a fair price for crops grown and goods produced, and good working conditions for farmers and workers. Thus Traidcraft was born, as a Christian response to poverty. And it has changed the way in which we can trade with overseas partners for good.

In 1992, Traidcraft co-founded the Fairtrade Foundation and helped to establish the recognisable Fairtrade logo which we see on goods in shops and supermarkets today. Sales of products carrying the Fairtrade logo are booming, and showed a 7% growth in 2017.

However, the Fairtrade story does not have a happy ending for Traidcraft. Recently the company announced that (dependent on the results of a consultation with staff ending in October), they will cease trading at the end of 2018, leading to redundancy for their 68 employees. Difficult trading conditions meant that Traidcraft made a loss of £500,000 in 2017.

However the final nail in the coffin was Brexit: the day after the UK voted to leave the EU was a transformational moment for the company. The value of sterling fell 17% against the dollar on that day. Traidcraft buys everything in dollars and, to honour the agreements it has with its producers, the company lost a third of a million pounds in one go.

Ashbourne has been part of the Traidcraft story since 1985, when Jean and Gerald Humphries retired to the town and became involved in running Traidcraft stalls at events throughout the town. During their 19 years as Fairtraders, they sold thousands of pounds worth of Fairtrade goods and gave countless hours of time to managing their stock, as well as giving talks and educating many as to the importance of Fairtrade.

They also went overseas on 'Meet the people tours' (as have others) so they could speak first hand about the impact of Fairtrade on producers and their families and communities. In many ways, Jean and Gerald paved the way for Ashbourne to become a Fairtrade town in 2005.

In 2005 the ACT Traidcraft Group was formed to continue to sell Traidcraft goods in the Ashbourne area. During the 13 years we have been selling Traidcraft goods locally, we have bought and sold over £66,000 worth of stock.

We make a small profit on our sales and, since 2005 have donated this, totalling £8250, to Traidcraft Exchange, the sister charity of Traidcraft. This helps people in developing countries to get a better deal for the hard work they do every day. This is fantastic - thank you all. (Traidcraft Exchange will continue, it is just Traidcraft Plc which will close).

So, what next? Alongside a sadness that particular Traidcraft favourites will no longer be available (will breakfast ever be the same again for those who love the fruit and nut muesli?!), there is a real concern for producers who have only got access to markets through Traidcraft.

Some 700 women in India, for example, are employed making hand-stitched cards for Traidcraft. This means the loss of livelihoods for 700 women (and by implication their families) which will have a huge impact on them and their communities. There is only one of many such stories.

### **What can we do?**

- Please continue to buy food and other products with the Fairtrade mark - your purchases really do make a difference to people's lives.
- Please support Traidcraft by buying from them, either from their final catalogue or from our Traidcraft stalls in the next few months. There will be a stall in The Cornerstone on Thursday 6, Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December during Coffee Shop opening hours.
- Please pray for everyone involved in Traidcraft, particularly those whose lives are most affected by its closure.

The CEO of Traidcraft Robin Roth said "I do not want this company to go to the wall, because I don't think our mission is complete. Fairtrade is about more than just a product: it is about a whole way of thinking, being and living, and that doesn't die". Maybe long term something will emerge to fill part of the void left by Traidcraft? Maybe this is just another chapter in the Fairtrade story.

*Clare Sales*

*For catalogues or more information, please contact Clare:  
e-mail: [gatefarm10@btinternet.com](mailto:gatefarm10@btinternet.com) or phone: 01335 342321*

**See STOP PRESS overleaf ►**

## **STOP PRESS FROM TRAIDCRAFT**

“Our board is currently investigating a proposal which would mean Traidcraft is downsized, but transformed into a fair trade business of tomorrow - fit for purpose (and success) in the 21st century. If the proposal is accepted, Traidcraft would continue to operate, and you’d be able to continue to shop with us and change the lives of growers and artisans worldwide.” More news next month. *Clare*

## **Ashbourne Circuit Church Services**

### **Sunday November 4th**

Ashbourne	10:30	Stuart Mustow	
	18:30	Ruth Barratt	
Brailsford	10:30	Steve Haines	United Service at Methodist

### **Sunday November 11th Remembrance**

Ashbourne	9:15	Café style	in Century Hall
	<b>10:45</b>	Rev Tim Morris	
	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion
Brailsford	<b>10:45</b>		<b>United Service at Parish</b>
Kniveton	14:30	Tom Parkinson	
Parwich	<b>10:00</b>		<b>United Service at Parish</b>

### **Sunday November 18th**

Ashbourne	10:30	John Dyster	including JMA awards
	18:30	Praise	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	All Age, Shoebox service
Tissington	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

### **Sunday November 25th**

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris/ Tim Dutton	Communion, Shoebox service, All Age
	18:30	Diana Whitmill	
Brailsford	10:30	Robert Sales	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Kniveton	11:00	Ann Parkinson	Shoebox service
Parwich	14:30	Ruth Barratt	

### **Sunday December 2nd**

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	
	18:30	Praise - Tim Dutton	
Brailsford	10:30	Sue Leese	United Service at Methodist

The details in **Bold** are changes to the usual plan.



**ACT is for all of us in all our churches**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Sat 24th November 5pm	Ashbourne Christmas Lights Switch-On	
Sat 1st December 10am to 4pm	Lantern Workshop @ St Oswald's Church Hall Attend as available during the day to repair existing lanterns. Refreshments provided, but bring lunch if staying all day.	Ian Marsh 345210
Friday 7th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributing road signs and setting up, three people from 2pm</li> <li>• 10 Marshals for the Lantern procession, meet at St Oswald's at 5.50pm</li> <li>• Lantern Carriers - 115 needed, meet at St Oswald's at 6pm</li> <li>• Procession walkers, the more the better, meet at St Oswald's at 6.15pm</li> <li>• 3 large vans to transport lanterns at 7pm</li> <li>• Clearing away, meet at Market Place at 9pm</li> </ul>	Ian Marsh 345210
Friday 7th December	Ashbourne Churches Together Christmas Choir. Meet in the Market Place at 6pm. There may be one rehearsal beforehand.	John Titterton 342904
Friday 7th December	Present Give-Away Preparing and handing-out gifts during Late Night Shopping.	Amanda Marshall 07557 67751
Christmas Eve 6pm	Ashbourne Town Council Carols Round the Tree in the Market Place	

## Dates for your diary

### November

Mon 5th	19:30	MWiB Supper evening in the Century Hall
Sun 11th		Remembrance Sunday
Wed 14th		Last date for contributions to the next edition
Wed 14th	19:00	Fairtrade Quiz at Ashbourne Lodge Care Home
Sat 24th		(Re-Imagine Circuits roadshow is cancelled)
Sat 24th	17:00	Ashbourne Christmas Lights Switch-On
Sat 24th	19:00	Auction of Promises in the Century Hall
Thu 29th		Advent Displays at Ashbourne Church

### December

Sat 1st	10:00	Lantern Workshop at St Oswald's Church Hall
Tue 4th	19:30	Local Preachers meeting
Fri 7th	18:00	Late Night Shopping, Ashbourne

## Methodist Women in Britain



### Supper Evening - Monday 5 November

The menu will be beef/chicken or vegetable casserole with crusty bread followed by fruit crumble and ice cream. Our after-dinner speaker is Mr Robin Merrifield of the Mission Aviation Fellowship. The proceeds for the evening will go to this charity. Tickets now available price £5.00 from the usual ladies. Please come and enjoy good food and fellowship and support this worthwhile charity.

### Advent Displays from 29 November

The Church will be decorated with displays on the theme 'Opening the Door on Christmas' from 29 November. During the first few days we will be entertaining nursery and reception age children with a look round, story time, activities and refreshments. If you are able to help with this, Alma would be pleased to hear from you (343751). We do hope you will take the opportunity to look round and bring friends to do so too. The displays will remain in place until after Christmas.

*Alma Swan*

**Circuit website: [www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk](http://www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk)**

## **Ashbourne Church Activities**

Sun	18.30pm	Mustard (Youth Fellowship)
Mon	10.00am	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact – David Heaton (343418)</i>
	14.00pm	Craft and Chat in The Cornerstone <i>Contact – Clare Sales (342321)</i>
	19.30pm	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 &amp; Elizabeth Hurfurt (342859)</i>
Wed	9.30am	Walk and Talk Group: weekly <i>Contacts – Chris and John Dakin (345280)</i>
	19.30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact – Eric and Jenny Williams (346155)</i>
Thu	9.30am	Prayer Meeting: weekly <i>Contact – Brian Hawkins (310353)</i>
	19.30pm	Housegroup: weekly <i>Contact – Jeff Ffoulkes(300443)</i>
Fri	19.30pm	Housegroup: fortnightly <i>Contact: Nick Flux (07764988479)</i>
Thu, Fri, Sat	10.00am	The Cornerstone Coffee Shop <i>Contact – Pat Fielding (345695)</i>

## **Brailsford Church Activities**

Tues	9.30am	Coffee Shop: weekly
Wed	12.30pm	Luncheon Club: monthly (2nd Wednesday)

## **Hulland Church Activities**

Wed	19.30pm	Bible Study: monthly (1st Wednesday) <i>Contact – John Dyster (344086)</i>
Thurs	14.15pm	Women's Fellowship (1st Thursday)

## **Tissington Church Activities**

Fellowship Group  
*Contact – Richard Odell (419319)*



**Circuit Weekend at Swanwick – September 2018**