

Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit
Magazine February 2019

Letter from the Minister

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Dear Friends,

“An in-between time”

As we leave the beginning of a new year behind and our best laid plans and promises (resolutions) get forgotten, we can sometimes become a little deflated. We can begin to feel that nothing has been achieved, no new start has been made and we lie in the wreckage of our hopes and dreams.



For me, it's the little triumphs that count – the couple of bags of clothes to the charity shop, the sorting out of a few untidy drawers, the recycling of discarded plant pots and bits and bobs in the garage, with a trip to the recycling centre. These are the start for me of feeling that I've achieved something. Nothing that counts in the grand scale of things, but in my little world, quite a coup!

Making space, creating some order out of the chaos, being able to see a little more of the wood for the trees can make us feel better about the mess that we so often seem to live in. But then, that might just be me!

With Easter being much later in April, Lent doesn't begin until early March. So February gives us an in-between time. A time to go on working on our good intentions to sort out the clutter of our lives, to manage the diary better, to start to work towards those things we want to achieve. May it give us time to let go of those impossible and unrealistic goals and promises we made, and to focus on achieving those little victories which can put us in a better place. It's often the small acts of kindness, the occasional minor accomplishments, that make the biggest impact.

Your minister and friend,

Ashbourne Church Family News

“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22-23) - a New Year promise of encouragement for us all.

We extend our love, prayers and sympathy to the family of Les Cole, the loss of a dad for Geof and Stephanie and a good friend for Anne. Also to the family of Catherine Green whose father recently died. Betty Little and Jean Bailey have also died recently too and we extend our sympathy to their relatives also. Others among us still mourn loved ones and we pray for them.

There are many who need our prayers who are recovering from illness or remain unwell or are having tests, or who just feel under the weather, including Sue Ffoulkes, Stuart Mustow, Ena Staniforth, Phil Hall, Barbara Hollands, Jenny Waring, Val Rutledge, Margaret Wright and Judith Hall. Ann Howard will be home at the end of January after a knee operation. As we have not had a Connections Magazine for two months, there are others who have been ill over that time, but thankfully have recovered by now, and others I may have missed. Please pray for those you know who need our prayers but whose names I have not mentioned. Many people tell me they are grateful for visits, flowers, cards, phone calls, texts, lifts and food, and that is a wonderful example of showing the love of God in our fellowship. If people wish to be included for prayer in the future, or you know of people who need prayer, please do let me know.

Congratulations to Helen Wathall, daughter of Jean, on being awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours list for ‘services to business and the community in Derbyshire’. More good news is that two new ‘Open the Book’ teams will be going in to Ilam School and Ashbourne Primary School.

Congratulations to Ian and Jacqui Marsh who celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary on 3rd February. Alice Harbey celebrated her 80th birthday on 1st January and so we send our congratulations.

We have a number who have recently had new grandchildren, so we send our congratulations to Paul and Katy Barker on the birth of Elizabeth Grace, granddaughter for Helen and John Barker, and sister for Joshua and Thomas; to Jennifer and Tom Robinson on the birth of Rose Dorothy Pearl, a granddaughter for David and Judith Bale; and to David and Lisa Barrie on the birth of Darcey Eden, a granddaughter for David and Jean Barrie.

You will understand when I say that Andrew Lewer, MP for Northampton South, needs our continued prayers for wisdom as we pray for our country.

In January it was A level mock exams for Joy Mallard and Samuel Morris. Continue to pray for them, and for Darcey Dawson, Sam Glossop, Christian Mallard and James Thrupp as they study for GCSE's this summer.

Remember Jonathan and Isabel Hill, our mission partners in Zimbabwe and Stephen and Suzanne in the UK (see *page 13*).

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. We need to pray together for needs of the church and the wider world and for us to be in step with God's mission for Ashbourne. 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 16.01.2019

Oberammergau Passion Play 2020

Every 10 years the people of Oberammergau perform their Passion Play telling the Easter story. It runs from 16th May to 4th October in 2020.

Carole Thorpe is planning to book a trip to see it. If anyone is interested in going with her, please contact Carole on cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535.

Safe to Grow

The District Safeguarding Group is planning a day to review practice, find support and be resourced to work with young people. The date is Saturday 16th March from 10am until 4pm at Littleover Methodist Church. Anybody who works with young people is welcome to attend.

Please let Carole Thorpe know if you would like to join the group that is going. Transport can be arranged. Contact cethorpe@hotmail.com or telephone 346535.

Kniveton Chapel News

We continue to enjoy sharing fellowship together, and particularly enjoy the occasions when we can also share with friends from the village. The two special services we have had over the past months have, of course, been harvest and Christmas. Many friends and families joined us for our candlelight carol service. Peter Dawson, who took the service, hit just the right note with a service geared for children – of any age, including oldies like me! Children from the school took part in the service, which is something we always enjoy. After the service we were invited to supper and fellowship at David Bott's farm. The Botts' farm, of course, was at one time the meeting place for the Kniveton Fellowship, before the chapel was built.

As is our custom we have donated the collection from the Christmas service to a chosen charity. This year we are pleased to be able to give David and Judith Bale £210 for the Mambabu Project in Sierra Leone, more specifically to help with the well which the villagers are digging, and which will provide the village with clean water.

Ann Parkinson has taken over responsibility for the chapel accounts from Lester Lowe. We are grateful to Ann for this help.

Betty Hadley

Green Box - Crisp packets

The last time I wrote a Green Box article, crisp packets could not be recycled. How things have changed!

You may have heard about Walkers being inundated with used crisp packets as a protest at them dragging their feet over moving to recyclable packaging. Well, it worked!

There are now hundreds of crisp packet collection points across the country. The nearest collection point for us is at the Strawberry Garden Centre just outside Uttoxeter. They have a wheelie bin, donated by East Staffs Borough Council, ready to receive crisp packets; once full, the contents will be collected by TerraCycle.

The more people who can contribute the better. And ANY BRAND of crisp packet can be recycled.

There is a cardboard collection bin in the Church foyer, near the food bank box. Please spread the word to family, friends and neighbours! Once the bin is full I will take the contents to the Strawberry Farm.

Pat Fielding

Consultation on Ashbourne's Plan for Growth

The vision for Ashbourne Methodist Church was defined several years ago and remains unchanged. Our Vision is: 'to be a Church where people learn to know Jesus Christ, are equipped to live for him, proclaim his love, and serve our local community'.

The Leadership Team have been working to update our Mission Action Plan, which is now called 'Plan for Growth'. The Plan for Growth aims to give a guide as to how Ashbourne should go about making its Vision a reality in these exciting times as we grow and develop as a church.

What has already happened:

- Leadership Team have had several away mornings to discuss (over last 18 months)
- Groups within the Church have explored their areas of responsibility e.g. Worship, Outreach, Young people etc
- Leadership Stewards have worked with Link Development Team to ensure the building project supports the Plan for Growth
- Church Council have approved the draft Plan for Growth for consultation

What next:

We are holding consultation events for specific groups in the church, as well as two open consultation events to which everyone is invited:

- 10.30am on Wednesday 13th February, in the Century Hall
- 12noon on Sunday 24th February, in the Church

Please come and review the draft Plan for Growth so we can make sure that the plan is as good as possible. If you have any questions, please talk to Rev Tim or Paul Haslam (345560).

'Our Calling'

Over a four week period, on a Sunday morning at Ashbourne Church, we shall explore the Methodist Church's 'Our Calling' vision. Each week a different theme will be preached on, linking to the new 'Plan for Growth' which is being consulted on throughout the Church.

10th February - Worship

17th February - Learning and Caring

24th February - Service

3rd March - Evangelism

December at Brailsford

Advent Sunday

United worship today was a Christingle service led by Sue Leese. Individual kits had been prepared in advance by Jane and Sue on the Friday evening, serenaded by Jonathan on the organ. Everybody assembled their own Christingle, some taking extras home with them for family and friends unable to be there in person. This small group were happy to be photographed for the record.



NB You may have heard of the Three Tenors? Well, today it was the Three Organists; John, Jonathan B and Jonathan W each taking turns to play. To quote a well know TV show, A-MA-ZING!!

Coffee Shop

Coffee Shop has been very busy during December, with a visit from singers and musicians from Brailsford School and a bake sale with Friends of Brailsford Pre-School. Not sure how we fitted well over 100 people in, but it was a fantastic morning. There was a visit from Brailsford Handbell Ringers, providing more seasonal music. And there have been plenty of mince pies!

Church Lunch

Forty eight people ranging in age from 0-90+ came along for a traditional Christmas meal prepared and served by members and friends. A good time was had by all and included a couple of carols too. The monthly lunch is a community event, enjoyed each month, thanks to all who shop, prepare, cook and wash up!

Angel Service



230 angels had been knitted and collected during the previous few weeks and these were dedicated in the service on 16 December by Rev Tim. Mary Ring knitted an extra large one for our display, this one has been kept for future use.

An angel display adorned the front of the worship space, this grew during advent as a variety of angels were made and added by the children. Paper angel decorations were made under the guidance of Fiona Green. A sharing box of 30 chocolate angels was distributed at the end of the service (from the Meaningful Chocolate Company, donated by a member of the congregation).



All this happens because of the dedication by so many to use their skills to share the good news. Worship leading and preaching, welcoming, catering, technology, publicity, children's activities, music, cleaning, encouraging, praying.



The knitted angels were distributed around the village over the following week. Many residents were amazed at this gesture which was greatly appreciated.

Christmas cards were delivered to each home in Brailsford and Ednaston,

Carol Service

The angel Gabriel and a wandering shepherd (alias Sue Leese and Tim Morris) dropped by to lead the annual Carol Service on 20th December. They were assisted by Mary and her infant son (Sophie and a doll!), one large and many 'normal' size Jelly Babies, and several nativity sets, one in which the baby can also be seen as a footprint or the key to the kingdom. This was the day of the Three Musicians; John on organ, Jane on guitar and clarinet (not together!) and David on violin. A 'new' carol was introduced as a change to the more familiar "We Three Kings". The Camel Shuffle, 230 in Singing the Faith, first line 'Riding out across the desert' with its catchy tune was very well received. It's great!

During advent, worship was also led by Paul Taylor and Fiona Green, giving a rich variety, something for everyone.

The decorations remained in situ until 6 January, when John Dyster led an Epiphany themed service.

If you have access to Facebook, do please give Brailsford Methodist a 'like' and share the good news!



Sue Leese & Jane Baker

Christmas Angels in Ashbourne 2018

As you may recall, in 2017 the knitters and crocheters of Craft & Chat (plus friends from other churches) put out 803 angels in the streets of Ashbourne just before Christmas.

In 2018 we did it all over again – with an amazing 1,444 angels.

We were joined by members of Ashbourne Churches Together and the WI, as well as many members of our own church. Some people started knitting in June and managed as many as 140 angels; others who had never knitted before finished one angel which took a few months. We encouraged one another and shared the joys of achievement; we held a ‘Knit In’ where we all knitted angels at the same time and we swapped our photos as we built up the numbers.

We held a Blessing Service led by Rev Maggie Rode, with all of the angels on the floor at the front of church whilst we sang and prayed (see *back cover*). Once blessed, these little woollen objects became even more special to us: visible symbols of the love of God going out into the cold streets before being taken to new homes.

We were overwhelmed by the public response as we put them out early one Sunday morning. Everyone was encouraged by the response. One visitor to the town was moved to tears. The Facebook page for Craft & Chat and for the church had a huge reach that week.

It’s hard to underestimate the effect of a gift given with our love and God’s love; made by strangers and given to strangers. We never fail to be amazed by how much the angels mean to us and to those who receive them.

So thank you to everyone who joined with us to make this happen – knitting, crocheting, encouraging and praying. We couldn’t have done it without you!

Clare Sales and Fiona Green

A big thank you from the residents of Chatsworth Court

Thank you for the lovely food we enjoyed at the Christmas lunch. Thank you to everyone involved for all their hard work. It was also good to see the little children. Thank you also for all the other lunches we have enjoyed over the past year. We also grateful to Rev Tim for bringing us Holy Communion.

Olive Patterson on behalf of the residents

Ashbourne Vacancies Bulletin

This is an exciting time for our church as our ministry to our community continues to grow. At our recent Leadership Team meeting, we commented on how wonderful it is that God is blessing our work and offering new opportunities for us to develop what we do.

A good example of this is 'Open the Book' which had the opportunity to start visiting two additional schools to share Bible stories with the children. We are delighted that seven new volunteers came forward to enable this work to expand.

If you're new to the church, there are lots of ways you can get involved in our mission and ministry. We realise that you might not always know who to speak to, so please feel free to have a chat with Rev Tim or Robert Sales.

We have a few roles that we are currently looking to fill. If you're interested in finding out more about any role, please have a chat with the named contact – with no obligation or pressure.



Kids@cornerstone helpers

Kids@cornerstone runs every Tuesday for pre-school children and their carers. It is a very informal group, with simple crafts as well as a story time and songs. Since it started in 2013, it has grown steadily and we thank God that we are now often 'at capacity' with around 20 children and their parents in The Cornerstone. We would love to offer another session each week, as we know that there are more people who would like to come but who might find the big group a bit scary. To be able to expand the work, we would need a few more volunteers to join a rota.

For a chat about what the role involves, please call Clare Sales (342321) or Stuart Green (300338).

Leadership Steward for Youth

We have a team of Leadership Stewards who act on the decisions and policies of the Church Council, share the vision of the church and seek to involve others in the realisation of that vision. We pray for the work of our Church and meet regularly to review progress and plan future work.

We are currently looking for a Leadership Steward for Youth. This role will involve being a source of support for activities for children & young people and being a contact for Safeguarding in relation to youth activities. To find out more, please speak to Robert Sales (342321).

Worship Stewards

We have a good group of worship stewards, but more are always welcome. Working on a rota basis, you would help to make sure everything runs smoothly at our worship services.

For more info, speak to Robert Sales (342321).

Work with Older People

Jennie Ferry is our Leadership Steward for Older People and is looking at how to develop our work. She would love to have a small group of people who can meet to prayerfully consider the opportunities and to begin to make some plans.

If you are interested, please have a chat with Jennie Ferry (664466).

Thank you buying from



**The Leprosy
Mission**
Home shopping

Thank you to everyone who bought items from The Leprosy Mission Christmas catalogue. By placing your order through me, we earn commission which goes towards Ashbourne church's Link Development Project. From all of the orders, we raised a total of £174.36. Many people also made donations to The Leprosy Mission, either as a donation or by buying "Gifts for Life". The total given to The Leprosy Mission was £76.82.

The Leprosy Mission (TLM) is an international Christian development organisation which helps people affected by leprosy. Founded in 1874, The Leprosy Mission is the oldest and largest leprosy-focused organisation in the world today.

TLM's vision is for a world free of leprosy – 'leprosy defeated, lives transformed'. Therefore, their focus is on leprosy, however, their work often includes other people with disabilities, other neglected tropical diseases, other marginalised people in society, and those living in extreme poverty.

The Leprosy Mission's global family serve a population of 305 million people in around 30 leprosy-affected countries, tending to the physical, social, spiritual and psychological needs of a leprosy-affected person.

Stuart Green



Mission Matters

Update from Jonathan Hill,
our mission partner in Zimbabwe
(sent in early January)

Happy New Year! I hope you celebrated Christmas well. We had a houseful, which is always nice at Christmas, plus plenty of Skype calls to Tony, Stephen and Susannah in the UK. Sadly, my Mum wasn't very well, but after a course of antibiotics she is much better. This meant that she ended up on her own on Christmas Day instead of going to stay with my brother in London.

Stephen has his Master's and the graduation will be in July. He is in the middle of a process of job hunting, with quite a number of interviews. Please pray for him. Susannah's results for the final semester will be out on 18th January and the final degree result will be out early March. Her graduation should also be July (but not the same day, we hope!). We are due to have our mission partner leave (what used to be called furlough) this year. We will probably request June-July-August, give or take a week or two.

I am appending below our latest news for prayer:

'Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong?' (Habakkuk 1:3) 'How long, O Lord, must I call for help but you do not listen?' (Habakkuk 1:2) 'My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long?' (Psalm 6:3)

With the situation in Zimbabwe, it's as if the Christian community is echoing Habakkuk and the Psalmist's feelings, expressing concern over the silence of God. We and a lot of Zimbabweans are amazed by how God seems to be silent and inactive when things appear to be not improving. As I read these verses, I now sympathise with Habakkuk and the Psalmist for their deep concern for what was happening then when God seemed to be far away when they needed him most. But in all this we know that God is in control.

Zimbabwe is in crisis, economic and social. Everything is collapsing. We really need our fellow Christians to help us lift up our hearts to the Lord for help.

Prayer requests:-

- Pray for our leaders to rule with fairness and not to put their personal ambitions above the needs of the people.
- Pray for a stable financial system. Prices in the shops have gone up dramatically in recent months.
- In times like these, orphaned and vulnerable children get exploited because of their innocence. Pray for their protection.
- Pray for the Zimbabwe Council of Churches to have the courage to not look down from afar or to turn a blind eye, but to intervene in what is happening in the country which oppresses the citizens.
- Pray for the cholera outbreak to be contained, by resources being provided to repair the water and sanitation services.
- The rainy season has delayed, but our God is a wonderful miracle worker who provides, so pray for the rain and a bumper crop harvest.
- Pray for the health system. There is a continuing shortage of essential drugs and often hard cash (in US dollars) is demanded by the pharmacies for medicines. Now doctors have gone on strike.
- Pray for Zimbabweans who leave the country in search of greener pastures, only to get to a place where they are mistreated.
- We also have much for which to give thanks, as a nation, as a church and as a family.

People in Zimbabwe are resilient and resourceful in a crisis. We certainly know how to queue. And it's a wonderful opportunity to chat with complete strangers as if we have known each other for years.

The shops are mostly well stocked, though some 'essential' luxuries have been missing for weeks now: Coca Cola and Mazoe orange crush, for example. Prices of all except the most basic goods have gone up by a large margin too, but we remember Christmases about ten years ago when we used to have to drive across the border to Botswana even to buy bread, so it's far better than that.

When we look at all the wars, disasters and other hardships suffered by people around the world, we are thankful that, although Zimbabwe has its problems, we have not had to face the situations that others have endured.

With the exception of the much publicised riots in Harare after the Harmonised Elections, Zimbabwe is peaceful. (By the way, they are called Harmonised because they are all held at the same time, presidential, parliamentary, local council.)

All goes well at Sunday School, but we could do with more helpers. We led the service on the last Sunday in November for our annual Nativity Service. We had 3 camels, 5 sheep, 2 donkeys and a chicken – all speaking parts. We also had 9 Bible readers (including me) and a preacher, but the main characters (Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and so on) were non-speaking. The theme was “Jesus our King”.

Thekwane High School is making progress in a number of ways. Two of our girls went to Kenya to represent Zimbabwe in the Copa Coca Cola soccer competition and their team did very well. We have tried our best with the new curriculum that has been introduced over the last two years. It's still a work in progress, nationally, with plenty of teething problems, and we will have a better idea of how well we are getting to grips with its demands when the first set of results come out in January.

There is still a need for the feeding scheme that we are operating at Thekwane Primary School and the long range forecast suggests that this rainy season will be a drought. (But they can be wrong.) We are thankful for the support we have to keep this going. Isabel's work with orphans and other vulnerable children and adults can sometimes lead to a feeling of being overwhelmed by the scale of the need, but she is glad that she can make a difference for many.

We are thankful for family and friends around the world who mean so much to us.

Jonathan and Isabel Hill

Coffee Morning

**at Kirk Ireton Methodist Chapel, Coffin Lane, Kirk Ireton DE6 3JW
Saturday 9th March – 10am-12noon**



On what would have been
Sister Merle Wilde's 98th Birthday

A morning to come together,
celebrate and remember Sister Merle
and raise funds for charity

All welcome

Update from Jane Bowley, Family Outreach Worker

Hi everyone, it's a while since I wrote a piece for Connections. My original three-year contract as Family Outreach Worker for the Ashbourne church ended in December, but the contract has been extended by one year. So what have I been doing with my time on your behalf? Well, underlying all I do is the desire to share God's love with children especially but their families too, however small or large they might be.

I am most passionate about how we as the church can assist our schools here in Ashbourne and feel that, as Family Outreach Worker, I have an opportunity to make an impact. I lead assemblies almost every week as part of the ecumenical team of Ashbourne Churches Together, which includes Rev Duncan of St Oswald's Church and Matt, the Youth Pastor of the Elim Church. To date that has meant 59 assemblies this year alone, so if we multiply by three, I have led almost 180 assemblies.

I have also presented Godly Play stories and lead workshops on the Holy Spirit and Christingle, not forgetting encouraging a small band of people to volunteer to hear readers in Ashbourne Primary School. All of these activities and events are designed to share the basic gospel message so that no one is excluded from God's love. This enables me to connect with the children and their families and staff, as well as the other churches in the town. I visit and help at Ashbourne Toddler group once a month too.

Another highlight of my working week has been the Tuesday morning toddler group, which provides the opportunity to form relationships with new babies and their families. Kids@cornerstone meets every week except for Christmas time so that is almost 150 sessions over the three years. Since the role of Family Outreach Worker was established, some of the children have grown and now attend Messy Church regularly with their families and some have attended other worship services at the church.

I report regularly and discuss new initiatives and events with Rev Tim, the Leadership and Outreach teams, encouraging and helping to shape the face of the church that the Ashbourne people see.

Volunteers willing to participate from time to time and prayer are the two most important ingredients, which help the role of Family Outreach. Therefore, I attend the Thursday morning prayer meeting and visit a house group where I can share my ideas, concerns and celebrations.

In Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV), it is written: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control". Corinthians 12 identifies the various spiritual gifts we can possess. I would encourage us all to examine the spiritual gifts, the fruit, the natural talents and learned skills God has given us, then to reflect upon how we can use them in God's mission through the ministry of our church.

Jane Bowley

Ashbourne Methodist Church Giving to church and changing banking arrangements

Can you help us please ?

Ashbourne Methodist Church currently banks with the Royal Bank of Scotland. As many will know, the Ashbourne Branch closed on 21st January this year. A mobile NatWest van may be available for use by RBS customers on Fridays between 12.15 -13.15 by Lloyds chemists. We plan to continue to use RBS as our bank, using the post office to make deposits etc as needed. The changes are not ideal and we would like to reduce the need for banking cash.

The vast majority of individual giving to the Church is now made by monthly standing order.

It would be helpful if those who currently give in cash or envelopes would move to monthly standing orders too. Setting up a standing order is straightforward and has the benefit that you don't have to search around the house for money on a Sunday morning! Note that the collection boxes will still be available in Church on a Sunday.

The Church bank account details are as follows:

Name : Ashbourne Methodist Church

Sort Code : 16-12-15

Account Number: 11158631

If you wish to Gift Aid money to the Church, a form can be obtained from Jean Barrie or John Micklethwaite.

If I can help in any way please feel free to contact me.

*Paul Haslam, Treasurer, Ashbourne Methodist Church
(345560)*

Methodist Women in Britain



Advent Displays

A Big Thank You to everyone who helped in any way with the Advent Display event held at the end of November and December. The Church looked magnificent and we welcomed approximately 150 children to see the displays, hear the story and take part in activities. It was a wonderful effort by so many.

Willersley Week – 25th-28th March

March may seem a long way off, but we need to book in for this event! Four days of fellowship will be held at Willersley Castle when the leader will be Mrs Jill Baker, former MWiB President and Vice-President of Conference. The day will run from 10.30 am to approx. 3.45 pm (coffee from 10 am) each day. The cost is £16.50, which includes coffee, lunch and conference expenses. If you would like to go to what will be a very enjoyable day, please let me know asap and which day you would like to go.

District Day – Saturday 2nd March

Our Spring District Day will be held at Ashbourne Road MC, Derby. This is a very easy destination for us as we can get there on the Swift Bus! The day will begin with coffee from 10.30 am, followed by a business meeting at 11 am. The speaker will be Dr Jill Barber of Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum. Jill is a very vibrant and enthusiastic person and well worth hearing. There will also be a fish and chip lunch available if you would like to take advantage of this. Do come along – I'm sure you will enjoy the day.

Date for your diary

Our next supper evening will be held on Wednesday 20th March, when our own Sue Leese will be the speaker on 'Transforming the World from the Kitchen' Do book the date NOW! *Alma Swan (343751)*

JMA (Junior Mission for All)

Lunch event

Sunday 3rd March 2019

12.00 noon in Cornerstone

For all JMA members and friends

Further details from Ruth Mallard

"Reflections on an operation!"

I said most of what I have written here at the morning service in Ashbourne on the 13th January, but thought I would write this out for those of the Circuit, with a word of personal thanks to all who visited, phoned, sent cards, flowers and prayed for me during my recent sojourn in hospital and convalescence after the operation.

A very dear friend said "Do you know that there was a lot of prayers said for you"!

I thought, in a way yes, as, although at 67 I feel I am very fit for my age, with walking the farm, swimming and other activities, to find that I could get up so quickly after an operation that took a considerable chunk out of me, literally, and with those prayers, surprise the staff how quickly I could recover, and, in turn, out walk the physiotherapists (or, as they are termed in Derby Royal, 'Physio Terrorists'! When I said 'Physio Terrorists' to them, they said, "Oh, you have heard of us then!")

There were other blessings too, while in hospital, in that my sister Jayne managed to drive all the way from home in Timperley, to see me, and she is not one for driving very far. While there, Rev Tim came in and we had a good time together.

Later, after Tim and Jayne had gone, one of the Physio's came to see me, as it seemed I had transferred from one ward to another without being 'cleared' by the Physio team!

So, again, I had to show I could get out of bed unaided, walk a goodly distance and climb two flights of stairs - which I did!

While doing this, the Physio, Lisa Kerr, said, "Was that Rev Tim I saw with you?" "Yes", I said, "I go to Ashbourne Methodist Church, where he is the Superintendent Minister."

Lisa said, "I was there some time ago, attending a Thanksgiving Service for the life of Marianne Matthews". It seemed Lisa was one of her carers, and had cared for Marianne and for other folk of our Circuit - Rev John was one she mentioned.

"Yes" I answered "I was there too, helping out." Lisa said "You know, I do not go to church much, but the amount of love and care that flooded through that church that day was amazing. You could really feel it around the place!"



"Yes" I replied, "It's a real blessing our church has that we do care" - and I described our pastoral care to her.

Later, once home, I felt that pastoral care, and knew prayers were still being said, as each day loomed with a little aches, one hoped that the next day would come soon, as each day alleviated the ache, till I felt a whole lot better. I knew it was all that prayer, for which I am eternally grateful, from you all that was offered to the Lord. I conclude these thanks by asking you to read what Paul wrote in his epistle to the Ephesians, Chapter 3:

“Now to Him, who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us. To Him be the glory, in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever, Amen.”

My thanks to you all.

Tom Parkinson

<p>Ashbourne  Together</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">  ACT is for all of us in all our churches </p>
<p>Friday 1st March 11.00am</p>	<p>World Day of Prayer at St Oswald’s Church. This service has been prepared by the Women of Slovenia <i>Contact: Nancy Bell (347915) or Gwen Rose (342834)</i></p>
<p>Tuesdays in Lent at 12.30</p>	<p>Lent Lunches: 12th March: Elim Pentecostal Church 19th March: St Oswald’s Church 26th March: All Saints Church 2nd April: Methodist Church 9th April: Dovedale House, Ilam DE6 2AZ <i>Contact: Sue Schulz (350365)</i></p>
<p>Good Friday April 19th</p>	<p>Walk of Witness Meet outside Sainsbury’s at 12.15 to walk silently through Ashbourne, bearing witness to the cross of Jesus Christ. Concludes in Victoria Square with a short service and refreshments.</p>
<p>Wednesday 3rd April</p>	<p>Alpha Course: an opportunity to explore the meaning of life through talks and discussions. Run by Elim Pentecostal Church on Wednesday evenings. <i>Contact: Elim Office (344338)</i></p>

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Sunday February 3rd

Ashbourne	10:30	Paul Taylor	
	18:30	Praise – Rev David Leese	in Century Hall
Brailsford	10:30	Rev Tim Morris	United Service, Covenant, Communion
Parwich	14:30	Peter Dawson	United Service

Sunday February 10th

Ashbourne	9:15	Café style	in Century Hall
	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Theme Preach 1 – Our Calling – ‘Worship’ Communion
	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	
Brailsford	10:30	Lorraine Hawkins	
Kniveton	14:30	Tim Dutton	
Parwich		No service	

Sunday February 17th

Ashbourne	10:30	Ruth Barratt	Theme Preach 2 – Our Calling – ‘Learning & caring’ in Century Hall
	18:30	Praise – Jeff Ffoulkes	All Age
Brailsford	10:30	Ann Parkinson	
Parwich	10:00	Rev Carollyn McDonald	United Service
Tissington	10:00	Rev Tim Morris	Communion

Sunday February 24th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Tim Morris/ Tim Dutton	Communion Theme Preach 3 – Our Calling – ‘Service’
	18:30	John Dyster	
Brailsford	10:30	Peter Dawson	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev Tim Morris	United Service at Methodist
Kniveton	11:00	Tom Parkinson	
Parwich		No service	

Sunday March 3rd

Ashbourne	10:30	Paul Taylor	Theme Preach 4 – Our Calling – ‘Evangelism’ in Century Hall
	18:30	Praise – Peter Dawson	United Service at Methodist
Brailsford	10:30	Ruth Barratt	United Service, Communion
Parwich	14:30	Rev Tim Morris	

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

Circuit website: www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk

Dates for your diary

February

Wed 6th	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council
Wed 20th	10:00	Messy Church in Century Hall
Mon 25th	9:15	Circuit Leadership Team meeting

March

Sun 3rd	15:30	Parwich Church Council
Mon 4th	19:30	Local Preachers meeting
Tue 12th	10:00	Tissington Church Council
Tue 12th	14:30	Kniveton Church Council
Wed 13th & Thu 14th		CRE Exhibition at Manchester
Sat 16th	10:00	District Safeguarding Conference at Littleover
Sat 30th	10:00	District Synod

April

Mon 29th	19:30	Circuit Meeting at Brailsford
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CRE – Christian Resources Exhibition

CRE is coming to Event City in Manchester on 13th March from 10am until 8pm and 14th March from 10am until 4pm. It is a one-stop shop for church supplies, resources and ideas. If anyone would like to go, then a group booking can be made and transport arranged. If you would like a ticket please contact Carole Thorpe on cethorpe@hotmail.com or 346535.

From the Editors

We are grateful to all who have sent items for this magazine, especially those from chapels other than Ashbourne. We would welcome contributions for the next edition – **March 2019**

Last date for contributions: **Wednesday 13th February**

Publication date: **Sunday 24th February**

If possible, please e-mail us at dysters@tiscali.co.uk

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

Daphne and John Dyster

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 & 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)



Open the Book in action



Angels in church prior to their mission (see Page 10)