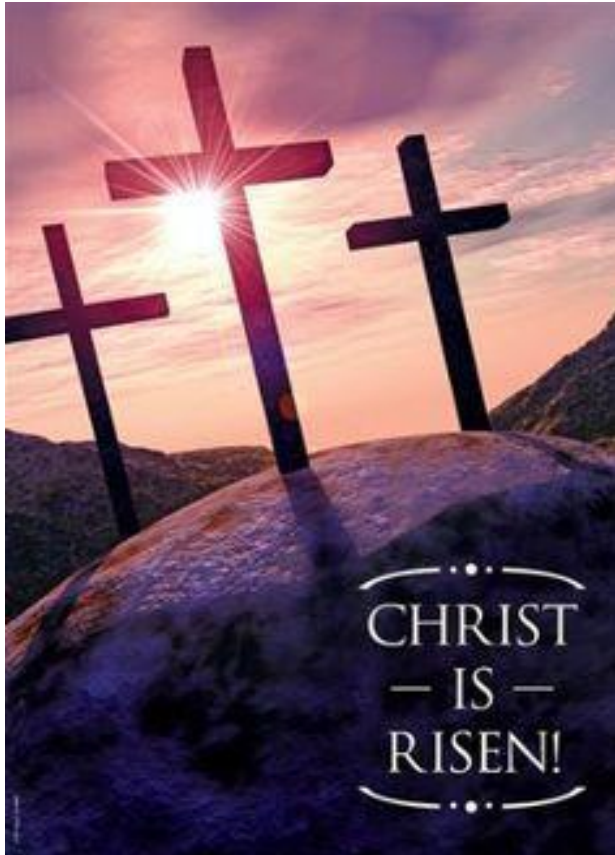


Connections



Ashbourne Methodist Circuit
April 2024

Letter from the Minister



Rev Nicola Briggs, The Manse, 16, Booth Drive,
Ashbourne DE6 1SZ tel 01335702174

Email – Nicola.briggs@methodist.org.uk

Dear Friends

Welcome back to Connections. I want to start by giving thanks to Cliff Lewer for taking on board the editorship of Connections for the Ashbourne Circuit, and to John Dyster for his support and encouragement. I look forward to the Ashbourne Circuit once again being more connected through this magazine.

As many of you will know the last few weeks have been frustrating for me as I recover from a bout of laryngitis. I have been extremely grateful for all the love and support offered and I hope normal service will be resumed shortly.

The instructions of my GP have included an encouragement to rest, not something that comes naturally to me. This is one of the challenges of the Protestant work ethic that many of us will have grown up

with. Yet, we all know what a difference rest can make to our overall wellbeing.

Rest is something that is encouraged throughout the Bible. Psalm 46:10 says 'Be still, and know that I am God'. It is not for each of us to have saviour complexes needing to solve all the problems of the world – we already have the only Saviour that can do that, in Jesus. Rather, we are encouraged to rest and know God in that rest and through that rest.

There are many times in the gospel narratives that we read of Jesus going off to a solitary place. Even Jesus needed time away from people, so that he could focus on his connection with his Father God. It is in resting, in being still that we can focus on our connection with our Father God too.

Forced rest because of illness, bereavement, redundancy or retirement is challenging. Perhaps in that rest we start to lose who we are because of the circumstances surrounding us. Yet, it is in resting in God that we can find who we truly are, the children of God.

I hope and pray that as Holy Week and Easter approach, you will have opportunities to be still, rest, and know God.

Blessings

Nicola

Ashbourne Circuit Family News March 2024

Welcome back to the latest edition of Connections, now under the editorship of Cliff Lewer, thank you.

Since the last edition of the magazine, sadly three members of our Ashbourne congregation have passed away. Alan Wright on 5th January, Lyn Williams on 12th

January and David Franklin on 18th January. We offer our condolences to Margaret and to Rosalind and their families on the loss of their much loved husbands. Hazel U and Wendy H have also experienced bereavements recently.

Many of our friends in the church are experiencing ill health at the moment and we especially pray for Chris D, Anne W, Gareth R, and our own minister Nicola. Please let us know if there are people who are ill and need a visit or prayers. Elizabeth Spencer, part of the hospital chaplaincy team, is always happy to visit anyone in Royal Derby Hospital.

Prayer Diary. Thank you to those who have sent in updated forms. We will be using these to update the Circuit Church Directory and Prayer Diary. There are still some outstanding, so please return these as soon as possible. When it is published, we will be able to pray for every one of us within the Ashbourne Circuit.

In the past two months we have celebrated the 80th birthday of Joyce O and David H. is 80 on 25th March. Congratulations to you both. Birthday greetings also go to Sue Ffoulkes for 21st April and Elizabeth Spencer for 23rd.

I am pleased to report that the new Afternoon Tea Service, on the first Sunday of every month at 4.30pm, has been both well received and attended.

Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Easter.

Wendy Haslam *Pastoral Secretary*

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; (John 11:25)

Milldale – Please join in the Holy Saturday Walk on 30th March at 11 a.m. from the village car park (bring a packed lunch), followed by a service in the Chapel at 2 pm. (If you are unable to do the walk please join us for the service

Circuit Letter Writer

This is a reminder that the Circuit Letter Writer's Ministry is still up and running. Would all who are in a Pastoral care role let me know of any in their fellowship who may appreciate a card or letter at their time of sadness, joy, difficulties or are in need of encouragement along life's journey.

Enid 01335324810

Celebration

Congratulations to Barbara and David Hollands who celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on 20th March and Chris and John Dakin celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 3rd April - apologies but as we had no Connections last month we could not spread the word!

Supporting Christian Aid with friends from other churches

Christian Aid is a charity that works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to.

For many years, Christians from Ashbourne's churches have joined together to 'give, act, pray' with Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week and during the Tissington Well Dressings.

Our Christian Aid Week collection and Tissington Well Dressings are organised as part of Ashbourne Churches Together, and we get lots of support – so you'll be in good company if you join in!

Here's how you can get involved:

- Can you pray for the work of Christian Aid? We ask for your prayers for our local fundraising, and for the work of Christian Aid as they support the most vulnerable people and campaign for a fairer world.

Christian Aid Week Collections

- Can you help to deliver donation envelopes to the houses of Ashbourne during Christian Aid week which is 12th – 18th May. We aim to deliver an envelope to every house this year, including the new estates, to enable everyone to give if they would like to.
- Can you offer your letterbox as a drop-off point for envelopes? You'll get a small poster to display by your front door, and we'll put a sticker on each envelope to tell people where their local drop-off point is. We aim to have one letterbox for every small area. We'll collect the envelopes from you at the end of the week for counting. If you live in a village and would like to deliver around your village, please let us know.

Cake Stall at Tissington Well Dressings

- Can you bake something for the cake stall at Tissington Well Dressings. This is from 9th –12th May. We normally sell over 800 pieces of cake over the four day period, so we need lots of bakers! Please let us know what day you can bake for and how many portions, and we'll let you know the drop-off location in Ashbourne.
- Can you help to sell the cakes in Tissington? We have slots available between 10am and 4pm on each of the 4 days. It's a lovely event and before/after you might like to walk around the village and see the wells.

Last year, we raised a grand total of **£3495.90** for Christian Aid, from Christian Aid Week donations and the Tissington Cake Stall. Will you help us this year, as we support the work of Christian Aid around the world.

Please get in touch with Catherine Green if you can help. 01335 300338

A Special Celebration for Ashbourne's One World Group

2024 is a special celebration for the One World Group as we mark our 40th Anniversary.

The group exists to raise awareness of world development issues by organising events and talks. We're part of Ashbourne Churches Together and, since we started in 1984, we've organised a huge number of events.

Since 1984, we've also raised money for Christian Aid through our cake stall at the Tissington Well Dressings, and have raised over £60,000. That's a LOT of pieces of cake!

We hope you can join us this year, as we continue to support Christian Aid

There'll be lots more information to come – so watch out for future editions!

Things Change

Earlier people used to spread lies and the media used to find the truth!. Now the media spreads the lies and the people find the truth!

God Guides

A gentle voice but nearer than hands or feet –

"It is better to trust me than put your confidence in any man.

Commit your way to me, trust me to give you the desires of your heart.

What seems like my withholding to you is for your good.

My plan for your life is clear to me

And for your good I lead you a step at a time. your

All I ask is your dependence on me

That you may know fulfilment and satisfaction.

My way is perfect and your times are in my hand,

That hand that holds right hand and calls forth trust, not fear.

So be content that I do not test more than I know you can bear.

It is to bring you daily closer to your Father

He whose love is beyond compare and knows no bounds,

Unlimited, now and for eternity."

Joyce Deaville. August 1969

(Now able to look back and see God's goodness.)

Cornerstone Coffee House

After a hectic December, and a couple of weeks off over new year, we have had been busy in the first few months of 2024. We are pleased to see all our regulars back, both individuals and a groups – including Spanish lessons, chess club, gatherings after sport at the leisure centre, gatherings after church groups as well as those joining us for afternoon teas and birthday parties. We have also been pleased to host St Oswald's Breakfast Church.

It was good to get back to our monthly Supper Club, with a Valentine special in February and an Italian evening in March. Look out for details of Supper Clubs in the next few months.

Shrovetide was busy, with many people joining us for breakfast, On the Wednesday were mentioned on Derbyshire Live when they suddenly realised the ball was on Church Street and rumours abounded that it was outside Cornerstone – within seconds the streets outside were packed – but the ball was nowhere to be seen!

'Too Good To Go', a food waste app that allows businesses to sell unwanted goods at the end of the day, has become popular in Ashbourne. We, at Cornerstone, have been using TGTG since we opened and have been identified as one of the key factors for the growth that has been seen in Ashbourne. It has been good to be a catalyst for this growth in Ashbourne.

'This One Is On Me', a pay forward scheme that enables individuals in need to have free food and drink at Cornerstone, has also been very popular since the new year. Stuart Green social media post about TOIOM was shared by many people and was picked up by the Ashbourne News Telegraph. This led to an excellent

article in the paper, about the scheme, and a lot of interest from local people. If you know of anyone in need of a drink, cake or a meal, for whatever reason, then please call in to Cornerstone and we will be pleased to give you a voucher for them.

We are grateful to all those who support us at the Cornerstone Coffee House and look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks and months.

Paul Taylor

Data Protection Register

Every year we have to submit a report to the Methodist District about our Data Protection position. Essentially that consists of saying that each chapel/church/circuit knows what data is held, by whom and for what purpose. That is any list, paper or electronic, which has peoples' names and information about them such as address, telephone number. email etc.

For our village chapels I suspect that means a list of members and adherents. If any chapel has more than that, will they please let me know by early April so I can talk through the position with them.

For Ashbourne and the circuit there will be a lot more. I will be in touch with all those who I think hold lists of data before the end of March/first week of April. If you hold church related data of any sort and I have not been in touch by then will you please contact me say by April 15

John Hurfurt – 342859 (jandehurfurt@supanet.com)



The Gateway Centre - a year of hospitality

It has been another successful year of providing groups with overnight accommodation at Ashbourne Methodist Church. In 2023 there were over 500 guests. There were schools' groups, uniformed youth organisations, churches, family groups, and outdoors groups here for the walking and cycling. The Centre also provided emergency accommodation for a homeless person for a few cold winter days prior to them finding their next step. The last residential

Thank you for our lovely stay at the Gateway Centre, we all had a wonderful time of fellowship and praising God for His Glory in creation! We will definitely be back.

group will visit us in April before the rooms are cleared ready for the big makeover.

We were also able to host day visitors during the Christmas Day lunch and then again with Peakland Players as they prepared their props. A grateful thank you is extended to everyone who has contributed in any way to this successful venture which launched back in 1980.

The Gateway Centre Management Team

Looking to the future: being salt and light

We meet as a house group on alternate Tuesday afternoons and have been following a Lent study. We were looking at the Bible passage Matthew 5: 1-16 and in particular the verses headed 'Salt and Light' (13-16), thinking about how we can be salt and light in our church and community in Ashbourne.

Here are some comments from our group members-

'Light can be seen over considerable distance. The Church magazine can reach out to visitors picking up a copy. Having reflected on this, it is also on the website, reaching even further.'

'My thought is of a different sort of light; that by being active in the community in a positive way, demonstrating our faith, will lead to questions. These conversations as we give answers, will provide openings to spread the good news.'

'Salt over the centuries has been vital as a way of preserving food, especially for the winters; also, as a way of enhancing flavours. For us, as we preserve our Christian faith, we can always seek new ways to enhance how we put it into practice. The Community

Hub will provide new opportunities to do this and give light to people in different ways.'

'When we had the eclipse, we went to Start Point to watch, with hundreds of other people, watching the sea. It was amazing. Birds flew home to roost; animals went quiet as darkness came. A great shout went up when the sun reappeared. A wonderful experience. The stars came out, their light coming from across the universe to us. Light is very important to us all.

"This little light of mine. Let it shine. Let it shine. You in your small corner and I in mine."

'The definition of a person who is 'the salt of the earth' – historically the purpose of salt was as a preservative, so someone who is the salt of the earth is 'someone who helps to stop the world going bad'.'

'We are called to bring light to this World. But we don't need to be a bright light, like a lighthouse, every day of our lives, as even the dim light of a candle creates light in the darkness. So, like a candle, even a small act of kindness can bring comfort and hope to someone who feels in a dark place.'

'There are lots of things happening in Ashbourne church now which show light to others:

Craft'n'Chat - support and friendship for people of all denominations and none

Afternoon Tea Service: "Easier to invite friends to this service, rather than the morning one" "my friend said they would come again if there was coffee cake!"

Work with children and young people: Welly Club, Muddy Church. Mustard, Open the Book, Advent activities.

Using our prominent position in town to engage with the community: yarn bombing, Link display boards

Offering hospitality: Friendship lunch, Christmas Day meal, the Gateway Centre.'

As a group, we look forward to continuing and developing these activities in our new Link building and pray that we will find new and exciting opportunities to share the love of Christ with our community and to be 'salt and light'.

From the Tuesday afternoon housegroup: 3 Davids, 2 Margarets, Crispin, Susan, John and Helen

Afternoon Tea Service Update

The new Afternoon Tea Service has now run for three months, here is what some of the Congregation members thought about it.

"I have attended two of the three Afternoon tea services. I live in a retirement apartment in Ashbourne and have found it a lovely service to invite other people to. Friends who attend a different denomination or don't go to church at all. Everyone has enjoyed it and asked to return to the next one. Members of the congregation have been very welcoming and friendly. We enjoy the message, hymns and cake."

"My daughter and I enjoy the afternoon tea service very much. It's relaxed, interactive or not, whichever you prefer. The theme is always thought provoking and wonderful worship. It's also an opportunity to get to know others much better. Sometimes, it's a reminder of my Sunday school years stirring lovely memories, reminding

me that in faith and worship there's something for all ages. P.S the cakes are amazing - thanks to the bakers!"

(see back page for photograph)

If you would like any more information or would like to volunteer to help by making a cake or acting as host, please contact Helen Barker 01335 300728

I T Matters

Windows 10 will be coming to its end of life support in October 2025, There are a number of people who will have a computer (PC or laptop) that is running Window 10 and cannot be updated to Windows 11. They will probably be thinking about getting a new machine sometime soon. Many will have a newer model that is either running Windows 11 or capable of being easily upgraded.

The tricky point here is that Microsoft will soon be releasing Windows 12, possibly later this year but probably no later than spring 2025. To make the situation more complicated, it is rumoured that Windows 12 will need computers with at least 16GB of RAM (memory) in order to work with Microsoft's new AI companion called "copilot". This means many newer computers will not be able to be upgraded to Windows 12 should their owners wish to. At best they will need extra RAM modules installed. Confused? So you should be.

The good news is that Windows 11 should be supported by Microsoft until around 2031. So if you have a machine running it or capable of upgrading then stick with it.

If, however, you have an older model, then wait until the release of Windows 12 is announced, to see what its operating requirements actually are, then decide

whether to buy a new computer that will run Windows 12, or one that will just run Windows 11 and will probably be cheaper.

Life was much simpler when we just had pen, pencil and an abacus!

Gareth Rutledge.

Tissington Well Dressing2024

Thursday 9 May -

Wednesday 15 May

Over the period of the Tissington Well Dressing, Tissington Chapel will be open as usual for visitors. Could you welcome them to the chapel during the Well Dressing? Many visitors come into the chapel as they look around the village. We want it to be a time when they can sense the presence of God and enjoy the beauty of God's creation and the peace of the chapel and have the opportunity to take away literature which may be a help in daily living.

Volunteers are needed to help the Tissington congregation to provide a presence at the chapel and be ready to chat.

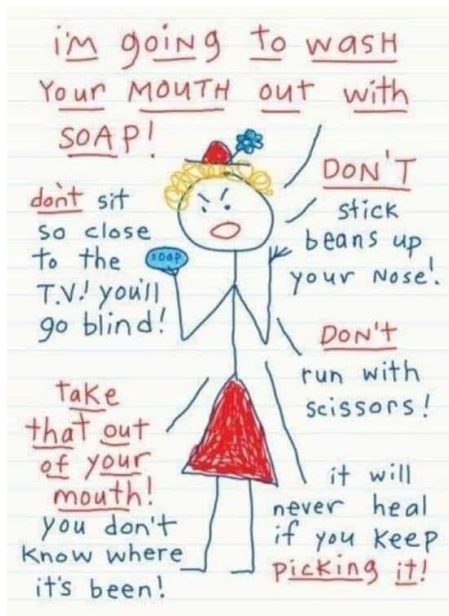
We would welcome anyone from any chapel in the Circuit to help.

There will be a printed sheet to give you information about the chapel.

There will be 2 hour slots from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and we would like to cover **9-14 May**. There will be space for two names for each slot.

Please do sign up in the vestibule at Ashbourne or contact me and I will add your name. *Joyce Odell*
419319





FOR SALE

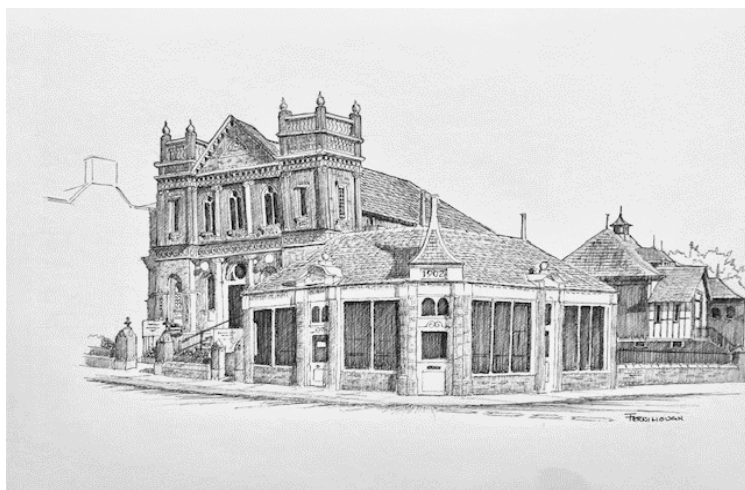
Notelets/cards and 50 limited-edition A3 prints are available to buy, showing a sketch of Ashbourne Methodist Church by local artist Alan Fernihough. The A3 prints are available with a black or white mount (or without a mount if preferred).

Money raised will go to the Link Project.

Cards - £2 each or three for £5.

Limited edition print - £25 each.

Available after the Sunday service or contact Cath Patterson 07803 266 918.



L

Lunch with God

Steven, aged 7, had heard quite a lot about God at Sunday School, and really wanted to meet him. He knew it would be a long trip to where God lived, so he packed some packets of crisps and some cans of lemonade into his backpack and set off down the road.

As he was walking through the park, he saw an old man sitting on a bench, just staring into space. He decided a rest would be nice, so he sat down next to the man, opened his backpack and got out a can of lemonade. He thought the old man looked a bit hungry – well, it was a long while since breakfast time – so he offered him a packet of crisps. The man accepted it gratefully and smiled a BIG smile at Steven. It was such a nice smile that Steven wanted to see it again, so he offered the man a can of lemonade – well, crisps always make you thirsty, don't they?

The man smiled again and Steven was really pleased, so he stayed with the man and they sat there, eating, drinking and smiling for a long time. All afternoon. Eventually it began to get dark, and Steven realised he was tired, and had better get home, but he'd only gone a few steps when he turned round, ran back and gave the old man a huge hug. The man gave him the biggest smile ever!

When Steven got home, his mother was surprised to see the look of joy on his face and asked him what he'd been doing that had made him so happy. "I had lunch with God," he said, "and you know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man went home to his son's house, with a big smile on his face. "Dad," his son said, "what have you done today that made you so happy?"

His father replied, "I had crisps and lemonade in the park with God. You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Do you realise the importance of a smile, a small act of caring, a kind word, a listening ear? Any of these could change someone's life.

Lorraine

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

Please check the website for the most current information,
<https://www.ashbournemethodist.org.uk/news>.

Sunday April 7th

Ashbourne	10:30	Peter Dawson	
	16:30	Cathy Stubbs	Afternoon Tea Service
Brailsford	10:30	Rev David Leese	All Age
Parwich	14:30	Rev David Leese	United service

Sunday April 14th

Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Mark Broadhurst	Communion
Brailsford	10:45	At All Saints	
Kniveton	14:30	Ann Parkinson	

Sunday April 21st

	10:00	Muddy Church	
Ashbourne	10:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	
	18:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	PRAISE, Communion
Brailsford	10:30	Tom Parkinson	
Tissington	10:30	Rev David Leese	Communion

Sunday April 28th

Ashbourne	10:30	Tim Dutton	
Brailsford	10:45	At All Saints	
Kirk Ireton	18:30	Rev Nicola Briggs	Songs of Praise
Kniveton	11:00	Tom Parkinson	

Sunday May 7th

Ashbourne	10:30	Fiona Green	
	16:30	Rev David Leese	Afternoon Tea Service
Brailsford	10:30	Tracy Dawson	All Age
Parwich	14:30	Tim Dutton	

Changes to normal service are in bold

Dates for your diary and your prayers

APRIL

Wed 10th	19:00	Safeguarding Group Leaders meeting
Fri 12th –		Circuit Weekend Away at Swanwick
Sun 14th		
Wed 17th	19:30	Brailsford Church Council
Thu 18th	19:00	Christianity Month launch at Littleover Methodist Church
Sat 20th	10:00	Coffee Morning at Kirk Ireton Chapel
Tue 23rd	10:00	Circuit Leadership Team meeting
Wed 24th	19:30	Ashbourne Annual Church meeting
Sat 27th	10:00	District Synod

MAY

Thu 9th	11:00	Tissington Well Dressing service
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JUNE

Wed 5th	19:00	Summer Service at Milldale Chapel
Wed 12th	19:30	Local Preachers & Worship Leaders meeting
Tue 18th	19:30	Ashbourne Church Council

ADVANCED MODULE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING DATES 2024

There are several training sessions set up for the coming months:

Face to face: 13 April 10:00-14:00 West Hallam, DE7 6JN

Online:	21 May	10:00-12:00
	21 May	19:00-21:00

There is some prior reading to do in preparation for the online training (1-2 hours) which will be sent to you via email.

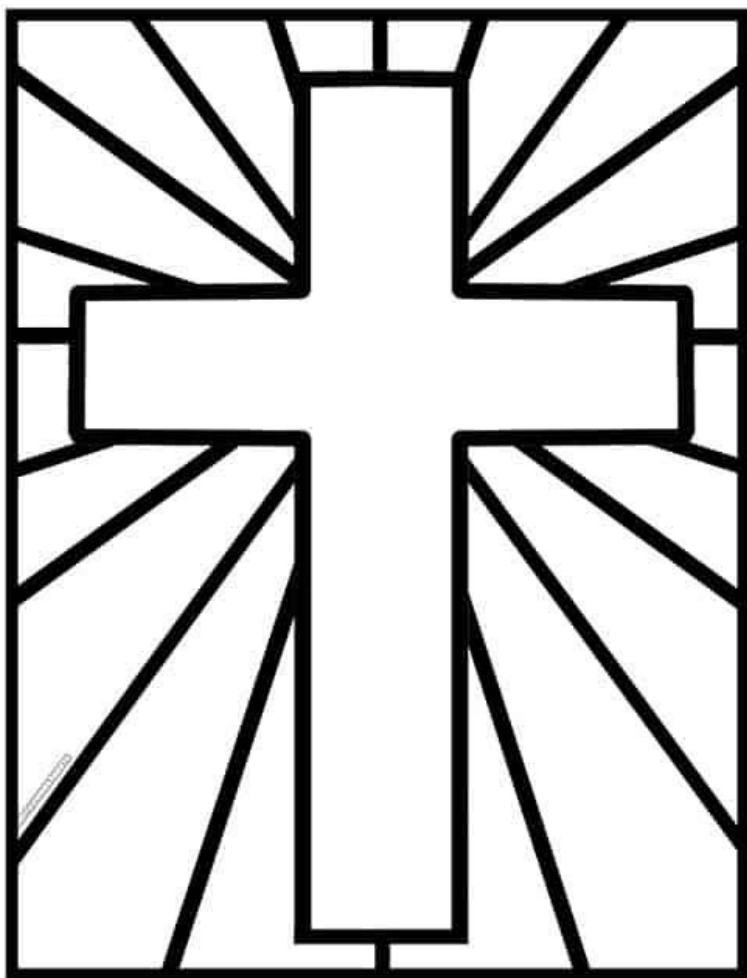
Further details on how to book are on the District website:

<https://www.methodist-nd.org.uk/resources/safeguarding>

Dear All

I trust my first attempt at producing 'Connections' is acceptable and I should like to thank everyone who has assisted and who have written items for inclusion.

Items for the May edition to me at clifflewer@aol.com by 12th April for publication on the 19th April. (This allows distribution prior to the beginning of the Month) Cliff



For you to Colour and place in your window

Afternoon Tea



Gateway Group arrive!!



Alan Fernihough signing sketches