

Connections



**Ashbourne
Methodist
Circuit
August 2025**

Dear Friends of the Ashbourne Methodist Circuit

We are at that time of year that means for some people an opportunity to rest. It might be to take a week or two of holiday, a day or two making new memories, switching off for a few hours to watch a sport of our choosing, or a few minutes pausing admiring the beauty of God's creation around us, watching butterflies on a buddleia or listening to the sounds of children enjoying the paddling pool.

It is essential that we find times of rest in our life, physically, emotionally and spiritually if we are to be as well as possible. As disciples of Jesus we are invited as part of our discipleship journey to find our rest in him. We read the words of Jesus in Matthew's gospel: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matt 11:28-29)

I am aware that across our circuit there are many people currently feeling weary and burdened, or people who are concerned about others who are weary and burdened. We can support our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ by offering our time, abilities, energy and prayers so that they can benefit from the rest Jesus offers. Often just sharing with another person how we are feeling burdened can

relieve pressure as suddenly we are not alone with all that is happening, as the old adage says: a problem shared is a problem halved.

It is impossible to go through life without problems, burdens, or challenges. How we handle these times will depend on our personalities and how willing we are to truly cast our burdens onto Jesus. In this season of summer I pray that you may find rest for your bodies, rest for your minds and rest for your souls. May your burdens be light and may you find fellow disciples to share your burdens with so that you can find your rest in our saviour.

Blessings

Nicola

Ashbourne Circuit Family News for August

Another heat wave is upon us as I write this month's news from around our Circuit. I hope everyone is able to keep cool. I know some folk love this weather but unfortunately I'm not one of them!

August is the time I associate with school holidays and exam results. I hope anyone who is going away has a lovely time. For those anticipating exam results, we

are praying that you get the results you are hoping for, after all of your hard work.

Later this month will be the Ashbourne Show on Saturday 16 August. As a circuit we have a stand and offer a quiet space for a rest and a cup of tea during the busy day. Any offers of help setting up, serving drinks or offering a listening ear will be much appreciated nearer the time.

Good news this month, I am able to share that Cathie and Crispin S are celebrating the safe arrival of a new grandson, Jude John. Congratulations to all.

Sadly, we send our condolences to the family and friends of Margaret Sm who has died. Also to Eric W on the loss of his brother, and to Chris, Nicola and Lisle B on the death of Mum and Grandmother, May.

The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Secretary)

"What's in it for me?" - Inspired by the Iona Community.

When you spend time with the Community at the Abbey on Iona many things affect and influence you. We share meals and prepare and eat food together. This is such a simple 'life giving' activity, but when on the island we are asked to consider carefully how we take and use the Earth's resources, God's given resources. It sounds

simple doesn't it? Where did this food come from? how was this animal treated? Which people were involved in this food system and what of their well being? In the Abbey on Iona you will not find a banana, this is because the Community carefully and prayerfully considers all its purchases and the ethical and environmental impact they make. They haven't been able to find a supplier of bananas that meets their standards, so they don't buy them.

Now, I'm not suggesting we should stop buying bananas (!), but what I am suggesting is that we should be more thoughtful about our weekly shop and a little less blaise as we place items into our shopping trolley. We may feel that buying 'fair trade' food or 'red tractor' meat is enough, I would challenge this and say it isn't, having worked in the food industry for many years these 'badges' can be 'bought' not 'earned'.

What I have been doing for several years is interviewing the butchers that I buy my meat from. Where was this animal living? How far did it travel to the abattoir? You may be surprised by some of our 'local' butchers' answers, And don't be fooled by the words on a restaurant menu 'locally supplied', it can be a local supplier who shipped the meat a long distance.

As stewards of God's creation the ethical use of the Earth's resources must matter to us, we must ask questions and consider carefully as we make our purchases.

Genesis: "our uses of the earth must be designed to conserve and renew it rather than to deplete or destroy it".

Rachel Murt

New Vicar for Ashbourne

The Licensing Service for Reverend Dwane Engh recently appointed Vicar of St Oswald's and surrounding village parish's is scheduled for Monday 15th September at 7pm at St Oswald's Parish Church. A warm invitation to all to welcome Dwane to Ashbourne.

"REFLECTIONS ON REMEMBRANCE"! (Part Two) .

In 1967 I joined the aircraft company "Avro" at Woodford, where the Lancaster bomber was originally designed and built.

Around that factory were, still, in 1967, left over's from the war, there were concrete defensive walls in which aircraft were sheltered, and "pill boxes". One could see the lines of paint where the factory was camouflaged in green and brown, the best part of over twenty plus years had not faded it out.

When I first went on the shop floor as an apprentice, I had to do, (under instruction) my first bit of riveting aluminium. On the rivet gun I used that day it had the word "Lancaster" stamped in the metal. The chap training me said it was used in the war as was as good today as it was then.

As a strategic target one wondered why Avro Woodford was never bombed. One of those around in the war said that there was a very limited way a bomber could attack Woodford.

If it came over the moors area from between Macclesfield and Buxton, the bomb sight would not see the target in time to get a bead on the factory due to the height of the hills overlooking Woodford.

If he came from any other direction, they would be subject to the anti-aircraft batteries around Manchester, Stockport etc.

Later on in my career at Woodford, we often had visits from RAF personnel, who came to look round the aircraft we were, either, repairing, or, building for them at the time. The Shackleton maritime patrol aircraft, (The Shackleton was a direct descendant of the Lancaster) Then the Shackleton's successor, the Nimrod, and, once I had the pleasure of a spell on the Vulcan Bomber.

It was a great pleasure to talk to the RAF personnel, and they were always very kind and supportive of our work.

When some veterans came around the factory around the end of October, and the beginning of November, with the Poppy Appeal, there was always generous giving at Woodford.

Tom Parkinson

Open the Book

The following is an article from Word in Action – Bible Society Summer 2025.

It all started in Dave Todd's lounge in Bradford 25 years ago, and involved a large lion!!

In 1999 Dave recognized that most children were not familiar with Bible stories, and he longed to change that. He wanted to bring Bible stories to life for children in a way that was creative engaging, interactive and fun. He wanted Bibles to be hungrily opened.

So he assembled a small group of Christians in his lounge, unveiled a giant cut out of a lion he had made, and asked, 'How are we going to tell the story of Daniel in the lions den?' Open the book as it became known was born and it grew.

There are now 90 plus scripted Bible stories which also include instructions and reflections and this makes Open the Book an attractive, accountable option for schools as they can know in advance what the children will hear.

Each storytelling session is fun, inspirational, thought-provoking and relevant, and is accessible to those of all faiths and none. The stories are delivered in primary schools with care, prayer and creativity by church volunteers aged 18 – 105. We are blessed with a very active and effective group in our church taking the good news out to local schools and we thank them for the excellent work they do.

Dave passed away in February this year but his legacy continues to grow, there are 18,000 primary schools in England and Wales so there is plenty of room for this exciting outreach to grow. Speak to any of our team if you think you would like to assist)

Looking through the eyes of Jesus

If we could see what Jesus saw,
Would our world remain the same?
Would it change our lives for ever more
And ignite our internal flame?

What we see is governed by Life's up and downs,
No two people will see it the same way.
Through Jesus' eyes we remove the frowns, and bring
clarity to everyday.

We only see what we want to see, Our vision is
selective I'm sure.

Whilst Jesus is seeing the real me,
Right down to my very core.

He looks at people and sees a need
That others have failed to see.
He recognizes a hungry mouth to feed,
and longing to be free.

He sees the pain of loneliness

We sometimes try to hide.

He sees only togetherness,

In his loving arms abide.

He sees the pleading in peoples eyes,

When all their hope has gone.

He is a worthy interpreter of sighs.

He knows what's going on.

He looks on life as through the eyes of a child,

Where love, simplicity and trust are key.

On a world where love always reconciles,

And life stops revolving around 'me me'.

He sees potential everywhere

Not a negative thought resides.

Those hidden depths he is aware,

And so much more besides.

Open our eyes that we might see
The things that Jesus saw.
Open our eyes that we might be,
In a world we can't ignore.

(Taken from – Preaching in Verse by Derek Marshall)



As in Stephen Math (See Genesis 4-6)

05-15

WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES
THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS

In the Garden

On most Gardeners minds at the present time will be the distinct possibility of drought and a hose pipe ban.

Those with gardens with mature shrubs and trees and well established plants will be in a better position, as deep roots find moisture. As for vegetables, annuals, plants in containers and the newly planted, careful husbandry of their needs will be required. Early morning watering is beneficial as plants start to transpire in sunlight. That simply means plants draw water from the soil through their roots which passes up the stems then through the tiny pores on their stems called Stomata. Evening water too is valuable as there is less loss to evaporation.

Containers need watering daily in hot sunny weather but be careful not to waterlog them, throughout the garden be aware of signs of distress, greying, stunting, wilting as these plants need urgent attention, a test to see if roots are getting moisture is to plug down in containers and test and for beds dig a spade deep and test. All veg including potatoes need water when they flower as this is when they set and their fruit produces.

Hanging baskets of 30cm diameter need 160cl or teacup of water a day, this avoids waste from overflow..

Enjoy your garden with care for God's gifts to us.

(taken from another Connections magazine this one on the Isel of Wight)

A man asks a farmer near the field, "Sorry sir, would you mind if I crossed your field instead of going around it? You see, I have to catch the 4:30 PM train." The farmer says, "Sure, go right ahead. And if my bull sees you, you'll even catch the 4 PM one."

John the Baptist

Every morning, I follow the Bible Study which is part of the Methodist Church Resource Hub - available online and recommended. It was by this means I became aware that 24th June is the day on which, each year, the Church celebrates the birth of John the Baptist. The reading for that day is therefore based on Luke's Gospel Chapter 1, verses 57-66.

This reading tells us there was some argument over what the new baby should be called. The angel Gabriel had told his father, Zechariah, that the boy must be named John, but the neighbours and the family all said he should be called Zechariah, after his father – but he soon put them right.

This reminded me of the argument which took place when my elder brother was born. My parents decided he should be called Richard, but my grandfather was very cross – he said the baby should be called John, because that had been a traditional name for Dysters over many generations. He himself was called Ernest Charles, but his father was John.

Unfortunately, my grandfather died before I was born, but my parents decided I should be named John Ernest, which would have pleased him no doubt.

Having remembered this, I then started investigating what the name John means. It is derived from the Hebrew "Yohanan", which means "Yahweh (God) is gracious." The grace of God means his 'unmerited favour' – God giving us better than we deserve. This is well expressed in the letter to the Ephesians 2:8-9: "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God".

I decided the name I had been given by my parents was altogether appropriate.

John Dyster

**Ashbourne Show Saturday 16th August - Circuit Welcome
Marquee**

Helpers needed please:

Setting up, making drinks, serving, chatting, welcoming, clearing up, and lots more.

All offers are very welcome, whether you can offer 30mins or all day, or anything in between. Please do get in touch, and let's make this our biggest welcome yet!

Jane 07712 937168

janebaker67@hotmail.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 27th September **Brailsford Methodist Chapel**

Evening performance, time to be confirmed.

Beyond the Blue performing – Island Spirit

A captivating musical weaving powerful storytelling and emotive songs with vocalist Nina Blaszczyk and Phil Baggaley on guitar.

They have previously performed Turn of the Tide and Broken Instruments at Ashbourne Methodist Church. Both performances were very well received.

Funds raised for Brailsford Chapel



Saturday, 25th October **St. Oswald's Church Hall**

From 2.15 pm performance starts at 3.00pm

Includes Afternoon Tea

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

– Lewis Carroll

presented by Kirk Ireton Lite Program – A recitation for two voices (in a new adaptation by Lewis Hancock); performed by Lewis Hancock and Ron Middleton. Lewis and Ron performed 'A Christmas Carol' at Brailsford in December 2024 which was a great success.

Funds raised for the Link Community Hub Project



Duet for two Kings?

OUR FATHER,

The Lord is my shepherd,

WHICH ART IN HEAVEN,

Therefore can I lack nothing,

HALLOWED BE THY NAME,

He shall feed me in a green pasture,

THY KINGDOM COME,

And lead me forth beside the waters of comfort,

THY WILL BE DONE,

He shall convert my soul,

IN EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN,

And bring me forth in the paths of righteousness,

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD,

For his name's sake,

AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death.

AS WE FORGIVE THEM-

I will fear no evil, for thou art with me,

THAT TRESPASS AGAINST US-

Thy rod and thy staff comfort me,

AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION:

Thou shalt prepare a table before me, against them
that trouble me,

BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL:

Thou hast anointed my head with oil.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM,

And my cup shall be full.

THE POWER AND THE GLORY,

But thy loving kindness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,

FOR EVER AND EVER,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

AMEN.

BRAILSFORD IN JUNE

SUNDAY 1 JUNE

Sixty years ago, on 29th May 1965, two of our longest standing members at Brailsford- John and Chris - were married at Beulah (formerly the Primitive) Methodist Chapel in Ashbourne. It was an absolute joy to celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary during morning worship on Sunday 1st June. Theme for the service led by Rev David, which included some of the wedding hymns, was the legal and emotional basis of a marriage which included interesting real life illustrations (some hard to believe) from his 30 years as a minister. By request, the service ended with the well known tune, Calon Lan.

John and Chris were presented with a voucher and de luxe bouquet as a gift from the congregation.

SUNDAY 29 JUNE

It being a 'fifth Sunday' as is now our custom, we joined with the Brailsford Benefice for a united act of worship in, what seemed to some, an unusual venue - the Saracens Head at Shirley. Worship in a pub? Why not?

Hosted by generous landlord Jamie we arrived to find the bar beautifully laid out and ready with a choice of hot and cold drinks plus a mouthwatering array of delicious melt in the mouth Danish pastries and croissants.

Worship was led by Rev Bex and Rev David ably accompanied by musicians Jonathan and Jane B, Lesley and David all sharing in a mix of songs old and not so old.

Bex encouraged us to share in small groups the phrase, 'The goal of looking back at your story is to trace the hand of God in your life' and having shared experiences together, to 'Learn to walk today where Jesus walked in the service of others'.

David spoke about personal faith, whether it be a 'flash' which disappears in an instant, or a 'flame' which keeps on burning. A slight technical hitch occurred when the smoke alarm responded to the flaming visual aid which

saw Jamie make a hasty retreat to switch off the alarm.
No damage done!

We went home thankful for meeting with our wider fellowship, and so grateful for the wonderful welcome. Here's hoping there will be another visit.

....AND JULY

TUESDAY 1 JULY COFFEE SHOP

Today we were treated to the last visit this academic year of children from Brailsford school. This time it was Mrs Jennings with Pankhurst Class, a mix of Y5 and Y6 pupils plus classroom assistants. As usual, the children sang their hearts out, this time with songs from their upcoming end of term performance, 'The wrong way round', all new to the captive audience of regulars and supporting parents. For the Y6 pupils it was their last visit so we wished them well for the next stage of their education in new schools.

On a personal note, I (Sue) experienced what can only be described as a 'goosebump moment'. Chatting with classroom assistant Mrs Parker before the singing began, it transpired that both my husband and her mother are supernumerary Methodist ministers. Mrs Parker - Pamela - is the daughter of Rev Hazel Humphries, well known to at least some readers of this magazine. However, my 7/8 year old self knew Hazel and Stephen very well way back in the early 1960's at Etwall Methodist chapel. Hazel often came to help my then expectant Mum and or babysit myself and younger brother. My younger sister and Pamela's older sister are very similar in age. It's a small world! And a real Methodist 'connection'.

And one last thing... we have a double celebration!
On 27th July, another of our Brailsford couples, Peggy and George, celebrate their Diamond Wedding anniversary which will be the focus of our 3rd August service.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow - Sue Leese

LINK Construction Update - June 2025 – Update 3 The ceiling repairs and high-level redecorating have been completed in Trinity Hall. The large internal scaffolding has come down. The opening from Trinity Hall into the Link foyer is complete (temporarily sheeted over until the Link is ready). The new radiators are installed (temporarily boxed in to protect them). The temporary kitchen and accessible toilet (under the balcony) for Cornerstone's temporary home are well progressed

To secure the highway retaining wall a concrete wall has to be added. The shuttering and preparations are complete - ready for the concrete to be poured

Ashbourne Circuit Church Services

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

SUNDAY JULY 20TH

Ashbourne	10:30	Tim Dutton	All Age
	18:30	Lorraine Hawkins	PRAISE

Brailsford 10:30 Ann Parkinson

Tissington 10:30 Tracy Dawson

SUNDAY JULY 27TH

Ashbourne 10:30 Allan Shaw

Brailsford 15:00 At All Saints

Kirk Ireton 18:30 Tom Parkinson

Kniveton 11:00 Rev John Hellyer Holy Communion

SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD

Ashbourne 10:30 Lorraine Hawkins

16:30 Paul Taylor Tea Service

Brailsford 10:30 Rev David Leese All Age

Parwich 14:30 Rev Nicola Briggs Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6TH

Milldale 19:00 Tim Dutton Summer Service

SUNDAY AUGUST 10TH

Ashbourne 10:30 Rev Nicola Briggs Holy Communion

Brailsford 10:45 At All Saints

Kniveton 14:30 John Dyster

SUNDAY AUGUST 17TH

Ashbourne 10:30 Diana Whitmill

18:30 Peter Dawson PRAISE

Brailsford 10:30 Rev John Hellyer Holy Communion

Tissington 10:30 Rev Nicola Briggs Chapel Anniversary, Holy Communion

SUNDAY AUGUST 24TH

Ashbourne 10:30 Peter Dawson

Brailsford 15:00 At All Saints

Kirk Ireton 18:30 Cathy Stubbs

Kniveton 11:00 Rev Andy Fyall

SUNDAY AUGUST 31ST

Ashbourne 10:30 @ Brailsford Institute Circuit Service

Brailsford 10:30 Rev Bex Allpress & United Service at
Rev David Leese Brailsford Institute,
Circuit Service

Dates for your diary and your prayers

AUGUST

Sat 2nd ACT Summer Fun Day, Ashbourne

Wed 2nd 19:00 Milldale Summer Service

Sat 16th 9:00 Ashbourne Show @ Osmaston Polo Ground

SEPTEMBER

Wed 3rd 19:30 Local Preachers & Worship Leaders meeting

Sat 13th 10:00 District Gathering with business of Synod at
Grantham, "How to avoid Mission Drift"

Mon 15th 19:00 Licensing Service for Reverend Dwane Engh
at St Oswald's Church

Sat 20th & President and Vice President of Conference
Sun 21st in the Notts & Derby District

OCTOBER

Tue 14th 19:30 Ashbourne One Church Circuit Meeting and
Church Council, at St Oswald's Hall

Sat 18th 10:00 Advanced Safeguarding training at Midway,
Swadlincote DE11 7NE

NOVEMBER

Tue 25th 19:30 Local Preachers & Worship Leaders meeting

Wed 26th 19:30 Ashbourne One Church Circuit Meeting and
Church Council

The Methodist Diary 2026 – last chance

An order for copies of the Methodist Diaries will be sent off over the summer. The cost is £11.00 for the bound version or the personal organiser version. It runs from September 2025 to August 2027, with blank interleaving pages each week during 2026 for notes. The colours this year are red or charcoal. If you would like a copy, please contact Carole Thorpe on 346535, cethorpe@hotmail.com or at 12 Cavendish Drive, Ashbourne DE6 1SR.

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2025/2026 – last chance

Our Story, Our Song

An order for copies of the A5 Methodist Prayer Handbook will be sent off over the summer. This resource will help you with your prayer life and the cost is about £4.15. Large print versions are available. If you would like a copy, please contact Carole Thorpe on 346535, cethorpe@hotmail.com or at 12 Cavendish Drive, Ashbourne DE6 1SR.

I am grateful to Mark Eden for providing photographs for the Magazine this month from Anglesey, front cover is Our Lady Star of the Sea, built in the 1930's and representing the upturned hull of a ship, or the back page is the Pied Wagtail and South Stack Lighthouse.

September edition of the Connections Magazine has a deadline of the 10th August, the month has 5 Sundays but the Circuit Stewards request the magazine is distributed in time for the third Sunday.

Contributions please to clifflewer@aol.com



