

# Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit

Ashbourne, Brailsford, Kniveton, Kirk Ireton, Tissington, Parwich, Milldale.



Sunset over Leek

# Connections June 2026



Phakimisa Ladies known as Gogos

Dear friends in the Ashbourne One Church Circuit and beyond

Last month I spoke about Spring and as I write this letter the summer sun has appeared, bringing warmth and a more relaxed atmosphere. As the sun shines brightly, it brings a welcomed change of pace; longer days, holidays, and opportunities to enjoy the beauty and wonder of God's creation. Yet, it can also become a chaotic season as we try to see more people, offer help with childcare, hide from all the mowers because of hay fever or try and fit more things into the extra daylight hours. Given all the busyness of recent weeks and months across the circuit perhaps this summer we could be intentional about finding some Holy Rest, not just taking a break from work or the usual day to day activities but refreshing our souls in our Saviour.

Jesus invites us, as he did the first disciples, saying: Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28) This summer may be the perfect time to slow down and embrace this promise Jesus makes to us. Whether we find ourselves at the beach, in the dales or the valleys, in the mountains or simply enjoying a walk in our neighbourhood, we can take time to look for God's glory in the nature around us. Let the warmth of the sun remind us of God's love and the beauty of creation remind us of God's care. Wherever we are, we can savour our Creator God.

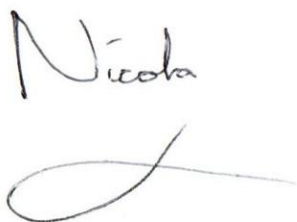
Holidays are wonderful, but please do not take a holiday from church. While you may not be in your usual church, try and make an effort to find a church on your travels. It is an opportunity to let others serve and for us to receive; and we can pick up hints and tips to bring home and introduce to our churches here. Regular worship, regardless of the season, strengthens our spiritual life and can be much more restful when we do not have responsibility. Remember within the circuit we will have monthly summer worship at Milldale (9<sup>th</sup> June, 14<sup>th</sup> July, 11<sup>th</sup> August all at 7pm).

We know that for some people too much free time can lead to disengagement. This was evidenced in the pandemic when suddenly so much stopped. If we are taking a break from the usual activities why not use the time to dig into a new Bible study, read a Christian book, or seek ways to serve others in a new way. The warmer months can give us an opportunity to grow in our discipleship.

Life can change suddenly and bring joy or unexpected challenges. If this is the place we currently find ourselves in, take comfort that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). When life is relaxed and when life is hectic, God is constant.

As we move into summer let us make this a time of intentional, faith-filled refreshment. Let us enjoy the blessings of the season, but keep our hearts anchored in Jesus.

Blessings to you and all who you love this summer!

A handwritten signature in black ink. The name 'Nicola' is written in a cursive style. Below the name is a large, decorative flourish consisting of a long, sweeping horizontal line that loops back under itself.

### **Church Family News June 2026**

Well, we are finally back 'home' after nearly two years of worshipping elsewhere. What a joy it was to be at the very first service at Ashbourne in the new Trinity Hall! It was a very moving and special time for all of us. I was actually quite pleased not to have had a 'sneak preview' during the rebuilding process.

Although I had seen photos, attending on that Sunday made a real impact on me: walking in through the new entrance into the atrium and then up into the worship space. ( I even had a cheeky ride up in the lift!) A very big thank you to all the team who have worked tirelessly over so many years to bring this project to fruition.

It was also good to see so many people worshipping there. Faces old and new. Let's pray for the work still to be completed and also the future of the Link Centre

in Ashbourne: for the varied activities already being planned and the many outreach possibilities.

Amidst all this, we continue to remember that many of our church family are finding life difficult with many challenges. We continue to hold in prayer all who are unwell, anxious about treatments or results, bereavement and loneliness. This month we think especially of Brian H, Chris D, Diane P, Kay O, Liz & Steve H, and Margaret He. We also pray for those who are preparing for and sitting their exams at school, college and university.

In other family news, it is good to report that Brian and Lorraine are settled into their new home in Ashbourne. Also many congratulations to Margaret Ha who celebrated her 90th birthday on 16 May. It is also lovely to share the news of the forthcoming wedding of Amanda and James' daughter Emily and her fiance Adam. They are getting married on 26.6.26! We wish them every happiness on their special day and in their future life together.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral secretary 10.05.26)

### **Romans 8:28**

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

## **A Prayer for Healing**

Sickness or injury can to all of us, and we can feel Powerless in the face of them. God invites us to pray to him for healing and the strength to carry on.

When his people pray for help, he listens and rescues them from their troubles. The Lord is there to rescue all who are discouraged and have given up hope.  
Psalm 34:17-18

I am the Lord who heals you  
Exodus 15:26.

Lord bring healing,  
Wholeness of heart, mind and body.  
Restore strength, renew hope,  
In your mercy, Lord deliver us.

**I am slow to recognize** that everyone has passing flashes of doubt. Yet it is only in confronting my doubts, in being totally honest to myself, that I can work through to eliminate the emotions and fear which would underline my faith,  
The darkest hour is just before dawn – and dawn will come: the eternal law of day and night will not fail – neither will Eternal Love which holds my life.

## At Day's End

Is anybody happier you passed their way?  
Doe anyone remember that you spoke to them today?  
The day is almost over and its tolling time is through;  
Is there anyone to utter a kindly word of you?  
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's  
slipping fast,  
That you helped a single brother or sister of the many  
you passed?  
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;  
Does the person whose hopes were fading, now with  
courage will look ahead?  
Did you waste the day or lose it? Was is well or sorely  
spent?  
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of s  
Discontent?  
AS you close your eyes in slumber, do you think God  
will say,  
''You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you  
did today?

Author unknown

I just realised that the wipes they give you at the  
Petrol station are for wiping your tears when you see  
to amount to pay!!

I was attacked by a flock of sheep this morning, I was  
only grazed, I was very lucky I wasn't fleeced, but I  
did get rammed



I was going to patent a method of re using tea bags, but, Tetley have taken out a restraining order against me.

**This article is reprinted because it got part chopped during editing in May.**

### **In Kenya - When is a cow not a cow?**

In 2018 I visited The Church of Mbungoni in rural Kenya. The Church is close to Ribe near Mombasa. Ribe is the birthplace of the Methodist Church in Kenya, established in 1862 by British missionaries led by Thomas Wakefield.



I have written on the subject before of how I came to visit the church, the debt my family owed and how I was introduced to Edwin Lenga, through Onesmus and his connection with Arthur and Joy Watts. I wont bore you again here with that, enough to say Ashbourne Methodist Church Circuit has strong ties to the Methodist One Church of MBungoni and it is a mission partner with our Church.

Since 2018 myself and a group of three have supported 7 children through secondary school and onto University. (*Note: University Fees are aprox £2k per annum including accomodation etc, secondary school Fees are aprox £300 per year (£100 per term)*)

Perilla Mwangawe – 3 years study in clinical medicine (*completed in 2021*)

Edward Mshanga – 4 years study Maths teacher (*completed in 2025*)

George Mwachambi – 4 years Ribe secondary school (*ongoing*)

Charity Dzidza – 4 years study BA with education (*ongoing*)

Stessy Sidi - 4 years study BA with education (*ongoing*)

Zuhura Kwe Kwe – 4 years Ribe Secondary School (*ongoing*)

Saumu Mwandogo – 3 years Diploma in Computer Science (*ongoing*)

I could tell you many stories about each of these children, how Perilla's father died of Aids and her Mother was left without income or home. How George had to learn to 'walk wearing shoes' as part of his school uniform. Stessy was born out of marriage and has struggled to find her place in the world. Zuhura's mother divorced her abusive father and left with the 4 children; Zuhura had to be cared for by her Aunt's family for a short time who were not supportive of the Church and would find 'work' for her to do on Sunday mornings; Zuhura's younger sister has been 'married off'. Charity is the first girl of her family to

attend university. The list goes on and it would break even the stoniest of hearts (even mine!).



Perilla

Edward

Zuhura+Mum

Charity

Stessy

**And they are not alone in their stories.** My journey began in supporting these childrens' education but over the years, working with Edwin, we have achieved much more, together we have put up a Church roof, refurbished school buildings and with support from AMC we have rebuilt a toilet block.



All of this began from a small step of blind faith to work with a man I did not know, in a country I had never visited, linked by our faith and our belief that we are all one family.

But the reality is that Edwin is now retired from work and I am creeping up the age ladder, together we have achieved amazing things and we would like to see this continue. Edwin and I believe that the way forwards is to establish a ‘fund’ at his church which is to be used solely for the education of children who’s family cannot afford the fees. This can be done in two parts, **part 1** – start up donations **part 2** – a source of income generation. After discussing with the Church Elders, Edwin has come with the idea of purchasing a mini bus for the Church which could be used in the rural area to provide transport and the income from

the fares would be set aside for the School Education Fund. This would provide a benefit to all who live in the area.

Another idea is to purchase a 'walking tractor', all of the farming in the rural area the church serves is done manually or with hired tractors which can be expensive for the farmers, a walking tractor could be hired out and the fees used for the education fund.



I would welcome support from our Church family for these ideas and for advice on 'next steps' on how to achieve their goal.

**So when is a cow not a cow?** Well, when it's a term's fees for a young man at University! Edwin contacted me recently to tell me that a man needed to sell a cow urgently to cover his son's fees. So, Derek and I now own a cow in Kenya that Edwin is looking after, she is due to give birth shortly and her calf is to be called 'Rachel', the cow is called 'Derek' 😊

*P.S. since I wrote this article, we have taken on secondary education support for a further girl, Lilian Mwinzi Riah, and I am delighted to confirm that our church family has been able to provide funds to pay her arrears and secure her funding for the next term's fees.*

## **A prayer for Peace**

Heavenly Father

Today we pray for peace in our world – across every city, town and village. Where there is hostility, bring peace.

Where there is division, bring unity. Where there is hatred bring love, Where there is suffering bring healing. And where there is hardness of heart, bring mercy and forgiveness.

We pause and pray – **Lord bring your peace.**

Amen

The terminus

Is not where we stay

It is the beginning

Of a new journey

It is where we

Reach out beyond,

Where we experience

New adventures.

It is where we get off

To enter new territory,

To explore new horizons,

To extend our whole being.

It is a place

Touching the future.

It opens new vistas.

It is the gateway

To eternity

## **BRAILSFORD COFFEESHOP**

The Tuesday morning regulars always look forward to a visit from the local schoolchildren.

Most recently we were joined by Miss Moore and Austen class plus parent supporters.

As usual the children sang a selection of songs they have been learning this term, this time all unaccompanied under the expert guidance of Miss Moore. As usual, they 'sang their hearts out'. It was an interesting repertoire!

1 Sisi sisi dolada - a Congolese folk song, popularised by a Belgian priest, impressively performed as a 3 part round

2 Hey ho, nobody knows- this time a 2 part round

3 Siyahamba - a South African hymn in Zulu language, which you may also know as

We are marching in the Light of God

4 Rocky Mountain

5 Be a peace maker

6 I believe in me - a song they sing at Celebration  
Collective Worship

The last verse goes like this,

'I will rise to every challenge

Be the best I can be

For I believe in me

I believe in me'

It was a pleasure and a privilege to share in their sheer delight in singing.

The 'icing on the cake', overheard by myself and another helper, was a throwaway remark by one of the children.

On exiting the chapel, one of the mums was by the door.

As her child passed by, these words were unashamedly said, "I love you Mummy."

What a goosebumps moment as they went on their way.

We look forward to the next visit in June.

Sue Leese

## **GOD IS GOOD**

Many of you will know that both Brian and I feel that God has been good to us throughout our lives – even in the days when we didn't really know him and what he was up to!

If anyone hasn't heard the amazing story of how he brought the two of us together, ask me – I don't want to bore all those who do know the story by repeating it yet again. We soon realised that he brought us together to work for him as a couple, taking services, working in prayer ministry, and caring for people.

Trying to sell our house in Alstonefield eight years ago was rather a long and trying process, but God gave me great peace of mind, despite everything, and we have been very happy in the bungalow that we were eventually able to move to in Ashbourne. Towards the end of last year, Brian was taken ill and spent ten days in hospital, where he received wonderful care, and the follow-up has been amazingly good, although his health has deteriorated a little since then.

Then our landlord told us he needed to sell the bungalow, so we had to leave. This was rather a shock, but somehow God gave me peace of mind as I searched for somewhere else for us to live. With the help of God (and maybe a little help from an old friend), we have come to live in the perfect property, with wonderful neighbours, in the perfect location – a secret garden in the centre of Ashbourne. And God cares about the tiny details, too – ours is the only one of ten properties that has a ramp to the front door!



As you can imagine, sorting/dumping/giving away so much stuff that couldn't come with us was a huge job, but God sent angels in the form of our neighbours, who we hadn't known well before this. They really rose to the occasion and put in hours and hours of work helping me – I couldn't have done it without them. Several other angels appeared (mostly in the form of strong men!) when we were really struggling.

Yes, I had lots of offers of help from so many of you, for which I'm really grateful, and please don't be offended if I turned you down, but there just wouldn't have been room for anyone to move if I'd accepted all your offers! It's amazing to be part of such a loving, caring, supportive church family.

In the few days since we moved in we have been rather overwhelmed with visits from doctor, nurses, occupational therapists, physios, all of them lovely people, very helpful, and here so quickly I could hardly keep up. I know the NHS has its faults, but I certainly can't criticise their care of Brian. Social Services are about to start helping, too.

We are so very blessed, and know that God has been behind it all. God is good!

*Lorraine Hawkins*

I have received the latest edition of the **Phakamisa** newsletter, the highlights of which are summarised below to give you a flavour of all that is done by this Ministry of Pinetown Methodist Church of South Africa.

If you would like me to email you the complete document, please ask me.

### **Care Givers Programme**

These are economic empowerment projects for young people and Grannies with childcare responsibilities (Gogos) which serve as a vital resource of the community as well as providing participants with financial independence.

**Sewing** - gives practical and marketable skills whilst learning to make school uniform, graduation gowns, bags and cushions.

**Beadwork**- in addition to providing a source of income by making earrings, necklaces, ankle bands and book marks, this activity provides the opportunity to develop creativity and preserve cultural heritage.

**Cooking and baking**- this programme teaches how to make better food choices by providing hands on training in healthy cooking and baking.

The uptake of training in early childhood development training and enrolment at the wandering schools has dropped this year. The Early Childhood Development Centres continue to provide high quality care and education.

## **Use of Funds to meet local needs**

Such as flood repairs, essential routine maintenance provision of petty cash to enable teachers to respond to small urgent needs and the installation of a water tank to help with the ongoing scarcity of water.

## **Partnership development**

Phakamisa now collaborates with the KwaDabeka Clinic to provide essential deworming and immunisation services.

## **Local support**

Phakimisa continues to be supported by the congregation in particular by the provision of essential food supplies for the children.

Helen Barker

( see inside front page for photos)

## **Proverbs 24 – rescue the perishing**

If you fall to pieces in a crisis  
There wasn't much to you in the first place

Rescue the perishing  
Don't hesitate to step and help  
If you – Hey – that's none of my business  
Will that get you off the hook?  
Someone is watching you closely, you know  
Someone is not impressed with weak excuses.

Eat honey dear child – it is good for you –  
And delicacies that melt in your mouth  
Likewise knowledge  
And wisdom for your soul-  
Get that and your future is secured,  
Your hope is on solid rock

Don't interfere with good people's lives  
Don't try and get the best of them  
No matter how many times you trip them up  
God loyal people don't stay layed down long;  
Soon there are on their feet  
Whilst the wicked end up flat on their faces

Don't laugh when your enemy falls  
Don't crow over his collapse  
God might see and become very provoked  
And then take pity on his plight.

Don't bother your head with braggarts  
Or wish you could succeed like the wicked  
Those people have no future at all  
They're headed down a dead end street.

Fear God dear child – respect your leaders  
Don't be defiant or mutinous  
Without warning your life can turn upside down  
And who knows how or when it might happen?



# District Safeguarding Conference 2026

**'Celebrating the Gift of Difference'**

with a focus on Neurodiversity



Date

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2026



Location

Littleover Methodist Church, Derby



Time

10.00am - 1.00pm



Booking

Scan the QR code or visit:

<http://bit.ly/4d3KXQy>



## **REFLECTIONS.**

Just after the euphoria of the Apollo Moon Landing programmes died down. It had been discovered previously that if two rockets were launched at a certain time, the outer planets, Jupiter, Saturn, etc, would be aligned in a certain way, and a probe would be able to be launched and set on a certain path that all the outer planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, would be able to be visited and photographed, using the gravity assist to "fling" the probes onto each planet in turn, saving fuel and making the mission feasible with the current technology of the day.

One of which launched on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1977, a Titan3E carried the probe called, Voyager One, into the skies and into space on the start of an immense journey. On what was known as the "Grand Tour" of the outer planets, Jupiter, Saturn etc, Voyager 2 flew by Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.  
(See the image of Voyager One below.)



At the time of writing this (24. 04. 2026.) Voyager One is 48 years 227 days into the mission.

It is still working, recently some instruments have been switched off to save power, but every so often a signal goes from Earth and, basically says, "Have you any data for us"?

Hours later it reaches the spacecraft. And it replies, "Yes, here is some", and sends a signal back to Earth

Voyager One is now outside the solar system, it is also outside the Heliosphere, that ball of gas and radiation the Sun radiates out from its surface.

This year, in November 2026, a significant milestone will be reached. Voyager One will reach the milestone of ONE LIGHT DAY distance from Earth!

Just to give an example of that distance, and speed. At that speed, it takes a second and a half to pass the

Moon, 20 minutes for Mars, Jupiter 45 minutes, Saturn, One hour thirty, Pluto, Five and a half hours!

One of the benefits of the farm is the "dark skies" we have, and I often look out on a cloudless night to see the stars.

If I have a visit to the bathroom during the night, while my eyes are "adapted" to the darkness, and, if it is a clear night, I have a look through the window at the night sky and wonder at it all, and, often quote the Psalmist, "*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence!*"

In approximately 20,000 years, Voyage One will enter the Constellation of Ophiuchus!

I know I will not be around then, (well, not in any mortal form that is!) But I believe with all my heart, that our God will be there for, again to quote and paraphrase another Psalm,

*O Lord, Our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the Universe"*

God Bless you all.

**Tom**

**Parkinson**

**Yes, Yes** you were right, the front cover of the May edition was a photograph looking over Brassington.

Mark Eden has again provided the photographs for the front and rear of this magazine – we are grateful for his skills and generosity

## **The Journey**

**(Every journey begins with a first step – Margaret Silf)**

We may ask ourselves, 'Why am I here? Where am I going? What is my destination?.'

These are essentially spiritual questions to which we are all seeking answers.

When I was in my mid twenties I seemed to have everything – a good job, a new car, and my first house – and yet part of me remained unsatisfied. I found myself thinking that there had to be more to life than material possessions; there was something I was missing, I didn't realise it then but what I was searching for was a spiritual dimension to my life. But it was only when tragedy struck my family that my real search began.

*Show me your ways O Lord,  
Teach me your paths .. for you are God my Saviour  
And my hope is you all day long  
(Basil Hume)*

*Whether you turn to the right or the left  
Your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying  
This is the way walk in it  
Isaiah 30;21*



## **The Link**

Weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> May will see the first events being held at The Link Centre, Ashbourne's new community hub.

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, the venue will host the unveiling of Stitching Ashbourne, a major new community artwork celebrating the people, places and stories of Ashbourne. This large-scale textile installation has been created by over 200 local participants who joined in workshops over recent months organised by Every Stitch A Story

On the same day, the atrium will be open to the public and the Century Hall will be used by Cosy Bike & Hike's 'Amble to Ashbourne' fundraising walk which supports Derbyshire Children's Holiday Centre and Derby Kids' Camp.

Ashbourne Methodist Church will be holding its Sunday morning service in Trinity Hall at 10.30am, with worship choices suitable for all ages and featuring a teddy bear's picnic.

Local people are invited to join a Dementia Friends Session on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May. During this friendly and interactive session, you'll learn more about dementia, how it affects a person and what you can do to help people affected by dementia in your community.

Later in May, an award-winning chocolatier, David Greenwood-Haigh, will be talking all things chocolate at a free event organised by Ashbourne Methodist Church as part of Christianity Month. This event will take place on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Ticketing information for all events can be found on The Link Centre's website at [www.ashbournelink.org.uk](http://www.ashbournelink.org.uk)

The Link Centre will be opening fully to the public in the coming weeks.

All of the work is part of Ashbourne Reborn - you can find out more about the programme which is funded by UK Government at [www.ashbournereborn.co.uk](http://www.ashbournereborn.co.uk)

**Please see inside of the rear cover for photos relating to this article.**



**THE LINK CENTRE  
& GATEWAY LODGE**

### **Sales & Marketing Update**

Behind the scenes, much work has been happening as we prepare for the Link Centre and Gateway Lodge to open. Below are some of the highlights.

Amanda, Centre Manager and Amy, Centre Administrator have completed their first month and they have been busy setting up all the sales office procedures. By the time this issue of Connections comes out, we will have hosted our first event in Trinity Hall and had our first group staying in Gateway Lodge.

We have already taken some great bookings from local organisations wanting to hire the three halls. We also have many pending enquiries with people wanting to

see the various spaces before planning to use the venue.

Hosting live performances and events will be an important part of the Link Centre and we now have 15 events listed on the website. Please do take the opportunity to view these events on [ashbournelink.org.uk/whats-on/](http://ashbournelink.org.uk/whats-on/). You can also buy tickets online.

In the second half of May we have three whole hostel bookings in Gateway Lodge and it's great that two of these groups are previous users. They are very excited to see the changes. From the beginning of June we are taking individual bookings and we have had our first overseas booking from Belgium ! If you have family or friends coming to stay and you need extra space, rooms at Gateway Lodge can be booked online on [ashbournegateway.org.uk](http://ashbournegateway.org.uk).

Hub Planning Team



## **The Woman of Samaria**

I know a woman of Samaria  
(Samaria is everywhere these days)  
Who went to draw water from the well,  
And heard that Jesus was coming  
To the well on a certain day,  
Especially to see her.

The woman sent him a message:  
'Master this is a great honour!  
I'm overwhelmed by your kindness!  
#This well is a very busy place  
But I shall be here all day  
With a banquet prepared in your honour'

When the morning arrived she was ready,  
And as usual, the place was busy.  
Over 300 people came to the well that day.  
Some looked at her banquet hungrily.  
But she chased them away  
And kept watch for her special visitor.

He didn't arrive.  
There was no sign of him all day.

Disappointed and a little angry,  
She sent he another message:  
'Master what happened to you?  
You said you were coming to visit me  
At the well'.

Jesus sent a message back to her:

'I did. I was there more than 300 times'

The woman thought deeply on this,  
Then wrote to him again:  
'Dear Jesus, please in future  
When you come to see me,  
Will you tell me who you are?'

I don't think she got an answer to that one.

### **When I was a lad at school – Matthew 4 v 23-25**

During the COVID pandemic arguably the most controversial aspect was the disruption the education system. My daughter who is a teacher, was explaining to me her new role of teaching on line using her laptop and the internet rather than the classroom. While we were talking my grandson was addressing complicated mathematical equations on his lap top as part of his on line school studies.

I started to think about my recollections of school life in the late 1950's. My laptop at the time was a chalk board which was kept in a box by the classroom door. Next to the chalk boards was a biscuit tin full of chalk sticks which we used to copy the letters of the alphabet, written out by the teacher on the blackboard at the front of the class. When we had filled our chalk boards with letters we would wipe it with the sleeve

our jumper and start again. At the end of the lesson the chalk boards went back from whence they came. There was a multitude of class monitors, pencil monitor, book monitor, milk monitor, but the favourite was undoubtedly the bell monitor whose job was to ring the bell at playtime – this was always a girl – never me!! And it left me with a complex about ringing bells.

Sometime we would have a visit from the school nurse and we all had to queue up in the hall for her whilst she rummaged through our hair, looked in our ears and at our finger nails. The school nurse always had a funny look on her face like she had encountered a bad smell.

Play time was good and we could run round and let off steam with our top button of our coat fastened round our neck letting the coat flow out and we could be the Lone Ranger.

Some of the older boys would bring something into school and start a craze, like a whip and top which was confiscated as too dangerous as was the magnifying glass which we could use the sun rays to melt the paint on the school window!

Conker competitions did take place with the Conker soaked in vinegar and cooked in the oven at home. I always found it strange that we had to put our chairs on top of our desks – this would at other time of day a criminal offence! It never entered my head that it was to assist the cleaner, I thought it was some sort of secret ritual.

In Paul's letter to the churches in Rome and Corinth he stresses the importance of learning from the Gospels

and emphasises to the believers that their faith cannot be strong without the knowledge and wisdom attained from the teaching of Jesus Christ. There is no better source of Jesus's teaching than the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew was a Jew writing for the Jews explaining Jesus's teaching on a way of life that will be righteous in the eyes of God. These include the Beatitudes teaching about the law, teaching about anger, adultery, divorce, vows, revenge, love, charity, prayer, riches in heaven and possessions. Most important are Jesus's teaching of salvation and the Good News of everlasting life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

No wonder Paul puts so much emphasis on the need to learn through the Gospel.

*The great thing about school was that you mixed with all sort of characters, some were good influence and some were not so good. It is part of te growing up process to separate the two extremes and feed from the positive while rejecting the negative. One thing is for certain that learning is nota process that is just for schools, it is a process that continues throughout life. (Taken from 'Thoughts from a Garden Seat')*

*To the Greedy and comfortable – **Jesus Said** – Give the money to those who are poor.*

### **Follow me**

Live Generously

As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him. He fell on his knees before Jesus. 'Good Teacher' he said 'what must I do to receive eternal life'

Jesus answered ' You know what the commandments say, Do not Murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not be a false witness, Do not cheat, Honour your father and Mother'

'Teacher' he said 'I have obeyed all those commandments since I was a boy'

Jesus looked at him and loved him ' You are missing one thing' he said ' Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me'

The man's face fell. He went away sad, because he was very rich.

(Mark 10:17, 19-22 NIV)

**The next edition of Connections will go to press on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026 so this is the deadline for all contributions – please hand to Cliff Lewer or email to [clifflewer@aol.com](mailto:clifflewer@aol.com)**



## Dates for the Diary – Services

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

### **Christianity Month - Love**

- |                       |       |   |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| Ashbourne             | 10.30 | Fiona Green and Ruth Barratt<br>Lorraine Hawkins and Stuart Green     |
| Ashbourne             | 18.30 | Jeff Ffoulkes - Praise  |
| Brailsford            | 10.30 | Ann Parkinson   |
| Tissington            | 10.30 | Revd Nicola Briggs<br>Holy Communion                                  |
| Tissington<br>Village | 15.30 | Songs of Praise with<br>Ashbourne Town Band and<br>Revd Nicola Briggs |

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

### **Christianity Month – Pentecost**

- |             |       |  |
|-------------|-------|--|
| Ashbourne   | 10.30 | Revd Nicola Briggs and Jeff Ffoulkes<br>Becky and Tim Dutton |
| Brailsford  | 15.00 | Revd Bex Allpress at All Saints                              |
| Kirk Ireton | 18.30 | Revd John Hellyer  |
| Kniveton    | 11.00 | Revd Mark Broadhurst   |

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

### **Christianity Month - Trinity**

- |                       |       |  |
|-----------------------|-------|--|
| Ashbourne<br>Rutledge | 10.30 | Lorraine Hawkins and Gareth<br><br>Altogether Worship        |
| Brailsford            | 10.30 | Revds Bex Allpress and Nicola Briggs<br>Wyaston Village Hall |

Pastries and Praise (from 10am)

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

**Bible Month 1**

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs and Stuart Green  
Tim and Becky Dutton  
Holy Communion

Ashbourne 16.30 Cathy Stubbs, Afternoon Tea

Brailsford 10.30 Tom Parkinson

Parwich 14.30 Revd Nicola Briggs  
Chapel Anniversary, United Service

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

Milldale 19.00 Peter Dawson

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June**

**Bible Month 2**

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd John Hellyer and Gareth  
Rutledge  
Catherine Green and Lorraine  
Hawkins

Brailsford 10.45 All Saints

Kniveton 14.30 Diana Whitmill

Muddy 10.00 Ashbourne area

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

**Bible Month 3**

Ashbourne 10.30 Diana Whitmill and Jeff Ffoulkes  
Paul Taylor and Anne Payne

Ashbourne	18.30	Revd Nicola Briggs Praise Holy Communion
Brailsford	10.30	Revd Nicola Briggs Altogether Worship
Tissington	10.30	Ann Parkinson

### **Dates for the Diary – Events and Meetings**

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	19.00	Dementia Friends Training at Ashbourne
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	19.30	An evening with Award-winning Chocolatier David Greenwood-Haigh at Ashbourne
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	19.30	Local Preachers and Worship Leaders Meeting at Ashbourne
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	14.00	Outreach Forum at Jacqui M's home
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	19.30	Resources Subgroup at The Manse
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	14.00	Circuit Leadership Team at The Manse

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June                    10.00-13.00   District  
Safeguarding Conference at  
Littleover  
   Celebrating the Gift of  
Difference, with a focus on  
Neurodiversity

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June                    16.00   District Testimony  
Service for Revd Nikki Geeson  
   Melbourne Methodist Church

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June                    19.30   One Church Circuit  
Meetings at Ashbourne



Sewing project



Morning Worship in Trinity Hall



