

Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit

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



Connections
March 2026

Dear Friends in the Ashbourne One Church Circuit and beyond

Here we are mid-way through February and Lent is arriving. Perhaps you have already decided how you are going to use this Lent in terms of a spiritual discipline. Please do not be one of those grumpy people who decides to give up caffeine for Lent and spends the forty days telling us all how hard it is and how you cannot wait for a 'proper' mug of coffee! This doesn't spiritually enhance anyone's journey through Lent.

As I visit schools for their collective worship, I am encouraging the children to think of the small things they can do to make a difference. One of the stories I use is this one:

An old man was walking along the seashore at dawn. Up ahead, he noticed a young man who was picking up starfish from the beach, where they had been stranded by the receding tide, and throwing them back into the water. The old man asked the young man, 'Why are you doing that?' The young man replied, 'If I don't, the starfish will be stranded, and the heat of the sun will kill them.' The old man replied, 'But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish. What difference does it make?' The young man stooped down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea. As he did so, he said, 'Well, it makes a difference to that one.'

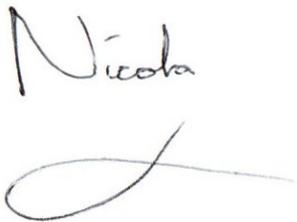
The young man could not get all the starfish back into the sea, but he could make a difference for some of them at least. The other story I share is the feeding of the five thousand. A young boy offers Jesus some food: five small barley loaves and two small fish. This amount of food seems tiny when faced with five

thousand people to feed. Yet, Jesus used this insignificant amount to feed all the people and have twelve baskets of leftovers.

We are reminded that small offerings, when placed in God's hands, are more than enough to make a difference. I wonder therefore this Lent whether there are small things we can do that will make a difference. Things that could make a difference for us as individuals, within our families, our workplaces, our communities or our world.

My prayer for us all this Lent is that we will try not be grumpy people but people who with God's blessing are doing small things that make a big difference.

Blessings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicola". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that loops back under the name.

Church Family News March 2026

As you read this entry in the Connections magazine, I hope many of us are following the reflections in the Journeying Together in Lent booklet for 2026. The personal contributions, from the members of our One Church Circuit, are a privilege to both read and be a part of. They can help us to navigate our way through Lent and discover God's peace, hope, joy, and compassion.

During the month of March we shall be celebrating the 95th birthday of Pat H on 4 March and the 90th birthday of Barbara H on 15 March. Belatedly, we also send birthday wishes to Jean H who turned 95 on 3 February!

Please continue to pray for the people we know who are in need whether it be through illness, grief, anxiety or hardships. We pray for all friends and family in our congregations especially David B, Vera B, Maureen C, Margaret He, Kay O, and Diane P. We also thank God for the building work being carried out on the Church in Ashbourne. As more of the scaffolding and screens are removed we are beginning to see how it is taking shape and look forward to moving back in.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral secretary 07.02.26)

1 Peter 5:6 *Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*

About Spite

O great and loving father of all; Please show me the way to be generous and forgiving. Help me never to be spiteful, or to want to 'pay back' when other people do wrong and mean things to me. Fill me with your spirit, so that when I meet such people again, or have them in my power, I may be able to do them some kindness. May I never add to the hate and evil in the world, but always do the thing, which is good and loving and true. For Jesus' sake. Amen

Songs & story by Nina Błaszczyk and Phil Baggaley
Inspired by the poems of **Emily Dickinson**

In association with and in aid of Methodist Chapel Brailsford



Beyond the Blue present

Dear Emily

A musical letter to everyone still finding their voice.

To be presented at the **Edinburgh Fringe 2026**

Saturday 18th April 2026
Brailsford Methodist Chapel
Main Road, DE6 3DA
Start at 7pm (50min performance)
Refreshments from 6.30pm

Ticket price - £10
Available from:
Rosemary and Jonathan Webb - 01335 360308
Jane Baker - 07712 937168
On-line ticket sales to be promoted at a later date.

Beryl Penfold

Beryl was born in Newcastle on Tyne in 1926 and came to Nottingham in the late 50's and lived in Calverton from 1961 to 2019. Brought up a Methodist, Beryl remained a Methodist all her life and played the organ, organised the choir and led the Sunday School in Calverton. For the last six years Beryl was in this area, three years in Tissington living with family, and attending the Chapel, and three years in Dove House. Thanksgiving for Beryl's life was at Tissington Chapel on 14th January.

Advance notice of Easter Dates

2nd April Maundy Thursday 5.30pm meet at St Leonard's Church, Thorpe to walk up Thorpe Cloud, followed by refreshments at Tissington chapel.
(7.30pm service at Tissington chapel)

3rd April Good Friday (10.30am service at Tissington)
12 noon Walk of Witness leaving from Sainsbury's to walk to Market Place

4th April – Holy Saturday – Milldale walk and service

Follow me – leave the past behind

Early the next morning Jesus was back again at the Temple, A crowd soon gathered, and he sat down and taught them. As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

‘Teacher’ they said to Jesus, ‘This woman was caught in the act of adultery. The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?’

They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger. They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said ‘All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone’ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, Beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, ‘Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?’

‘No Lord’ she said.

And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I. Go and sin no more.’

Gideon asked 'If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened to us?'

Lord, I'm asking the same thing. The same timeless question. Why? Help me Lord, not to waste time wrestling for a reason when greater minds than mine have found no answer...why do I doubt? If I but look back over my life I see the crossroads. I see the way in which experiences and other lives have been woven with mine. I see the guiding hand of the Lord over all. Open my eyes, Lord, that I may feel your presence and turn my doubting to trusting,

How I became a local preacher

When I was 15 years old, in September 1970, I discovered Methodism (you can do the Maths yourself!) My mother's family had always been involved with the Church Of England, including within lay leadership roles, so up to that point in 1970, I had pretty well been every Sunday, along with my parents, to our local Parish Church

I had been to Sunday School, was confirmed at the age of 12, went to the discussion group for young people at my church, but the first time I went to 'The Group' at Tunstall Methodist Church on a Sunday evening, I realised that the young people there who called themselves Christians had a quite different depth of faith to my own. They knew the presence of God in their life in a way I had never seen before. I remember leaving the church that first evening and saying to the

person who was with me, 'Well I thought I was a Christian, before I came here, but now I know I'm not'. That was a bit simplistic really, but what meant is that I wanted the same sort of vibrant, living faith those people had.

Through group discussion, the testimonies of other young people at this group and the guidance of one person in particular, I came to understand the idea of 'making a commitment' to following Jesus. In that era there were often calls to go out to the front of the church during worship, to make a public commitment, but I simply prayed a prayer in my own bedroom one evening - and that was when I really felt the presence of God for the first time.

That marked the beginning of the rest of my life really. It was at this group that I began to grow spiritually, and I became a member of the Methodist Church. I also discovered all about the history of Methodism, and that Local Preachers were a vital part of the the whole system. It was an exciting time to be a young Christian at Tunstall Methodist Church, despite the decline in Methodism all around us. At its height, particularly during College and University holidays, there would be 250 at The Group on a Sunday evening, and a dozen Methodist ministers, including one President of the Conference, came from our ranks, as well as a score or more local preachers. I think my first step into preaching was when someone asked me to join the Mission Band, a group that went with a Local Preacher to a chapel and took part in the service in some way. The idea was that someone could test if they felt they had a call to preach. Following that experience, I went on note as a Local Preacher then on trial, before I became a fully fledged Local Preacher in 1975.

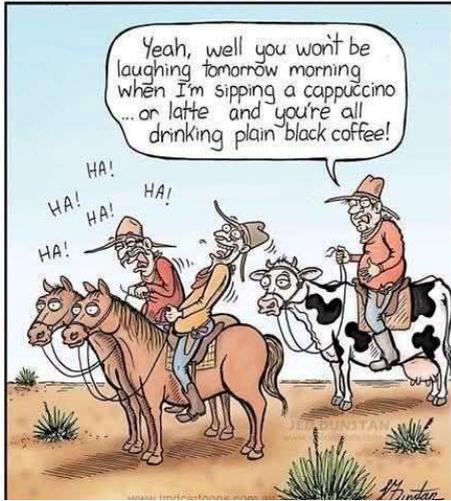
Since 1975 I have always been involved in Worship Leading/Preaching, though not always in the Methodist Church. Between 1988 and 1998 I was involved at the Parish Church in Endon in Staffordshire, and, because of my Methodist Local Preacher status, the Bishop gave me 'a note to preach', meaning he gave me permission to lead and preach at the family service.

When I came to Ashbourne in 2003, it was a time when I had to focus much of my time and energy on my job, and I knew I did not have time to do all the necessary planning and preparation for Local Preaching, but instead I had the opportunity to be involved in worship as a Worship Leader. Then just 3 years go I felt that God was calling me to begin Local Preaching again, and I am now enjoying the research, preparation and leading of worship which this involves.

It is a calling and a privilege to stand up in church and preach to others, and also a great responsibility, but when, after much prayer and planning before the service, someone comes up to you and says how much they have learnt about something, or how they feel they have been affected by what you have said - that is the real privilege.

We all have different gifts to use in God's service; some gifts, like Local Preaching, are more on show than others, but what really matters is that each one of us needs to us discover what our own gift is, and then respond to God's call to use it in his service.

Cathy Stubbs



Large buttons

I make Twiddlemitts for the Royal Derby Hospital. Whilst I have a good selection of small buttons, ribbon and cord, I am short of large buttons. If anyone has a few to spare, I should be most grateful, and will put them to good use.

Margaret Heaton

Milldale

On Saturday 4th April (Holy Saturday) there will be the traditional walk in the dale commencing at 11 a.m. from the village car park. The walk will be easy stroll and you will require a packed lunch as we picnic by the river.

At 2 p.m. Rev Nicola will lead a service in the chapel to prepare us for the coming of our Lord on Easter Sunday.

My car broke down today

so I looked under the bonnet and
saw a bat sitting on the engine.

He said "Hello Sir, you are a
handsome man and very nicely
dressed too".

I could see the problem straight
away

Bat flattery.

MISSIONAL PROPERTY OFFICER



We are looking to recruit someone who:

*has a passion for property, which goes beyond just looking
at the fabric of the building, and has a creative approach to
developing different models of property management;
is able to support others in helping them work towards
achieving Net Zero targets.*



Hours: 37 hours per week

Salary: £22 per hour/£42,328 per annum

For an employment pack, contact [Rosie facilities@methodist-nd.org.uk](mailto:Rosie.facilities@methodist-nd.org.uk)
or visit the district website <https://www.methodist-nd.org.uk/>

Closing date for applications : 12:00 on Thursday 26th February



JOIN ASHBOURNE
CHURCHES TOGETHER
FOR ...

LENT LUNCHES

Venue:

All Saints Hall

Time: 12:00 - 13:00

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

THURSDAY 5 MARCH

THURSDAY 12 MARCH

THURSDAY 19 MARCH

THURSDAY 26 MARCH



2026

Passover and Palms

Luke 19;28-40- Solstice to Equinox – by Rev Leslie Taylor

Stalking narrow streets,
Creeping through the ancient City,
Fear, anticipation hold hands,
Passover Jerusalem
Sandalled feet dodge rumours,
Swirling down alleyways,
Whispering prophet's words,
King, Messiah
Kingdom- announcing stories weave
Through Jerusalem crowd, speaking of
Healer, teacher, miracle worker,
Jesus of Nazareth.
Waving palms, running down streets,
Excitement grabs Jerusalem crowd.
Jesus enters Jerusalem.
'Hosanna in the highest'
Igniting tired souls, Kingdom dreams
Race through ancient city
Authorities' Nightmare
Passover Jerusalem

The Ashbourne Churches Together (ACT) - Patna Partnership grew out of a visit to Derbyshire in 1998 by Bishop Philip Marandih of the Church of North India when he stayed with Christopher Harrison who was then the Rural Dean. The Church of North India (CNI) is a United Church formed when the Anglican, Methodist Baptist and Presbyterian Churches in North India joined together. CNI calls on a mixture of traditions from the joining Churches for its governance and its worship. For example. The head of the Church is the Moderator elected for 3 years; there are Bishops but they too are elected. A Partnership between the main Protestant churches in Derbyshire and CNI already existed. Within this Partnership there were local links between individual Diocese of CNI and parts of Derbyshire. Bishop Marandih stipulated that the Partnership be ecumenical and so it was established between the Diocese of Patna and Ashbourne Churches Together.

The Diocese of Patna covers the state of Bihar and part of the state Jharkand in the Ganges valley in North East India. It is largely rural although there are some large cities, two being Patna and Baghalpur which is where the Bishop is based. The rural areas are poor and the main transport links are by rail. On the whole the roads are very bad.

The purpose of the Partnership is to develop a sense of mutual understanding between the churches in the Diocese of Patna and those in the Ashbourne area. This should be achieved by prayer, support for each other and sharing experiences in areas of common interest.

Mutual understanding has been developed by a number of visits in both directions. Bishop Marandih visited a few times on his own, for example when on

his way to attend the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Several lay people accompanied him on another occasion and on other visits he was accompanied by a number of presbyters. Bishop Marandih has now retired. The current Bishop, Francis Hansda, was a member of the groups of presbyters on a number of occasions.

The first visit to Patna took place in 2000 when eight people visited. We all know in theory about the vast difference in wealth between the people in rural Patna and those in Ashbourne. The first visitors to the Diocese of Patna experienced this at first hand. Although there had never been a financial element to the purpose of the Partnership it became clear that we had to share our good fortune. The first project was to raise money to repair the roof of the Maternity ward at St. Luke's Hospital at Hiranpur. The ward could not be used during the monsoon period!

It was decided to continue to support the Hospital and also provide money to support girls in St. John's School, Taljhari. So it was decided to start fundraising. This is in a rural area where there is little local transport so the children have to stay in hostels. Poor families will give priority to their boys so Ashbourne provides for the girls. The fees for the training of a presbyter have also been provided.

In recent years it has been difficult to transfer money to India. The Indian Government is trying to prevent the Churches receiving money from abroad. It can do this by refusing the necessary licences to allow money to be received. However, at the moment we have found a way, quite legally, to transfer money to the Diocese. We were able to send money last spring and have recently made another transfer.

We have been to India 9 times, on each occasion spending most of our time in the Diocese of Patna. On the first 2 visits we were in a small group with people from other Churches in the Ashbourne area. On our later visits we went alone. As retired teachers we have been able to spend time in a number of schools. We have been present for a number of celebrations – when Bishop Marandih became Moderator, the 150th Anniversary of St. John's School and Bishop Marandih's daughter's wedding. Our friends practice generous hospitality and we have always felt truly cared for.

For several years since Covid the Partnership has been dormant. We have maintained contact with Bishop Hansda who we first knew when he was a recently ordained presbyter. You will have read in last month's Connections that Crispin met two representatives from the Diocese when he was in Kolkata. As a result, there has been an exchange of newsletters mainly concentrating on Christmas activities. We hope to build on this renewed contact and this is where we hope you will help.

We intend to invite Bishop Hansda to visit Ashbourne later this year. We shall need help arranging hospitality and activities.

Most of all we should like to find people to visit the Patna Diocese. Christians are in a minority. Most are poor. They will never travel out of the Diocese. They need to see that they are part of the world-wide Church and that they are loved. If you decide to go your accommodation will not be luxurious. You will have plenty of food and pure bottled water, you will have hot water even if it comes in a bucket and you might even have bed tea before you get up in the morning. Above all you will be cared for.

If you would like to know more or receive a copy of the newsletter please contact us. Our details are in the Directory.

John and Liz Hurfurt

A man was watching his wife as she prepared to fry sausages in a pan. He noticed that before placing the sausages in the pan, she always cut off both ends, threw them away, and cooked only the middle part. Puzzled, he asked, "Honey, why do you always cut off the ends of the sausage before frying it?"

The wife shrugged and replied, "I don't know. It's just how my mom taught me to do it."

Curious, the next day they visited her mother. The wife asked, "Mom, why did you teach me to cut off the ends of the sausage before frying it?"

The mother paused for a moment, then said, "I'm not really sure. That's how my mother always did it. We should ask her."

So the two of them went to visit the grandmother. The wife turned to her grandmother and asked, "Grandma, why do we always cut off the ends of the sausage before frying it?"

The grandmother smiled thoughtfully and said, "That's just the way my mother taught me. I never really questioned it. We should ask her."

Determined to get to the bottom of this, the three women visited the great-grandmother at her retirement home. After explaining the situation, the great-granddaughter asked loudly, "Great-grandma, why did you teach us to cut off the ends of the sausage before frying it?"

The elderly woman looked surprised and replied, "Wait, you're all still doing that? I only did it because my pan was too small to fit the whole sausage!"

Ashbourne Methodist Church ·

Here are photos from the latest site visit to The Link Centre & Gateway Lodge. Progress is very visible in several areas. The balcony area of the atrium is feeling very light and airy, while in Gateway Lodge the windows are being installed in the new lounge extension.

When it opens in Spring 2026, The Link Centre will be a new hub for our community, offering brilliant spaces for community events, concerts & conferences. It will also continue to be the home of Ashbourne Methodist Church, where we will offer regular worship activities. Within the building, Gateway Lodge will provide high-quality, affordable guest accommodation in en-suite rooms.

- ~ The stairs in the Atrium is feeling very light and airy.
- ~ The balcony in the Atrium - looking towards Century Hall and the new kitchen and toilets
- ~ In Trinity Hall the detail and fretwork is completed on the new panelling below the organ and the new feature lighting has been installed
- ~ Work is progressing on the meeting rooms. This is the largest of the rooms, the Wesley Room.
- ~ In Gateway Lodge too the progress is very visible. This is the new Gateway extension lounge area with the new windows and patio doors being installed
- ~ The new Garden Entrance is in place
- ~ A new patio is being laid outside Gateway Lodge
- ~ The ceiling in the Gateway Lodge dining area is installed, with acoustic treatment to make the room less echoey.
- ~ Sanitary ware is being installed in the en-suite shower rooms in Gateway Lodge.

All of the work is part of **Ashbourne Reborn** - you can find out more about the programme at www.ashbournereborn.co.uk

The Ashbourne Reborn proposals originated from businesses and community groups within the town. Ashbourne Reborn is a partnership scheme involving Ashbourne Town Team, Ashbourne Town Council and AshCom, with delivery of the Highways and Public Realm project being led by Derbyshire County Council and the Link Community Hub by Ashbourne Methodist Church.







**Poem by Eddie Askew inspired by Philippians
4;10-13**

Lord, there are times when faith comes easy,
Times when things go right,
It all feels great,
And I am tempted to believe
That it ought to be like that.
Always

But then problems sneak up quietly,
Or hit me hard over the head
And I want to creep away to hide in a corner.
To suck my thumb.
And I look at you resentfully.

Why does it happen to me, Lord?
Why are you picking on me?

And then there are the demands you make, Lord.
Your challenge.
The things you expect me to do.
To live your way.
To show Your love in my life
How can I cope with this on top of everything else?
I expect you to do something, to smooth the path
again,
To make everything fairy tale easy.
To drive away the wicked witch and all the monsters.
Where's the magic wand, Lord, and happy ending?

And then the small voice.
The words in my mind, soft but insistent.
'My grace is sufficient for you'
But Lord, the problem's still here.
It hasn't gone away.
I have a busy schedule....
It's not possible in my circumstances...

'My grace is sufficient...'

Yes, Lord.
It's not easy but I'll try.
I know you are with me.
I know that your hand will guide me. Even though I
can't see the road.
Even though it's stony, and it all seems to much.
Help me to reach out for your strength.
It's there for me to take.
Not a magic wand – I'm not a child any more.
And I know the world isn't like that.
And I know that you know.
Because it's your world and you walk in it.
Thank you Lord.

Poem of reflection

When I am gone, do not fear my memory

Do not be afraid to speak my name or look through old photographs

Do not be scared to play old videos so that you may hear my voice and see me laughing

Do not be wary of visiting my favourite places or eating my favourite foods or singing along to my favourite songs

I know it will hurt, those memories will remind you that I am gone

They will stab at you like a knife in an open gaping wound, Raw excruciating pain,

But after a while the knife will become less sharp, the wound will become less open and the pain will become less raw.

And those memories will remind you I was here.

That I lived

Do not reduce my life to death

Speak my name, hear my voice, sing my favourite songs and visit my favourite places

Because that's how I can stay alive a little

Right here with you, when we meet in prayer.

References to A Yorkshire's Wallet in Classic and Popular Literature

'He found the shellfish on the beach of the deserted island harder to open than A Yorkshireman's Wallet'

Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe, p435

'Please sir can I have so more? You've got more chance of getting into A Yorkshireman's Wallet, Oliver Twist'

Oliver Twist By Charles Dickens, p92

I wandered lonely as the inside of A Yorkshireman's Wallet'

First draft of Daffodils by William Wordsworth

'Suddenly the great white whale appeared. As huge and solid and impenetrable as A Yorkshireman's Wallet'

Moby Dick by Herman Melville, p 143

'The Name's Bond, James Bond, said 007, his mouth barely open, like the entrance to A Yorkshireman's wallet.

Dr No by Ian Fleming p209

He could not pry the money from his gripper; Twaf held as though in A Yorkshireman's Wallet'

The Moneylender's Tale by Geoffrey Chaucer.

REV DAVID LEESE

These are a few representative quotations from the many cards, letters, e mails and Facebook posts I have received since David was called home to be with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ on 3 December 2025.

"David was a powerful preacher, with a pastoral heart, a fine scholar and enthusiast for Methodist history and heritage, particularly in the Primitive Methodist tradition"

"David has been a bright light in this world and a great servant of our Lord and Saviour. Our lives have been enriched by the blessings of knowing him"

"David always practised what he preached; that pastoral care, like salvation, is for all"

"David was a minister who could preach whilst walking around the church and without notes"

"I still teach the names of the disciples using the RAP that he taught us"
(RAP-Rhythmically Applied Poetry)

"The time David (and you Sue) spent in Woodhouse Eaves Methodist church was a time of ecumenical growth, largely down to his boundless energy and enthusiasm for the Lord. The ecumenical Bible study he set up (2002/3) with Cannon A... is still meeting "

"He had a wonderful sense of humour and he always made me feel happy in his company"

"He has always been a calm, quiet supporting presence"

"The children were mesmerised by his Bible magic"

"He was 'practical' and 'visionary', a rare combination"

"The eleven years in Epworth were simply the best"

"He brought a warm positive glow to every occasion and was unfailingly courteous "

"David was such an influential part of my childhood "
(writer now aged 22)

"One of the 'greats' of Methodism... a role model to us all"

"His love for God's word, his teaching and preaching was always fresh and encouraging.....his sacrificial care for individuals and his enthusiastic singing"

"A true gentleman "

Many of you will have experienced the 'flaming Bible', as one member of a recent local congregation put it, "He proceeded to read the Pentecost story from a book that started to show (real) flames around its edge!" That very same reading set off the alarms in the Saracen's Head during a united service with the Brailsford Benefice. Unfazed, the landlord quietly disappeared and sorted things out.

And, as my daughter concluded our family tribute at David's Thanksgiving Celebration, his love lives on.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Matthew
ch25 v21

Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Sue Leese

The Greatest Story ever told.

(an eyewitness account by Bear Grylls)

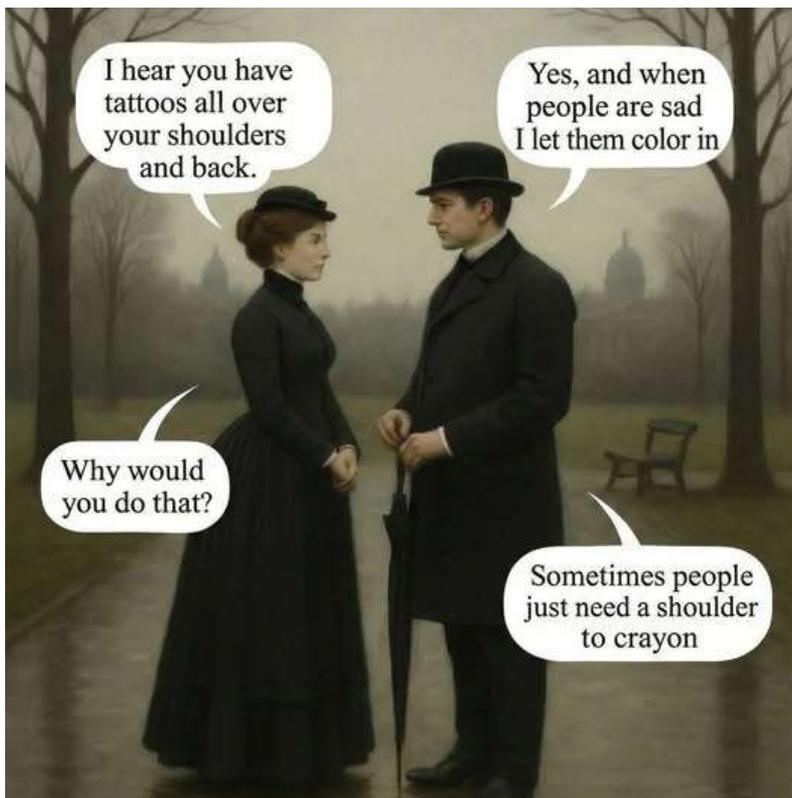
Many readers will recognize the writer of this book as the renown explorer/adventurer and until recently the World Chief Scout.

This book is an easy read and covers the whole life of Jesus sometimes in harrowing detail from the perspective of people there – as it says an eyewitness account.

'This is a true story about a man from Galilee who lived two thousand years ago. It is told through the eyes of the people who knew him best; a mother, a sceptic, a fisherman, a friend and a woman from Magdala. Most died of their conviction that these events occurred in all their fullness and many consider that this book tells the 'Greatest Story Ever told.'

Published by Hodder Faith £14.99

Cliff Lewer



DERBYSHIRE RURAL CHAPLAINCY

The licensing of Reverend Phil Michell as Lead Chaplain with Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy by the Bishop of Derby took place at the Agricultural Business Centre in Bakewell on 19th January.

After ten years as Lead Chaplain, The Reverend Canon Alan Griggs has moved on and is now the Vicar at St Barnabas Church, Derby. He was preceded as Chaplain by Graham Hinds for twelve years. This

support grew out of the vision of John Lowe to support farmers in the area. John's vision was to have a place in Bakewell Cattle Market where farmers could meet, share matters for prayer and support each other. This prayer time developed into the appointment of an Agricultural Chaplain, Graham Hinds. The yearly Harvest Service and Christmas Carol Service began and continue in the Store Ring of the Bakewell Cattle Market.

Meetings in the Market take place monthly and will continue under the leadership of Phil Michell. Bakewell Market serves a large rural area and the Chaplaincy seeks to meet the many needs of this large farming community. Let's pray for Phil Michell and the team as they seek to continue the ministry of offering spiritual and pastoral support to the agricultural and rural community. New beginnings always offer new opportunities as well as building on the strengths of what has gone before.

For further information

www.derbyshireruralchaplaincy.org.uk

Joyce Odell

Stumble

A small boy liked to walk with his father through the fields and neighboring pastures behind their farm. At first the little fellow gripped his father's index finger, but found that whenever he stumbled on something, his grip would slip and down he would go into the dirt.

This happened several times. Finally the little boy said, 'Daddy, I think if you would hold my hand, I wouldn't fall.' The father did as his son suggested, and though the little fellow stumbled a bit, he never hit the ground. So, too, in our walk with our Heavenly Father, we must let him hold on to us. We may stumble a bit, but he will never let us fall.

Dates for the Diary – Services

Sunday 15th February

Ashbourne 10.30 Peter Dawson

Lorraine Hawkins and Anne Payne

18.30 Jeff Ffoulkes Praise

Brailsford 10.30 Revd Arnold Dixon

Tissington 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs, Ann and Tom

Parkinson Covenant

ASH WEDNESDAY 18th February

Tissington 10.00 Revd Nicola Briggs

Circuit Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd February **Lent 1**

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Mark Broadhurst and Gareth Rutledge

Lorraine Hawkins and Amanda Peers

Holy Communion

Sunday 22nd February Lent 1 (cont'd)

Kirk Ireton 18.30 Revd Nicola Briggs

Kniveton 11.00 Revd Nicola Briggs Holy
Communion

Sunday 1st March Lent 2

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs and Gareth
Rutledge

Becky and Tim Dutton

16.30 Cathy Stubbs Afternoon Tea

Brailsford 10.30 Revd Mark Broadhurst
Holy Communion

Parwich 14.30 Ann Parkinson

Sunday 8th March Lent 3

Ashbourne 10.30 Peter Dawson and Cathy Stubbs
Lorraine Hawkins and Catherine
Green

Kniveton 14.30 Tom Parkinson

Muddy 10.00 Ashbourne area

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday

Ashbourne 10.30 Diana Whitmill and Stuart Green
Altogether Worship

18.30 Tim Dutton Praise

Sunday 15th March Mothering Sunday (cont'd)

Brailsford 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs

Altogether Worship

Tissington 10.30 Revd Andy Fyall

Sunday 22nd March Lent 5

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Arnold Dixon and Jonathan
Webb

Becky and Tim Dutton

Holy Communion

Kirk Ireton 18.30 Ann and Tom Parkinson

Kniveton 11.00 Revd Nicola Briggs

Holy Communion

Dates for the Diary – Events and Meetings

Wednesday 25th February 19.30 One Church Circuit
Meetings at Brailsford

Wednesday 4th March 19.30 Local Preachers and
Worship Leaders Meeting Venue tba

Saturday 7th March 18.00 District Celebration at
Melbourne led by Lucy Bunce

Saturday 14th March 15.00 Leaving Service for
Deacon Lorraine Brown
Peak Park Rural Development Enabler
Hope Church, 6 Edale Road, Hope, S33 6RY

Tuesday 17th March 14.00 Outreach Forum at
Jacqui M's home

Tuesday 17th March 19.30 Resources Forum at Ian
M's home

Wednesday 18th March 19.30 Pastoral Forum at
Brailsford

Thursday 19th March 14.30 Rural Churches
Gathering at Tissington

Connections Magazine – April 2026

All contributions for the magazine to be with the Editor by
Sunday 8th March by email to
clifflewer@aol.com or by hand

The front cover phot of the moon was taken by Mark
Eden using a telescope attached to
the camera.

Rear of the Magazine is also by Mark and is of
Dunstanburgh Castle

