

# Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit

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



## Connections May 2026

**All Are Welcome to these Events  
as Part of Christianity Month May 2026**



**QUIZ NIGHT**

This will be no ordinary Quiz Night and it will be an evening of fun and laughter whilst testing any remaining brain cells we have left! The evening will include a jacket potato meal followed by cakes. Pre booking of teams of four is required and we will also be putting together teams for individuals who want to join a team. (Early booking is recommended as the number of teams is limited due to space.)

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May; Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm start.

Brailsford Methodist Chapel.

Donations on the door.

Jacket potato meal. Non-alcoholic cash bar.

Bookings: please contact Rev Nicola Briggs on; 01335 702174

**WALK AND TALK  
TO TISSINGTON AND  
A PICNIC LUNCH**

Join us for a gentle walk and enjoy the beautiful countryside on our doorstep and some good natter! We will most likely break into several groups and so all ages and walking abilities are welcome. Please bring a packed lunch with you. Non walkers are most welcome to join us for a picnic lunch at Tissington Chapel, and some extra cars for those who don't want to walk back, or get the bus, would be helpful.



Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May

10.30am – Meet in the Leisure centre car park.

12.00pm – 2.00pm – Picnic lunch at Tissington Chapel.

Hot & cold drinks provided.

Please bring a packed lunch.

Organiser:

Crispin Scott 07584 411765

Dear Friends in the Ashbourne One Church Circuit and beyond

Spring has well and truly sprung. The trees are blossoming; the daffodils have been bursting forth from the ground and even the birds are sounding chirpier than they have been. Spring is a season of renewal; nature's reminder that life always finds a way to begin again. A season of renewal is with us. This is as true in the church as it is for the world. For in the church we are now in the season Easter. It was not all over and done with when we gathered on 5<sup>th</sup> April and sung 'Thine be the glory'. Easter is a season and in the coming weeks we will rediscover again the first disciples and followers meeting the resurrected Christ.

Easter, a season of celebration filled with hope, faith, and joy. For Christians around the world, Easter commemorates one of the most powerful moments in history: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. After the sorrow and darkness of the crucifixion, the story does not end in loss. Instead, it bursts open with a miracle. The empty tomb becomes a symbol of victory over death, a message that love and life are stronger than despair.

The resurrection is more than a historical event; it is a profound message of transformation. Just as winter gives way to spring, Easter reminds us that renewal is always possible. Where there is faith, there can be rebirth. Where there has been suffering, hope can grow again. The miracle of the resurrection carries a timeless promise—that even in the darkest moments, a new dawn can rise.

In many ways, Easter reminds us that joy can be both profound and playful. The miracle of new life appears in grand spiritual truths and in small everyday delights. It is present in blooming flowers, in warm sunshine after cold days, in a child's excitement during an Easter egg hunt, and in the quiet comfort of faith. Spring invites us to pause and notice these moments. To breathe in the fresh air. To watch the world turn green again. To remember that endings are rarely the final chapter. At Easter, the message of resurrection rings out clearly: life is renewed, hope rises again, and sometimes the sweetest reminders come as chocolate eggs wrapped in foil. As the season of Easter

unfolds, I invite us all to believe in new beginnings, to celebrate life in all its forms, to share a little sweetness along the way, and to share the good news of renewal that Easter brings with those around us. Perhaps you are unsure how to share the good news with others. May is Christianity Month and across the circuit we have some events that we hope you will want to invite family, friends, neighbours or colleagues to. You will find more information further on in this edition of Connections, but we have a quiz night, a walk and talk event, an outdoor songs of praise and finally an evening with an award-winning chocolatier and he promises the opportunity to test the chocolate. My continued prayers are that we individually and collectively experience the joy of this Easter season and see renewal all around us.

Blessings

**Nicola**

### **Church Family News May 2026**

I have recently spent a peaceful and fairly (!) relaxing time on a narrow boat along a stretch of the Grand Union Canal. It meant travelling at a very slow pace and gave me the opportunity to ponder and appreciate the simple things in life. I was in awe of the natural world and seeing the abundant wildlife along the canal. I also really appreciated the friendly, welcoming and helpful nature of others in the boating community. They helped us 'novices' as we attempted to navigate the waterways and especially the locks. I am sure we can offer a similar friendly and helpful welcome to all the people who will be coming in to the new Link building over the next few months. Some may never have crossed the church's threshold before and maybe feeling anxious. We can all play our part to reassure and welcome them.

In our church family we continue to hold in prayer all who are unwell, anxious about treatments or results, or finding life particularly difficult at the moment. This month we think especially of Brian H, Chris D, David B, Diane P, Kay O, Liz &

Steve H, Margaret He and Nina C. We also think of John D and his sister Jean, following the death of her husband Peter Ashworth.

Finally, it is good to share that Enid S will be celebrating a special birthday on 8 May. We all hope you have a lovely day celebrating.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral secretary 09.04.26)

### **Ephesians 3 : 17-19**

*And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

### **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 won't 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 approx £2k per annum including accomodation etc, secondary school Fees are approx £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!).

## **Celtic Prayer**

God of Peace relax the tensions of my body  
Still the anxieties of my mind  
Calm the storms of my heart  
Give me courage to wait  
Let peace flow in me  
Through me, from me,  
The deep, deep peace of God.

## **Touching Grace**

The greatest demonstration of Grace – God's love in action – was when God sent his son Jesus to die for our sins so that we might live.

In so doing, God allowed his son to become the bridge between earth and heaven. The cross is the place where pain and suffering meet hope and transformation, the bridge between this life and the next – where the impossible becomes possible and death gives birth to new life.

God is all of Love  
I experience her through others,  
In creation and within myself.

I experience her depths,  
Touch her energy, live her presence.

Her Love shines through laughter and tears,  
forgiveness and reconciliation for she is all of love.

'Whosoever loves much can accomplish much,  
And what is done with love is well done'  
*Vincent van Gough*

## **Twenty Years of Changing Young Lives** *ACE Youth Trust — and how you can help*

This May marks a very special milestone. Twenty years ago, AMC and St Oswald's Church came together with a shared mission to advance the Christian faith by offering outreach youth support services to young people in our community in need of a safe, welcoming space where they could belong, be known, and be loved. That conviction gave birth to registration of a jointly formed charity: ACE Youth Trust.

### **What is ACE Youth Trust?**

Since 2006 ACE has delivered much needed youth services to vulnerable, disadvantaged and hard-to-reach children and young people aged 11 to 19 in and around Ashbourne. Through after-school clubs, targeted projects and school holiday activities, ACE has provided a safe, non-judgmental space for over 500 local young people to make friends, try new things, and simply feel that they belong. As one teenager said earlier this year, *"There's no not fitting in here."*

Every activity is thoughtfully designed to grow the skills and qualities that youngsters need to flourish – kindness, self-confidence, independence, wellbeing and positive relationships. For many of the young people who have come through the door, ACE is their only out-of-school activity. For many, ACE has changed the direction of their lives. This has been possible thanks to the dedicated service and generosity of church members across our district and deanery. Sincere thanks to all of you who have volunteered for and donated to the charity over the past 20 years. Your service and gifts have made a real difference to the lives of local children, bless you all.

### **Where are we now?**

ACE is in a strong position with solid governance structures, financial security and a small team of dedicated volunteers. However, like our churches, the organisation is under pressure. The demand for services continues due to public sector cutbacks, the needs of the young people grow more complex,

and team members are getting older. More than ever, ensuring the sustainability of the charity for the long term is key for the future of those disadvantaged youngsters living in our community. Consequently, the trustees have completed a thorough strategic review this first quarter of 2026 and determined that ACE needs the right team in place for the next twenty years. To this end, we are seeking your continued help.

### **Four ways you can help**

We have four very specific and very achievable asks:

**Administrative support.** We are looking for someone — ideally with some experience in the charity, education or youth work sector — who could offer a few hours of paid help each week. Given the confidential and safeguarding-sensitive nature of the work, some relevant background would be valuable.

**Project leadership.** Do you know a former youth worker, or someone who has worked with young people in schools, who might consider a paid part-time role? We are looking for someone to help lead our after-school clubs — just 4 to 8 hours a week during term time, Wednesday to Friday. It's meaningful, rewarding work with a great team behind you.

**Volunteers.** Our existing volunteers are incredible — but they have carried us for a long time and would love some fresh faces alongside them. Could you, or someone you know, give a few hours to bring fresh energy and support to ACE projects?

**And your prayers.** Please pray for the young people ACE serves, for the team of people who give so much, and for wisdom and insight to navigate a secure future.

If any of this resonates with you, or if you think you might know someone who could help, please feel free to chat to Helen Barker or David Bale or email [trustees@aceyouth.org.uk](mailto:trustees@aceyouth.org.uk)

*“And my God will supply all of your wants out of the magnificence of his riches in Jesus Christ.”*

Philippians 4:19

## **Christian Aid**

Christian Aid is a charity that works with local partners and communities to fight injustice, respond to humanitarian emergencies, campaign for change, and help people claim the services and rights they are entitled to. Christian Aid Week is the UK's longest-running fundraising week, having been held every year since 1957. It's a special time when we come together to fight extreme poverty.

### **Supporting Christian Aid with friends from other churches**

For many years, Christians from Ashbourne's churches have joined together to 'give, act, pray' with Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week and during the Tissington Well Dressings. Our Christian Aid Week collection and Tissington Well Dressings cake stall are organised as part of Ashbourne Churches Together, and we get lots of support – so you'll be in good company if you join in!

Here's how you can get involved:

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

#### Christian Aid Week Collections

- Can you help to deliver donation envelopes to the houses of Ashbourne during Christian Aid week which is 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May. We aim to deliver an envelope to every house this year, including the new estates, to enable everyone to give if they would like to.
- Can you offer your letterbox as a drop-off point for envelopes? You'll get a small poster to display by your front door, and we'll put a sticker on each envelope to tell people where their local drop-off point is. We aim to have one letterbox for every small area. We'll collect

the envelopes from you at the end of the week for counting. If you live in a village and would like to deliver around your village, please let us know.

- During Christian Aid Week in 2025, we raised £2254.50 (plus Gift Aid).

### **Cake Stall at Tissington Well Dressings**

Can you bake something for the cake stall at Tissington Well Dressings. This is from 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May. We normally sell about 1000 pieces of cake over the four day period, so we need lots of bakers! Please let us know what day you can bake for and how many portions, and we'll let you know the drop-off location in Ashbourne.

- Can you help to sell the cakes in Tissington? We have slots available between 10am and 4pm on each of the 4 days. It's a lovely event and before/after you might like to walk around the village and see the wells.

Last year, we raised a grand total of **£4,025.37** for Christian Aid, from Christian Aid Week donations and the Tissington Cake Stall. Will you help us this year, as we support the work of Christian Aid around the world.

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

**01335 300338**

## **ENGLESEA BROOK CHAPEL AND MUSEUM**

The story of Primitive Methodism

Brook Lane, Englesea Brook, Weston, Crewe CW2 5QW

Englesea Brook is well worth a visit.

Don't be put off by the address and postcode - it only takes an hour by car from Ashbourne via A515, A50 and A500 until M6 junction16 from where you follow the sign to Alsager and brown Museum signs.

During the recent closed season the museum has undergone a complete transformation in two areas and reorganisation in another. So, whether or not you've already been, do come along in 2026.

Alan Coker- Mayes and myself will be the volunteers on duty on the following Saturdays and will be very pleased to welcome you:

23 May

6 June

4 July

8 August

26 September

10 October

Drinks, cakes, tea cakes and crumpets are always available. Or, you can bring a picnic to enjoy on the spacious front lawn or rear patio.

And, best of all, IT'S FREE! Although donations are always welcome.

Hope to see you.

**Sue Leese**

For more information please contact me, details in Circuit Directory, or [www.Englesea Brook.org.uk](http://www.Englesea Brook.org.uk)

## Lowberdale Farm

Lowberdale Farm is a charity based at Field House Farm in Beresford Dale, near Hartington. Set on a working beef and sheep farm, it gives young people the chance to spend time in a welcoming family farm environment where they can feel supported, valued, and part of something real.



The farm works with young people aged 10–19 who may have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including those experiencing anxiety, low confidence, social isolation, or challenges linked to neurodiversity. Lowberdale offers a calm, supportive place where young people can learn through practical, hands-on experiences and develop confidence at their own pace. Young people attend the farm individually or in small groups for weekly half- or full-day sessions. Guided by Mark Lowe, “the Farmer”, and supported by volunteers, they take part in everyday farm tasks—feeding cows and sheep, caring for lambs, bedding sheds, and helping with seasonal work such as lambing.

Each young person has an individual support plan developed with SEND specialists and their wider support network. These plans ensure that support is tailored to each young person’s needs, helping them build confidence, develop practical skills, and move towards positive next steps. Breaks around the kitchen table give everyone time to relax, talk, and feel part of the farm community.

### Contact information

If you would like more information on Lowberdale Farm, to support either financially or potentially as a volunteer, please contact either Mark Lowe ([mark@lowberdalefarm.org.uk](mailto:mark@lowberdalefarm.org.uk)) or Dorothy Hawton ([admin@lowberdalefarm.org.uk](mailto:admin@lowberdalefarm.org.uk)) or refer to the website: <https://lowberdalefarm.org.uk/>

## Further resurrection appearances

When the pair from Emmaus reached Jerusalem they shared their experiences with the disciples there, who told them that Peter had seen Jesus. As they were talking Jesus appeared, greeting them with the words 'Peace be with you'. At first they were all terrified, and thought they were seeing a ghost; but he said 'Why are you worried and doubtful? Look at my hands and feet and touch me; no ghost has flesh and blood as I do' He further convinced them by eating a piece of fish. He explained once again how the Scriptures had foretold his suffering and resurrection, and said that repentance and the forgiveness of sins were to be preached in his name to the whole world. Then he led them to Bethany, blessed them and was parted from them. Full of joy they returned to Jerusalem and praised God daily in the Temple.

One of the apostles Thomas the Twin, had not been with the others that day, and refused to believe in the resurrection without physical proof. A week later Jesus appeared to the disciples again, and invited Thomas to touch the wounds in his hands and his side. Thomas exclaimed ' My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'Because you have seen me you have found faith. Happy are they who find faith without seeing me ' Some time later a group of disciples, led by Peter, returned to Galilee and spent a fruitless night fishing. When dawn came Jesus was standing at the water's edge. He called to them to make a further cast of the net, and when they did they made so large a catch that they could not haul the net into the boat. Realising that it was Jesus who had hailed them, Peter plunged into the water to reach him whilst the others brought the boat ashore.

The disciples breakfasted on food which Jesus had prepared; then he took Peter aside, and three times asked him ' Do you love me? Three times Peter replied that he did, and Three times Jesus told him; 'Tend my Sheep' Then he promised him a martyr's death.

Jesus did much else which has not been recorded here, These stories have been told in order that you might believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and that through faith in him you may have eternal life.

*Luke 24.33-53; John 20.24-21.19  
(taken from the 100 minute Bible)*

### **An Inveterate Cough**

Wash your head in cold water ever morning

Or use a coldbath (it seldom fails)

Or peel and slice a large turnip, spread course sugar between the slices and let it stand in a dish till all the juices run out, take a spoonfull of this when you cough

Or take a spoonfull of syrup of horehound morning and evening

Or take from 10 to 20 drops of Elixir of Vitrol, in a glass of water twice or thrice a day

This is useful when the cough is attended with costivenefs, or a relaxation of the stomach and lungs.

### **Remedy 60 from Primitive Physic – John Wesley**

I heard about this elderly lady, she came into church one Sunday morning, the friendly usher greeted her and said: "Mam, where would you like to sit?" She said: "I would like to sit on the very front row." He said: "Oh no, mam, you don't want to do that, our pastor is very boring, he'll put you to sleep, let me sit you somewhere else." She was appalled. She said: "Sir, do you know who I am?" He said: "No." She said: "I am the pastor's mother." He hung his head in embarrassment. Finally, he looked up and said: "Mam, do you know who I am?" She said: "No." He said: "Thank God."



**These are some of the collection of David Leese, please contact Sue for further information of these and other items.**

**Mary and David D. would like to thank everyone who has kindly sent greetings, cards and flowers for our Diamond Wedding Anniversary celebrations on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Many thanks.**



### **PCSRAELEM D**

1. Behold, Our Father made all, and everything, and everyone within: Rejoice, the world is the Lord's and we are his children.
2. Behold, God's son has visited us and redeemed us out of our distress: Rejoice, that we have a Saviour that will not fail us.
3. One that can still the storm and walk upon the water: Bring Lazarus out of the grave and for us bring life after death.
4. Give sight to the blind and healing to the infirm: Cause the lame to skip and the troubled to be freed from their troubles.
5. This one and only who was cruelly treated and reviled to fulfil his life's work: Even to the end, this gift made eternity for us.
6. And now we behold and rejoice in these marvels made freely for us: And rejoice and behold the wonders daily given to us.
7. And the Spirit is with us and among us in the meantime: And until the endtime and the newtime.
8. When heaven and earth, God and people and all creation shall sing together: and dance and laugh in joyful company.

*Alan Coker Mayes.*

## **Pentecost – My Friend the Holy Spirit.**

They've called him by many names, this friend of mine.  
Some of them scary, some undefined.  
A helper, and advocate, a counsellor you see.  
Just doesn't describe what **HE** means to me.

Like any other friendship, it started quite slow,  
Shyly, and quietly, and getting to know.  
Understanding my friend, it can take a long time,  
To accept him, to trust him, you're then doing fine.

He's hard to describe, to those you don't see,  
The wonderful things He is doing for me.  
His approach is so subtle, He's like a sixth sense  
The way he leads, no pushes me over the fence.

He puts thoughts in my mind, but leaves **ME** to decide,  
The decisions are mine, and there's no place to hide.  
He knows all my weaknesses, my fears and my dreams  
He really is a part of me, or so it seems.

I know I am not there yet, the place I want to be.  
I know there should be more of him, and so much less of me.  
But I know I'm making progress, with the Holy Spirit by my  
side.

And every day, is like, for me, a roller coaster ride.

**(preaching in verse by Derek Marshall)**

# Become a Dementia Friend

Join us for a free Dementia Friends Session delivered by one of our volunteer Dementia Friends Ambassadors. 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.

Date

Wheelchair accessible?

Yes

No

Start time

Other information

Duration

Venue

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How to book onto the session:



[dementiafriends.org.uk](https://dementiafriends.org.uk)



[dementiafriends@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:dementiafriends@alzheimers.org.uk)



[/DementiaFriends](https://www.facebook.com/DementiaFriends)



[@DementiaFriends](https://twitter.com/DementiaFriends)



## PROMISE BOXES

How often do we use the word promise, and how often do we really mean what we say?

Promise can be a noun, 'the act of saying that you will certainly do something or a verb, 'to state to someone that you will certainly do something'

There are many, many promises in the Bible and they are never broken by God. Some sources give 8000+ as the Biblical number, others 5, 7 or 12 main promises. I decided not to attempt counting for myself!

However, what I do have is a Promise Box, made in Great Britain by Golden Grain - date unknown, possibly early 20th century. Once the treasured possession of a member of Billingham Methodist Chapel (Bourne Circuit, Lincolnshire), it was gifted many years ago to David and myself.

Inside there are approx 150 tiny scrolls - the total varies with every attempt at counting- each inscribed with a verse from the King James Version of the Bible because it pre dates any more modern translation.

I love it!

As I write, still raw with grief from David's seemingly untimely 'rising to glory', I have pulled out the following,

*Isaiah 41:10 'I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea I will uphold you'*

What a timely promise to emerge.

And for those seeking assurance, I next pull out

*Jeremiah 29:13 'Ye shall find Me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart'*

The language may seem archaic, but the truth is firm and sure, for all time.

There is a certain beauty about rarely used words such as 'succour' as in *Hebrews 2:18* '*In that He Himself (Jesus) has suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted*'

I'm hoping one day to pull out *Psalms 34:18* '*The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart*'

And from an unknown source, a little ditty,

'I have a little promise box, for using any day  
It tells you very clearly, you're loved a special way  
God sent His dear Son Jesus, for each of us it's true  
So take one of His promises, the words are just for you.'

What promise would you like to find? Or share?

Maybe you can let me know

**Sue Leese**



## The Link

As we prepare for the opening of The Link Centre and Gateway Lodge in May 2026, our latest site visit shows the great progress which is being made.

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.

- There's been great progress on the stone cladding of the Atrium
- Pavement widening is happening outside the new entrance, all part of the wider Ashbourne Reborn programme.
- The new Atrium is spacious!
- Finishing work is happening on the lower ground floor of the Atrium, in particular around the new meeting rooms
- The balcony is light and airy
- In Trinity Hall, the new lighting is installed and the carpets are fitted
- In Gateway Lodge, the new lounge is nearing completion
- Decorating is complete in the Gateway Lodge dining area
- The corridor to the Gateway Lodge bedrooms has been decorated
- The en-suite shower rooms in Gateway Lodge have been installed

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)

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.

The Link Centre Ashbourne  
Ashbourne Gateway Lodge

## **The Teacher**

He never taught a lesson in a classroom....He had no tools to work with, such as blackboards, maps, charts,...He used no subject outlines, kept no records, gave no grades, and his only text was ancient and worn...His students were the poor, the lame, the deaf, the blind, the outcast – and his method was the same with all who came to hear and learn...He opened eyes with faith...He opened ears with simple truth...and opened hearts with love, a love born of forgiveness.

A gentle man, a humble man, He asked and won no honour, no gold awards of tribute to his expertise or wisdom...And yet this quiet teacher from the hills of Galilee has fed the needs, fulfilled the hopes and changed the lives of many millions...For what he taught brought Heaven to earth and revealed God's heart to mankind.

Author unknown

## **The Generous Spirit**

O Father God, help me always to believe the best about other people. Help me never to be glad when others go wrong, but to be sorry for them and try to help them. Teach me when to hold my tongue, and save me from wanting to pass on unkind stories about people I meet. Make me trustful and generous, like Jesus, my Lord.

Amen

### **From Hear my Prayer – published 1941.**

**They felt alone**, Lord,  
As they walked towards Emmaus.  
The stony ground, the dust,  
The road rutted and rough, meant nothing.  
Neither did the stranger, coming from nowhere,  
Breaking in on their grief.  
There was nothing left but memories  
And they were still harsh and painful.  
Time had had no chance to smooth the rough edges,  
Their emotions were raw and bleeding.

Lord, I don't want to dramatize,  
But I know how they felt.  
I've stood in the wreckage of my plans,  
Seeing nothing but disappointment.  
Shrugging my shoulders, trying to pretend I didn't care  
Turned off.  
Then you appeared unexpected.  
And the world was good again.  
Not like Cinderella and the fairy Godmother,  
Rags to riches, pumpkin to coach, mice into horses,  
(I've always felt sorry for the mice Lord,  
Everyone forgets about them)  
Not like that.  
The pain didn't suddenly disappear.  
Outwardly there was little change,

But the air smelled fresher, the knots relaxed.  
I began to function again,  
To respond to other people,  
And to see you.

Lord it is good to know you are with me,  
In all the strains life brings,  
In the disappointments and the difficulties  
Let me feel your presence.  
And Lord help me to share this with others.  
Make my presence with them your presence.  
May your spirit in me encourage and strengthen.  
And as I recognize Jesus walking beside me, may others see  
something of him in me.

Lord thank you,  
because you are always here.

**A silence and a shouting – Eddie Askew – Luke 24;13-16**

## **Proverbs 25;1-15 – (taken from the Message)**

The right word at the right time

1. There are also these proverbs of Solomon, collected by scribes of Hezekiah, King of Juda.

2. God delights in concealing things  
Scientists delight in discovering things

3. Like the horizons for breadth and the ocean for depth, the understanding of a good leader is broad and deep.

4-5. Remove impurities from the silver and the silversmith can craft a fine chalice;  
Remove the wicked from leadership and authority will be credible and God-honouring.

6-7. Don't work yourself into the spotlight; don't push your way into the place of prominence.  
It's better to be promoted to a place of honour than face humiliation by being demoted.

8. Don't jump to conclusions – there may be a perfectly good explanation for what you just saw.

9-10. In the heat of an argument, don't betray confidences;  
Word is sure to get around and no one will trust you.

11-12. The right word at the right time is like a custom made piece of jewelry, And a wise friend's timely reprimand is like a gold ring slipped on your finger.

13. Reliable friends who do what they say are like a cool drink in sweltering heat – refreshing!

14. Like billowing clouds that bring no rain is the person who talks big but never produces.

15. Patient persistence pierces through indifference; gentle speech breaks down rigid defenses.

## **Dates for the Diary – Services**

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

Ashbourne 10.30am Allan Shaw and Stuart Green  
Altogether Worship

Brailsford 3.00pm Rev Bex Allpress at All Saints

Kirk Ireton 6.30pm Rev Nicola Briggs

Kniveton 11.00am Ruth Barratt

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

#### **Faith**

Ashbourne 10.30am Tim Dutton and Gareth Rutledge  
Altogether Worship

4.30pm Peter Dawson  
Afternoon Tea

Brailsford 10.45am Rev Nicola Briggs  
Altogether Worship

Parwich 2.30pm Tim Dutton

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

#### **Hope**

Ashbourne 10.30am Rev John Hellyer and Jonathan  
Webb – Holy Communion  
Rev Nicola Briggs and Amanada  
Peers

Brailsford 10.45am Rev Bex Allpress at All Saints

Kniveton 2.30pm Rev Nicola Briggs  
Holy Communion

Muddy 10.00am Ireton Wood Area

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May****Love**

Ashbourne 10.30am Fiona Green and Ruth Barratt  
Lorraine Hawkins and Stuart Green

6.30pm Praise – Jeff Ffoulkes

Brailsford 10.30am Ann Parkinson

Tissington 10.30am Rev Nicola Briggs

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May****Pentecost**

Ashbourne 10.30am Rev Nicola Briggs and Jeff Foulkes  
Becky and Tim Dutton

Brailsford 3.00pm Rev Bex Allpress at All Saints

Kirk Ireton 6.30pm Rev John Hellyer

Kniveton 11.00am Rev Mark Broadhurst

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May****Trinity**

Ashbourne 10.30am Lorraine Hawkins and Gareth  
Rutledge  
Altogether Worship

Brailsford 10.30am Rev Bex Allpress and Rev Nicola  
Wyaston

## Dates for the Diary – Events and Meetings

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May

6.30 for 7pm

Quiz Night for Christianity Month –  
Bookings via Nicola Briggs

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May

10.30am

Walk and Talk to Tissington – More info  
from Crispin Scott

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Well Dressings at Tissington

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

3.30pm

Songs of Praise in Tissington –  
Ashbourne Town Band

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May

7pm

Dementia Friends at Ashbourne

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May

7 for 7.30pm

An evening with Award winning  
Chocolatier DAVID GREENWOOD-  
HAIGH – Trinity Hall

Mark Eden has provided the photographs for the front and back BUT – where is the front cover a photo of??

Deadline for the June edition of Connections is Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>  
May by email to [clifflewer@aol.com](mailto:clifflewer@aol.com) or by hand.

# All Are Welcome to these Events as Part of Christianity Month May 2026



## OUTDOOR SONGS OF PRAISE MUSICAL CELEBRATION WITH ASHBOURNE TOWN BAND

To coincide with Tissington Well Dressing we are hosting an Outdoor Musical Celebration event with Ashbourne Town Band. The afternoon will include a range of music to suit all ages and will also give those in good voice the opportunity to sing some well-known songs and hymns.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May  
3.15pm – 4.45pm

Location; Opposite Tissington Hall  
Organisers;  
David Popham 01335 702136  
Tricia Barclay 07702 382709

## AN EVENING WITH AWARD – WINNING CHOCOLATIER DAVID GREENWOOD – HAIGH

David is one of world's leading experts on chocolate and over the last four decades has seen him travel all over the world and in many cases helping and supporting cocoa farmers in countries like Haiti, Togo and Ghana. He is a regular voice on TV and radio as well as judge at some of most prestigious International Chocolate Awards. David is also a lay licensed minister. For anyone who loves chocolate it promises to be a fun, enlightening and tasty evening!



Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May.  
Doors open 7.00pm for a  
7.30pm start.  
Trinity Hall, The Link Centre,  
Ashbourne.  
Free entry. Non-alcoholic cash bar.  
Organiser;  
Gareth Rutledge 07761 625940

