

Ashbourne Church Circuit November 2025



Connections

Letter from our Minister Nicola

Dear Friends in the Ashbourne One Church Circuit and beyond. As we have been celebrating harvest in recent weeks, we recognise the seasons are changing as the autumn colours begin to appear. Harvest is a time of thanksgiving. We can be thankful for so much, the fruitfulness of the earth, the labour of farmers and growers, the abundance we so often take for granted and so much more.

Harvest reminds us not only of the gifts we have been given but also of our calling to share them with others. In a world where many go without, thanksgiving and generosity belong together. As Christians we are called to live as people of hope, sowing kindness, justice, generosity and peace in our communities.

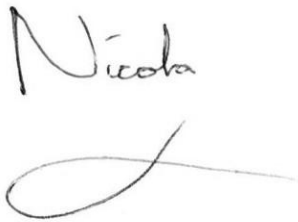
The last few weeks have shown how much hope is needed on the world stage and in our own country, particularly with the awful terror attack at Heaton Park Synagogue on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. The Bishop of Manchester, in his response to this attack said: "The way we defy those who seek to sow hatred in our communities is to draw closer to one another in love. Hate can never defeat hate; only love can conquer hate."

As Christians, we stand alongside our Jewish brothers and sisters in grief and in prayer. We hold the families of all those affected close to our hearts, asking for God's comfort, healing, and peace. Let us focus on sowing love in our communities.

Whatever communities we belong to, we are called to share hope. In the face of violence, fear, and division, we are reminded that God's love is stronger than hate, and that Christ calls us to be witnesses of that love both in real life with but also in the way we use social media.

In the wisdom and words of St Paul: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." As autumn becomes more real to us may we continue to give thanks for all that we have been blessed with, continue to give to those in need, and share faith, hope and love with all whom we meet on our journey through life.

Blessings

A handwritten signature in dark ink. The word "Nicola" is written in a cursive, slightly slanted font. Below it is a large, elegant flourish that starts with a loop and extends to the right.

Pastoral News from around the Ashbourne Circuit November 2025

Looking through my diary for any significant birthdays or other events happening in November, I unfortunately drew a blank. So I start with another plea to the circuit for folk to share their good news and celebrations!

One special birthday missed from the October edition was that Jonathan B turned 18 on 8 October. We hope you enjoyed your special day!

Last month Sue L, David B and Jane B were awarded the Bishop's Badge for their ecumenical work in the village of Brailsford. Congratulations to all who were recognised for their Lay ministry at Derby Cathedral.

We continue to follow the progress of the redevelopment of our church premises and thank all those working quietly behind the scenes. Each week we can see the different stages of the project and look forward to next Spring.

Sadly, there are a number of people who are in need of our prayers. Some are unwell at home, others in hospital or recovering from surgery. Not all wish to be named, but we pray for all of us experiencing difficult and stressful times. We especially think of Margaret Ha, Margaret He, Ruth L, Kay O, Elizabeth S and Jean W.

Wendy Haslam (Pastoral Secretary) 12.10.25

Deuteronomy 31:8 *The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.*

ONE CHURCH CIRCUIT WORSHIP FORUM

The first meeting of the worship forum will be at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 21st October at Tissington Methodist Chapel. This will be to discuss worship matters in the Circuit.

Please car share if you can. There are a few car parking spaces outside the chapel but you may prefer to park in the village and walk up (don't forget your torch!).

FOR SALE

All proceeds to The Link Project

Yamaha PortaTone PSR-300 Electronic Keyboard,
with 61 keys and 100 different voices.

Built-in speakers, AC Power Adapter, stand, dust cover
and the original Users Guide.

Little used and believed to be in full working order.

For further information - John Dyster 01335 344086



Challenges along the cut

Holidays for David and I mean taking our 36' narrowboat (Jack in a Box') travelling on the canal system, exploring and enjoying time away. So planning for our 2025 adventures started by making sure Jack was de-winterised, that she was re-stocked with food/fuel and ready to depart to be away as long as possible.

The glorious weather this year meant that water levels became very low leading to stretches of canal, lock flights and tunnels being shut or on restricted opening. We are lucky in that mooring at Willington means that the canal here is fed by rivers that generally keep levels OK. However, as we wanted to travel north to Stoke on Trent, we waited until September for some rain so that we could navigate safely, eventually setting sail in mid-September for 2 weeks away.

Now our boat is small (a ½ length boat) and the 2 of us set sail with our beagle and a large greyhound (very cosy). It is also basic (a bit like camping) with the need to make best use of the facilities provided bankside for water collection, rubbish and Elsen toilet disposal. Also we need to consider safe food storage (a cool box that plugs in whilst travelling) and keeping warm (using our on-board log burner in cooler nights and mornings).

We plan ahead between water points and food shops, so travelled slowly at first reaching the 'Plume of Feathers' pub at Barlestone on the Saturday. Stopping for a refreshing drink we were disappointed to find out that one of our favourite watering holes was closing for refurbishment for 10 days on the Monday. As we had a full water tank and there is a small supermarket near the pub we decided to stay for 2 nights then go north on Monday.

However on Sunday we heard an ominous sound as the water pump decided it had lived a full life and packed up. This meant that despite a full water tank we were unable to get any water out of the taps and became reliant on our 10 litre

emergency water carrier we have on board. The pub landlord was a star and refilled our water carrier late Sunday evening, then once shut from Monday arranged for the workmen to refill again for us. "I would not want to see anyone without water" he said.

We made the decision to turn round (so never made it to Stoke this year). Initially we survived on 5-6 litres of water a day for all our drinks, food cooking, washing up and doing teeth. We discovered many ways of using the least water possible – everything from wiping dirty food plates before washing in 1" of hot soapy water to recycling used water, measuring carefully and not spilling a drop. We also bought another water carrier in Rugeley and bottles of drinking water as we went along.

Thoughts and prayers Lord ...

Thank you for clean, fresh water.

Thank you for the pub landlord who helped us by giving us water when we needed it.

Thank you for teaching me that it is possible to manage on less resources than our sheltered lives provide us with, help us to value what we have and use it wisely.

We think and pray for those in the world who survive with much less water per day than we did.

We think and pray for those in parts of the world where food and water is scarce or where floods and natural disasters have devastated communities.

Finally - we arrived back in the marina having managed for a whole week without water out of taps - so David's next job is to replace the water pump ready for what we hope will be a slightly longer trip in 2026.

Susan

President Donald Trump is visiting a Glasgow hospital, while showing up at one of his golf courses. He enters a ward full of patients with no obvious sign of injury or illness, He greets one.

The patient replies:

*Fair fa your honest sonsie face,
Great chieftain o' the puddin' race,
Aboon them a ye take yer place,
Painch, tripe or thairm,
As lang's my airm.*

Trump is confused, so he just grins and moves on to the next patient. The next patient responds:

*Some hae meat an canna eat,
And some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat an we can eat,
So let the Lord be thankit.*

Even more confused, and his grin now rictus-like, the President moves onto the next patient, who immediately begins to chant:

*Wee sleekit, cowerin, timorous beastie,
O the panic in thy breastie,
Thou needna start awa sae hastie,
Wi bickering brattle*

Now seriously troubled, Trump turns to the accompanying doctor and asks, 'Is this a psychiatric ward?'

'No,' replies the doctor, 'this is the serious Burns unit.'

Are you looking for a stimulating volunteer opportunity to serve the church and the local community?

Then this could be the job for you!

ASHBOURNE LINK CENTRE - VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The renewal and upgrading of Ashbourne Methodist Church premises during 2025/2026 will provide us with a modern, adaptable venue for community, arts and business use alongside fresh, modern visitor accommodation in Gateway Lodge.

To support this work, we are looking for friendly and approachable volunteers for a range of opportunities to welcome and provide information to visitors and guests.

As one of our first volunteer appointments, we are looking to recruit a **volunteer coordinator**. This could be considered as a shared role with another person.

The role will be interesting and rewarding, with opportunities to meet people and to give something back to the community. At the heart of the role is building positive relationships and maintaining contact with volunteers, contributing to their well-being and ensuring they feel fulfilled.

A programme of induction, support and training will be provided following appointment.

If you would like further information about this role, then please send an expression of interest to Tim Dutton at timdutton29@gmail.com before 31 October 2025. He can then explain the role, the application process and the necessary timescales.

LINK Construction Update – September/October 2025



The Link Foyer is really starting to take shape with the erection of the steelwork and the installing of the ground level floor. (This picture was taken a couple of weeks ago, before the scaffolding went up)



The Link Foyer roof is in place, and we can see the stairs up to the balcony and the upper ground floor level. Also the stairs down to the lower ground floor and the whole flight up to the balcony level



Our Link Operations Manager is carefully ensuring that everything is as it should be!

In Cornerstone the opening into the Link Foyer is made together with the opening for the new servery and the accessible WC. The spaces for the new Cornerstone kitchen and servery area are created. The old door and servery are blocked up.



In Gateway Lodge the walls are plastered, and all the plumbing and electrical cables are in place ready for the ceilings to be installed



The walls for the new Garden Entrance to Gateway Lodge and the lower ground floor of the Link Centre are being built.

In the garden a large pit has been dug to take the attenuation tank for the water run-off from our buildings (once in place the tank will be buried)

ROSEMARY & MEADOW RUE.

Ragged Robin. Meadow Sweet,
Enchanter's Nightshade. Traveller's Joy,
Jack-by-the-hedge. Butterbur,
Viper's Bugloss. Columbine.

Germander Speedwell. Coltsfoot. Pansy,
Ox-eye Daisy. Clover. Tansy,
Maiden Pink. Treacle Mustard,
Honeysuckle. Mistletoe. Hemlock.

Marsh Marigold. Great Reed Mace,
Buttercup. Bellflower. Celandine,
Early Purple Orchis. Day's eye. Clover,
Daffodil. Bluebell. Snowdrop. Thrift.

Chamomile. Wood Sorrel. Shepherd's Purse,
Watercress. Lady's Smock. Melilot. Vetch,
Rose-bay Willow-herb. Chicory. Pimpernel,
Campion. Stitchwort. Chickweed. Flax.

Yellow Archangel. Trefoil. Dandelion,
Poppy. Cornflower. Cinquefoil .Violet,
Rose. Mignonette. Foxglove. Harebell,
Eyebright. Angelica. Eglantine. Lavender,
Sanfoin. Anemone. Wood Avens. Rest Harrow,
Forget-me-not.

Alan Coker Mayes.

for

37785 DRIVER E.H.YATES

ROYAL ENGINEERS

2ND JUNE 1917

What's in it for me? – Inspired by the Iona Community

“Our God of hospitality”

Jesus loved food! You don't believe me? The bible is littered with the evidence, he was always meeting at peoples' houses to have a meal and talk.

Today it is common for our society to eat out in restaurants, but more often than not, the meal is being shared not just between the people sitting at the table but also with their mobile phones and their social media accounts. Where is the fellowship in that?

Jesus spent time with people in their homes. What better way can we walk in Jesus' footsteps and share God's love than to meet at a table in our homes, eat food, drink and spend time together. No 'purpose' to the meal, no 'conversation topics', no 'agenda' issued in advance, no 'minutes' of the meeting afterwards. Pure hospitality and a chance to listen to each other and learn.

And remember at God's table ALL are welcome. Jesus told Zacchaeus the tax collector to "come down immediately" and announced that he would be a guest in his house that day, so if a dishonest tax collector was good enough for Jesus then....?!

Hebrews 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it

Rachel Murt

Love

Love Not just a word, but hands and feet,
Love stoops to serve, love walks the street.
It bears the cross, it breaks the bread,
It lifts the poor, it bows the head.
Love is the power that cannot die,
It speaks the truth, it lives the why.
Let Christ's great love your heart reform –
Be bold, be kind, let your love shine.

Shop for Good – Gifts that Change Lives

The Leprosy Mission Shop has a great range of Christmas cards & gifts, Advent calendars and candles, as well as Christian books and everyday greetings cards.

And if you're looking for a gift for someone who already has everything, how about buying a "Gift for Life" like ten chirpy chicks, a bundle of bandages or even a tonne of bricks!

Every purchase helps to support people affected by leprosy, a disease which continues to impact many people around the world. We also make a small "profit" on items ordered through me, which is donated to The Link Project. So far, we've raised £1334.59 towards the Link.

Catalogues are available at Ashbourne Sunday services or by contacting me on 01335 300338. You can also browse online at www.theleprosymissionshop.com

Stuart Green



I.T. Matters

October 14th has come and gone but that doesn't mean your Windows 10 computer will suddenly stop working. If you have good anti-virus and security software you it is possible you could keep on using it until the Christmas sales and get a great deal on a new one.

I would refer you to my article in the October magazine for choices on what you can do otherwise.

One other important thing to bear in mind is the age of your printer. If you upgrade to Windows 11 you may find that your printer is not compatible, so that means more expense.

I am pleased to say that I have already had some 6 offers of old laptops to see what I can do with them in my quest to re-use and recycle. And my offer still stands. Contact me on 07761 625940 for any queries.

Gareth Rutledge

Unschoolled Ordinary Men

On the evening of Saturday 11 October, men of all ages and from different local Churches gathered at Elim Church for an inspiring and sometimes very moving evening organized by Christian Vision for Men (CVM).

Why the name for the evening ? I think most of us there could think of reasons or excuses why we don't share the good news with our friends, neighbours, work colleagues and the list goes on. Nathan, head of CVM, started the evening by reading Acts 4; 12 -13.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

CVM have been on the road most of this year visiting Churches up and down the country with a powerful vision and message that like Peter, who when chosen by Jesus had no obvious qualities to be a leader of men, we can make a personal difference in this world.

The main talk of the evening was by Gasky, and ex CID Policeman. Gasky, had been in UK policing for 35 years, from vice squad to terror. Following the death of a close work colleague, Gasky shared how his life spiralled out of control and the impact on his mental health, home and family and then how his life unexpectedly dramatically changed.

The evening also included a time of fellowship with music lead by Elim Church and prayers lead by Nathan.

For the men in our One Church Circuit who would like to know more about CVM their website is www.cvm.org.uk. And for those of you who want to take a bit of a roller coaster of a journey, you will see on their home page a link to watch " Gasky's story"

Crispin Scott

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
 That mark our place; and in the sky
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
 In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
 The torch; be yours to hold it high.
 If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
 In Flanders fields.

Deadline for the December edition is Sunday 16th
November, items by hand or email to clifflewer@aol.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – SERVICES

Sunday 19th October

Bible Month

Ashbourne	10.30	Revd Nicola Briggs and Stuart Green All Age Worship and Baptism	
	18.30	Revd Nicola Briggs	PRAISE
Brailsford	10.30	Revd David Leese	
Tissington	10.30	Tom Parkinson	Harvest Festival

Sunday 26th October

Bible Month

Ashbourne	10.30	Revd John Hellyer and Jonathan Webb Lorraine Hawkins and Jacqui Marsh	
	18.30	Revd Andy Fyall	
Kniveton	11.00	Revd Nicola Briggs	Holy Communion

Sunday 2nd November

Ashbourne	10.30	Revd Mark Broadhurst and Gareth Rutledge Holy Communion Catherine Green and Anne Payne	
	16.30	Cathy Stubbs	Afternoon Tea
Brailsford	10.30	Revd Nicola Briggs	All Age Worship
Parwich	14.30	Revd Nicola Briggs	Holy Communion

Sunday 9th November**Remembrance Sunday**

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs and Jeff Foulkes
 Tim Dutton and Amanda Peers

Kniveton 14.30 Tom Parkinson

Muddy 10.00 in the Ashbourne area

Sunday 16th November

Ashbourne 10.30 Lorraine Hawkins and Cathy Stubbs
 Stuart Green and Anne Payne

 18.30 Jeff Foulkes PRAISE

Brailsford 10.30 Revd John Hellyer Holy Communion

Tissington 10.30 Ann Parkinson



The Popham Narrow Boat



Kniveton Harvest Display 12th October