

# Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit

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



## Connections October 2026



*Rev Andy Fyall, Lord Lieutenant, Tony Walker, President of Conference, Vice President of Conference, High Sheriff, Rev Nicola Briggs - Unveiling of commemorative plaque*



Rev Nicola Briggs, Rev Mark Slanet, Caroline Stead, Rev Andy Fyall

## **Dear friends in the Ashbourne One Church Circuit and further afield**

Happy New Year as the first magazine of the 2026-2027 Connexional year. It can be time to take stock as many do around 1<sup>st</sup> January. We can reflect on the joys and the challenges of the last connexional year. Those who have died in our fellowships, those who have moved away and those who have joined us. It is also an opportunity to look forward. None of us can be certain what this year will bring but as a Circuit I feel we have much to be hopeful about.

By the time you read this magazine we will have celebrated a Circuit Service together where the preacher was Revd Andrew Stobart, Principal of Cliff College. At the lunch following the service we had the opportunity to start thinking missionally about our year of partnership with Cliff College and the ministry of our new Local Lay Pastor. I am sorry to not yet be able to announce their name, sadly the pre-employment checks are taking longer than we had anticipated. Those who formed the interview panel are certain that our Lay Pastor will soon be getting to know all of us, especially those in our smaller churches.

There are of course things to be concerned about. Sadly our Circuit Administrator, Cath has resigned. We are grateful for her support and assure her of our prayers as she continues to heal from her surgery. We will be recruiting someone else but really do need to ask you to bear with us, in the meantime, as we are struggling to cover all that needs to be done. If you feel this is an area you could offer support, in the short term, please contact me or Jacqui Marsh.

We may also be concerned about property, finances, membership. The Circuit Leadership Team will know that I have repeatedly said that if we reach out in mission and bring new people to be part of our churches and circuits we will find some of the answers for some of our concerns. This will not happen overnight. We each have the responsibility to invite people to

activities and worship, to welcome new people who come along, to enable people to feel part of us and be willing to adapt and change as needs arise.

It is true that we need to increase our membership. Partly this is because it is still one of the measurements used in the stationing of Ministers by the Methodist Church centrally to see growing and declining churches. Across the Ashbourne One Church Circuit we are increasing our worshipping numbers but not our membership numbers. Being a member is a way of formally belonging, supporting and helping to guide our local church and circuit. As a member it opens the door to being involved in ministries, be that pastoral, worship or leadership. To find out more about being a member have a look at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/membership/> or talk to others in the church or to me.

As we look at the year ahead of us, I pray that we might all grow in discipleship and in fellowship. Whatever God calls us to do, may we feel able to respond like the prophet Isaiah: Here am I. Send me! (Isaiah 6:8)

Please note that I will be on Annual Leave from Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, inclusive. If you require a Methodist Minister urgently in this period please contact Revd Arnold Dixon 01335 368899 or [arnolddixon@talktalk.net](mailto:arnolddixon@talktalk.net).

Blessings

**Nicola**

## Church Family News September 2026

Today as I walked around the beautiful lanes and fields in Hulland Ward there were two red Kites flying overhead. My heart was singing 'What a Faithful God have I and as I walked a memory of not long after we moved from Leeds popped into my head. We had started worshipping at Ashbourne Methodist Church and I was asked to say a few things in a service focused on verses from Isaiah 43 vs 18.19 *'Forget the former things, do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing'*. I spoke on walking, boots and our NEW lives here in the Derbyshire Dales.

Last night I began a NEW start again as Pastoral Secretary for Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit, 'See, I am doing a new thing'. This is my first item for the Connections and as I begin this new role I would like to thank Wendy for all her hard work over many years and also for being very supportive to me. I pray that God will grant her a time of rest and peace as she prepares for His next calling. Our churches and chapels have been blessed by her and we thank God.

From the fellowship we bring Anne Wa, Anne Wi, Diane P, Hyacinth S-D, Kay O, Liz Hi, Liz Hu, Margaret G, Margaret He, Margaret W and Rev Nicola for prayers. *Lord, Be with each of them and bless them with Your unfailing love and care.*

During the hot weather recently our local farming community, their families and workers have struggled with the heat and lack of water. We thank God for this rain that has recently arrived, let us remember that our farmers will be still suffering, financial loss and also animals that they cared for and give thanks for all they do.

It has been lovely to see people in the services from all over our country and we say welcome those who have been attending regularly.

As we move into the season of Autum we bring thanks for a new freshness in the mornings, the joy of the Harvest and cosy evenings. It is always lovely to see the colour changes too.

As I close can I please ask that any Pastoral matters that come along, such as birthdays, anniversaries, births, exam passes, and of course house moves, telephone number changes and of course illness, admissions to hospital and deaths come via Rev Nicola or myself. It is important that these items are processed in the correct way so that no one is missed by thinking we have heard from someone else, thank you.

Finally, I will end in 'thank you' to those who faithfully pray for others, and personally those of you who have held me in prayer over the past few weeks as I began this new post, you know who you are.

***Maureen Vollans***

(Pastoral Secretary 11.9.26)

## **1 Corinthians 13**

When we moved house recently, we had to find a plumber. It wasn't easy getting one, but when Jim turned up he was very helpful. He's a competent, conscientious and cheerful worker, and a conversationalist.

He told us a lot about his family. There's a teenage son, tragically hit by Multiple sclerosis, and a wife Jim obviously adores. 'She's a great woman, my wife', he said, 'and we've got a good marriage. In 30 years she has never run out of coffee or toilet paper', we laughed.

There are many ways of showing love. The glossy magazines say diamonds are best. The slightly more modest weeklies advise us to say it with flowers. A hug, a kiss, a held hand, all help.

And there's the coffee and toilet paper way. The faithful, quiet work that keeps homes going, keeps relationships good. The attention to detail, making sure everyday things are cared for. It may be earthy, but is no less valuable for that.

The cup of coffee, and the rest, speak for themselves. Speak of looking ahead, anticipating needs, meeting them with loving ordinariness.

‘Love is patient, love is kind...’ writes Paul to the Christians at Corinth. ‘Love will never come to an end’ and whether we write books about it, express it simply through the weekly shopping list, it all has meaning. Love expressed in an infinity of ways, mostly quiet.

Love is still at the centre of the universe. Still available. And God, who is love, is still trying to pour it into our lives.

### **A prayer for FAMILY**

This is a beautiful blessing from the Bible to pray for your family, or for someone you know.

May the Lord give you success,  
And may he give you and your children success.  
May you be blessed by the Lord,  
Who made heaven and earth.  
Psalm 115; 14-15

God,  
I place my family in your hands,  
I trust them to your safe keeping,  
Protect them, guard them, watch over them,  
Bless them, God, and care for their needs.

Amen

### **Ashbourne Secretarial & Printing Services**

Sonya Williamson, the proprietor of this business, situated just next door but one to the Chapel, is the person who so excellently prints our Connections Magazine each month as well as doing many other printing and copying jobs for the Church. We want to celebrate that this month marks Sonya’s 30<sup>th</sup> year in business – Well done Sonya and thank you for everything you do.

## **Currency of Living**

I am not sure where I am with money.  
When I've had very little of it,  
I've been full of theories about sharing:  
But when I've had more than enough,  
The money changer in my temple  
Tends to label the surplus 'my' and 'mine'

I can't imagine the world without money  
And yet it's difficult to use it wisely.  
Jesus said that where our treasure is,  
That's where our hearts are also.  
I think I know what he meant,  
But it still doesn't prevent me  
From getting my values mixed up.  
Where is my treasure?  
Where is my heart?

I think it helps when I remember  
Just whose earth this really is.  
It's a trust that everything I have, including myself, is a gift from  
God.  
Nothing can be earned, nothing owned,  
Nothing labelled with my name.  
When I remember that,  
My heart shifts focus.  
I lose sight of 'my' and 'mine'  
Of material possessions  
And I reach out to worship  
Not the gifts but the Giver.

*Taken from Aotearoa Psalms*

## Church Annual Donations - 2025/26 - £8,159 (Approved)

Every year the Church donates 10% of its gifts to nominated charities. The amount to donate is calculated annually by taking the prior year gifts received (in this case the year 2024/25) this is made up of:

Giving made monthly (direct to the bank), Sunday Offerings, Income from lettings and 'one off' donations.

We calculate 10% of this total and then deduct from this value any specific donations made in the current Church year, example donations made to Ashbourne Churches Together for the Fun Day. The Balance is then shared out using an agreed formulae of:

40% to The Methodist Connexional Fund (specific funds chosen)

20% to our international mission partners

20% to our local nominated charities

20% to 'annual special nominations'

This year our 'special' charities are Lowberdale Farm which is **a care farming charity**, based near Hartington in Derbyshire, which enables young people and children to engage in a farm environment who struggle with the academic world, Derbyshire Rural Chaplaincy which is an active support network for the farmers in Derbyshire and Ashbourne Refugee Community Sponsorship (ARCS) is a local volunteer group in Derbyshire Dales that welcomes and supports refugee families.

A team of four people meets annually to review the Donation calculations and the list of nominee charities. If you would like to be part of this team, please contact the Rev Nicola Briggs.

***Rachel Murt***

## **John**

Who was John?

John and James were brothers. Their Father was Zebedee.

Both John and James were Jesus' disciples

John wrote his gospel while he was in Ephesus, between AD 50 and 70

John thought about the meaning of everything that Jesus did.

Why did John write his gospel?

John wrote his gospel so that everyone would believe that Jesus is the son of God.

When someone believes that Jesus is the Son of God, they have eternal life – John 20.31

John wrote about Jesus' teachings and miracles.

He wanted everyone to see that Jesus is the Saviour, the Son of God.

Jesus' miracles showed that he is the Son of God.

Jesus is stronger than disease John 4;43 -54 and 9:1-12

Jesus fed thousands of people John 6; 1-15

Jesus is stronger than the wind and waves. John 6; 16-21

Jesus is stronger than death. John 11; 1-44

## **Leisure**

What is this life if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs

And stare as long as sheep and cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,

Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,

Streams full of stars like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance

And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.

**W H Davies**

## Luke 9: 28-45

Some people can walk quietly and calmly into a situation of confusion, size it up, and do something about it. It's a rare and enviable gift, and Jesus had it. Read Luke 9: 28-45, and immerse yourself in the atmosphere. After the exaltation of the experience on the mountain and the peace of the night in the hills. Jesus was met by a crowd of people. It was a large and curious crowd, shoving and elbowing, closing in, talking, quarrelling, dirty and sweaty, staring at the Galilean prophet they had come to see. In the middle of it comes a shouted protest, a criticism at the way his disciples are handling things. 'Look at my son, your disciples couldn't do anything' Crowd, noise, heat, criticism, sickness. The disciples helpless, the father disappointed, belligerent. To make it worse the boy goes into convulsions. In it all, Jesus is competent, and in control of the situation, effectively translating the love of God into action, by healing the boy, and restoring him to the father.

Jesus was firmly in control of his own reactions too. Surrounded by wonder and admiration for what He had done. He gently takes his disciples beyond the immediate, beyond the healing, quietly revealing the fundamental purpose of His presence with them, leading them gently up to the cross. Not carried away by success. He shared His compassion in full understanding of where it would lead him.

*Lord you were always in control,  
Whatever faced you.  
Human need, suffering and pain.  
Poverty and hunger.  
Doubt and disbelief.  
Anger and hate.  
The cynicism which says good is evil,  
And twists motives beyond belief.*

*And when people came,  
Anxious, frightened, angry people,  
Not knowing which way to go,  
You were ready for them.*

*Offering love, strength,  
Understanding, comfort, challenge.  
Above all, Love.*

*In control because you say beyond the immediate.  
Because your Father's purposes  
Were clear and real.  
Because everything was subordinate to that.  
And always,  
In responding to pain and need,  
You pointed people onwards,  
Beyond the hurt,  
To the love that never lets us go.*

*Lord when I'm faced with crisis,  
With demands on time and attention,  
When the fingers of panic start to churn  
And I can't cope,  
Lord, let me take your hand.  
Help me to see your eternal purposes  
Within the demands of daily living.  
Show me the essential beyond the immediate.  
And protect me from being so busy with the urgent  
That I have no time for the important.*

*And Lord – give me your peace.*

## **Personal Prayer**

I remember who I am in the light of whose I am.  
I give thanks for the holy places where you have revealed  
yourself to me,  
O God...  
And for all the holy paces I have yet to know----  
This I *do know*:  
I will find you, You are already there – waiting for *me*.  
And I remember who I am in the light of whose I am.

**Connie Nelson**

## **New worship opportunities at AMC**

Our refurbished building has provided some new opportunities for worship.

On Saturday 22 August, we enjoyed a wonderful service of dedication for the new suite of buildings. The church was full of members from the circuit, friends and families, including many who were part of the original visionary group. There were also special guests from the county, local community officials, council representatives, sponsors, architects and builders. The service was led by Reverend Nicola, supported by circuit musicians. There were prayers by the Chair of the District, readings by Eric Matthews and the Lord Lieutenant, and sermonettes by the President and Vice President of the Methodist Church. There was also the unveiling of our new art mural - I will lift my eyes to the hills - and the official 'opening' plaque, plus lots of tea and cake whilst others took tours of the premises. And as a take away, everyone had a holding cross made from excess wood from the old pews (also used to make the cross on the mural). A wonderful celebration of the journey from vision to reality. Thank you to all those who made this occasion so special.

As well as our established Church with Choices, Praise and Afternoon Tea services, we recently introduced a reflective evening service. This will be on the 5th Sunday of the month, four times a year, and will include holy communion. The next one will be on Sunday 29 November, inspired by Iona-style worship. In the autumn, we will be replicating the Advent and Lent lunch time reflections in Cornerstone and after Christmas, we hope to have a mid-week afternoon communion service so watch this space for details in January.

***Tim Dutton***

## **Something told the Wild Geese**

Something told the wild geese  
It was time to go.  
Though the fields lay golden  
Something whispered – ‘Snow’.  
Leaves were green and stirring,  
Berries, luster glossed,  
But beneath warm feathers  
Something cautioned, - ‘Frost’.  
All the sagging orchards  
Streamed with amber spice,  
But each wild breast stiffened  
At remembering ice.  
Something told the wild geese  
It was time to fly,-  
Summer sun was on their wings, Winter in their cry.

***Rachel Field***

## **The Bright Field**

I have seen the sun break through  
To illuminate a small field  
For a while, and gone my way  
And forgotten it. But that was the pearl  
Of great price, the one field that had  
the treasure in it. I realize now  
that I must give all that I have  
to possess it. Life is not hurrying  
  
on to a receding future, nor hankering after  
and imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle  
of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth  
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.

***R S Thomas***



# The **Methodist** Church

## **Ashbourne One Church Circuit**

Having carefully and prayerfully come together as a One Church Circuit in September last year we are already seeing signs of us being more united, much more 'one' church and so the Circuit Leadership team have been exploring how we can develop this further. We identified two opportunities that could help us significantly advance our missional activity across the circuit.

The first is the opportunity to be part of a Cliff College's Joyful News Connexion project for their 26/27 pilot year for which we have been accepted. We will have a wealth of support from Cliff College for that year, from student placement to the Principal, Andrew Stobart, leading training. We would have access to courses and events at Cliff College and worship resources to support our missional work. Not only have Cliff College accepted us to be part of their Year 2 pilot but our District has offered to contribute £4,000 of the £8,000 donation which we would make to Cliff College.

The second opportunity which we have identified is for the employment of a Local Lay Pastor for 3 years from September 2026, having explored the benefits of such a post with other Circuits.

We believe this would:

- maximise the benefit of the Cliff College project across the circuit and enable us to grow beyond the project year
- focus on our rural chapels, working with them to explore and develop missional opportunities within their communities and further develop pastoral support
- fill the gaps left by our loss of Rev'd David Leese

The Circuit Leadership Team applied to the District Advance Fund for financial support of half of the £75,600 cost over three years and they have not only agreed to fund 50% (£37,800) they have given us their blessing for this aspirational development. We are sure you can see the benefits of having both projects starting in September 2026, however the circuit funds do not stretch to cover our share of the these opportunities for the full three year period.

So we ask if you would prayerfully consider supporting us by completing the enclosed Pledge Card and return it to me.

With many thanks

Rev'd Nicola Briggs, Superintendent Minister,  
Ashbourne One Church Circuit

16 Booth Drive, Ashbourne DE6 1SZ 01335 702174

## **An Investment in our future mission**

***I pledge to Ashbourne Methodist Circuit for the use of our missional work (tick where applicable):***

£100.00 per month....

£75.00 per month....

£50.00 per month....

£25.00 per month....

£10.00 per month....

£5.00 per month....

Another sum per month £.....

***I cannot give a regular sum at present but I would like to make a one off gift of the following amount (tick where applicable)***

£500.....

£400.....

£300.....

£200.....

£100.....

£50.....

Other £.....

***I pledge to organise at least one fund raising venture (perhaps a coffee morning at home, or selling homemade cakes or crafts, or sponsored events)***

Per week.....

Per month.....

Every quarter.....

***Please complete your contact details.***

***Also consider completing the Gift Aid declaration and if you are a UK tax payer.***

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name:

Address

Postcode (must be entered)

Telephone Number

Email

**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

I want ASHBOURNE METHODIST CIRCUIT to treat

- The enclosed donation as a Gift Aid donation
- All donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations

(delete as appropriate)

Date.....

**GIFT AID REQUIREMENT**

*For Gift Aid purposes you must pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that the charity reclaims on your donations in the appropriate tax year (25p for each £1.00 you give).*

## **Service of Dedication for The Link Centre and Gateway Lodge**

On Saturday 22nd August, it was our great privilege to share in a Service of Dedication for The Link Centre and Gateway Lodge.

The buildings were dedicated for the use and benefit of the people who live, work and visit Ashbourne and its surrounding area.

After the service, The Revd Mark Slaney & Caroline Stead, President & Vice-President of the Methodist Conference, unveiled a plaque to mark the occasion.

We were pleased to be joined by His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Derbyshire, Mrs Elizabeth Fothergill CBE, and the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, Syed Iftikhar.

Also in attendance were local community leaders, including representatives of Derbyshire Dales District Council, Ashbourne Town Council and Ashbourne Churches Together, as well as staff from the project architects, Allan Joyce Architects, and the main contractors, Messenger BCR.

The service was led by Ashbourne Methodist Church's minister, Revd Nicola Briggs. The Lord Lieutenant shared a reading from Hebrews 11: 1-12 while Eric Matthews, read John 14: 1-14. Both the President and Vice President of Conference addressed the service and the prayers for the community were led by Revd Andy Fyall, Chair of the Nottingham & Derby District of the Methodist Church.

It was a wonderful celebration and an opportunity to recommit ourselves to serve our community. The prayer of dedication concluded with these words:

Generous God, of your great goodness you renew your people in their daily living. Bless this congregation. Empower us, on this day of dedication, for fresh ventures in faith, greater commitment to worship, and new acts of service.

The whole congregation responded:

In the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit we dedicate ourselves in service and praise. Amen

*(See inside front cover photographs)*

### **'The Holy Blisful Martir for to Seke'**

Two Franciscan *brothers* we met,  
In St. Oswald's hall,  
And a few of their *companions*,  
Long and short and tall.

A *pilgrimage* was theirs,  
*Treading* the paths and lanes of the *land*,  
Towards their destination,  
And *carrying* tokens of their condition,  
A cross, a book, a shell, an *oblation*.

From the far North Country they came,  
*Seeking* a southern city,  
And making a *connection* with the land and each other,  
Alternate steps repeating, repeating,  
Until journey's end, *following* the map.

But that day was a day of *rest*,  
for these *strangers* in a welcoming space,  
Resuming the road tomorrow.

We *speak* of blisters and back-up,  
No longer a cart but a car,  
And cut-off toothbrushes,  
And travelling light,  
With a *High Spirit* and a troubador,  
To *soothe* the sore watches of the *night*.

Farewell *then* and fare you well,  
As you approach your *culmination*,  
God be with *you* and with *us*;  
We met you on the *road*, following *the Way*.

*When* our pilgrimage is over, we shall *see*,  
That *to find* our home we must *leave* it,  
And *return* to it,  
But *changed*.

***Alan Coker Mayes***



*Three from Brailsford Chapel met the Franciscan Peace Pilgrimage at St. Oswald's as they passed through Ashbourne on the 15th of August.*

## **The Rainbow**

When I see a rainbow, I know the storm is nearly spent.  
And very soon the sun appears, to star its new ascent.  
New hope is on the Horizon, new joy can behold.  
As the colours of this bow, across the sky unfold  
We know the storm is over, the rainbow is the sign  
That God is watching over us, with love that's so divine  
There's nothing we should fear, as He watches from on high  
And sets his seal before us – His rainbow in the sky.

*Based on Genesis 9: 13 – written by Derek Marshall in –  
Preaching in verse*

## **TISSINGTON CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY – AUGUST 2026**



It was good to welcome Rev Tim Morris and his wife Alison to our Chapel Anniversary service in August. Rev Tim spoke about the changes which the Chapel had undergone in 2012 when the Chapel had a complete refurbishment, this was during Rev Tim's time as the Minister for the Ashbourne Circuit. In August it was 71 years since the Chapel was opened.

## **Welly Club**

The Welly Club is going from strength to strength. We now have nine volunteers who, on a rota basis, enjoy the weekly sessions every Tuesday morning from 9.30–11.00am.

The preschool group provides a safe, stimulating and welcoming environment where young children can learn and develop through play, at no cost to the families.

It also gives the opportunity for parents and carers to meet and support each other.

We have a good range of activities, including jigsaws, books, water play, playdough, sand play and small-world play, with dollies, tracks, farms and farm animals.

We also have story time, which helps the children engage with Bible stories, followed by a good singsong.

We are all enjoying being back at Riverside, with the much-improved floor, decoration and lowered ceiling, as well as the great cupboard space and shelving. The whole space is fully utilised, and the Atrium provides a great opportunity for friendships to develop before and after sessions, especially with its link to Cornerstone.

Over the last eight weeks, we have had 75 children attending, representing 52 families, and we have averaged 29 children each week during the school holidays. With four mothers expecting again, it looks as though our numbers will continue to increase.

If anyone would like to join our team of volunteers, please let Helen Walker or Wendy Haslam know.

## **There is always someone to tell you**

That you are wrong.  
There are always Whatever course you decide upon,  
difficulties arising  
Which tempt you to believe  
That your critics are right.  
To map out a course of action and follow it  
To an end requires courage.  
Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

I think that the most significant work  
We ever do, in our whole world,  
In our whole life,  
Is done within the four walls of our home.  
All mothers and Fathers,  
Whatever their stations in life,  
Can make the most significant of contributions  
By imprinting the spirit of service  
On the souls of their children,  
So that the children grow up  
Committed to making a difference.

***Stephen R Covey PH.D.***

## **Seasons**

When I woke up one morning it was like,  
'Morning had broken, like the first morning'.  
As the sun was shining, through the gap in the curtains.  
I found it was such, a wonderful sight.

When I open the curtains the sunshine was so beautiful like,  
'Summer suns are glowing, over the land and the sea.'  
As the garden and trees swayed in the gentle breeze,  
I felt it was such, a lovely delight.

When I went to the bathroom on that same sunny morning,  
it had turned cloudy and was looking quite grey.

So I open the window and put my head out,  
to have 'Rain drops... now, falling on my head'.

So then, when I had finished in the bathroom that morning,  
on that not sunny but now cloudy day.

I could see through the window, that things were quite  
different.

'It raining, it's pouring...' and now,  
streams of water, were running down our driveway.

So now, when I had finished getting dressed on that morning.

I glanced out the window on that now,  
not sunny or cloudy or raining day.

To my utter surprise and quite frank dismayed,  
was a seen like 'amid the winter's snow.'

Outside was like a real winter's scene,  
as the ground was covered in white.

All the seasons in one hour was quite a sight,  
as ordinarily, it takes a whole day.

So I wasn't surprise as I arrived downstairs to see  
'the bleak mid-winter' and 'frosty winds' take their place.

So when I wake up each morning and see,  
a lovely and glorious day.

I thank God for the Sunrise, the warm sunshine and rain  
and the seasons that give our world life.

*Hyacinth Sweeney-Dixon 5 May 2022 [EWG Theme May]  
Reflection*

## **Greenbelt 2026**

Around 25 people from our church were at Greenbelt Festival on Bank Holiday weekend. There was worship, prayer, talks, seminars, music, comedy, theatre and more. Here are some thoughts from two people who were there.

Wesley went to see a play called The Light House, which told the story of a woman and what happened after her partner tried to take his own life.

### Wesley G says:

"The Light House was an incredibly moving show that impressed me from start to finish. The emotional depth of the characters and the thoughtful storytelling of how she was able to tell such sad personal stories in such light-hearted ways. The audience participation felt almost safe, rather than being embarrassing like in some shows. It makes you feel happy, sad, and hopeful all in one hour, and the beautifully simple way everything was put together made it truly amazing to watch."

### Jacob SD's impressions of his first trip to Greenbelt

"Greenbelt was very interesting going there for the first time being at a place where so many Christians were and where people worship God in itself feels encouraging. I found myself quite surprised for the amount of people that were there but feeling relaxed not overwhelmed by the amount. I love that there are many different options that we can participate in and enjoy making things with our hands, discussing things that bring awareness to them, sing along to our favourite songs that may be 80's, worship or something different. The fact that people can go to a place to relax, laugh, smile or even cry and have open conversations with strangers really does feel nice even though the weather itself was on its own timing, it didn't stop us from enjoying our time.

So to whoever is reading this, this last section will be a dedication of thanks and prayers. So thank you to church and the church supporters that helped me to join them at Greenbelt, thank you to all of you that I camped with and ate meals and laughed with. Thanks for the wisdom and knowledge from them and from the brothers and sisters in faith I met while there. I pray that all of you share in the joy that I had meeting and spending time with you guys. That you all know that you are loved, cared about and treasured by God and everyone in the body of Christ. And especially thank you to those of you who are reading this, I pray that as you walk with God you get to just have fun and enjoy the journey and know that you are loved by God every step of the way."

## **Dates for the Diary – Services**

### **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

|            |       |                                                                     |
|------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashbourne  | 10.30 | Peter Dawson and Gareth Rutledge<br>Cathrine Green and Amanda Peers |
|            | 18.30 | Tim Dutton and Revd Nicola Briggs<br>Praise with Holy Communion     |
| Brailsford | 10.30 | Own Arrangement – Harvest followed by<br>lunch - Altogether Worship |
| Muddy      | 10.00 | Ashbourne Area                                                      |
| Tissington | 10.30 | Tom Parkinson                                                       |

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

|             |       |                                                                     |
|-------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashbourne   | 10.30 | Tim Dutton and Stuart Green<br>Harvest Festival -Altogether Worship |
| Brailsford  | 15.00 | Afternoon Tea at All Saints                                         |
| Kirk Ireton | 18.30 | Andy Cokayne, Harvest Festival                                      |
| Kniveton    | 11.00 | Revd Arnold Dixon, Holy Communion                                   |

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October**

|            |       |                                                                |
|------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashbourne  | 10.30 | Fiona Green and Ruth Barratt<br>Paul Taylor and Cathrine Green |
|            | 16.30 | Cathy Stubbs Afternoon Tea                                     |
| Brailsford | 10.30 | Revd Nicola Briggs, Altogether Worship                         |
| Parwich    | 14.30 | Revd Nicola McNally, United Harvest<br>Festival                |

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

|            |       |                                                                      |
|------------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashbourne  | 10.30 | Revd Nicola Briggs and Cathy Stubbs<br>Stuart Green and Amanda Peers |
| Brailsford | 10.45 | All Saints Holy Communion                                            |
| Kniveton   | 14.30 | Revd John Hellyer, Harvest Festival                                  |
| Muddy      | 10.00 | Ashbourne Area                                                       |

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**

|            |       |                                                   |
|------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Ashbourne  | 10.30 | Diana Whitmill<br>Lorraine Hawkins and Anne Payne |
|            | 18.30 | Paul Taylor, Praise                               |
| Brailsford | 10.30 | Ann Parkinson                                     |
| Tissington | 10.30 | Revd Nicola Briggs, Holy Communion                |

### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

|             |       |                                                             |
|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ashbourne   | 10.30 | Revd Arnold Dixon and Jonathan Webb<br>Becky and Tim Dutton |
| Brailsford  | 15.00 | Afternoon Tea at All Saints                                 |
| Kirk Ireton | 18.30 | Revd Nicola Briggs                                          |
| Kniveton    | 11.00 | Revd Nicola Briggs                                          |

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

|                                |            |                                                                 |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | 19.30      | One Church Circuit<br>Meetings at Brailsford                    |
| Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct  | 9.30-16.30 | Cliff Connexion Resource<br>Day at Cliff College                |
| Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct    | Evening    | Kniveton Harvest Auction                                        |
| Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct | 19.00      | Kirk Ireton Harvest<br>Supper - Please book<br>with the Dormans |
| Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct  | 14.30      | Smaller Churches<br>Meeting at Kirk Ireton                      |

### **Peoples Emergency Briefing October 29th at The Link Centre**

What's happening with climate and nature, and what does it mean for everyday life in the UK?

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### **Connections for November**

Deadline for the next edition of Connections is Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> October, by tea time please to [clifflewer@aol.com](mailto:clifflewer@aol.com)



*Greenbelt main arena*



*Evening activity at Greenbelt*



*Carsington sunset and reflection – Mark Eden*