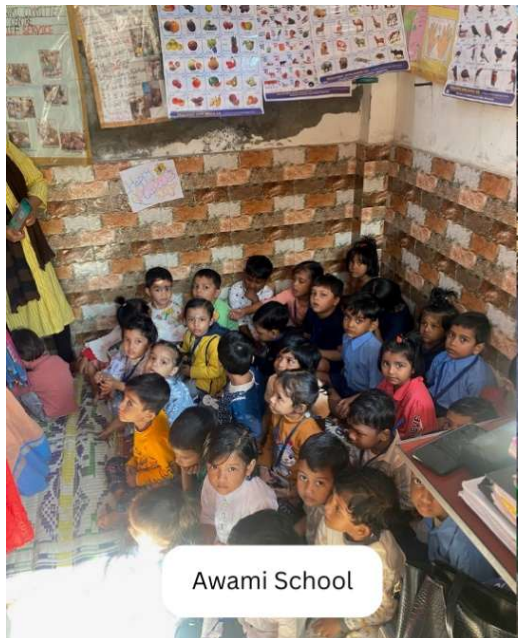


Ashbourne Methodist One Church Circuit

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



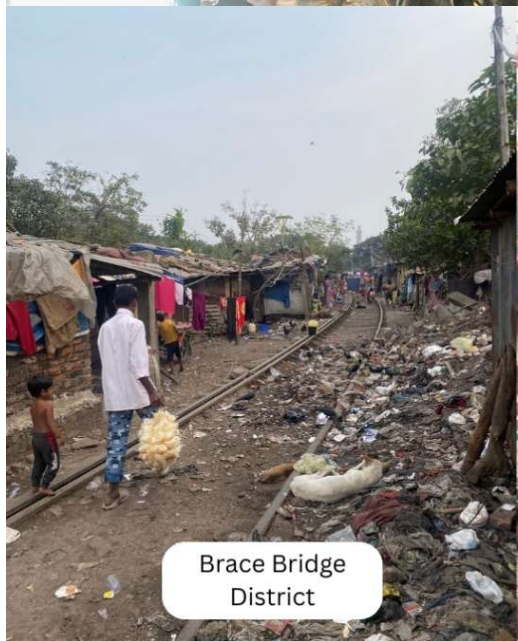
Connections
February 2026



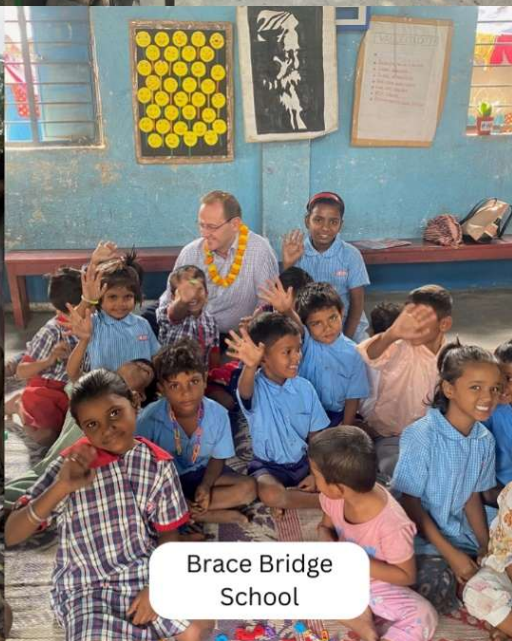
Awami School



Awami School



Brace Bridge District



Brace Bridge School

Dear Friends in the Ashbourne One Church Circuit and beyond

Happy New Year to you all. I pray that 2026 will bring new opportunities for us to engage in mission and ministry together.

January brings us the annual covenant services, and these will be happening all over the connexion. The Covenant Service is one of the most unique things that Methodism offers the wider body of Christ. John Wesley invited the Methodist people to regularly renew their covenant relationship with God.

Covenant is about our commitment to God and although we may only use the prayer once a year corporately, it is something we could use more regularly in our private devotions. I have included the newer version of the prayer with this letter in case you would like to use it personally.

When we pray the covenant prayer we are looking to deepen our discipleship with God. In the covenant God offers us a loving relationship through his grace, not a

contract in which we must agree certain terms and conditions.

God offers each of us his full and undivided commitment and gives us the opportunity to commit ourselves afresh. Often people say to me they feel the covenant prayer is a bit like the commitments made in marriage vows. Well you may be interested to know that Wesley's original Covenant Prayer involved taking Christ as "my Head and Husband, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, for all times and conditions, to love, honour and obey thee before all others, and this to the death".

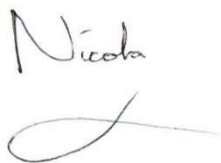
Whether we have been married or not we will be aware from relationships with others that marriage vows are a starting place not an ending. They involve work and commitment and often people make mistakes, need to be forgiven and start over. We will recognise this in any form of human relationships. When we say the covenant prayer God already knows we will struggle with some of the wording. It may be that we feel vulnerable at the task to which we are committing ourselves. We may feel overwhelmed at the immensity of the prayer because it involves our whole beings, body, mind, soul, and spirit.

The good news is that God is there to help us start over when we find the covenant prayer hard to keep,

and he longs to see every member of his family growing in their faith. Corporate worship helps us to grow but we also have opportunities through house groups, setting time aside privately for God each day. It may be that God is calling you to grow in a particular way, perhaps to consider preaching, worship leading, pastoral care, music ministry, serve overseas, or a hundred and one other ways of seeing you grow as a disciple of Christ. If you think God is calling you to take a step of faith, then I would be more than happy to meet to chat and pray.

Whatever God is saying to you I pray that 2026 will bring new opportunities for us to engage in mission and ministry together.

Blessings

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Nicola', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the bottom.

Nicola

Church Family News February 2026

The icy snow is still covering the ground as I write this and getting to church this morning was quite slippery! I do hope everyone manages to keep warm and safe.

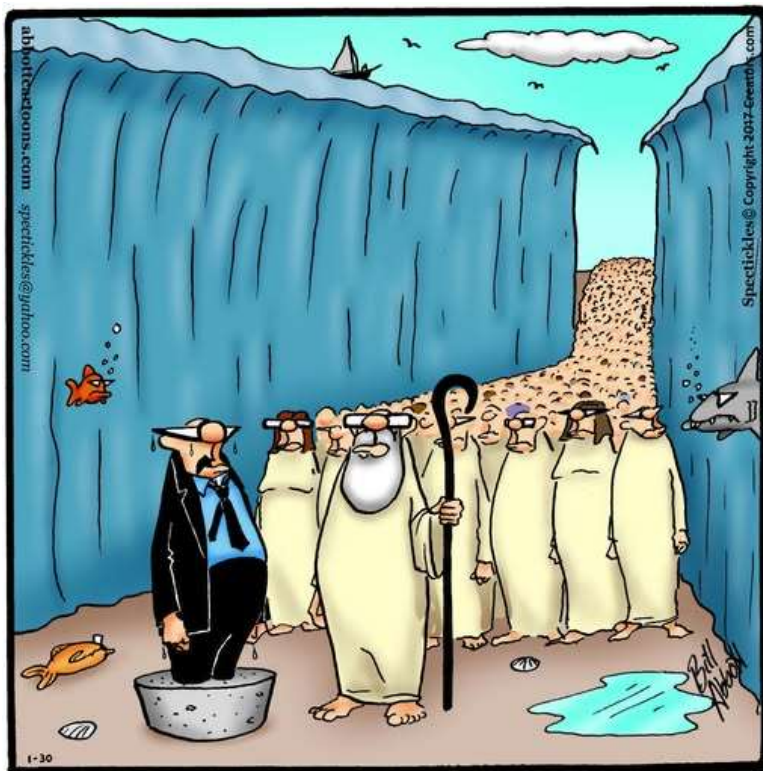
This month we say a fond farewell to two families within our church fellowship. Firstly Diane and Richard W have moved, not too far away, to Swadlincote. They thank everyone for their friendship and fellowship at AMC over the past ten years. Secondly Clare and Robert S will have moved a bit further away to Aberystwyth, Wales. Both moves have been very stressful at times, but we hope that both families soon unpack all the boxes and settle down into their new homes. We shall miss them and thank them for everything they have done over the years. Please do keep in touch!

Ill health continues to affect many people especially at this time of year. We pray for all who are unwell, receiving treatment or recovering after a spell in hospital. We especially think of Vera B, David B, Maureen C, Margaret He, Kay O, Diane P and others known to us. Similarly there are others who are also facing difficult times. We continue to pray for the family of Beryl P following her funeral at Tissington; and for Sue L and family, after the service of Thanksgiving for the life of David at Brailsford on 31 Jan.

Finally some significant birthdays are being celebrated. Happy belated birthday wishes go to Jean W who was 95 on Jan 13. Mark B is also celebrating a special birthday in Feb 8.

Wendy Haslam 11.01.26 (Pastoral secretary)

Numbers 6:24-26: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.



"Well, that was lucky."

Ashbourne Christmas Angels 2026

Prompted by a request from a Church member in early September, Craft & Chat and friends began knitting and crocheting angels in the autumn ready to give away in Ashbourne close to Christmas. As in previous years we were delighted to receive angel contributions from St Oswald's Church members, the WI and many folk around the town and further afield we have connections with. It was as fantastic to discover small bags of angels hanging on our door handles or dropped off at Cornerstone as it was to be amazed by full boxes of them arriving at Craft & Chat on a Monday afternoon. Some new knitters and crocheters surprised themselves with their creations and experienced crafters enjoyed trying out new techniques and embellishments to create individual angels. As always it was great to see how differently the same few basic patterns turned out.

At the start of December at Craft & Chat each of the angels had a tag added with a greeting (such as 'I bring good news!', 'A gift of love' or 'Life is for living') and good wishes from Ashbourne's Churches. We were so thrilled with how many angels there were to tag, far more than we expected.

On Friday 19 December our heavenly host of 975 angels was on display at St Oswald's Church for a service of blessing and celebration led by Revds Nicola and Maggie. It was joyful to share with crafters, supporters and some visitors to the area who left with encouragement to try making angels in their town.

On Saturday 20 December a dozen or so volunteers gathered at Cornerstone as it started to get light and our angels descended on Ashbourne. Over the next few hours all of the angels found new homes and we

heard many positive comments from recipients: 2 people chose one to take to a housebound friend; one man was in tears when he found one; and a café remarked on Facebook that this was "Ashbourne at its absolute finest". Our angels once again touched the hearts of those who gave them new homes.

As in previous years pictures of our angels reached many people via Facebook. Within a few days the original post about them on the Church Facebook page had been seen by more than 20,000 people – a real witness.

This was the sixth time we have made angels, and over the years we have shared nearly 6,000 with our community. How amazing is that!

It just remains to say a big thank you to all of the crafters, taggers, distributors, Facebook sharers and encouragers who have been involved. It was a real team effort.

Clare





50 years on....

Doesn't time just fly by?! It certainly doesn't seem 50 years since that evening in Duffield Methodist Church (now sadly closed) when I was confirmed as a Methodist local preacher.

I was brought up in a traditional but wonderful Methodist home. Dad was a longstanding local preacher, circuit steward, trustees' secretary and mum ran the young wives' group and the Thursday luncheon club among other things. So, it was no wonder that when I went off to university I joined Meth Soc and became fully involved in Methodist student activities. I spent much time in the company of our inspirational chaplain the Reverend John Farley from whom I learned a huge amount about the relevance of the gospel in today's world. It will not surprise you to learn that John was a pretty radical left-wing theologian and one who had little time for formal church structures and administration. It was he who provided me with the impetus to begin studying to become a local preacher. Once I had left university, I started working through the various courses and after a few years, interspersed with much activity representing the Methodist Church at a number of European events; the British Council of Churches at events in East Germany and Russia and eventually attending the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi, I began what has been over 50 years of preaching. Mostly this been in the Derby and Belper circuits, though I did spend five years working for the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone which saw me preaching in Freetown and the rural areas of Sierra

Leone, and, of course, very recently in the Ashbourne circuit.

During this time my smallest congregation was one: the steward of a chapel in the Belper Circuit who very much wanted a 'proper service' despite the inclement weather which had put everybody else off. So, I picked out the tunes of the hymns on the piano and we made a merry noise to the Lord. He listened intently to the sermon and he even passed the collection plate to himself! I only forgot to turn up to take a service once but feel I have made up for it by taking two services when the preacher failed to appear at a service I was attending. I can still remember the numbers of most of the hymns in the old Methodist Hymn Book far better than I can in Hymns and Psalms or Singing the Faith! And I can probably count on the fingers of one hand the number of times that I have preached on any of Paul's letters. You may have noticed that I will nearly always preach on the gospels or take some versus from the Old Testament prophets. I find Paul complicates what is basically a simple, yet profound message. But perhaps I just need to go back to Bible school.....

I have been asked how many people I have converted as a result of my preaching. The answer is very straightforward: none. It is only God through the power of the Holy Spirit who brings people into his Kingdom. The rest of us try to reflect aspects of that Kingdom in what we say and do, but it is God who draws people to him. It is the church as a whole that is the catalyst, it is the church as a whole that brings people to Christ. Yes, the preacher has a role in that,

but just as importantly so do the stewards, the musicians, the AV specialists, the pastoral visitors, church cleaner and so on. None of us have a more important role than the other. I have found it a privilege to preach the word of the Lord as I have found it, but without the wider church community, preaching is as nought. It is through the life of the whole church, the love and witness of everyone within it, that we will bring about the Kingdom of God and the day when, as Ainger puts it in that visionary hymn, 'earth shall be filled with the glory of God as water covers the sea'.

Allan Shaw

Follow Me

To the despised and rejected -*Jesus Said* – 'Follow me'

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting in his tax collector's booth. 'Follow me and be my disciple' Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him.

Later Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked the disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?'

When Jesus heard this, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor – sick people do' Then he added. 'Now

go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: I want you to show mercy not offer sacrifices, for I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners'

(Matthew 9;9-13)

Ashbourne Foodbank

Many members of our church regularly donate to Ashbourne Foodbank either through giving food in the supermarkets or direct donations. It makes a huge difference to the people who benefit from the foodbank.

The Foodbank is based at Elim Church at Waterside. It is based in the cabin outside the front of the church at the present time, but the plan is that it will move inside the main building when the current renovations have been done to Elim church. The Foodbank is run by a new manager called Joylyn and a group of around 15 volunteers. Volunteers work in the cabin supporting users, sorting, and distributing food, collecting from the supermarkets and making deliveries to people in their homes. Most people come to the foodbank to choose the food they need with a few people receiving a delivery as they can't get to the foodbank themselves. The cabin is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings but most people come on a

Wednesday morning when the church is also open for people to enjoy coffee, a bacon sandwich and the company of others. Someone from CAB also comes once a month to offer support.

At any one time between 20 and 30 individuals or families use the Ashbourne foodbank. People come with a range of needs that mean they can't make ends meet at this time. These include trying to manage on part time low paid work, family problems, long term health problems, becoming seriously ill, losing a job, and many other reasons. People are referred by social workers, schools, GPs, CAB and other sources. A referral allows someone to use the foodbank for a six-week period initially. This allows for them to have time to get support with their needs. They may get help in gaining employment, benefit claims, health issues etc. After this period, they need to get another referral to continue to use the foodbank.

Excess food is sometimes donated to other charities working with homeless people in Derby.

Mary Hellyer



Information Sheet for Retreat in Daily Life

@ St Oswald's Ashbourne 2026

What's it all about?

Yes, exactly. That's just the sort of thing we talk about.

No, I mean, what's a Retreat in Daily Life?

It's a chance to talk about important things with a spiritual guide. This retreat offers a framework for focused prayer and discernment over approximately 40 days, while continuing our routines and home life.

Many of us don't have the luxury of spending time away at a secluded and peaceful retreat house. Instead, we contract time to retreat, not *away* from our normal life but *in* it – taking time to attend, to align, to wait, and then to act.

How does it work?

We gather a group from various communities who commit to the retreat starting at the beginning of Lent. Then, over six weeks, we meet all together twice to open and close the retreat. The flow is as follows:

Sunday 8 February at 2pm at St Oswald's Church:

The opening session of the retreat, where retreatants and retreat guides meet. We share, dream a little, pray, and keep silence.

- We go back to our everyday households, neighbourhoods, and communities -committed to a simple daily practice of prayer, reading, and contemplation.
- Individually, we meet with a retreat guide for about 40 minutes each week to reflect on what is happening in our prayer.
- We continue our daily practices and reflections, and our weekly meeting with a guide.
- **Sunday 22 March at 2pm at St Oswald's Church:**
We gather at the end of six weeks to listen to each other, to listen to God together, to encourage, to share - and draw our 'retreat' to a close.

They spent ages trying to work out the meaning of inconsequential, before realising that it wasn't that important.



-
-
- My wife threw a handful of Omega 3 capsules at me last night – I am OK though, I escaped with super fish oil injuries
-
- I relabelled all the jars on my wife's spice rack, I'm not in trouble yet, but the thyme is cumin.

Journeying Together Lent 2026

Our Lent Reflections Booklet be available from Sunday 8th February. Would you like to order one for yourself or for someone you know would enjoy it? Pre-ordering would help us to order the right number of booklets. If you would like to pre-order, please get in touch with Stuart Green (01335 300338) and we'll add you to the list. The suggested donation for a booklet is £3.00 -£3.50. Any proceeds after costs have been met will be given to the Link Project.

Fiona Green

New Year

Another year has passed away
Another chapter is now complete
We cannot change our yesterday
But the New Year we can greet.

We can resolve to change our life
To seek a better road
To find that peace and still the strife
And lose our heavy load.
We can resolve to walk in love
With everyone we meet

To fix our gaze on God above
And our love upon our street.
It may not be an easy trail
But exciting that I am sure
With him to guide we cannot fail
To enjoy peace for evermore

(preaching in verse – Derek Marshall)

The Telephone

I have just finished a call, why did he telephone? I don't know.... Oh, I get it.... I talked a lot and listened little.

Forgive me Lord, it was a monologue. I explained my idea and did not get his; Since I didn't listen, I learned nothing. Since I didn't listen, I didn't help, Since I didn't listen, we didn't communicate.

Forgive me Lord, for we were connected and now we are cut off!!

December 23rd 2025

We gathered for our circuit Christmas memorial service, surrounded by the Brailsford angels. The text of my short reflection focused on the Angel telling the shepherds do not be afraid for they had Good news. Arriving home and my daily bible verse was this same one. It was a privilege to hold space tonight for people to remember and I was grateful for God reminding me the words are for me as well as for others.

Luke 2:9-10 NIVUK

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.

24 people lit 37 candles and 52 names were read out for folk they wanted to remember and many others.

Rev Nicola

WORD OF THE WEEK

David was a wordsmith; he loved the sound of words and the feelings they inspired. He had an incredible memory and capacity to learn, retain and share with great passion, poetry and Bible passages. He always had in his head a sermon he was preparing, an article he was compiling for one of the many publications he contributed to, or Word of the Week for the local paper, a task about which he was very diligent.

For those of you who may not have seen or read it, this is his final contribution to the Ashbourne News Telegraph on 19 November 2025, a mere two weeks before he so unexpectedly passed away.

Sue Leese

WORD OF THE WEEK

Rev David Leese

Having only recently experienced the events of Remembrance weekend, for many of us the dominant tense we will have used will have been the past tense, for that us how it was on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, and so we have remembered.

It will though be mixed with a future hope and therefore also a future tense. We surely hope it will be better and will be more peaceful in the future. Historically we look back to remember, but also in our hearts look forward. I sometimes hear that older people live too much in the past, and perhaps that includes myself. Nevertheless whatever our age we inevitably look forward.

The same will be true in a few weeks at Christmas. Isaac Watts wrote the hymn we now sing and hear at

Christmas 'Joy to the world the Lord IS come.' The emphasis is on the verb 'is'.

Some popular versions of this hymn alter the first line by changing the verb to the past tense - 'Joy to the world the Lord HAS come'.

Whether we have faith or not that is historically true.

Isaac Watts though used the present tense and so reminds us that the tenses we use are important. He was perhaps emphasising in the use of the present tense that not only did Jesus the Lord historically come, but He is present spiritually among His people, and even more he will continue to be among them in hope and experience - for He has not gone.

Past, present and future combine together in the first line of this particular Christmas carol as indeed they combine in the experiences of the people we are.

What will you be doing at Christmas is a frequent question (future tense), and I often hear a reply which says that what we will be doing is conditioned by what we did last year (past tense), but importantly we are called to enjoy and celebrate (present tense).

Villanelle 2.

A turning world, a plan revealed,
Four seasons for our anticipation,
A present given, a future sealed.

Springs life from wood and grassy field,
Life renewed in its perfection,
A turning world, a plan revealed.

Summer's warmth and burdens eased,

Sun at its height, Holy-days and Re-creation,
A present given, a future sealed.

Autumn gold and harvests' yield,
Our garners full; our grateful appreciation,
A turning world, a plan revealed.

Frost, snow and thaw on winter's battlefield,
Nights long and dark for our contemplation,
A present given, a future sealed.

Four seasons pass, no more concealed,
When Advent tells of our salvation,
A turning world, a plan revealed,
A present given, a future sealed.

Alan Coker Mayes

.....

P.S. December 2024.

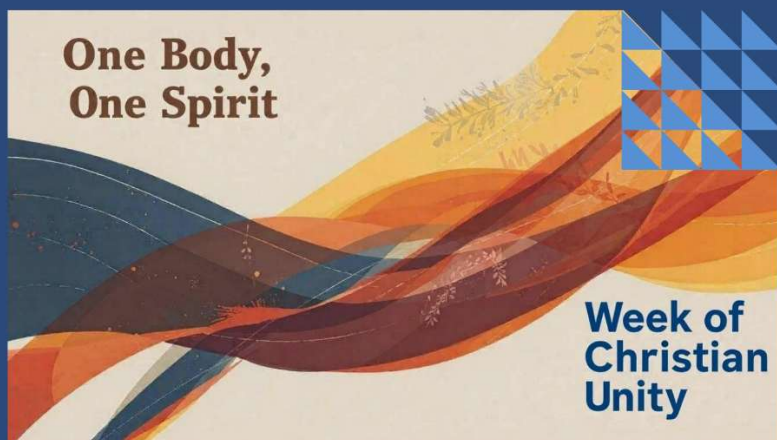
'There is a tear of sadness,
And there is a tear of joy,
Is there a tear of tears,
In which these tears alloy?'

P.P.S December 2025.

As tears of sadness lessen,
And tears of joy increase,
The alloyed tear is gratitude,
For gifts that never cease.

Alan Coker Mayes.

Join us for a Service in the Style of Taizé to celebrate



Week of Christian Unity

January 25, 2026 at 6.30 PM

St Oswald's Church, Ashbourne

Come and participate

Joint Service Open for all Denominations



Trip to Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) in Kolkata

Allow me to start with some history. CRS was founded in the earlier 1970's. After the Bangladesh Liberation War, over 1.5 million refugees stayed in India, most in or near Calcutta, which is now known as Kolkata. Since then, the work of CRS has focused on supporting people who live in the city slums and the rural villages in the surrounding districts.

Our Church's relationship with CRS began ten years ago when Liz & John Hurfurt and Ruth & Joy Mallard visited. Since then there have been numerous visits and last year, as one of our other Mission Partners retired, CRS became one of our new Mission Partners. I was delighted to receive an invitation to visit and understand the work they do. It will be impossible for me to give an in depth account of my visit, without this edition of Connections having to be printed in hardback. So this article is just a summary.

The work of CRS focuses on three main programmes. The main one is an education programme, and it runs a number of schools in the slums for primary school aged children. With the help of CRS these children are being given the opportunity to get into the state school sector and hopefully a life out of poverty. Secondly CRS runs a health and nutrition programme. All the children attending the schools receive regular health checks. CRS also supports community health centres, especially in rural areas just outside the city where people have no access to doctors or a pharmacy. Their third and most ambitious programme

is an empowerment of women project. They run a year-long course for girls aged 14 and over, which includes sewing, embroidery and knitting. It gives them a sense of self-confidence and equality and skills to make a living. They aim to train 250 women a year. Once they have completed the course they have the opportunity to make a range of items that are sold through a social enterprise that CRS set up called Nari Dana, which means "women's wings".

Within a few hours of arriving in Kolkata I was given the opportunity to meet most of the staff, many of which work out in the field at the various centres and so they had travelled into the city to meet me (see picture inside back cover). It would be impossible to write an article about CRS without mentioning the staff, as they are at the heart of the organization. The average length of service is over **25 years** and many have devoted their entire working lives to CRS. What I found especially uplifting is that although CRS has a Christian foundation, it is very much an all faith NGO with Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Christian and people with no faith, all working together with the common purpose to improve the lives of the poor and marginalized.

Most of my days were spent visiting different schools and centres with one visit in the morning and one in the afternoon. The first school I visited was in Bibibagan at the Awami Committee (see pictures inside front cover). Over 30 children squeezed into this safe nurturing space. Ashultam, the teacher pictured outside the school, went to the school as a child. I couldn't think of a better example of demonstrating

that the work CRS does works, with those benefitting coming back to help.

On my second day I visited Brace Bridge, which is close to the main port of Kolkata. As you can see from the picture on the inside front cover, this slum is located along a rail track. The CRS centre runs as a school until mid afternoon and then as a centre for the women's empowerment programme in the afternoon.

On the inside back cover I have included two pictures from the Hastings school which is located under a flyover close the CRS office. The age group for this school is 3 -14 years. My morning at the school involved much singing and dancing by the children. Through a Gabbi Basra Bursary Fund set up by CRS, some gifted children from this school are now receiving financial support with their senior school education. I found it quite hard to process how these children live in such unacceptable conditions and every morning put on a smart school uniform to join more fortunate children who have proper homes to live in.

The last school I want to mention was in Soangachi. Sadly, Kolkata has many red light districts and Soangachi is the largest red light district in Asia. Children of sex workers are at great risk of being victims of social discrimination. With them being left alone on the streets they can easily fall in to the trap of addition of alcohol and drugs and young adolescent girls are vulnerable to being pulled into the trade. There is a picture of the school on the inside back page and you will see it's no more than about 2m x 5m and most days about 20 children come to the

school and receive what CRS calls “joyful learning” in a safe caring environment.

My reflections from my visit. It can be so easy to be overwhelmed by the poverty and the thought that millions of children in India don’t have higher secondary education because of financial problems. But I couldn’t help being moved by every member of the CRS staff who believe every child is important and deserves hope. My lasting memory will be of so many children’s smiling faces, against a backdrop I am not use to seeing.

The Director of CRS, Rig David asked me to express his thanks to Ashbourne Methodist Circuit for making CRS one of our Mission Partners. He is hoping to visit the UK in the summer, so you will be able to hear more about their work firsthand from him. Until then, I look forward to coordinating our support during 2026.

Crispin Scott

Mission Coordinator.

Mambabu



Just before Christmas we received news of a happy personal achievement and another landmark event in the Mambabu community. Thomas Tengbeh has lived in Bendekor village all of his life and is one of very few adults there able to speak English. He makes a living as a subsistence farmer and is also a volunteer

Mambabu administrator and headteacher at the elementary school. In December, Thomas was inducted as a Methodist local preacher during a service in the nearby town of Kailahun. Here is Thomas on the day of his induction, with grandson, Fayia.

"To start with I want to praise God for you all who contributed in divers ways for the good success of my graduation and induction. To be honest enough, all was colour full to be looked at anyway. To God be the glory."

Dates for the Diary – Services

Sunday 18th January **Christian Unity**

Week of Prayer for

Ashbourne 10.30 Adam Venables and Stuart Green
Catherine Green and Amanda Peers

18.30 Revd John Hellyer Praise

Brailsford 10.30 Revd John Hellyer Covenant

Tissington 10.30 Ruth Barratt

Thursday 22nd January

Time tbc – Week of Christian Unity Lunch
St Oswald's Church Hall

Sunday 25th January

Ashbourne 10.30 Cathy Stubbs and Jeff Ffoulkes
Tim and Beck Dutton

18.30 Ashbourne Churches Together at St
Oswalds

Kirk Ireton 18.30 Peter Dawson

Kniveton 11.00 Revd Mark Broadhurst Covenant

Sunday 1st February

Ashbourne 10.30 Allan Shaw and Gareth Rutledge
Tim and Becky Dutton

16.30 Tim Dutton Afternoon Tea

Brailsford 10.30 Lorraine Hawkins Altogether
Worship

Parwich 14.30 Tracy Dawson

Sunday 8th February

Ashbourne 10.30 Fiona Green and Ruth Barratt
Revd Nicola Briggs
and Amanda Peers

Kniveton 14.30 Ann Parkinson

Muddy 10.00 In the Ashbourne area

Sunday 15th February

Ashbourne 10.30 Peter and Tracy Dawson
Lorraine Hawkins and Anne Payne

18.30 Jeff Ffoulkes Praise

Brailsford 10.30 Rev Arnold Dixon

Tissington 10.30 Revd Nicola Briggs, Ann and Tom
Parkinson Covenant

ASH WEDNESDAY 18th February

Tissington 10.00 Revd Nicola Briggs
Circuit Service with Holy
Communion

Sunday 22nd February Lent 1

Ashbourne 10.30 Revd Mark Broadhurst and Gareth
Rutledge
Lorraine Hawkins and Amanda
Peers
Holy Communion

Kirk Ireton 18.30 Revd Nicola Briggs

Kniveton 11.00 Revd Nicola Briggs Holy
Communion

Dates for the Diary – Events and Meetings

Tuesday 20th January 19.30 Resources Forum Sub
Team at The Manse

Thursday 22nd January 19.00 Worship Forum at
Brailsford

Wednesday 25th February 19.30 One Church Circuit
Meetings at Brailsford

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

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

Deadline for March Connections Magazine

Saturday 7th February 2026 – evening to

Clifflewer@aol.com

Milldale – Christmas Eve

50 people managed to squeeze into this tiny chapel for the traditional 4 p.m. service conducted in candlelight. We were welcomed by lanterns and a decorated tree provided by our neighbours at Dove Chapel Cottage.

Rev Nicola led us in an upbeat reflection on the coming of our Lord and preparation for the coming day.

We welcomed people from the village along with people from the Circuit and we all enjoyed mince pies after the service.

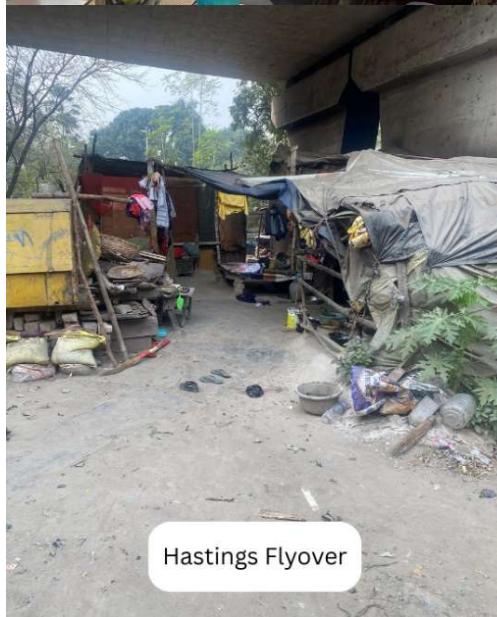




CRS Staff



Sonagachi School



Hastings Flyover



Hastings
Makeshift School

Photos from Crispin's trip to India