



Aylestone Baptist Church
Learning God's love, Sharing God's love



**January & February
2018
Church Magazine**

2018 A Happy New Year to All

And I hope you had a lovely Christmastime.

Many thanks are due to all those who made our Christmas Services so special – I must specially mention Beth, who played for all our Services in December, plus Carols by Candlelight, Lunch Club Carols, Gateway Carols, Babes & Tots, organised the Carols for Kids, midnight service and Christmas morning! Oh yes, and led the carols with the clarinet when the band were unable to get to Carols in the Park due to snow. She also trained our wonderful choir who so enhanced our Christmas Services once again this year.

Thanks also to Wendy and her helpers who made the church look so beautiful for the season, and all those who have served many teas and mince pies, cooked and served Christmas lunches, led our services, organised the community events (in the park and Black Horse Pub) and to Stan and Duncan for the new addition of a corridor of Christmas lights framing the path leading to the church door – catching the eye of all who passed by. Thank you to ASDA, Fosse Park, who provided the wonderful Tea at the 3rd. Age Film Afternoon, and to David at Aylestone Farm Shop for our beautiful Christmas Tree at cost price, also Leicester City Council who have again financially supported us for our Community events.

We thank God for all the blessing of this Christmastime.

And now on to a New Year, leading up to which we have had some very cold weather. An essential for this weather, I'm sure you will agree, is a good scarf. I wonder what type of scarf you prefer?

Is it a woolly muffler, that wraps around and around your neck right up to and over your chin?

Or a shawl type, that also keeps your shoulders warm and sits neatly around your neck.

Or a silk scarf, light as air, but warm and comforting.

Maybe your scarf is decorative, tied in a designer knot and tumbling down to adorn your dress (but also keeps your neck beautifully warm!)

Proverbs 3 v 3 – 4 gives us good advice:

*“Let Love and Faithfulness never leave you; Bind them round your neck,
Write them on your heart, Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and man.”*

I pray that throughout the New Year you will wear Love and Faithfulness everyday.

God bless you, *Dorothy Mackley*

Sunday Worship Services January / February 2018

Service is at 10am with Children's groups and creche area.

January

- Sunday 7th Service led by Chris Kingsley-Mills with Stan Mackley Preaching.
- Sunday 14th Service led by Ben Njopa-Kaba with John Cass preaching.
- Sunday 21st Pam Bryan will be leading and preaching.
Service includes Communion.
There will be a Church Meeting after Service.
- Sunday 28th Service will be led by Graham Hill and the young people.

February

- Sunday 4th Service will be led by Rachel Draper with Phillipa Berry Preaching.
- Sunday 11th Service will be led by Donna Nicholls with Martin Pantling Preaching.
- Sunday 18th Service led by Amanda Goodliffe with Mike Bland preaching.
Service will include Communion.
- Sunday 25th Service led by Maxine Elliott with Dr. Victor Ojo preaching.

Services throughout January and February will be based on Mark Chapters 1 – 4.

Other Dates in January/February 2018



January

Sat. 6 th	BMS Prayer Meeting at Friary Lane & Braunstone Baptist Church, 12.30 -3pm.
Thurs. 11 th	The Open House.
Mon. 15 th	Deacons' meeting.
Thurs. 18 th	Lunch Club
Fri. 19 th	Service to commemorate the life of Peter Chapman, 11am.
Sun. 21 st	Church Meeting after morning service.
Sun. 21 st	Churches together service for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. 5.30 for afternoon tea, followed by Service at 6.30pm, here at our church. Please come and have Fellowship and make welcome those from other churches in Aylestone.
Thurs. 25 th	The Open House.
Sun. 28 th	Messy Church at Gilmorton Est 4.30 – 6pm.

February

Thurs. 1 st	Lunch Club
Mon. 5 th	Deacons' Meeting.
Wed. 7 th	Gateway Club Service.
Thurs. 8 th	The Open House.
Sat. 10 th	Quiz Night for all the family. Refreshments – hot dogs and Cakes. £3 adults, £1.50 children. 5.30 – 7.30pm – fund Raising for SIGMA.
Thurs. 15 th	Lunch Club
Thurs. 22 nd	The Open House.
Sunday 25 th	Messy Church at Gilmorton Estate, 4.30 -6pm
Thurs. 1 st March	Lunch Club.

It was a very special day for Amelia Douglas when she was dedicated in our Sunday morning service on November 19th.

We give thanks to our Father God for the gift of Amelia and for her family.

We pray that God's Holy Spirit will watch over her as she continues to grow in the Christian life and for the love of Jesus to grow in her heart.





A wonderful and moving display of a poppy garden was put together for our Remembrance Sunday service.

We also heard of a beautiful love story. Ronald Bentham, whose name is read out each year at our Remembrance Service, and who fell in the 2nd. World War, left a young widow. Her daughter by a subsequent marriage got in touch with the church to say that her mother had passed away, and her wish was to be buried with her true love, Ronald, in his war grave. How these stories bring to life the true tragedy of war.

Church Family News

Many of our congregation have suffered from severe coughs and colds over the last month, we pray for a healthier start to the New Year.

Our sympathy to Wendy Chapman and the family as dear Peter passed to be with our Lord after a difficult illness. We will miss him, but we know he is now in that place where there is no more suffering, replaced with peace and joy. The service to commemorate Peter's life will be at our church on Friday 19th January, 11am.

We also remember Helena Barratt, who has suffered yet another bereavement in her family in Ireland as her sister-in-law has passed away. We thank God for modern transport that means she is able to be with the family at this time.

Ruth Hopkins has been very poorly, spending Christmas in hospital after a heart attack. Please pray for Ruth as she plans for her future care.

Also remember the Pantling family as Elaine's mother remains very poorly. Please pray for peace, strength and comfort for them all at this difficult time.

We thank God that our former minister, Rev. Brian Thomas, is making good progress after an operation for cancer. Please continue to hold Brian and Beryl in your prayers.

Paul Onions is settling in at South Lodge Residential Home. Pray for peace of mind for Paul.

Shirley Gray is making gradual progress, resting at home after her operation. Please continue to remember Shirley, Steve, Sophie and Steph in your prayers.

Michael Gamble is not well and unable to get about. We look forward to better health for him as the weather improves, we have missed him from our services and 3rd.Age meetings.

We continue to pray for Bernadette Mandawa's sister, Ludy, who has undergone major surgery. We pray for a full recovery.

"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together." 1 Cor. 12:26



Congratulations to Chris Gellion and Kim on their marriage in Antigua.
May God bless them with many happy years together.

This is a photo from my recent graduation for the ABC magazine. I send it along with my appreciation for the love and support of the church over the past few years. I graduated with a First Class BA Honours Degree in Applied Theology.

Craig.

(Craig has now been the minister at Central Baptist Church since September)



Here is a look back at just some of the services and events that have taken place over the Christmas period.

At the beginning of December we had our annual **Christmas Market** and like all previous years it was well supported by people in the community.



All the favourite stalls were there once again the cake stall, bric-a-brac, crafts etc., with the shoppers hoping to bag a bargain. Shoppers also took the opportunity to have a hot cooked lunch.

The young children were very excited waiting patiently for the arrival of Father Christmas.

It was a good day all-round, the shoppers delighted with their bargains and a good lunch inside them and the church made some money towards the upkeep of the building.



The following day being Advent, the churches in Aylestone got together for their annual **Advent Service** held at St Andrew's church.

There were readings and prayers by people from the different churches as we



all sang carols telling the wonderful story of the saviour, a gift from God for the whole world, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Choirs from St Andrew's and ABC sang including one Christmas song together.

Afterwards we enjoyed the hospitality of our friends from St Andrew's as we shared fellowship and refreshments with one another.

The **Gateway nativity** came next on the evening of Wednesday the 6th of December.



With family and friends supporting the Gateway club the whole evening was very special with everyone taking a part in the nativity. We would like to thank all those who worked so hard with the Gateway club and for getting them

ready and for producing once again the wonderful nativity of our Lord's birth, Jesus.

By the time Sunday came around the whole of Britain was covered under a thick blanket of snow and had come to a standstill. The possibility of having to cancel **‘Carols in the Park’** was very real. What do we do??

We decided to go for it, but, on a smaller scale with no brass band, no gazebos, or sound equipment, no screen & projector.

About nine of us set up under the giant cedar tree in the middle of Aylestone Hall Gardens and waited to see if anybody was going to turn up.



What happened next was so unbelievable, families were coming into the park from all directions and they crammed together under the giant fir tree to sing carols and listen to the bible reading telling the story of the birth of Jesus. When the country was at a standstill under a blanket of snow and all over the Midlands events and transport were at cancelled because of the weather, the community of Aylestone came out in their hundreds and sang carols in the park and made a joyful noise. Praise God!



The Day that the Snow came Down!
And everything came to a standstill.
Helena was waiting hopefully for a bus to get her to church, when along came Ahmed in his taxi, and insisted on bringing her to church before continuing his work.
Angels come in all shapes and sizes!

The events leading up to Christmas were in full swing by now with **Carols by Candlelight** on Sunday evening, singing those much loved carols and listening to meditations looking at the Christmas story from the point of view of various key characters. Our ABC Christmas choir under the direction of Beth, sang some beautiful Christmas songs.

All those hours and weeks of rehearsing, the ABC choir enhanced our advent and Christmas services – the choir gets better and better each year.

The **'Carols in the Pub'** followed on Monday the 18th December when between 250 and 300 people from the community gathered at the Black Horse for our annual 'Carols in the Pub' event.



The Wigston Enterprise Band played the carols for us and everyone joined in with great gusto! A really enjoyable evening.

Our thanks to the landlord who organised the marquees and sound system - and served hot chocolate, hot rolls and hot punch as well as their usual fayre.

21st was a **'Film afternoon'** for 3rd. age with a sumptuous tea supplied by ASDA – all were ready for it after the tear-jerking but feel-good film “A Wonderful life” they had just watched.
A real Christmas treat.



Fun with the Chocolate Game at the ABC church family **Christmas Party** on 22nd.

Games, lovely food, and a great Christmas get-together.
Thanks to Freddie and Beth for organising this event.

Christmas Eve, children packed the church, together with their parents and friends, for the **'Carols for Kids'** Christmas fun service.

The Christmas story was told by three camels (with their wise men riders), who, after visiting various venues that they thought should be for the new King, finally arrived at the stable in Bethlehem and found the true meaning of Christmas.





All the children were invited to dress up for the Nativity tableau, then little coloured torches were given out and the lights extinguished to give a lovely glow in the church on this Christmas eve.



Christmas Day

The big day arrived and in our early morning service the children were excited and eager showing us their wonderful presents, and this was our last chance to sing those lovely carols until next year!

These days many people like to self-diagnose rather than going to the doctor. The following may (or may not!) help you.

Medical Dictionary ?

Artery -	a study of paintings.
Bacteria-	Back door to the cafeteria.
Barium -	What doctors do when patients die.
Benign -	what you be after you be 8.
Catscan-	searching for kitty.
Dilate -	to live long.
Enima -	not a friend.
Fibula -	a small lie.
Labour pain -	getting hurt at work.
Nitrates-	rates of pay for working at night.
Pelvis -	Second cousin to Elvis.
Seizure -	Roman emperor.
Urine -	opposite to “you’re out”



Left over from the Christmas Crackers...

What did one chick say to the other chick
when it found an orange in their nest?

Look at the orange Mama laid !



What do you get if you cross a monkey with a flower?

A chimp-pansy.

What’s the difference between elephants and fleas?

Elephants can have fleas but fleas can’t have elephants!

What do you get if you cross a monkey with egg whites and sugar?

A meringue-utan!

EMBA WOMEN'S DAY – LIFE, SOUL, ALL.

this year will be held at Melton Mowbray Baptist Church on Saturday March 17th, 10am – 4pm.

Speakers: Jo Robinson, Pastoral minister in Bath and former Missionary in Asia.
Anne Davies, retired Baptist minister who now works with asylum seekers and refugees.

Join with other women from across the region for a space to worship, encounter God, hear the word, be challenged & inspired!

Cost: £10 – includes refreshments and lunch.

Booking essential – either pick up a form, or email Cathy at administrator@embaptists.co.uk

BMS BIRTHDAYs for January/February 2018

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

Jan. 8th Rachel Connor
Jan. 14th Barry Hall
Jan. 17th Jonathon Craston
Jan. 18th Cindy Elliott
Jan. 20th Rachel Vernon.

Feb. 2nd Paul Onions
Feb. 6th Joseph Elliot
Feb. 9th Rachel Craston
Feb. 15th Greg Chapman
Feb. 15th Jill Walton
Feb. 16th Mick Elliott



If you wish to join the BMS Birthday Scheme and share your special day, please contact Denise Vernon.

WORDSEARCH

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Countdown
Confetti
Midnight
Balloons

Celebration
Fireworks
January
Happy



New Year
Clock
Cheers
Goals

Party Poppers
Noisemaker
Resolution
Sparklers



What's On for 3rd. Age during January / February ?

Lunch Club



Thursday January 18th
Thursday February 1st / 15th
Thursday March 1st.

Lunch Club is open to the Community – coffee bar open from 11am, lunch is served at 12.45, cost £5 for a 3 course meal.

The Open House

Thursday January 11th / 25th
Thursday February 8th / 22nd.

The Open House is open to all, from 11am – 2pm, for coffee and chat, crafts, games, and light lunch of either home-made soup or jacket pots, and lots of lovely desserts to follow. Cost £3. Many thanks to the knitting ladies for the items they made for their stall at the ABC Christmas Market.



The Tuesday Fellowship



Tuesday Seniors Fellowship

Tuesday January 9th / 23rd
Tuesday February 6th / 20th

11am – 1.30, a Bible study and discussion, followed by lunch, with a friendly and discreet group of older folk. You will be most welcome.

The following was used by Lucy to open our Service on 31st December, and we thought you may like to ponder on it again. From a blog by Debbie McDaniel on crosswalk.com.:

“Don’t let the enemy steal your joy this week. He’ll try you know. Because it’s a week about love and he hates that. He despises everything about real love, because real love starts with God. He’s a liar and deceiver. He rejoices when we choose pathways of grey, eyes blinded to the truth laid out in black and white. He loves to incite evil and hate. Because he wants nothing more than to keep us pursuing things swaddled up in lies. He’ll remind you again of your struggles. He’s an expert in our weaknesses, and whispers lies of defeat. Making us feel alone. Heaping on condemnation, guilt and shame. He hisses our way, words from the pit, “You’ll never change,” “You’ll never get past what you did,” “You’ll never be able to forgive,” “You’ll never be loved.....”

He works hard in our marriages, creating distance, fuelling quarrels, getting us overly focused on our “own needs”, that we lose sight of the other.

He steals away our attention from the most important. For even he knows the truth, that God is the only One who can meet our deepest needs. And he’ll do anything to keep us from Him. He’ll keep us so busy, hurried, and distracted, that we never have time to show love and care for another. He loves it when we never get around to spending time with God. The devil desires to keep us going everywhere but getting nowhere, and certainly nowhere closer to Truth.

But no matter what our situation or the hard times we might be facing, we can choose to focus on what God says. The powerful love of Christ wins every time against the enemy’s lies of defeat. We don’t have to let him win. We can choose the better way. We can choose whose voice we listen to. We can choose to walk in truth. We can choose to walk in love.

God’s love is perfect, faithful, unconditional, forgiving, all-encompassing, pure, lasting, sacrificial, strong, enduring, refreshing, redeeming, everlasting, lavish, full, inspiring, hope-filled, gracious, and so much more. It’s never based on us, our abilities, or striving to ever be good enough. It’s found in Him, His character, and huge capacity to give. It knows no boundaries and has no limits. There’s no place too deep that His love can’t reach us still. His love letter to us breathes grace, strength, hope and peace. Believe the truth He speaks over you...

“Let all that you do be done in love.” (1 Corinthians 16:14)

Christmas gifts for the YMCA

Many thanks to those who contributed the 30 shoe boxes full of gifts for the homeless people being helped by the YMCA this Christmas.

Richard Wiggins.



What God has promised.....

**God has not promised skies always blue,
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through;
God has not promised sun without rain,
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.**

**God has not promised we shall not know
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;
He has not told us we shall not bear
Many a burden, many a care.**

**God has not promised smooth roads and wide
Swift easy travel, needing no guide;
Never a mountain, rocky and steep,
Never a river turbid and deep.**

**BUT God has promised strength for the day,
Rest for the labour, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.**

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Moderator Rev. Pam Bryan / Youth Minister: Graham Hill

Weekly & Fortnightly Activities

Sunday

10.00am Morning Service / Junior Church / Crèche Facilities
Communion: The third Sunday of each month

Monday

7.30pm Prayer Meeting – usually in the Church lounge

Tuesday

9.30am Babes & Toddlers Club
11.00am Seniors Bible Study (Fortnightly)
5.00pm Urban Saints (Boys & Girls Club from Ages 4 – 18)

Wednesday

7.00pm Gateway Club.

Thursday

11.00am The Open House. 3rd Age. For the 50's and over aged group (Fortnightly)
11.00am Community Lunch Club (Fortnightly / Alternative week to Open House)
6.30pm Youth Group Meet & Eat
7.30pm House Groups

Friday

7.00pm Hangout Youth Club (Boys & Girls Club from Ages 10 – 14)



Loop System Installed



Wheel Chair Access



WC Facilities

Church Membership, Baptism, Infants Dedication, Weddings, Funerals, House Groups, Urban Saints, Community Lunch Club, Babes & Tots Club, Youth Club & The Open House.

To find out more about church membership, Baptism, etc. or any of the activities please call us on 01162 832 527; by

email: minister@aylestonebaptistchurch.co.uk

or by visiting our website: www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk