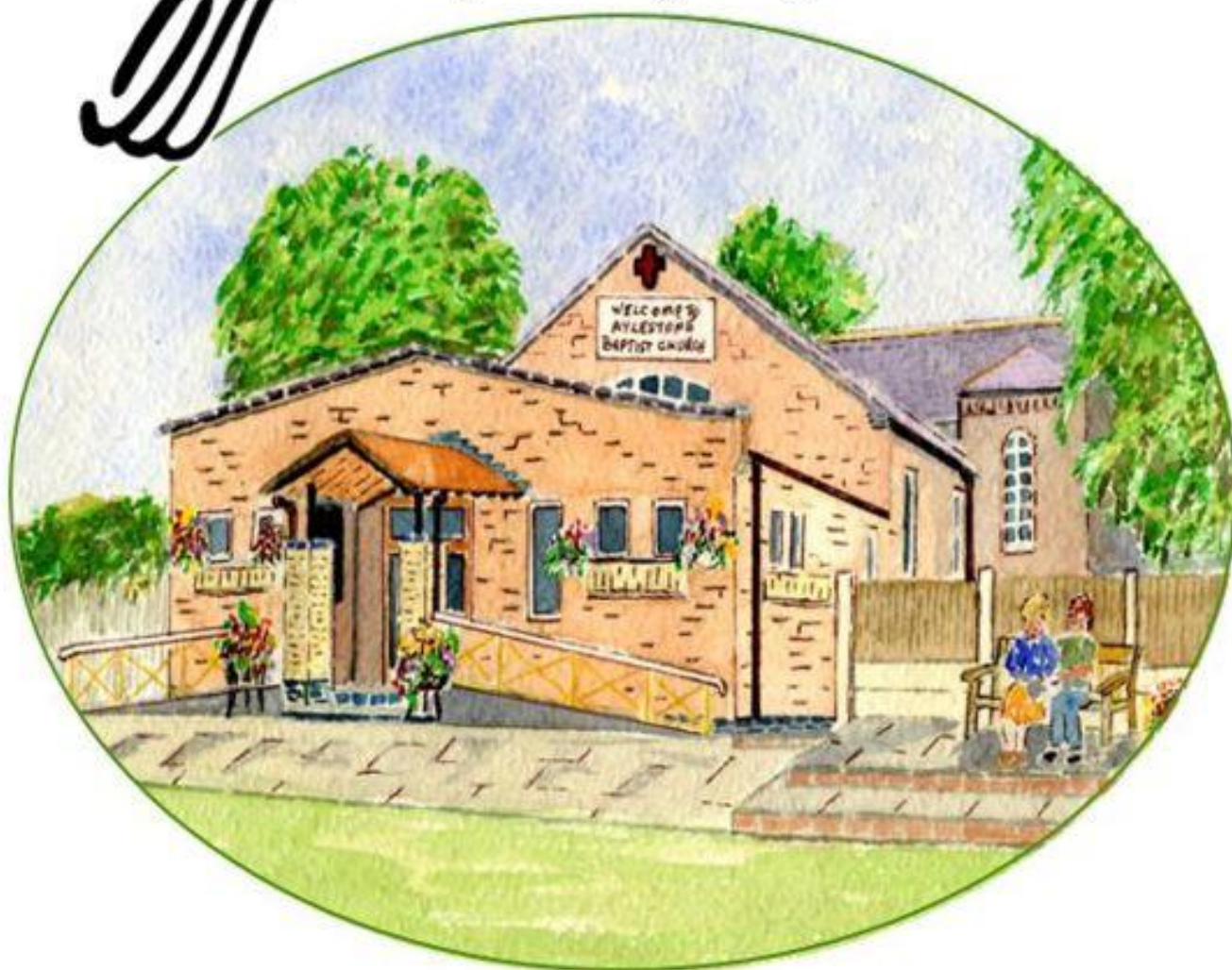




Aylestone Baptist Church
Learning God's Love, Sharing God's Love



**January & February
2020
Church Magazine**

Letter from the Editor January/February 2020.

Dear friends,

Isn't it just typical that on the Sunday before Christmas the heating in the church lounge broke down. The heating engineer was about to go on holiday, and in any case all the outlets for spare parts were already closed for Christmas. All was not lost as a quick e-mail brought in an army of domestic heaters to save the day. But as we welcomed in the many folks to the Carols by Candlelight, Carols for Kids and late night worship, not to mention Christmas morning, there was no chatting on the doorstep, but come inside quick so we don't lose the heat.

In Revelation Ch. 3 verse 20 are the beautiful words:

*"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock, if
anyone hears My voice and opens the door I
will come in and eat with him and he with Me."*

These words were for the church in Laodicea, who are described as "luke-warm" – neither hot nor cold. They had all the riches they needed and their faith was a sort of sideline – maybe ticking the box marked "God" by a trip to church when they had the time. But God is offering so much more as He knocks at the door – *"To him that overcomes I will give the right to sit with Me on my throne..."*

So don't stand on the doorstep, don't lose the heat, but open the door wide to Jesus for 2020.

As we say "Goodbye" to 2019 we must just say a big "Thank you" to all who made our Christmas Services so wonderful – and a special "thank you" to Beth who played for every one.

God bless you all

Dorothy

SUNDAY SERVICES for January / February 2020

Worship will normally be at 10am, with Sunday school and creche facilities.

JANUARY

Sunday 5th Worship led by Lucy Satchell with Tim Fergusson
Preaching.
Bring & Share lunch after the service.

Sunday 12th Graham Hill leading & preaching.

Most Sermons will be taken from the book by Bishop Michael Curry entitled “Crazy Christians” with readings from Scripture.

Sunday 19th Worship led by Ben Kaba with Ellie Cockburn
Preaching. Mark 3: 19-21. Chapter 1:” We need
some crazy Christians.”
Service includes Communion.
Church Meeting following Service.

Sunday 26th Worship led by Maxine Elliott with Martin Gage
Preaching.

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd Worship led by Elaine Robinson with Stephen
Heygate preaching. Matthew 28: 19-20,
Chapter 2: “We are part of something greater
than ourselves”.

Sunday 9th Worship led by Wendy Hall with Ellie Cockburn
Preaching. 1 Peter 2:21. Chapter 3: “Following
Jesus with our feet.”

Sunday 16th Worship led by Annette Johnson with Ellie
Cockburn preaching. Genesis 37: 19-20.
Chapter 4: “Living into God’s Dream”
Service includes Communion.

Sunday 23rd Stan Mackley leading and preaching.
Isaiah 2: 2-4. Chapter 5: “A mountain climb
that can change the world.”
Church meeting follows service.

Other Dates for January / February 2020

January

Sunday 12 th	Messy Church at ABC
Thursday 16 th	Lunch Club re-starts.
Sunday 19 th	Church Meeting after Service. Service for Christian Unity at St. Andrews, 4pm.
Thursday 23 rd .	The Open House re-starts.
Sunday 26 th	Messy Church at Gilmorton Est. 4.30.
Thursday 30 th	Community Lunch Club.



February

Saturday 1 st	QUIZ evening for SIGMA funds.
Thursday 6 th	The Open House.
Sunday 9 th	Messy Church at ABC
Thursday 13 th	Community Lunch Club.
Thursday 20 th	The Open House.
Sunday 23 rd	Church Information Meeting after Service. Messy Church at Gilmorton Est.
Thursday 27 th	Community Lunch Club.



Important Dates for your new diary:

July 5 th :	AYLESTONE 2020 – Open Air Service & sports & Fun day at Aylestone Gardens Park.
July 27 th – 31 st .	Children's HOLIDAY CLUB
Aug. 18-20 th	HOLIDAY@HOME for the 3 rd . Age.

Church Family News

Please continue to remember in your prayers those who are no longer able to worship with us – Paul Onions and Ruth Hopkins.

Baby Catriona Ezekiel spent Christmas in intensive care with a bronchial complaint. Please pray for her full recovery and for Lydia and Bulus and the boys as they care for her.

Diane Bland has had a couple of bad falls, and found she is suffering from a “Baker’s Cyst” (painful swelling behind the knee). Also Mike Bland is due to have a knee replacement operation in February. Please hold Diane and Mike in your prayers over the next weeks.

Belated 18th birthday wishes to Nicholas Kaba and Cameron Bruce. May God bless them in the year ahead, a year when there will be changes as school comes to an end and they take new paths.

Special “Happy Birthday” to Ruth German who turns 50.

Some have suffered illness over the past weeks, and some bereavement, please support in prayer those known to you and those you may not know but are precious to our Lord.

NEW YEAR’S CAKE.. Recipe:

2019 Doubts and fears.
12 months of Hurts
7 days of tears
6 cups of patience
5 cups of peace
4 cups of love
3 cups of joy
2 helping hands
1 large heart.



Put the doubts and fears and hurts into a large saucepan. Pour in the tears and simmer until evaporated. Add 6 cups of patience, 4 of love, 3 of joy and 1 large heart.

Knead with 2 helping hands. Put on to a baking sheet and sprinkle with peace. Cook with tender care. Allow to cool then cut into 365 small pieces. Wrap in gold foil and freeze. Serve each day to the needy

Dear All,

Our next preaching series will be called

‘Crazy Christians - A Radical Way of Life’.

I’ve been with ABC long enough now to know that you’re a pretty crazy bunch already, and I think you’ll really enjoy and benefit from this series. It’s based on the book of the same title by Bishop Michael Curry, who preached most stirringly at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Your preachers can either follow each chapter, or simply use its ideas for their own message. If anyone wants to read the book for themselves, please order it from the Cathedral’s St Martins’ Bookshop - it’s the same price as on Amazon and means we’re supporting a local bookshop rather than a too-low-tax-paying mega-business :)

The series will ask what it means to be a faithful Christian in the 21st century. I love the words of Dr. Katharine Schori in the foreword:

“The daily prayer of our hearts reminds us that we are created of stardust to bring celestial possibility into earthly reality ‘Your kingdom come...on earth as it is in heaven.’” She goes on: “read, dream and sing - and discover the spirit at work around you in unexpected people, places and invitations...away from our comfort zones and self-constructed prisons...it will likely exceed your expectations and limited vision. It is indeed a crazy dream, but together, the Body of Christ can most certainly help to build the kingdom, transform brokenness, and renew the face of the Earth”.

What I’d like us as a church to do, is start a Crazy Christians WhatsApp group, to discuss and give feedback on each week’s message, to encourage each other to act out what we think the Lord is saying to us through His Word, to discover afresh what it means to discover His Spirit at work around us in unexpected ways, people and places, and to build His kingdom, transform brokenness and renew the face of the earth.

I personally can’t think of a better way to start a new year, and hope you will join me!

Every blessing,

Ellie Cockbill, your Moderator.

BISHOP MICHAEL B. CURRY

CRAZY CHRISTIANS

A radical way of life

'Full-throated, uninhibited, theatrical and emotive' *Guardian*



Christmas events at ABC got off to an early start in November when we held our **Christmas Market**.



Many people from the community came along and were not disappointed with the beautiful handcrafted gifts and cakes, and the delicious home cooked lunches – many choosing the Christmas turkey dinner option.

Around 60 children visited Santa in his wonderland grotto – a grand day out for all the family!

The **Advent Calendar** was a lovely addition to our Christmas Services this year. Thanks to Duncan Ellis who constructed the stable shaped calendar, and to Lucy Satchell for the inspiration and also for filling the pockets with Bible verses and an Advent poem for each Sunday.



The Spirit of Aylestone Churches Together **Advent service** was held at our Church. The service featured our choir (ably trained by Beth), and it was lovely to share with folk from the other churches in Aylestone, to sit after the service with a cup of tea and mince pie, and just have fellowship together.



The **Gateway Nativity Service** marked the start of the Christmas Services. This year we featured the story of Scrooge and his journey from darkness to a new life. Then the Nativity was acted out as our choir sang and Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, angels and shepherds formed a lovely tableau.

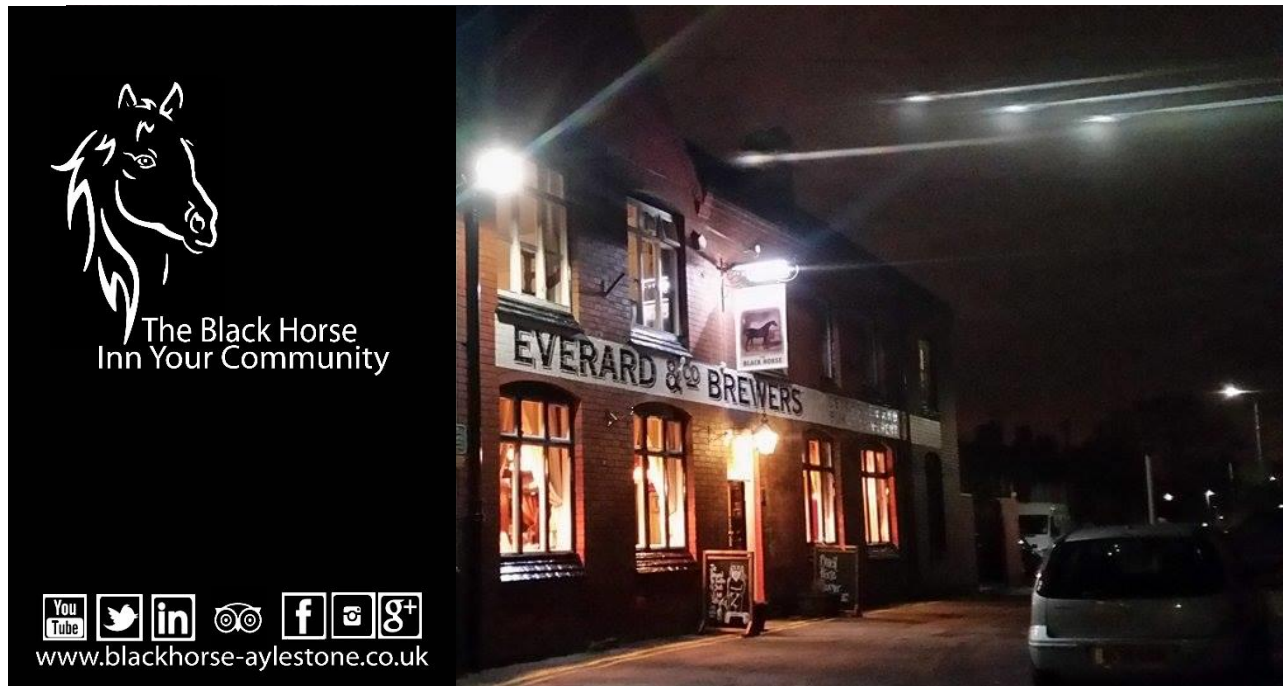
The Gateway Club for adults with learning difficulties meets each Wednesday at our Church, and all enjoy the monthly worship services led by Stan. These are always joyful services, and it was lovely to share with family and friends some of this joy and exuberance at Christmas time.

We began our **Lunch Club** Christmas Dinner with a Carol Service, led by Stan and featuring children from Granby School who sang a number of songs and delighted the Lunch Club folks. Over 70 then sat down to a hearty, traditional Christmas Lunch. Thanks to all who worked so hard to prepare for and clear up after this event.

I'm sure it hasn't escaped your memory that October, November and the beginning of December were some of the wettest on record, and so there was some trepidation as we planned **Carols in the Park** at Aylestone Hall Gardens. On Sunday 15th December I believe we witnessed Divine Intervention. The day was perfect, the rain that was forecast didn't arrive until much later. The ground wasn't a quagmire as the Park authorities had feared. Families came in their hundreds (estimated 350 – 400), to listen to the brass band, sing carols, and enjoy the children's nativity. We handed out brightly coloured finger torches, hot drinks and mince pies. What a joy it was to hear the air around Aylestone Hall Gardens filled with the sound of singing of our Saviour's birth.



The following Tuesday was again a beautiful evening when about 250 squashed into the marquee in the garden at the **Black Horse Pub** to sing carols and listen to readings. There were many lovely comments and thanks to the churches for putting on this event. We certainly blessed our community of Aylestone with these events.



Carols by Candlelight evoked a thoughtful mood with contemplations between the singing of carols and items by our choir. Thanks to Stan for leading this beautiful service as Christmas Day came ever nearer.



Christmas Eve **Carols for Kids** saw the church full of children, parents, grannies and grandads, all excited as Christmas Eve should be.

Our Sunday School children were fantastic bringing out the Christmas story to



two aliens who had just landed on our planet. Who can forget the “Kiss moose” misinterpretation, the grumpy housewife, the dads watching the queen’s speech (resting their eyes!). At last the real meaning of Christmas came together as the younger children formed the Nativity tableau. Before the last carol multi-coloured finger

torches were handed out and the lights turned down, as we sang “O What a Night”. Thanks to Beth Ellis and the Sunday School for all their hard work.



11.30 on Christmas Eve saw in Christmas Day with Communion, and for those who wished, lighting a candle within the manger in remembrance of those who would not be spending Christmas with them this year.

And finally – Christmas morning and Wendy led a lovely service featuring the Advent Calendar and opening the final window.

Our Christmas Services brought blessing to many people, and “don’t just happen”. So very many thanks to all who contributed in any way to making this a Christmas honouring to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Helping those less fortunate than ourselves this Christmas

Collections were taken at these various events as follows:

Carols in the Park £260.

Carols in the Pub £100

To be shared between Christian Aid and Rainbows.



Donations from the Christmas Card board, Gateway Service and

Carols by Candlelight for SIGMA: £270.

Many thanks to all who contributed to gifts for the Glen Parva Salvation Army **Food Bank**. As well as good staple foodstuffs, there were many Christmas goodies to lift the hearts of those in need.



What's on for 3rd Age January / February 2020

What is 3rd Age? Anyone over 50. If you fit the bill and would like to come along to any or all of these groups, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Community Lunch Club

Dates for January/February 2020:

Thursday January 16th / 30th

Thursday February 13th / 27th



The Open House



Dates for January / February 2020:

Thursday January 23rd.

Thursday February 6th / 20th

Thursday March 5th

Tuesday Fellowship

Dates for January/February 2020:

Tuesday January 21st

Tuesday February 4th / 18th

Tuesday March 3rd.



Date for your diary: Holiday@Home: August 18/19/20th

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

January 8 th	Rachel Conner.
January 14 th	Barry Hall.
January 17 th	Jonathan Craston.
January 18 th	Cindy Elliott
January 20 th	Rachel Vernon.
February 2 nd	Paul Onions.
February 6 th	Joseph Elliott.
February 9 th	Rachel Craston.
February 15 th	Jill Walton.
February 16 th	Mick Elliot.



If you would like to join the Birthday Scheme and share your special day, please see Denise Vernon. You will receive a Birthday Card and an envelope for a donation to BMS, and the good wishes of all.

Duncan received a box of jokes for Christmas – here are a few you might enjoy..

Why did the scarecrow win an award?

Because he was outstanding in his field.

Did you hear about the guy who invented the knock-knock joke?

He won the no-bell prize.

Why did the man get the sack from the calendar factory?

He took a couple of days off!

10 New Year's Resolutions for Christians in 2020

1. Be a peacemaker.

It is so easy to get worked up about things; people who wrong us, family drama, church drama, etc. But resolve to be the one who brings peace. Don't spread the rumours, don't listen to the stories, don't join the clique. Be the one who initiates peace and unity.

2. Only do things that are pleasing to God.

Jesus made the statement that he only does those things that please the Father. He is our Older Brother and our perfect example – so we too, should only do the things that please our Father. We are not saved and justified just so we can do whatever we like – our salvation comes at a great price! Therefore, Paul tells us, you are not your own.

3. Always do the work of the Lord.

This old broken world makes it seem pointless to do good works. But it is not pointless. We need to keep on working, keep standing steady on God's Word. Nothing done for Christ is lost.

4. Triumph in Christ.

This is only possible by the power of God's Spirit within you. To triumph over depression, bad moods, grumpy attitudes, jealousy, selfishness – this is a bigger miracle than healing from sickness! Ask God to fill you with His Spirit, and walk in obedience and humility, and you will begin to triumph in Christ!

5. Die to self every day.

This is the secret to victory over sin. To die to self; all MY desires, MY will, MY plans – and offer myself as a sacrifice to God, daily. Dying to my need to be right, dying to my need to be respected, dying to my need for comfort... dying to ME daily. This is what 'taking up my cross' means. It's not some woo-woo theory – it is painful, daily, death to self and all my flesh desires. Wanting to get back at someone who has hurt me, wanting to profit at someone else's expense, thinking only of my own interests – these selfish desires and habits need to die, so I can be transformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

6. Walk by faith.

Faith that God's Word is true. Faith that He will fulfil His Word. Faith that God will take care of me, also faith that He will punish sinners – like He said. Faith that He will guide me every day. Faith that if I live a life fully given to God, and walk by the power of the Spirit – everything I do will be rewarded by God. Maybe not in this life – maybe not physically – but rewards of an eternal nature.

7. Always be rejoicing in the Lord.

Life is often hard. Painful. Unexpected trials. But when we have the assurance of God's love, we can rejoice in the midst of our trials, because we know that God uses everything in our lives to draw us closer to Him, and form us into the image of Christ. If we have this faith in our hearts, we can be like the apostles who sang hymns at midnight when they were in jail.

8. Give thanks for everything.

Again – we don't feel like giving thanks in every circumstance! But here we can go back to giving our bodies as a living sacrifice; giving thanks whether we feel thankful or not! It doesn't say: "give thanks if you feel thankful", no, we need to give thanks – full stop. End of story. It is a command, and this is where we need to obey in faith. If you start giving thanks regularly, I bet you will start to have more peace in tough circumstances. It just works that way!

9. Let Christ be exalted in my body.

We like to sing about giving it all for Jesus', but when it comes to our body and what we do with it – there we take a step backwards. We want to do things we want to do. We have freedom, right? But here's the thing – when Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse of death, he paid an immense price! So we should not take that lightly. Our eating habits, manner of dress, how we care for our bodies – these things all need to be surrendered to Jesus and His Lordship. I want my body to glorify Him this year.

10. Be humble.

Humility is such a tricky thing, isn't it? The thing I like to remind myself of, is that other people's opinion is worthless to me. Only what God thinks of me, matters! Whether others think we are good, or whether they think we are bad – throw it into the bin! I only consider whether God is pleased with me.

[by a 'Ranch Mum']

NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH



Times of the Year

W G L I R J U L Y X Z A P R I L F
 N E L D E C E M B E R H A J G N A
 M Y W N O V E M B E R T S X M T L
 I M E Z K J O Q M N H O U R I M L
 N O E J Q I M F J A N U A R Y O O
 U R K L W W E D N E S D A Y Z N W
 T M A R C H K E G R W C U B Q T L
 E F E B R U A R Y W I L V M Z H T
 X T X O C T O B E R N D G O F M U
 A E W R L X W R Y N T Y P N M T E
 U M S P R I N G E Q E E W D R H S
 G J U N E O D L A X R A F A Y U D
 U F R I D A Y Q R C M A Y Y R R A
 S S A T U R D A Y S U M M E R S Y
 T U X S U N D A Y H N X B J U D L
 U S E P T E M B E R U K Z M S A J
 K D S P O P F H D A Y X N Z Z Y R



January
 February
 March
 April
 May
 June

July
 August
 September
 October
 November
 December

Spring
 Summer
 winter
 fall
 minute
 hour
 day
 week
 month
 year



Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday
 Saturday
 Sunday

To you O Lord we bring our lives
Troubled, broken or at ease
A sacrificial offering
For you to use
Take away our selfishness
And teach us to love as you loved
Take away our sense of pride
And show us the meaning of humility
Take away our blindness
And show us the world through your eyes
Take away our greed
And teach us how to give as you gave
Show us your ways
Teach us your paths
That we might walk with you more closely
Our hand in your hand
Our feet in your footsteps
From the baby in a stable
To eternity, Amen



Stradivarius, with his two sons, made world-famous violins, violas and cellos, in their Italian workshop in Cremona, 250 years ago, and they are much sought after still today.



It is said that when Stradivarius went out to select wood for his instruments, he chose the part of the tree that had faced North. That was the side which had been buffeted by wind and weather – and withstood it – because that side of the tree, declared Stradivarius, gave the sweetest music.

How like life. Often we find that the people whose lives have been touched by hardship and sadness are somehow strengthened in the process, and seem to develop that extra depth of character which can be such a blessing to other

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Moderator Rev Elaine Cockbill / Youth Minister: Graham Hill

Weekly & Fortnightly Activities

Sunday

- 10.00am Morning Service / Junior Church / Crèche Facilities
Communion on the third Sunday of each month
4.30pm Messy Church Held on the second Sunday of each month

Monday

- 7.30pm Prayer Meeting

Tuesday

- 9.30am Babes & Toddlers Club (TINY BATS)
11.00am Seniors Fellowship & Bible Study (Fortnightly)

Wednesday

- 7.00pm Gateway Club (Adults with Learning Difficulties)

Thursday

- 11.00am The Open House. For the 50's & over. 3rd Age. (Fortnightly)
11.00am Community Lunch Club (Fortnightly / Alternate week to The Open House)
6.30pm Young People Meeting
7.30pm House Groups

Friday

- 6.30pm Family Night



Loop System Installed



Wheel Chair Access



WC Facilities

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

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 the Church website at, www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk