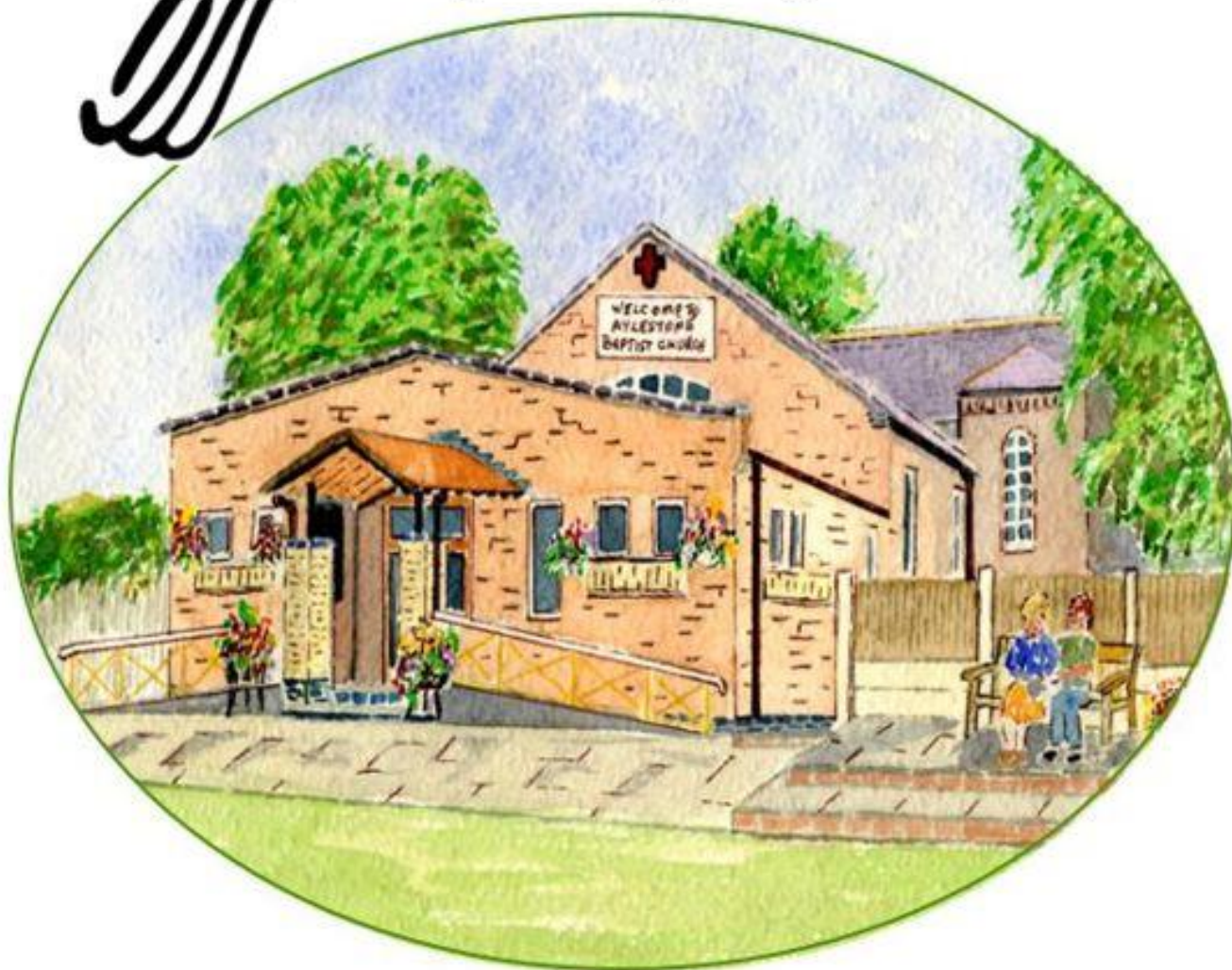




**Aylestone Baptist Church**  
Learning God's Love, Sharing God's Love



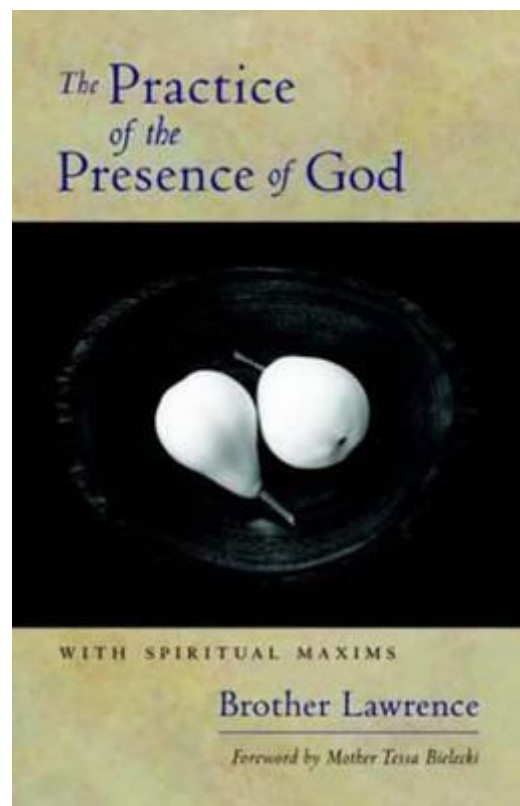
**March & April  
2020  
Church Magazine**

## Letter from the Moderator

Dear Friends,

I love the thoughts of Brother Lawrence, as recorded in his work 'The Practice of the Presence of God.' It's a tiny, brief and seemingly insignificant book but full of helpfulness. He is such a humble man, and clearly so full of love for the Lord that it's a joy to read him, which I often do if I have any spare time in the mornings: I sit in a chair which looks out onto my small courtyard, watching the birds come to their sunflower heart and peanut feeders, drink my coffee and feel especially close to God.

Here's a quote from Brother Lawrence. I hope and pray that it will bless you as it does me. He's writing to help someone who is struggling in their faith at a time of loss.



*"Pray remember what I have recommended to you, which is to think often on God, by day, by night, in your business, and even your diversions. He is always near you and with you; leave Him not alone. You would think it rude to leave a friend alone who came to visit you: why then must God be neglected?"*

*"Do not then forget Him, but think on Him often, adore Him continually, live and die with Him; this is the glorious employment of a Christian; in a word this is our profession; if we do not know it we must learn it. I will endeavour to help you with my prayers."*

(from his tenth letter).

Every blessing,

Ellie, your moderator.

## Sunday Services during March/April 2020.

Services are usually at 10am, with Sunday School and creche available.

### March

- Sunday 1<sup>st</sup>      Service led by Maxine Elliott with Phillipa Berry preaching. Theme: “Down with the walls of division, and up with the dream of God.” Ephesians 2:14-18.
- Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>      Service led by Elaine Robinson with Alistair Gibb preaching. Theme: “The Saviour’s not-so-serene call to a life on a wild, restless sea.” Mark 4: 37 – 39.
- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>      Service led by Elaine Pantling with Ellie Cockbill preaching. Theme: “When upside down is really right side up.” Acts 17:6-7.  
Service includes Communion and will be followed by a Church Meeting. Light lunch provided.
- Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup>      Mothering Sunday.  
Service led by Wendy Hall & House Group with Ellie Cockbill preaching. Theme: Keep your eyes on the prize. Hold on.” Matthew 14:29.
- Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>      Service led by Elaine Robinson & House Group with Maxine Elliott preaching. Theme: “The outstretched arms of Jesus and the limitless reach of love.” John 12: 20-23 & 31-32.

## April

### **EASTER SERVICES**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>     **Praise & Worship Evening, 6.30 – 8pm.**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>             **PALM SUNDAY**

Stan Mackley leading and preaching.

Theme: “God’s Dream, our Hope.” Colossians 1:19-20.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>     **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

We are invited to Stoneygate Baptist Church, together with other Baptist Churches in Leicester, for a Communion Service, 7.30pm.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>             **GOOD FRIDAY**

March of Witness, starting at St. Andrews Church at 10am, then to St. Edwards and finishing at ABC with a short Act of Worship at each church.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>     **EASTER SUNDAY**

Service led by Ben Kaba with Ellie Cockbill preaching.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>     Service led by Annette Johnson with Ellie Cockbill preaching Theme: “The Gospel witness of welcome will re-arrange the world.” - includes Communion. Following the Service will be the Church AGM & Info meeting.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>     Service led by Lucy Satchell with Martin Gage preaching. Theme: “Come, let us go to Galilee, probably the last place we want to be.”  
Matthew Ch. 28: 5-7



# EASTER IN AYLESTONE

You are invited to join us on...

## A Walk Of Witness



Good Friday Walk Of Witness on April 10th at 10am.  
A journey around Aylestone Churches remembering the  
story of Good Friday.

Following a cross & handing out hot cross buns.

The walk will begin at St. Andrews Church at 10am,  
Middleton Street, & at each of the three churches in  
Aylestone, we will pause for reflection.

It will finish at Aylestone Baptist Church where  
refreshments will be served.



Jesus isn't here....  
**HE HAS RISEN!**

## **Other Dates in March/April 2020**

### **March**

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Start of Lent Course – in the Church Lounge, 7.30pm.	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Open House 11am	
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church at ABC. 4.30pm	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Lent Course. 7.30pm	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Community Lunch Club. From 11am	
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Church Meeting with Lunch provided.	
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Lent Course. 7.30pm	
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	The Open House. 11am	
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup>	EMBA Association Day at Melton Mowbray Baptist Church, 10 – 2.30 with lunch provided. Speaker Rev. Lisa Holmes.	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lent Course. 7.30pm	
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Community Lunch Club from 11am	
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Messy Church at Gilmorton Est.	
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lent Course. 7.30pm	

### **April**

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Open House. 11am
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Praise & Worship Evening, 6.30 – 8pm.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Fun Day raising funds for SIGMA, India. 10.30 – 2pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Community Lunch Club with Maundy Thurs. Service at 12.
.	Leicester Baptists in Mission Maundy Communion Service At Stoneygate Baptist Church, 7.30pm

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY walk of witness, starting at St Andrews at 10am, then St Edwards and finishing at ABC with a short service at each Church.

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Messy Church at ABC, 4.30pm – includes EGG HUNT.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> The Open House. 11am

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Church AGM after Service.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Community Lunch Club, from 11am.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Messy Church at Gilmorton Est. 4.30pm

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> The Open House. 11am.



Dates for your Diary:

### **AYLESTONE 2020**

– Open Air service & sports and fun day at Aylestone Hall Gardens ; July 5<sup>th</sup>

**Children's Holiday Club:** July 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Holiday@Home** for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age: August 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you have a favourite hymn that means a lot to you? A lady was telling her friend about the one that is special to her family, going back to the time of her grandmother. Rather than use the first line of the hymn each time, her family knew it by its number, 494, in the book “Sacred Songs and Hymns” by Moody and Sankey.

She continued the story that when her son was reported missing in the Falklands War he had eventually managed to send her a telegram. He ended his brief message with “494”.

Apparently, he had been asked about the significance of this number and had explained that it was the family hymn, always put on letters and said when parting.

You must now be wondering what the words of the hymn are. The first line is:

“God be with you ‘till we meet again.”



## ABC Messy Church

We were successful in receiving a Community Grant from the City Council of £500 to fund Messy Church at ABC, to date and after 5 sessions, we have spent 54% of this on stationery, food, craft items and advertising.

The session themes have included the nativity story; new beginnings (where we bought a bay tree to plant in the Church garden); love and kindness.

The sessions include a variety of crafts (these have been displayed in the Church lounge), a lesson and finishes with us eating together and even sometimes a bit of dancing and singing in the Church!

We are very blessed with 11 ABC volunteers to serve on average 19 adults and 15 children who range from a few months old to about 11 year old allowing an opportunity to share and speak to the these families individually.

We are very excited to see how we can share God's word and continue to grow! [ Lisa Coltman]





## BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME



Happy Birthday and Thank you to:

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	Zacery Craston.
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth German - Happy 50 <sup>th</sup> !
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Walton.
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Shipton.
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lucy Satchell.
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tracy Bryan.
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Tester.
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Diane Bland.
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Helena Barratt.
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Neale Craston.

\*\*\*\*\*

Time to Smile .....

"I'm reading a book about antigravity.  
It's impossible to put down."

What happened to the robber who stole  
a calendar?  
- He got 12 months.



What training do you need to be a litter collector?  
None, you just pick it up as you go along.

Why couldn't the archaeologist get promoted?  
Her career was in ruins.

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If you cannot see God in all, you cannot see God at all.

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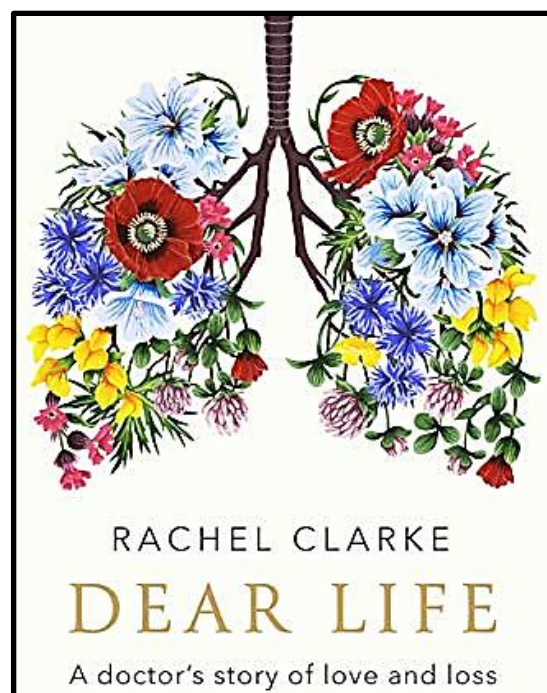
Thoughts on being given a difficult diagnosis....

“Can the stories we tell ourselves about disease and illness change how we experience them?” That’s a quote from a review of a book by Dr. Rachel Clarke, called ‘Dear Life: A Doctor’s Story of Love and Loss.’ As I read it, it struck me that it might be helpful to people at Aylestone Baptist Church.

In recent months, many of us have had to face the diagnosis of cancer, either in ourselves, or, which can be harder to bear, in our friends and family members. These times are never easy and if that’s what you’re going through right now, you might find the following comment unsympathetic, but for me it has a great deal of truth to it.

It’s from a new book by a doctor who specialises in palliative care. It’s about someone who has been given a terminal diagnosis, but in my experience it can apply to anyone who has been given any kind of cancer diagnosis. Even though far more cancers are now treatable and people go on to recover well, that first diagnosis can be difficult to bear. This comment, I believe, can help.

*“I have learned from my conversations with my father that being given a terminal diagnosis changes both everything and nothing. Prior to this news, a man of 74, he knew he would die one day, just not when exactly. And after this news, he knew he would die one day, just not when exactly. Everything he had always loved about life was still there to be loved, only more attentively now, more fiercely. All that had changed was the new sense of urgency, the need to savour each day and its sweetness.”*



Sometimes it takes such news to make us realise that every day we’re given is there to savour and cherish, an opportunity to focus on the people and things that really matter?

From Ellie Cockbill

## **Church Family News**

Please continue to remember Paul Onions and Ruth Hopkins, both now in Residential care.

Michael Gamble is suffering with acute arthritis, made worse by the cold and wet weather. We pray for an improvement in his health.

A number of our church friends and their family have been diagnosed with cancer, and undergoing chemotherapy. Please uphold them in your prayers, that they will know the comfort of God's loving arms around them.

Please also pray for our young people who are working towards A-levels and GCSE exams, that they will cope with the inevitable stress at this time.

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### **Somewhere among the heartaches....**

Somewhere among the heartaches,  
A blessing may be found  
That will somehow make you stronger  
And turn your life around.

Somewhere among life's failures  
Is the key to a success  
That may unlock the future  
And lead to happiness.

Somewhere among the doubts and fears  
Is a mustard seed of faith  
That will somehow dry your tears  
And keep you in the race.

Somewhere among life's detours  
Is a straight and narrow way  
That leads us safely home again  
To fight another day.

Somewhere beneath the ice and snow  
The bulbs of Spring abound...  
Somewhere among the heartaches  
A blessing may be found.



*When Jesus was betrayed by Judas and arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, St. Peter cut off the ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest, who was then healed by Jesus This is the story of Malchus...*



"You are my ear, boy," says Caiaphas the High Priest to his servant Malchus. "Now go! Tell me what's happening." His words are sharp.

Malchus hasn't been a boy for years, but he does not protest. In fact, Malchus takes pride in being servant to the most powerful Jew in Israel. When he ventures out of the temple into Jerusalem, people treat him with respect.

"We're so glad you're here, Malchus," they say. "How may we help you, Malchus?"

His special talent is listening, hearing. As reigning high priest in an intensely political environment, Caiaphas has many enemies. Malchus is indeed his ear in the city.

Lately, he has been dispatched to learn about Jesus, who is visiting for Passover. Malchus listens as Jesus teaches in the temple colonnade called Solomon's Porch.

*"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,"* Jesus is saying. *"No one comes to the Father, but by me."*

What arrogance! thinks the servant. He moves among the crowd incognito, ear open for a seditious comment he can report back to his master.

*"Come to me, all you who are weak and heavy laden,"* Jesus continues, *"and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."*

Strange, thinks Malchus. How does arrogance fit with gentleness and humility. Malchus sees arrogance and pride up close every day. What is *this*?

*"You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them,"* Jesus is saying now.

Not only Gentile rulers are like that! reflects Malchus.

*"Not so with you," Jesus continues. "Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your slave, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

Strange words! *Amazing* words to this slave. So Jesus sees himself as a servant, not a would-be dictator. So different from Caiaphas!

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost,"* Jesus concludes.

Who's lost? wonders Malchus.

Gradually, he begins to recognize the Teacher's followers. An astute observer of body language, Malchus focuses in on one man, Judas. So Malchus befriends him and arranges for a discreet meeting with Caiaphas.

Now it is night, Passover night, and Malchus goes on a hush-hush mission with temple soldiers — and Judas. They move into the Garden of Gethsemane. Suddenly, they encounter someone and soldiers converge, their torches casting eerie dancing shadows among the gnarled olive trees. Malchus, breathing hard, catches up.

Jesus is standing, somehow calm amidst the confusion.

*"Who are you looking for?"* he asks. *"Jesus of Nazareth,"* is the retort. *"I am he,"* says Jesus.

Now, with supreme hypocrisy, Judas kisses him to confirm the identification and the soldiers move in. One disciple flashes a sword and begins to brandish it wildly.

Malchus is struck, blood gushing from his head. The blade has sliced his ear clean off. He clutches at his head to stop the bleeding and drops to one knee. Blood is pouring down his neck, blackness is engulfing him. Then a sudden warmth. Pain ceases, and the flickering light of the torches reappears. Jesus is kneeling before him, right hand covering his wound. All Malchus can see is the man's eyes filled with a gentleness and love that melt all enmity.

*"You'll be all right, now,"* Jesus assures him.

A soldier jerks Jesus to his feet and the spell of the moment is broken. Malchus reaches up to feel his head. The ear is there -- all of it. His ear is whole, the bleeding stopped, only his blood-soaked cloak to indicate that there ever *was* a wound.

But the crowd has moved on now. Malchus is alone.

"You are my ear, boy."

Oh, yes! He must run to report what had happened.

Somehow he cannot. The drive to please his master is gone. He cannot forget those gentle eyes boring into his soul. He cannot forget the hand on his face. He hears Jesus' words again, "*You'll be all right now.*"

Words of concern — for him. He is an agent of Jesus' arch enemy, yet Jesus heals him. It doesn't make sense.

Finally, Malchus gets to his feet and returns to the palace. The courtyard is astir with news of Jesus' capture. "The Nazarene is inside being interrogated right now," says one. "The elders have gathered to try him."

Malchus returns to his room. He washes the caked blood from his face, and soaks his hair and beard to dissolve the remaining blood. All the time he stares at his ear in the mirror. It is whole, undamaged, without pain.

What have I done to this kind, gentle man? Malchus asks himself.

The rest of the day is a blur. He follows behind as the crowd surges up the narrow streets to Golgotha, just outside the city. By the time Malchus arrives on the hilltop, Jesus is hanging from a cross, his body and face mutilated almost beyond recognition.

Malchus is aghast at what he has done, at his part in this ugly business. Jesus' words flood back, "... To seek and save the lost." Surely, I am lost, says Malchus. I have shed innocent blood.

Now Caiaphas arrives, puffing, strutting, taunting. So vengeful, so petty, so filled with hatred.

Malchus burns with shame. He kneels, but no one is watching as he pours out his agony and begs forgiveness. Thunder cracks. Wind blows. As Malchus strains his ear — his whole ear — he can hear Jesus' unbelievably gracious answer to his cry: "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*"

Malchus rises. The man they call "the ear of Caiaphas" is different, for this slave's ear now listens for a *new* Master.

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This fictional story is based on Luke 22:49-51.

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## What's on for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age in March/April 2020



### Community Lunch Club

March: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup>

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April **Maundy Thursday**  
– there will be a **Service at 12 noon**,  
followed by lunch.

Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Church is being used for a voting station so the coffee bar will not be open on that day, lunch at 12.45 as usual.

The community Lunch Club is open to all over 50. A three course, home cooked meal is served at 12.45, cost £5. Normally the coffee bar is open from 11am to meet and have a drink before the meal. No booking necessary – come and enjoy an excellent meal in friendly company.

### The Open House

March: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup>

April: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup>

The Open House is a great place to have a chat, do some knitting or board games, have your nails painted, unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits, and then a lunch of either home- made soup or jacket potato (alternate sessions), and always at least 8 different puddings to choose from. Cost £3.  
From 11am.



### Tuesday Fellowship



March: Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> / 31<sup>st</sup>

April: Tuesday (no meeting 14<sup>th</sup>) / 28<sup>th</sup>

An informal look at the Bible, a chance to ask questions and share stories. If you are curious about how God can affect your life in your third age years, come and join us. Be sure of a warm welcome. After the meeting we share a 2 course meal, £2.

## **BMS Updates.....**

### **Chris and Debbie Carter – Albania.**

The following is an extract from their recent newsletter:

After the earthquake..

“Chris, although shaken at the time of the earthquake of 26<sup>th</sup> November, has been relatively unaffected by it. Debbie, however, is more traumatised. It was a new experience being woken up at 4.30 in the morning by the room shaking and the sound of furniture moving (in our fifth floor flat). This encounter has stayed with her since then and she frequently feels “phantom quakes” which any small movement near her will set off. For Debbie and many this has been heightened by the numerous weaker earthquakes in the months that followed.

However, God has slowly brought her to a place where she knows that He is the rock on which we stand, whatever we may feel. That said, it does prompt compassion and understanding for the many Albanians who feel anxiety, especially those who lived or still live in poorly constructed and damaged buildings.”

*To read the full letter please see the church notice board or visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/cdcarter](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/cdcarter). And please pray for Chris and Debbie and those with whom they live and work in Albania.*

### **Joe and Lois Ovenden – Uganda** - from their recent newsletter..

“2020 is a year when it seems like the world is waking up to the reality of climate change. For us here, the effects of climate change are very acute. Uganda and the whole East Africa region has been affected by unusually heavy rainfall and flooding, leaving over 2.8 million people displaced and hundreds have lost their lives. Wisdom for Agricultural Livelihoods Team and the farmers is needed as instead of dry season we are having massive rain storms, making the usual patterns of farming difficult.”

*To learn more about the therapy work Lois is doing, and Joe’s work in school, please read the full newsletter on the church noticeboard or visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/ovenden](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ovenden).*

*We have been asked particularly to pray for teachers for the school.*



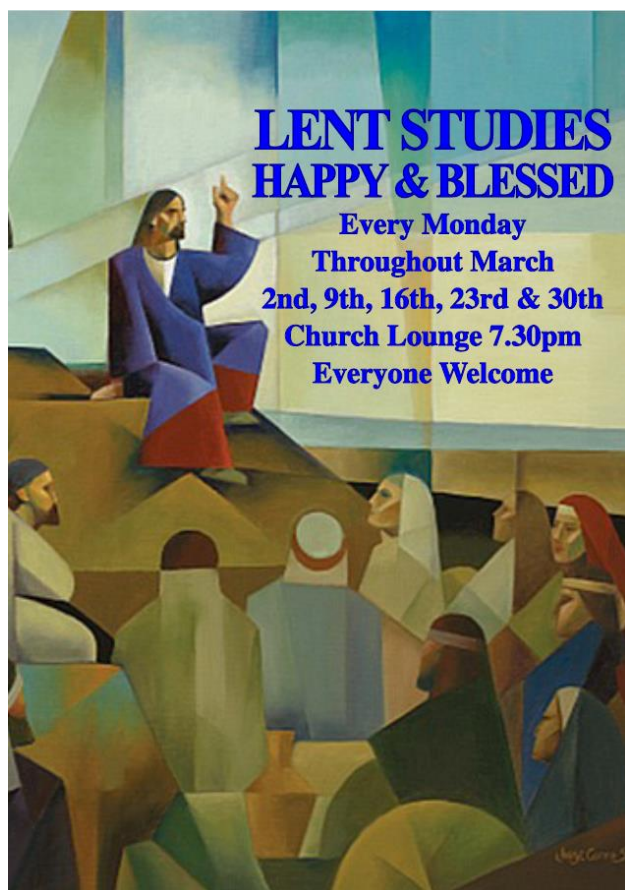
**John and Sue Wilson – France.** - Extract from their newsletter...

“Strikes:

At the time of writing we are in the 7<sup>th</sup> week of transport strikes in Paris. Chaos over Christmas period meant that our own family had to struggle to get to us, but once here we enjoyed being together over Christmas. We have been surprised by how many people have been coming to church despite some walking long distances and relying on taxis. Others unfortunately haven’t been able to make it. The sick and elderly have been particularly hard hit and pastoral visiting isn’t made any easier when you can’t get around. Large cities are not friendly places and so it has been good to keep our doors open and maintain a reasonable rhythm to church life, despite general fatigue and frustration.”

*To read more about the changes to their church building, and the forthcoming Easter baptisms, please read the newsletter on the church notice board, or visit [www.bmsworldmission.org/swilson](http://www.bmsworldmission.org/swilson). And pray for their work on, as they say “the one Continent where the Church is not thriving.”*

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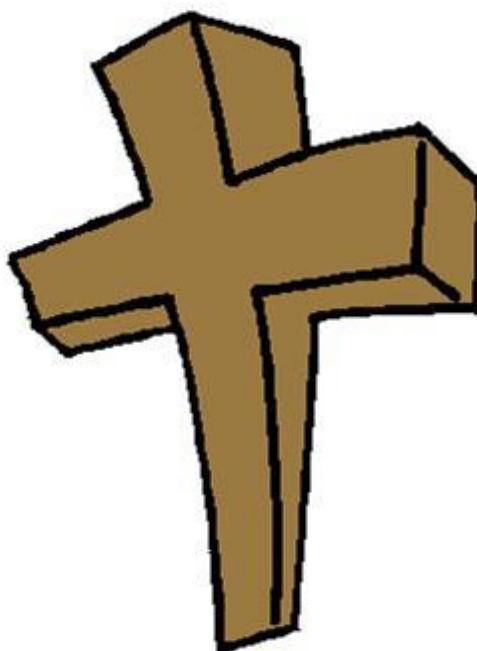




# Easter Word Search

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

APOSTLES  
CHRIST  
CROSS  
CROWN  
CRUCIFIXION  
HOLY  
JESUS  
KING  
LAMB  
LOVE



MARY  
REDEMPTION  
RESURRECTION  
RISEN  
ROMANS  
ROOSTER  
SACRIFICE  
SALVATION  
SAVIOR  
THORNS

# Family FUN DAY

**Aylestone Baptist Church**

**Tuesday April 7th 10.30 - 2pm**

**Bouncy Castle, Easter Crafts,  
Stalls, Cakes, Refreshments**



**“Childs Entrance Charge £2: Includes All Activities”  
Fundraiser for the SIGMA Project**



# 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 is 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](mailto:minister@aylestonebaptistchurch.co.uk)

or by visiting the Church website at, [www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk)