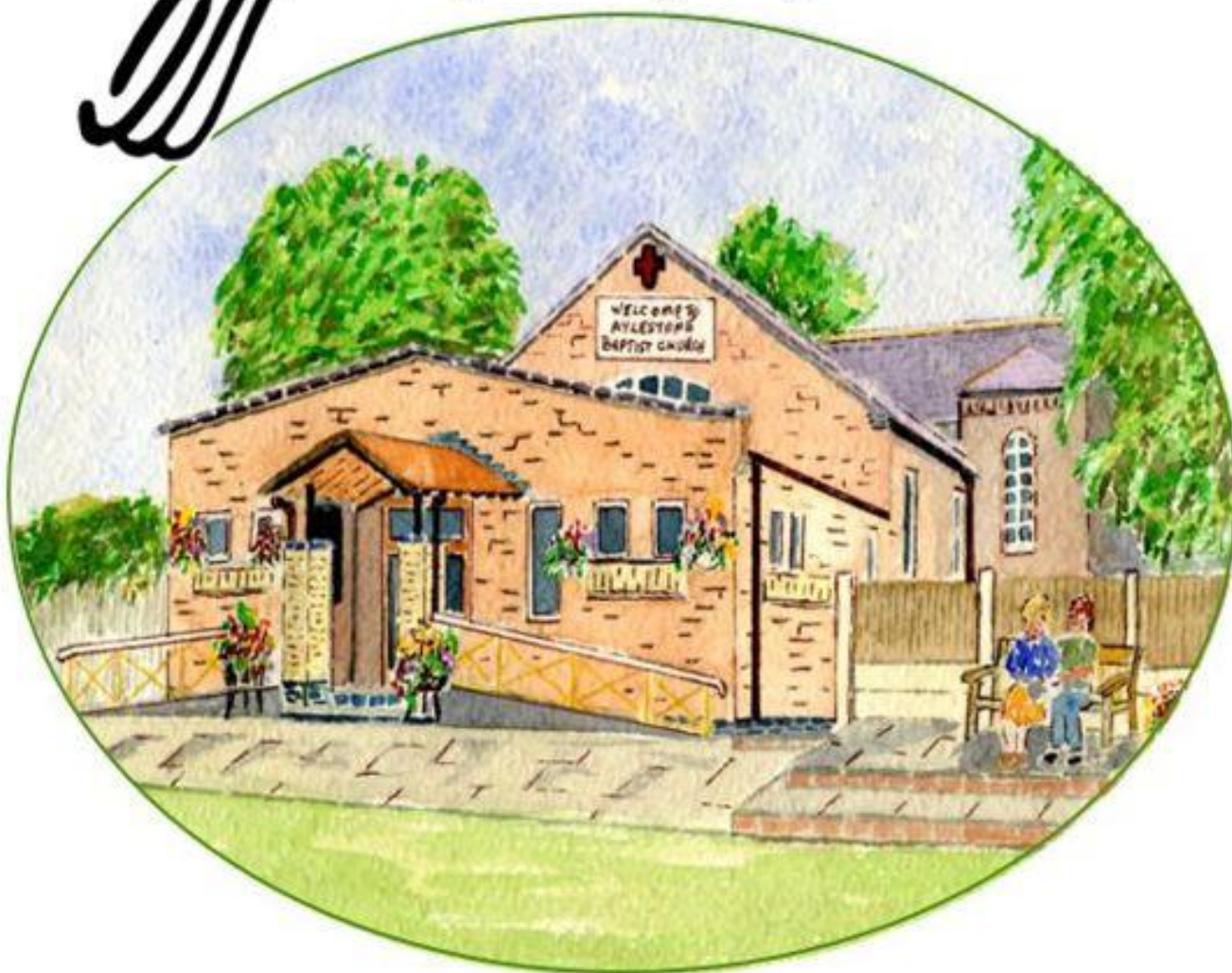




Aylestone Baptist Church
Learning God's Love, Sharing God's Love



**May & June
2020
Church Magazine**

Dear Friends,

I write to you as one needing to be 'locked down'. A journalist asked a released prisoner about his experience in prison, hoping to gain some understanding. He was told about days which seemed so long, and how seasonal events were really cherished.

We have just celebrated a rather different Easter, with no walk of witness on Good Friday, bearing a cross through local streets; no joyous celebration on Easter Sunday morning, no family gatherings over chocolate eggs and roast dinners.

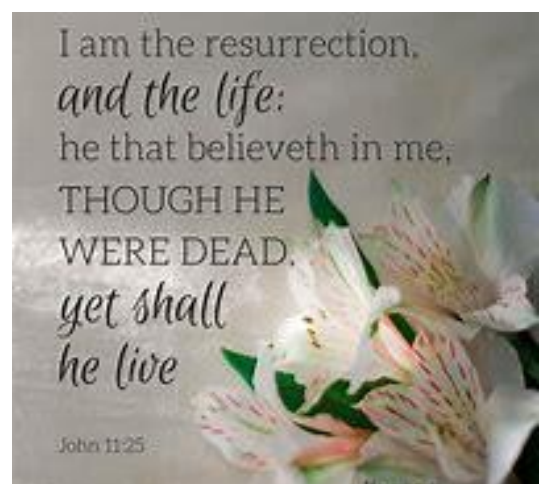
However, the real message of Easter is eternal, and CAN be cherished. It can penetrate locked doors, locked hearts, closed-down lives, intensive care wards, even funerals.

What is that message? It is that death is NOT the end. God loves us, is always journeying with us even when we don't know Him, that He understands what we are going through because He took on flesh and blood to save us. We have a loving Heavenly Father who raised Jesus from the dead and will raise us too, to be with Him for ever and ever.

You might be suffering from Covid19 or some other physical, mental, spiritual, emotional or financial illness, or just frustrated at having your life changed, probably forever, by our current situation.

My life was changed forever over thirty years ago, when Jesus picked me up out of the mess I'd got my life into, saved me from the very real suicide I'd attempted, showed me He loved me and had forgiven me for all the things I'd done wrong, gave me a firm place to stand and helped me start over. I'll love Him always for giving me that second chance, and would encourage anyone, of any faith or none, to ask Jesus to help them turn their life around.

Easter's message of love, forgiveness and life-changing goodness is with me always. Why not for you too? So put your trust afresh in our Saviour, ask Him into your life to change and renew it and to bring you safely through lockdown, even death itself, and, like me, celebrate this Easter message every week!



Every blessing,
Ellie, moderator of Aylestone Baptist Church.

The Lockdown.....

And the people stayed home,
and read books,
and listened,
and rested,
and exercised,
and made art,
and played games,
and learned new ways of being,
and were still.



And listened more deeply.
Some meditated,
some prayed,
some danced.
Some met their shadows.



And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed.

And in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices,



And dreamed new images,
And created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
as they had been healed.

Kitty O'Meara.

Nature is the 2nd Scripture that reveals God to us.

Church Family News

Our prayerful sympathies to Lucy and Warren, Jessie and Jacob, on the passing of Warren's mum Lin, after a long battle with cancer. It has all been particularly difficult in this time of "lock-down" and we pray God's comfort and blessing on all the family.

Paul Onions is very poorly but comfortable in the Nursing Home, having contracted Covid19. We assure Paul and all the family of our prayers.

Ruth Hopkins is comfortable in Grey Ferrers Nursing Home, and continues to enjoy good care there.

Michael Gamble is coping with being locked down, enjoying contact with people through his computer and the Sunday dinner Beth is taking him each week!

Our prayers are constantly with those of our congregation working on the front line at the NHS. God bless you all.

For those missing church who have access to a computer, oadbybaptist.church will give you details of livestream church services, and of course our own "Sundays at a Distance" on our website.

If you require any help or support many of us are sitting at home, twiddling our thumbs, longing to help someone or do something, so do get in touch.

Finally, this time of isolation needn't mean a time of nothingness. The quote below is from someone discovering a new aspect to life after news of the crisis:-

"The shock of a pandemic was . . . overwhelming and foreboding. Spinning out of control, my life seemed to shrink and dissolve as I knew it. Now, as the days pass, sheltering in place has provided a rhythm for more creative arts, breath in nature and pausing in solitude. For that I give thanks." –M. Patrevito

There are lots of creative arts we can experiment with - dancing, drawing, painting - and joy of joys, no-one is watching! Why not try singing - it really does lift the spirits and its health benefits, in helping our breathing as well as our mental health, are well known.

Give something new a try

There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and **a time to dance,**
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 - 8

“God has set eternity in the hearts of men.”

The uphill are lung-breaking

The downhill faith-stretching.

In both God is with me.

I am my best when I can't make it alone.

(Gerard Kelly)



This year the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative again runs from Ascension Day [Thursday 21st May] to Pentecost [Sunday 31st May]. In previous years we have had daily prayer sessions at the Church, but clearly that will not be possible this year.

So may I suggest some ways we might use this initiative this year.

- 'prayer and Care' – pray daily for those of your neighbours who are struggling in this lockdown and that God will show you how best you can help them.
- As in previous years, pray for 5 people you long to come to faith.
- One themes this year is 'Light up the World in Prayer' - so you could put a candle in a window at a set time each evening when you pray.
- Our prayer groups are not meeting at present, but over this period you could have some on-line or 'phone prayer meetings.
- Whatever you do – try to set a time apart each day to pray. Most of us have 'time on our hands' at present – use it wisely!

God bless

Stanley 😊

Daily Hope: For those who have no or limited access to the internet, the Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a 24 hour 'phoneline for worship and prayer. Just call: 0800 804 8044

I would like to share with you one of the Lent Devotionals I had been using.. It was a time when everything was piling up on me and I didn't think I could carry on juggling everything. I felt it was really talking to me and made me realise that sometimes you just have to stop and take stock. It's ok to let some things go. Lucy Satchell.

Slow Down

'Slow down. Take a deep breath. What's the hurry? Why wear yourself out? Just what are you after anyway? But you say, "I can't help it. I'm addicted to alien gods. I can't quit."' (Jeremiah 2:25, The Message)

Perfectionism. Busyness. People pleasing. These are the 'alien gods' I find myself clinging to. A constant need to succeed and impress informs my decisions, lifestyle and relationships. While indulging these 'gods' can bring a short-lived buzz, ultimately they leave me feeling drained, disconnected and lifeless.

The Lord's call to 'slow down' is welcome. In slowness there is time to check in with ourselves, those around us and God. To ask if our lifestyles are sustainable - for our own mental health, the good of our relationships and the future of creation.

Slowing down forces me to consider if I am living well. The creator invites me into an abundance which is about more than personal achievements. It is a life of connection: with people, with planet and the one who breaths hope into my being.

Creator God

Release me from my obsessions with busyness and perfectionism - or anything that takes up too much room in my life. Teach me, Lord, how to live well on this earth and care for all you have made. Bring abundance of life to all, and help me to give energy and hope to those I encounter. Amen

Written by Katherine Maxwell-Rose

From Tearfund Lent Devotional



A bit of fun.... Can you read this text?

Aoccdrnig to rschearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy it deosn't mttar in waht
oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihing is taht the frist and
lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae.

The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs
is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the
wrod as a wlohe.

(I think my computer has a migraine!)

*Did you hear about the Monastery that tried to open a fish and chip shop to
raise money?*

*It did not work because all the members of the Monastery wanted to be fish
fryers, and no-one would be the chip monk.*



A young boy had just got his driver's permit and enquired of his father, an evangelist, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father said, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

Well, the boy thought about that for a moment, and decided that he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about 6 weeks they went into the study, where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud. You brought your grades up, and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, and participating a lot more in the Bible study groups. But, I'm real disappointed since you haven't had your hair cut."

The young man paused for a moment, then said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair and there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair."

To this his father replied, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

A few words from the editor...

There are things in life that you look back on with regret. One of mine is that I learnt nothing after 3 years of Latin at school.

I could blame it on Miss Stokes who was a completely uninspiring teacher who was totally unable to control a class of 35 teenage girls. But truly, I couldn't see the point of it and quite deliberately didn't learn.

Now I think – what a cool grandma I'd be if I could quote Latin at my grandchildren! Instead I have to dazzle them with chocolate cake.

One Latin phrase that was commonly used in the past is “Deo Volente” (God Willing), abbreviated to D.V. and put at the end of each forward planned date.

How arrogant we have become. Even in our last magazine we confidently announced events that would be happening in the months ahead. No thought that a miniscule virus would scupper all our plans, so used have we become to “being in control”.

Now we have to face stark reality that our plans for our own lives may not pan out as we imagined, but whatever, let's not have regrets.

In a quote from a book, “The 5 top regrets from the dying – A life transformed by the Dearly Departing”, by Bronnie Ware, the most talked about were:

“I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself,
not the life others expected of me.”

“I wish I didn't work so hard.”

“I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.”

“I wish I'd stayed in touch with my friends.”

“I wish that I had let myself be happier.”

So as we live with this new reality of Covid 19, try to live your life in a way that you will have no regrets, and may look back in years to come and say “I have had life in all its fullness – and no regrets.” D.V.

Dorothy.

The doors of the church stay closed, the car park is empty – but the church is more than the building...

We are all missing joining together for Sunday Worship, but we can access a short service each week on our website; www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk Many thanks to Lee for recording these “Sunday at a Distance” Services and transferring to the website – you can find it under “Sermons”. If you don’t have access to a computer we may be able to record them onto a disc, please get in touch if you would like this.

Thanks to Mike for continuing prepare and send out weekly News letters.

What is happening to our Youngsters?

Since the 29th March the younger ABC Junior Church group have been meeting virtually through Zoom, a video conferencing tool.

The 30 minute sessions take place at 11am every Sunday for a song, story and ends with a prayer.

This has been a great opportunity for our younger Christians to continue their journey in becoming closer to God and meet with their friends during these uncertain times.

We currently have 4 frequent contributors aged between 4 and 6 years old, If you would like further information on how to get involved please speak to either Graham, Annette or Lisa or email lisacoltman55@gmail.com

Older children & young people are being kept in touch by ‘phone etc.

On Sunday mornings just 3 people, Ellie, Stan and Dorothy, have stood at the required distance, on the church lawn, sung a few worship songs, read out the Scripture, and prayed for Aylestone. People passing by have waved, and some shouted out their appreciation of that visible sign of the Church Alive.

There has also been a table at the bottom of the drive with texts, gospels, and tracts that many passers by have picked up.



Julie's House Group..

Our house group was about to start a new study when lockdown began. So we decided to 'Keep Calm and Carry On' by email. Steve also set up a WhatsApp group for some of us too. We are now into our 6th week of studying Galatians.

It's been a good but very different way of 'meeting'. The down side is that we are not together, there are no biscuits and we can't wrangle and discuss some of the difficult questions in the same way. The up side is that we have shared our deepest fears and emotions because we are writing them down, no one feels quite so exposed as they would in a group.

We also try to all listen to the ABC sermon on Sunday at 10.30am so that we feel connected and can then talk together about it later. It's a real comfort to say the Lord's Prayer and imagine others saying it at the same time.

We have had many laughs along the ways especially when predictive text makes up its own words, or one of us (they know who they are) presses 'send' too soon.

We have shared pictures, photos, quotes, thoughts and prayers and they have brought the presence of God closer to us all.

By the time all this is over we know we will feel very blessed that we have had the friendship and support of each other and that some of us will have far more 'tech' skills than when we began.

The work of the Deacons goes on via video link.

Stan is keeping the lawn mowed.

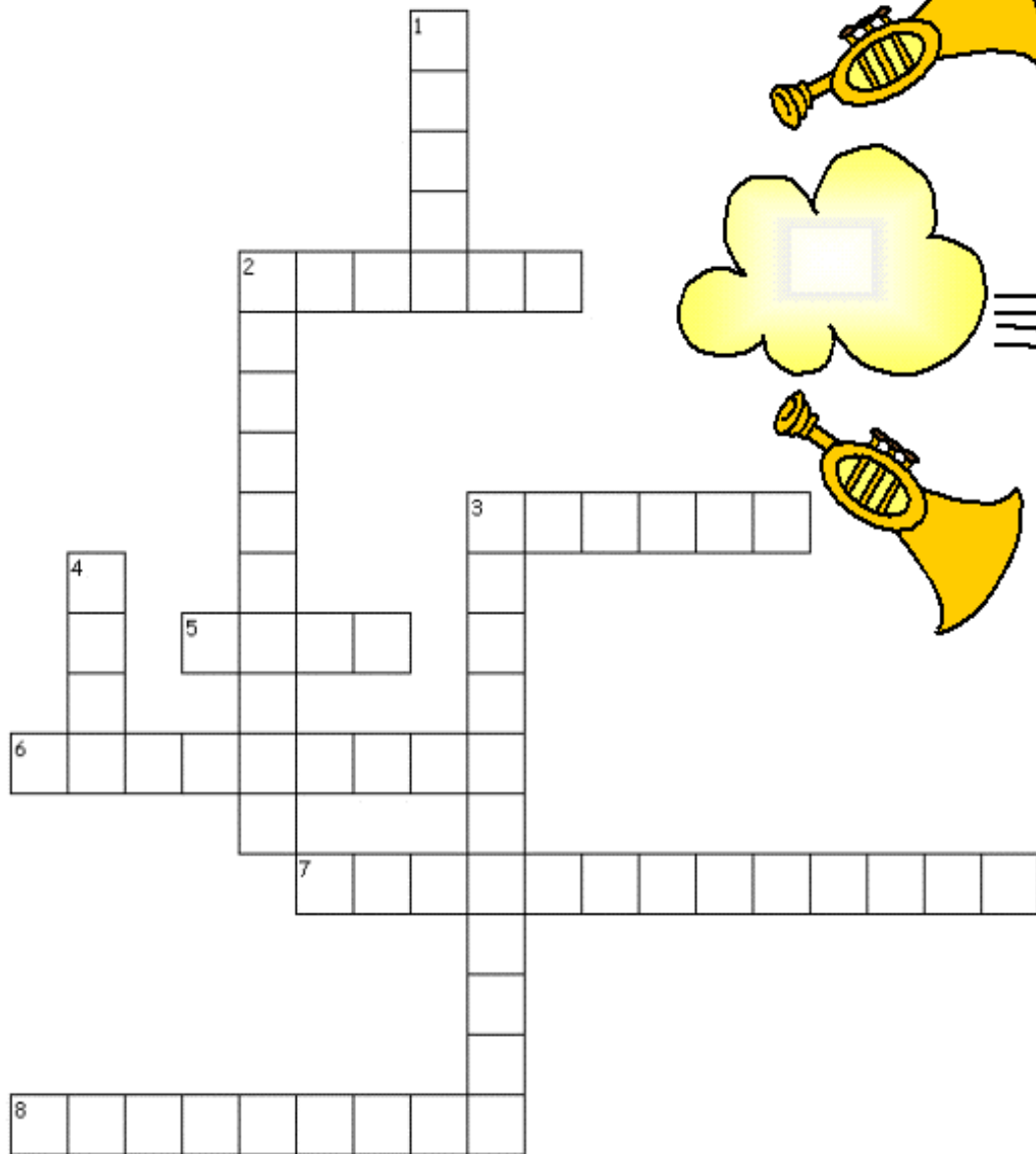
Helena has painted all the radiators in the Church.

And for all who are playing their part by having "visits on the 'phone", shopping for people, taking meals to "shut in" and lonely folks, putting out a table of free books to passers by, having "doorstep coffee mornings", and many more little kindnesses that may never hit the headlines but are showing God's Love to each other and to our Community.....

THIS IS THE CHURCH – ALIVE AND WELL.

*I pray just as the words rise from my heart –
There is no queue before the throne of Everlasting Mercy.*

Pentecost Crossword



Across

2. This Pentecost was special because the Holy ____ filled the disciples.
3. Only after they were ____ with the Holy Spirit did the disciples speak in tongues.
5. A violent ____ from heaven suddenly came into the house where they were gathered.
6. This is the Greek word for fiftieth (the fiftieth day after Easter).
7. The day of Pentecost was a very special day, not ordinary but ____.
8. All of the disciples began speaking in different ____.

Down

1. Because of the Holy Spirit now the believers had this to be witnesses to everyone.
2. The fire from Heaven ____ the new power and presence of the Holy Spirit in them.
3. Pentecost was also called the day of this, when the people brought an offering.
4. It looked like tongues of this separated and came to rest on each of the disciples.

NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED

sunshine is not cancelled
spring is not cancelled
love is not cancelled
relationships are not cancelled
reading is not cancelled
naps are not cancelled
devotion is not cancelled
music is not cancelled
dancing is not cancelled
imagination is not cancelled
kindness is not cancelled
conversations are not cancelled
hope is not cancelled



BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

May 30 th	Jo Williams
June 9 th	Leo Craston
June 12 th	Denise Vernon
June 13 th	Joyce Rowley
June 15 th	Jason Pickett
June 17 th	Gladys Head
June 23 rd	Ruth Hopkins.



If you would like to join the Birthday Scheme, please see Denise Vernon.
On your birthday you will be sent a card, with an envelope inside for you to
give a donation to the Baptist Missionary Society to be used particularly for
medical help in some of the world's poorest countries.

*If you think you are too small to make a difference –
Try sleeping with a mosquito!
(Dalai Lama)*

PENTECOST Word SEARCH



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

AMAZED

LANGUAGES

APOSTLES

MULTITUDE

DAY OF PENTECOST

SITTING

HEAVEN

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

HOLY SPIRIT

TONGUES OF FIRE

HOUSE

WIND



Christian Aid Week 10-16 May 2020

In response to the current situation around coronavirus, Christian Aid Week is moving online! This will undoubtedly be a different experience, but they aim to make it 'the same life-changing and joyous week we've run since 1957'.

To find out more go to the Christian Aid Website

www.christianaid.org.uk

So examples of what they are doing :-

Virtual fundraising

e-envelopes

Daily Prayers & a CAW Service

Quizzes:-

Saturday 2 May, 7.30pm: Quiztian Aid! Hosted by some of our exciting famous friends, put your thinking caps on for our live-streamed quiz. Sign up from the web site

Sunday 10 - Saturday 16 May, 7.30pm: Daily fun quizzes for the whole family throughout Christian Aid Week. Sign up from the web site

PLEASE SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IF YOU CAN !

Stanley 😊

ANSWERS To Pentecost Crossword [P 11]

Across

2 - Spirit; 3 - Filled; 5 – Wind; 6 – Pentecost; 7 – Extraordinary; 8 - Languages

Down

1 – Power; 2 – Symbolised; 3 – Firstfruits: 4 - Fire

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Moderator Rev Elaine Cockbill / Youth Minister: Graham Hill

ALL ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED AT PRESENT DUE TO COVID19

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 weeks)

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

**WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU AND ARE PRAYING FOR YOU
IF WE CAN BE OF ANY HELP PLEASE Phone 0116 283 6422
AND PLEASE LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE**

www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk