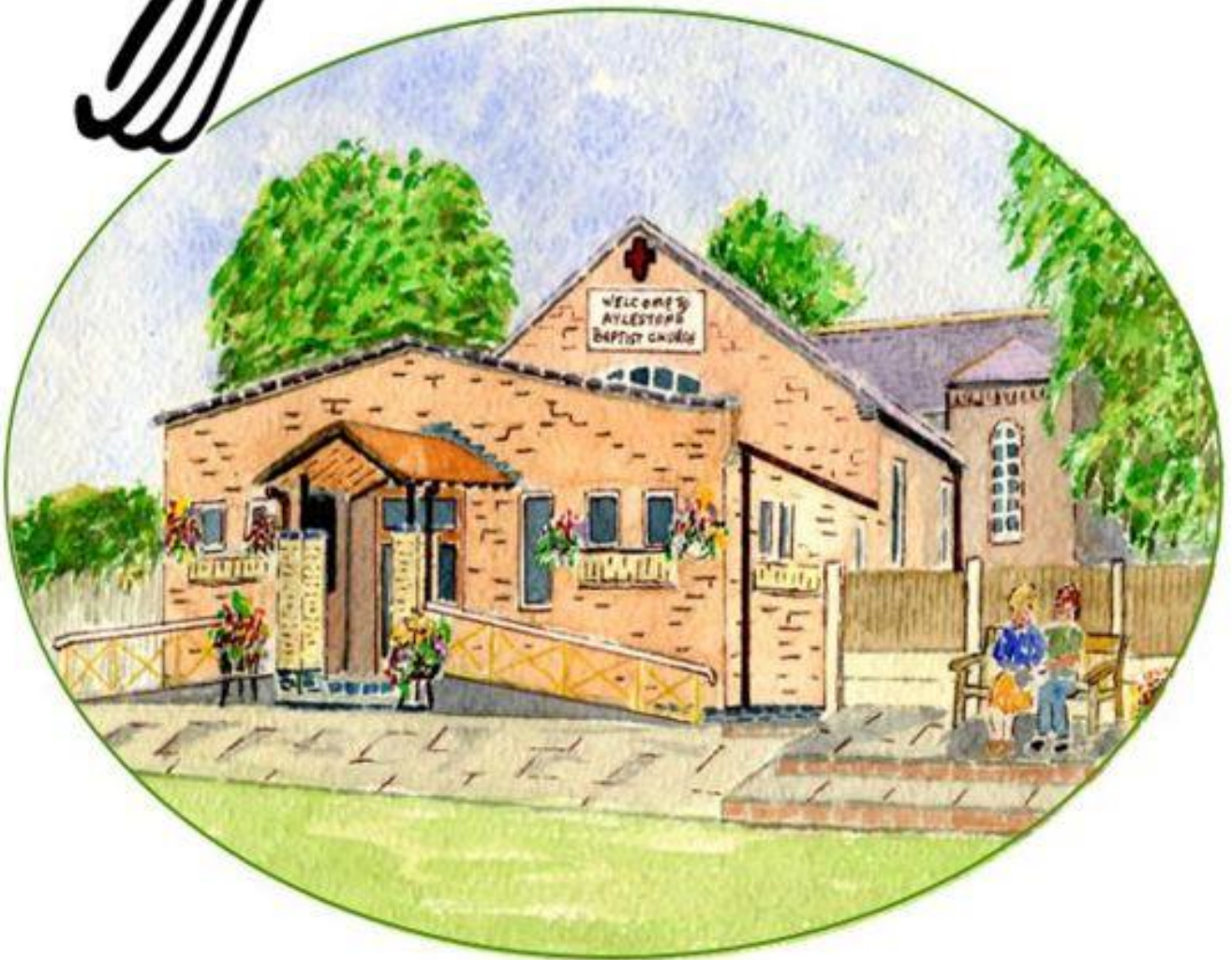




**Aylestone Baptist Church**  
Learning God's Love, Sharing God's Love



**July & August  
2020  
Church Magazine**

## Letter from the Editor – July / August 2020

What a blessing the Aylestone Meadows have been during the Lockdown. To freely walk through buttercup meadows, watch the fish darting in the clear waters of the river, see herons and egrets stalking majestically on the canal banks, the magical bird song and the buzzard making lazy circles in the sky. Each outing brings a blessing with new insight into God's wonderful Creation, the more so as a protest walk,( which I participated in some years ago) saved the area from becoming an all-weather football pitch and carpark.

This strange time of pandemic has put the world on hold – we are thankful for technology so we have been able to see friends and colleagues on line, shop, and TV and Radio have stepped up to the mark delivering good worship services (in the past some of these had been very out of touch). Many have accessed services from various churches via Facebook etc., and our own “Sunday at a Distance” Services are available each week under “Sermons” on our website : [www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk)

These things have tided us over. There was a comment on the TV from a lady standing in a long queue as the shops opened for general sales, “I have been shopping on line – but it's not the same” and a Primary School who have encouraged their pupils to write real LETTERS to their friends who have not been able to come back to school! Their friends have been thrilled to receive them! still something special about a real letter! As the world inevitably moves along we must be careful that we don't “throw the baby out with the bathwater”!

You may get lots of pop-ups on Facebook wishing you Happy Birthday, but the pleasure of receiving a card that has been lovingly picked out just for you is worth a great deal.

As a fellowship of believers we all acknowledge that we can pray anywhere and at any time. All this is true, but as our church has now opened for “Private Prayer” I found myself in the Sanctuary, after so many weeks away, somehow feeling my

prayers joining with the thousands of faithful members who had worshipped at ABC over the past 150 years, and the tears of closeness to God rolled down my cheeks.

Of course, technology will continue to play a part in Church when the present situation eases, but as we are advised in Hebrews 10:23-25:

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. **Let us not give up meeting together** as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day coming.”

God bless you and keep you,

Dorothy.



(Dog walkers socially distancing on the bridge over the canal)

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## **OPENING THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:**

In accordance with Government guidelines we are opening up the church for private prayer, with social distancing and hand sanitizers provided, on the following days & times:

**Sunday 10 – 11am.**[there will be some worship on the lawn weather permitting – guidelines may allow a few to join us but social distancing will still be essential]

**Tuesday 7 – 8pm.**

**Thursday 11 – 12noon.**

**NOTE – THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL AFTER THE RE-INSTATED LOCKDOWN IN LEICESTER**

**Dear church,** in our next preaching series later this year we will be looking at the book of Hebrews. I'm sure we have all struggled reading Leviticus and wondered what this very specific, intricately detailed (and often very repetitive) book has to do with us today. Well, Hebrews is the "Leviticus" of the New Testament, revealing how the instructions in Leviticus point to Jesus and His fulfilment of the sacrificial system. This is why the writer of Hebrews emphasise the 'superiority of Christ 'above all, and once again emphasises how every detail in God's word is packed with meaning , depth and purpose. So with that in mind, let's address the question of who wrote this letter.

The traditional and widely accepted view throughout the centuries is that Paul is the author, however, the letter is unsigned which has led to many suggestions. Whoever the author was, they had to have been accepted by the church as a believer of authority for the letter to be accepted.

Personally I believe Paul to be the author, however 'all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness: [2Ti:3:16](#)). Seeing as God has included this letter in the Bible means for me that the Holy Spirit is the author, therefore whoever it was that physically wrote under His inspiration is a secondary point as it is God conveying His thoughts to the reader.

It is generally thought it was written prior to 70 AD as there's no mention of the Temple destruction, and although scripture is written for all believer's its context is addressing the Jewish Christians; firstly to reassure them their faith in Jesus is secure and legitimate, but also to prepare them for the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple as Jesus had told them would happen(Matt 24:1-2)

The church was under persecution with many having already been put into prison, or to death (Acts 12:2; 7:59, 60; 8:1-3, 26:10) so the temptation to return to Judaism to avoid persecution was increasing as Christianity was illegal, but Judaism wasn't.

This is why the main theme is the superiority of Christ- He is not just better, but the best there ever was, is, or will be. His superior sacrifice ushered in the new covenant rendering the sacrificial system useless, making participation in it a rejection of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice

So how is this relevant to us today? Well here is just some of what's addressed in the letter:

- Jesus- co creator of all things, the only way to God, superior to the prophets, the angels, Moses, Joshua, the priesthood and sacrificial system; the ultimate, eternal, perfect, great High priest throughout eternity.
- Warnings against unbelief, apostasy, trusting in works for salvation, drifting away, disobedience, indifference, wilful sin and failing to mature,
- Promise of unity with believers, the removal of sin forever, encouragement for enduring in faith, examples of faithful believers, building up one another and the promise of eternal rest

Well I've ran out of room and there's so much more! I'm sure there will be more than enough for us to explore and apply to our faith today and I really hope you enjoy this series as much as I and the other preachers will do in preparing and delivering what God is saying to us, His church, today.

Hope to see you all again soon

Graham



## **What have you been getting up to during LOCKDOWN?**

Some have found a new talent in hairdressing skills i.e. the “wonky fringe” or the “convict look”. Many have been baking, some for the first time, or learned to use zoom, binge reading, crafts and DIY have filled our days.

Here are a few ....      **LOCKDOWN STORIES**

**Ruth German....** Hi everyone,

Just about the last time I saw most of you was 9th March, just before I turned 50 and David & I went to Edinburgh.

On 16th March I fell at work and broke my ankle, so lockdown for me has been very much self inflicted 😊.

For most of the time I was home alone while David was at work, and living in a Close made the days very dull.

Thankfully I’m now all mended and back at work, all be it a little slower than before.

See you all soon.

Ruth German X

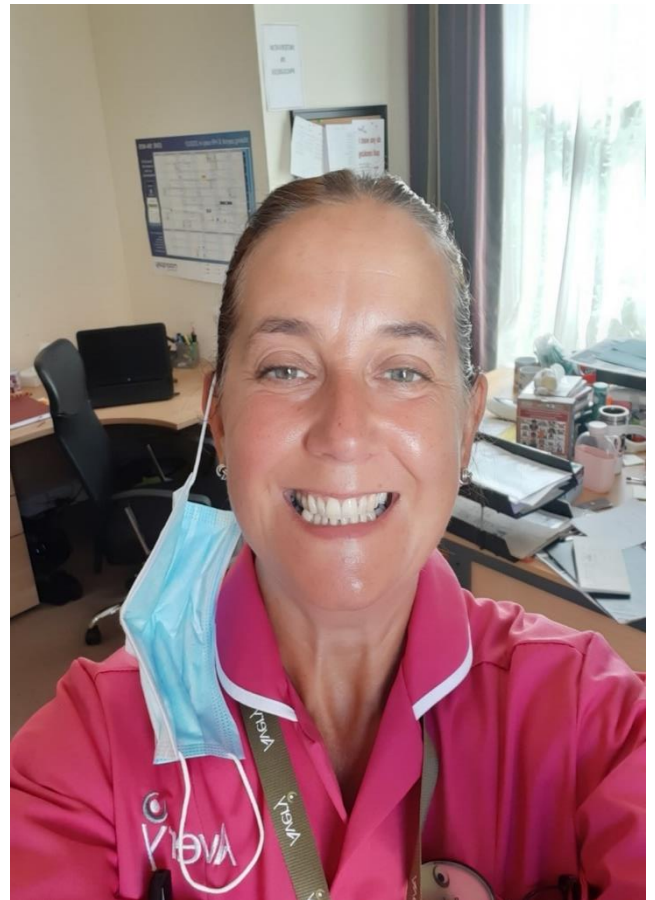
**Beth Ellis...**

At the start of lock down I panicked as my job in school was unlikely to continue & my self-employed job as a music teacher was uncertain so I started looking for a temporary job. There were some jobs at Tesco’s & Asda that I applied for & then I found an advert for South Lodge Care home on London Road & just went for it. I had an online interview, which was hilarious as none of us knew what we were doing with the technology! The next day I got a call offering me a job on the Well-being team. This was great news for me as it meant I could use my music in a different situation.

I went & did my lifting & handling training, which was enlightening, then a couple of weeks later went for my first week. I absolutely loved it. I did an hour of hoovering each morning to help the house-keeping team then I went room to room playing my clarinet to residents who either can’t leave their rooms or choose not to. I took some residents out for walks around the gardens & did a couple of concerts in the lounge area, attended by about 15 residents.

They all loved the music so much & it was lovely to see the response from some of the residents on the Memory Suite who all have advanced dementia. It opened my eyes to the difficulties that these people face & how sad it must be for their families.

Unfortunately, due to the Corona virus the home has low occupancy as no new residents are coming in (understandably if you watch the news!) so the job I went in for as bank staff is not there for the time being. However, having done a week I was hooked & couldn't just walk away, so I'm currently going in for a couple of hours a week on a voluntary basis to do some music around the home. This job is so rewarding & it's something I would probably never have done without the current crisis so I thank God for new opportunities during the pandemic & for the lovely people I've met whilst there. I can definitely recommend this home if your loved ones ever need extra care...I'm hoping I can get staff discount in the future 😊 [ thanks Beth – Mum & Dad 😞 ]



Beth.

## HELENA

Helena has continued painting and keeping the church premises up to scratch. Church & lounge radiators, doors in the passage, outside railings.. have all been painted Thank you Helena for your servant heart.



## **Wendy & Barry Hall..... V.E. Day in lockdown.**

We had been invited to join our neighbours to share in a celebration party for V.E. day.

We were told to bring our table, chairs, food and drinks out onto the pavement in front of our house. The celebrations were to begin at 1p.m. on the day. We decided to have as our menu sandwiches, porkpie, crisps, strawberries and cream. Didn't have time to make cakes etc. as it was quite a hurried invitation. So, Barry popped to the shops for scones.. During the morning sandwiches were made (tinned salmon and cucumber). Scones were spread with raspberry jam (made by Dorothy). And the cream piled high! We took all the goodies outside and set up the table with the best China, and a nice tablecloth. Everyone came out and had made an effort to put something with red, white and blue on. Music was playing and there were three guys who had R.A.F. and Army uniforms on. So it was all quite authentic.

It was a beautiful hot and sunny afternoon, everyone was mixing, walking up and down the road. Of course keeping our proper distances!! Time came for us to eat. The food was yummy and a lovely cuppa. Barry decided to try a scone. The first bite and a big ough!! They were CHEESE SCONES!!! you can imagine what they tasted like with jam and cream!!! Anyway he managed to eat it. It did cause much hilarity round about. When Barry bought the scones they were the last packet there and he didn't think to check. (should have made them!!). We really couldn't offer them to anyone else and sadly they had to go in the bin, which made me very cross not having checked. Apart from that we had a fabulous time and we were able to walk up and down the road chatting to people some of who we had never met before, although we have lived here a long time.

We feel that despite people not being able to celebrate as they might have done, it certainly brought our street together, as hopefully it did for many others bringing communities together to share their memories and stories. *Wendy & Barry*



## Dorothy & Stanley Mackley.....

Early on in Lockdown, one of our daughters told us that someone on Facebook was appealing for a book they could read. (Libraries and shops closed). We realized that we had boxes of books in the garage that had been donated to our SIGMA charity, and as no fund raising events were likely to happen in the foreseeable future we decided to put a table outside our house for people to “help themselves.” Eventually we added to these with unwanted toys from Babies & Tots etc., even a box of food that someone donated. Besides the paperbacks we left out Gospels, tracts, ABC Magazines, bookmarks with Bible verses and many of these were picked up by passers by.



Well over 200 books have gone, and we have had thanks and comments from strangers, one lady saying the books have been a “God-send” to her “locked-in” mum. Our prayer is that for those who have read God’s word, maybe for the first time, it will be the start of their journey to faith.

On Sundays we have been putting Church magazines, John’s gospels and encouraging bookmarks and tracts on a table at the end of the path. Many people said how they read the magazine cover to cover and enjoyed it – so we have made a box for the tree so we can continue to make the magazine available to the community.



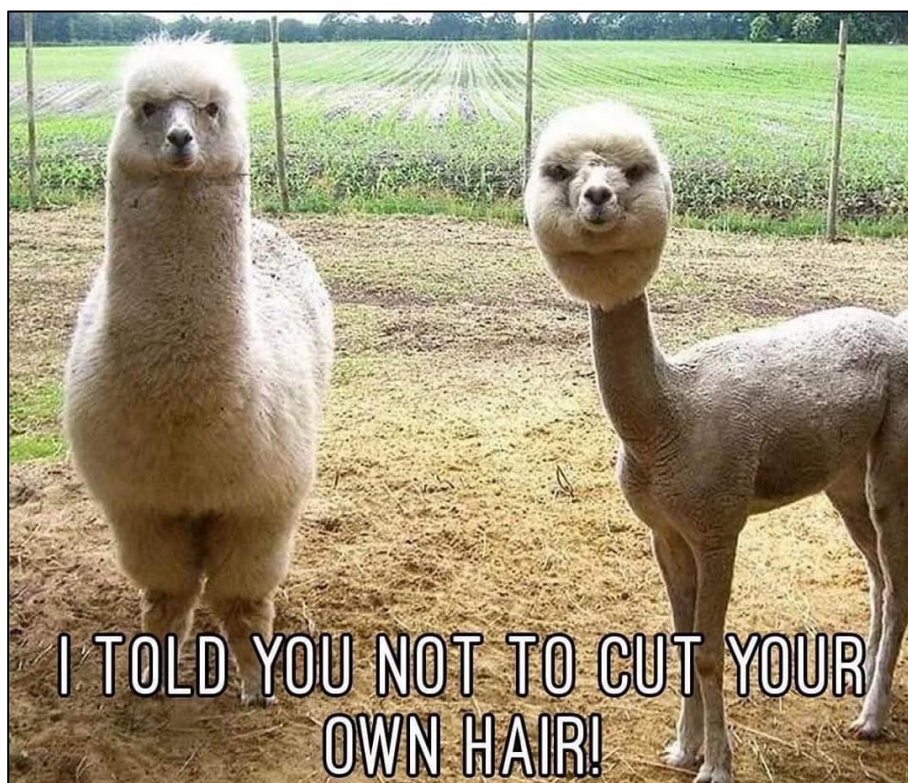
## **Worship on the Church lawns within the Government guidelines.**

Just this small group have met every Sunday in Lockdown to sing praises, pray for the Community, and just be a reminder to all who pass by that God is here, living in the hearts of His people.



For those who have continued working during Lockdown – in our NHS, Care homes, essential shops, refuse collections – and others who have kept the wheels of our society turning – we say a big THANK YOU.

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## For our 3<sup>rd</sup> Age friends.....

Sadly all our 3<sup>rd</sup>. Age activities will remain closed for the foreseeable future. The shocking statistic that over 30,000+ of the 40,000+ plus Covid-19 deaths occurred in the over 75 age range, and so we cannot risk putting any of our friends in danger of infection.

Many of our friends are suffering from the lack of routine that our groups gave, and from severe loneliness, and we do hope and pray for glimmers of light for each one as the Lockdown slowly eases.

At the moment our hope is for a CHRISTMAS DINNER – with carol service and all the trimmings, and to re-start in 2021 – God willing – but we will keep you posted if things change.

Dorothy.

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### BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Grace Elliot
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Maxine Elliot
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Duncan Ellis
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Brazier
July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Angela Wafforne – Happy 50 <sup>th</sup> !
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Steve Gray



August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Teddy Gent Craston
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sophie Gray
August 4 <sup>th</sup>	Aaron Johnson Muskwe
August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Annette Johnson
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Stanley Mackley
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Jude Randell

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# VILLAGE QUIZ – Can you work out the names of these 23 places in Leicestershire ?

1.   
2.    
3.  L     ON!
4.  V 
5.    ON!
6. W  
7.   L 
8.  
9.   V     ON!
10.   =  

11.    ON!
12.  
13.     ON!
14.   L
15.   
16.  L   ON!
17.    
18.  
19.    ON!
20.   
21.  
22.   
23.  

## The Perfect Church

I think that I shall never see  
A church that's all it ought to be;  
A church whose members never stray  
Beyond the straight and narrow way.  
A church that has no empty pews  
Whose preacher never has the blues  
A church whose deacons always speak  
And none is proud and all are meek.  
Where gossips never peddle lies  
Or make complaints, or criticize:  
Where all are always sweet and kind  
And all to others' faults are blind.  
Such perfect churches there may be  
But none of them are known to me.  
But still we'll work and pray and plan  
To make THIS ONE the best we can.



(contributed by Beryl Thomas)

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### *A lesson to learn.....*

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked round.

Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon reaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road.

After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand.

**Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.**



## Church Family News:

Congratulation to **MAVIS SHARMAN** who will be 90 years young on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Sadly due to Lockdown we won't be able to have a church tea party to celebrate, however, we wish Mavis a lovely day and will spoil her as soon as the current restrictions allow.

We have been praying fervently for **6-year old Lucia, the daughter of Anni and Lennie Wisbar in Germany**. Anni spent a year with us as youth worker in 2006 and is very fondly remembered by many of us, some of whom went to her wedding in Germany. Lucia became seriously ill, having previously been a sporty, lively little girl, had to be put on a respirator, her organs, and particularly her heart, beginning to fail. The prospect was grim when Lennie sent out an Email to their Christian friends all over the world to pray for Lucia. The doctors have been amazed as she has begun a recovery – and even acknowledged the power of prayer in this. Lucia has a long way to go, so please pray for Lucia to have a full recovery and be restored to her family.

The Church has received a donation in memory of **Mrs. Joan Stevens**, who passed away during the Lockdown situation.

Joan, along with her sister Irene, came to our Lunch Club for many years, and when she became housebound we were able to take a dinner to her, which she thoroughly enjoyed. She spent her last few years in a nursing home where she passed away. Our sympathies to Irene, Jan and the family.

### **PAUL ONIONS**

Paul was born in Hugglescote, where he had a very happy childhood with his brother and two sisters, and they worshiped at the Baptist Church in Hugglescote.

He became a member of A.B.C. On the 1st May 1960, and remained a very active and faithful member of the Church until he had to go into South Lodge Residential Home, later being transferred to Magna Care Home in Wigston where he was cared for with gentleness and love until his death.

Paul served as a Deacon for a number of years and also held the position of both Secretary and Treasurer, he was also involved and organised much of the work for what is now our lounge, which was dedicated in 1992.

One of the most memorable activities the Church did for many years in the eighties was the 'Church Camp'. Paul and family came to most of them.

At the end of the week there was always a concert night when everyone (well nearly everyone) performed in some way, very talented they were too!! It was always Paul who put together a little "ditty" when he said something about all the happenings of the week including what we had all been saying and doing ...which was a gentle teasing of us all. It was great fun and the memories are still very clear.

Paul worshipped weekly on Sunday and was also involved in other activities such as the Lunch Club, Open House, Tuesday Fellowship for the Seniors. He loved to be right in the middle things and would talk to anyone about anything they were interested in. When he was in South Lodge the Pastoral Team took him communion, which was a great comfort, and he felt that he was still part of the family of the Church.

Paul was a committed family man, and was very proud of his four children and his seven grandchildren - their lives and achievements.

His professional work was that of a School Teacher. After completing two years of National Service in the early 50s he studied for a degree in teaching, and his first post was at South Charnwood Secondary School, where he met and married his wife Audrey.

He spent the remainder of his career at Millfield School and retired as Head Teacher. As well as his career in teaching he was involved as a Scout leader with the 62nd Leicester Group. He organised and led camps for both the scouts and his school. He was also an enthusiastic musician. He led the scout band and played Trombone in the local Southfields Brass Band, and along with his wife, Audrey, took part in many productions of Roger Jones' musicals staged by ABC.

Paul will always be remembered at A.B.C. for his love of life, his sense of humour and his cheekiness at times. But also his faithfulness, generosity and commitment to his family, the church and all aspects of his life.

We as his friends were not able to attend his funeral, but at some time in the future there will be a service of celebration and remembrance. We know that Paul is safely in the arms of the Lord, and we give thanks for his life and all that he meant to so many people, and the love he gave so freely to so many.

*Wendy*

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*God isn't concerned to give our lives a fresh coat of paint  
so much as to reconstruct them radically,  
from the foundation up.*

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**I put out a suggestion for members of the congregation to send in their favourite top ten Worship Songs at ABC. So far there have not been enough replies to make this conclusive, but so far the following seems to be coming out tops, and this is Cindy's reasons for choosing it:**

My favourite hymn is **"How great thou art"**

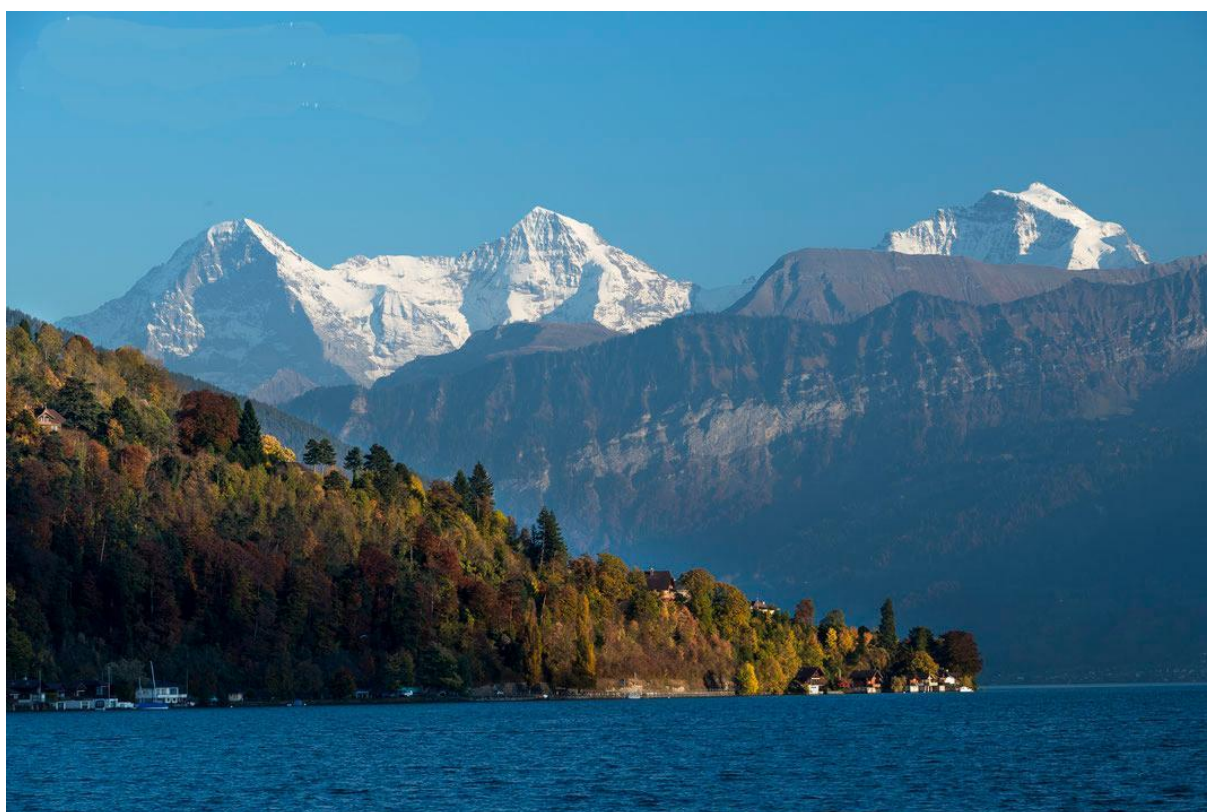
When I was 17 myself and two friends from ABC went on a BMS summer school to Switzerland. The furthest I had ever been before was day trips to the east coast. Travelling to Switzerland by train really opened my eyes to this wonderful world.

We had been promised hostel accommodation but when we arrived it was not available and the group was put in a camping barn with all outdoor facilities. Some of the group were very annoyed about this but we three girls from ABC loved it, we were seasoned campers with Girls' Guildry.

We spent the evenings having worship time sitting on the side of lake Thun with the views of the mountains all around us. Back at ABC we had always sung very old hymns with organ accompaniment and here we were in Switzerland with young men with guitars playing and singing wonderful songs we had never heard before.

Whenever we sing **How great thou art** and come to the line **"lofty mountain grandeur"** I am back being 17 on a lake shore surrounded by mountains.

Cindy Elliott.



## **Churches together in Aylestone –**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July should have been our Spirit of Aylestone 'AYLESTONE 2020' FUN DAY in Aylestone Hall Gardens, a bi-annual event which has continued to grow since the first one in 2012. The Churches in Aylestone work together to put on this day for the community, and they show their appreciation by turning out in great numbers. Sadly this year the event has had to be cancelled – but we are hoping to do AYLESTONE 2020 – in 2021!

A suggestion has been made that in the Autumn, if and when it is safe to do so, the Churches together in Aylestone could organise a 'Thanksgiving & Memorial Service' in Aylestone Hall Gardens for ourselves and the community to recognise those who have suffered loss in any way, and to give thanks for those who have worked so hard to keep us all safe, well and in good order!

This will need an amount of planning, and permission from the Leicester Council before we can proceed, but please let us have opinions and any ideas and 'watch this space' for more news as time goes on.

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## **Basic Philosophy**

Gardening rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, then who is the fool who said, "Quit while you're ahead?"

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**INDIA** – the latest email from Rev Yesupadam said:-

*In India situation is very bad day by day more and more corona effected people. Please pray for my family and our Calvary and rural Churches. Through our SIGMA project to support spiritually and physically in danger places.*

Very sadly the Children's Vacation Bible School was not able to go ahead this year because of the virus. The money we are sending is enabling the Church there to support many of the very poor families in the area with food parcels and other necessities. Their Church witness goes on! And in spite of the restrictions they have recently had some baptisms.

The Church completed its first 100 days of prayer for Covid19 on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

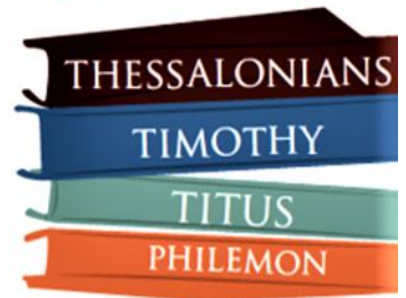
If you want to make a donation to the SIGMA project see Stan or Dorothy ☺





# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH

## NEW TESTAMENT



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



Matthew	Corinthians	Philemon
Mark	Galatians	Hebrews
Luke	Ephesians	James
John	Philippians	Peter
Acts	Colossians	Johns
Romans	Thessalonians	Jude
	Timothy	Revelation
	Titus	



# 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](mailto:minister@aylestonebaptistchurch.co.uk) or by visiting the Church website at, [www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk](http://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](http://www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk)**