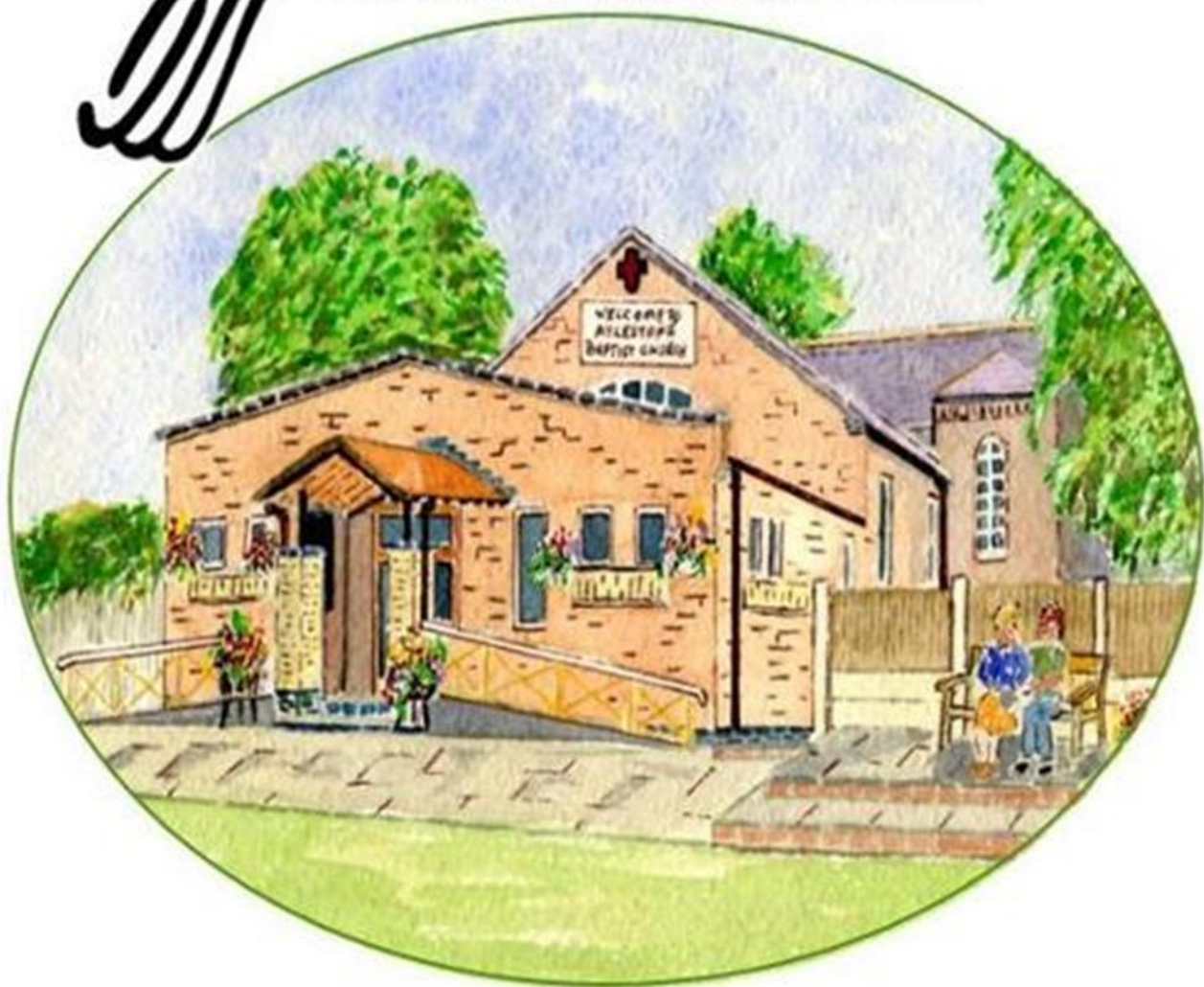




Aylestone Baptist Church
Learning God's Love, Sharing God's Love



January & February
2021

Church Magazine

Aylestone Baptist Church

Past present and future

New Year is often a time for new beginnings, a fresh start, a time to make some resolutions, and considering the challenges of 2020 I feel even more so than ever before, as it has definitely been a 'testing' year, in more than one sense of the word.

The biblical New Year always marked a time when the Israelites dedicated themselves afresh to God. Now as far as new year's resolutions go, I think that's top of my list and the key to moving forward and putting the past behind

So as we enter this year there's an incredible scripture I would like to share with you, that I hope will bring you Joy, comfort and security throughout this next Year.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8)

Security from Yesterday

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega- beginning and end- He knows our yesterday, every joy and sorrow. Let us look forward by putting the past behind us, bringing everything to the God who heals our hurts, secure in the knowledge He has and will forgive our sins. He is the One who restores and rebuilds -comforts and carries us.

Secure for today

As He was there yesterday so He walks with you today through the Holy Spirit. As we go forward into the New Year know that the Lord your God will go before you. Whatever this year brings 'Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not on your own understanding' (prov 3:5) - secure in His promise that in 'all things He is always working to bring good out of every situation for those who love Him'. (Rom 8:28) What a promise.

Secure forever

There are no surprises for God- the Lord already knows everything that lies ahead and has revealed through His word why things happen the way they do so we don't need to be afraid or disheartened. God's revelation of Himself, His plans and purposes, keep us secure in the knowledge that He is and always will be in control of all things. Where is the safest place to be but in the hand of God. He knows the future and has secured eternal life for all who love Him through Jesus Christ our Lord.

So at the start of this new year let us come before God with praise and thanksgiving, leaving the past in His hands and stepping out into your future life, secure in Him.

I pray you have a joyful and blessed New Year

Graham

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY: 'Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon My breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say: 'Behold I freely give
The living water, thirsty one, stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say: 'I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk, till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar.[1808-89]**BMS**

SUNDAY SERVICES for January / February 2021

Services will normally be at 10am, subject to current Government advice, and all services can be accessed online in audio and video form.

January

Sunday 3rd Martin Gage will be preaching with Maxine Elliott leading.
Theme: Hebrews Ch. 9: v 23- ch.10 v 18.

Sunday 10th Ellie Cockbill will be leading & preaching.
Theme: Hebrews Ch.11: v 33 – 40

Sunday 17th Will Hall will be sending a message – unfortunately due to the current Lockdown he is unable to be with us in person.
Service will include Communion.

Sunday 24th Elaine Pantling will be leading & Preaching.
Theme: Hebrews Ch. 12 v. 1-3.

Sunday 31st Stan Mackley will be leading & preaching.
Theme: Hebrews Ch.12: v 4-11.

February

Sunday 7th Ellie Cockbill will be leading & preaching.
Theme: Hebrews Ch.12: v 12 - 17

Sunday 14th Ellie Cockbill will be leading & preaching.
Theme: Hebrews Ch. 12: v 18-29

Sunday 21st Graham Hill will be leading & preaching.
Theme: Hebrews Ch. 13: v 1-16
Service includes Communion. 1st Sunday in Lent.

Sunday 28th Pippa Berry will be leading & preaching.
Theme: Hebrews Ch.13: v 17-25

Church Family News

Jean Dixon has been in hospital, admitted for an emergency operation, and we thank God that she is now home and beginning a long road to recovery. Sadly, whilst Jean was in hospital, her brother passed away and she was too ill to be told. We pray for peace for Jean, and that God will wrap His loving arms around her in all her difficulties.

Our sympathies to May Basoah whose father passed away in Africa, after a time of illness. We pray that God will give May the peace and comfort she needs and the assurance that her father is now in that place where there is no more pain, only eternal peace and joy.

Our sympathies to Dr. Kenneth Rackham, whose sister, Daphne, passed away from the Covid-19 virus, but also we give thanks for the safe arrival of his first great-grandchild, Alexander Duncan Walsh. May God bless that baby and all his family.

Sue Craston has been very unwell, and finding life difficult due to shielding because of the Pandemic. Please remember Sue in your prayers.

On the move – the Bruce family have now moved to Seaford Road. We pray that Martin, Samantha, Cameron, Alasdair and Mimi will find happiness in their new home and that God will bless the family.

The Juan family - Jayantony, Crysten, with little Jayanna and Jayanica, are moving out to Earl Shilton to be nearer Jayantony's workplace. We pray they will soon settle into new surroundings and pray God's blessing on their new home.

Two members of our Lunch Club and Open House have sadly passed away over the past month –

Margaret Tongue: Our sympathies to Maggie and all the family. Maggie had brought her mum to our 3rd Age events, and had been a willing "washeruper". Margaret was a much loved mum, grandma and great grandma and will be missed by her extensive family.

Sheila Oxtoby died suddenly just after Christmas. She had made good friends at the Lunch Club/Open House and will be sadly missed.

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving of gifts..... and as always ABC have been very generous over the Season.....

Thanks to all who donated to the Food Bank for the Salvation Army at Glen Parva. Once again there was a wonderful selection of essential foods, and some Christmas treats.

As a Church we have donated £100 each to the Glen Parva Food Bank and the Eyres Monsell Food Bank to enable them to purchase goods as required.



ASDA

Big THANK YOU to ASDA who have given a grant of £300 to our Lunch Club, which we hope to put towards a dishwasher particularly for cutlery – we feel an essential in light of the present pandemic (Lunch Club will not re-open until we feel it is safe to do so.)

Christmas Gift Bags were delivered to all Church Members, containing cake, apple crumble, quizzes and word searches, and a letter from the Leadership Team. It was great to have a doorstep visit with members we haven't seen for many months, and all share the longing to be back together as a church family.

Thank you to all who gave donations to SIGMA over the Christmas period. We were able to send a further £500 to help with their Christmas work.

It was great to be part of the "Lighting up Aylestone" event, when many homes made an extra effort with outside Christmas lights to raise spirits. Our church made a spectacular show, with the tunnel of lights, the Christmas tree (given by Steve Atkinson in memory of Liz) and the wonderful Nativity Scene



made by Duncan. Thanks to those who put it all together – Stan, Duncan, Cameron, Ben and Daniel.



What a success the VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET turned out to be. Many thanks to all those who knitted, crocheted, Woodworked, baked and caked – and particularly to Lucy whose idea it was and who produced the fabulous catalogue. We raised just over £900 for church funds.



And THANK YOU to those members who have changed their weekly giving to our church to Direct Debit, or have managed to send a cheque to Lucy. As you know personal giving is our main income, and thanks to your generosity we have been able to keep the church “afloat”.

Here are four possible resolutions for the people of God in 2021:

Stay connected with the local faith community

Between lockdowns and uncertainty and chaos, we have seen the power of remaining in community with God’s family.

Remain flexible and open to what God is doing

Make plans loosely, God is at work and will use it all for our good and His glory ([Romans 8:28](#)).

Slow down; take time to rest

2020 showed us what we couldn’t do, weren’t able to do. [Resting includes trusting that it isn’t all up to us.](#)

Speak the life of the Gospel into the chaos of the world

Each of us has an influence in our relationships. Be a good steward of that influence by speaking the hope and life of the Gospel into those relationships ([1 Peter 4:11](#)).

You never can tell

A story to make you think.....



When Dr. Marlin was a young medical student, he had pretty strong convictions on the stupidity of cluttering up the world with people who are hopelessly ill and disabled. He was a strong advocate of euthanasia. He used to argue about it with other students in his class.

“But that’s what we’re here for” they protested, “to take care of the blind, the lame and the disabled.”

“Doctors are here to make sick people well,” Marlin always countered, “and if nothing can make them well, they’re better off dead.”

On his hospital duty one night in Marlin’s senior year, he delivered a baby to a German immigrant woman in the slum section of town. It was her tenth child, and it was born with one leg a good deal shorter than the other.

Force of habit made Doc blow into the baby’s mouth to get him to breath, but after a moment he thought, “What am I doing, all his life he’ll have to go round with that awful game leg. The other kids will call him “Limpy”. Why coax him to live? The world will never miss him.”

But the doctor in him was strong, and somehow, he couldn’t stop trying to make that small pair of lungs begin working, so he started again. Finally, there was the gasp he’d been waiting for, the rush of red to the baby’s face, and then a feebly protesting wail.

Doc picked up his bag and left, kicking himself all the way across town. “I don’t know why I did it,” he grumbled, “Too many children already in that poverty-stricken home! Why did I save this one, the world would be better off without his sort.”

The years went by, Doc moved to a small manufacturing town and built up a large practice there. His youthful radicalism now gone, Doc was just another plodding, always tired physician, working to keep people alive – even if they’d be better off dead!

Doc had his share of troubles. His only son and his son’s wife were killed in a car accident, and Doc took their baby girl to bring up. Doc adored her. The summer she was ten, Barbara woke one morning complaining of a stiff neck and funny pains in her arms and legs.

At first it was thought to be polio, but it turned out to be a rare virus infection that occurs so seldom it rates only a brief reference in medical text-books. In all his long practice Dr. Marlin himself had never run across a single case of it. He called in neurologists, who shook their heads. They said

there was no known cure for the disease, which always progressed slowly to a greater or lesser degree of paralysis.

"There's a young doctor, however, who wrote an article recently about his success in handling some of these cases," one of the specialists told Doc.

"The name is T.J. Miller. I'd get in touch with him if I were you."

Doc took Barbara to the small private hospital where Dr. Miller had instituted his new and revolutionary physical therapy techniques. Doc noticed that he walked with a decided limp.

"This game leg makes me one of them," Dr. Miller said, as he noticed Doc's glance. "I let the children call me Limpy and they love it. In fact, I like that better than my real name – Thaddeus- which always seemed to me rather stuffy. You see, like a lot of kids, I was called after a young medical student who brought me into the world."

Dr. Thaddeus Marlin swallowed hard. He remembered how, when he was a young medical student, he had said to himself "The world will never miss him." How blind he had been in those days.

He held out his hand to the doctor who was going to make Barbara walk again.

"It's better to limp than be blind," he said.

Once, all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered together, but only one boy came with an umbrella.

That is faith.

When you throw babies in the air, they laugh, because they know you will catch them.

That is trust.

Every night you go to bed without any assurance of being alive in the morning, but still we set the alarms to wake us up.

That is hope.

We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future.

That is confidence.

We see the world suffering, but still we get married, and have children.

That is love.

And the greatest of these is LOVE

Lent

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

almsgiving
ashes
ash wednesday
cross
crucifixion
easter
fasting
forgiveness
holy week

lent
meditation
penance
prayer
prepare
reconciliation
sacrifice
sorrow
spring

Have you ever thought how many times you quote the Bible in your everyday language?



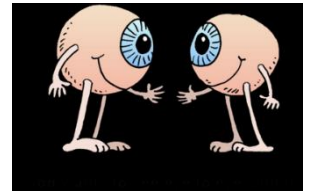
Rise and shine is from Isaiah 60:1, "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you."

The Root of the Matter from Job 19:28 (KJV), "But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the Root of the matter is found in me?"



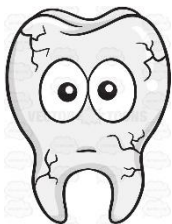
Scapegoat from the Old Testament Law (Leviticus 16:9-10 specifically) where a goat is chosen by lot to be sent into the desert to make atonement for sin.

See eye to eye from Isaiah 52:8 (KJV), "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion."



Sign of the times from Matthew 16:3 (KJV), "And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?"

Strait and Narrow from Matthew 7:14, "But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."



By the Skin of Your Teeth from Job 19:20. The Geneva Bible translated the Hebrew Literally which read, "I have escaped with the skin of my teeth."

Broken Heart from Psalms 34:18, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit" (KJV).



Drop in a Bucket from Isaiah 40:15 declaring God's sovereignty and power over the nations, "Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he takes up the isles as fine dust" (ESV).

SIGMA UPDATE

The Calvary Baptist Church in Akividu got permission from very grateful regional and local governments, to have a smaller gathering than usual on Christmas Day where they would provide food and blankets for the poor, elderly and disabled. Those unable to attend would have blankets and food parcels delivered to them. The money we send, thanks to your kind support, helps the Church to serve a struggling community in so many ways.



They were also allowed to hold a short Christmas Day Service outdoors, which many of the local officials attended. The Good News of Jesus was proclaimed - in words and actions.

The event was featured on a number of local TV and radio stations.

They are so grateful for your support of Sigma project

As we are still not able to run our usual fund raising events, we will continue to take orders for :-

PIES [steak, chicken, cottage etc]

CAKES [various flavours & sizes]

SCONES [cheese, fruit, plain]

JAM [raspberry, summer fruits]

in order to raise funds during covid restrictions.

Please contact Stan & Dorothy – 07825586677 [phone or text] or email stanmackley@btinternet.com for details and prices

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME in aid of medical missionary work.

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

January

8 th	Rachel Connor
14 th	Barry Hall
18 th	Cindy Elliott
20 th	Rachel Vernon

February

6 th	Joseph Elliot
15 th	Jill Walton
16 th	Mick Elliot



If you would like to share your birthday in this special way, please see Denise Vernon, who will send you a card on your special day, that includes an envelope for a donation to BMS World Mission. Thank you to all who gave so generously over 2020 and wishing you a very happy 2021.



To make you smile.....

The World Health Organisation announced that dogs cannot contract Covid19, and do not need to be quarantined – WHO let the dogs out.

The Nightingale Hospital in Glasgow has been renamed by locals – ICU Jimmy.

I'm travelling everywhere by bike. Reckon I'm safe from the car owner virus.

My kids haven't stopped looking through the window since the storm began. If it gets any worse I'll have to let them in!

Your eye test results are not good sir. Can I see them? Probably not sir.



BMS WORLD MISSION

As a Church we support the Baptist Missionary Society with a monthly donation, plus we support through the Birthday Scheme. Here are a few stories to warm your heart, from the Engage magazine sent out from BMS.

Natalie (Thailand): She was born with foetal alcohol syndrome and abandoned as a baby. BMS gave her the one-to-one support she needed to develop, and found her a loving foster home. She still goes to the BMS supported Hope Home, giving her the opportunity to play with her friends, Tada and Phil. Natalie now attends a special school for children with intellectual challenges, and she is learning to play the piano. Natalie is so thankful for the help BMS gave her – made possible by our donations.



Susan (Uganda): Susan is unable to walk and tried to flee the conflict in her home country of South Sudan by crawling. She was eventually rescued by a Good Samaritan who brought her across the border in Uganda. When the BMS supported team found Susan, she was living in the middle of nowhere. She hadn't made it to an official camp and so wasn't eligible for UN food relief. BMS provided her with emergency food rations and she was regularly visited by pastoral activists (trained by BMS) who prayed with her and saved her from total isolation and loneliness. "When the team come to visit me, and they pray with me, that is how I get my strength" said Susan.

Malick and Sara (Lebanon): This brother and sister had to flee Syria when their house was bombed to rubble. Arriving in Lebanon with nothing, they missed 2 years of education – until BMS stepped in. They were able to get into a learning centre just outside Beirut.



Through the work of the centre, Malick and Sara experienced love and kindness, and their mother, Roshina, met Jesus and became a Christian. Their whole family finally feels human, loved and important again, after years of feeling hopeless, rejected and afraid.

Beirut Explosion: At least 200 people were killed and a further 300,000 made homeless in the massive blast in the port area of Beirut. Four year old Malak's home was severely damaged and her family lost all their possessions, staying instead in emergency accommodation provided by BMS' partner in Beirut. After the blast Malak experienced significant regression in her development. She went from being a happy and vibrant child to being withdrawn and distracted. She began to attend a playground staffed by counsellors and volunteers and gradually, through art and play, her anxiety and distress are reducing. While Malak plays and talks with volunteers at the BMS supported playground, her mother is having some respite to work through her own trauma. "Seeing children expressing their feelings while having fun and smiling probably the first time after the explosion is enough to bring joy to my heart," says one of the trained volunteers.



This is just a small sample of the work of BMS WORLD MISSION, so please keep all those working in the organisation, in your prayers.

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Moderator Rev Elaine Cockbill / Youth Minister: Graham Hill

Sunday 10.00am Morning Service [when conditions permit]

[ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED AT PRESENT DUE TO COVID19]

Our services current and recent you can get on line
ACCESSING OUR ONLINE SERVICES – AUDIO AND VIDEO

Audio – go to our website use www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/sermons

Video - go to our website use www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/videos

These to take you direct. Otherwise go to the website

www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk and click on Media/ sermons for audio or Video for videos as shown below

The screenshot shows the Aylestone Baptist Church website. At the top, there is a header with the church's logo, name, and contact details. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Video, What's Going On?, Who we are?, Get Involved, New to ABC, Media, and Sermons. The main content area features a large, colorful, abstract graphic with the text 'Aylestone Baptist Church Learning God's love. Sharing God's love. CHURCH ONLINE'. To the right of this graphic is a 'Welcome to Aylestone Baptist Church' message. At the bottom of the page, there are three icons: a book for 'Church Magazine', a person for 'Sermons', and a gear for 'What we do?'. Three blue arrows point from the text labels to specific links: one from 'Video – click on this one' to the 'Video' link in the navigation bar, one from 'Audio – click on either of these' to the 'Sermons' link in the navigation bar, and one from 'Audio – click on either of these' to the 'Sermons' icon at the bottom of the page.

Video – click on this one

Audio – click on either of these



Loop System Installed



WC Facilities



Wheel Chair Access

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