

May & June 2021 Church Magazine

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to you, while sitting looking out on a bright, sunny Spring morning. I can see blossom on a neighbour's fruit tree, and most of the tulips I planted in hope last autumn are blooming brightly.

However, as I check round my small patch of garden, I see plants I loved which haven't made it through the harsh winter frosts. I thought they were tougher than they were. It saddens me that they're gone, especially because I could have done more to protect them if I'd been more aware of their needs.

Perhaps you are feeling the same about human friends and family lost through the past harshness of Covid, or through disputes and rejections. Maybe you're feeling guilty that you didn't do more to help. It's important to recognise those feelings of loss, and blame, and not to bury or ignore them. Talk to somebody!

I'd quite like to sit on Aylestone Road with a sign round my neck, reading 'I WILL LISTEN'. Oh how we need to talk through our feelings of loss and disappointment! If you have no-one to talk to, I'd like to suggest two things: by all means contact me - the church's contact details are on the back of this magazine. Also, never forget that our Father God loves us and will listen to any and every heartfelt cry from us, His children.

I close with a prayer which I hope you'll find useful. Every blessing,

Ellie (ABC's moderator)

Dear God,

Thank You for the good things in my life: my friends, my family, the things I enjoy doing in my spare time, my work.

Thank You for making life rich, and for the gift of happiness.

And thank You that when life isn't so happy - when friends or family let me down; when I lose someone or something I cherish; when I have no work, and when it's a struggle to take any pleasure in what I do day by day; when life is grey rather than multi-coloured, and I just want to go to bed and wake up with my problems solved - thank You that even then You love me and care for me.

Help me to lean on You, and trust You for all I need. Amen.

Church Services for May/June 2021

Services will normally be held at 10am, and also available on line.

MAY Sunday 2nd Elaine Robinson will be leading with Ellie Cockbill preaching. Theme: John Ch.4: 43-54. Sunday 9th Maxine Elliott will be leading with Graham Hill preaching. Theme: John Ch.5: 1-15. Sunday 16th Graham Hill will be leading and preaching. Service includes Communion. Theme: John Ch. 5: 16- 47 Sunday 23rd PENTECOST Maxine Elliott will be leading with Elaine Pantling preaching. John Ch. 6: 1- 15 Sunday 30th Wendy Hall will be leading with Pippa Berry preaching. Theme: John Ch. 6: 16- 40. JUNE Sunday 6th Elaine Robinson will be leading with Will Hall preaching. Theme: John Ch. 6: 41-71. Sunday 13th Lucy Satchell will be leading with Graham Hill preaching. Theme: John Ch. 7: 1-52. Sunday 20th Elaine Pantling will be leading with Graham Hill preaching. Service includes Communion. Theme: John Ch. 7: 53 to 8: 11. Sunday 27th Stan Mackley will be leading and preaching. Theme: John Ch. 8: 12 – 59. *****

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. [Acts Ch2:1-4]

An Exciting Future for Aylestone Baptist Church Rev. William H will be our new minister.

Aylestone Baptist Church has been in Interregnum for nearly 4 years. During that time the search team have studied over 40 profiles and met / zoomed 13 potential ministers

The deacons would like to thank you all for the support that you have given us throughout this search.

Our prayers have been answered and on April 18th the membership voted overwhelmingly to call Rev. William H to be our new minister. There are a lot of discussions and arrangements still to be made before we can give a date for Will's ministry to begin. He will move to Aylestone with his wife Hannah and his small daughter, Katelyn.

As yet, Will's existing church does not know that he will be leaving so it is very important that everyone at ABC respects this confidentiality. We will be able to give more details about Will in the next issue of the magazine.

This is a very exciting time for our church and we need to give thanks to our Lord and also continue to pray for ABC, Will and his family.

The Manse.

One of the difficulties in attracting a new minister has been that the current manse has not been suitable for any of the recent candidates, particularly those with families. Despite us spending over £20,000 upgrading the manse in 2017/18 the ongoing upkeep is still a considerable expense for the church. After much discussion and prayer, the deacons recommended to the membership that the manse is sold and a more suitable property found which will be acceptable to ministers and their families for the long-term future.

This recommendation was accepted by 93% of the membership at a Special Church Meeting on April 18th. Selling the manse will be quite a long process because of strict rules laid down by the Baptist Union and the Charity Commission. In order to buy a new manse the church will have to make a significant financial commitment. We are looking to borrow between £50,000 and £60,000 over 20 years.

The more money that we are able to raise in the short term, the less we will have to borrow so we are looking for ideas for fundraising. If you have any ideas about how we might raise some much-needed cash for the manse please would you speak to one of the deacons. If you would like to make a donation now to the 'Manse Fund' please see our treasurer Lucy

Revel in the music

'You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your

presence.' Psalm 16:11

After perhaps fifteen minutes or so I gave up looking for the song thrush; Not because I am impatient (though there is that) Not because I didn't want my coffee to get cold (though there is that); No, it is because I realised That as long as I was searching I was not listening; As long as my mind was grasping My heart was not receiving; As long as my eyes were straining To find the source of the music I could not stop To revel in the fact That there should be music at all. Gideon Heugh



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BMS Birthday scheme for Missionary work.



Happy Birthday and thank you to:

(no birthdays in May)

June 12thDenise Vernon - Happy 70th DeniseJune 13thJoyce RileyJune 17thGladys HeadJune 23rdRuth Hopkins

Bloopers to make you smile

A cookbook is being compiled by the ladies of the church. Please submit your favourite recipe, also a short antidote for it.



Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

Announcement to the "Mums Who Care" ladies group. There will be no Mums who care this week.

Visitors are asked to sing their names at the church entrance.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

Illiterate? Write to the church office for help.

It's Drug Awareness week. Get involved in drugs before your children do.

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.

The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who laboured the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Refresh Women's Conference.

"Living Well for Jesus"

This year the Conference was held on line, and 7 ladies from our church met together in our building to partake in the Conference.

Although it was "not the same" and we sat very distanced and quiet, it was a blessing to listen to the speakers and testimonies. There were six testimonies

from members of Aylestone, Whetstone and Barrow-on-Soar Baptist churches. Elaine Pantling represented us and gave a very moving account of the pressures of working as a Councillor on the Eyres Monsell Estate, and how her faith sustained her.

Dianne Tidball spoke in length about Sue Bonnington, who had been a pivotal member of the team during the last Refresh Conference, despite being terminally ill with cancer. She told of Sue's wonderful faith both in her living and her dying, thoughts which were a great blessing to all.

The second speaker, Anne Calver based her talk on "Esther", reminding us that God places us where He wants us to be, and that in His time he will enable us to do His will, whatever that may be. He will even use the Pandemic – and in some ways we are seeing this happening, even through the hardship and gloom of the past year, we know that God is working His purpose out.

Depending on the situation at the time, we hope that the next Refresh Women's Conference will be held "face to face" at our church on October 9th 2021.

Dorothy Mackley

We may not be able to do great things, But we can do small things with great love.







AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH



FROM 10AM SUNDAY 4тн APRIL ALL CHURCH SERVICES WILL BE LIVE VIA OUR WEBSITE aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk

"All services also available as video via our website"

Eating in the 50's

For those who are old enough to remember... enjoy.

For the rest, treat this as a history lesson!



A takeaway was a mathematical problem.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All crisps were plain – the only choice was to put the salt on or not!

Rice was a milk pudding and never, ever part of our dinner.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Curry was a surname.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Only Heinz made beans.

Fish didn't have fingers in those days.

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as "lazy".

Indian restaurants were only found in India.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.

Pineapple came in chunks in tins; we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap, if someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock.



The one thing that we never ever had on our tables in the fifties..... was our elbows !!

EASTER SERVICE

It was so wonderful to finally open up our church for service on this Easter day 2021. The church looked beautiful, with the large cross (made by Stan) decorated by Wendy Hall.

2021 Easter Sunday at Aylestone Baptist Church will be a time remembered by most as the time we were able to come together after a lengthy time away because of the pandemic and lockdown, and on a





lovely sunny Spring day as we walked up the church drive we were greeted by a beautiful installation in the church garden, with an invitation to "all who pass by" to visit the empty tomb. Thanks are due to Elaine Pantling, with the assistance of Maxine's House group, Julie Lovatt and a pathway of painted stones made by some of the children in the church. The Easter service, was joyful and we were so thankful to be able to be together in person, and also with the live link, to praise our Risen Lord.

As followers of our Lord Christ Jesus, we are reminded of the resurrection and of the empty tomb of Jesus at Easter, the reason

for our great celebrations.

The days leading up to first Easter Sunday we recall were days of a deep sorrow, of great darkness and emptiness in all the believers' lives.

Then, remembering the events on that first Sunday all our sorrow, tears and darkness were turned into an overwhelming joy, a time of renewal, and of hope, a time of great celebrations, coming together to worship the living God.

Church Family News

Jill Walton is making slow progress after falling from her bike and dislocating and fracturing her shoulder. This has been an extremely painful experience for Jill and we hope and pray for full recovery and freedom from pain very soon. Thank you, Jill for continuing your work as church secretary throughout.

We prayerfully support David and Edie Billet as David's sister in Norfolk has been very poorly, and due to restrictions they have not been able to visit.

Jean Dixon has had long spells in hospital and is now waiting for a place in a nursing home. We hope and pray that Jean will be comfortable and well cared for. Our especial good wishes to Jean on her 90th birthday.

Our sympathies to Cindy Elliott on the passing away of Yvonne, who was the co-founder of their dancing school 50 years ago. Yvonne had suffered with her health over a number of years, but still had a keen interest in the school. Our sympathies to her family and the blessing of messages that had come from far and wide from pupils who had benefitted from her teaching has been a great comfort.

Aaran Johnson had an emergency appendix operation, and we give thanks that he has made a full recovery and back to his old self.

Many will remember the visit of Rev. Yesuperdam from Calvary Baptist Church in Akividu, and founder member of the SIGMA charity. Very sadly he passed away from Covid19, and leaves behind a broken hearted family and congregation in India.

We are very grateful to our Moderator Ellie for the beautiful climbing rose she has gifted to the Church., and to young Ben and Stan for constructing a trellis for it.





CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

This year at ABC we are proposing to do a 'delivery only' house to house collection. We post the specially designed envelopes into homes along with a list of local addresses they can dropoff their envelopes once filled. If you are able to help with the distribution of envelopes – please see Stan.

We will also be doing a collection in Church – envelopes will be available from Sunday May 9th.

As you may have seen, you can also send a donation on line to give thanks for our [free] covid vaccinations

https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/leicestercag

St Andrew's Church are doing an on line plant sale – see message from their organiser Anne Hayto below

CHRISTIAN AID AT ST. ANDREW'S

How do you raise money for Christian Aid whilst at the same time ensuring everyone is safe? St. Andrew's Church has decided to repeat last year's successful event by holding an online plant sale on Saturday 15th May. We will have annual and perennial flowers, shrubs, vegetable plants and houseplants for sale. So if you want to buy plants at a fraction of garden centre prices and at the same time support the cause of Christian Aid, then log on to St. Andrew's Aylestone facebook page and you will find the catalogue, which will contain photographs, and instructions as to how to purchase. It should be posted up on facebook by Friday 14th May. Plants may be collected locally (address will be provided on purchase) or if you need them delivering to your house, telephone Anne on 2832978 or e mail <u>annehayto@gmail.com</u>.

[ALSO - If you have plants to donate to the sale, please contact Anne as above]

FORGIVENESS

In a South African courtroom, a frail old lady was faced by several white security officers from the former apartheid regime. One of them was a man called Mr. Van der Brock who had been tried and found guilty of the murder of both her husband and her son. Her loss had been enormous.

A member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission stated the case clearly and bluntly to those assembled. It was indeed Van Brock who came to her house some years ago. He took her son, shot him at close range, and burned his body while he and other officers had a party nearby.

Several years later, the same man returned with his cohorts. This time he took her husband, and for two years she heard nothing of him at all. Then she was fetched and brought to a spot beside a river, where she saw her husband bound and beaten. Lying on a pile of wood, he was strong in spirit, and the last words that she ever heard him speak were, "Father, forgive them."

The representative of the Commission turned to her in the courtroom and asked, "So, what do you want? How should justice be done to this man who has so brutally destroyed your family?" The old lady looked at him and replied, "I want three things. First, I want to be taken to the place where my husband's body was burned, so that I may gather up the dust and give him a decent burial. Secondly, my husband and my son were my only family, and so I want Mr. Van der Brock to become my son. I would like him to come to my township weekly and spend a day with me so that I can pour out whatever love I have left in me. Finally, I would like Mr. Van Brock to know that I offer him my forgiveness, because Jesus died to forgive." She stopped and paused, "Would someone take me over to Mr. Van der Brock so that I may embrace him, and let him know that he is truly forgiven?"

Overwhelmed, Mr. Van der Brock collapsed, while friends and supporters of the old lady – all victims of decades of oppression – sang softly, and with assurance, "Amazing Grace".



SIGMA UPDATE

We were so sad to learn of the death of our dear brother Yesupadam on 25th March 2021. He died from Covid – no symptoms until he took a severe fever and died in just two days. We thank God that the work in and around Akividu goes on through his very able and committed family – his sons Rev. Samuel and Rev. Sukumar and his daughter-in-law Rev Suguna, and his daughter Anitha & her husband Moses. Also one of Yesupadam's grand-daughter's Bhaggia Rachel, now studying medicine, also preaches. Sukumar and Suguna are at present doing the planned village to village mission where they are enjoying good response to the gospel. They also have responsibility for Calvary Baptist Church, where they live on the ground floor.

The SIGMA project, including children's and ladies' ministries still continue as before. Please pray for the family as they grieve for their father and look to Almighty God to sustain them in the ministry after the loss of its founder. Below are some details of Yesupadam's life and work, and how our church became involved in setting up SIGMA.

Rev.Dr.Inty Yesupadam was born on August 10th,1951 in a small village called Siddapuram, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. He was eldest son of Samuel and Samadhanamma.

When he was a young man, a person in his native village was suffering with stomach pain and died by the evening because he did not get the necessary treatment. This incident so touched Yesupadam's heart, he was not able to concentrate on his work and he decided to serve the people in need.

He completed his studies and he then married Sanjeeva Kumari on May 15th,1971.They were blessed with two sons and a daughter. After that he completed his theological studies and became God's servant. His wife Sanjeeva Kumari was among the first 100 women in India who completed their theological studies.



Yesupadam had a God given calling to work as both a pastor and evangelist and to campaign and work for social change in their society. Those who follow the SIGMA project will know of his heart for the 'untouchables' when we raised money for a shelter in a small settlement of mud and grass huts with no running water or power.

Just a few days before he died he had organised and led a rally on World Women's Day and given gifts to many poor women of the district. He acted as what we would call a regional minister for the large district they live in, advising and helping many churches.



He was awarded the Raithu Bandhu and Sir Arthur Cotton National Awards and the Mother Teresa Global Peace Award for his great social works for the farmers who were struggling in India, and for his struggle to achieve world peace.

Through the Sigma Project many children's centres, women's and youth groups, feeding programmes and "gospel from home to home" were established. He conducted numerous Baptisms and Solemnized many marriages. He motivated many young men to serve God and supported the work in very many Churches in small villages surrounding Akividu, training 'evangelists' to do the week to week running. He and his sons preached in three of four churches each Sunday usually travelling by



motorcycle. He conducted Christmas rallies attracting thousands of people, and led parades around the town on Christian festivals – Palm Sunday, Easter, Christmas.... All this against a background of persecution and disruption by hard-line radical Hindus. Many Christian Schools and hospitals were closed – something India may be regretting just now!

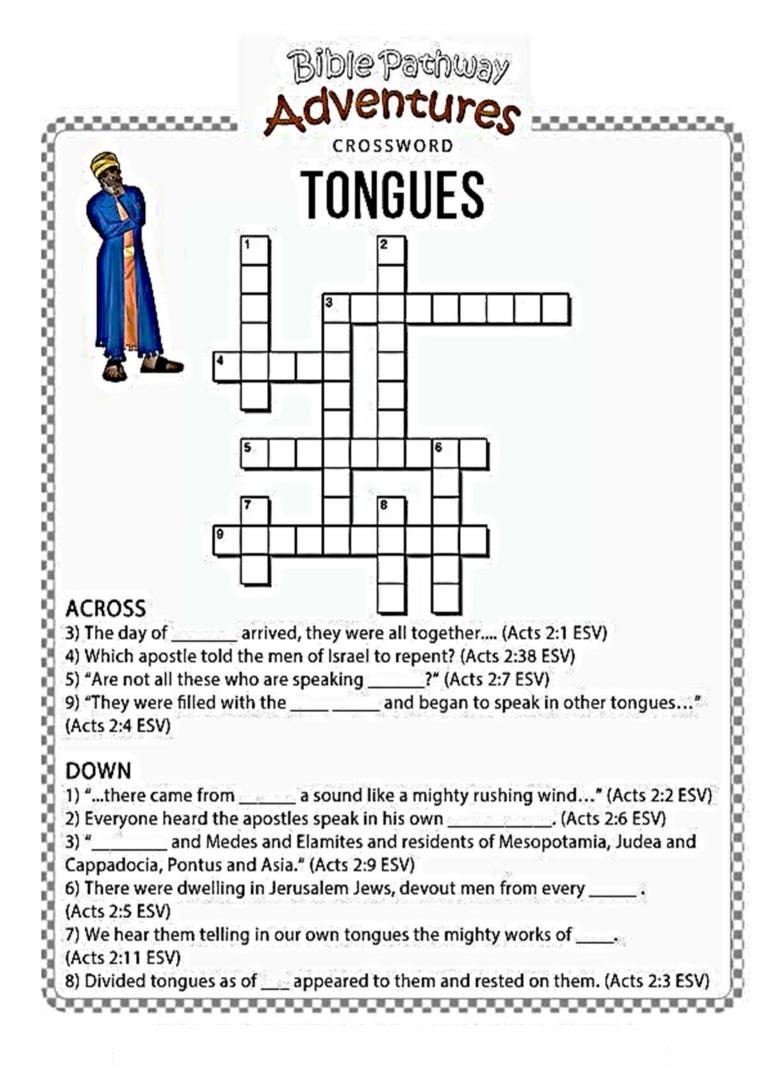
He preached the Gospel to many people till the last days of his life. So involved with the ministry was he that he did not take care of his health. He became sick with the Covid19 illness and he lost his life on 25th March,2021. 'Well done good and faithful servant!"

In August 2005 a few of us attended the Baptist World Alliance meetings in Birmingham as day visitors. One day as I was walking along the Gas Street canal towpath between venues an Indian couple asked me to take their photo. They told me they were also attending the conference and we exchanged email addresses. A few months later Yesupadam emailed me – we learned more about his ministry and personally sent some financial support. As the work grew we felt led to widen the support, so when Yesupadam and Sanjeeva visited us in 2009 we set up the Sigma Charity, and visited India in 2010 to see the work for ourselves and were so impressed by all they do we have continued ever since – visiting again at Christmas 2016.

During the pandemic our fund raising efforts have been restricted – but **Dorothy is still baking pies etc**

Pies -Steak & Mushroom / Chicken & Leek £4; Fruit Crumbles - £1.50; Scones- plain,fruit,cheese £0.50; cakes- Coffee,Chocolate,lemon,vanilla £3.50





UK CHRISTIANS PROVIDE CRUCIAL HEALTHCARE IN YEMEN

ou've helped keep healthcare clinics running during the Covid-19 pandemic and a humanitarian crisis.

Yemen has been in a state of crisis since its civil war began in 2014, and the situation has grown even more precarious with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. But thanks to the generosity of BMS World Mission supporters, we've been able to support vulnerable health clinics in this fragile nation.

You've helped provide crucial PPE to healthcare professionals and enabled medical workers to give people the healthcare they desperately need. Thank you for doing something truly incredible!



These are a couple of small articles from BMS World Mission Engage magazine – available on line bmsworldmission.org







Kwame Adzam, BMS' Overseas Team Leader for Evangelism and Discipleship, shared that some of those baptised were "first generation Christians" – the first in their families to come to Christ.

LOVE-LY NEWS FROM WANG DAENG

aptisms and a Valentine's Day outreach have been a cause for joy in the Thai village of Wang Daeng. Around 70 people gathered in BMS World Mission workers Helen and Wit's driveway for an evening of chicken noodles, music, dancing and gifts. "A local pastor gave a short gospel presentation about

the amazing love of God in sending Jesus," explains Wit. He and Helen now plan to follow up with a number of people who raised their hands after praying a prayer of repentance to God for the first time. But there was more good news to come – a week later the village also celebrated five baptisms of people who came to faith during lockdown!

The delicate miracle

'He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed, miracles that cannot be counted.' Job 5:9

It's not always the big miracles – The thunderous, pulsating, ground-shaking ones – But those that are small, delicate, unheralded: Like when the sobs finally stop, Or when the anxiety begins to fade, Or when the blackbird decides That there is enough light To begin praising the new day. It's when your broken heart eventually accepts That it can begin to heal, Or when the delicate stem pushes through the dirt To discover that air and light are real. It may just be to open your eyes After a night at the end of your rope, To find that your lungs are way ahead of you And never stopped breathing in hope. It's not the big miracles, not the ones that shout and shine, It's the small miracles that are sent to show us The loving hand of the divine. Gideon Heugh *****



There must be always remaining in every life, some place for the singing of angels, some place for that which in itself is breathless and beautiful.' *Howard Thurman*

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 <u>www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/sermons</u> Video - go to our website use <u>www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk/videos</u>

These to take you direct. Otherwise go to the website <u>www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk</u> and click on Media/ sermons for audio or Video for videos as shown below



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 <u>www.aylestonebaptistchurch.org.uk</u>