

KING OF KINGS



Aylestone Baptist Church
November & December 2025
Magazine

Minister's letter

I'm going to tell you something that might surprise you - maybe even shock or offend you. Ready?

I've never had my own Advent calendar.

It's true. I've never opened a little cardboard door to find a chocolate hiding behind it. I've never peeled back 24 tiny flaps or unpacked a string of miniature gifts and surprises. Now, I'm not saying this so you'll all rush out and buy me one. Honestly, I'm quite happy about it. It probably makes me one of the few people in the UK who's never had one. And let's face it, if I did, I'd just end up giving it to my daughters anyway. They've got more experience than I do when it comes to Advent calendars!

Still, I find them fascinating. Twenty-four boxes, windows, sweets, or treats, all leading up to Christmas Day. But have you ever noticed the irony? Once you open the final window... that's it. There's nothing more to open. It's all over. After weeks of little delights, the big day arrives and the calendar has nothing left to give.

Of course, the real purpose of Advent is to build excitement and expectation for something far greater. Each little door is meant to remind us that something wonderful is coming. The heart of Christmas isn't presents, food, or lights on the tree. It's a person: **Jesus Christ**.

When we open the Bible's pages, we discover that Christmas isn't about us reaching up to God, but about God reaching down to us. Jesus didn't come wrapped in shiny paper, but swaddled in cloth. He wasn't placed under a tree, but in a manger. And through Him, God gave the world His greatest gift: Himself. John 3:16 says it perfectly: *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Did you catch that? God **gave**. The greatest gift isn't something we can buy, earn, or unwrap. It's something freely given. Grace. Forgiveness. Eternal life. All found in Jesus.

So whether you have an Advent calendar or not this year, take a moment to pause and think about what (and who) you're really waiting for. Behind all the decorations and countdowns, Christmas is God's reminder that He hasn't forgotten us. He came near. He is with us.

The best gift you'll ever receive isn't found in a shop, on a wish-list, or behind a little flap of cardboard. The best gift is found in a manger. And His name is Jesus. Merry Christmas!



Dates not to miss :

Sunday 9th November 10.30am **Remembrance Service**



Saturday 29th November – **Christmas Market**, 10.30am. Lots of lovely crafts and gifts to buy, cakes & preserves, children's Christmas Trail, bric-a-brac, coffee or a delicious hot lunch including traditional Christmas dinner. (Please note, cash only)



Sunday 14th December 4.30pm, **CAROLS IN THE CHURCH GARDEN** led by a brass band and including free refreshments. Inside if wet.

(This event replaces Carols in the Park which was sadly cancelled due to heavy rain on the two years previously).

Monday 22nd December 7.30pm **CAROLS IN THE PUB** at the Black Horse.

Sunday 21st December 10.30am **NATIVITY SERVICE**.

Wednesday 24th December 11.30pm **LATE NIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE**.

Thursday 25th December **CHRISTMAS DAY** Service at 10am. Come and join together to celebrate Christ's birth.

Last year the Ladies Together initiative invited our church to celebrate the Christmas Season with gifts to bless those in our community who are finding the cost of living a struggle. The response was amazing. Once again, we are asking for contributions that will be distributed to local food banks etc.

Each Sunday there is a different theme, and we ask for contributions as follows:

Sunday 23rd. November: Chocolate Advent Calendars

Sunday 30th November: Luxury items eg chocolates, biscuits, selection boxes, Pringles etc.

Sunday 7th December: Luxury items, toiletries and general food items.

May God bless you in your generosity this Christmas time.

MAN ALIVE

The men had a great evening 10 pin bowling in October – thanks to Don for organising this.

The next get together is **MEN'S BREAKFAST on SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER**

At church – 10.30am. Sign up on the list in the church lounge or just turn up.

LADIES' TOGETHER



The ladies enjoyed a 'bring and share' lunch (with rather more pudding than savoury – no one objected!), followed by a creative hour, painting plates or making up hot chocolate gift sachets.

Next meeting **SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER** after church. Bring & share lunch followed by Christmas Crafts. A charge of £5 towards craft materials.

Ladies of all ages welcome.

HARVEST

The church looked beautiful with displays of autumn leaves and flowers, berries and fruits. Once again this year we asked for collections for the Salvation Army Food Bank and were overwhelmed by the generosity. Three car boots were filled with goods that will bless those who are finding life a struggle. We pray God's blessing on all who will receive these gifts.



What's on for the 3rd Age.....

Lunch Club

Meets fortnightly on a Thursday for a 2-course roast dinner, cost £5. Coffee bar is open from 11am for a warm space, a cuppa and a chat, before lunch is served at 12.45.

No booking required, be assured of a warm welcome.

Thursday November 13th / 27th

Thursday December 11th - 12-0-clock Carol Service featuring Granby School Choir, followed by Christmas Dinner. **Cost £8.**

Re-open after the Christmas break on January 8th 2026.



The Open House



Meets fortnightly on Thursdays. Open from 11am for coffee, chat, table quizzes, games, knitting, or have your nails painted. Lunch of either Jacket potato & Chilli or homemade soups, and a choice of 10 different puddings. All welcome. Cost £5 covers lunch and all hot drinks.

Thursday November 6th / 20th Thursday December 4th.

Join with Lunch Club for Carol Service and Christmas Dinner on 11th December.

Re-open after the Christmas break on January 15th 2026.

Tuesday Group

Meets alternate Tuesdays for a time of fellowship, and a look at a Bible passage. From 11am for coffee, study begins at 11.30 followed by lunch at 12.30. Whether you are a long time Christian, or a someone who is wanting to know what it's all about, you are welcome in this group.

Tuesday November 4th / 18th

Tuesday December 2nd / 16th is Christmas special when we can sing our favourite carols and share some readings and poems before Turkey lunch.

Re-open after the Christmas break on Tuesday January 13th 2026.



There are 19 World War One casualties on the war memorial in our church. Three of them are from the same family – the Wilson family.

William and Ellen Wilson were both born in Lincolnshire; they lived in Cheshire in the 1880's and early 1890's (where four of their children were born: William, James, Herbert and Ellen). They had moved to Aylestone by the time of their son Charles's birth in 1895, and following his birth they had four more children (May, Alfred, Elsie and Jessie). They lived in a new terraced house on Montrose Road, less than half a mile from the church. The children went to Granby School; the three who died are also on the memorial there.

Information from various sources including the Leicestershire War Memorials Project (<http://www.leicestershirewarmemorials.co.uk>), Commonwealth War Graves Commission (<http://www.cwgc.org>), Census Records (<https://www.findmypast.co.uk>), Wikipedia, and research by Joan Rowbottom and Martin Pantling.



Charles Wilson, from Leicester Chronicle (8th July 1916, p12)

Charles Wilson, born 5th August 1895, was described as a Case Maker on the 1911 census (when he was 15 years old). He joined the Royal Navy as a Stoker in 1914 (Service No. SS/115708). Being a stoker was hard physical labour in very hot and dusty conditions. It was also a highly skilled job – the 'firebed' in the boiler had to be even and any gaps filled with white hot coal. Blue-tinted glasses were worn to protect their eyes from the intense glare. In the bowels of

the ship, the men knew there was little chance of survival if the ship was hit. Charles served on the HMS Indefatigable, which was sunk at the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916. Shells from the German battlecruiser Von der Tann hit the ship, causing an explosion ripping a hole in her hull. A second explosion hurled large pieces of the ship 60m in the air. Only two of the crew of 1,019 survived. Charles died aged 20.



HMS Indefatigable

His brother James had a child that year and named him Charlie, perhaps after his little brother Charles.



William Wilson, from Leicester Chronicle (16th December 1916, p11)

William Wilson, born June 1887, was a Waggoner on the 1911 census. He had married in 1910 (Violet Priscilla Webster) and they lived on New Park Street. By 1913 they had two daughters: Jessie and Violet. William was a Private in the Coldstream Guards (Service No. 15515). He fought in the 3rd Battalion and lost his life in fighting on the Somme.

On the 15th September 1916 at 6.30am the 2nd Battalion advanced to the assault, with the 3rd Coldstream Guards on the left and the 1st on the right. As they emerged from Ginchy Wood they came under very heavy machine gun and rifle fire. The town of Ginchy was taken, but casualties were very heavy. William died aged 29.

Following the war, in 1921, Violet and her two young daughters were living on Sanvey Lane in Leicester. Violet never remarried.



The Coldstream Guards emerging from the trenches



*Herbert Wilson, from Leicester Mercury
(12th February 1918, p4)*

Herbert Wilson, born 4th March 1891, was a Leather Warehouseman on the 1911 census. He had married Amy Rebecca Root in 1914 and they lived in Countesthorpe. He was a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps (Service No. 29236), part of the 137th Field Ambulance. Field Ambulances were mobile medical units that treated soldiers very close to the combat zone. The 40th Division moved to France in June 1916 and spend the rest of the war on the Western Front. In November 1917 the Division was involved in the Cambrai Operations. The operations at Cambrai were developed to use the new tanks, and initially it was successful. In the battle for Bourlon Wood, however, the tanks were useless. Troops were thrown into the woodland. Once their own troops had been driven from the wood, the enemy switched all of their artillery onto it. The English battalions in the wood were wiped out. On 27th November units were ordered to consolidate, and three days later the German Army launched a counter-attack. Herbert was killed during this battle, on 25th November 1917, aged 26.

It appears his wife Amy remarried in 1920, to Edwin Wilson. Edwin already had a 10 year old son (Kenneth Edwin), but in 1922 they had a baby together. They named him Herbert.



A Field Ambulance in France

Article by Helen Wells

Happy retirement to Diane.

PCSO Diane Stewart has taken retirement after a long career with the police when she has been a constant friend and help to our community, and we thank her especially from our Church Family. Diane has listened and advised, given hugs and eaten cake with us, and given us a great sense of



security. We wish her health and happiness as she has more time for her hobbies, her grandson and of course, her husband.

Diane has promised not to be a stranger and we look forward to her joining us at our various events when she can come and enjoy herself and not be “on duty”.

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

- November 3rd. Lee Wafforne
- November 5th Wendy Hall – Happy 90th
- November 8th Keith Elliott
- November 27th Sam Elliot
- December 11th Hannah Mackley
- December 18th Isabelle Tait



Wendy is inviting everyone in Church to join her for a birthday lunch to celebrate her 90th on Sunday 2nd November after the Service.

SIGMA UPDATE

Please pray for our friends in India, they are suffering an unseasonal cyclone 'Montha' which was at its worst over 27-29th October with Floods and damaging winds. This will affect the poorest most of all.

In the recent 'Open Doors' email they included the following disturbing news about increasing persecution of Christians in India.

A recently passed anti-conversion law in Rajasthan, India, has prompted an increase in attacks against Christians. Please pray.

Christians in Rajasthan are facing an increase in attacks just weeks after the state assembly passed this strict anti-conversion law.

The Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill was approved on 9 September, bringing stringent rules and severe penalties for alleged forced conversions. Under the new bill, voluntary conversions require the permission of the local authorities, and punishments could involve life imprisonment and fines up to the equivalent of around £21,000. Properties could also face confiscation and even demolition. All offences are non-bailable.

The bill now requires the assent of the governor to become law, but this is expected to be a formality. If approved, Rajasthan will join 12 other states in India in implementing anti-conversion laws, which are frequently misused to target Christians and other religious minorities. Uttarakhand is another state expected to follow. [more details in the Open Doors article]

Whilst Andhra Pradesh State does not have such a law at present, there is a danger that that could change in the future. Please pray for all Christians in India at this time that God will strengthen and protect them.

The law, of course, does not include conversions to the Hindu religion.

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Eunice and Prince on the birth of a baby boy, Hillstone Peter Paapa Mensah, and to Grandma Leticia. They are now living in Nuneaton having moved to be nearer their workplaces, but we hope they will visit soon so we can all have a cuddle with the baby. We pray God's blessing over this little family.



It was a lovely occasion when Grace and Bebz brought their baby twins Amaya and Elijah to be dedicated. May God bless them throughout their lives.



Braydon Navarro has now moved to Sheffield University. Please pray he will settle in well, find good friends and blossom in his independence.

Please continue to keep Wendy Hall in your prayers as she continues with treatment and is still in a lot of pain. We thank God for the strength she finds from strong faith.

Also please pray for Chris Kingsley-Mills whose husband Geoff is very poorly in hospital. We thank you Lord for the expertise and care of the NHS.

Also please remember in your prayers Mary Shipton, Keith Elliott who is awaiting surgery, Cindy Elliott who is awaiting diagnosis, Tina with ongoing health problems, Diane Bland, settling into a care home.



CHRISTMAS MARKET

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH
SATURDAY 29th NOVEMBER

10:30am - 1:30pm

MANY STALLS TO BROWSE
ALL AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.
LOTS OF LOVELY CRAFTS TO BUY
HOMEMADE CAKES & PRESERVES
BRIC A BRAC & MORE...



CHILDREN'S
CHRISTMAS TRAIL

CHRISTMAS TRAIL £2 PER CHILD



HOME
COOKED
LUNCHES
BEING SERVED
FROM 11AM



In the “Adventure Of The Blue Carbuncle,” set around Christmastime, Sherlock Holmes – not for the first time – lets a guilty man go free. The man had gained nothing from his crime and the wrong he did would shortly be righted.

“I suppose I am committing a felony” the great detective said, “but it is just possible that I am saving a soul. That fellow will never go wrong again. He is too terribly frightened. Send him to jail now, and you make him a jailbird for life. Besides, it is the season of forgiveness.”

We think of gifts at Christmas, family, Jesus, but does forgiveness cross our minds? With that in mind, I wonder: is there a grudge I can let go, a hurt I might heal?

Tis the season after all.

Why not try this simple supper dish over Christmas, when you just want to relax in front of the TV with a corny Christmas film

You will need: 6 thin slices of white bread, 40g butter, 3 thick slices cooked ham, 3 tomatoes, thinly sliced, 3 eggs, salt & pepper, 1 pt milk.

Remove crusts from the bread. On 3 slices of bread spread with butter and top with ham and tomato. Cover with remaining slices, buttered side up.

Cut each sandwich into triangles. Place in a shallow, buttered ovenproof dish.

Beat together eggs, salt and pepper then blend in milk.

Strain over bread and garnish with any remaining tomato slices.

Bake in a moderate oven for 35 – 40 minutes or until “custard” is set.

You may like to exchange the ham for cheese or prawns.

**COME & SING CAROLS
IN THE GARDEN**

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 4:30PM

BRASS BAND

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

FREE REFRESHMENTS

EVERYONE WELCOME

IF BAD WEATHER...COME & SING CAROLS WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. What is the name of the Angel who brought the news of Jesus to Mary?
 2. What popular Carol was written by Franz Gruber?
 3. What was traditionally hidden in a Christmas Pudding?
 4. What country is missing from the title of this carol? Bell Carol.
 5. What Christmas film made the above carol famous?
 6. What is a Troika?
 7. Which of these ghosts does not speak to Scrooge ?
a. Christmas past. b. Christmas present c. Christmas to come.
 8. What does the word "Noel" mean?
 9. In the Christmas Song "12 Days of Christmas" how many legs are there on the gifts by the 7th day?
 10. By the 12th day of Christmas how many Gold Rings are there?
 11. Name two other names for Santa Claus.
 12. On what day did King Wenceslas go for a walk?
 13. Name the town where Jesus was born.
 14. What is the name of the Roman Governor of Syria when the census was declared that made Mary and Joseph return to their hometown?
 15. Name the gifts brought to Jesus by wise men from the East.
 16. In the Christmas song "Jingle Bells" what is the name of the horse pulling the sleigh?
 17. Who is dreaming of a White Christmas?
 18. Who was "Walking in the Air" in a song made famous by Aled Jones?
 19. Who is said to have made Christmas Trees in the home popular?
 20. In the Carol "Ding doing merrily on high" where are the angels singing?
- [answers on P 18]

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Christmas chuckles...

How did Ebenezer Scrooge score a goal at the football match?

The ghost of Christmas Passed!

How much does it cost Santa to park his sleigh?

Nothing – it's on the house.

How did Darth Vader know what Luke Skywalker got him for Christmas ?

He felt his presents.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion “Your God Reigns” Isaiah 52.

The preacher’s joking reference at the start of his sermon on Christmas morning proved a bad idea. “Don’t worry about whether you’ve set your oven correctly!”

All over the church for the next ten minutes, women could be seen fidgeting and glancing at their watches. I can get myself in such a state preparing a non-festive meal for a couple of guests that I snap everyone’s head off. Focusing on God in worship on Christmas morning takes a major effort of will!

Just as well, then, that Christmas, the coming of the Messiah, is not about perfection but about redemption. That’s not a bad thing to remember if the mince pies have gone soggy, everyone has the flu, the burst boiler can’t be repaired until 27th January and you just know that Cousin Flossie, who arrived to stay yesterday, is going to upset everyone again.

If everything is wonderful, Praise God, and enjoy your Christmas!

But if you are feeling like the “ruins of Jerusalem” on Christmas morning, it’s still OK to let rip and have a good sing. Jesus is not bringing condemnation but Good News, Salvation, Peace. This is the Gospel. The messenger (or angel) brings good news to those whose lives are in a mess – for example, to Israel who had messed up their relationship with God, done everything wrong and ended up in exile in a pagan, hostile land. Good News – new beginnings are possible because our God reigns!

Veronica Heley, a freelance writer of over 40 books, thought she had bitten off more than she could chew when it came to “Lighting the Lane”.

The traders were discussing how to entertain upwards of 2,000 people on the evening they light up the trees in our local Parade for Christmas. Most shops stay open with stalls outside, and entertainment is laid on. How to make this bigger and better for the Millenium?

I said, “How about a Nativity pageant?” It’s a wonderful opportunity to remind people of the real meaning of Christmas. Our local schools are so multi-cultural that Christianity has been sidelined.

That's where I began to climb mountains, for the producer dropped out, Mary declined the honour, wise men fell sick, the costumes were too short and general apathy ruled.

Doggedly I wrote the text and persuaded the choir to take part.

I begged lanterns, made and ironed costumes, found another Mary and more wise men..... and then there were technical problems with the sound.

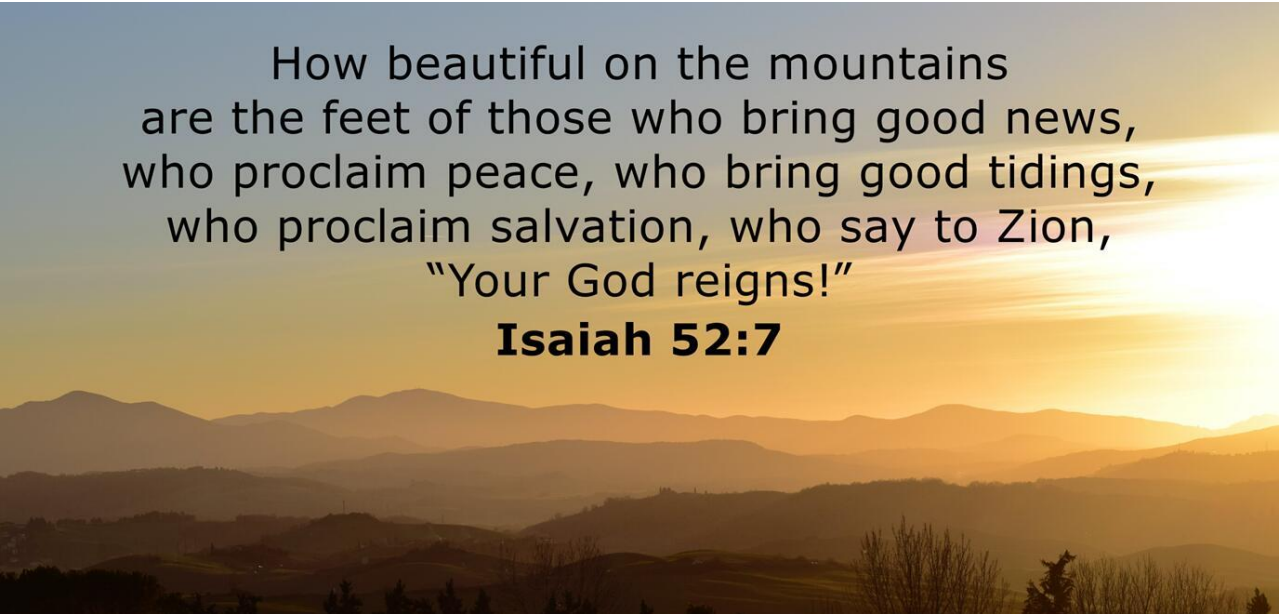
On the plus side, the angel wore his own very splendid Kenyan robes, and an 80 year old shepherd grew a beard. We ended up with a mixture of adults and children. I'd have liked to have added animals too!

Problems remained right up to the last minute.

One day I was praying in Church and fighting off depression. Opening the Bible, this bit from Isaiah came up. "How wonderful it is to see a messenger coming across the mountains, bringing good news, news of peace."

We did take the good news to the people. There were 5,000 people at the event on the night, and as the pageant was staged one woman was overheard saying to her child, "Look, This is what it is all about."

(Taken from "The heart of Christmas" by Chris Leonard)



How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion,
"Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 52:7



Christian Christmas Word Search

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

advent

angels

bethlehem

birth

candles

Carols

christ child

christmas day

emmanuel

frankincense

gifts

gold

hallelujah

holy spirit

magi

miracle

myrrh

nativity

prince of peace

savior

shepherds

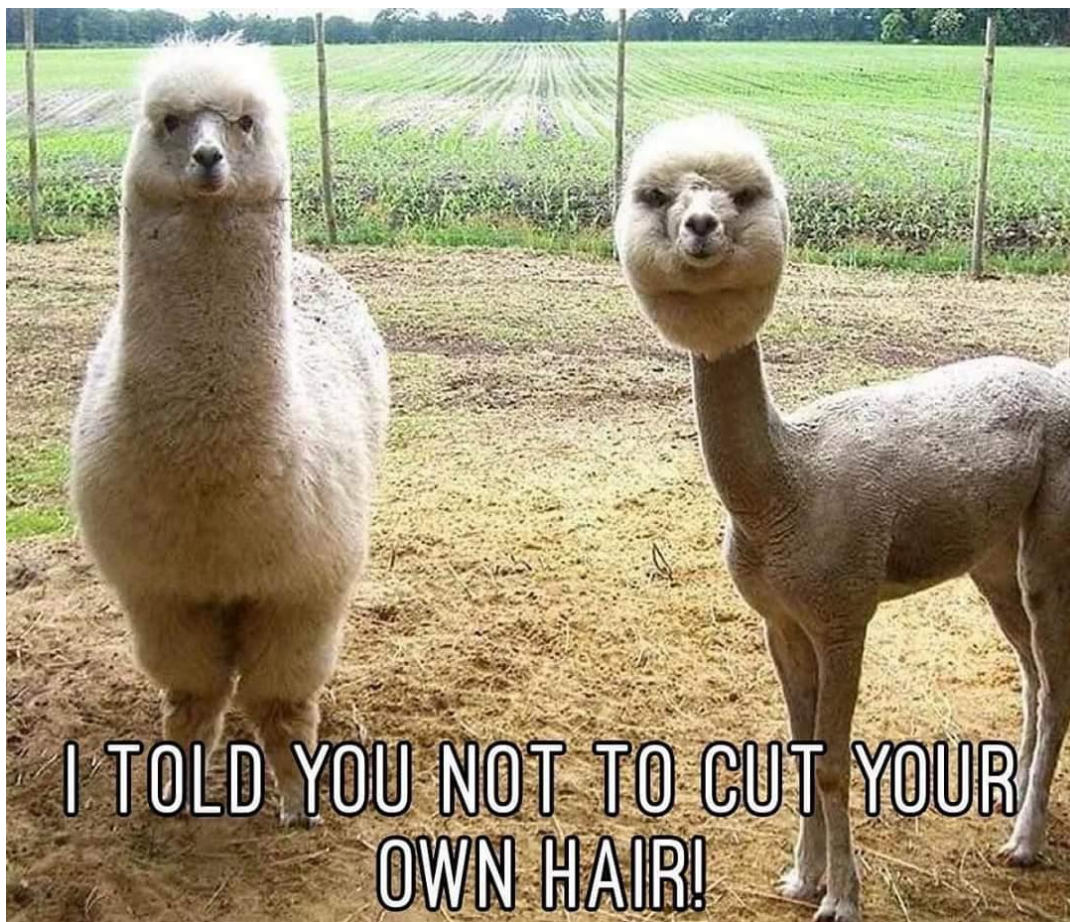
stable

star

togetherness

Answers to Christmas Quiz:

1. Gabriel 2. Silent Night 3. Sixpence 4. Ukraine 5. Home Alone 6. Sleigh pulled by 3 horses. 7. "c" Christmas to come. 8. Shout for joy. 9. 138 : Partridge 14, Turtle dove 24, French hens 30, Calling birds 32, Geese 24, Swans 14. 10. 40 gold rings. 11. St. Niklaus / Father Christmas 12. The feast of Stephen 13. Bethlehem 14. Quirinius 15. Gold, frankincense, myrrh 16. Bobtail 17. 1 am/Bing Crosby 18. Snowman 19. Prince Albert 20. In Heaven.



To everyone in our community – have a very Happy Christmas and A Happy and Healthy New Year and may God Bless you in all you do.

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Minister Rev. Will Hall

Weekly & Fortnightly Activities:

Sunday

10.30am Morning Service / ABC Kids [Junior Church] / Creche Facilities

Monday

10.30am Café Harmony (People living with dementia & their carer/fortnightly)

Tuesday

11am Tuesday Fellowship (3rd Age Bible Study) meet Fortnightly

Wednesday

9.30am ABC Tots (For all babies & toddlers. Ages 0 – 4 open during School Term)

Thursday

11am Community Lunch Club (Meet Fortnightly)

11am The Open House (For the 50's & over. Meet Fortnightly)



Loop System Installed, Wheelchair Access, & WC Facilities

For Baptism, Marriage, Funerals, Church Membership, House Groups,
The Community Lunch Club, The Open House, or any other activity,
Please contact the church.

Rev. Will Hall on 07878803387 or Email aylestonebc@gmail.com

Don't forget to visit our website

<https://www.aylestonebaptist.com/>

A warm welcome awaits you.