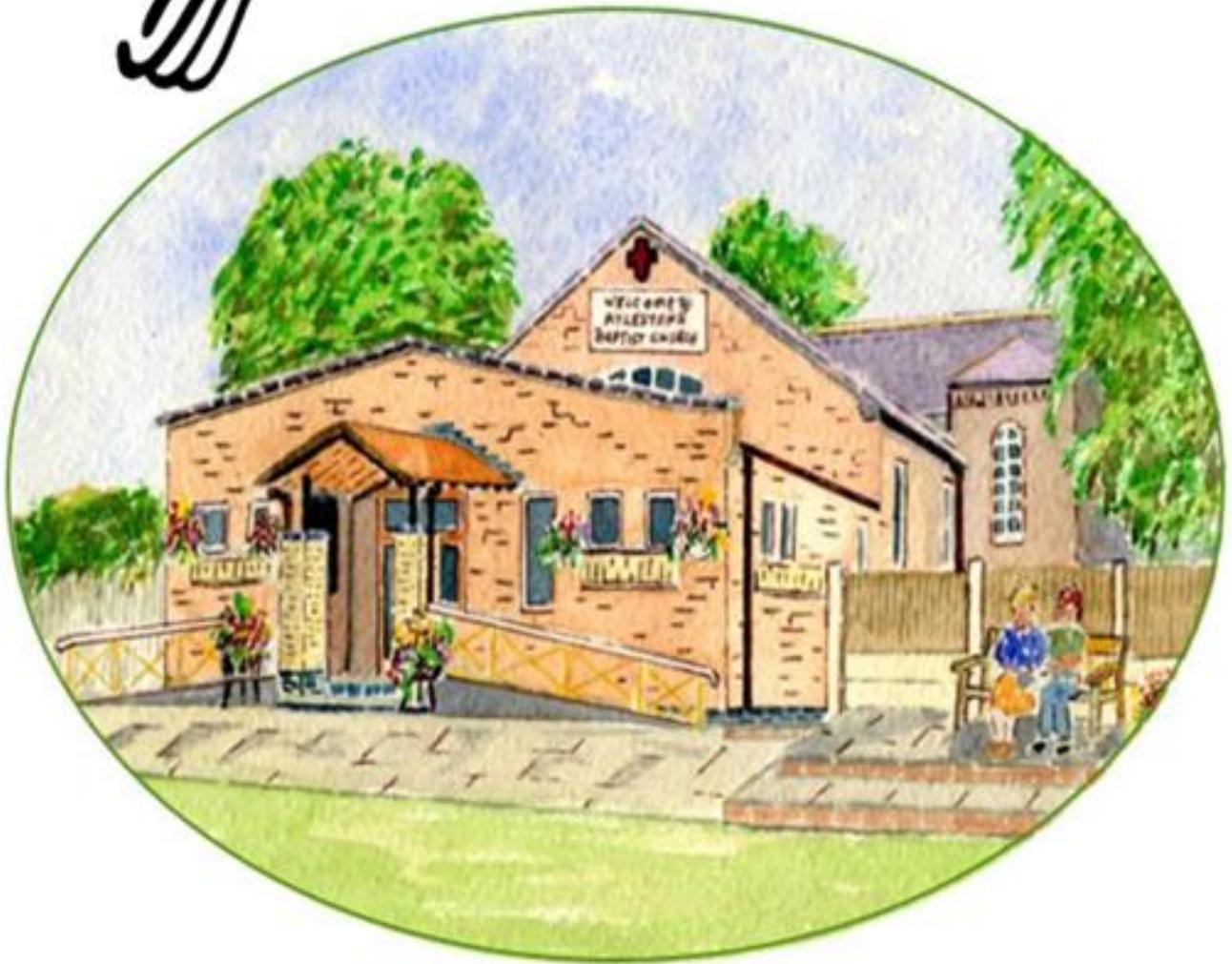




Aylestone Baptist Church

GROWING, LEARNING, EXPERIENCING & SHARING GOD'S LOVE



September & October
Church Magazine
2024

Letter from the minister – September / October 2024

Dear Church,

A friend once told me, “I don't go to church – I'm already in the church.” What my friend meant was that his church isn't a building he goes to, but rather it's a group of people he is part of. (But, yes, he did go to church. He was actually a minister). He's right that the church is more about the people than the building. Some churches don't have buildings at all. We at Aylestone Baptist are blessed with a wonderful building. But the building doesn't define us; it is a tool that allows us to meet for worship and minister to our community.

So if church isn't a building, then what is it? I've been thinking about that a lot lately. I've had a search through the Bible to find some helpful illustrations and metaphors for church. Here are ten illustrations the Bible gives us that show various aspects of the church's identity, purpose, and relationship with Christ and the world.

1. The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:27 says, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." This is what my friend meant when he said he is the church rather than he goes to church. Each person in the church is part of Christ's body here on earth. Christ is the head of that body (Ephesians 4:15-16). Our role in the church is so important because the rest of the body depends on us in order to function efficiently. If you imagine yourself as part of Christ's body, which body part would you say you are?

2. The Bride of Christ

The Church as the bride of Christ is an important theological truth in Scripture. God created marriage with the first couple, Adam and Eve, and marriage is found throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Marriage is a picture of Christ's love for and commitment to the church (Ephesians 5:25-27). Now, as a man myself, it sometimes seems strange that I am part of the bride of Christ. But this is not so strange when I realise that we will be united with Christ forever in Heaven. Jesus even told a parable about a great wedding feast (Matthew 22:1-14). We as His church are being prepared to be presented to Christ as holy and blameless. "Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready" (Revelation 19:7).

3. The Temple of God

When you think of a temple, you probably don't think of your own body. But that's exactly what the Bible says we as Christians are. (Some of us need to do some temple maintenance, don't we?!) In the Jewish Bible (Old Testament), God's presence was literally in the stones of the temple. But that temple building was destroyed, so God's presence now lives in us, His Church, through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). We are the stones of the temple, and together we are holy priests (1 Peter 2:5).

4. The Family of God

The church is like a big family, where we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. We are not naturally born into God's family – we may be born into a Christian family, but we can't be born as Christians. Rather we are adopted into His family by believing in His name (John 1:12-13). As part of the family of believers, we are members of God's household (Ephesians 2:19, Galatians 6:10). 1 John 3:1 says, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

5. The Flock of God

While we may not be as smelly as sheep, the Bible does say that we are God's flock. If you've ever been around sheep for any length of time, you know they are not that smart. They need a good shepherd to lead them, protect them, and care for them. Jesus Himself is the Good Shepherd (John 10:14), and we as His sheep follow Him. God has also appointed leaders in the church to care for the flock and watch over them (1 Peter 5:2-3), following Christ's example as they do.

6. The Vine and the Branches:

Jesus said in John 15:5: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." As believers we must stay connected to the vine in order to be fruitful. The idea of the branches being connected to the vine and bearing fruit for Christ is an exciting and motivating metaphor for our relationship with Christ and mission in the world.

7. The Kingdom of God

We may be citizens of an earthly kingdom for practical purposes (some in our congregation even have dual citizenship in two countries), but the Bible says that our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). We are part of God's kingdom – a holy kingdom – having been rescued from the kingdoms of this world (Colossians 1:13; 1 Peter 2:9).

With Christ as our King, the Church is under His dominion and sovereignty. We are now ambassadors for Christ, representing Him to the world as we shine His light in the darkness.

8. The Pillar and Foundation of the Truth

1 Timothy 3:15 tells us that the church is “the pillar and foundation of the truth.” It's vitally important that the church stand firm on the truth, without wavering to the world or corroding itself through compromise. We support and uphold the truth by teaching and proclaiming God's Word, the Bible, as true and right for all matters of belief and practice.

9. Salt and Light

Jesus tells His followers that we are the salt of the earth and light of the world (Matthew 5:13-14). Salt has many uses – it adds flavour, preserves, purifies, and it stings when it gets rubbed into wounds. (I know a few Christians who have been known to rub salt in wounds, metaphorically!) Our purifying and preserving influence in the world is echoed with our call to be light. Light exposes darkness – darkness and light cannot exist in the same place. We are a beacon to the world, reflecting the light of Christ.

10. The Army of God

Whether you know it or not, there is a battle going on all around us. We are living in a spiritual battle between God's kingdom and the dominion of darkness. But God has recruited us into His army as soldiers in spiritual warfare. We have been given the full armour of God to protect us from all the devil's schemes (Ephesians 6:11-13). Thankfully, God has already won the victory (1 Corinthians 15:57). While darkness rules the kingdoms of this world, we as His church live in Christ's victory.

I hope this list gives you a picture of the Church. We're not just a building – we are a group of people called by God for His purpose and mission. I'm so glad to be part of His Church, and I'm glad to be part of Aylestone Baptist.

In Christ,

Will

Dates for your Diary ...

CHURCH PICNIC - Sunday 8th September after service.

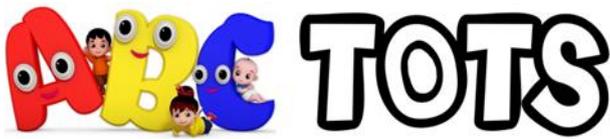
We will be going to Oakfield Park, Hospital Lane, Blaby. Bring a picnic. There is a playground for children, and we will be playing cricket/rounders etc. Lifts are available – See Mari if you need transport or can provide it.

(In the event of rain it will take place in the church hall.)

CHURCH MEETING – Sunday 22nd. September after church.

HARVEST FUNDAY - Sunday 6th October – an all age service followed by a bouncy castle, activities, and free food. This is open to the church and also the Community. Have a lovely time together and welcome in our neighbours.

We invite you to bring along a donation for the Food Bank as your Harvest offering.



Restarts 4th September, 9.30am.

Advance notice: Christmas Market 30th November.

Hope you did well in your GCSE and A level exams. These are some answers from 16-year olds in an exam

Q: Name the four seasons.

A: Salt, Pepper, mustard and vinegar.

Q: How is dew formed?

A: The sun shines down on leaves and makes them perspire.

Q: What are steroids ?

A: Things for keeping carpets on stairs

SUMMER OF FUN 2024

It began with **AYLESTONE 2024** held at Aylestone Hall Gardens on Sunday 30th June. Will, our minister, opened the day with a Service, which was well attended,



then everyone dispersed to the children's games, children's races, football shoot out, helter-skelter, and bucking bronco (not for the faint hearted!). A more genteel activity was held on the bowling green, with adults having a go and a special area for children to try their hand.



The stage area provided entertainment all afternoon with a brass band, Rob, Hazel and friends singing songs from the 50s and 60s, Beth and Lucy with a repertoire of nostalgic songs. It was lovely to sit and listen, or just to enjoy and dance along to as we moved from activity to activity.



Some brought picnics, many enjoyed the bargain price burgers and hot dogs provided by Amoretti.



In the Church Tent, the face painters set up at one end, whilst leaflets and information from the churches were available, and we also gave away cups of tea and coffee and cake. This was extremely popular! We

estimated that we gave out over 500 cups of tea/coffee, and well over 500 cakes to go with them. Many thanks in particular to Sandra, Dorothy, Beth and Lucy for their baking skills, and very special mention to Keith who, in fetching the flasks of hot water for the teas from the pavilion to the tent, clocked up 16,000 steps!

We estimated between 400 – 500 people attended the day, which could not have happened without an army of volunteers. Many thanks to all who gave their time, and to Leicester City Council who funded the day enabling all the activities to be free – but specially to Stan Mackley who for months before hand organised it all - especially as this year there were many difficulties thrown in the way.

A lot of people this year mentioned how peaceful and calm the event felt, and we thank God for His blessing on the day and pray that the feeling of His presence will continue in the hearts of those who came along.

Holiday Club 2024-Buccaneer Blast: A Pirate Adventure

This year we celebrated 50 years of Holiday Club! This one was pirate themed and was attended by around 100 children aged 4 - 11 years. As usual, the mornings were jam packed with fun, teaching, games and craft, all on a pirate theme. The Bible stories were all about water and included Noah's Ark, Jonah and Jesus walking on water. The children enjoyed watching the short Bible videos and talking in their groups about each story. They loved the games outside (especially the bouncy slide) and God blessed us with amazing weather in an otherwise unsettled summer.



The crafts went down a storm, with children creating Noah themed hats and a whale picture frame, among other things. The end of the morning saw the drama with Captain Fishfinger and his crew in a battle against the evil Squidlips McStinky and crew. Of course, good always overcomes evil and many water pistols were fired into the audience on the way to defeat!

This year we had less helpers than usual, which meant fewer, larger groups. This, however, did not cause any problems and many volunteers commented on how calm the children were throughout the week.



We decorated the church with pirate ships (made by Duncan), pirate themed paintings (created by Maisy Dalton, who was definitely in role...) pirate themed wall hangings in the alcoves and parrots hanging from the lights to create a nautical atmosphere.

The children also had their own group dens, which were again decorated with a pirate theme.



On Friday night we put on a free BBQ so that the parents and carers could come along and see what their children had been up to during the week. We sang the songs from the week and the children performed a short 'showtime' piece that they had practised during the week. The final episode of the drama also happened and we

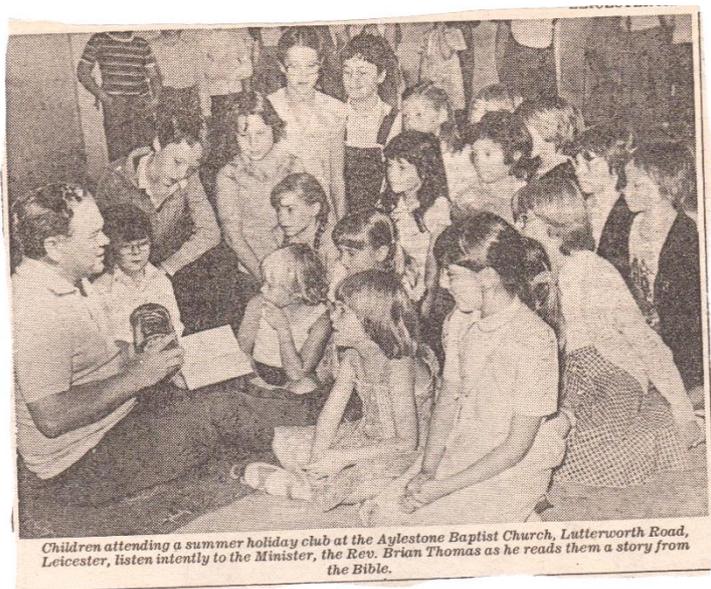


made sure that the parents and carers got the full experience, including the water pistol soaking (I think they were grateful, as it was so hot!) We had a full church as always and everyone was thrilled to see their children perform.



As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations we also had a service on the Sunday after Holiday Club, which some children came to. Tanya had made an amazing pirate themed cake, which everyone at church was only too happy to share!

I'd like to say a few 'thank-you's to my predecessors. Thanks to Dorothy and Cindy who were on the original planning committee 50 years ago (unfortunately Cindy wasn't able to attend the first club as, pregnant with Esther, she had enforced hospital bedrest for a month!) Thanks to Stan who used to come out of work to play guitar for the songs before the days of the sound system...and he's done every one since! As I collected photos for our celebration service from various different people, I realised just how many people have been involved over the years. So many volunteers that have made this wonderful outreach possible. From the bottom of my heart I say THANK YOU! Thank you from a child's point of view (I was there as a child and have wonderful memories) and thanks from a leader's point of view; I know it's hard work and it takes a week from your summer holiday...but isn't it worth it? The rewards far outweigh the hard work.



Holiday@Home for the 3rd Age

Was held for two days on the 13th and 15th August.

35 people attended, and on the **Tuesday** they enjoyed quizzes and coffee, followed by a lunch of roast turkey and all the trimmings, and trifle. Then in the afternoon it was crafts – flower arranging, card making, clay modelling, mosaics, something for everyone, and the day finished with sandwiches and cakes.



Thursday - the day started in the same way with quizzes and coffee. Lunch was jacket potatoes and chilli, followed by a selection of delicious home made puddings. In the afternoon we watched a film – “Hidden Figures” – a moving and thought provoking film based on a true story. The day ended again with sandwiches and cakes.

Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers for making this possible.

Church Family News

CONGRATULATIONS.....

To Nicholas Kaba on graduating with a 1st from Durham University.

To Daniel Blackford on graduating with a 1st from Sheffield Hallam University.

Nicholas will be starting his job in London and Daniel has a job in Sheffield – we wish them every blessing in this new stage of their lives, and thank them both for giving of their time to lead a group in our children’s Holiday Club this year.



Will and Hannah’s baby girl arrived safely on 30th July, little sister for Katelyn. She was 5lb 1oz, and her name is Lilianna Faith. We pray her life will be blessed, and she will be surrounded by love all her life.

We send our prayerful love to those who are finding life difficult at the moment – David and Edith Billett and Mike and Diane Bland. Please hold them in your prayers. Gladys Head, now 97, is beginning to “feel her age”. We pray patience and peace for Gladys. Also please surround our Church Family with your prayers as they go through issues of health problems, employment difficulties and the pressures of life in these difficult, uncertain times.

We send our prayerful love to all our children as they go back to school after the summer break, especially those who are moving to new schools. It can be a frightening experience and we pray God will put His loving arms around them and guide them to good friends.

SIGMA UPDATE (Supporting Indian Gospel Ministries Akividu)

Our Garden Party in August raised £645 - quite amazing! – thanks to everyone who helped or supported the event. Over the last 12 months we sent over £12000 for the ministry [this included £2500 we sent on behalf of Macclesfield Baptist Church]

We are astounded at the generosity of our donors and the gift aid we receive!

Their ministry continues to grow, as do their needs. They still have serious structural problems with their Church building. This has meant that their landlord agreed to sell it to them at a low price, and allowed them to pay over the next 5 years, but they will also have to pay to make the building safe. Please pray for wisdom as they make difficult decisions, and pray that the building issues will not obstruct their work of spreading the good news of Jesus and supporting the poor and needy both spiritually & physically. Pray for pastors Sukumar & Suguna that God will strengthen and sustain them, as so much pressure falls on their shoulders.

DANIEL BLACKFORD'S MISSION TRIP TO THE PHILIPPINES



What an incredible trip! God is really moving in the Philippines and it's so evident, the people are full of faith and love, and live with a spirit of joy. During our time there we worked along side churches to share the Good News and worship with children and adults alike. We witnessed healings, people coming to know Jesus for the first time and a hunger and fire



to know Jesus more. We also had the opportunity to visit communities and share in fellowship with them. I feel so blessed to have had this experience and so grateful to everyone who showed us such hospitality. Praise God for the amazing things He is doing! I really feel I've seen spiritual growth in my life during this trip, and God has taught me so much. He has shown me what it looks like to be faithful and to really depend on Him, through the people and their stories. It has changed my perspective and challenged me to press into trusting God with all that I am. I'm really excited to be back with a new

fire and new things to grow in, I can't wait to see what God has next. I want to thank everyone who supported me along the way, your kindness and generosity has had a huge impact on my life and allowed me to see so much and share the Good News with so many people



Daniel

Whilst on holiday in Northumberland, we spent a very interesting Sunday afternoon. We had arrived in a very small town called Seahouses very close to Bamburgh Castle. We had arrived too early to check into our hotel and went for a walk. There seemed to be something about to happen on the Quey side so we wandered across to see what it was about. It was the annual service for Blessing of the Boats. This was held outside the Lifeboat station but included all the boats in the harbour.

I have known the story of Grace Darling all my life but had not realised that the hotel we had booked was in exactly the place where the rescue took place. The minister leading started the service by reminding everyone that Longstone Rock Lighthouse, where Grace and her family lived, was right in front of us on the Farne Islands.

In case you don't know Grace's story, here it is.

“On 5th September 1838 the SS Forfarshire was making its way from Hull to Dundee, during the night the ship's boilers failed and the captain was forced to stop the engines. The Forfarshire began to drift, buffeted by gale-force winds. The Captain decided to turn back and seek shelter powered only by a makeshift sail. He saw a light which he believed was the lighthouse of Inner Farne when, in reality, they were drifting towards Longstone Lighthouse, unaware of the perilous rocks that surrounded it.

At 4am the ship had crashed into Big Harcar Rock a mile from Longstone Lighthouse. Within 15 minutes the ship had lurched onto the rocks, breaking the vessel in two. The front half was stuck on the rock and the back half was swept away and sank with more than 48 people on board.

23 year old Grace saw the wreck from her bedroom window at 4.45am and used her telescope to search for survivors. It was not until 7am that there was light enough to see that there were people on the rock. Grace and her father, William, decided to row out to rescue the survivors. They rowed for almost a mile and whilst William climbed onto the rock to look for survivors, Grace stayed in control of the boat rowing backwards and forwards to keep it too from crashing onto the reef. A total of 9 survivors were rescued by Grace and her father that night. “

Grace became a **National Heroine**.

The minister leading the blessing reminded everyone that in her rescue Grace exhibited the same values that our lifeboat crews live by today.

The reading for the service was Psalm 23 but not the version we are used to. This is taken from the Mission to Seafarers and was written by Captain John H. Rogers in 1874.

*The Lord is my pilot, I shall not drift. **He lighteth me across the dark waters. He steereth me in the deep channels. He keepeth my log. He guideth me beneath stars of his holiness. For his name's sake Yea though I sail 'mid the thunders and tempests of life. I shall dread no anger, for thou art with me; Thy love and care, they shelter me. Thou preparest a harbour for me in the homeland of eternity. Thou anointest the waves with oil. My ship rideth calmly. Surely sunlight and starlight shall favour me on the voyage I take. And I will rest in the port of God forever.***

The service concluded with that good old nautical hymn “Will your anchor hold in the storms of life”

We were so pleased to sing that hymn reminding us of our days working with the Boys' Brigade at ABC. So a very good, if unexpected, start to our week in Seahouses.

Cindy and Keith Elliott.



Ladies Together



This is a group for ladies of all ages – just come along and enjoy being with other Christian “girls” , getting to know each other a little better.

Saturday 21st September – 10am BREAKFAST with SPEAKER.

Sunday 13th October – after service a Bring & Share lunch - other details to follow.

For further details see Mari Walters.

Man Alive - Men's meetings

Friday 20th September – 7.30pm **Skittles Night at the Black Horse Pub, with supper [£11]**



Tuesday 29th October – 7.30pm Illustrated presentation by **John Prothero about their trip to Jerusalem in 2023.**
Followed by Fish & Chip Supper.

There's a thought ...

“I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work” (Thomas Edison)

“The difference between ordinary and extraordinary in that little extra”
(Jimmy Johnson)

“The struggle you're in today is developing the strength you need tomorrow.”
(Robert Tew)

B.M.S. BIRTHDAY Scheme in aid of Medical Missionary Work...

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

September 9 th	Elaine Robinson
September 12 th	Dorothy Mackley
September 18 th	Michael Bland
September 24 th	Julie Lovatt
September 26 th	Ben Blackford
September 26 th	Daniel Blackford
October 4 th	Beth Ellis
October 12 th	Rachel Draper
October 19 th	Hannah Hall
October 20 th	David German
October 28 th	Wendy Chapman
October 28 th	Will Hall.



Time for a smile..... 

A vicar entered a Christian bookshop to buy a popular book title. "Do you have "Time to embrace" please?" he asked. The astonished elderly lady assistant responded by slapping him across the face!

 **Bulletin bloomers:**

Glory of God to all and peas to His people on earth.

The pastor will light his candle from the altar candles. The ushers will light their candles from the pastor's candle. The ushers will turn and light each worshipper in the first pew.

Applications are now being accepted for two year-old nursery workers.

Join us for a skirt presented by the Drama Team.

What's on for the 3rd Age in September / October...

Lunch Club –



meeting fortnightly on a Thursday and serving a 2 course roast dinner (£5). Coffee bar open from 11am, meal served at 12.45. Open to all, no need to book.

Thursday September 19th

Thursday October 3rd / 17th / 31st

Please note the 3rd October will be our HARVEST SERVICE, 12-o-clock, followed by lunch.

The Open House

An informal time open from 11am for coffee, chat, knitting – have your nails painted – followed by a meal of either home made Soup or jacket potato and Chilli and a large selection of puddings. (£5). Come along, make new friends in a warm, safe place.



Thursday September 12th / 26th

Thursday October 10th / 24th

Tuesday Group



Meets fortnightly for a time of Bible Study and discussion in an informal atmosphere. Both ladies and gentlemen – and whether you are a long standing Christian, or know nothing of the Bible but would like to know more – come and join us. We meet at 11am for coffee, then start the study at 11.30 – 12.30, followed by a light lunch together. You will be most welcome.

Tuesday **September** 10th / 24th

Tuesday **October** 8th / 22nd

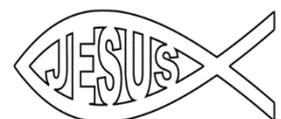
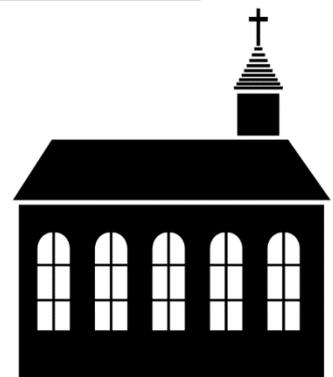
✝ Church is Fun ✝

Word Search



Word list:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|
| BELIEF | FRIENDSHIP | JOY |
| BLESSINGS | GIVING | LOVE |
| CHRIST | GOD | MERCY |
| CHURCH | GRACE | OBEDIENCE |
| COMPASSION | GUIDANCE | PATIENCE |
| COURAGE | HEALING | PEACE |
| ETERNAL | HEAVEN | SALVATION |
| FAITH | HOLY | SPIRIT |
| FAITHFULNESS | HOPE | TRUTH |
| FORGIVENESS | JESUS | WISDOM |



Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE
Church Minister Rev. Will Hall

Weekly & Fortnightly Activities:

Sunday

10.30am Morning Service / Junior Church / Creche Facilities

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 times)

Thursday

11am Community Lunch Club (Meet Fortnightly)

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



Loop System Installed, Wheel Chair Access, & WC Facilities

To inquire about 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.