

# Welcome to Aylestone Baptist Church



Growing, Learning, Experiencing, & Sharing God's Love

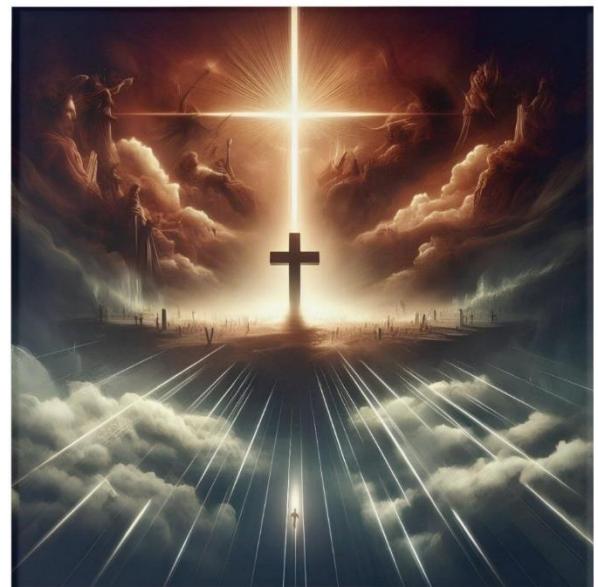
January & February  
Church Magazine  
2026

## New Year Prayer & Blessings

To all our Church family and dear friends  
Who we are blessed to have in our lives.

### **May this New Year bring**

Love to your heart,  
Health to your body  
Peace to your home  
And joy to your life.



### **Throughout the New Year**

May God's power guide you  
His presence uphold you  
His eyes watch over you  
And His wisdom instruct you.

In Jesus name, Amen.

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A New Year Greeting from Calvary Baptist Church, Akividu, India



*May the New Year bring you closer to God and fill your life with His love, peace and countless blessings.*

*Happy New Year! Sending prayers of love, joy and peace your way as we step into another year by God's grace. Have a joyful and blessed 2026*

## CHRISTMAS 2025.....

Once again the Christmas season brought many opportunities to reach out to our community.

Our Advent appeal for the local Food Banks was once again an expression of the overwhelming kindness of our fellowship.

The first week we collected chocolate Advent calendars, then items such as biscuits, chocolates etc., followed by toiletries and general food items on subsequent Sundays.

The Food Banks run by the Salvation Army and Eyres Monsell Community Centre were extremely grateful for our contributions, and we pray God's blessing on all the volunteers working there who give their time to help those going through difficult times.

### The CHRISTMAS MARKET

saw crowds of people coming through our doors. They loved the beautiful gifts on sale - crocheted, knitted, woodworked by our talented crafters and sold at very reasonable prices.

### The Children's Christmas Trail

was very popular as the children moved through various craft activities



portraying the Christmas story, and ended up in Santa's wonderland where they sent their Christmas wishes via a special post-box and received a small gift and sweeties. Of course many of the letters to Santa were a list of "I wants", but one child just listed things she wished for others this Christmas. (It brought a tear to the eye of both Mum and the Christmas Elf). The cake and pie stalls were swiftly emptied, and the bric-a-brac

supplied the bargains. Lunches were very welcome, with most choosing the full Christmas dinner or hot turkey roll, but with other alternatives.

(Comments on the food: Sandra's home-made sausage rolls "*better than Greggs*", Dorothy's home-made vegetarian pie "*better than Melton Mowbray*"). Thanks to all who worked together for this event. Over £1,500 was raised in the three hours, and also many lovely conversations and new connections made.

A new initiative this year (replacing Carol's in the Park, which had been rained off the past 2 years) **CAROL'S IN THE GARDEN**



The church garden looked beautiful lit up with fairy lights over the church, the tunnel along the path, the Christmas tree (thanks to the Man Alive group for setting this up). The brass band sat under a small gazebo and led the carols, the children from Granby School Choir sang. From the side door onto the new patio hot drinks (mainly hot chocolate) were served, also mince pies. Stan gave a short talk centreing on Angels, with around 200 people gathered there on a still, moonlit night, one could almost hear the angels sing.

The **Sunday Morning Carol Service**, led by Jill, was very well attended, and all enjoyed singing the carols just days from Christmas day. The under five group performed “jingle bells” accompanied by a video, which was very heartwarming and nobody minded that they may have “jingled” through Silent Night!

Monday evening and **Carols in the Pub** held at the Black Horse with carols accompanied by a brass band was bursting at the seams with about 400 crammed into the pub garden. Carols were sung, the Christmas Bible readings were given and a short gospel message from Stan – all was very well received. A charity collection was taken for Rainbows Children's Hospice and LOROS Hospice.



Finally Christmas arrived. The late night **Christmas Eve Communion** and we welcomed visitors to this special and poignant service, and were able to sing the last verse of 'O come All Ye Faithful' as the clock ticked over from midnight and heralded Christmas Day "Yea Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning."

**Christmas Morning**, Mari led a lovely service, which included a mention of a very special gift of "Paddington Bear", symbolising a mother's love, and reminding us of the lengths that Jesus went to in order to show us how much He loves us.

*Love Came Down at Christmas – and is a gift for all eternity.*

**Christmas Dinner** for the Lunch Club and Open House was a great get-together. Before the meal we all enjoyed the Carol Service with the highlight of Granby School Choir singing to us. Then 70 sat down to Christmas dinner with all the trimmings and a lovely gift to everyone of a box containing home-made Christmas cake, shortbread and mince pie.

A very big “thank you” to all the volunteers who give so freely of their time each week and we look forward to the New Year and many more shared meals together.



***“There is no more blessed way of living than the life of faith upon a covenant-keeping God – to know that we have no care, for He cares for us; that we need have no fear, except to fear Him; that we need have no troubles, because we have cast our burdens upon the Lord, and are conscious that He will sustain us.”***

C.H. Spurgeon

## What's on for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age.....

### Lunch Club

A delicious home cooked 2 course roast dinner for £5.  
Lounge is open from 11am for coffee, lunch served at 12.45.  
All welcome – no booking necessary.

Thursday January 8th / 22<sup>nd</sup>

Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup>.



### The Open House



Meet from 11am for coffee, board games, chatting, with lunch served at 12.30am. Come along for a safe, warm place, find new friends or renew old ones, everyone is welcome. £5 includes lunch and unlimited coffee, tea & biscuits.

Thursday January 15<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup>

Thursday February 12<sup>th</sup> / 26<sup>th</sup>

### Tuesday Group

Meet from 11 to 11.30 for coffee and chat, then a time to look at a Bible passage and have discussion and questions relative to our age group. You are welcome, whether you are a long standing Christian, or beginning to search – it's never too late !

Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup>



***We never grow old***

***We get old when we stop growing.***

(author unknown)

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Our love and sympathies to Christine Kingsley-Mills and the family on the passing of her dear husband Geoff. He had a stroke some years ago but still managed a good quality of life and wonderful times with the family, but in the last months had become very weak and passed to be with our Lord in early November. It was a blessing to have so many friends and family able to join Chris for the funeral and recall many happy memories of a lovely man, husband and father. May God bless Chris and the family in their grief.

Our prayerful sympathies to Annette Johnson and Aaron as Annette's mum passed away.

And to Joanne Protheroe, John, Rebecca and all the family as Jo's mum passed away.

*A mother's love is a deep and wonderful thing,  
and will live in the heart forever.*

Some of our men have been having minor surgeries – Keith Elliott, Stan Mackley and Ron Walton. All are recovering well and sing the praises of the wonderful medical staff who cared for them.

Cindy Elliott is now on a strict medication regime after being diagnosed with a serious lung condition. A lifelong ballet dancer and teacher who never smoked, it is a shock to be brought down in this way. Please keep Cindy in your prayers.



We continue to hold Wendy Hall in our prayers as she carries on with her treatment. God bless Wendy as she continues to care for others despite her present difficulties.

Wendy celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with the church, giving her testimony of her long life in the church. The church was full and all enjoyed a lovely buffet after.

Diane Bland is settled now in Whetstone Grange Care Home. We continue to support Mike as he has had to come to terms with Diane's changed circumstances.

Congratulations to Nicholas Kaba on his engagement to Jess. God bless that lovely young couple and all their plans ahead.

# Café Harmony

CARING FOR PEOPLE COPING WITH DEMENTIA & THEIR CARERS



At Aylestone Baptist Church  
Lutterworth Road  
Starting on 12th January  
Every Monday 11am - 1pm  
Come and enjoy a light lunch,  
crafts, music, & more.

For further information please call  
Hazel on 07342 902 999

## A true Good News story for the New Year ...

### **The Story of actor Jamie Hinde.**

My parents went through a pretty heavy divorce when I was about eleven. I was brought up by my mum and saw my dad once a week. Mum was a theatre director and at about twelve I was cast in her production of Sound of Music, playing Kurt. After this I started attending an acting workshop, where I made lots of friends. But at school it was a different story – I didn’t fit in, did very badly at school. Started off in the ‘A’ stream and went down to ‘C’ stream. I hated it so much I bunked off as much as possible. I left at 17 with hardly any qualifications and went to drama college in Chiswick.

Then, when I was 18, an amazing thing happened. I got an audition for *The Wizard of Oz* with the Royal Shakespeare Co. and later was invited to audition for their season. I learned something from “The Tempest” for audition, but completely froze up when I went on stage, leaving the theatre in tears thinking I had wrecked my chances. Amazingly the next day my agent phoned to say they had offered me sixty weeks work. I later asked them why and they said “You know when somebody walks in the room – it’s not about drying up.”

We travelled the country, and then they offered me another year but I took a risk and left, and then was offered a part at the National theatre.

My career blossomed, I travelled all over the world. I was 25 and working in South America, the Philippines, Los Angeles. I was being invited to lavish parties and meeting very famous people. After that I played in the London West End, and after that I went to teach in a drama college whilst I was between jobs. By then I’d bought a lovely flat in Winchmore Hill, North London. I set up my own company called Fly Monkey.

But something inside me was dissatisfied and I went on a spiritual search. I read books on Buddhism, Taoism. Then I decided to return to acting and auditioned for the Lion King. It was very well paid (Disney look after you very well indeed), but being a performer just didn’t have the same buzz for me. I remember one night, I was playing Scar – one of the leading roles – in front of 2,500 people and I stood there and thought – “I don’t feel anything”. Then, during the latter part of my year there I attended the final three sessions of the Theatreland Alpha Course. I had loads of questions.

My big question was, “I believe I’m a good guy. Why should you be allowed into heaven and not me? Why is it exclusive?”

Soon after that I decided to leave the Lion King. I just felt there was something else. When I left I didn’t know what I was going to do.

At the end of 2004 a friend who is a Christian took me to a morning service at Holy Trinity, Brompton – she told me it was an Anglican church where she sometimes went. Within seconds of arriving there I burst into tears. I didn’t know why. As I sat there crying the Alpha Course was mentioned and she encouraged me to do the course. I said yes. That was January 2005. When I arrived at Alpha I was in a bad way. I was drifting with no zest for anything. I had this cynicism. I thought “Is that a sincere smile?” every cynical bone in my body was going, “what am I doing here”, but I was enjoying the talks.

Then an amazing thing happened – 29<sup>th</sup> January 2005. I went away for the weekend to Cardiff to visit my godson for the first time. By this stage on Alpha something in my heart had clicked. On the train I took the “Why Jesus” booklet. I came to the prayer at the back and decided to say it. It was something along the lines of “Dear Lord Jesus, please forgive me for my sins. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. I ask you to come into my life, heal my life and guide my life.” And I can’t explain what happened, but it was the most amazing, profound experience. I expected nothing – I was just saying the prayer. But I said it with integrity, with force and with absolute meaning. I was at peace, serene, joyful and blissful. I felt incredible. The Spirit was coming into me and saying “Jamie, it’s true. Let’s go for it.” And I remember having an image of Jesus in me. I could see Him – not looking at me, but it was like He was in me. It was an overwhelming experience and it went on for about 20 minutes.

The following week I told the Alpha Course group what had happened, and most of our group became Christians and formed a House Group. But it hasn’t been easy, taking a self-centred life and becoming God-centred, and the process has been going on ever since. I’ve cried tears I didn’t even know existed – going right back to my parent’s divorce, from deep within.

I know now that I want to serve God. I’m at the stage where I know where I’m going, “OK – use me....I want to glorify God in every way I can. I feel so blessed.”

*(Jamie Hinde is now married to Ruth. He has continued to act in many prominent productions in London and around the UK. They attend a church near their home in Brighton.)*

## ABC MAN ALIVE



The Men's group enjoyed a hearty Christmas Breakfast and get together.

The next meeting is on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 6pm at Hollywood Bowl, Meridian, followed By a meal at Bella Italia from 7.15pm. Come along and join this group. Sign up sheet The Church lounge. Together we can make a difference.

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## LADIES' TOGETHER

After a delicious "Bring & Share" lunch, the ladies set about making Christmas crafts.

They made wreaths, painted mugs, made felt jewellery and various decorations from scrabble tiles etc. It was a time to chat, laugh and relax in the busy build up to Christmas. Many thanks to the ladies who organised the crafts and Mari for leading this group.



## **BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME**

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

January 8<sup>th</sup>      Rachel Connor

Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Rachel.

January 14<sup>th</sup>      Barry Hall

January 18<sup>th</sup>      Cindy Elliott

January 31<sup>st</sup>      Gladys Koovits

February 6<sup>th</sup>      Joseph Elliot

February 15<sup>th</sup>      Jill Walton

February 16<sup>th</sup>      Michael Elliot

February 27<sup>th</sup>      Rob Turner

If you wish to join this scheme please see Denise Vernon.



## *Smile - a While...*

A little girl told her mother, "We went to a confirmation service at the cathedral and I saw the bishop. Now I know what a crook looks like!"

### **Lot's wife**

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. 'The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt.'

His son looked up, concerned. 'What happened to the flea?'

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### **Switched on**

A housewife was helping her aged mother get up the stairs on their brand-new stair lift when the minister telephoned her. He was horrified to hear her say: "I'm so sorry, but I'll have to ring you back. I can't talk right now because I've finally got Mother in the electric chair and I'm eager to press the switch and see if it works!"

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### **On offer**

A bishop, invited to dinner at a large country house, was surprised not to be offered anything but water to drink, and eventually appealed to his very beautiful hostess: "Do you think I might have a drop of wine?"

The lady threw up her hands in horror and replied; "Bishop, I am so sorry! I thought you were Chair of the Church of England Temperance Society."

"Not at all," said the bishop, adding "but I am Chair of the Anti-Porn campaign."

"Oh!" came the reply. "I knew there was something I could not offer you."



# Christian Word Search Puzzle

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

# Crowning Glory

Based on Psalm 65:11

You crown the year with goodness, Lord,  
Your faithfulness unchanging:  
Yet, as I go from day to day,  
My own life re-arranging,  
I fail to see, so many times,  
The fullness of Your blessings,  
Forget to bring the thankfulness  
For every good possessing.

And as I look back o'er this year,  
The countless thing reviewing,  
I see your strong, protective hand  
In all that I've been doing;  
The good, the bad, the in-between,  
Those times when I have failed You,  
Your faithfulness remained the same,  
Even when my sin had veiled You.

So as I travel day by day  
This new year fast approaching,  
Cause me, O Lord, to look to You  
In all that I am broaching;  
Your faithfulness is e'er the same,  
Your love? 'tis never failing!  
Help me Lord to trust in You  
In all that is prevailing.

You've crowned this year with goodness Lord  
My thanks to you I render;  
Forgive my ever-weakening heart  
For failing to remember  
That all I have has come from you,  
Your mercies? They're abounding!  
So may my soul break forth in song,  
All praise to You resounding.



(Anne Standfield : “Reflections”)

# 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**

11am Café Harmony (People living with dementia & their carers)

### **Tuesday**

11am Tuesday Fellowship (3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Email [aylestonebc@gmail.com](mailto:aylestonebc@gmail.com)

Don't forget to visit our website  
<https://www.aylestonebaptist.com/>

A warm welcome awaits you.