

Welcome to Aylestone Baptist Church



GROWING, LEARNING, EXPERIENCING, & SHARING GOD'S LOVE

Magazine

May & June

2026

Letter from the editor - May/June 2026

“Jesus wept” (John ch.11 v 35)

Famously quoted as the shortest verse in the Bible, and yet so poignant.

Jesus wept – He was deeply moved by the death of His friend, Lazarus, and the distress of his sisters, Mary and Martha. I’m sure there are deep theological truths to be found in these words, but to me it just brings me closer to Jesus.

What makes you weep?

The injustices in the world? The state of our beautiful planet? Racism, lies and fraud committed through our social media? Etc.

In the situation with Lazarus, Jesus wept – but then He did something about it. For Lazarus, he was raised from death – I guess we won’t manage that! – but there are practical ways that our “weeping” can make a difference.

We can manage our money to support Aid Agencies such as Christian Aid or our charity in India, SIGMA. We can write letters of protest, but most of all, we can pray.

We have been studying the letter of James in our Sunday Services, which includes the words “Faith, by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.” (James Ch. 2 v. 17). Many of us know the story of the Cadbury Family, founders of the chocolate brand, who, as Christians, first began in 1824 selling tea, coffee, cocoa and drinking chocolate as an alternative to alcohol. As their business grew and they concentrated on chocolate production, they founded “Bournville” – a model village to house their workers. But they went the extra mile and besides accommodation they provided education, recreation and places of worship to give their employees the best life. (I guess they could have spent their profits on a Party Island for themselves!)

So our faith should lead us into action. I know that many share their faith by acts of kindness – giving lifts in their car, walking a dog when someone is sick, a friendly phone call or visit. Also it is important that we pull together as a church and show our faith as a family of Christians.

Where do your passions lie? Helping in Holiday Club, serving at the coffee bar, greeting people on a Sunday morning, visiting and supporting. There is a need for those with a heart for children to take a class on a Sunday morning, or to help with the Wednesday night Youth meeting.

By working together we can grow God's Kingdom here in Aylestone.

If you feel moved to want to be more involved, please talk to Jill or one of the deacons.

I'll close with a quote from comedian Milton Jones:

“Being a Christian has to be more like being on fire.

So, if I only have a “private” faith then maybe I'm the only one who can feel the warmth of my flames?”

God bless you. *Dorothy*

“Forever in my heart” Service - Sunday 14th June at 4pm.

You are invited to a reflective Service to take some time to remember loved ones who have passed on to be with our Lord in Glory.

There will be music and meditative readings, a chance to be quiet and a chance to add your loved one's name to a Remembrance Tree.

Whether your bereavement was recent or even many years ago, you are welcome to take this opportunity to remember in a very special way.

No booking necessary – just come along.

There will be tea and cake before home time.



Dates for your DIARY:

May 17th **AGM & CHURCH MEETING** after morning service.

“Forever in my heart” Service - Sunday 14th June at 4pm.

June 20th **EMBA Gathering 2026, 10 – 4pm at The Well, Retford Baptist Church.** Please let Stan or Jill know if you want to attend so we can advise them about numbers



July 27th – 31st Children’s HOLIDAY CLUB

August 18th / 19th / 20th Holiday@Home for the over 60s.

August 29th Garden Party & Fun Day for Sigma Charity.

November 28th Christmas Market.

*I believe in Jesus Christ,
Just as I believe in the sun when it rises every day,
Not just because I see it,
But because by it I see everything else.*

(Anon)

Church Family News

Please keep the following in your prayers as they battle ongoing problems :

Wendy Hall as she undertakes various treatments for cancer.

Kath North with problems with her eyes.

Also **Gladys Koovits** with eye problems.

Diane Bland, now in a Care home.

Tracy Bryan, who is recovering from surgery.

Please remember **Steve Gray** and family as Steve's sister Shirley died recently from a heart attack whilst on holiday with friends in Skegness . Shirley often came to ABC when visiting Steve. She lived in Arnold in Nottinghamshire. Shirley attended the local Baptist Church where she often preached, she also preached in other Churches too. For many years she and Husband Albert were members in the Salvation Army. Remember her two children and the wider family and pray they may find strength and peace as they say goodbye to a loved one knowing that she is in the safe hands of Jesus for ever.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Daniel Blackford** on his engagement to **Hannah Lewis**. We pray God's blessing on them both. Daniel will be coming to preach at our service on 9th August.

India Please continue to pray for our friends in India where opposition in their area is increasing, some have a stated aim to close down all Christian Churches. Our friends live in fear for the members of their congregations, and are concerned about their own safety as they drive around their region preaching the Good News of Jesus. Many Christians are lower caste and feel that one reason behind these difficulties is that the higher castes resent them improving themselves, getting better education etc.

CONGRATULATIONS to **Georgie Atkinson** who successfully completed the London Marathon, and has raised over £1000 for Shelter



EASTER at ABC

Palm Sunday Service remembered Jesus' triumphant journey into Jerusalem – the beginning of Holy Week. During the service gifts of Easter Eggs and food items were brought for the local foodbanks at Eyres Monsell and the Salvation Army in South Wigston. Also a donation of Easter Eggs (from the Ladies' Together funds) was taken to Open Hands – a charity in Leicester that works primarily with refugees and also homeless people. Thank you to the generous hearts of our congregation.



Easter Tuesday and we welcomed many families into our church. They enjoyed an Egg Hunt, children's Easter craft - pompoms, bunnies, flower baskets etc. and an Easter Garden when the Easter Story was told through the making of the tomb and the empty cross. There was also a cake stall, crafts, books, and refreshments on sale. £760 was raised for SIGMA, the Church and Ministry we support in Akividu, India.



Maundy Thursday service of worship and Communion, together with the Lunch Club, was well attended, everyone particularly appreciating Beth's solo. This was followed by a delicious lunch of Roast lamb.



Good Friday and the Witness to Aylestone, that has now become a tradition, saw around 70 people parading from St. Andrews to St. Edwards, and then to ABC, with Jacob carrying the cross at the head. A short service led by Stan included a beautifully sung trio "Mary Did you Know" - which is traditionally a Christmas song but the words are very relevant to Easter, then hot cross buns and tea and a chance to chat and get to know each other a little better.

"Low Saturday" the church was open for prayer - quiet, led and interactive, during which we were able to bless a man who came through our door in need, with prayer and a lift to the hospital. Prayers for our church, Aylestone, the World and for individuals were offered up.



Easter Sunday – a hearty congregation sang out the praise songs, a sketch featuring the hapless guard who was on duty at the tomb (an Oscar for Laura and Lucy !) and a reminder of the angels at the tomb – with the chance for the younger members of our congregation to "dress up".

After the service there was an egg hunt for the children and cakes for everyone.

Christ is Risen - Hallelujah

The Easter Robin

Over Easter I was on a cruise ship, sailing across the North Sea to Norway. 'Storm Dave' prevented our sailing the planned route up the west coast to Stavanger so the captain headed for Oslo instead, keeping just ahead of the storm.

The next morning – which was Easter Sunday – I was up on deck at 7.00am with my binoculars, looking for wildlife. We were sailing up the Oslo Sound, which was still a couple of miles wide at this point. It was rainy, it was windy, there were even light dashes of snow. No birds to be seen except the occasional fed-up herring gull struggling against the wind.

Then I saw a bird I didn't expect. A robin on the ship's deck. It was hopping around, sheltered from the wind on the lower part of the deck, optimistically looking for scattered crumbs under the soaking wet sun loungers.

That robin had set out to fly across the sound, something that should be fairly easy on a nice day, but had battled the rain and wind to the point of exhaustion. Suddenly out of the rain appeared a big ship, somewhere the little songbird could rest and shelter. The robin had no idea what it had landed on, but the ship was there at the right time to save it.



And that, it occurred to me on that Easter morning, is pretty much how God's love works. We can no more comprehend it than a robin can comprehend a cruise liner. But we don't have to understand what it is, where it comes from or how it works to benefit from it. When we need rest and shelter, when our arms or legs or brains are as tired as that robin's tiny wings, something miraculous and unknowable will be there to help us, just like that ship was there to help that robin.

When the little Norwegian bird eventually left the ship, as the weather receded and calmed, and it headed for land, it was flying to somewhere miles away from its original destination. Its whole life was changed by that seemingly chance encounter. And so was my understanding of how God's love affects our lives.

Mike Simpson

The Royal Maundy



Dr. Kenneth Rackham brought along his Maundy Money to show us at the Maundy Service, and I thought it would be interesting to look into the history of it.

The distribution of alms and the washing of feet on the Thursday of Holy Week are of great antiquity. The Royal Maundy can be traced back to the thirteenth century. The first recorded was at Knaresborough, Nth. Yorkshire, by King John in 1210.

The Service derives its name from the Latin “mandatum”, meaning Commandment, and its opening words are “Jesus said: I give you a new commandment.”

The recipients number as many as the Sovereign’s years of age, and are now pensioners selected because of the Christian Service they have rendered to the Church and the Community.

The gifts given are now symbolic. The red purse contains a nominal allowance for clothing and provisions, the white purse contains, in Maundy coins, silver pennies, twopences, threepences, and fourpences, as many pence as the Sovereign has years of age.

Although the act of washing feet seems to have been discontinued in about 1730, the Lord High Almoner and his assistants are still girded with linen towels in remembrance, and carry the traditional nosegays of sweet herbs.

In earlier times the Ceremony was observed wherever the Sovereign was in residence, but since 1952 it has been held in various Cathedrals across the country, arriving in Leicester in 2017 when Dr. Rackham was nominated to receive the award – a treasured honour to be presented to our late Queen Elizabeth.

Dr. Kenneth served as a much loved GP in our Community and now, in his well deserved retirement, and at the age of 95, can be seen volunteering with the Canal and River Trust, out walking with his litter picker as he wages war against careless litterbugs, and is a well loved and respected member of our Church.

What's on for the 3rd 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 May 14th / 28th

Thursday June 11th / 25th

Thursday July 9th – There will be a Service at 12-o-clock before lunch.

Lunch Club will then take a Summer Break - restart : 17th September

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 May 7th / 21st

Thursday June 4th / 18th

Thursday July 2nd / 16th

The Open House will then take a Summer break – restart: 10th September

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 May 5th / 19th

Tuesday June 2nd / 16th / 30th

Tuesday July 14th Restarting after the Summer Break on: 8th September

HOLIDAY@HOME for the over 50's.

Not able to get to the Sea-side? Come and join the Holiday@Home here at Aylestone Baptist on Tuesday 18th/ Wednesday 19th / Thursday 20th August.

The itinerary :

Tuesday 18th : Church is open at 11am for coffee, quizzes & games.
Followed by 2-course lunch.
Then an afternoon of crafts – from flower arranging to Water-colour painting, all guided & lots to have a go at.
Finish about 4.30pm after a light tea.

Wednesday 19th 2pm Posh Afternoon Tea, with quizzes & games.

Thursday 20th Church open at 11am for quizzes & games. Followed by lunch
Then watch a film. Tea before bedtime.

Cost: £20 for the 3 days. Book with Dorothy or Sandra.

Café Harmony

Caring for people with dementia & their carers



Every Monday 11am – 1pm

Come and enjoy crafts, music & much more

A light lunch is provided

Further details – 'ph Hazel 07342902999

A warm welcome awaits you

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

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

May 11th Hazel Turner (Happy 70th)

June 12th Denise Vernon.



😊 Smile – a - while

Bad Language

Little Tommy's Sunday School teacher heard him use some questionable language. She was shocked and said, "Tommy, don't you ever use such language again, and certainly not where your friends and I can hear it. Where on earth did you learn that?" "I got it from my dad, Miss," replied Tommy. "Well, your daddy should be ashamed. I hope you don't know what all that means." "Oh but I do," said Tommy, "It meant the car wouldn't start when we were ready to come to church this morning."

God's Plan for Ageing?

Most senior citizens don't get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that senior citizens become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made senior citizens lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided senior citizens would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest, even though you mutter under your breath.

ABC MAN ALIVE

On Friday March 20TH the men's group had a
QUIZ NIGHT & FISH & CHIP SUPPER

The evening was enjoyed by all



Our BIG EVENT is on MAY 9TH - CAR WASH for
Christian Aid.

Calling all men to help washing the cars.

Please come along to support this event – there will be
refreshments and stalls so you can come along even if
you don't have a car and help raise funds for Christian
Aid.

LADIES' TOGETHER

The next events are:

Saturday 16th May - Breakfast and discussion.

Saturday 20th June - Walk and Afternoon Tea. –

Meet at church 2pm for a walk, finishing back at Church for tea.



If you don't fancy the walk, come straight to the church for a chat and cup of
tea whilst we wait for the walkers to join for the refreshments.

The 7 Modern Sins:

1. Politics without principles.
2. Pleasures without conscience.
3. Wealth without work
4. Knowledge without character.
5. Industry without morality.
6. Science without humanity.
7. Worship without sacrifice.

(Canon Frederic Donaldson)



In the crowded and noisy informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, many parents wake each morning knowing they must earn money that day -If they do not, their children may not eat that evening.

It's a precarious and frightening daily struggle that no family should have to face.

For Fridah Moraa, this pressure is constant. A recently widowed grandmother, she is now the sole provider for her family. Rent, school fees, water and food all depend on what she can earn.

Fridah lives with her children and grandson in a rented corrugated metal shelter. There is no running water, and space is extremely limited.

Like many families in Dagoretti, life is unpredictable. Some days there is enough. Some days there is not. The worry returns every morning.

To support her family, Fridah sells vegetables at a market stall. She travels long distances to buy produce, making the journey six days a week. Without refrigeration or storage, everything depends on what she can sell that day.

A small plot with big impact

Fridah's situation began to change when she joined Imarisha Kilimo, an urban farming project run by Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope.

At first, the idea felt impossible: 'I was wondering, where can someone farm here in Nairobi?'

But through training, tools and seeds, Fridah began to see what was possible — even in the smallest spaces.

'I discovered I could sow here. Right where I stand,' she shared.

Hidden at the end of a narrow alley, behind a simple gate, Fridah has created something remarkable. In a place where you'd never expect it, vegetables now grow in repurposed containers, and leafy greens climb every available space.

Here, in the heart of the city, Fridah is growing her own food.



From uncertainty to possibility

Fridah now grows kale, tomatoes and indigenous vegetables — some to feed her family, and some to sell at her market stall. For the first time, she has a more reliable source of income. As she puts it, 'Now I can plan. I can buy this; I can buy that. I can help my family.'

Her small urban farm is doing more than putting food on the table. It's bringing stability and new possibilities. Watching her crops grow brings a deep sense of pride: 'When what I have planted grows – that is what makes me happy,' she says. 'When I get money that I have earned – that is what makes me happy.' That pride runs through everything she does. 'I am proud to eat what I've produced. This is my own work.'

Through Beacon of Hope, Fridah has gained more than practical skills. She's gained confidence.

Before, she struggled to speak to customers. Now, she's building relationships, growing her business and attracting more people to her stall.

She is also part of a wider community of urban farmers, sharing knowledge and building together. In a place where space is limited, opportunity is growing.

Despite the challenges she faces, Fridah's faith remains strong. It gives her the strength to keep going each day, even when life feels uncertain

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

There will be donation envelopes in Church on 10th/17th May

If anyone wishes to distribute envelopes in their street and be the drop-off point please see Stan



CAR WASH
SATURDAY 9th MAY 10am-2PM
AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH
(LUTTERWORTH ROAD)
£5 PER CAR
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
WHILE YOU WAIT
CHRISTIAN AID FUNDRAISER

ALSO

St Andrew's Church Hall

Sale for Christian Aid

Plants, Books, Cakes etc.

Saturday 16th May 10am-12



CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB 2026

EGYPTIAN ADVENTURE

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

MONDAY 27TH - FRIDAY 31ST JULY

9:45AM - 12:15PM / CHILDREN AGED: 4 - 11

COST: £15 PER CHILD FOR THE WEEK

ONLINE BOOKING

SCAN THE QR CODE. IT WILL TAKE YOU TO

aylestonebaptist.com

CLICK ON POSTER TO REGISTER YOUR DETAILS





Dates for meetings

Wednesday 13th May 7pm youth meeting at Church

Friday 22nd May youth group social – venue tba

Wednesday 3rd June 7pm youth meeting at Church

Friday 12nd June youth group social – venue tba

Wednesday 17th June 7pm youth meeting at Church

Wednesday 1st July 7pm youth meeting at Church

Wednesday 8th July youth group social – venue tba

Then break for the summer 😊

COMING SOON TO ABC



You are welcome to join us to LEARN how to play these fabulous pans.

The first taster session will be held at ABC on Saturday 16th May, from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

A full workshop will follow, with the date and time to be confirmed.

Pentecost Acts 2: 1-21

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

HOLY SPIRIT
 PENTECOST
 VISIONS
 AMAZED
 WINE

DISCIPLES
 PROPHECY
 TONGUES
 HEAVEN
 FIRE

GALILEANS
 WONDERS
 DREAMS
 SIGNS
 WIND

JERUSALEM
 POUR OUT
 ELEVEN
 PETER

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

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 (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.

Phone 0116 283 2527 [answerphone]

Don't forget to visit our website

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

A warm welcome awaits you.