

Welcome to
Aylestone Baptist Church
GROWING, LEARNING, EXPERIENCING, & SHARING GOD'S LOVE
September & October
Harvest Magazine
2026

Letter from the editor....

About 20 years ago a prudent squirrel hid an acorn in our garden, ensuring a



tasty meal in the harsh days of winter. Unfortunately he forgot where he put it! and in due course a little tree sprang up. We put it in a pot and it has grown into a beautiful miniature oak but of course not producing acorns.

This year has been a difficult time for all our gardens, and no more so than for this brave little tree.

Firstly it was attacked by ants. All the branches were swarming with the little creatures, and when we lifted the tree out of its pot there was a huge ants nest, a seething mass. We took it to our “re-wilding” part of the garden and scraped the nest into a new location, filled a new pot with soil and replanted the little oak.

Then came the weeks of intense heat as heatwave after heatwave hit our country. Although we were able to water it as we have an underground soft water tank, the little oak began to look very sad. His leaves were withering and dropping and we were fearing the worst.

But then, a miracle, for the first time an acorn appeared. I felt overjoyed somehow – something so small yet it symbolised hope in a time where it is so easy to feel weighed down with the world situation where hope is in short supply.



Maybe my little oak will die, but I can plant the acorn and a new generation can begin and last long after I have gone. We are blessed that we can have HOPE, because of the love of Jesus. The following words that we sing often in our church and written by Lara Martin really speak to the heart:

*"You [Jesus] are the voice of hope
The anchor of my soul
Where there seems to be no way
You make it possible"*

When world events threaten to overwhelm you, look for the little miracles that remind you that Jesus is always by your side... no matter what.

Now I just need to harvest the acorn before that pesky squirrel gets to it !

Dorothy

Dates for your Diary:

Monday 7 th September:	Café Harmony for Dementia.
Tuesday 8 th September:	Tuesday Bible Study re-starts
Wednesday 9 th September:	Youth Group re-starts
Thursday 10 th September:	Open House re-starts
Thursday 17 th September:	Lunch Club re-starts
Sunday 27 th September:	CHURCH MEETING.
Sunday 4 th October:	HARVEST & FUN DAY (see poster)
Saturday 31 st October:	Light Party (alternate to Halloween) see poster.
Saturday 28 th November:	Christmas Market.

(For dates of other House Groups etc. please contact the individual leaders).

Thanks to all who came and supported our **SIGMA Garden Party**. In spite of the rain, we had a good time and raised £532 for the charity. So many pies, cakes sold along with jewellery, crafts, books etc. thanks to all the helpers too.

HOLIDAY CLUB 2026-Egyptian Adventure

This year's holiday club theme was Egyptian Adventure. The church was all dressed up in an Egyptian theme. The church & dens were really inspiring & got everyone in the mood.

We had about 90 children sign up, who were so well behaved & just loved everything that they did. They were all kept so busy they didn't have time to think about getting up to mischief!

Each morning began with a short group time, followed by a time together in the church for singing & watching a short film. The theme this year was the miracles of Jesus and looked at healing the man born blind, the 10 lepers, healing the paralysed man and raising Jairus' daughter and Lazarus. After that, the morning flew by with two more group times, where the children learned more about the story in the film, crafts & outdoor activities. The bouncy slide continues to be the favourite, but the children also enjoyed the games sessions, the sand & water, parachute games, basketball & giant Jenga. The morning finished off with more singing & a very silly drama, which saw Lady Anna Bones and her faithful butler Mr Humphries being tricked by Dr Evil and his two sidekicks, Mouldy Wart and Baboo (of course it all had a moral and a happy ending!)...the kids loved it and joined in with booing and cheering in the appropriate places!



Friday night was our final session, with the children performing their showtime pieces & singing songs for their parents. This was followed by a free BBQ, which was very much appreciated by everyone. Thanks to Duncan, Sandra & Jane, my master chefs, & many others who helped this run smoothly this year! The weather was fantastic for us again and the food soon disappeared.

This is always a great opportunity to meet parents in the community and there certainly were a lot of people there that have never attended a church event before, we think around 250 attended.



I would like to thank all of those who put in so much work before & during the week, there were about 50 volunteers again this year! Thank you to Lucy and her team of crafters who

ensured that the children had a reminder of the Bible stories to take home and Sandra who provided fruit for the children every day. It was particularly great to see the teen helpers maturing & taking on more responsibilities under the guidance of the more mature & experienced leaders. I couldn't do any of it without such a dedicated team who work hard and support me as well as giving the kids the most fantastic week of fun. I would also like to thank Duncan, Maisy & Stan who helped with decorating the church. Thanks also to Rob who did a fantastic job on the sound desk. Every year I think it can't possibly get any better, but it always does. This was the best one yet, but roll on next year! I enjoyed the week so much & I hope everyone else did too! If you have FOMO now, then please see me about signing up to help next year. 😊

Beth Ellis

Comments from some of the children in the 7-year old group during the lesson times at Holiday Club:

Leader: What is a miracle ?

Child: Fast Food !

Asked about their fears and then what would make it better :

Fear - Vegetables

Faith - A Happy Meal

Fear - My sister

Faith - If I could slap her.

Fear - Slimer from Ghostbusterrrs

Faith - Mum, Dad and dog plus McDonald fries.

Fear - Government

Faith - Me being Prime Minister.

One of our sessions talked about Jesus healing 10 lepers but only one returning to say “thank you” so with the 4-year old group we concentrated on being thankful, and minding our manners.

When it came to break time one little girl said “I want fruit”.

I challenged “What about please ?”

“Oh yes, I like peas too.”

The Bible (contributed by Helen Wells)

It's easy to take Bibles for granted these days - they're cheap and ubiquitous. If you download an app like YouVersion not only is it free, but it has many translations of the Bible and you can carry them all around in your pocket! But before the invention of printing, Bibles were very rare and expensive.

Up until the 12th century, most manuscripts were produced in monasteries, with larger monasteries having dedicated 'scriptoria' where monks worked. The monks copied out by hand Bibles and other existing writings, and also created new works for wealthy patrons (such as devotional 'Book of Hours').

By the 14th century, the creation of manuscripts was usually carried out in commercial scriptoria.

The manuscripts were amazing pieces of art. Not only was the text beautifully rendered, but the pages were immensely colourful and adorned with gold and silver. When we think of illuminated manuscripts we probably think of 'historiated initials' (enlarged letters at the start of a section of text that include a picture) and 'marginalia' (decoration in the borders of the text).

In around 1450, Johannes Gutenberg introduced the first movable-type printing system in Europe, creating the Gutenberg Bible in 1455. Its high quality and relatively low price meant the end of the colourful works produced in scriptoria, but also meant that the Bible could be put into the hands of many more people (though of course it was still in Latin!).

I follow quite a lot of historical accounts on Instagram; one of these is that of Medievalistmatt. He often posts these snippets where Monks are considering how to illustrate their manuscripts. Here are a few of them...

Monk 1: What are you working on?

Monk 2: I'm illustrating the lives of Saints Cornelius and Cyprian, two early Christian martyrs.

Monk 1: What are you using for the borders?

Monk 2: Bird cages.

Monk 1: *nodding* Anything else would be weird.



Image source: *Book of Hours of Catherine of Clèves*, New York, Morgan Library and Art Museum, MS M 917, 247 (c. AD 1430)

Monk 1: What are you drawing?

Monk 2: A bishop giving a blessing, but I need something in the margins.

Monk 1: What about a fish swallowing an armed bear?

Monk 2: How does that make any sense?

Monk 1: Well, who else is going to protect the bishop from the rat soldier?

Monk 2: Oh, right. My bad.



Image source: Venice, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Cod. Lat. I, 99, fol. 432v.

Monk 1: I'm drawing the Madonna, but I have no idea what to put in the border.

Monk 2: How about doing something with legumes?

Monk 1: What, like lentils?

Monk 2: Don't be ridiculous. I was thinking farm-fresh snow peas.

Monk 1: That really is perfect.



Image source: Heures de Frédéric d'Aragon, Bibliothèque nationale de France, MS Latin

HARVEST BIBLE QUIZ – you'll need your Bible [NIV translation used]

1. How many fruits of the Spirit does Paul list in **Galatians Ch 5:v 22,23**?
2. On which day of creation did God create fruit-bearing trees? **Genesis 1**
3. Why were the Israelites told not to gather the gleanings of the harvest?
Leviticus 23:22
4. In whose field did Ruth glean after she returned to Israel? **Ruth 2:3**
5. During harvest time, who did three of the thirty chief warriors go down to meet in the cave of Adullam? **2 Samuel 23:13**
6. In Revelation, how many harvests of fruit does the tree of life produce each year? **Revelation 22:2**
7. Where was Jesus when he said "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields: for they are white already to harvest"? **John Ch 4**
8. What did the prophet see signifying the end was near for Israel? **Amos 8:2**
9. Who during the wheat harvest found mandrakes in the field and gave them to Leah? **Genesis 30:14**
10. He that gathers in summer is a wise son, but he that sleeps during the harvest is a _____? _____ son. **Proverbs 10:5**
11. What sort of tree did Jesus curse for bearing no fruit? **Mark 11:21**
12. They will sow wheat but reap _____; they will wear themselves out but gain nothing. They will bear the shame of their harvest because of the Lord's fierce anger.'? **Jeremiah 12:13**
13. In the parable of the sower, what happened to the seed that fell amongst thorns? **Matthew 13:7**
14. And also in the parable of the sower, what happened to the seed that fell on good ground? **Luke 8:8**
15. God made this promise to Noah after the flood 'As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease. What sign did God give that he would keep this covenant? **Genesis 9:16**

Hazel Turner recently won 2nd prize for this poem. Well done Hazel !

A walk in the countryside

*I set off for a comfy stroll
To soothe my mind and rest my soul.
The sky was blue, the breeze was mild
I felt quite noble, calm and styled.
A robin sang upon a gate
As if to say "you're rather late".
The hedges sang with bees at work
A pheasant leapt out with a jerk
The footpath vanished near a brook
Though on the map it seemed textbook.
I climbed a stile with not much grace
And almost landed on my face.
A cow approached with steady tread
I smiled at her but quickly fled.
She merely chewed and blinked an eye
While I performed a jog nearby.
At last I stopped beneath a tree
To eat a sandwich upon my knee.
A gust of wind with perfect aim
Removed the cheese and ended the game!
I trudged back home with muddy shoes
A scratched up leg and nettle bruise.
Yet somehow, as the kettle sang, I longed to do the whole thing again.*



Aylestone Baptist Church
Presents

HARVEST

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4TH

FREE!!! FAMILY FUN DAY

10.30am Thanksgiving Service

12NOON ONWARDS:

ENTERTAINMENT, GAMES, CRAFTS

Harvest Flower Arrangements Display

Free!!! Bouncy Slide, Hot Food & Drinks

Donations to Local Food Bank Welcome

Everyone Welcome



LADIES TOGETHER

13 ladies enjoyed a meal at the Manor restaurant with lovely food and lots of chatter as we caught up after the summer break.

The next meeting:

Sat. 19th September, 10am

Ladies' Breakfast

Sun. 11th October shared lunch and fun after service.



MAN ALIVE



On July 20th the men's group went to the crazy golf course in Blaby and spent a very entertaining evening trying to get those small golf balls into holes

placed in impossible positions around many frustrating obstacles – [a bit like proper golf]. They then enjoyed a chat & drink at the 19th hole!



HOLIDAY@HOME for the 3rd Age.

30 – 45 people came along for the 3 day Summer Treat for the older generation.

On Tuesday 18th August we met for quizzes and coffee, followed by a roast turkey dinner with apricot merengue for dessert.

For the afternoon all enjoyed having a go at different crafts, from shell art, bread making, flower arranging, water colour painting and more, or playing board games. Thanks are particularly due to those who organized the crafts – Wendy Hall, Jackie Wilton, Wendy Brown and Stan Mackley for the bread making.

Sandwiches and cakes concluded the day.





On Wednesday 19th August it was afternoon only for a wonderful tea with delicious sandwiches, home-made sausage rolls and mini-quiches, strawberry jelly and the famous ABC cakes. There was a game of "Flounders" (a fishy version of beetle drive), pass the parcel with hilarious forfeits, and music from the 50s and 60s from Rob and Hazel.

On Thursday 20th August we enjoyed table quizzes with our morning coffee, then lunch of Jacket Potatoes and chilli, plus lovely puddings. Then we watched a film, - Mrs. Caldecott's Cabbage Wars – which gave us the full range of emotions from sadness, laughter to romance.

Sandwiches and cakes finished off the day nicely.

This was a lovely break for all who came along – many of whom live alone and value the company so much – but couldn't happen without a dedicated team of volunteers. So thank you to all who helped on the days and in the preparation before hand.

Dorothy Mackley

BMS Birthday Scheme

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

September 12th Dorothy Mackley – Happy 80th !

September 18th Mike Bland

September 26th Ben Blackford

September 26th Daniel Blackford

October 4th Beth Ellis

October 12th Rachel Draper

October 20th David German



If you wish to join this scheme whereby you receive a BMS card with an envelope for you to make a donation, thereby sharing your special day in a way that really makes a difference to those in need, then see Denise and she will put you on the list.

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

Lunch Club

The church is open from 11am for coffee and chat, then at 12.45 enjoy a 2-course roast dinner for £5. All are welcome, no booking necessary just come and enjoy eating a meal with friends old and new.

Thursday September 17th

Thursday October 1st Harvest Service at 12-o'clock. / 15th / 29th.



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 September 10th / 24th

Thursday October 8th / 22nd

Thursday November 5th.

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. We finish up with a meal together. You are welcome, whether you are a long standing Christian, or beginning to search – it's never too late !

Tuesday September 8th / 22nd

Tuesday October 6th / 20th

Tuesday November 3rd.



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Michael Gamble has made an excellent recovery after heart surgery, and we pray for his continued health.

It is lovely to see Tracy Bryan back worshipping with us after major surgery. She still has to take care but on the positive note is hoping to be back on the Flower arranging rota in the next few weeks.

Wendy Hall has been suffering again with major back pain and is undergoing tests and investigation. In spite of this Wendy has continued to faithfully attend church, keep up with her Pastoral Care duties and help out at our various events. God bless you Wendy for your faithfulness, kindness and enduring love.

Diane Bland has not been well and is finding life very difficult. Please remember her in your prayers and Mike too as he supports her.

Mary Colver's husband, Colin, has had surgery for lung cancer and has other problems. Please pray for and support Mary through this difficult time. May God keep his loving arms around them both.

Prayer

Dear Father,

*Help every part of us to be tuned in to Your Voice,
But keep our feet firmly on the ground.*

*Grant us as much wisdom as we need in any
given moment, and the patience of a Saint,
in large amounts, frequently.*

*Remind us of our faults, gently, so that our
hearts remain humble, and our spirits learn
to rest in Your Forgiveness and Love.*

*Give us a sense of humour to laugh not only
with others, but at ourselves.*

*Then pour Yourself, and Your Love into and through us,
that we might be of some use and comfort to others in
this, Your world, today.*





Word Search

Fruits of the Spirit

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

New Testament
 Watermelon
 Patience
 Spirit
 Mango
 Plum

Faithfulness
 Galatians
 Apricot
 Apple
 Peace
 Tree

Self Control
 Cherries
 Banana
 Bible
 Peach
 Vine

Gentleness
 Goodness
 Grapes
 Fruit
 Kiwi
 God

Strawberry
 Kindness
 Orange
 Jesus
 Love
 Joy

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

LIGHT PARTY

**SATURDAY
FRIDAY OCTOBER 31st
3:30–5:30pm
NO TRICKS – ONLY TREATS**

**FREE LIGHT PARTY
AGES: 0–11, WITH PARENTS SUPERVISION
REFRESHMENTS, GAMES, CRAFTS, FUN**

Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road, Aylestone, Leicester LE2 8PE

Weekly & Fortnightly Activities:

Sunday

10:30am Morning Service / Junior Church / Creche Facilities

Monday

11am Café Harmony > People living with dementia & their carers

Tuesday

11am Tuesday Fellowship (3rd Age Bible Study) meets fortnightly)

Wednesday

9:30am ABC Tots (For all babies & toddlers. Ages 0 – 4. during School Term)

7.00pm Youth Group

Thursday

11am Community Lunch Club (Meet Fortnightly)

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



Loop System Installed, Wheelchair Access, & WC Facilities

To enquire about Baptism, Marriage, Funerals, Church Membership, House Groups, The Community Lunch Club, The Open House, or any other activity,

Please get in touch with the church.

07476 923 382

0116 2832527 [answerphone]

Don't forget to visit our website.

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

A warm welcome awaits you.