



# Aylestone Baptist Church

GROWING, LEARNING, EXPERIENCING & SHARING GOD'S LOVE



January & February  
Church Magazine  
2025

Jan/Feb 2025

Dear Church,

I've been thinking a lot lately about what it means to follow Jesus. In the coming months we're going to be exploring more about this journey of faith, focusing on discipleship and learning what it means to be a follower of Christ.

The reality is that we all follow something or someone. We are all, essentially, disciples of something or someone. Whether we follow the latest social media influencers, a manager at work, the biggest names in sport, a political party, a family member, or celebrity icons, we all long to align our lives to the values and influence of others.

Following Jesus is similar. Being a Christian isn't just about attending church on Sundays or saying a prayer now and then. Following Jesus is a way of life—a journey of learning, growing, and becoming more like Him.

As you probably know, our connection to Jesus is more of a relationship than a religion. Jesus said, "*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest*" (Matthew 11:28). He calls us to walk with Him, not to carry the weight of perfection on our own. In John 15, Jesus tells us that we bear fruit in our lives when we are connected to Him – He is the vine, and we are the branches.

Being connected to Jesus means follow Him in all He does. A book I've been reading lately says it this way, "The invitation of Jesus is an invitation to live as He lived" (*Practicing the Way*, by John Mark Comer). But how do we do that in the chaos of modern life?

This connection, or abiding, in Him happens through prayer, Scripture, serving, and reflecting and meditating on Him. But even more than that, following Jesus means following His example of sacrifice and surrender. Jesus said, "*Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me*" (Luke 9:23). This doesn't mean a life of misery; it means aligning our lives with His life of love, humility, and service. We can create patterns and habits that mirror Jesus' practices and follow His teaching. These can include a Sabbath rest, resisting temptation, simplicity, and community.

Community is essential in following Jesus because we aren't meant to be alone on our faith journey. As a church, we value fellowship together and edifying each other. Hebrews 10:24-25 reminds us, *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together...but encouraging one another"*. Surrounding ourselves with fellow believers helps us stay accountable and grow in faith.

Ultimately, following Jesus is a lifelong journey of transformation. We are being continually formed into the character of Christ, learning to love God more and love others. We learn to walk in His footsteps, trusting Him even when the path is uncertain, and finding joy in His presence. It's not just about doing more – it's about becoming more. Becoming more like Christ and who He wants us to be. I hope you're join us in that journey of following Him.

Happy New Year, and have a great 2025!

*will*

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Restarts after the Christmas break : Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

### **Youth & Children's Worker**

'Kids today learn a lot about getting to the moon, but very little about getting to heaven' – *David Jeremiah*

**Please continue praying that we can find a part-time children's and youth worker to run our growing activities – ABC Tots, ABC Kids, ABC Youth.**

'Train a child in the way they should go, and when old they will not turn from it'  
*Proverbs 22:6*

GAMES - DISCIPLESHIP - PRAYER

# YOUTH GROUP

*Years 6 - 11*

**15, 29 JAN**

**12, 26 FEB**

**12, 26 MAR**

**7:00PM - 8:30PM**

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

LOCATION: LE2 8PE

TOGETHER WITH THE YOUTH OF REACH CHURCH LEICESTER

## A LOOK BACK AT CHRISTMAS 2024 ....

The LADIES TOGETHER had fun with a Christmas Craft afternoon and as always a delicious bring and share lunch. Thanks to all those who organised the crafts.



Our annual **CHRISTMAS MARKET** was a huge success, with hundreds of people coming through the doors. They loved the beautiful hand-made crafts, home-made cakes, pies and preserves, a very welcome cup of tea, a visit to Santa in his splendid grotto, and of course a Christmas Lunch or hot turkey cob. We raised £1,600 for Church Funds – very many thanks to Lucy Satchell for organising it, and all who worked so lovingly to make it a wonderful success – not just in monetary terms but for everyone having a grand day out!



The Ladies Together organised a **REVERSE ADVENT CALENDER** for the Advent weeks leading up to Christmas. The first week we were able to distribute 83 chocolate calendars, the second week we collected toiletries and small gifts, the third week was general foodbank food, and the fourth Christmas goodies and chocolates – all distributed to local foodbanks to bless our community. The response was tremendous, thank you to all who contributed and to Duncan who made the Advent Box.



We received the following from the food banks at Braunstone & Eyres Monsell:

“Thank you. You are truly superstars! This is a really generous donation that will bring so much joy to the children of the families we work with. Thank you for thinking of us to donate these amazing items, they will be appreciated by the families we are supporting this Christmas.”

Donations were also given to the Glen Parva Salvation Army Food Bank.

## LUNCH CLUB CHRISTMAS DINNER

everyone was delighted to have the Granby School choir singing at the Carol Service before lunch. After a good old sing, and maybe a tear as the children's voices touched the heart, 70 sat down to a traditional Christmas dinner of Roast Turkey, stuffing, sausage, roast and mash potato, carrots, brussels, peas, followed by Christmas pudding or trifle.



Before hometime everyone was presented with a gift of a box containing home made mince pie, christmas cake and shortbread – lovingly made by Sandra. Thanks to all who made this possible.



Very sadly **Carols in the Park** had to be cancelled due to the arrival of Storm Darragh which made it impossible to stage.

However, a small group of singers were invited to **THE AYLE STONE** pub to bring some Christmas cheer by singing carols, and we thank the landlord for donating £100 to church funds.

**CAROLS IN THE PUB** took place at the Black Horse on a beautiful, calm night. Music was provided by The Wigston Enterprise Brass Band and led by Stan Mackley. The pub garden was packed, and all the carols and readings were very well received – some people we spoke to had travelled some distance for the evening as they felt it was their Christmas highlight. The Carols in the Pub initiative was originally begun by Radio Leicester’s ‘Sing Christmas’ , with the carols being broadcast and played to those gathered round. Unfortunately Radio Leicester last year stopped having any specific religious content to this Christmas hour, and this year dropped it altogether. A very sad reflection on our city and all the more reason for the churches to reach out to our city.





The ABC KIDS Christmas Nativity saw Aliens land on earth at that special time, and despite grandma alien (slightly deaf) thinking they had arrived at Christmooose, they eventually realised there were no moose involved, but the beautiful story of that first Christmas and Jesus come to live with mankind. Following the Service the children had their Christmas Party, with lots of silly games, followed by sausages and pizza, and finishing with the Hokey Kokey!



We enjoyed a Nativity Play performed by adults, and setting the Christmas story in the present day in Aylestone – and all written in rhyme by David Statham, an atmospheric “Carols by Candlelight”, a Christmas eve Communion service bringing a quieter time amongst all the busyness, led by Stan Mackley, and a fun and chocolates Christmas morning service, led by David Statham. Special thanks to Beth Ellis for providing the music for all the events, being Mary in the adult nativity and writing and performing the children’s Nativity.

We pray that those who came along to the many services and events will enjoy that blessing throughout 2025.

## Church Family News

Gladys Head, a member of our church for over 20 years, passed away at the age of 97. Gladys had helped in the Babies and Tots group, also setting tables for the Lunch Club, and was an enthusiastic member of the Tuesday Group and Open House. With her eyesight and hearing failing, she always sat on the front row of the church until the last few years when her eyesight failed. Gladys had lived through the Blitz in London, then been evacuated away from her mother, an event that affected her through her whole life. After her husband died, encouraged by her grandson, Joe, she came along to the church, was baptised and found a new and happy chapter to her life.

Our sympathies to her son, John and wife Ann, grandsons Joe and Harry, and particular mention to Wendy Hall who for many years took Gladys to appointments, ferried her to church events, and generally gave her loving care.

Our prayerful sympathy to Angela Wafforne, whose father died just before Christmas. We send our love to her mother, and all the family at the sudden loss of a very much loved husband, father and grandfather.

Patricia Ewing, a member of the Spirit of Aylestone committee and regular at our Lunch Club and Open House, passed away very suddenly just before Christmas. Pat was Church Secretary at the Church of the Nativity, Cavendish Road, and will be sadly missed by her church and all her friends.

Please remember in your prayers those of our members who are very unwell at this time, Mike and Diane Bland, John Protheroe, Rachel Connor, David and Edie Billett, Hazel Turner who has to have a hip operation after the original one was not a success, also Ruth German's mum who broke her wrist in a fall, and Ruth as she cares for her.

*"We are all healers who can reach out and offer health  
And we are all patients in constant need of help"* Henri Nouwen

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

### Lunch Club.

A two course roast dinner for £5. The lounge is open from 11am for coffee and chat, the meal served at 12.45. Open to all – no need to book just come along and be assured of a warm welcome.

Dates for January/February 2025

Thursday Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> / 23<sup>rd</sup>

Thursday Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup>

Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>



### The Open House

Open to all over 50s. Meet from 11am for coffee, chat, quizzes, knitting, have your nails painted – with lunch served at about 12.30, consisting of either home made soup or chilli and jacket potato, and a choice of up to 10 different puddings! Cost £5 includes unlimited tea and coffee.



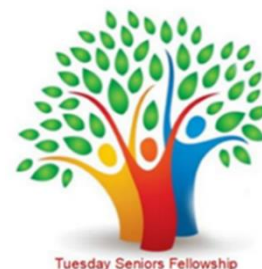
Dates for January/February 2025

Thursday Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> / 30<sup>th</sup>

Thursday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup>

### Tuesday Fellowship

For the over 50s, the group meets at about 11am for coffee and catch up, then a time of Bible Study and discussion – no matter where you are in your Christian journey, this is a chance to ask questions, share life stories, and enjoy studying a passage in the Bible. Also we share lunch at 12.30. You will be very welcome.



Tuesday Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup>

# Why not try these delicious Budget Busting sausage recipes for a Winter Treat.

## Toad-in-the-Hole

1 pack Sausages, cooking oil, 2 cooking onions.

Batter : 100 grams plain flour, pinch of salt, 1 egg  
½ pint milk.

Method:

Pour oil in a roasting tin, add chopped onions and heat for 4 mins in a hot oven, 475F / Gas 7-8.

Add sausage for a further 10 minutes.

Meanwhile make the batter – place flour into a bowl, add salt, then beat in egg and milk until smooth. Pour over the sausages and return to the oven until the batter is golden – about 25 minutes.



For a vegetarian option replace sausage with parsnip and/ or carrot.

## Sausage “meat ball” Pasta

Large jar Pasta sauce - pasta shapes or spaghetti (100 grams per person) , 2 – 4 sausages per portion (depending on the appetite !)

Method:

Chop the sausages into 1½ cm chunks and fry. Cook the pasta and warm the sauce. Combine and enjoy.

If you have vegetables in the fridge that you want to use up, you can add these, also a sprinkling of cheese makes it quite delicious.



## Smile-a-while

The church treasurer came down early one morning and complained to his wife that he had hardly slept a wink. His wife asked ,  
“Why on earth didn’t you count sheep?  
He replied, “I did, and that’s what got me into trouble – I made a mistake in the first hour, and it took me until early morning to correct it.”

### **Hic!**

*A church notice sheet was prepared in great haste and it contained the following announcement. A proof reader would have helped!*

“There will be a special meeting of the Church Council next Saturday morning. We hope all members will be able to attend. It will be gin with breakfast at 7.30am.

### **Unhearing Vicar**

Following a short illness, a vicar lost his hearing, but he continued to preach the following Sunday morning. At lunch he told his family it was a very strange experience because he couldn’t hear himself preach.

One of his mischievous children promptly responded with, “You don’t know how lucky you were.”

### **Lost Handbag**

A lady lost her handbag in the hustle and bustle of a large store. A small boy found it and he returned it to the information desk

The worried lady turned up while he was there and she was relieved to see her handbag had been returned. Looking in her purse, the lady said, “That’s strange, when I lost my bag there was a £20 note in the purse. Now there are three £5 notes and five £1 coins.”

With a cheeky look on his face, the boy said, “That’s right madam. I was always told at my church not to take anything that didn’t belong to me. The last time I found a lady’s purse, she lady said she didn’t have any change.

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### **The Prayer**

A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, “Dear God, we had such a good time at church today. I wish you could have been there.”

## BMS Birthday Scheme

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

January 8<sup>th</sup> Rachel Connor  
January 14<sup>th</sup> Barry Hall  
January 18<sup>th</sup> Cindy Elliott  
January 20<sup>th</sup> Rachel Nye  
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> Mick Elliot  
February 27<sup>th</sup> Rob Turner

If you wish to join this scheme supporting BMS missionary work, please see Denise Vernon.



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Church Christmas Party – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January  
After service.

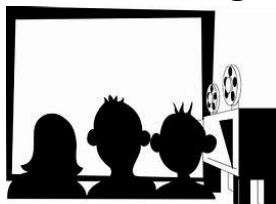
Everyone invited – bring and share lunch  
Followed by lots of fun !

## Children's **FILM CLUB**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February (Half term) 11am – 1.30.

Come along and watch a film, followed by Home cooked lunch.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



FREE EVENT but please book in for catering purposes  
– Dorothy at [dozzamac46@icloud.com](mailto:dozzamac46@icloud.com)

## Ladies Together



Tuesday January 21<sup>st</sup> -Meal at the Glen Parva Manor, 6.30pm  
(postponed Christmas meal)

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February, bring and share lunch and games afternoon.

## Man Alive - Men's meetings

Meeting for JANUARY – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January  
2025, games evening, including food  
Meet at church 7pm.



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**Anne Sophie Swetchine** was an early 20<sup>th</sup>- century  
Russian exile living in Paris.

If you have ever felt at a loss when it comes to comforting  
someone, you might understand this notion generally  
credited to her.

“Every fresh sorrow we endure” she wrote “is like learning  
a fresh language, because it enables us to speak to a fresh  
set of souls in their own tongue, and to sympathise.”



And if we haven't learned the language required for a particular situation, we  
might still comfort through our presence.

## SIGMA UPDATE

Following the update in the last magazine regarding the need to build a new Church – I can report that God has provided in amazing ways! Along with the money that we regularly send to them, the urgent need of the building brought in offers of loans to get the work started.

In UK I wonder how long it would take to construct a new Church! In Akividu they started building at the end of October, and having teams of local builders working from early morning until very late into the night, progress has been astounding – as following photos show

Oct 29<sup>th</sup>- foundations      Oct 30<sup>th</sup> –foundation stone      4<sup>th</sup> Nov – foundations in



Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – steel for columns



Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Columns being cast



Nov 13<sup>th</sup> – Bases and columns rising



Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – brickwork walls started





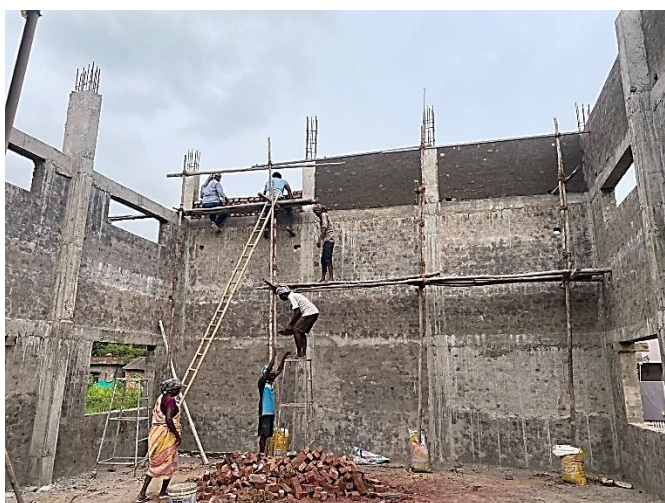
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – Floor of balcony started



Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – Second stage of columns



Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – All walls nearing completion



Dec 12<sup>th</sup> – Roof beams installed



Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – roof sheets fixed



Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – have to use unfinished building



Please pray for Pastors Sukumar & Suguna as they try to look after the Church and building works

## 18<sup>th</sup> Dec – Children’s Community Christmas Event in unfinished building



In just about 2 months, the main structure of the Church is now built – a lot of work still to do! Windows, plastering, utilities etc.

Due to very unusual wet weather during the second half of December, activities which would usually have been held in the open air would have not been possible if the new building hadn't been an option.

When we were there a for Christmas a few years ago, they said 'it never rains here in December' and indeed, we had sunny skies and temperatures of about 25°C each day.

Over the Christmas period, whilst the builders are not working, they have had many services, fed many people and given out blankets to the most needy. The new space is much larger than the 'old' Church and has a balcony, so will be able to accommodate the growing Church.

In a recent Service, a paralysed man received healing after prayers – Praise our great God.

What a privilege to be involved in such a great ministry, quite humbling when we remember how much they achieve with so little resources. The main Church in Akividu and other Churches planted or supported in the area are all growing in spite of India being a difficult and sometimes dangerous place to be a Christian. We are so grateful to all those who continue to support the work both in financial giving and prayer.



# Christian Word Search Puzzle

Z G Z N O I T A V L A S Z U  
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

Abraham

David

Jesus

Elijah

Joshua

Samson

Noah

Joseph

Philemon

Galatians

Babel

Heaven

Israel

Jerusalem

Salvation

Sacrifice

Baptize

Gentile

Faith

Persecute

Tithe

Ministry

# 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 (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, 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](mailto:aylestonebc@gmail.com)

Don't forget to visit our website

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

A warm welcome awaits you.