



AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

GROWING LEARNING EXPERIENCING & SHARING GOD'S LOVE



January & February

2024

Magazine

Dear church,

Isn't Jesus great?! We serve an amazing Saviour, and we worship a gracious Lord. While Jesus is an inspiring historical figure, that's not all He is – He's alive today and active in our lives. He's not just a righteous religious leader who we can make a statue of and put on the wall – He's a real person we can have a relationship with, pray to, and listen to.

Jesus Christ is more fascinating than any book can describe, greater than any galaxy can hold, more powerful than anything that has been created, and brighter than the brightest our sun could ever be. As Creator of everything that exists (Colossians 1:16), Jesus is still involved in the detail of His Creation. He actively sustains all that is – every breathe we breath is because He give us life.

Lately I've been pondering the many amazing ways Jesus has revealed Himself to us. In the Gospels, we see the remarkable and diverse ways Jesus connected with the people around Him and expressed Himself during His earthly ministry. From speaking in parables to sharing meals with sinners, Jesus transcended societal norms and left an everlasting mark on the hearts of those he encountered. And He still amazes readers today. Here are a few of the varied ways Jesus connected with people in the Gospels:

1. Teaching through Parables

Jesus, the master storyteller, frequently told parables – simple stories that illustrate spiritual lessons – to convey profound Kingdom truths in everyday language. These short narratives, drawn from common experiences of His listeners back them, served as powerful teaching tools that engaged listeners and encouraged reflection. Through parables, Jesus bridged the gap between the heavenly kingdom and earthly understanding.

2. Dining with Sinners and Outcasts

In a society marked by rigid social hierarchies, Jesus challenged the status quo by intentionally sharing meals with "sinners," extortionists, and societal outcasts. His actions proclaimed a radical message of inclusivity, love, and redemption. Whether dining with tax collectors like Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) or conversing with the woman at the well (John 4:1-42), Jesus demonstrated a divine concern for the lost and a desire to offer the transformative power of grace and atonement. Not only that, but the fact that He enjoyed eating means that He is a lot like you and me.

3. Personalized Healing and Compassion

Whether restoring sight to the blind, enabling the lame to walk, or cleansing lepers, Jesus engaged with people on a deeply personal and compassionate level. Jesus's physical touch brought more than healing to those who were considered “unclean” and incurable by society. While healing physical ailments, He also gave spiritual restoration and forgiveness of sins to those He encountered.

4. Questioning and Dialogue

Questions were an important part of Jesus' ministry. You can count nearly 200 questions that Jesus was asked in the Gospels. But we also read, surprisingly, that Jesus Himself asked over 300 questions. He often employed a dialogue-based approach, engaging in meaningful conversations that encouraged critical thinking and self-reflection. Through questions, he prompted individuals to consider deeper truths and the nature of their own beliefs. The conversations with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21) and the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-22) exemplify Jesus' approach of guiding individuals toward a deeper understanding of spiritual realities.

5. Demonstrating Servanthood

Jesus' ministry was marked by humility and servanthood. Washing the disciples' feet (John 13:1-17) was a powerful symbolic act that emphasised the transformative nature of Christ's love. This and other acts of humility set an example for His followers, illustrating that true leadership involves selfless service and genuine care for others.

6. Challenging Religious Hypocrisy

Jesus did not hesitate to confront religious leaders when necessary. His communication with the Pharisees and scribes often exposed their hypocrisy and emphasised the importance of genuine faith and righteousness. While He was gracious and forgiving to the worst of sinners, His words to the religious leaders were often harsh and condemning. Nevertheless, some religious leaders (such as Nicodemus) sought Him out and valued His teaching.

7. Sacrificial Death

Most importantly, Jesus's atoning death on the cross is the ultimate revelation of Himself to us. In offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sin, Jesus made an eternal way for us to connect to God. He bridged the gap between us and God – a gap that was created by sin. It's because of Jesus' death that we can be forgiven of our sin, be adopted into God's family, and have eternal life. And then His resurrection from death shows His unending power and a victory that cannot be defeated.

In the Gospels, Jesus used an array of methods to reach people where they were. His love, compassion, and commitment to transforming lives show us that He really cared for people and wanted to reach them in a way they could relate to. As followers of Jesus, we are inspired to communicate the timeless gospel in ways that relate to those around us.

At Aylestone Baptist, we will be looking at the first of these methods – Jesus' teaching through parables – over the next couple of months in our sermon series. I hope you can join us for this series as we learn from Jesus – our wonderful Saviour and eternal Lord.

In Him, *Will*

Look Back at Christmas 2023...

The **CHRISTMAS MARKET** on 2nd. December was once again a wonderful Community event. The stalls were packed with crafts and gifts, cakes and preserves, all at very affordable prices, and very much appreciated by the many people who came along. Lunches were served, with the full Christmas Dinner or hot turkey rolls being the favourites. Will ran a “Treasure Hunt” and families enjoyed hunting round the church building looking for clues. Once again Santa took time out of his busy Christmas schedule to sit in his Grotto, which was a joy for the children and families that came to visit. This was a great Community event and £1,300 was raised for Church funds.



LUNCH CLUB CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE AND DINNER on December 14th was a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. Carols were sung, Will gave a short message – but what stole hearts was the **Granby School Choir**, led by Beth Ellis, who sang their hearts out with their lovely Christmas songs. After, 70 sat down to a full Christmas Dinner, happy chat and fellowship.



CAROLS IN THE PARK on December 10th was in danger of being cancelled due to the park being waterlogged – when to the rescue came **GRANBY SCHOOL** when head Mr. Dale Cross agreed to the event being staged in the school playground. It was different, the atmosphere in the park is very special, but there beneath the walls of the over 100 year old school, the feeling of ‘coming together’ to sing praises in a place where many of us, and our families over the years, had been to school and played in that same playground was very moving. Around 300 joined together that day, singing to the accompaniment of Southfields Brass Band, the children enacted the nativity scene, and hot drinks and mince pies were given out.



CAROLS IN THE PUB on Dec. 20th at the Black Horse was attended by about 300 people and led by the Wigston Enterprise Band. Despite the drizzling rain the Bible readings and talk were well received, and all enjoyed singing the old familiar Carols. During this event and the Carols in the Park/School collections were taken and we have been able to send £200 each to Rainbows Children’s Hospice and Christian Aid.

CHRISTMAS EVE NATIVITY SERVICE – was taken over by three “Old Ladies” who sat doing their knitting and observing the comings and goings at a certain stable in Bethlehem! (Any resemblance to any “Old Ladies” in the church is purely coincidental).



Also during December we enjoyed Carols at the Gilmorton Estate, Carols by Candlelight, Christmas Film afternoon and tea (food thanks to the generosity of ASDA), Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve, and Christmas morning family service.



It was a busy but joyful way for the Church to celebrate our Saviour’s birth, and couldn’t have happened without a lot of planning and work by many people – but especially Beth Ellis, who was at the heart of it all. A very big THANK YOU to all who contributed in any way.

**What will this New Year Bring?
What are you hoping for?
Winter over, bring on Spring,
Another year gone in the blink of an eye.**



**What will this New Year bring?
Many have no hope at all.
Homeless, helpless, and here's the thing,
No one to help, no room at the Inn.**

**What will this New year bring?
New experiences, new hopes and dreams,
Happiness more stuff, hear the shop tills ring,
In the end just another year gone by.**

**What will this New year bring?
More death and carnage, warfare, strife.
For those no respite, no relief, nothing,
But fear and loss and tears.**

**What will this New year bring?
For our beautiful world which we would destroy,
Floods and earthquakes, a silent Spring,
I'll heat the planet, drive my car.**

**What will this New year bring?
Soon forgotten the holy child,
Decorations down cards put away, nothing,
Left to bring good cheer.**

**What will this New year bring?
A year of serving Christ our King,
A year when prayers of hope we'll bring,
For suffering souls both near and far.**

**What will this New year bring?
We may not know, we cannot tell,
But if we trust our Saviour, King,
We know he's with us all the way.**

David Statham January 2024

Ladies Together...



New Year Party for all ladies on Sunday 14th January. After church we will have a bring and share lunch followed by some easy fun games. If possible please bring along a wrapped gift (worth no more than £3) for one of the games.

Thanks to all who took part or helped in the Christmas Craft afternoon in December. We had great fun, the bring and share lunch was yumilicious – no doubt to be repeated at the New Year Party.

The February meeting will be on Sunday 11th February – details to follow.

Remember – all you have to do to qualify for this group is to be a female – all ages. Put the dates in your diary. Any queries see Mari.

BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME in aid of Medical Missionary Work.

Happy Birthday and Thank You to:

January 8 th	Rachel Connor
January 14 th	Barry Hall
January 18 th	Cindy Elliott
January 20 th	Rachel Nye
February 6 th	Joseph Elliot
February 15 th	Jill Walton
February 16 th	Mick Elliot
February 27 th	Rob Turner



If you wish to join this scheme and share your birthday with those in need, please contact Denise Vernon. Thank you to all who gave so generously in 2023.

Church Family News

It was lovely to welcome **Tanya Naidoo** to membership of our fellowship, and we thank her for her very moving testimony. Tanya is already working in our fellowship with the children, and we pray she will find fulfilment as she works for our Lord within this church.

Thank you for prayers for **Hazel Turner** who has undergone a hip replacement operation. We pray for a swift return to full mobility and a freedom from pain.

Wendy Hall has had a number of health problems and faces a difficult few months ahead. Please pray for Wendy, who spends so much time caring for those who are unwell, may God wrap His loving arms around her as she faces medical procedures.

Our sympathies to **Steve Gray** who's sister-in-law passed away just before Christmas. Following on the death of Steve's son-in-law, Christmas has been a difficult time - we send our prayerful sympathies to Steve, Sophie and Stephanie and the wider family and pray God's peace in their hearts.

Various members of our fellowship are experiencing poor health at the moment, we pray for health and strength for our church family.

Helena Barratt

On 17th December our dear friend Helena passed away after a short illness. Born in 1935 in Northern Ireland, Helena lived on a farm with her parents and brothers. As the only girl, in those days she was expected to stay at home and help her mother with the household chores and the hens she kept – but her mother released her and allowed her to follow her dream of becoming a nurse.

She came to England and worked until her 70s as nurse and midwife, one of her notable patients being the captain of the plane that crashed on the M1 near the East Midlands Airport.

After she retired, one Christmas she saw in a leaflet that a group from our church were Carol Singing around Aylestone with an invitation to join the group. She came along and our minister at the time, Tim Fergusson, invited her to Sunday Service – and from then she found her Spiritual home.

Helena was a faithful church member, rarely missing a Sunday Service, she was a willing volunteer at Lunch Club, spreading sandwiches for tea parties and funerals, bringing plants from her beautiful garden to sell at our fund raising activities. Also any DIY projects and she was there with her paint brush. Helena had a long and happy marriage to Brian, who passed away 8 years ago, and had two sons, Kevin and Alan.

Helena will be much missed in our fellowship and by her sons and their families, her niece Fiona and family, and friends and neighbours.

In conversations when she first became ill she said how close she felt to God and how deep were her prayers. Dear Helena is now in the safe arms of her Lord and Saviour.

Helena's funeral will be on Monday 22nd January at 1pm in the Church.

There's a story that says the radio operator on the liner Queen Elizabeth 11 once received a message from the liner Queen Mary. But the message was 40 years old! Radio experts debate the possibility of a message like that bouncing around the atmosphere for such a long time.

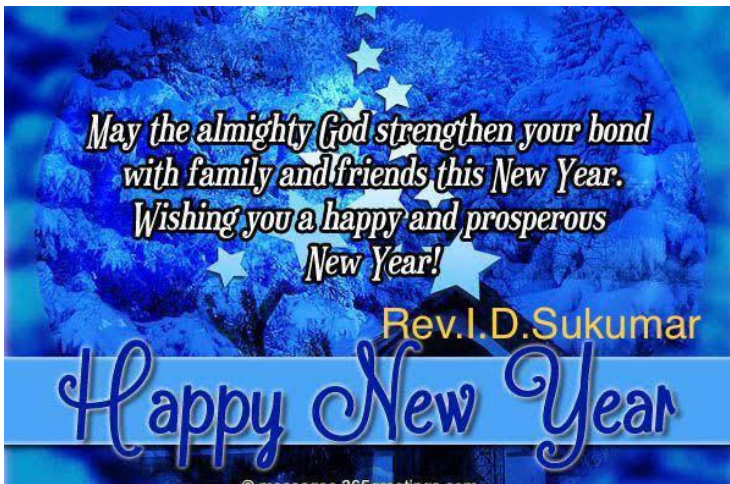
The general conclusion is that it might be possible, or it might not. No-one knows for sure.

I do know that the things we put out into the world have a habit of reaching people we never expected. As good a reason as any to think twice before we act.



*"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the Reach of God's Grace.
And your best days are never so good that you are beyond The need of God's Grace."*

Jerry Bridges



SIGMA UPDATE

This card was sent to us for the Church from Rev. Sukumar and the Calvary Baptist Church in Akividu India

They have had a very busy Christmas with community events in their Church grounds, in the tribal villages and other outlying Churches. Many hundreds of people come to these events to watch the children do their Christmas plays and hear the Good News of the Christ Child. They all enjoy a meal together after the services.



All this despite many difficulties in the last few weeks, when they had a serious Cyclone 'Michaung' which flooded many areas particularly those who live in huts by the rivers and lose everything when this happens.

Also, due to the floods etc. there is a rise in cases of Dengue fever and Covid.

The Shelter we raised money to build, was again such a blessing, enabling many poor tribal families to take refuge from the floods.

We thank all who have supported the SIGMA Project in 2023 – if you want donate please see Stan or Dorothy

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

Lunch Club – two course home cooked meal fortnightly, served at 12.45, cost £5. Church is open for coffee in the lounge before hand at 11am. All welcome. No need to book. Special dietary requirements catered for on request.



Thursday January 18th

Thursday February 1st / 15th / 29th

The Open House



Open from 11am for unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits, table quiz, knitting, jigsaw, or just 'chilling' and chatting, a warm welcome awaits you. At 12.30 lunch is served, cost £4. Meeting fortnightly alternately with the lunch club.

Thursday January 11th / 25th

Thursday February 8th / 22nd

Thursday March 7th.

Tuesday Group

A Bible study group for over 50s meeting at 11am for coffee and beginning a time of looking at the Bible at 11.30, seeing what it means especially to this age group, and sharing our needs. At 12.30 we share lunch together. Whether you know your Bible well, or have never turned its pages, you are welcome and we can learn together.



Tuesday January 9th / 23rd

Tuesday February 6th / 20th

Tuesday March 5th

Smile-a-while...

3 young mums sat proudly watching their toddler sons playing at the toddler group.

“We called my son Andrew because he was born on St. Andrew’s Day,” said the first.

“And mine is David, because he was born on St. David’s day” said the second.

“Yes” said the third, “that’s what happened with my son Pancake.”

Doctor: “All you need is rest”

Vicar: “But, doctor, look at my tongue.”

Doctor: “Yes, that needs a rest too.”

And it’s not too late (or early) for a few “Cracker” jokes...

Q: What do you drain your vegetables with at Christmas?

A: An Advent Colander.

Q: What kind of pet did Aladdin have?

A: A flying car-pet.

Q: Who is Santa’s favourite singer?

A: Beyon-sleigh.

Half term treat for KIDS....

On Monday 19th February we will again have a

KIDS FILM CLUB

Followed by home cooked lunch. (£1 per person)



Starting at 11am and finishing about 1.45pm.

Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

To book please contact Dorothy: dozzamac46@btinternet.com

(pay on the day)

Bible Names Word Search



ABRAHAM

ADAM

EVE

DANIEL

DAVID

GABRIEL

JESUS

JOSEPH

MARY

LUKE

MARK

JOHN

PETER

PAUL

MOSES



Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Minister Rev. Will Hall

Weekly & Fortnightly Activities

Sunday

10.30am Morning Service / Junior Church / Crèche Facilities
Communion on the third Sunday of each month

Monday

6 – 11pm Mental Health Café – meets in Church Lounge

Tuesday

11.00am 3rd Age Fellowship & Bible Study (Fortnightly)

Wednesday

10.am ABC Tots Group (Term time)

Thursday

11.00am Community Lunch Club (Fortnightly)

11.00am The Open House. For the 50's & over. (Fortnightly)

(Community Lunch Club & The Open House run on Alternate Thursdays)

A number of home groups meet during the week – please ask for details



Loop System Installed



Wheel Chair Access



WC Facilities

Church Membership, Baptism, Infants Dedication, Weddings,
Funerals, House Groups, Community Lunch Club, The Open House.

To find out more about church membership, Baptism, etc.

Or any of the activities

Rev. Will Hall, Contact details...

Tel: 07878803387

Email: aylestonebc@gmail.com

Don't forget to visit our website

aylestonebaptist.com

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU