



Aylestone Baptist Church  
November & December 2024  
Magazine

Dear Church,

As the autumn leaves fall and Christmas approaches, we are heading into what feels like a season of darkness. We lose up to three minutes of daytime every day until the winter solstice, and it seems like we can go weeks without seeing the sun. While some love winter and Christmas time, I'd rather just hibernate until spring.

But there is one good thing about this time of year – all the lights of Christmas! One of the first things many people do to get ready for the holiday is to decorate their home with lights. Strings of bright, shining lights hang from trees and rooftops, brightening the long, dark winter nights. These lights remind us of something much deeper—the true Light of Christmas, Jesus Christ.

### **The Light that Shines in Darkness**

In a world that often feels dark—whether through loneliness, stress, financial despair, or the uncertainty we hear about in the news—Jesus offers hope. The Bible tells us, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light” (Isaiah 9:2). That's certainly some good news we need to hear, isn't it? Jesus came into the world to bring light to our darkest moments, just as those Christmas lights brighten the coldest, darkest nights of the year. His birth was the fulfilment of God's promise to bring hope, peace, and salvation to all who believe.

### **Guidance for Our Lives**

One of the most familiar parts of the Christmas story is the Star of Bethlehem, which guided the wise men to Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12). That star was a symbol of God's guidance, just as Jesus is our guide today. He said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Not only does Jesus cast out darkness and bring comfort, but He also gives us direction by showing us the way to live in love, purity, and truth.

### **The Light of Life**

Jesus came to bring salvation, and He invites us to step into the light of His grace. He said in John 12:46, “I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” I hope you can take a moment to reflect on what that means for you. Christmas more than just a baby in a manger - it's a celebration that Jesus is the Light who overcame the darkness of sin and death, bringing us eternal life.

## **Reflecting on the Light this Christmas**

Whenever you see lights this Christmas – whether it's fairy lights in your neighbourhood, a star on top of your tree, an Advent candle at church, or a candle lit for comfort – let them be a reminder of the light Jesus brings to your life.

May the light of Christ shine brightly in your heart and home this Christmas.  
Merry Christmas!

*will*

**"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."** - Jesus, in John 14:6

In November we will be finishing our series on the "I am" statements of Jesus found in the book of John.

3rd Nov - All-Age Service

10th Nov - "I am the way..." Service will include a time of remembrance

17th Nov - "I am... the truth"

24th Nov - "I am... the life"

Then in December we will be looking at Jesus as the Light of Christmas on Sunday mornings:

1st Dec - All-Age Christmas Service

8th Dec - Service with Drama

15th Dec - Jesus, the Light of Christmas

22nd Dec - Christmas Nativity

## Church Family News .....

It was a joyous Service when Will, Hannah and Katelyn brought baby Lilianna to be Dedicated. We thank God for her life and pray His blessing on that family.



Congratulations to Hannah and Emmanuel Ogunkanmi on the birth of their baby boy, Divine. May God bless this little family and may Divine always be surrounded by love.

Many in our fellowship are facing challenging times.

Our sympathy to Wendy and Barry Hall, and all the family, on the passing of their nephew, Stephen, after a short and painful illness. May God hold them in His loving arms.

We wish a good and speedy recovery for Chris Kingsley- Mills after a hip operation.

Gladys Head has had a few spells in hospital, and is now becoming very frail. We hope and pray that suitable care can be found for her.

Esfe Paston's father has become very poorly. Please pray for comfort and healing, and for Esfe as she is feeling so very far away from her family in the Phillipines.

Hazel Turner has had lots of problems following a hip operation, we pray that her difficulties can be resolved and she will return to full health.

We continue to remember prayerfully David and Edie Billet as Edie is very unwell and we pray for strength for David as he cares for Edie.

Diane Bland is undergoing various treatments and is very unwell. We pray for patience and strength for Mike as he cares for her and her daily needs.

We said farewell to **Ruth Hopkins** who passed away in October. Ruth had been a member of ABC for many years. She started up the Girls' Brigade and was the captain, running activities and camps. She also was on the committee for Churches Together in Aylestone, and took an active interest in church life. Ruth had been bed-bound and in a nursing home for about 10years, and we thank God that she is now at peace, safe in the arms of Jesus.

# HARVEST SUNDAY

# FAMILY FUNDAY

Our Harvest Celebration this year was great fun, with an All-age family service that included a “sing-off” of “Come ye thankful people, come”. It raised the roof ! and teaching on Jesus the bread of life.

Following the service there was a bouncy slide and games in the church garden, various crafts in the hall, a chance to look at the beautiful flower arrangements made by all the groups in the church, and of course refreshments. This was open to the community, and all free. There was also donations for the Food Bank which more than covered two tables and was very gratefully received by the Salvation Army Food Bank in Wigston.

Thanks are due to all the many people who pulled together to make this a lovely day.



Some of the flower arrangements & harvest display



Fun & Games outside and in.

The weather was kind to us



## WHAT'S ON for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age groups....

### Lunch Club

Meets on alternate Thursdays for a 2 course roast dinner (£5). The church is open from 11am for coffee and chat, lunch served at 12.45. All welcome, no booking necessary.

Thursday November 14<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup>

Thursday December 12<sup>th</sup> with CAROL SERVICE at 12:00 followed by Christmas Dinner which will be £6.

Re-start after the Christmas break on January 9<sup>th</sup> 2025.



### The Open House



Meets on alternate Thursdays from 11am for informal chat, quizz, coffee and biscuits, knitting etc. with lunch of jacket potatoes with chilli or home-made soups, followed by a delicious array of home-made puddings. (£5). Come and join us and be sure of a warm welcome.

Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup>

Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> and joined with Lunch Club for Carol Service and Christmas dinner on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Re-start after the Christmas break on January 16<sup>th</sup> 2025.

### Tuesday Fellowship

Meet from 11am for coffee, then an informal look at a Bible passage, with discussion. Followed by 2 course lunch.

Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup>

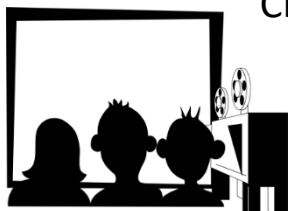
Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> - carols, readings and poems, followed by Christmas dinner.

Re-start after the Christmas break on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2025.



### CHRISTMAS FILM AFTERNOON.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2pm – watch a seasonal film followed by afternoon tea. This is a free event – all welcome.



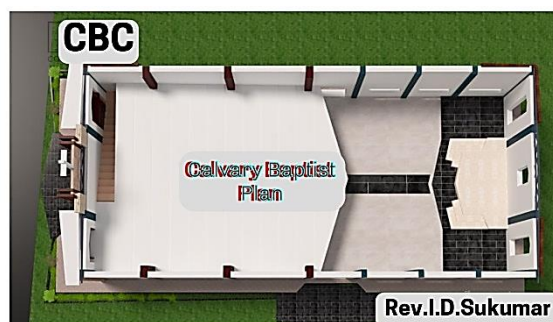
## SIGMA UPDATE

Our brothers and sisters in Calvary Baptist Church, Akividu, India send their greetings to our Church and wish us a very happy Christmas.

Christmas is a very busy time for them, as it is for us! They will expect thousands of people to attend their main Celebration when Children will perform their Christmas plays, sing and dance. Beforehand they march from the town centre to their Church on the outskirts – a lively and noisy affair loved by the residents.

This year has again been difficult for them, with opposition from radical Hindus, very bad flooding from more cyclones than usual and continuing structural difficulty with their Church building. In spite of putting a metal canopy on the flat roof to deflect the rain which was causing damage to the walls, their structural engineers have put a limit to the numbers who can use the Church Sanctuary which is on the first floor [they live on the ground floor] – the limit means they cannot use it for their services, but only smaller groups - so they are planning to build a separate Church building in their grounds. They have already agreed to purchase their existing building, which they rent at present, over the next five years at a very good price due to the structural difficulties, so the necessity of this new building is rather devastating. As ever they move forward in faith trusting God to provide! They are confident that as God is growing their numbers all the time, he will have a plan to enable the Church to accommodate them.

This is the plan for the new building – which will have toilets!-the only ones they had before were in their living accommodation.



Please pray for the Church as they face all these challenges, and particularly pray for Pastor Sukumar & Suguna that God will strengthen them as they bear the burden of ministering to a growing Church and dealing with these other issues.

They are so grateful for our continuing prayers and financial support. I was recently able to claim about £2000 in gift aid from the last 12 months donations to Sigma. This will be such a blessing to them. Thank you to all who support us in so many ways. What a privilege to be able to support God's growing work there amongst such poor people who find joy in knowing our God and Saviour.

**BMS BIRTHDAY SCHEME**

In aid of Medical Missionary Work.  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY and THANK YOU to:

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> . November | Lee Waffone    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> November   | Wendy Hall     |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> November   | Keith Elliott  |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> November  | Sam Elliot     |
|                            |                |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> December  | Hannah Mackley |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> December  | Isabelle Tait  |



Thank you to everyone who has donated to Missionary work on their birthday over the past year. If you would like to bless those who are being helped by our wonderful Baptist Missionaries with a donation on your birthday, please sign up with Denise Vernon.

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**Solar Aid...**

Thanks to the work of this charity, small solar lights are available to those in Zambia who would otherwise have no access to lighting after the sun goes down. With the aid of these lights teachers can mark their pupils' work, children can study in the evening – midwives can safely deliver babies. It is so obvious to harness the free sunlight to make such a difference. As we go into the dark days of winter, and take for granted our electricity, please consider making a donation to this charity and bring light to the poor. For more information contact [info@solar-aid.org](mailto:info@solar-aid.org).

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***Good, better, best***

*May you never rest till your*

*Good grows better and your Better, Best.*



# CHRISTMAS MARKET

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 10.30AM - 1.30PM

MANY STALLS TO BROWSE

ALL AT AFFORDABLE PRICES.

BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE CRAFTS  
HOMEMADE CAKES & PRESERVES

BRIC A BRAC & MORE...



VISIT SANTA IN HIS GROTTTO  
£2 PER CHILD



## Not to be missed CHRISTMAS EVENTS .....

Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	CHRISTMAS MARKET
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols in the Park – 4.30pm at Aylestone Hall Gdns.
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Film Afternoon with afternoon tea. 2pm.
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols in the Pub at Black Horse, 7pm.
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.30am Children’s Nativity during the Service
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Eve Communion Service - 11.30pm.
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> - 9.30 am – children invited To bring along their favourite Christmas present to show everybody.



### Why do we decorate our homes with holly at Christmastime ?



Holly, once called holm, was given all kinds of Christian associations. Some told the story that a holly tree stood, bare of berries, which the birds had eaten, outside the stable where Christ was born. In honour of Christ’s birth, the tree straight away bore buds, flowers and berries, all in one night!

In the carol “The Holly and the Ivy”, the prickly holly leaves are a picture of Christ’s crown of thorns and the red berries of His blood shed for us.

In the fifteenth century one writer noted that in London “Every house and every parish church is decked with holm, ivy, bays... whatever is green”

Perhaps it is because all our trees are bare and dark in December that we like to see the greenery – even if our holly today may be plastic!



# Christian Christmas Word Find



## Jesus Is The Reason

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

Jesus  
Angel  
Rejoice  
Magi  
Messiah  
Stable

Manger  
Noel  
Joseph  
Savior  
Incense  
King

Gold  
Worship  
Myrrh  
Mary  
Emmanuel  
Christ

Prophecy  
Bethlehem  
Good News  
Shepherds  
Great Joy  
Eastern Star

He Is Christ The Lord  
Glory To God On High  
Town Of David  
Peace On Earth  
Good Will To All  
For All People

## “Walking in their shoes”

The Ladies Together group have been having a study and discussion based on “Walking in their shoes” and are keen to act on the talk. We are therefore organising a sale to raise money for the local community at Christmas:

SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER, 1 – 3pm.

Tea and scones, Cake Stall, books.

ALSO

## Reverse Advent Calendar

Instead of opening your own Advent Calendar and receiving a gift, you are invited to bring a gift on the 4 Sundays before Christmas to bless people in our Community.

These gifts will be shared between Eyres Monsell, Wigston Salvation Army and Braunstone Food Bank, plus any more local causes that come to our attention.

Please bring the following on the dates shown below, as you feel able:

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November: Chocolate Advent Calendar.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December Toiletries, colouring pens/pencils, small gifts etc.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: General food bank.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas goodies, i.e. chocolates, biscuits, sweets, Stuffing, cranberry, mince pies, Christmas pud, Custard etc. (no alcohol).

*“Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine,  
Love was born at Christmas, star and angels gave the sign.  
Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.”*

Let our Love shine out this Christmas time.

## Ladies Together

Meetings for November/December 2024.



Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November Christmas Craft Afternoon.

Bring and share lunch after service, followed by crafts.

£5 to cover cost of materials please.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December Christmas meal at the Manor. Be sure to add your name to the list for booking purposes.

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## Man Alive

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 7pm -Christmas meal at Glen Parva Manor

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## Church Wisdom.....

*Try our healing Service .... You won't get better!*

Adam blamed Eve.

Eve blamed the snake

And the snake didn't have a leg to stand on!

Don't think that God can't use you  
With talents small and few,  
Remember that the mighty oak  
Was once a nut like you !

# Carols in the Park

Sunday 8th December  
Aylestone Hall Gardens  
Starting at 4.30pm

“Celebrate the Christmas Story,  
with carols accompanied by  
Southfields Brass Band”

Bring a torch...

Free hot drinks & mince pies are available.



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# Jesus... Reason For The Season

Write the letter next to the answer [A,B,C....] on the line before the question

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Which angel appeared to Mary?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Who was father of Joseph the husband of Mary?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Where was Jesus born?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Means "God with Us"
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Who was King of Judea when Jesus was born?
6. \_\_\_\_\_ He was one of Jesus' brothers
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Who came to visit Baby Jesus?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Who was Jesus descended from?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ To whom did an angel say, "Do not be afraid"?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Who was it revealed to by the Holy Spirit that he wouldn't die before he saw the Messiah?
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Which title of Jesus means "Anointed One"?
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Which book in the Bible references the Magi?
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Which prophet called Jesus Prince of Peace?
15. \_\_\_\_\_ What does the name Jesus mean?
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Who prophesied where Messiah would be born?
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Who spoke to shepherds in the fields?
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Which prophet never left the temple and spoke about Jesus to his parents when they took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord?

- A. Isaiah
- B. Anna
- C. Shepherds
- D. King David
- E. Caesar Augustus
- F. Simeon
- G. Gabriel
- H. Messiah
- I. Matthew
- J. Savior
- K. Emmanuel
- L. Micah
- M. Jacob
- N. Mary
- O. Angel of the Lord
- P. Bethlehem
- Q. King Herod
- R. James

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_



## “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

History can't tell us who first sang the lines of “Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” because the original author and lyricist was an enslaved African-American. The call-and-response praise songs that came from this terrible stage of our history are known as spirituals, spread orally from one plantation and farm to another.



We do know much more about the people responsible for bringing this song to the rest of the world. In 1907, John Wesley Work Jr. compiled and edited a number of songs, including this one. But the song was popularized decades before that, by the original Fisk Jubilee Singers. The Jubilee Singers started out in 1871 as a brave little band of young people led by George White and Ella Shepperd. Many of them were former slaves, and their mission was to raise money for their struggling university on a singing tour through cities of the North.

They began by performing only traditional hymns and classical arrangements to show their musical training and their performances received a moderate amount of attention, but the journey was anything but easy.

When their money ran out and they had to scrimp to get coats to protect themselves from the cold Northern winter, they kept going. When they were met with threats and hostility and were turned away from hotel after hotel in Ohio because of the colour of their skin, they kept going.

When reviews derided their music and editorial cartoons depicted them as minstrel singers, they still kept going.

At last, three days before [Christmas](#), the tide turned. The choir had run out of funds when the most famous preacher of the day, Henry Ward Beecher, invited them to his church. They began to sing the songs of their hearts, the spirituals they'd learned from their parents during slavery days.

And the wealthy congregation responded with tears... and donations. Soon, they went from struggling to successful to, eventually, famous—



world-famous, when their following tour of England had them appearing before nobility and even Queen Victoria herself.

Their concerts were the first time most Americans were introduced to spirituals, including "Go, Tell It on the Mountain," a seasonal crowd favourite, so that the good news could truly spread "Over the hills and everywhere."

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## **Christmas Quiz**

1. Who thought Christmas was 'humbug'?
2. Who wrote Auld Lang Syne?
3. Who was crowned king of England on Christmas day 1066?
4. Who popularized the Christmas tree in England?
5. Who made life-sized crib scene with real people & animals in Italy?
6. Where did our Christmas Turkey originally come from?
7. Where do they celebrate St. Lucia's Day on 13<sup>th</sup> December?
8. Where did Good King Wenceslas live?
9. Where does Kriss Kringle bring gifts at Christmas?
10. What country has Pinatas for children at Christmas?
11. What is the name for the weeks leading up to Christmas Day?
12. What is the shape of a French Christmas cake?
13. What sort of food was a 'Shrid-Pye' ?
14. What does 'Wassail' really mean?
15. What happens if you find the bean in Twelfth Night Cake?
16. What were known as 'Cosaques' in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century?
17. When are the Christmas Decorations traditionally taken down?
18. When is Epiphany?
19. Which of our favourite traditional carols were composed in USA?
20. Which nursery rhyme refers to mince pies?
21. Which is the tree most commonly used as a Christmas tree?
22. Which English ruler banned eating mince pies at Christmas by Act of Parliament?

Don't ever forget to be thankful,  
For every blessing you find on your way,  
Each small happiness is a measure  
That weighs in for you day after day.

Hold on to the blessings you gather,  
Fill your life with the joy that they give,  
Your whole life will take on new meaning  
Build on love and you truly will live.

And as we gather this Christmas  
With memories of Christmases past,  
Let's remember the message of Christmas,  
Love, joy, peace – the truth that will last.



**Answers to quiz:**

1. *Scrooge in A Christmas Carol*
2. *The Scots poet Robert Burns*
3. *William the Conqueror*
4. *Prince Albert*
5. *St. Francis of Assisi*
6. *South America*
7. *Sweden & Finland*
8. *Bohemia*
9. *United States.*
10. *Mexico*
11. *Advent*
12. *Log-shaped*
13. *Mince Pie*
14. *Good health*
15. *You are king or queen for the day.*
16. *Christmas Crackers*
17. *On twelfth night*
18. *6<sup>th</sup> January*
19. *'O Little Town of Bethlehem' 'Away in a Manger' 'We three Kings'*
20. *Little Jack Horner*
21. *Spruce*
22. *Oliver Cromwell*

# Carols in the Pub

The Black Horse Pub  
Narrow Lane, Aylestone.  
Thursday 19th December  
Starting at 7pm.

With carols & readings  
accompanied by...

The Wigston Enterprise Band.  
Refreshments will be on sale.

In support of The Rainbow Children's Hospice & Christian Aid



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# 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

### 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 times)

### 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.