



Aylestone Baptist Church  
March & April  
Magazine  
2025

Dear Church,

Lately we've been on a journey of "Following the Way" in our Sunday morning teaching series. We've been looking at how we follow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).

On this journey, one insight we've come across is that early believers of Jesus referred to themselves as "followers of the Way" (see Acts 24:14). The term "Christian" was used by those outside of the faith (Acts 26:28), though today, of course it refers to those who follow Jesus. "Disciple" is a term found throughout the New Testament to describe these believers. But a more accurate translation might be "apprentice" - those who follow Jesus are His apprentices as they seek to live their lives in the way that He lived His.

But following Jesus and apprenticing Him isn't always easy, is it? A man once asked a mountain guide, "What's the hardest part of the climb?" The guide replied, "The part where you think it's over, but you're not at the top yet."

Discipleship is like that. Jesus calls us to follow Him—and the journey is not without its challenges. As I've shared in this teaching series, following Jesus isn't a formula, it's a process. It cannot be rushed, and it must be authentic. (Remember my story of thinking I could make compost in just one month?) Discipleship is a long journey of new life that takes us from the cross to the prize awaiting us in heaven.

In our journey of following the Way, we've discovered that it's not necessarily about doing more. Sometimes being with Jesus means doing less. Sometimes it means bringing Jesus into what we're already doing. But that's all part of making the sacrifices we need to be an apprentice.

Jesus said, *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). Remember that the cross was not just a burden—it was an instrument of death. Following Jesus means surrender, sacrifice, and suffering. It probably means giving up a harmful relationship, a bad habit, time spent on yourself, or even your possessions. Yet God will take those sacrifices and turn them into blessings.

One of Jesus' earliest and most excited followers was Simon Peter. He was bold, passionate, and eager to prove his devotion. In the Gospels, Peter swore loyalty to Jesus, declaring that he would never abandon Him, even if all others did. Yet, in the darkness of Christ's approaching crucifixion, fear gripped him. As Jesus was led to trial, Peter stood nearby, only to deny his Lord three times. The cross exposed Peter's weakness, revealing that even the most devoted follower could fall.

But thankfully, that wasn't the end of the story for Peter. After Jesus rose from the dead, He sought Peter out—not to condemn him, but to restore him. On the shore of Galilee, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" With each answer, Peter was given a renewed call: "Feed my sheep." The cross had revealed Peter's failure, but the resurrection brought his restoration.

Easter morning changed everything for the disciples. The tomb was empty! Jesus had conquered sin and death. Peter, the same man who failed, was later restored and boldly preached at Pentecost (Acts 2:14). The power of the resurrection turned his defeat into victory. His journey from denial and defeat led him through suffering and shame and into restoration and rejoicing.

Easter reminds us that victory always comes. Paul writes, "*If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Jesus didn't stay in the grave; neither should we stay in our failures or fears, our shame or sins. We are called to live in the power of His resurrection every day.

The cross wasn't the end of Jesus' story, and it's not the end of ours. This Easter, let's not just look back at what Christ did—let's move forward in this journey of new life He gives.

Following the Way,

*will*

## Dates for your Diary .....

Mothering Sunday .. 30<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Family Fun Day ... 15<sup>th</sup> April

### **EASTER SERVICES**

Maundy Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

12 noon service followed by Lunch Club meal. All welcome.

Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April

Walk of Witness – starting at 10am at St. Andrews for a short Service, then to St. Edwards, and finishing at our Church for service followed by hot cross buns, tea, coffee and Fellowship.

**EASTER SUNDAY** Service at 10.30am, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Christian Aid Week May 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Children's Holiday Club starting 28<sup>th</sup> July – please see Beth if you are wanting to Volunteer.

### **Kids' Film Club**

Children and mums thoroughly enjoyed watching “101 Dalmatians”, followed by sausage & mash, jelly and ice cream and cakes. A welcome break in the February half term – thanks to all who helped on the day.



## 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.

Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup>

Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday.

We will have an Easter Service on 17<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon, followed by lunch. All welcome.



### 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.



Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> / 27<sup>th</sup>

Thursday April 10<sup>th</sup> / 24<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 March 11<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup>

Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup> / Please note no meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Church Family News .....

We have been so saddened as our dear friend, Edith Billett, passed away after a long and bravely borne illness. We remember David, who lovingly and selflessly cared for Edie at their home in Countesthorpe and we pray for him to be surrounded by the loving arms of our Lord Jesus in the days ahead. Our prayerful sympathy to all the family and friends who will miss Edie so much.

We have also heard that Mavis Sharman, a church member here for many years, has passed away at a Care home near to Oakham. Mavis loved the Open House, and 'ruled over' the scrabble board – almost always victorious by fair means or foul ! Mavis was poorly for a number of years and is now at peace. Our sympathies to her daughters and their families.

We thank God that John Protheroe is making good progress after his Cancer operation and we pray for patience for him as he recovers, and send our love to Jo and Rebecca.

Hazel Turner is recovering from surgery to correct the hip replacement she recently had. We hope and pray this will be a success and Hazel will finally be free from pain.

***Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from Him.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress,  
I shall not be shaken.***

***My salvation and my honour depend on God,  
He is my mighty rock, my refuge;  
Trust in Him at all times, O people,  
Pour out your hearts to Him for God is our refuge. (Psalm 62: 5 – 8)***

Many congratulations to Maxine and Mick Elliott on becoming grandparents to twins Amaya and Elijah. May God surround these little ones with His Grace and protection, and His blessings fall on them and parents, Grace and Bebz.

We also hold in our prayers many in our fellowship who are undergoing treatment, having difficulties in their lives, searching for new employment – we place them in the loving arms of Jesus.



## PATIO WORKS

The raised area at the side of the Church we called the Patio, over many years had become unsafe, inaccessible, un-useable and an eyesore. The Church has thought we should remove it for many years, so that the space could become useful.



It was such a big and daunting project that for many years it was always sidelined.

Over the past two or three years the Church revisited the idea, and funds became available thanks to some extremely generous donations, a grant from the Leicester City Council's Aylestone Ward Community Fund and some legacies.

So it was that in early February work started. The earth that was dug out filled more than 10 lorries each capable of carrying 20tonnes!



When all the earth was moved, the excavations had exposed the gas main from our meter in the garden, and the main electric cable. Both of these needed lowering substantially, so this was done by specialist contractors – at additional cost!



The Church also decided to have the slabs in front of the Church re-laid as over the years these had become untidy and loose, so that many were broken and not level or in line – again additional cost.



We thank God that he has blessed the Church with sufficient funds to meet all the work that has been necessary, work is progressing well, and we look forward to the project being completed – and having pictures of the new completed area in the next edition!

## Sigma update

Twenty years ago, in 2005, at the Baptist World Alliance Conference in Birmingham, I met a couple from India [ Yesupadam and Sanjiva] on the towpath whilst walking between venues. They asked me to take their photo and we exchange email addresses. Contact in the following months told us of the amazing work they were doing based at Calvary Baptist Church in Akividu, India. Initially we personally sent some money to help their mission, and following their visit to us in UK, and a visit we made to India, we set up the Sigma [Supporting India Gospel Ministry Akividu] charity and invited friends and family to join us in supporting on a regular basis.

Since that time both Yesupadam and Sanjiva have died, but their sons Samuel and Sukumar and daughter in law Suguna are all trained Baptist Ministers and Sukumar and Suguna now lead the Church.

Their mission has grown and grown over the years in spite of much opposition. Their support of the marginalised poor is amazing. They work not only in Akividu, but in many small villages and hamlets, some of which are just grass huts with no services or security. We raised money to build a shelter for one of these settlements so they had somewhere to go when the annual monsoon floods came and flooded their huts or washed them away. This shelter is now one of the many new Churches they have planted over the last few years. Sukumar and Suguna took on a huge responsibility when their father died, and they say that without the support and prayers of Sigma they might not have managed. They work so very hard every day.

Yesupadam was a man of vision and, was convinced that God wanted them to build a new Church bigger than the upstairs 'Prayer Hall' they used. This always seemed out of reach, but over the past couple of years, the prayer hall became unstable due to water getting into the reinforcement in the walls, and so they were told that it was unsafe to use for large gatherings. The only solution was to erect a new building next door. The update in the last magazine showed progress they had made.

Yesupadam also had a vision that the ministry should offer medical support to the many poor who couldn't afford to pay when they were ill. So he hoped that his grand-daughters, Sukumar's daughters, would train to become doctors who could then work in the ministry.

One of those daughters is now completing training in the Philippines whilst the other has been accepted in a regional medical school to train.

With all the costs of the new building etc. they will be struggling to help to pay for the costs both their daughters are facing, and having to take out loans – maybe we could help to sponsor some of their costs. Please see Stanley if you are interested in supporting Sigma.



# Easter

## FUN DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH  
(LUTTERWORTH ROAD)

TUESDAY 15th APRIL 11am - 2pm

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES £3

INCLUDES: BOUNCY CASTLE, EGG HUNT, & EASTER CRAFTS  
VARIOUS STALLS: CAKES, BOOKS, ETC.

REFRESHMENTS



## Early Easter Sunday Morning



Early in the morning, the women creep on out,  
Their task to embalm the body of their Jesus brought to naught.  
They carry herbs and spices their master to prepare.  
For a death no one saw coming, their hopes buried over there.

They hoped he was Messiah, believed it but no more,  
He was the greatest man they'd met and what is more.  
He was a rabbi of the people, not pious or puffed up,  
He said his blood poured out was a sacrificial cup.

He overturned the tables of the temple crew,  
His wine too strong for old skins needed flexible and new.  
They cruelly broke his body, and hung him on a tree,  
And he asked God to forgive them, as he died for you and me.

They laid him in a borrowed tomb, on that Friday night,  
His disciples all in turmoil, hiding in plain sight.  
Saturday ticked slowly by, counting hour by hour,  
Hoping against all hope, God would show his mighty power.

The women cared not for themselves, to do what's right for Jesus their  
only thought,  
Would they find the tomb by twilight, or would it all be for naught?  
What about the soldiers guarding, perhaps they'd sneak on by.  
Then when they weren't looking, roll the stone away, worth a try.

Imagine their excitement when the stone was rolled a way,  
Perhaps they moved his body, to make his followers stay away.  
Mary took a peep inside, but no body, he was gone,  
Could anyone be so cruel when no evil he had done.



Tears rolled down Mary's cheeks, as the worse day of her life just got even worse.  
She wandered in the garden sunlight dappled through the copse.  
When she spotted a familiar gardener there,  
And asked him, "Please sir tell me if you've moved and if so, where?"

"Mary" said the figure, and hairs stood up on her head,  
"Rabboni, oh my master, is it you Lord, it can't be cos you're dead?"  
"Mary, I have risen, Just as I told you all I would,  
Did you think that death could hold me? Of course, it never Could."

Mary's mind was all a flutter, was he real or just a ghost?  
Was she dreaming or imagining, had it happened what she wanted most?  
Jesus told her not to hold him but to run and tell the rest,  
That he'd risen, hallelujah! Christ is risen he's the best.

Mary's feet barely touched the ground as she sped back with her news,  
That Jesus Christ is risen, to banish all their blues.  
He lives today and for those who trust and serve him.  
He is everything and more, the risen saviour conquered sin.

*By David Statham*

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## **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*

## EASTER QUIZ

1. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead – what were the names of Lazarus' sisters? [John 11]
2. What happened on the day we call 'Palm Sunday'? [Mark 11]
3. Some people trying to trick Jesus asked him about paying the Roman taxes. What did he reply? [ Luke 20:25]
4. On the night of his arrest, Jesus had a meal with his disciples – what do we now call the meal?
5. What was the name of the disciple who betrayed Jesus?
6. What was the name of the disciple who denied he knew Jesus?
7. What is the name of the garden where Jesus was arrested?
8. Jesus first trial was before the Chief Priest – what was his name?
9. The Jewish leaders sent Jesus to the Roman governor, who eventually agreed to let him be crucified. What was the governors name ?
10. Local custom allowed for on prisoner to be released at the Passover festival. Who was released instead of Jesus?
11. What happened to the curtain in the temple which separated the 'Holy of Holy's' when Jesus died? [Matthew 27:51]
12. Who made a gift of the tomb where Jesus body was laid? [Matthew 27:57]
13. Roman soldiers were on duty guarding the tomb – what were they told to say happened, when they found that Jesus had gone? [Matthew 28:13]
14. Some ladies who were followers of Jesus discovered that the heavy stone had been rolled away and Jesus was no longer in the tomb. One of them saw him and spoke to him. Who did she think he was? [John 20:15]
15. When the ladies went to the tomb, who told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead? [Matthew 28:5]
16. Jesus met with the disciples in the evening of his resurrection – which disciple wasn't there? [ John 20:24]
17. Two disciples were walking home when they met Jesus on the road but didn't recognise him – where were they walking to?[ Luke 24:13]
18. What is the proper name of Pancake Day?
19. What is the day after Pancake Day called?
20. What special foods do we eat over Easter as we celebrate Good Friday and Easter Day?

[Answers on P18]

GAMES - DISCIPLESHIP - PRAYER

# YOUTH GROUP

*Years 6 - 11*

**12, 26 MAR**

**9, 30 APR**

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

AYLESTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

LOCATION: LE2 8PE

TOGETHER WITH THE YOUTH OF REACH CHURCH LEICESTER

## **BMS Birthday Scheme**

Happy Birthday and thank you to:

March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth German
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ron Walton
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Shipton
March 30 <sup>th</sup>	Lucy Satchell
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tracy Bryan
April 14 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Tester
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Diane Bland

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

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## **Smile-a-while .....**

- . My young daughter needed new boots. When her friend arrived in a lovely pair of new boots, I asked where she had got them. "At the store" she answered."  
"Which one?" I asked patiently.  
She looked confused, and then down at her boots. "Both of them" was her reply.

## **And some Bloomers:-**

In a laundrette: Automatic Washing Machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes out.

This coming Sunday our special service will be gin at 11.00am.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.



## Ladies Together



### Meetings for March/April

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March - Bring & Share Lunch followed by Dessert Delights and Discussion.

Do you have a favourite dessert or cake you would like to make and share with others on 16<sup>th</sup> March. Please let Mari know, and if possible bring along the recipe for others to take away. If you have a reason that it is a favourite and would be happy to share, that is great.

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April, breakfast with a “preparing for Easter” theme.

Back in January 16 Ladies enjoyed a meal together at the Glen Parva Manor.

If you fit the criteria (i.e. – female !) please come along to these meetings along with ladies of all ages, and be assured of a welcome and fulfilling time together.



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## Man Alive - Men's meetings



Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March - 10-pin Bowling at Meridian Leisure Park. 6 – 8pm.

Meet at the Hollywood Bowl – ask Don if you need a lift. Cost : £15

# Easter Word Search

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

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

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

ANGELS  
 APOSTLES  
 BETRAYAL  
 BLOOD  
 CALVARY  
 CROSS  
 CROWN OF THORNS  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 DARKNESS  
 DEATH  
 EARTHQUAKE  
 EASTER  
 GOLGOTHA  
 HIGH PRIEST  
 JESUS CHRIST  
 JOSEPH  
 JUDAS ISCARIOT  
 KING  
 LAMB

MARY  
 NAILS  
 PASSOVER  
 PIECES OF SILVER  
 PIERCED  
 PILATE  
 RESURRECTION  
 ROBE  
 ROMANS  
 SACRIFICE  
 SIMON OF CYRENE  
 SOLDIERS  
 SON OF GOD  
 SPEAR  
 STONE  
 TEMPLE  
 THIEVES  
 THREE DAYS  
 TOMB

## ***Ten things God won't ask you when you die.***

- *God won't ask what kind of car you drove; He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.*
- *God won't ask the size of your house; He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.*
- *God won't ask about the clothes you had in your wardrobe; He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.*
- *God won't ask which diet you were on; He'll ask how many hungry people you helped to feed.*
- *God won't ask what your highest salary was; He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.*
- *God won't ask what your job title was; He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.*
- *God won't ask how many friends you had; He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.*
- *God won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived; He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.*
- *God won't ask about the colour of your skin; He'll ask about the content of your character.*
- *God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Him; He'll lovingly take you into His Kingdom, not leave you at the gates of Hell.*

## The Sacrificial Offering....

I'll never forget Easter 1946. I was 14, my little sister May was 12 and my older sister, Susan, 16. We lived at home with our mum, and the 4 of us knew what it was to do without many things after our dad died 5 years previously.

A month before Easter the Pastor of our church announced that a special Easter offering would be taken to help a poor family. He asked everyone to save and give sacrificially.



When we got home, we talked about what we could do. We decided to buy a sack of potatoes and live on them for a month, donating what we saved on our weekly shop. Susan got as many cleaning jobs as she could, and I babysat for neighbours. May ran errands and walked dogs as she really loved dogs – and walking!

Every day we counted the coins to see how much we had saved, and talk about how the poor family were going to enjoy having the money the church would give them. We had about 80 people in the church so there would be a really good total – after all the Pastor reminded everyone each Sunday to save for the Sacrificial Offering.

The day before Easter came – we could hardly believe it – we had raised £80. Susan and I went to the Post Office to exchange our coins for four twenty pound notes. That night, we could hardly sleep. We didn't care that we had no new clothes for Easter – we had £80 for the Sacrificial Offering.

As we sat in church I heard some teenagers sniggering that the Robertson girls had on their old dresses. I looked at them in their new outfits but I didn't care, I was happy.

When the Sacrificial Offering was taken we each, mum, Susan, May and I, put a twenty pound note into the offering bag.

As we walked home from Church that Easter Sunday morning, we sang again those wonderful Easter hymns.

Later that afternoon the Pastor drove up in his car. Mum went to the door, talked with him a moment, then came back with an envelope in her hand. We asked what it was, but she didn't say a word. As she opened it out fell four £20 notes. No-one spoke. She just put the money back into the envelope.

That Easter Day I found out we were poor. Mum asked what we wanted to do with the money. We didn't know. We'd never known we were poor. We didn't want to go to Church the next Sunday, but mum said we had to, and as we walked along our eyes were cast down, and we didn't sing.

At church we had a Missionary Speaker. He talked about churches in Africa made out of sun dried bricks, but they needed money to buy roofs. £100 would buy a roof. The Pastor said, "Can't we all sacrifice to help these poor people?" We looked at each other and smiled for the first time in a week.

When the offering was counted, the Pastor announced there was a little over £100. The Missionary was thrilled, he hadn't expected such a large offering from our small church. He said, "You must have some rich people in this church."

Suddenly it struck us. We had given £80 of that "little over £100". We were the rich family. Hadn't the missionary said so.

From that day on I've never been poor again. I've always remembered how rich I am because I have Jesus.

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#### Answers to Easter Quiz on P11

1. Mary & Martha
2. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey
3. Give to Ceasar what is Ceasars and to God what belongs to God
4. The last supper
5. Judas Iscariot
6. Peter
7. Gethsemane
8. Caiaphas
9. Pontius Pilate
10. Barabus
11. Torn from top to bottom
12. Joseph of Arimathea
13. That the dsiciples had stolen the body
14. The gardener
15. Angels
16. Thomas
17. Emmaus
18. Shrove Tuesday
19. Ash Wednesday
20. Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs

# Aylestone Baptist Church

Lutterworth Road Aylestone Leicester LE2 8PE

Church Minister Rev. Will Hall

## Weekly & Fortnightly Activities:

### Sunday

10.30am Morning Service / Junior Church [ ABC Kids] / 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.