



Aylestone Baptist Church

HARVEST

September & October
Church Magazine

2023

Growing, Learning, Experiencing,
& Sharing God's Love

Dear church,

Over the last year or so, I've been noticing that my eyesight has been changing more rapidly than ever before. Whereas I used to be able to wear contacts, lately I can barely see when I put them on. I now have to take even my glasses off to read. And if something is at the awkward distance between not needing glasses and needing glasses, then it's like my brain doesn't know what to do with what my eyes are seeing.

I suppose the writer of Proverbs in the Bible might be onto something when he wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). Just like we want our eyes to be able to see, we also need vision for our lives.

Just like our eyesight over time, our vision for life changes. For example, when you're single, you might have a vision to start a career and get married. Then, once time has passed and you're already married and settled down, your vision might be to raise your children and look for promotions in your field of work. Over time, your vision changes. Yet it is still important to have a vision and to give yourself something to be looking forward to.

The same is true for our church's vision. This year we have a new vision statement for Aylestone Baptist: Growing, Learning, Experiencing, and Sharing God's Love. We've recently finished a teaching series going over each part of the new vision. I thought I would share this here, for all to read.

Growing: We want to be a church that is growing in every area. Growth just doesn't mean we have more people attending. Being a growing church means we are digging our roots deeper in discipleship, adding and multiplying through small groups, expanding our influence and opportunities in the community and increasingly impacting the world with God's love. We see this growth happening, and our vision is to see even more.

Learning: As a church and as Christians, learning about God and His love is foundational to our existence. We are always learning, always becoming more like Christ, always seeking to understand more and more of the Bible. Teaching God's Word and applying it to our lives is a large part of what we do as a church each week. Our vision is for us all to learn God's love more and more.

Experiencing: When we come to church, we don't just show up to sing songs and hear some teaching. We attend church because we ARE the church. Our relationship with God is not just head knowledge or some kind of religious duty – it is a real, dynamic, personal relationship with the Creator of the universe! We experience Him through worship, prayer, fellowship with others, teaching, serving, giving, and sharing His love. While we don't pursue experiences for the sake an experience, we pursue Jesus – and He reveals Himself to us. Our vision is to experience Him more and for others to have a real relationship with Him.

Sharing: We share God's love by proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. We live our lives in a way that brings glory to God so that others will see His light shining in us. Our vision is to share His message and His love with those closest to us, with our community, and around the world.

God's Love: With God's love as our vision, everything else falls into place. God is love, and He gives us a command to love others. He gave us the greatest example of love in His Son, Jesus Christ. Our vision is to grow in God's love, learn God's love, experience God's love, and share God's love.

God once told an Old Testament prophet, Habakkuk, “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it” (Habakkuk 2:2, ESV). Hopefully our church's vision has been plainly given. Now that we've read it, let's run with it!

Grace and peace to you,

Will

Young Adults BBQ

In August, we had our first event for our new young adults ministry. While we are roughly defining “young adult” as anyone 18 to under 40, Will and Hannah and Katelyn were glad to edge in as they hosted a BBQ at the manse. Nine of us joined that evening for good food, getting to know each other, and a crazy game of Taboo that lasted until 11:30pm. Prince and Jack made excellent work of the meat on the BBQ grill, and everyone contributed a little something to share.



Many of the young adults are new to church in the last year or so, and some of us met each other for the first time that evening. We enjoyed sharing our testimonies and a bit of our backgrounds as most of us are not native to the UK.

Following our successful first event, we are planning to meet again on 10 September to discuss future plans for this group. We look forward to Bible studies, socials, trips, and keeping each other in prayer. We've already added a few more people to the WhatsApp group since our first event, and we are confident that God will bless this ministry.

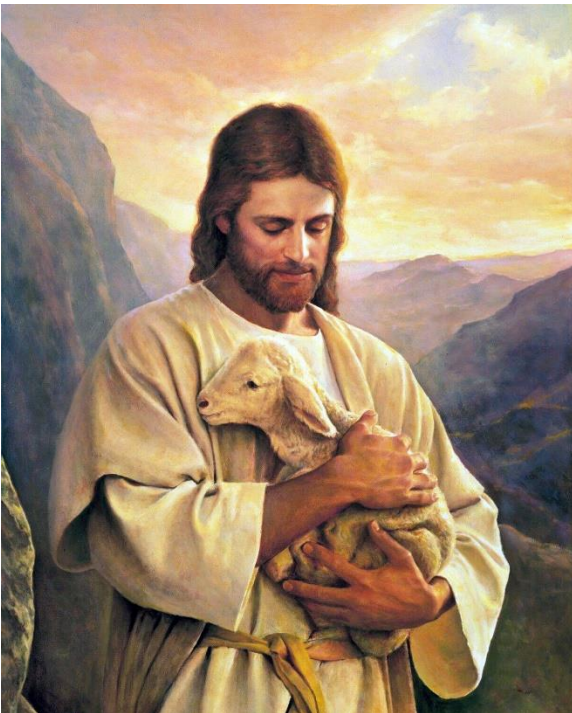


The Lord is my Shepherd.....

Immediately after World War II the Allied Armies gathered up many hungry, homeless children and placed them in large camps. There the children were abundantly fed and cared for. However, at night they did not sleep well. They seemed restless and afraid.

Finally, a psychologist hit on a solution. After the children were put to bed, they each received a slice of bread to hold. If they wanted more to eat, more was provided, but this particular slice was not to be eaten – but just to hold.

The slice of bread produced marvellous results. The child would go to sleep, subconsciously feeling it would have something to eat tomorrow. That assurance gave the child a calm and peaceful rest.



In the Twenty-third Psalm, David points out something of the same feeling in the sheep when he says, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.” Instinctively, the sheep knows the shepherd has made plans for its grazing tomorrow. It knows the shepherd made ample provision for it today, so will he tomorrow. So the sheep lies down in the fold with, figuratively speaking, the piece of bread in its hand.

The Psalm does not begin with a petition asking God for something; rather it is a calm statement of fact – “The Lord is my Shepherd”. We do not have to beg God for things.

St. Paul says, “My God shall supply all you need.” David puts it, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.”

With that faith we can work today without worrying about tomorrow.

Looking Back over a SUMMER of FUN.....

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY CLUB 2023-GALACTIC HEROES

This year's holiday club theme was Galactic Heroes, which had a space & super hero theme. The church was all dressed up around a space theme! The church & dens were really inspiring, I don't know where the group leaders get their inspiration, but it all looked fantastic & so exciting for the children. Our groups this year included Galaxy Guardians, Whizzpops and Power Planets.



We had around 95 children sign up, with a range of different ages. The children were very 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 short films about some Old Testament heroes, such as Samson & Moses, and Jesus. After that, the morning flew by with two more group times, crafts & outdoor activities. The bouncy slide continues to be the favourite, but the children also enjoyed the games sessions, they really enjoyed the coconut shy!



The morning finished off with more singing & the usual silly drama... the kids loved it as



usual & booed & cheered in all the right places! Thank you to Lucy, Daniel, Dave & Will for being such good sports & also to many of the younger helpers who stepped up to be aliens of differing shapes & sizes!

Friday night was our final session with the children performing a space themed showtime piece & singing songs for their parents.

This was followed by a BBQ without an actual barbeque! Thanks to all those who helped this run smoothly! The weather was fantastic for us again this year 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.



I would like to thank all of those who put in so much work before & during the week, there were so many fantastic volunteers this year! I couldn't do it without such a dedicated team who work hard & support me as well as giving the kids the most fantastic week of fun. Thank you to Lucy who organised the crafts & her team who kept the craft times running smoothly. I would also like to thank Duncan & Stan who helped with decorating the church & putting gazebos up etc. Thanks also to Keith who did a fantastic job on the sound desk & to Lee who set the AV stuff up for us & Mike for the fabulous publicity & printing. This year we were worried about the weather as it had been so unpredictable, but as usual God listened & we had dry mornings & a dry Friday evening! In fact, I think it was one of the best ever (I say that every year!). I enjoyed the week so much & I hope everyone else did too! 😊

Beth Ellis

HOLIDAY@HOME for the over 50s....

On Tuesday 15th August we gathered together for coffee and quizzes, followed by lunch of Chicken and vegetables with pear crumble and custard for pudding.

The afternoon was spent enjoying crafts, including flower arranging, card making, decorating fairy doors and boxes, and making 'bug houses' for the garden. Thanks are due to those who organised these fantastic crafts which were thoroughly enjoyed. The day finished with sandwiches and cakes.



Wednesday 16th began again with coffee and quizzes, followed by lunch of home-made steak pie and vegetables, with strawberry trifle for afters.

In the afternoon we watched the film "Mrs. Harris goes to Paris" – laughter and tears all round – and an ice cream in the interval.

Once again the day finished with sandwiches and cakes.



Thursday 17th was a trip to Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent. We had a very comfortable coach and arrived in less than an hour and a half. The weather was lovely, the gardens were beautiful, with lots of seats to just sit and take in the view, and most of us managed to buy something from the variety of individual shops. Altogether a Grand Day Out – and

a memorable finish to our 3-day Holiday@Home.

We are very grateful to Leicester City Council for the generous grant given to us which enabled us to put on this event.

Kids Film Club



Over 3 Mondays in August we held a Film Club each morning, showing animated films, after which we had a hot lunch (sausage & mash / burgers & chips / cottage pie – and a jelly & ice cream pudding) charging only £1. We entertained between 40 and 50 each session.

The children loved it, and parents were grateful to have something to keep them occupied over the holidays – especially as the weather was not good. Thanks to Stan, Beth, Wendy & Dorothy for putting this on.



Forthcoming Events....

Following on the successful walk and meal at the Black Horse in July, be sure to put the following dates in your diary...

Saturday 23rd September – Ladies' breakfast with speaker. - 9.45am at church.

Monday 23rd October - Ladies outing – venue to be confirmed.

Saturday 4th November – Refresh Women's Conference at Whetstone Baptist Church. We intend for a group to attend, more information to follow.

Any queries see Mari Walters.



Autumn programme

Thursday 21st September - walking treasure hunt, starting from the church at 6-30pm and finishing at the Black Horse.

Friday 27th October - games night at Church 7pm start.

Saturday 11th November - breakfast with speaker, 9-30am start.

Church Family News

Jill Walton is recovering after falling and badly fracturing her arm whilst out running. We pray for a full recovery and that the pain will subside.

Rachel Connor fell as she came to Holiday@Home and has seriously broken her wrist. She has had an operation to pin the bones, and we pray this will be a success and she will get full mobility and be able to enjoy the knitting that she loves so much.

Denise Vernon has had spells in hospital over the summer. We hope and pray for a good diagnosis and that she will be restored to full health.

Please continue to pray for those living with cancer – Diane Bland, Wendy Hall and Kenneth Rackham – that God will wrap his loving arms around them and fill them with his Spirit.

During the Communion Service in August, Will received and blessed the Home Communion Set gifted to our Church by Beryl Thomas, wife of the late Rev. S. Brian Thomas.

Brian was a much loved Minister here at our church, where he served for over 20 years. It was on the anniversary of his 25 years as a Baptist minister that we presented him with the set, which he used to take communion to those who had become house bound. In total Brian was a Baptist minister for 44 years, serving two churches in Wales, then Aylestone, and when he retired he and Beryl moved to West Moors in Dorset to be near their daughter and grandchildren. Brian sadly passed away in 2022 but I'm sure would be so happy that his Communion set has come home and will be used again in Aylestone to bless those who can no longer get to church.



BMS Birthdays Scheme.

Happy Birthday and thank you for your contribution to Baptist Medical Missionary Work:

September 9th: Elaine Robinson
September 12th: Dorothy Mackley
September 18th: Mike Bland
September 24th: Julie Lovatt
September 26th: Ben Blackford
September 26th: Daniel Blackford.

October 4th: Beth Ellis
October 12th: Rachel Draper
October 19th: Hannah Hall
October 20th: David German
October 28th: Wendy Chapman
October 28th: Will Hall



If you wish to join the Birthday Scheme please see Denise Vernon. Thanks.

Dates for your Diary

September 17th – together with other churches in Aylestone we are putting on a FUN DAY at the Gilmorton Est. Community Centre. If you can help in any way see Stan.

September 24th - Church meeting after morning service.

October 1st. – HARVEST SERVICE . Donations for the Food Bank please.

Christmas Market – December 2nd.

Fancy a trip to the Curve Theatre? Perhaps a Christmas present?



Jesus Christ Superstar Thursday 15th February 2024
7.30pm performance Group booking, stalls seats @
£45

To reserve seats, please contact Tracy Bryan
07941187853

Full payment required by 26th November 2023

Weird & Wonderful things in the Church Garden

Whilst doing some weeding and clearing up in the Church garden the other week I saw a very strange looking creature – it was about as long and thick as my little finger and had 4 eyes. I looked carefully to see if it had legs like a newt or other amphibian, but no. I went home and looked on line and found that it was the caterpillar of an Elephant Hawk Moth – not especially rare, but in 77 years I have never seen one before. The four eyes are a defence mechanism to make it look scary! It certainly was! Stan.



SIGMA GARDEN PARTY AND UPDATE

Our Garden Party on 26th August had to be inside instead of out in the garden as we had torrential rain just as we were setting up, and then pretty continuous rain most of the afternoon. Children did manage to go on the bouncy castle for a short while towards the end of the day.

Nevertheless, we did raise an amazing £435.68 [this included some donations on Sunday morning]. We are so grateful to all who helped us and all who came and supported the event.



As some will know, the Church in Akividu has serious problems with their roof – water is getting through, damaging the walls and bringing down plaster. The remedial work has now started, and the money we are able to send is such a great help. In the 12 months to August we sent £10 000 - magnificent! [this included a £2000 donation from Bethel Baptist Church in Macclesfield who had collected money, but were not sure how to send it – so we sent it for them] Thank you to all who support this important work.



A play on words

- . Did you know they won't be making yardsticks any longer?
- . What did the man say when the bridge fell on him?
The suspension is killing me!
- . Do you have a weight loss mantras? Fat chants!
- . My tailor is happy to make a new pair of trousers for me.
Or sew it seams.
- . A relief map shows where the toilets are.
- . There was a big paddle sale at the boat store.
It was quite an oar deal.
- . A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
- . I used to work in a blanket factory, but it folded.
- . Sea Captains don't like crew cuts.
- . A gossip is someone with a great sense of rumour.

Church Bloopers.....

Thursday night potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

Tuesday at 5pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club.
All wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the minister in his private study.

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to the church secretary.

8 new choir robes are needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement on Friday.

A poetry reading was hell in the church hall.

What's on for the 3rd Age

All are invited to these events, no need to book, just turn up and be sure of a warm welcome.



Lunch Club

.Doors open at 11am for coffee & biscuits & chat. Meal served at 12.45. Cost £5.

Thursday Sept. 14th / 28th – Harvest service at 12.

Thursday Oct. 12th / 26th

The Open House

From 11am meet in the lounge for coffee, biscuits, chat and quizzes followed by light lunch & lots of puddings. Cost £4.

Thursday Sept. 21st

Thursday Oct. 5th / 19th / Nov. 2nd.



Tuesday Group



Fortnightly at 11am for coffee, 11.30 – 12.30 for Bible Study and discussion followed by Light Lunch. All welcome.

Tuesday Sept. 19th

Tuesday Oct. 3rd. / 17th / 31st

Two things are bad for my heart –
running upstairs and running down people.



WORD SEARCH

Harvest Festival

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

apple	autumn	bakewell	bread	corn
cornucopia	farmer	festival	field	food
fruit	harvest	plate	plough	praise
pudding	pumpkin	scatter	season	swede
vegetable				

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

Tuesday

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

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

<https://aylestone.hubb.church>

A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU