

ASHOVER VILLAGE FILMTIME

Ashover Bassett Rooms

Doors open at 7pm for tea/coffee: Film starts 7:30pm
No need to book Suggested donation £3

Thursday 19th April 2018

Victoria and Abdul (PG)

Abdul arrives from India to participate in Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. As the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance the Queen begins to see the changing world through new eyes. Starring: Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Eddie Izzard, Tim Piggot-Smith and Michael Gambon. Director: Stephen Frears

(There will be no Foreign Filmtime in April)

Wild Willy Barratt's French Connection



Ashover Parish Hall
Friday 20th April
7.30 pm
Tickets £10
01246 590343

Chesterfield Gilbert & Sullivan Society

The Genius of G&S and The Magic of Musicals

Ashover Parish Hall : Fri 13th April 7.30 pm
Hasland Village Hall : Sat 14th April, 7.30 pm

Tickets £8

Carole Pilkington 01246 207893
Visitor Information Centre 01246 345777
chesterfieldgands.co.uk

Uppertown Social Centre



Saturday 7th April - from 6 pm

Easter Family Night & Disco - £5 all ages, inc. supper

Saturday 21st April - 7pm for 8pm

Murphy's Marbles - Irish and Folk - £13 inc. supper



The music of dynamic Irish band, Murphy's Marbles, is Celtic based with a mixture of traditional and contemporary music on fiddle, whistle, flute, bass, mandolin, bodhran and harmonica - with humour and audience participation thrown in.

Saturday 21st April - 7pm for 8pm

The Haleys - Country and 50's - £13 inc. supper

Call Eddie for tickets: **01246 590502 or 07966 154798**

You can view this **amber news** on the **amber churches** website and there are free printed copies in churches and local shops. If you would like a copy delivered, please let us know and we will try to oblige. Send news for inclusion in next month's issue to info@amberchurches.org.



amber news

For the amber churches of
Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington
working and playing together, with God, for people

April 2018

Church Services in April

Easter Sunday 1st April

6.30 am	The Fabrick	Sunrise Service
9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
9.15 am	Wessington Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Family Communion
10.45 am	Handley Church	Holy Communion

Sunday 8th April

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Morning Prayer
9.15 am	Wessington Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Handley Church	Morning Worship

Sunday 15th April

9.15 am	Wessington Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion (+ children's activities)
10.45 am	Handley Church	Morning Worship

Sunday 22nd April

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
9.15 am	Wessington Church	Family Service
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion (+ children's activities)
10.45 am	Handley Church	Morning Worship

Sunday 29th April

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Joint Holy Communion
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Easter Sunrise Service

The Fabrick

6.30 am

Worth getting up for!

Followed by Easter Breakfast at the
Bassett Rooms, Ashover

The Village Coffee Shop

1st and 3rd Tuesdays

10 am - noon

Ashover Bassett Rooms

NOT OPEN 3rd APRIL

due to road closure and tree felling



Contact Information

Rector: The Revd Ralph Lawrence 01246 590246
The Rectory, Narrowleys Lane, Ashover S45 0AU
All Saints Church Ashover Warden: Sylvia Dyson 01246 861811
Holy Trinity Brackenfield Warden: Nigel Rogers 01773 836137
St Mark's Church Handley Warden: Kath Mosely 01246 590720
Christ Church Wessington Warden: Rita Buckley 01773 835 633

www.amberchurches.org

The Rector Writes ...

Dear Friends,

Should any of us live to the ripe old age of ninety nine I imagine that at some point before we get to that milestone in our lives we will have spent some time pondering on what it might be like to reach such a grand old age. Will we be living in a care home, will we still have any friends, by this I mean anyone we have shared an important moment with in our lives; or will we have outlived all those people who really meant anything to us? Will we still have all our faculties? Will we still be interested in reading the daily newspapers; could we still do the crossword? It is a mercy that none of us know the answers to such questions. But to a greater or lesser extent we will all need to accept that we don't live forever, in our current form. But at ninety nine I guess most of us will want to be living more sedentary lives than we do at the moment.

You may think this is a rather ominous start to a letter. Well, it is in some senses. But the issue of growing older has never been more pressing. How are we going to look after more and more elderly people with fewer and fewer resources? And perhaps more important, what do we want from our old age?

I imagine the answer to that question might be: We want a good pension, a sound mind and a robust healthy body. We want security and comfort and someone to love us.

Are these the sorts of things you want in old age?

Having said this I now want you to consider the story of Abram from the book of Genesis. It is a story we are probably familiar with but perhaps one we have not truly engaged with. Have we really met the main protagonists Abram & Sarai?

We are told that Abram was ninety nine years old, and his wife a little younger but well beyond child bearing age. But Abram & Sarai, having been previously told by God that he would bless them, were in for a shock of gigantic proportions. In their old age and years after the promise that God had made to them, it was about to come true. And through their son Isaac the world would be blessed since God had told Abram that he would be the father of many nations. And to prove that it was all about to begin God gave Abram a different name – he became Abraham.

Although there is no hint in the text that God was joking when he said this, Abram and Sarai saw the funny side of it. At a time in life when any self-respecting individual was winding down it appeared that God was winding Abram and Sarai up. No wonder they laughed at the prospect of becoming parents in their great old age. Lesser mortals might have had a heart attack. But they were just amused.

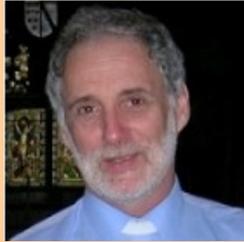
What conclusions can be drawn from this story? That God is someone who is unpredictable, someone who places impossible demands on people? Well we might draw that conclusion. Is he someone who likes to meddle in our affairs, someone who spoils our plans, who likes to interfere with our carefully constructed little worlds? Do we see in this ancient story the idea that God is just a nuisance, someone to be avoided at all costs?

We can, and some do, regard God like this; someone to be kept at a distance. If at ninety nine I felt God's holy nudge intruding into my life I might give him the cold shoulder, especially if there was a hint that it was totally ridiculous.

But we don't need to think of this story in such negative terms. How about reading it as an event in which hope is fulfilled. The moment when a promise comes true, from which gushes blessing.

Life is often sustained by hope. It is what keeps us going. It is what keeps us getting up in the morning, especially when one day appears to be much the same as the one before that, and the one before that; week in week out, month in month out. And sometimes year in year out. When life is hope-filled but sees no change in circumstances it is then that our faith is tested, and sometimes even destroyed.

Abram's faith in God was certainly tested. As in the time when God demanded him to sacrifice Isaac, the human embodiment



of all God had promised him. But in the fullness of time hope began to own what had not been seen - God was true to his word.

What does this tell us about God? The story tells us that God is trustworthy and true. He doesn't say one thing and then do something completely different, as some humans beings are prone to do. God is all of a piece. His timing may not always be to our liking as Abram and Sarai discovered. But God having said he would do something is obliged to carry it out. If he did not then God himself would be divided and undone by a lack of consistency.

It is comforting to know that this episode in the life of Abram – with the emerging fulfilment of God's promise to him - is a reminder to all of us, who like Abram are people of faltering faith, that we are continually blessed, as he was, by God.

Abraham despite his inability to see and to hold on to that which God had promised him was still held on to by God. And in time his faltering faith, "the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" was revealed and rewarded.

Yours sincerely, Ralph

High Ashes Rural Project in Ashover (HARP)
is organising a

5 Km Obstacle Mud Run on 22 April 2018

Get a team together and have fun - £15 pp entry

www.highashes.org.uk 07887 612170

Ashover Annual Church Meeting

Wednesday 11th April

at 7 pm in The Bassett Rooms

Art and Architecture in Kent and the South Coast

A 6 week course starting 4th April
on Wednesdays from 10 am to noon
in the Bassett Rooms, Ashover

Brian Sprakes, a lecturer in medieval art and architecture, will give a series of talks to include the cathedrals of Canterbury, Rochester and Chichester and many churches, priories, hospitals and stately homes.

£45 - Information from Sarah Hillard 01246 590369

The Amish People of Pennsylvania

A 6 week course starting 23rd May
on Wednesdays from 10 -11 am
in the Bassett Rooms, Ashover

Jan Jefferson, born and raised in Pennsylvania, will discuss the Amish family, their history, religion, education, and, of course, their stunning hand-sewn patchwork quilts

£5 per lecture payable on the door

Information from Sarah Hillard

01246 590369 sarah_hillard48@hotmail.com



Mondays, 10am–12
The Tuck Shop, Ashover
No Experience Necessary
Wool and Needles Provided

From the Registers

ASHOVER

Funeral

Grace Barratt. Aged: 80. Service held 27th March