

## Never Too Late to Learn

The National u3a (University of the Third Age) have designated Wednesday 2nd June as u3a day. The aim is to promote the u3a and to and to inform people about its aims, Learn, Laugh, Live!

There will be a stall in Hall Leys Park, Matlock, on 2nd June when anyone will be able to get information on the local u3a groups that they might wish to join.

There are u3a's based in Matlock and Chesterfield and the interest groups available are too numerous (43 groups in Matlock) and wide-ranging to list here but include Art, Book Clubs, Birding, Gardening, Jazz, Local History, Tap Dancing, Science and Technology, Languages and Wine Tasting - so everyone can find something to suit them, or if not can start a new group.

There is a modest annual charge to join the u3a and membership is intended for those no longer in active work. You will certainly Learn, Laugh and Live! And make new friends.

For more information : [matlockareau3a.org.uk](http://matlockareau3a.org.uk)

## Starting Up Again

### Anyone for Coffee?

**Stamp** is now open for table service in Ashover; tables for up to 6 can be booked for you and friends, or just walk in and enjoy good coffee and eats again.

From 21st June the Bassett Rooms in Ashover are available for hire and the Church Hall in Brackenfield is also opening up again - both are lovely venues for groups or special events. Contact details for the hall managers are available on [www.amberchurches.org](http://www.amberchurches.org) as are details of the facilities attached to the churches in Wessington and Handley.

### Knit & Natter ...

Starts meeting again each Monday starting 21st June: from 10 am to noon; they will be upstairs in the Bassett Rooms. Blankets and jumpers have continued to be knitted over lockdown but as stocks of wool are running down, any donations of spare knitting wool would be gratefully received.

### Lunch Club ...

Lunch Club members will be glad to return to their fortnightly social gatherings - there are spaces for new members (60+) to join and if you are interested in a friendly, chatty group and competitive quizzing followed by a good meal contact Sarah Hillard on 01246 590369.

### The Celebration Choir ...

Has been singing in Ashover Churchyard for a few weeks now and will continue to do this on Monday evenings at 6.30 pm until they can finally meet inside the Bassett Rooms again to rehearse on Monday nights from 21st June at 7.30 pm. This friendly relaxed choir always welcomes new voices !

### Acorns - for pre-school children ...

Has met a few times outside over the recent wet and windy weeks but looks forward to starting again in the Bassett Rooms from Thursday 24th June from 10 - 11.30 am. Pre-school children with their parents or carers will enjoy songs, stories and crafts.

### Amber Bells ...

This handbell ringing group meets again in the Bassett Rooms on Thursday 24th June at 6.30 pm

### The Village Coffee Shop ...

Is back in the Bassett Rooms from Tuesday 6th July from 10 am to noon - coffee, cake and chatter for all.

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](mailto:info@amberchurches.org).



## amber news

For the amber churches of  
**Ashover, Brackenfield, Handley and Wessington**  
*working and playing together, with God, for people*  
June 2021

## Church Services in June

### Sunday 6th June

9.15 am	Brackenfield Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion + <i>Allsorts Outside</i>

### Sunday 13th June

10.45 am	Ashover Church	Morning Worship + <i>Allsorts Outside</i>
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### Sunday 20th June

9.15 am	Wessington Church	Holy Communion
10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion + <i>Allsorts Outside</i>

### Sunday 27th June

10.45 am	Ashover Church	Holy Communion + <i>Allsorts</i>
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(Please use a face covering inside church buildings and maintain social distancing.)

An Invitation to ...

## THANKSGIVING and REMEMBRANCE

Sunday 4th July at 10.45am

All Saints Church, Ashover

An event to unite all churches  
**and the whole community**  
to come together for a time of thankfulness  
and remembrance and to move forward  
to the future with renewed confidence.

To be followed by a

**B.Y.O. PICNIC LUNCH**

***A time to Reflect and Remember  
in order to Restore and Recuperate.***

More information in the next Amber News  
(Subject to any changes in the COVID situation.)

## Contact Information

Church Wardens

All Saints Church Ashover: Nev Stanley 01246 826980  
Holy Trinity Brackenfield: Nigel Rogers 01773 836137  
St Mark's Church Handley: Fran Roberts 01246 865389  
Christ Church Wessington: Rita Buckley 01773 835 633

[www.amberchurches.org](http://www.amberchurches.org)  
[info@amberchurches.org](mailto:info@amberchurches.org)

## A Message from the Ministry

Some years ago, Marjorie and I spent some time living in the Taize Community in France as a part of our three month sabbatical.



The community draws people from all over the world, to worship together in an environment wider than their own different traditions. Its music has enriched Christians from many countries. It has been, and is, a place where many people have begun to find themselves, and also begun to find God. Or should that be the other way round? Really, I believe the two go together.

Brother Roger, the founder and leader of the community, began it during the Second World War as a centre for reconciliation. Discussing the many thousands of visitors each year, he was once asked, "What do you wish, above all, that they take back with them?"

He answered, "That they continue searching throughout their lives."

It's a wise comment. Sometimes, when we believe we've "found" God, we think the search is over. We think we've grasped the truth, and have all we need to know. We've arrived. Indeed we have — but we've arrived at the starting point of our journey, not at the destination.

The story of the pearl, from Matthew 14 vv 44-46, tells us that the kingdom is more valuable than anything we possess. But it's a mistake to think that, once we're part of the kingdom, we can sit back and admire it. We don't possess it, it possesses us.

The time when we begin to grasp the reality of God-with-us, in Jesus, is a beginning, not an ending. It's the beginning of an exploration that takes us ever further into God, ever deeper into ourselves.

The truth, which is God, and our relationship with him, is too rich to measure, too big to encompass, too profound to fathom. Indeed, when the search is over, it's only just begun.

"Lord, living with you may not be comfortable, but the adventure, to say the least, is always interesting"

*Alan Telford*

## Ashover Annual Church Meeting

Come together to elect new wardens, PCC members, to hear reports and to think about the future.

**Tuesday 22nd June at 7.00 pm**  
**Ashover Bassett Rooms**

## Ashover Church Home Group

In June the group will meet outdoors, (assuming good weather) at times yet to be decided.

**Thursday 10th June**

Outdoor event: "On fire with the Spirit" - Creative, experiential fellowship and prayer using fire and wind to illustrate the power of the Holy Spirit within us.

**Thursday 24th June**

**Walk, followed by fish and chips** from Wessington.

For more information, please contact Jonathan Warner (jonathan.warner@questu.ca or phone 591448).

## Ashover Cleans Up

Jane Hardwick organized a Litterpick around Ashover on Saturday 22nd May to coincide with the *Surfers for Sewage* campaign "Million Mile Clean".



Around 30 people took part collecting 34 bags of rubbish and covering around 60 miles around the parish.

The Keep Britain Tidy charity (yes, it does still exist!) has designated the fortnight from 28th May to 13th June as **The Great British Spring Clean** and they invite schools, local authorities and individuals to step up to the mark and join in their intention to clean up a million miles around Britain. You can go to their



website to pledge your support and list the area you have cleaned up.

Ashover Parish Council is supporting a continuation of this and litter picking tools are available from John Bown, the Lengthsman for the parish.

## Churchyard Wildlife Survey

**Churches Count on Nature** is a citizen-science event running from 5th to 13th June and covering churchyards across England and Wales. People are invited to visit their local churchyard and make a note of the animals, birds, insects, or fungi they find there. The data will then be collated on the National Biodiversity Network - [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)

It is being jointly run by the conservation charities Caring for God's Acre, A Rocha UK, the Church of England, and the Church in Wales.

Local schools and local wildlife groups are encouraged to get involved. There is much information for schools and others on-line including identification guides to help name that flower or insect you are doubtful about. See the resources section of [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk) It is thought church land, often uniquely unploughed and undeveloped, could be a habitat for precious and endangered plants and other wildlife. It is even said that churchyards could form a new National Park.

It is so important to monitor our environment to preserve it for the future and for the enjoyment of all.

