

The Ashcroft Scene

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Watch our weekly service online YouTube or via the online Church link at www.ashcroftchurch.org.uk



OCTOBER 2026

FROM THE EDITORS:

Welcome to this month's Ashcroft Scene. Please let Glynnis have any articles by Friday 23rd October for the November issue.



Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in,
ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

Henry Alford 1844

On All Saints Day, **1st November**, at our next **Congregational Meeting** immediately after the service, we will have an open discussion about Ashcroft's outreach and mission hopes for the future. Please stay after the service if you can.

Every blessing,

Andy, Chair of Trustees.

October services

4th October Leo Guttridge

11th October Andrew Maxwell

18th October Robert Riddell HC

25th October Mike Dearsley

Lectionary Readings for October

Sunday 4 October – Ord 27 Exodus 20 v 1 - 4, 7 - 9, 12 - 20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3 v 4b - 14; Matthew 21 v 33 - 46

Sunday 11 October – Ord 28 Exodus 32 v 1 - 14; Psalm 106 v 1 - 6, 19 - 23; Philippians 4 v 1 - 9; Matthew 22 v 1 - 14

Sunday 18 October – Ord 29 Exodus 33 v 12 - 23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1 v 1 - 10; Matthew 22 v 15 - 22

Sunday 25 October – Ord 30 Deuteronomy 34 v 1 - 12; Psalm 90 v 1 - 6, 13 - 17; 1 Thessalonians 2 v 1 - 8; Matthew 22 v 34 - 46



REGULAR EVENTS & REMINDERS

Bible Study:

Second and fourth Thursdays. Contact David Cracknell for more information.

All We Can: Contact Ros Burnip

Ashcroft Book Group:

New members always welcome. Please contact Glynis Cracknell for more details.

Ashcroft Ladies:

Tuesdays at 3.15pm in the Ashcroft Room. £3 per session. Term time only.

Work Club: Mondays from 9am to 11am @ St Lawrences, Chesterton and Tuesdays from 12noon to 2pm @ Ashcroft.

Squeals on Wheels:

Tuesday 10.00-11.30am, term time only

Prayer and Mission Meeting: 1st and 3rd Thursdays 10.30—11.30 am.

"Welcome space" lunches. Tuesday 12.00- 1.30 We would 'welcome' more volunteers to help with Welcome Spaces lunches . If you could help even just occasionally, or would like more details, contact Kate Jopp. Thank you.

Friday Coffee 10—12noon. All welcome to join us in the Church for coffee and biscuits.

Mission Report:

In my last report I noted that we were thinking of 'different' ways of giving support to Kingfishers – the Action for Children project which we are assisting this year. After discussion with Vicky and Lisa (the managers who visited us in July) we plan to hold a 'Fun & Craft' afternoon for the residents on December 5th. The young people (if they wish) will first visit the Christmas Market with their support workers and then come to Ashcroft at 2.30p.m. for a welcome and an afternoon of crafts and games. This will be followed by pizzas and ice cream before they depart.

Nearer the time – if you feel you could help with the cost of the pizzas or ice creams and the toppings/filling please let Anna Colledge know. Also if you have scraps of seasonal material or spare wool (white/brown/red/green especially) – then let me know ..(Ros Burnip).

As we approach Christmas (which will soon be in August if we go by the retail outlets!!!)

Don't forget the All We Can the Methodist section which support overseas partners has 'special gifts' which can assist in so many ways those who need just a bit extra to get going on their local projects. See All We Can website for details or ask Ros for a catalogue.



Ros and Mike

Songs from Heaven

The above is the title of an article in the September edition of a magazine called 'The Oldie! Of course I do not take it!!! However, my husband receives it each month and he drew my attention to the above article by Sarah Sands who recently took up the job as CEO of Hymns Ancient & Modern. It set me thinking ...

Sarah notes that hymns are in many ways our national songs: they unite people and the span denominations, class and communities. Ask many from the older generations for their favourite hymn and they will immediately say but even though many are more rousing than our national anthem they are disappearing from childhood memory. You only need to be in a church wedding or funeral to see how many under 50s are not singing as they do not know the hymns . Fewer and fewer schools, even Church schools teach traditional hymns going instead for modern jingles. She asks how this trend can be reversed? In her case she gives her younger relatives personalised hymn books to treasure. Maybe CTiC should push hymns too? I do not have the answer merely pose the question to and I can give anyone who would like it a copy of the article.

Ros

Ashcroft ladies

Oct 6th – A year in Bloom -Kate Peake

Oct 13th— From Journalism to John

Wesley –Mandy Briggs

Oct 20th/ 27th –HALF TERM

Cirencester Salvation Army warmly invite you to join us for **Reflect and Remember** Wednesday 14th October 7:00pm A safe place to pause and remember all babies lost at any stage of pregnancy or infancy Listen to music and readings, light a candle and remember

Refreshments provided The Salvation Army Hall, Thomas Street, Cirencester. GL72AX

Ashcroft book group The next meeting is Monday 19 October 10.30 a.m. When we will be discussing, "A Winter Grave" Peter May. 30 November 10.30 a.m. The book is, "City of Vengeance " D.V.Bishop. Contact Glynis Cracknell for more details.



Explore the letter to the Romans

Join *The Romans Course* at Ashcroft Church – open to all:

Date: Starting Thursday 10th September 3 pm

“Romans is the fullest, plainest, and grandest statement of the Gospel in the New Testament. Its message is still as relevant and revolutionary as when it was first written.”

John Stott

Other information:

The Romans Course is an accessible introduction to the Letter to the Romans, using videos set against the backdrop of Rome. It will run over 6 fortnightly sessions through the autumn, followed by 4 sessions coming in the new year.

Contacts: David Cracknell & Trevor Wills



biblesociety.org.uk

I would like to thank all the members of the Ashcroft congregation for their kind thoughts and support during this period of my ill health and distress that Skip and I have been experiencing. The many cards and flowers received are so appreciated and encouraging. Thank you to you all.

Anne and Skip



Pastoral Report

It was with great sadness that we heard about the recent sudden death of Varsha (the neighbour of Sue and Mike), who has been a regular attendee at Church over the last year. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends. As always, we remember members in hospital, waiting for surgery, struggling with health and mobility issues, and those caring and supporting a loved one.

We are delighted to hear that Anne Green has been transferred to Cirencester hospital- where she is much nearer to home. She is on Room 5 Coln Ward, press bell for entry. Lifts for Ron would be appreciated

We will be holding our annual service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving at Ashcroft, led by Rev. Wendy Tucker at 3pm on 15th November - all welcome. Contact Wendy or Glynis for more details.

If you need someone to talk to, contact Rev. Wendy, Glynis C or Anna



The Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire Autumn Meeting September 2026

ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY

The Circuit Assembly met and reflected on the life and service of Islay Roberts and Rev'd Peter Muff, observing a moment of silence in their memory. The Assembly also expressed appreciation and support through messages of thanks and encouragement to the circuit community.

LEADERSHIP & SAFEGUARDING The Assembly received and accepted reports from the Superintendents and Portfolio Holders. Members were updated on ministerial stationing and the Circuit Appointments Register, with encouragement given for people to consider supporting vacant Circuit roles. A safeguarding update confirmed that the annual review of safeguarding records has been completed. The Circuit continues to work closely with the Bristol District Safeguarding Team to ensure compliance and maintain best practice.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION The Assembly thanked Suz Jones for her dedicated leadership in Social and Climate Justice. Going forward, responsibility for this work will be shared by Revd's Rachel Leather and John Kime. A key priority for the Circuit is to support every church in working towards Bronze Eco Church status within the next eighteen months. Churches will be contacted with guidance and support to help them achieve this goal. Plans were announced for a programme of Social and Climate Justice open meetings featuring discussion, reflection and guest speakers. In addition, Stonehouse Methodist Church will host an Eco Church Sharing Afternoon, providing opportunities to explore practical responses to climate and environmental challenges.

MISSION & OUTREACH Deacon Sue Peat shared updates on her ministry within Gloucester city centre and with the university community. Her work continues to focus on creating welcoming and inclusive spaces, helping to break down barriers that may prevent people from engaging with church life.

SABBATICAL The Assembly enjoyed a presentation reflecting on the recent sabbatical undertaken by Revd Rachel Leather. Members gave thanks for the opportunities these periods of study, reflection and renewal have provided, and looked forward to the ways in which this learning will benefit the Circuit in the future

MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS AND PERSONNEL Following the stationing review process, invitations will be extended for further appointments to Rev'd Michelle Ireland and Rev'd John McNeill for five years from September 2027, and to Deacon Sue Peat for two years from September 2027. The Assembly also agreed that the Circuit Executive should oversee forthcoming reviews of lay worker posts due to end in 2027, with recommendations to be reported back at a future meeting.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND LEARNING Encouraging reports were received regarding children and youth work across the Circuit, particularly in the Forest of Dean and Churchdown areas. Preparations are underway for next year's 3Generate event, with financial support continuing from both District and Circuit funds. The Assembly celebrated and welcomed Andy Skitt and Niall Briggs as fully accredited Local Preachers, and Shaun Hunter as he begins Worship Leader training. Plans were announced for a new Circuit Prayer Group which will meet quarterly beginning in November. The group will provide opportunities to pray for personal concerns, local churches and the wider work of the Circuit. Members also heard from Revd Simon Topping about his new District role in Faith Rooted Community Organising, which focuses on building relationships within local communities and working collaboratively for positive change.

PROPERTY & FINANCE A new District Property Group has been established to review manses across the District and ensure they continue to meet Methodist standards. The Circuit's manses were reported to be in good condition thanks to ongoing maintenance and careful management. The Assembly received and approved the 2025/26 Circuit Accounts and noted the latest five-year financial projections. Churches were reminded of the process for submitting their annual accounts. Members were also encouraged to consider joining the Finance Support Group, particularly as Pete Watt prepares to conclude his service as Circuit Treasurer after the coming year.

FUTURE MEETINGS Winter: 3pm, 17 January 2027 – Zoom Spring: 3pm, 14 March – Cirencester Ashcroft Summer: 3pm, 13 June – Wotton under Edge



HARVEST AT ASHCROFT



Eco church

We have been looking at our carbon footprint in the church and using the 360 degrees carbon net zero website to assist with this. During the harvest lunch everyone kindly filled out a survey about how they come to church. It had everyone thinking about distances and energy use. I will report back on our findings.

After a wonderful service led by Wendy when we were visually invited to consider 4 tables which symbolised the abundance of foods we enjoy from this country, from other countries, then the stark contrast of a bare table where nature has been destroyed or people are unable to access the products we take for granted and then the Communion table from where the bread and grape juice are shared we sat together, congregation and friends, about 45 in number, to share a delicious meal. Our thanks to all who made this possible.

Foodbank

Our harvest gifts this year were collected to give to the Foodbank. We were given a list beforehand of what items were most needed and a good quantity of tins, packets and household cleaning items were gathered up after the service and delivered to them. Thank you to all who donated and Chris for taking them.

Social Justice Action Group

The Social Justice Action Group will meet again on Thursday 29th October at 10:30 am at the church. All are welcome.



Trevor Wills

CTiC

Churches Together in Cirencester from the start of September have a new chair and administrator - both are from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Bibles that were given to children as they left Primary Schools in the town were very well received and we will be doing the same again next year - thank you to all contributors.

We have also been planning ahead - Christmas and beyond already!

We have a date in the diary for our CTiC **carol singing** in Catalpa Square (outside M&S) on **Saturday 12th Dec** starting at noon for an hour. Please put this date in your diaries especially as that season can become very booked up and it would be great to have a good representation from Ashcroft.

We will keep you informed about other joint events nearer the time - but would like to flag up two things now...

1). We are trying to organise a joint Bible Study group in Cirencester during Lent. Again this will only happen if people are prepared to participate - so please let Sue Callard or me know if you might be interested.

2). World Day of Prayer - **Friday 5th March.**

Ashcroft are taking the lead, with Ros B and hopefully many more being involved - please pencil this into your diaries.

Mike Dearsley and Sue Callard.