

2013 NEWS ARCHIVE – Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

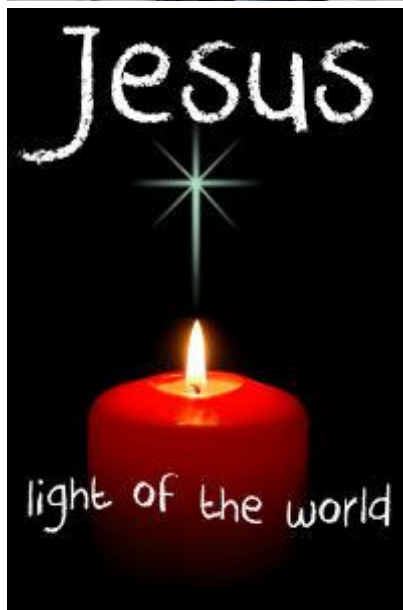
Please note that these archives were taken from our old website, so links to additional material no longer work.



The Revd Ruth Gee, President of the Methodist Conference, said: “**Nelson Mandela** is regarded as one of the fathers of Africa. His persistent way of standing up for justice has inspired Africans and the world at large. As a leader, one of his most impressive attributes was his emphasis on peace and reconciliation in the post-apartheid regime. [...more](#))



Noel Richards is one of our best modern hymn writers ('All heaven declares', 'My lips shall praise you' and many more). On **Friday 31st January 2014** he and his wife Tricia will be giving a concert in our church. Tickets are £5 (children free) and can be obtained from the church office (01296) 426526. [\(...more\)](#)



Our 2013 Christmas services are:
TOY SERVICE Sunday 8th December at 10.30am (Bring a toy to be distributed to disadvantaged children)
CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE Sunday 22nd December at 5pm followed by mince pies in the hall. This service tells the story of the Nativity with readings from the bible, traditional carols led by an augmented Choir and a tableau presented by children of the Junior Church.
CHRISTINGLE SERVICE Christmas Eve at 4pm (Popular with families and children)
MIDNIGHT COMMUNION Christmas Eve at 11.30pm with Holy Communion open to all
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Christmas Day at 10am. A short service for all the family.



Cards for Good Causes can once again be bought from a display in the church up to Wednesday 18th December. The shop, staffed by up to 100 volunteers and managers is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Charities receive at least 70p in every pound from their card sales. At least 25 charities are on display including some local ones. [\(...more\)](#)



Rev. Helen Kirk will be the new **Superintendent Minister and Minister of Aylesbury Methodist Church** from next September when Rev. David Jenkins retires. In the Methodist stationing process, Helen had been matched with our church and so together with husband Andrew and son Sam (elder son Joel is at university), visited the church and circuit on November 16th for a mutual 'getting to know you' exercise. After being shown round the church and meeting representatives from Aylesbury and the circuit churches, the circuit invitation committee enthusiastically confirmed the match.

From next September, our Minister Rev. Keith Edwards will have pastoral responsibility for David's present churches.



MRDF has launched an emergency appeal in response to the devastating impact of **Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines**. With over 10,000 feared dead and millions made homeless, we are having **retiring collections after the next two Sunday services** (November 17th and 24th). UK taxpayers are urged to gift aid their donations, adding 25p to every £1 given. Urgent humanitarian help is needed to provide food, water, medicines, sanitation, hygiene kits and shelter. ...more)



This Christmas, if you want something different for that special person, why not **give an extraordinary gift** from MRDF. This Methodist Relief and Development Fund makes small miracles possible for people living in the world's poorest communities.

Christmas themed gifts you can buy include Mother and Child, Train a carpenter, Shepherd start-up and a Wise gift. prices of these examples range from £14 to £50 and there are lots more to choose from. For more details, browse their website by [clicking here](#). Give a different gift and make a real difference.



Steve Kemp, seen here sprouting his new growth is taking part in **Movember**. This world-wide charity is responsible for the sprouting of millions of moustaches during November each year to raise vital funds and awareness for prostate and testicular cancer and mental health. Since it's humble beginnings in Australia in 2003, the charity has grown along with the moustaches, raising £92million in 2012.

Steve's has taken up the challenge to grow a moustache thereby changing his appearance and the face of men's health. You can help him by donating on line at <http://mobro.co/smegbadger> or by sponsoring him at church.



Pat (Tricia) Cheshire on the far right of the picture travelled from Canada for the trip to Daun for the 50th anniversary of the youth exchange. Pat is pictured with her sister Chris, Fran Parker and one of the 15 German hosts on the Moselle boat day. Note the colourful 50th scarves sported by most of the party. For Roger Lancaster's **photo gallery** [click here](#).



The Harvest service on Sunday 13th of October was again focused on much needed gifts in kind for the homeless supported by London's **Whitechapel Mission**. It was followed by a Missions' soup lunch. For more Whitechapel information click [here](#).

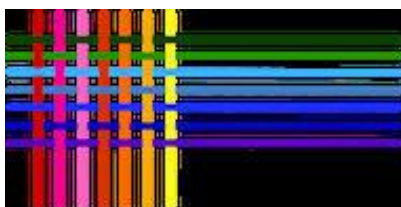


A commemorative booklet to mark the 50th anniversary of our youth exchange with the sports club T.u.S. 05 Daun was given to the 150 people celebrating the event in the Daun town hall on 5th October. It has contributions from 30 past exchange members, hosts, leaders and the local great and the good. Contributions cover all five decades of the exchange.

Half of the book was translated by our own team of linguists, whilst the remaining half was translated by computer programme, providing an already appreciated comedy element. The booklet is a mix of congratulations, stories, reflections and history. Copies are available from the church porch. It can also be read on or downloaded from [this website](#).



The Big Event to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of our German youth exchange was a mix of speeches, superb meal, entertainment, memorabilia exhibition and the renewal of long friendships as well as the start of new ones. 34 people from Aylesbury made the trip and also enjoyed a boat trip on the Moselle, a wine taste and meal and time with our very hospitable German hosts and friends. It was a worthy celebration!



Aylesbury's Inter Faith Group, "Learning Together and Living in Harmony" will meet 6-7 pm at our church on Monday 30 September, followed by a meeting from 7-9.30 pm of the **Faithweavers** AGM. Both gatherings are to plan together for the future of Inter Faith relationships in the town and everyone is welcome.



The 50th Anniversary of our youth exchange with our German partner sports club T.u.S. 05 Daun was celebrated when 18 youngsters from Daun shared a 12 day programme with their Aylesbury hosts this July - August. A coach of past exchange students, host parents and leaders is continuing the celebration in Daun from October 2nd - 6th. ([...more](#))



Step Forward is written by Mark Wakelin, the 2012 President of the Methodist Conference. The material explores the use of small groups as a way of encouraging people in their journey of discipleship and vocation in their own local setting.

The aim of the material is to help people feel more confident and challenged in their personal life, in their commitment to each other and in developing their own discipleship, ministry and mission.

Sessions on **Praying will be led by Rev. David Jenkins at Stoke Mandeville at 7.30pm on the following Wednesdays:** September 25th, October 2nd, 9th and 16th.

Rev. Irena Byron will lead the following sessions at Stewkley Methodist Church, starting at 7.30pm:

Reading the Bible - Thursday 26th September

Worshipping God - Thursday 7th November

All the meetings are open to all members of the Circuit and the public. Directions to Stoke Mandeville and Stewkley can be found on the Circuit website: [Click here](#).

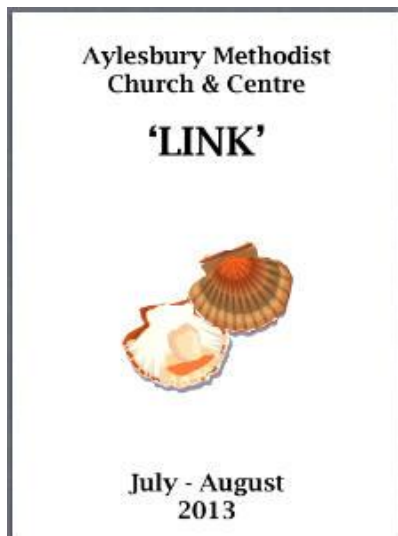


Our neighbours at The Aylesbury Mosque are keen to open their doors to the community and offer a cordial invitation to attend their open day and Islamic exhibition on **26th August 2013 from 3-6pm.**

They comment that, "Sadly there are so many myths and misunderstandings which have developed about Islamic teachings and practises. We wish to dispel any myths and to answer your questions and queries. We aim to provide a thorough insight in to the working of the Mosque and the practises of local Muslims. We hope that by opening our doors and bringing the community together under one roof we can help to foster greater mutual respect and understanding between the diverse communities that we have in and around Aylesbury." ([...more](#))



Our 1st Aylesbury Boys' Brigade celebrated their 40th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday 29th and 30th June. Captain Margaret Miskin has been inundated with cards and emails from people saying how much they enjoyed the event. ([...more](#))



The latest Link magazine is now available from the church porch and coffee bar or from pastoral visitors. In seeking additional contributions, Editor Jenny Torpey feels that what we think and feel is likely to be of interest to others, even though we might not think so. "This month we have an article by Kevin describing a Sunday in his life and yet another of the lovely poems that Babs writes to share with us. We also have reports on concerts, services and church events. Not everyone is able to attend all events associated with our church, so a few paragraphs (or pages) about one you've attended would be great!" writes Jenny. Our website now keeps three copies of Link - current, last and previous editions, all in glorious colour.



Superintendent Minister Rev. David Jenkins (left) is retiring in August 2014. As a result of this week's Circuit Consultation, there will be some changes to ministerial staffing in September 2014. The Superintendent Minister will then be based at Aylesbury. Rev. Keith Edwards will become the Minister of Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon, Whitchurch and Wingrave. Keith will also retain his valued role as Circuit Mission Enabler with contacts relating to Berryfields, Buckingham Park, Aylesbury Town Chaplaincy and Aylesbury Churches Network. For more details of the Circuit Consultation at Cheddington, [click here](#).

**Memorial service
for
Margaret Heafford**

Margaret Heafford, much loved wife of our former Superintendent Minister Rev. Barrie Heafford, passed away peacefully at home on Monday 24th June. A Thanksgiving Service for Margaret's life was held at Buckingham Street on Monday 8th July at 2pm.

Message from Barrie:

I wish to express my gratitude for all the cards, prayers and the presence of so many folk at the Service of Thanksgiving for Margarets life.

Over £730 has been sent to Macmillan and the local Hospice,
Barrie

Our thoughts and prayers are with Barrie, Nick, Andrew, Adrian and their respective families.



Christian Aid Week this week is 12 - 18th May. Several members of the church will be involved in house-to-house street collections and they were commissioned in a prayer at the Sunday morning service led by David Neville. last year, Christian Aid week raised over £12m. This money is used to support some of the poorest communities around the world to create their own solutions to poverty. 13p in every £1 was spent to raise the next £1 and 85p in every £1 was spent on charitable giving. For more information see www.christianaid.org.uk.



Karibuni Trust will benefit from a concert by **The Wingrave Singers** in our church on Saturday evening June 22nd, starting at 7.30pm.

The concert is in memory of the late Rev. Bill Murphy and will help the many Kenyan projects for 'street children' Bill was so passionate about. **Tickets (£5)** are obtainable from the Karibuni Trust Office (01296 681226) or from Derrick Matthews (01296 488076).



Derrick Matthews (left) has compiled a service of **Great World Hymns**, with great tunes for a great sing at the **2013 Songs of Praise** on Sunday July 14th from 6pm.

Congregational hymn singing led by an augmented Circuit Choir will include 'How great thou art, He's got the whole world in his hand, We are marching, Now thank we all our God, To God be the glory, All creatures of our God and King, ...and many more.



Heather Reid has now started her new role as the part-time Office Co-ordinator. Working flexible hours heather sees her key role as having someone around each day that can show people round the premises when requested and to do the bookings. The role is closely linked to our Outreach which is why Heather will report to our Outreach Co-ordinator Michele Challenger. Michele, along with Jennie Torpey and Pauline and Tony Noble and Dave Rogers have been the core office team supported by a host of other volunteers that have kept the increasingly busy office operating since the centre's reopening. It was felt that we now need some paid continuity which Heather will provide, saying "It's an extension of the volunteer work I was doing to give something back to the church."



The Easter Circuit Choral Service will be held on Sunday 14th April at 6pm.

Malcolm Williamson's *Procession of Palms* will be sung by the Circuit choir, which, as the name implies, consists of people from around our circuit and with some guests from other church choirs.

The service marks the end of our Easter celebrations. At the Easter 10.30am morning service, the congregation once again dressed the bare cross made from our Christmas tree, with spring flowers. The photograph shows the result.

Easter offering envelopes distributed on Palm Sunday are an annual collection organised by the women of the Methodist church, first by Women's Work then by Women's Network and now by the current women's movement Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB). Gifts given to EO are for the work of the World Church and forms almost the largest part of that department's income. By giving to EO you will be helping to eradicate two of the scourges of the modern world: trafficking for the sex trade and child domestic slavery. Ruth Watkins has more details



The **Mothering Sunday** and Brigades' Parade Family Service is on 10th March. Everyone is welcome to this and all our Easter services which are:

Sunday 24th March - **Palm Sunday** 10.30am

Thursday 28th March - **Maundy Thursday** 7.30pm

Friday 29th March - **Good Friday** 10am

Sunday 31st March - Early **communion** 8.30am

Sunday 31st March - Full **Easter Breakfast** 9am

Sunday 31st March - **Easter Day** all age service 10.30am

Sunday 14th April - Circuit **Choral Service** 6pm.

Please call the church office to book tickets for the cooked Easter Breakfast.



The 50th anniversary of our German youth exchange with the T.u.S. 05 sports club will take place in Daun from 2nd - 6th October 2013.

Anyone who has been involved in the exchange as either a participant, host parent or leader is warmly invited to come to Daun for this special celebration.

A 50 seater coach has been booked to take us from church to Daun and back. To **register your interest** and to receive a booking form please give Marion and Peter Green your contact details. They are on Tel. 01296 424653 and email peterb.green@ntlworld.com.

For the outline programme and booking form, see our Daun page by clicking [here](#).



27 present and former youth exchange leaders from this church and the German sports club in Daun met in Berlin for four days as guests of the Daun MP Dr Edmund Geisen. He is seen here receiving a thank you book on Aylesbury from Gill Marks. During the trip which included visits to the German Reichstag and Potsdam, final details were agreed for the 50th anniversary celebrations in Daun in October (...more)



Aylesbury Boys' Brigade's 40th Anniversary will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 29th and 30th June 2013.

On **Saturday 29th June** from 4.00pm till 6.00pm: there will be a display of bygone photos and memorabilia marking 40 years of 1st Aylesbury Boys' Brigade and a buffet tea. At 6.15pm we will adjourn to the church for a display of years gone by. On **Sunday 30th June**, Mr Arthur Sara, the BB chaplain is leading this morning's service to commemorate our 40 years as a company. Captain Margaret Miskin needs help in contacting people who have been involved with the BB in the past and for photos and memorabilia. (...more)



Stephen Disley, the outstanding virtuoso organist based at Southwark cathedral will present our annual organ concert this year on Wednesday 8th May at 7.30pm. Stephen has an impressive track record having played at the Royal Albert Hall, Westminster Abbey, Westminster Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral and The Royal Festival Hall. Good acoustics and a double video display ensures that everyone can hear and see comfortably. Tickets are £12 on the night (students £6) or half price if bought in advance. (...more)

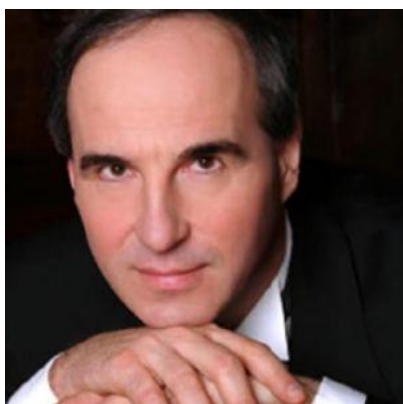


The Purlings are back! Our former Minister Rev. David Purling, seen sharing a joke with our present Minister's wife Dawn Edwards at the end of morning worship he conducted on 17th March is over here again with his wife Judith. Welcomed by Keith Edwards, the Purlings shared a faith lunch with about 100 members of their former flock after morning worship. David and Judith have a hectic schedule of visits and engagements during their stay before flying back to Adelaide, South Australia.



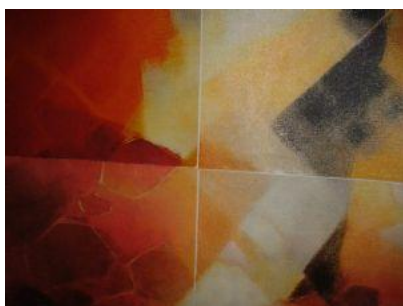
Link magazine will now be published on the website **in colour**. As with the weekly notices, it will also be possible in the future to see the current and two previous editions. The March - April edition contains the news of our minister's planned sabbatical in Australia and hymns, thoughts and prayers related to Easter and our various Easter services.

There is a comprehensive list of dates for diaries, including a Caribbean evening, the annual organ concert and a sponsored walk for Karibuni as well as the usual J team pages. The church treasurer suggests we review our giving, whilst both the Boys Brigade and youth exchange want names of people involved in the past.



Alexander Ardakov, the virtuoso Russian Concert pianist performed a fantastic inaugural programme on our Yamaha Grand Piano. The large audience were appreciative of the fine piano, excellent acoustics and highly accomplished playing, enhanced by the video projection that enabled everyone to see the keyboard.

After clearing all expenses, the concert made a profit of **£743.81** which has been paid into the church's property fund. Organiser Derrick Matthews paid special tribute to the army of volunteers who helped in a variety of ways.



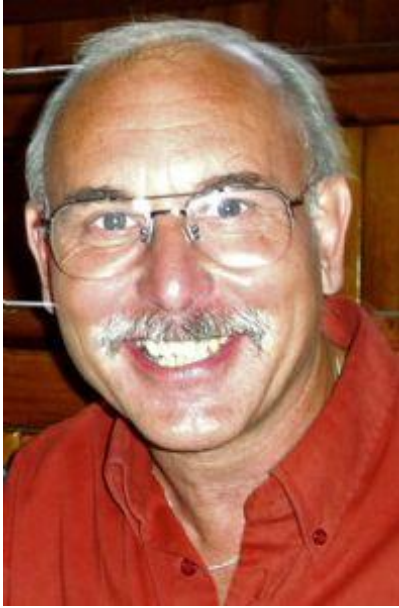
The Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday **1st March** this year. Interdenominational, there are two services planned for Aylesbury. Learn about the Women of France, at the 1.30pm service at the Salvation Army, Meadow Way (Speaker: Col. Olive Dawes). A 7.30pm service at Our lady of Lourdes, Cambourne Avenue, Bedgrove has the theme, 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me', and the speaker is Pamela Baker. For me details [email](#) Carol Rogers.



Alexander Ardakov, the outstanding Russian concert pianist will give the inaugural recital on our recently acquired Yamaha grand piano on **Wednesday, 27th February at 7.30pm**. A graduate of the Moscow Conservatoire and prize-winner of the Viotti International Music Competition in Italy, Alexander has promised an exciting programme featuring music by **Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Bach-Busoni, Chopin and Rachmaninov**. Entrance on the evening is **£12 but £10 if booked in advance** (students half price). **Tickets** are available from the Church Office on weekday mornings, the coffee bar on Saturday morning, direct from Derrick Matthews (01296 488076) or via this order form ([click here](#)).



The Banner Group's latest two creations were displayed in church in January. They were, 'Jesus said pray with me' and 'Jesus said, walk with me.' With prayer being a major theme for the church this year, they were particularly apt. The group's talents grace the walls of our church and as has been reported here in the past their skills have also been used in the creation of several banners over the years for the ecumenical Women's World Day of Prayer. The group have decided to have a short rest, due to holidays and other commitments. The intention is to finish off what they are presently working on and then meet in each others homes and try different crafts. However, the group are still open for requests for new banners and anyone interested should contact Brenda Horne on 01296 428580. One such potential commission being investigated is one or possibly two banners to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the **German youth exchange**. Past exchange leaders are being contacted for their thoughts and input on desirability, shape, size and design content. If **you** have thoughts on such a banner, please contact Peter Green on 01296 424653 or email him by clicking [here](#).



David Wilderspin is on a Mission! As Chair of our church's Methodist Missions Committee, he spoke during the Circuit's first Pilgrim's service. These services are intended to show visiting members of the Circuit exactly what each of our churches is about and the activities and outreach initiatives they have.

Methodist Missions charities both home and abroad benefit from the fund-raising activities of David's committee, including our own local charity - The Karibuni Trust. The congregation were invited to help Missions in a variety of ways, from prayer and support of fund-raising events to having a JMA collecting box or helping to cook an African or Caribbean meal. The latter was for the **Missions weekend of 27-28 April**, when two Mission Partners will lead workshops and Sunday worship. **Conceived by the late Rev Bill Murphy**, a successful weekend will be a fitting tribute to him.



Bethan Crawshaw's baptism took place with a live link via Skype to New Zealand. Church members Brad and Jane Crawshaw asked Alison, from New Zealand, to be one of the godparents to Bethan. As Alison now lives in New Zealand, her being present at the baptism was a problem. Jane has known Alison since they were children and felt that she was the right person to be a godparent to her daughter and so came up with the idea ([...more](#))



Jane Crawshaw has opened **Sunbeams**, a group for **mums, carers, babies and toddlers**.

They meet on **Mondays from 10.30am to 11.30am** in rooms 4 and 5 in the community centre attached to the church. Everyone is welcome to come along, bringing their prams and pushchairs upstairs in the lift. There will be refreshments and toys to occupy the little ones. For more information contact Jane ([email](#))