

2011 NEWS ARCHIVE – Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

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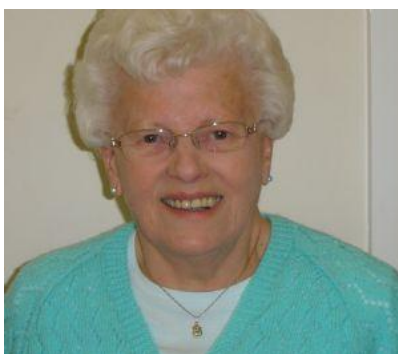
£21,200 was raised in the 'Cards for Good Causes' charity Christmas card shop, benefitting 37 national and local charities. Shop manager Cliff Darlington was delighted saying, "It was well worth the effort. I would like to give a big thank you to all the people who came and bought the cards and the 75 volunteers who came to work in the shop. We will be opening for our 25th year on 31st October 2012."



The Candlelit Christmas Carol Service has been **changed to 5pm this year**, with mince pies and teas in the hall from 4pm. Other services include the **Toy Service** on 11th December, when toys will once again go to the two Action for Children family units at Milton Keynes. The 4pm **Christingle Service** on Christmas Eve is at 4pm followed by a **Midnight Communion Service** at 11.30pm. On **Christmas morning** there will be a half hour family service at 10am. The main message with all of them is God's Christmas presence with us all. Everyone is invited to come and join us this Christmas.



Diane Thomas was received as a fully accredited Local Preacher at a Circuit service of celebration at Aylesbury on Sunday 11th December. She was well supported by family, friends and Circuit members. A letter from the President of the Methodist Conference and a new hymn book were presented to Diane by Local Preacher's Secretary David Neville in a service conducted by Superintendent Minister Rev. David Jenkins.



Doris Moore is retiring as a helper on the coffee bar after 23 years. Her fellow volunteers had a surprise lunch for her to mark the occasion. "It was a complete surprise." said Doris. "I was on my way to catch a bus!" She started in the coffee bar when she retired, initially as a holiday stand-in. Since then, Doris has been serving coffee to the regulars and others every other Thursday ever since. They and friends say "Thank you" for all you have done. The coffee bar is open every weekday, Monday to Saturday from 10am to noon.



A 40th anniversary party for the church's 1st Aylesbury Girls' Brigade was held on 15th October. "It was a fabulous celebration with over 100 people there to celebrate our achievements," said Brigade captain Linda Gill. Present at the event were the first three Captains - Marion Hancock (1971-1978), Valerie Sargeant (1978-1986 and Pauline Noble (1986-1988). As Pauline took over the youth club leadership, Sue Ingram became Captain from 1988-2007 but alas, passed away in 2009. ([...more](#))



CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

Over £20,000 is expected to be raised at the temporary multi-charity card shop in Buckingham Street's Aylesbury Methodist Church. Staffed by some 50 volunteers from charities and local churches, the shop is open from 2nd November to 20th December from 10am to 4pm, Mondays to Saturdays.

Cards from over 30 charities will be on display. Local ones set to benefit include Thames Valley Chiltern Air Ambulance, Florence Nightingale Hospice and the Aylesbury Society. Over 75% of the proceeds go to the charities less their production costs. Shop manager Cliff Darlington said, "This is our 24th year in Aylesbury and over that time we have raised over £250,000 for the participating charities. Given the economic climate I will be delighted if we can make another significant contribution to them this year." ([...more](#))



Beginning on Thursday October 13th we are running a 4 session discussion group on the theme of "Talking of God". This is part of the initiative developed from the Methodist report/book, "Time to talk of God" presented to the 2005 conference where we are encouraged to find ways to talk about our faith with others. "Talking of God" approaches this in the form of normal conversations and rooting it all in the gospels.

For dates and times [click here](#).



Beattie Francis obviously has green fingers. She volunteered to look after the flower beds at the front of the church and has transformed them with a year round show of colour. "I just do what I can" said Beattie, who despite her walking stick still manages her own allotment. Beattie typifies the numerous people who use their time and talents to beautify, clean, organise and run our church and community centre.



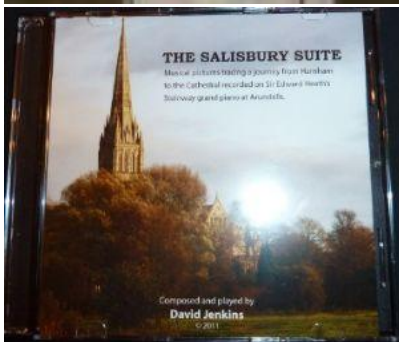
England cricketer Alastair Cook and his fiancée Alice Hunt, visited Aylesbury church member **Solomon Williamson** in the Hillside Nursing Home recently and presented him with a signed shirt. The visit followed a meeting between Alice and Peter Farmer at one of the Stewkley lunches. Solomon, who is totally bedridden but a keen follower of cricket, was delighted to meet Alastair and Alice and to hear particularly about Alastair's experiences in Test matches against the West Indies.



Winter Warmth, the ecumenical project for Aylesbury's homeless is to be run again this year for an extended period from December to March. Brad and Jane Crawshaw (pictured left) will co-ordinate our contributions to the programme after being they got involved year feeling that it was something they would like to help with. ([...more](#))



Rev. Jim Gorringe been offered a 'House for Duty' post at North Marston and he will be starting to fulfil this role with effect from 30th November 2011. He will be working within the Schorne Team of Anglican churches, with particular responsibility for Oving, Granborough and North Marston. He and Pamela will be moving from Stewkley, probably during school half term at the end of October, and Jim will continue his normal duties in the Circuit until he takes up this new role. We are delighted that we will have Jim and Pamela in ministry among us for a longer time than we had anticipated. We are also very pleased that the strength of ecumenical co-operation is so strong that a Methodist Minister has been appointed for this Anglican post. This also strengthens the shared nature of work at North Marston.



Super's CD. Earlier this year Rev. David Jenkins finished composing a set of 10 piano pieces called the Salisbury Suite which have been professionally recorded on Sir Edward Heath's Steinway grand piano at his former home, Arundells in Salisbury's Cathedral Close.

The CD is now available for sale at £7 from the Arundells web site <http://www.arundells.org/contact.html>. David will also be performing the music and details will be given on this website when they are finalised.



The Karibuni Trust are having an open day on Saturday 24th September at our Stoke Mandeville Church, Eskdale Road, HP22 5UJ from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

There is an open invitation to come along to see the progress they've made at our projects; and to meet other Karibuni supporters and volunteers. ([...more](#))



Farewell Concert. English and German members of this year's youth exchange showcased their varied talents in playing, singing, dancing and comedy in their traditional last night show in the church. Organised by exchange leaders Steve and Vivienne Kemp the concert for parents and friends ended with special thanks, fond farewells and a reluctance to leave in time for the 6am german coach departure the next morning.



German Youth Exchange. On 25th July Deputy Mayor of Aylesbury, Ranjula Takodra, gave a very warm welcome to a group of German youngsters aged between 11 and 20 from TuS Daun sports club and their English exchange partners who are members of the various youth groups from Aylesbury Methodist Church. This Exchange, believed to be one of the longest-running private exchanges in Europe, is now in its 48th year and visits alternate annually between Germany and England. ([...more](#))



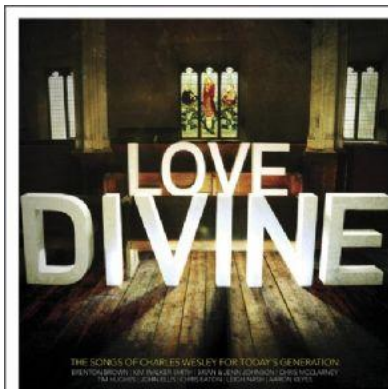
Action for Children have three events in June/ July to support the work of the charity. It's Vision is of a world where all children and young people have a sense of belonging and are loved and valued, a world where they can break through injustice, deprivation and inequality to fulfil their potential, shape their destiny and experience the joy of life. The events are:

Saturday 25th June: Collection at Tesco, Tring Road

Sunday 10th July: Action for Children Sunday

Saturday 16th July: Charity Stall in the Market square with a Tombola and Lucky Dip.

To support the local group with ideas or practical help, contact church members Jennie Torpey (581414) or Pauline Noble (484940).



Great English Hymns will be the theme of Songs of Praise 2011 to be held in the church at 6pm on 24th July. Hymns will include Love Divine, Amazing Grace, How sweet the name, Take my life, O for a thousand tongues and many, many more.

Congregational hymn singing will be presented by the Circuit Choir together with friends from other local choirs. The service offers great hymns, great tunes, a great sing and a warm welcome to all who come.



The Banner Group's work in beautifying the church was shown off to great effect this May. Banners they have made for recent years' Women's World Day of Prayer services were on display in the church. At the 22nd May morning worship, local WWDP Secretary Carol Rogers explained the movement's history, origin of the designs and the symbolism of the logo (seen left). The design comprises arrows converging from the four corners of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

The Banner Group meets on Tuesdays 2-4pm ([...more](#))



Aylesbury Minister's CD for former PM.

Last week, Reverend David Jenkins, Superintendent Minister of the 18 churches in the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit recorded a CD of his own compositions on Sir Edward Heath's piano in Cathedral Square, Salisbury. It is hoped that the recording will be sold to raise funds to help keep the former Prime Minister's home open as a museum. The trustees are currently minded to sell the house.

Having asked to play the piano on a visit there, Rev. Jenkins was asked back by staff to play again. Eventually, this and other visits inspired him to compose 10 pieces of music linked to areas in Salisbury frequented by Sir Ted. ([...more](#))



Philippians is the topic of a short Bible study course. It will be run at our Stoke Mandeville church by Superintendent Minister Rev. David Jenkins on the following Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm:

27 April - Chapter One: **BELONGING**

4 May - Chapter Two: **INSPIRATION**

18 May - Chapter Three: **CONFIDENCE**

8 June - Chapter Four: **JOY.**

Paul's letter to the Philippians consists of four chapters and each chapter forms the basis of an evening. Each session is complete in itself.

The purpose of the series is to help us in moving on in our relationship with God and with one another.



This year's organist in the 26th annual concert is the highly talented **Keith Hearnshaw**. He will be performing in the church on Wednesday **11th May 2011**. You can see and hear Keith on his website www.keithhearnshaw.co.uk. For more information, [click here](#).

if you want to be on the mailing list please contact the Church Organist and Music Director Derrick Matthews on 01296 488076 or [email him](#).



Christian Aid Week this year was 15 - 21 May and raised £1,333 in street collections by church members. Anneliese Varsey who organises collections by our church members is looking for more volunteers. Even one session can be well worthwhile and make a difference to a lot of lives. Last year Anneliese herself went out several nights and collected over £200.

There are two collecting options. Either leave envelopes through letterboxes and then call round to collect them or call once with a collecting can. To volunteer, please contact Anneliese on 01296334430. For more on Christian Aid [click here](#).



Ian Pearce, the very popular BBC 3 Counties radio presenter of the Sunday *Melting Pot* programme has died at the age of 56. Ian was a good friend of this church, featuring us in four of his programmes. They covered our initial fund-raising for the community centre project, the Flower Festival, a morning service and the official centre reopening. For more tributes to Ian [click here](#).



Impossible God. This is a one-man passion play written by Frank Topping, a Methodist Minister and performed by Mark Topping, (left) a professional actor, **at our church on Maundy Thursday, 21st April and at the Circuit's Thame church on Good Friday 22nd April, both at 7.30pm.**

Tickets: £5 each from the church on a Sunday morning or phone Pauline Noble on **01296 484940** (for Aylesbury performance) or Alison Orr (01844 358268) for Thame. Impossible God recreates the world of those who witnessed the passion. Palestine AD32 is brought to life as numerous characters relive their experience of the events. This inspiring one-man play challenges us to look again at Jesus of Nazareth and consider the meaning of his life, death and resurrection. ([More...](#))



Census Day is Sunday 27th March 2011. To help anyone who wants some assistance in completing their census we are manning a drop in help centre in the coffee bar the week after. So from **Monday 28th March to Friday 1st April**, volunteer church members will be available from **10am to 12 noon** to answer questions or help people complete their forms.

The census, completed every ten years provides valuable information to help government planning of services to meet the needs of the population profile it gives.

For further information see www.census.gov.uk.



Singers and congregation are wanted for a special BBC *Songs of Praise*. It is to celebrate the publication of the new Methodist hymn book, *Singing the Faith*. The rehearsal will be on Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at the **Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Street, Oxford OX1 2DH**. The recording will be the following Thursday 31st March and will be broadcast on June 26th. ([...more](#))



Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 4th March. This interdenominational event will make a chain of Christian Prayer across 180 countries around the world. In Aylesbury, the afternoon service at **2pm will be at Holy Trinity Church, Walton Street** (Speaker - Rev. Diana Glover) and the evening service at **7.30pm will be at Fairford Leys Church, Hampden Square** (Speaker - Rev. Wendy Preston). ([Click for other WWDP services](#))

Everyone (not just women) is welcome at these services which this year have been prepared by the Christian women of Chile. ([...more](#)).



This is how I pray. People of different faiths will describe what prayer means to them on **Saturday 26th March** at the Oculus, the Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury.

Speakers are:

Kay Manucheri (Baha'i Faith), Jacqueline Russell (Christianity), Syed Ali Jawad (Islam) and Baljeet Wadhwa (Sikhism).

Registration is at 9.30am with an approximate finish of 1pm. Refreshments and lunch are provided (free ticket on registration). The event is organised by Learning Together, Living in Harmony in conjunction with Aylesbury Interfaith Forum. There will be a question and answer session with panellists of further faiths. For more information see www.aylesburyinterfaith.org. and click [here for poster](#).



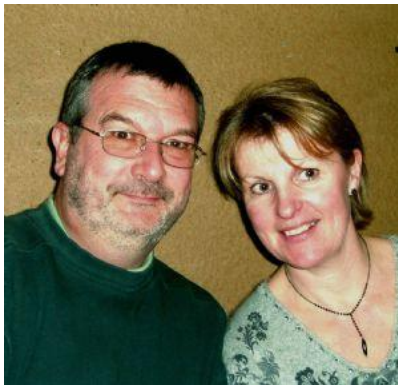
A Grand Sale! After over 50 years of sterling service our late 19th century Brinsmead grand piano can no longer meet the exacting standards of concert pianists. So it is being replaced with a newer instrument that will enable us to have more charity-supporting musical events of the highest order. The existing piano would be ideal for a church, hall or large room for general accompaniment and social use. It has been sold to Delacour Pianos in Dorset who are committed to restoring Brinsmead and other traditional makes. There details can be found on the [internet](#). ([...more](#))



Amnesty International. Amnesty and Aylesbury church member Anneliese Varsey (left) told the congregation of the local links to the charity. Peter Benenson who lived in Brill and attended St Joseph's RC church founded the organisation fifty years ago in 1961.

The charity stands up for humans wherever justice, freedom and truth are denied. There is an annual greetings card campaign in January. members of the church and public can send cards of support to a variety of prisoners across the globe, whose case is explained by Amnesty. More information can be seen on their website:

www.amnesty.org.uk.



SOS New programme. Derek and Lyn Bernstone (left) have the lates programme for the SOS group (Sometimes on Saturdays). Their monthly, mainly social, meetings in houses include Tapas Time, and ABBA evening, Chinese, blind cheese and wine and starters and puds evenings as well as a Wii, boys and girls and fireworks event. In addition to their Christmas meal, they also prepare their big Easter breakfast for members of the congregation. All ages are welcomed at their events.

[\(Click for full details and dates\)](#)



New Year Gift. At the annual Covenant service on January 2nd, Aylesbury's minister Rev. Keith Edwards illustrated his sermon with a **gift of a brand new pencil** for each member of the congregation. He used this to illustrate some similarities and differences between a pencil and a Christian ([click for brief summary](#)).

Someone later observed, "The sermon erased other thoughts from our heads, sharpened our minds, drew a vivid picture, wrote a clear message and ensured we got the point."

Understandably, with puns like that, they wished to remain anonymous!



Homeless Winter Warmth. Paula Gordon (left) is co-ordinating our church's involvement in the ecumenical Winter Warmth Programme for the homeless involving seven Aylesbury churches.

We started on the 5th January, providing the overnight venue for six clients. Twelve volunteers covered the three shifts of evening, overnight and early morning supported by five professionals offering advice. One client, identified as vulnerable on the street, will be offered access to support from other professionals.

"The night went well", said Paula "and the clients were happy to be in the warmth for the night and to have a hot cooked meal brought in by another volunteer"



President's Biblefresh visit. The President of the Methodist Conference Rev. Alison Tomlin (left) is visiting the District in February 2011.

On Saturday 12 February she is the guest speaker at a **Biblefresh Festival** at All Saints Parish Church, High Wycombe, an event that "could change your world" with Bible resources, workshops and labyrinth. ([...more](#))

On Monday 14th February, Alison will lead a **Quiet Day** at Crossways Centre, Yardley Hastings, Northampton on the theme 'Love changes everything'. Click for more [details](#) and [programme](#).



Christmas Lunches. Viv Kemp (left) and her team of other volunteers provided one of the lunches over the Christmas period for people who included the homeless, the lonely, those living in hostels and some with babies and children. The other days between Christmas and new Year were organised by other Aylesbury churches, using our new community centre hall as the venue.

The day lasted from coffee at 10.30 through to lunch and a final cuppa around 3pm. This year, the lunch itself was a chille con carne and baked potato with a variety of sweets to choose from. "Several clients seemed to know each other and there was time for a chat that they all seemed to enjoy" said Viv.



Charity card sales. "I wish to report that the card shop had another successful year", wrote card shop manager Cliff Darlington (left). Located in the church for six days a week during November and December, this year's sales reached £21,800 for the charity 'Cards for Good Causes' (<http://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk/>). Charities receive at least 75p in the pound from their card sales out of which they have to pay for the production and distribution of their Christmas cards and any VAT. In the past five years this has amounted to more than £20 million.

"I very much appreciate the help from members of the church who joined the volunteers from the charities to work in the shop." Cliff also thanked his team of managers, without whose help it would have been an impossible task, the church for allowing use of the premises and to all who made purchases in the shop.



A welcoming church. The 16 page **2010 Annual Report** is entitled 'A Welcoming Church'. It features Joan Goodridge (left) representing the large rota of 'meeters and greeters' that welcome everyone to our church each Sunday.

The Report 'aims to remind the reader who we are, why we are here and what we do. It looks back on last year and celebrates our successes. It looks forward to next year and shares our hopes and plans.'

Minister Keith Edwards writes, "The past few years have been focussed on the development of a 'centre of excellence', a building fit for purpose in the 21st century. I believe that this year we should take the opportunity to focus on our spiritual development and growth...renewing our vision for Worship, Prayer, Service, Outreach and Nurture."

The Report can be accessed by [clicking here](#).