



**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre**

‘LINK’



**July - August
2016**

**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham Street
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Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre Website

www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

(AMC Weekly Notice Sheet and LINK magazine can now be
found on the website)

Minister

Rev Helen Kirk

01296 488963



To: The Haters

From: Helen Kirk

(First published on our website on 20th June)

I am tired of your hate; tired of the vitriol that inspires the murder of a woman working for a better world; tired of your homophobic self-loathing that slaughters 49 people simply for being themselves; tired of divisive rhetoric that is called public debate; misogynistic language laughed off as banter ('Come on love, get a sense of humour'); of unsocial media trolls who threaten rape and violence with impunity because I dare to express a different view to theirs.



I'm tired of your anger that blares the car horn, gesticulates and swears; spills your rage uninvited into my personal space all because I reached the line (whatever that might be) ahead of you.

And I am weary beyond measure that you evoke the name of Allah, Yahweh, God, Mohammed, Krishna, and Christ to be the inspiration of your thuggery.

You see I am a follower of Jesus.

Jesus commands me to love: love my neighbour, love my enemies.

So I will try to love.

There are many platitudes being spoken at the moment about love overcoming hate but what does that mean? What does it look like?

In the novel 'To Kill a Mockingbird' there is a scene where the book's hero Atticus Finch, a middle aged lawyer, is sitting outside the jailhouse with a loaded gun in his lap. Inside is Tom, the man Atticus tried to defend but who was convicted by a jury of rape. Tom is innocent, everybody knows he's innocent, but Tom is black and the woman who made the accusation is white and so Tom must pay. A mob arrives with every intention of lynching Tom, and except for Atticus they would do.

It is into this tense standoff that Scout Finch, Atticus' young daughter arrives. Atticus desperately tries to send her home but Scout recognises

one of the mob as her friend's dad and goes over to chat. It is in that moment that everything changes. Suddenly these men are not a mob but fathers, husbands, neighbours, members of a community; they are human beings. And realising each other's humanity they disperse peaceably.

Perhaps the way to love is to actually see people. The labels we wear - colour, nationality, religion, gender, make us who we are but they are not all that we are.

First and foremost we are human beings - children, brothers, sisters, parents, friends. In the words of the late Jo Cox MP 'There is far more that unites us than divides us'.

So I will love.

I will love by being open to those I do not understand.

I will love by respecting the person who holds views different to my own, even as I oppose him.

I will love by not feeling a personal slight when I have missed out to another.

I will love by remembering that your anger may have a very valid cause that is not me.

I will love in small ways believing it is the only power for change.

I will love because that is what my faith calls me to do.

Helen Kirk





Saturday 24th September 2016

4.00 - 6.00pm

at

Aylesbury Methodist Church

'Gods family, our family'

An event for the whole family to enjoy.

Crafts, story, songs and food.

All are welcome.

No charge - just a donation.

**Contact the Church office
to let us know you're coming!**

01296 426526 or

office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

LOVE YOURSELF

'Love your neighbour as yourself' Matthew 22:39

God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to save you. 'Save me from what?' you ask:

- 1) Going through this life lost, directionless, joyless, and unfulfilled.
- 2) Spending the next life lost and without the joys of heaven He wants you to share.

That's how highly God values you. So when you keep putting yourself down, you're rejecting His opinion of you. And to disagree with God is to make yourself equal with Him, or worse, put your opinion above His. Maybe you never thought about it like that before. Actress/singer Ethel Waters ministered to great crowds in the Billy Graham crusades. She was born black and poor in a segregated society, but when she found Christ she gained true self-esteem. With a smile that would melt your heart, she told her audiences, 'God made me - and my God don't make no junk!'

When you refuse to love yourself, it's impossible to love others or accept that they love you. You become skilled at tuning out compliments and picking up on criticism, because it confirms the negative opinion you have of yourself. As a result, you distance yourself from people and end up lonely without ever knowing why. Maybe your parents failed you, or your spouse betrayed you. You may feel like 'damaged goods', and seek escape in addictions, or affairs, or a lifestyle of ritual accomplishment. But it doesn't work. Only when you accept that God loves you unconditionally, and decide to love yourself, will you have love to give to others...'

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR

'Love your neighbour as yourself' Matthew 22:39

In *The Fine Art of Friendship*, Ted Engstrom outlines ten ways to love others

- 1) Love is unconditional. If it's not...it's manipulation.

2) Our natural tendency is toward self-centeredness (which isn't related to a healthy self-esteem); that's why it takes a conscious effort to love.

3) Each of us is a one-of-a-kind creation. Therefore it takes time - often a long time - to understand one another.

4) Do you really listen and try to understand what people are saying? Or do you listen in order to give an answer; in other words, by letting the other person talk while you mentally formulate your response? One who loves, listens with understanding.

5) Simply being there to care, whether or not you know exactly what to do. Loving your neighbour involves fulfilling, in a visible way, Christ's promise, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you' (Hebrews 13:5 NKJV).

6) Just because God put you in a leadership position doesn't mean He made you 'better' than others. Paul warns the leader 'not to think of himself more highly than he ought to' (Romans 12:3 NKJV).

7) Be generous with your praise and encouragement. Inspiring words build up the self-esteem of others, whereas critical comments kill enthusiasm and love.

8) Make your friends number one: 'In honour preferring one another' (Romans 12:10 KJV). This is another point where we see a clear difference between the leader who loves, and a power-holder who 'looks out for number one'.

9) Learn to love God with all your heart. Then love your neighbour as yourself.

10) Emphasise other people's strengths and virtues, not their sins and weaknesses. Why? Because you'll be needing grace and love yourself before the day's done!



Source: The Word for Today, a daily devotional, produced free of charge by United Christian Broadcasters. For your regular quarterly copy write to UCB at FREEPOST RLTX-ABUL-GRAR, United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF, or telephone 0845 60 40 401.

As a charity, UCB relies on donations, so a gift of at least 50p per copy, which just covers the cost of printing the booklet, would be appreciated from time to time.

Health Notes

2016 – No
3

WHAT NEXT?

3 July 2016



Summary

Last year's Healthy Church review identified our three priorities as children and youth, the coffee bar and the welcome and integration of new people. Action Groups working on these areas have found a common theme - to make our church a place of welcome and hospitality for all.

The Leadership Team will therefore recommend to the October Church Council that we undertake a project to plan, fund and resource enhancements to our church, coffee bar and staffing.

Advice and ideas are therefore being sought by the action groups on many topics including:

In the church

- Increasing the efficiency of or replacing the radiators
- Reducing heat loss by secondary glazing
- Re-assessing our sound and projection needs
- Considering greater weekday use of the church space with art or other exhibitions

In the coffee bar

- Replacing the existing church partition with folding glazed partitioning to give flexibility in the relative size of church and coffee bar
(continued overleaf)

- Extending the kitchen area by means of a servery counter
- Enabling us to serve good quality coffee, tea and cold drinks at affordable prices
- Having the option of serving some food, sandwiches, cakes and quality biscuits
- Consideration for having a paid manager supported by coffee bar and 'pastoral' volunteers
- Creating comfortable seating and an uncluttered welcoming vestibule area

With children and young people

- Starting a Messy Church on Saturdays
- Involving young people more in our services
- Investigating the possibility of employing a youth, community or family worker

With new people

- Discussing with the 20-40 age groups, including singles, couples, and families as to how best we can help them to integrate and feel more a part of the church family.
- Considering the use of concerts and similar events to involve more people and make them feel at home
- Finalising 'A Rough Guide to AMC' for newcomers
- Planning to repeat the successful Afternoon Tea event later this year

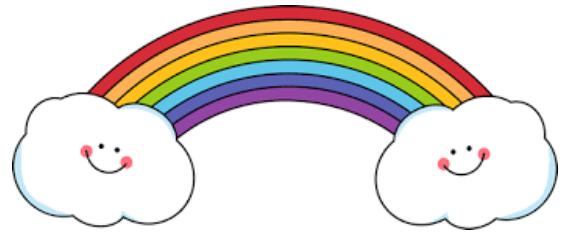
On Finance

- Investigating what grants might be available for both one-off capital costs for buildings and equipment and ongoing running costs for staff
- Ensuring that projects will be sustainable or self-funding

The Project and You

If you have any ideas or thoughts on any of these areas or would like to help in some way, in the first instance, please speak to Helen, Telephone 01296 488963 or email revhelenkirk@sky.com.

J TEAM



Welcome to the J Team pages
Creation (Genesis 1-2:25)

In the last LINK we began to look at *Genesis*, the very first book in the bible. It describes how the world was created.

We learnt about what happened in the first three days:

Day one: God made light

Day two: God made the earth

Day three: God made the plants

Day four: God made the sun, moon and stars

The next day, God turned his attention to the water he had collected in the oceans. "I want these waters teeming with life!" As soon as He said it, it was so. In no time, there were millions of small fish darting through the shallow water and huge fish swimming in the ocean. God made birds, too. He sent them soaring through the air. "Ahh, that IS good!" said God. The dusk fell over the water and the sky grew dark and that was the end of the [fifth day](#).

On the [sixth day](#), God added creatures to the land. He made lions and tigers and bears. He made rabbits and sheep and cows. He added everything from ants to zebras to the land. But He still felt something was missing. So God added Mankind to enjoy and take care of all that He had created. God looked around and was happy with all He had made.

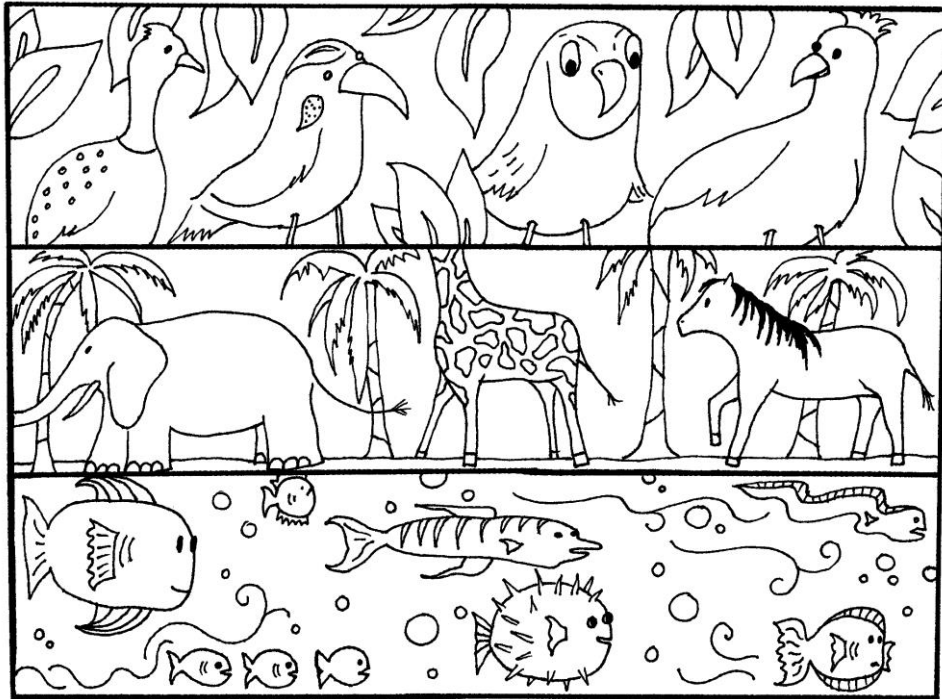
After six days, the whole universe was completed. On the [seventh day](#) God had a nice long rest and enjoyed looking at all He had made.

Day 7:

On the seventh day God had finished his work of creation, so he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and declared it holy, because it was the day when he rested from all his work of creation.

Colour it in

God made the wild animals, each according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Genesis, 1:25



Wordsearch

S	E	V	E	N	D	A	Y	S	T	A	D	A	M
T	A	B	G	E	A	R	T	H	N	M	C	U	V
A	D	A	Y	K	P	N	F	O	I	L	R	X	N
R	B	U	S	E	I	Q	I	C	G	A	E	V	E
S	M	O	O	N	M	O	S	Z	H	I	A	H	G
O	W	O	H	R	A	G	H	O	T	L	T	Y	O
B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	O	W	E	A	D
I	M	A	D	Q	O	A	B	G	A	R	D	E	N
H	O	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	S	O	C	A	X
L	I	G	H	T	O	O	R	E	S	T	E	D	O
E	W	O	M	A	N	I	O	B	E	A	L	U	O

ADAM
 BEGINNING
 CREATION
 DAY
 EARTH
 EVE
 FISH
 GARDEN
 GOD
 HEAVENS
 LIGHT
 MAN
 MOON
 NIGHT
 RESTED
 SEVEN DAYS
 STARS
 SUN
 WATERS
 WOMAN

S	U	N	E	V	O	W	A	T	E	R	S	J	E
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I am Here

I was alone
and You found me.
Wrapped me, enfolded me.
Your Love is around me,
It totally surrounds me.
'I am here,' said He,
'I am here.'

I was scared
and You comforted me;
Took my fears, calmed me.
Your Hope is around me,
It totally surrounds me.
'I am here,' said He,
'I am here.'

I was hungry
and You nourished me.
Food and drink filled me.
Your gift is around me,
It totally surrounds me.
'I am here,' said He,
'I am here.'

I was homeless
and You shielded me.
Gave me shelter, from harm.
Your care is around me,
It totally surrounds me.
'I am here,' said He,
'I am here.'

I was hopeless
and You came to me.
Gave me a future, and a life.
Your Grace is around me,
It totally surrounds me.
'I am here,' said He,
'I am here.'

I had nothing;
now You are with me.
We walk together, every day.
Your Spirit is around me,
It totally surrounds me.
'I am here,' said He,
He is here.

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You know you are living in 2016 when

- **You accidentally enter your password on the microwave!**
- **You haven't played solitaire with real cards for years!**
- **You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three!**
- **You email the person who sits at the desk next to you!**
- **You email your children upstairs to tell them that dinner is ready!**
- **Your reason for not staying in touch with various friends and family is that they are not on facebook!**
- **You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile to see if anyone is at home to help you carry in the shopping!**
- **Every TV advert has a website address at the bottom of the screen!**
- **Leaving the house without your mobile, which you didn't have for the first 20 or 30 (or even 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic, and you turn around to go and get it!**
- **You get up in the morning and go online before getting your coffee!**



DANIEL MOULT ORGAN CONCERT

Aylesbury Methodist Church
18th May 2016.

On an otherwise damp Wednesday evening in May, Buckingham Street reverberated to the brilliance of Daniel Moulton, a fine young Concert Organist, who, within just a few years, has consolidated his outstanding reputation



throughout Europe and Australia. During the evening, Daniel enraptured his large audience with phenomenal performance supported by genial commentary. He presented an imaginative programme planned to appeal to all musical tastes. Nothing was too remote and nothing banal.

Bravely he commenced with a thrilling Widor showpiece. Not the well-known and often repeated 5th Symphony Toccata, but the far more exciting Allegro to the 6th Symphony. Continuing via a short gentle 'Elevation' by Saint-Saens, Daniel then performed the famous Fantasia in F by Mozart, but he first provided an interesting explanation of how this was first written for a barrel organ in a waxwork museum with Masonic and military connections! Following a delightful trio by J S Bach, Daniel concluded with his own arrangements of three pieces from Handel's Water Music including the famous 'Hornpipe'.

After an interval for refreshments and chatter, Daniel commenced the second half of his programme with a Vierne *tour de force*, calling for dexterous hand work above a famous French fireman's march, markedly sounded on the pedals. By contrast, Daniel then played Saint-Saens 'The Swan', reminding us how it became famous via a former Dulux advert and is now incessantly repeated on 'Classic FM'. After the short 'Suite Carmelite', organ music written for a film, he performed Nigel Ogden's joyful 'Penguins' Playtime', clearly appreciated by the enthused audience! As his *pièce de résistance* Daniel concluded with an organ showpiece, Gershwin's 'I got rhythm' arranged as a set of variations by Eliot Britton. With its intricate hand play and double footwork, only the bravest of virtuoso organists would dare to tackle the virtual technical impossibilities of this otherwise engaging masterpiece, but Daniel's playing expressed sheer enjoyment making it look and sound easy!

The audience were enthralled throughout. The unceasing applause brought Daniel back for an encore and continuing afterwards until he could return no more!

This, the 31st annual event, was performed on our unique custom-built digital organ, continuing its tradition featuring top rank organists who not only excel in performance, but have the ability to engage their audiences from beginning to end. Those who were able to attend were treated to an unforgettable musical experience. Daniel Moulton truly proved his reputation as 'one of the finest organists of our time'.

Derrick Matthews

A Methodist minister invited a very wealthy man to give his testimony during the service.



"I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I remember that turning point in my faith. I had just earned my first pound, doing a paper-round. That Sunday, a Methodist who had worked overseas was the preacher, and he spoke about the needs of missionary work. I knew that I only had a pound coin and I had to

either give it all to God's work or give nothing at all. So at that moment, I decided to give everything I'd got to God.

I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

When he finished and moved toward his seat, there was an awed silence.

As he sat down, a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said to him, "I dare you to do it again."



dreamstime.com



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 10 July <i>Action for Children Sunday</i>	10.30am	Family & Parade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 12 July	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Annual General Meeting
Wed 13 July	2-3.30pm	Bible Study - Afternoon session 7
Thurs 14 July	2.30pm 7.30-9pm	Bereavement Group in the vestry Bible Study – Evening session 7
Sun 17 July	8.45am 10.30am 6.00pm	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Ms Samantha Hagerman Circuit 'Songs of Praise' service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 23 July	2 - 4pm 11am-4pm	Good Faith Book Club Karibuni Fun Day at Fairford Leys
Sun 24 July	Circuit Support Sunday - no service at AMC as we visit our different Circuit Churches	
Sun 31 July	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Frankie Fisher
Sat 6 Aug	7.30pm	SOS: Summer BBQ at the Miskins' - 01296 422919
Sun 7 Aug	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Thurs 11 Aug	2.30pm	Bereavement Group in the vestry
Sun 14 Aug	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sun 21 Aug	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Mrs Dawn Edwards
Sun 28 Aug	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk
Frid 2 Sept	Articles due in for Sept-Oct LINK magazine	
Sat 3 Sept	8.00pm	SOS: Puddings Evening with the Deans - 01296 749031
Sun 4 Sept	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 6 Sept	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Members' Afternoon
Thurs 8 Sept	2.30pm	Bereavement Group in the vestry
Sun 11 Sept	10.30am	Family & Parade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sun 18 Sept	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Mr Arthur Sara Church Anniversary Service led by Rev Colin Barrett
Tues 20 Sept	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mr James Beston from Calibre
Sat 24 Sept	4-6pm	Messy Church - an event for the whole family
Sun 25 Sept	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr John Bush

In Stitches



There couldn't be a more aptly named group than that which meets on Thursday afternoons in the coffee bar at AMC. There are two reasons for this: one is that we invite anyone who likes (or would like) to spend time using stitching in one or more of its many forms – knitting, dressmaking, cross-stitch, crochet, tapestry, lace-making, patchwork and quilting etc. I will come to the second reason later.

The group has grown from very small beginnings to a point where today our numbers have gone from strength to strength, and we have now been going long enough to have 'former' members and others who are happy to dip in and out of the group, depending on their circumstances and other commitments.

The aim of the group was to provide a daytime meeting place for like-minded people to indulge their preferred craft, while enjoying each other's company over a cup of tea and (often!) cake. The most noticeable development in our short history is that it has become a learning environment where new skills are being acquired and appreciated, with the result that we are now seeing the completion of several items which would previously have been beyond the makers' ability.

We are very fortunate to have been joined by a friend who teaches patchwork and quilting at the Queen's Park Centre in Aylesbury. She is an inspiration to the group and we thank her for her generosity in passing on techniques, use of her equipment and often the provision of the necessary materials.

However, there is more to this group than the crafts which happen there. It has become somewhere to share problems and concerns, to feel support when that's what is needed, a place where new friendships have been forged and old ones strengthened. There are no age or gender limits to this group, so whether you are an existing stitcher or would like to learn a new stitching skill, we would love to see you between 2 and 4pm on a Thursday (keep an eye on the church notices to check for the odd occasion when we don't meet or there is a change of meeting room).

Finally, I return to the other reason why 'In Stitches' is an appropriate name for the group: we laugh a lot!

Pauline Latham

We're delighted to reproduce an article from the Abingdon & Witney College website about Ailsa's course offer at Kew Gardens. As you see, she has also appeared in Gardens Illustrated!



Student Set to Cultivate Big Future



Ailsa Kemp, a Level 2 work based horticulture diploma student has been offered a place on Kew Gardens 3 year diploma course at the Royal Botanic Gardens. The course is regarded as ‘the world’s foremost qualification in botanical horticulture’.

As part of the apprenticeship programme Ailsa’s assessor Alan Brown and her employer Waterperry Gardens in Wheatley discussed the options at the end of her apprenticeship. Given the standing of Kew Gardens in the world of horticulture, Ailsa decided to submit an application to a qualification which has been described as ‘the passport to worldwide horticulture’.

Steve Kirk, Head of Work Based Learning at the College, said “We’re delighted that Ailsa has got on to the programme at Kew. This builds on the success of the apprenticeship programme as we also have a student this year going to RHS Wisley in Surrey. Our apprenticeship programme stresses the importance of quality employer links that will allow the student to move effectively into their chosen career path.”

Ailsa is now the 5th student to have progressed on to Kew from Waterperry Gardens and the second from Abingdon & Witney College. She was

supported in her application for this prestigious position, as only 14 places are available each year and it is a competitive process including a number of applicants who are international students.

Alan Brown, Horticulture lecturer at the College, said “We’re over the moon that Ailsa has been accepted onto the 3 year diploma programme at Kew Gardens. It’s a really prestigious course and she will be following in the footsteps of previous alumni such as Alan Titchmarsh.”

Given the small number of places on this esteemed course, Ailsa will have a major advantage over other applicants for jobs and is set for a bright future in the horticulture world.

(May 2016)

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
£4.50

PLANTING displays
Design ideas for follies



Ailsa Kemp

Enthralled by plants from an early age, Ailsa is currently an apprentice at Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire, undertaking everything from propagation to fruit tree pruning

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest gardening memory Growing *Mimosa pudica* (sensitive plant) from a packet of seed my mother bought me and putting the poor plants through endless hours of poking and prodding in fascination at the way the leaves folded.

First plant love Orchids. I would save my pocket money for weeks so that I'd be able to buy a new orchid to add to the ever increasing collection filling up my windowsill. I still love the variety of flower shapes, colours and the unique way that they are pollinated.

Who has inspired your career the most? David Attenborough and his series *The Private Life of Plants*. It was made around the time I was born and I grew up with his enthusiasm sparking my fascination in plant evolution and function.

Favourite garden Ascott in Buckinghamshire. I love the way the formality of the gardens acts as a contrasting foreground for the pastoral scene beyond.

Three worthwhile tips for every gardener Wise words from my head gardener Pat Havers, "Always have string in your pocket – you never know what will need tying up; stake your plants early; and keep a diary as you'll always find yourself asking 'how did I do this last time?'"

Favourite planting style As natural as possible. I spent some time at Sissinghurst as they were planting thousands of bulbs throughout the garden. One of their gardeners had travelled abroad specifically to see wildflower meadows and was painstakingly replicating the drifts the flowers would form in the wild; alliums tend to stay more solitary, while tulips form clumps.

What principles have guided your attitude to gardening A healthy respect for the ecosystem around us and the delicate balance that keeps it functioning.

Favourite gardening books? Brian Capon's *Botany for Gardeners*. It's such an accessible book and is packed full of the features that make plants so fascinating.

Contact ailsa.kemp@btconnect.com

Further information Waterperry Gardens run a number of practical gardening courses and events. For details of these and the forthcoming Art in Action visit waterperrygardens.co.uk or call 01844 339254

Syrian Refugees



We have all seen the news on our TV screen and read newspaper reports of the situation as 1000s flee worn-torn Syria.

Often we have to make up our minds where we stand from reading and listening to often-biased accounts. In May, President of MwiB, Anne Browse, had the opportunity to go with other women to visit some of the refugee camps in Greece. There she found families like you and me, except they had risked everything for a new life and had ended up living in a tent on either waste ground or, if they were lucky, in a refugee camp. Ordinary families who had fled the violence, and as one *medecins sans frontieres* doctor said, they have not put their lives at risk for a larger screen TV! Basic daily living is tough: they are not allowed to cook in case of fire, washing and drying clothes is very difficult, and showers cost 1 euro per person. Below are some of the comments from Anne.

In more than one refugee camp in Greece we saw children playing with water. Children doing what children do. Making the most of what is on hand. Piercing a hole in the bottom of a water bottle and squirting each other. A little boy came up to me and to Sarah and gingerly squirted one of our hands. We offered the other hand. He smiled and gleefully squirted that one, too. There was something special, almost sacred, about having our hands washed in this way.

“How have you prepared for this trip to visit refugees?” friends asked me frequently before I left for Greece. One thing I had done was to watch TV documentaries about the situation. In one film, I had noticed refugee children clutching balloons, often pink balloons.

As we stood at Piraeus on the Friday morning, looking out over the largely deserted ferry terminal at E1, a solitary pink balloon bounced across the tarmac. Suddenly a young boy appeared, and chased the balloon until he caught up with it. He captured it, holding it firmly in his hands.

A pink balloon. A frivolous party accessory, or a distraction on a hot day, when there is so little to do in a foreign land, separated from familiar toys and games? Chasing after a pink balloon. A moment of playful respite in the long, uncertain days which stretch out in front of these children.

A good drying day...

How many times have I grumbled about getting the washing dry? Moaned that the tumble drier was not working? How would I manage if I had to wash everything by hand and put things to dry on bushes or on a makeshift washing line? It's all part of the 'fun' when you're on a camping holiday, when you choose to do it that way, for a week or two. But every day, because that is your only option...

Much of our communication with the people we met in Greece, whether Greek taxi drivers or Syrian refugees, was in broken English. Our party of twelve women included two Arabic speakers, and their presence was invaluable. It brought smiles of relief, and perhaps hope, to the faces of many of the refugees with whom they spoke.

One language made me smile, because I don't often use it myself. In this situation it was universal, and very useful when initial communication was proving tricky. It was the language of football. In the refugee camps we would often see children clutching footballs. Conversations would run something like this:

"You play football?"

"Football!"

"You like football?"

"I like!"

"Barcelona?"

"Real Madrid!"

"Bayern Munich!"

"Manchester United!"

Funny how a sport can become a means of communication.

Gracious, loving God,
each day millions of people travel into and out of the city,
millions of mini pilgrimages
along tracks, roads, streets, canal paths,
through parks and across concrete wastes.

Bless those who travel with hope,
protect those who travel in fear,
heal those who travel in pain.

Help us to know that you travel with us
and guide us to your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

Michaela Youngson, London District Chair

NOT JUST MILLIONAIRES

Maybe, like me, you watched the television programme, several years ago, called 'Secret Millionaires'. I remember being especially impressed by the episode from Blackpool.

Luke Tillion, of the De La Mer Hotel in Torbay, was impressed enough to take action. He contacted the small charity, to which the millionaire had contributed. It provided hotel accommodation for needy families, who had a child with a serious illness. He offered to provide similar holidays in his own hotel.

Since then he has founded THE TORBAY HOLIDAY HELPERS NETWORK (THHN) and taken part in sponsored events to raise money to help families across the UK, by providing free action-packed holidays in Torbay, for families who have a seriously ill child or parent, or to families who have lost a child or parent, giving those families memories to treasure for ever.

As I entered the De La Mer Hotel, on the Circuit Holiday, in May 2016, I immediately sensed the warm atmosphere there. The staff looked so happy attending to our needs, and not content with serving us delicious, locally sourced food, they also came round with second helpings!

So much joy has resulted from simply watching a television programme.

Angela M. Smith



Saturday 23 July 2016

11am - 4pm

Free Entry!

- B-B-Q and refreshments
- Wide range of stalls • Circus Workshop
- Children's games • Cream teas • Bouncy castle
- Live Music from The Band Stand
- Local choirs • Pimms Bar
- and much, much more...

**FAIRFORD LEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE
& HAMPDEN SQUARE (HP19 7HT)**



**Helping children from the
streets and slums in Kenya**

www.karibuni.org.uk

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

Camping Success

In answer to our 'call', 4 tents, 4 camper vans and 4 caravans arrived At Mayfield Park Site just outside Cirencester for our circuit gathering.

Three units arrived on Wednesday to do some forward planning, and to that end Paul and Vi set off on a long walk on Thursday, only to return in the late afternoon, weary and mud splattered, to report it was 'not on.



© Can Stock Photo - csp2336250

Chris and Arthur, meanwhile, discovered that a walk we had done previously around Ashton Keynes country Park was also not on as it now costs £4 per head to gain access. Rosemary and Robert had more success as they had been into Cirencester where there was much more to see and do.

Two more units arrived on Thursday so that on Friday we set off to walk, cross country, into Cirencester. It was an interesting and varied walk, enhanced by the discovery of a delightful coffee shop at the end of it.

The rest of the party arrived on Friday afternoon through to early evening and we had great fun and laughter over chilli, baked potatoes and salads followed by donated deserts, including cake and home-grown strawberries.

On Saturday we were able to offer a 6 mile country walk, taking in part of the Thames Path and the Thames Severn canal, thanks to Roger and Sue; the walk into Cirencester for those who had not already done it; and at the end of that, the coffee shop offered us their terrace where we sat and basked in the hot sun and enjoyed their beautiful cakes. On Saturday 4 others went to Cheltenham, and 2 went to Bibury. As the site was on the Cheltenham to Cirencester Road, and there was an hourly bus service, travel to either town was easy. Most of the walkers into Cirencester caught the bus back but the fitter ones walk both ways.

We were pleased that Brian and Pauline could join us on Saturday for the barbecue, and as you can imagine, in true Methodist tradition our request to 'bring and share' turned into a wonderful feast. After we had enjoyed

the food, Pete and Brian got their guitars out and we had an hilarious sing-song where Jane and Pete were the headline act.

Sunday morning was beautifully sunny and provided a wonderful setting for our service, which was led by Arthur but supported by others. After coffee and tea, some folk had to pack up and get away, but 14 of us enjoyed a roast dinner at the Hungry Horse Restaurant before returning to the site to pack up and come home.

Oh! The weather! Well it certainly didn't spoil our fun. We had a few heavy showers which we managed to dodge and it was sunny in between them but it was not warm as July should be - ask Ceita!

Perhaps we will have better weather next year and others might be tempted to join us.

Arthur Sara

The next LINK magazine will be the September - October 2016 issue.

Please send in all contributions by Friday 2nd September 2016.

To make sure we receive them, please send them to both addresses below:

Jennie Torpey: jennietorpey@ntlworld.com

AMC Office: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

or I can type them up for you if you let me have them in time



A famous Viking explorer returned home from a voyage and found his name missing from the town register. His wife insisted on complaining to the local civic official, who apologized profusely, saying, "I must have taken Leif off my census."

The small things

Although I have my ears pierced I rarely wear earrings. I have to be 'in the mood'. I have lots of pretty earrings, some bright with jewels and some just for fun. One of my favourite pairs, which I bought whilst I was on holiday in Los Angeles with my best friend from school in the '70s was a bright yellow, black and red pair of wooden parrots. I only wear these when I wish to cheer myself up.

On Friday 24th June 2016 (yes, that day) I needed cheering up, so I put them on to come to the church office that morning. I thought that I looked fantastic and was starting to feel upbeat, until Jennie, commenting on the earrings, asked if I realised I only had one in. Oh No! I had lost a parrot (no Monty Python jokes please).

I did the usual backtracking and even went into the Loo to do a strip search on myself! Alas to no avail...

Time passed, well a few days anyway, and I put away the other earring, thinking that I may find a similar replacement.

On Tuesday 28th June, as it was at last gardening weather, I attacked my front garden with gusto, pulling up weeds and getting rid of rubbish – suddenly I saw a black and yellow object nestling amongst the fallen magnolia leaves. It was my lost earring. It must have fallen out just as I left the house and I had not noticed.

I was so happy and very thankful.

When I was relating this story to my daughter, I suddenly thought that we are so busy worrying about the big things in life, that we forget the small items that make us so very joyful. My parrot earrings were inexpensive, but brought a smile to my face whenever I wore them.

Bringing joy to another person can just be a simple 'Hello'.

Now, as our future is uncertain, we all need to look to the smaller things. Leave the big things to others and do as Jesus said and "Love one another".



THE CIRCUIT CHOIR

The Circuit Choir combines the voices of Aylesbury Methodist Church Choir together with singers from Circuit Churches and friends from other Local Choirs. In recent years it has been joined by the Choir of Sts Peter & Paul, Tring, thus creating a body of 30-40 singers, enabling the performance of worship music which may otherwise be difficult to present.



We meet together twice a year, first for an evening Circuit Service during the Passiontide/Easter period and secondly for the Annual Songs of Praise on a Sunday evening in July. Appropriate and sufficient rehearsal takes place under the excellent skilled leadership of Cliff Brown. Both events are presented as an act of worship led by Rev Helen Kirk, with congregation participation in the hearty singing of fine hymns.

This year the Choir presented the well-loved 'Crucifixion' by John Stainer. This depicts the events our Lord encountered from the Garden of Gethsemane to his death upon the cross. Two outstanding guest soloists, Chris Smith and Bob Davies, narrated the story, interspersed with anthems from the choir and congregational hymns. The result was a very moving and thought provoking act of worship.

For the forthcoming 'Songs of Praise 2016', the theme is 'Great Hymns based on the Psalms'. In researching, we located over 50 from which to select. The list is currently being whittled down to at least a dozen, which will all have well-known tunes ideal for good congregational singing.

If you are interested in joining the Circuit Choir, you will be most welcome. Please contact Brenda Horne, (01296 428580 or brendaj.horne@gmail.com).

The Circuit Choir invite everyone to please come and contribute to future uplifting Sunday evening events which provide opportunity for circuit members and friends to meet, both within the fellowship of worship and in sharing refreshments afterwards. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Derrick Matthews



as long as it takes

Our Quiz Evening
on Saturday 21st May 2016,
magnificent **£596.50!!**



raised a

Then, the following day, Action for Children received the **£433.65** proceeds from the ever-enjoyable **Cream Tea Afternoon** at Peter and Pamela Farmer's home



*Special thanks to Viv and Steve Kemp for
masterminding the Quiz,
and to Pamela and Peter Farmer for hosting the
Cream Tea Afternoon!*

And thank you ALL for your help and support on the different days
and in different ways!

Our next events are:

Saturday 9th July: Cake, Bric-a-brac, Book, Cd & Dvd Stall in
Market Square

Sunday 10th July: Action for Children Sunday

Then we shall have our annual Christmas Stall in Friars Square in
November/December.

If you have any items suitable for our Christmas Stall or for raffle
or tombola prizes during the year,
please give them to:

Jennie Torpey (581414), Pauline Noble (484940)

or Sandie Steeden (331278)

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT IN THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

It may seem very early to be thinking about Christmas, but the AMC & Friends Theatre Group have secured excellent tickets in the ballot for this concert. If you are interested in a concert in this wonderful building by a superb orchestra read on:



JOHN RUTTER'S 'CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION'



THURSDAY EVENING DECEMBER 8th 2016 - 7.30pm



**in the
ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON**

John Rutter will conduct the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and The Bach Choir in a symphonic Christmas event that will open the festive period with a celebration full of sparkle and Christmas cheer.

Excellent seats in the stalls at discounted prices means the cost of the evening, including concert seat, driver's tip and coach from Wendover or Aylesbury (Jansel Square) is just **£49.00**

Booking forms available from the table in the Church entrance from Sunday July 23rd. If interested, please take one and return it as soon as possible with your cheque, as we shortly need to pay for the tickets.



Any queries phone Pauline Noble (01296 484940)



Easter Offering 2016



I am pleased to report that this year's Easter Offering across the Circuit has increased by £628.00 and the Aylesbury collection was up by £129 to £580; this is really wonderful news, especially with so many calls on the purse.

The Circuit amount included £177.50 from the offertory at the dedication service, which, I am sad to say, was poorly supported. Sad on two counts: firstly, those who were not there missed a very good service, including two pieces by the junior choir; secondly, because a lot of work went into preparing it.

You may be assured that the money will be used wisely by the World Church team, as Peter and I found out back in May when we were privileged to attend the Methodist for World Mission (MWM) Conference at Swanwick; this year's Conference was led by the Methodist Church of South America. It was a vibrant and informing weekend, where we mixed with mission partners past and present. I attended 2 excellent workshops - one was about being a refugee or a stranger in a foreign place. Worship was colourful and enriching with the use of several languages, and Communion very special.

You can find out more about the World Church and its work here:
<http://www.methodist.org.uk/mission>

Ruth Watkins

I started writing poetry from a very early age. I think that I was still in Junior School. I was going to Sunday School once a week, but really did not truly believe in God. That came a few years later. My Mum recently sent to me a couple of my original poems from my school days that she found whilst sorting out a drawer. The paper was yellowed with age, but the sentiments were the same - only there was something missing in this early poem that has been a part of everything that I do, everything that I write. In fact, part of my whole life for about 45yrs. God. He is in there, but I just hadn't given Him credit for His creation. I wonder how many times that we 'forget' to either say "thank you" or give Him the credit that is so rightly His.

Freedom

Once upon a Summer's day,
I chose to wander far away
From city lights and factory smoke,
To find the country's Gentlefolk.

Into the heart of the woods I went,
Deep into bluebells
With a heavenly scent.
Massive oak trees hid the light
And shed a coolness
Just like night.

I stopped to rest by a babbling brook
From whose clear water
A drink I took.
Beneath the surface I could see,
Fish, like me who today were free.





On I walked through fields of wheat,
Feeling the freedom beneath my feet.
So, once upon a Summer's day,
Be like me, and get away.
Out in the country, you can bet
Your freedom won't be hard to get.

© 2016 Babs (aged 12yrs)



*Vale of Aylesbury
Methodist Circuit*

Songs of Praise 2016

***GREAT HYMNS BASED
ON THE PSALMS***

*Congregational hymn singing
presented by the Circuit Choir together
with friends from other local choirs.*

Great Hymns

With Great Tunes

Come along for a Great Sing

Led by Rev Helen Kirk

***Aylesbury Methodist Church
Sunday 17th July @ 6.00 pm***

EVERYONE WELCOME