

# Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

## ‘LINK’



May - June  
2017

**Aylesbury Methodist  
Church & Centre**

**Buckingham Street**

**Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ**

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**Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre Website**

[www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk](http://www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk)

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

**Minister**

**Rev Helen Kirk**

01296 488963

[revhelenkirk@sky.com](mailto:revhelenkirk@sky.com)



## **‘What? Another election?’**



But we voted last year and the year before.....haven't we all had enough of politics?' For many the sense of political overload is keen, and I hear the same things being said again and again about this election, so here is my response to the usual phrases:

### **‘I can't be bothered to vote.’**

Well, let's remember that for a lot of people 'being bothered to vote' isn't or wasn't an option. In many parts of our world people would love to be able to have the opportunity of democracy. And of course, it's worth remembering that this opportunity is a fairly new phenomenon here in the UK - it's less than 100 years ago that all men received the vote and less than 90 years for women. Such rights were hard won by our forbearers.

### **‘Ok, so people died so I can vote, but let's be honest my vote won't count.’**

There is an old fable that asks the question, 'How many snowflakes does it take to fell a tree branch?' The answer is one; the last one. Even after millions of snowflakes have settled on a branch it still takes one more to make it fall. In the same way we can never tell the effects of the small things we do to make a difference, but we still do them because the cumulative effects of everyone doing small things can be astonishing. So your vote could be that one snowflake!

### **‘But I don't know who to vote for’.**

To be honest, I'm not sure I do this time but I will try to vote by looking at the bigger picture. As Christians, we vote not with our own needs in mind but the needs of our community, our nation, those who struggle and are not valued and those for whom life is difficult through no fault of their own. As Christians, we remember that even though we are citizens of a country we are also citizens of the Kingdom of God and that gives us a different perspective. So, as we make our decision, we must do so with 'Kingdom eyes' focused on justice and inclusion, healing and wholeness; life in abundance for all not just a few.

**Hang on, why am I reading about politics in a church magazine? Surely faith and politics don't mix?**

Tell that to Desmond Tutu, Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King and many others whose faith inspired them to challenge systems that divided and excluded...including Jesus Christ! Our Faith is not just the quality of our worship but the service of our lives...for Jesus, that service included lifting up the lowest, offering bread to the hungry, hope to the hopeless, grace and healing to those deemed lost, and a welcome to those on the fringes.



**So go on, why not take your faith to the ballot box...**

*Helen*



Arrested, jailed, beaten, chained, body-slammed, twisted, punched, & tortured to win us women the right to vote...and you're NOT going to use it?! Really?

*Whatever your political view, make sure you exercise your franchise and vote. Remember, across the world there are thousands who long for this opportunity. Bad governments are elected by apathy! Ruth*

## The Sign of the Cross

This article was written as America readied itself for the Inauguration of a new President. It inspired me. Not for who will be the new President, but because he has been put in office by the power of a cross.

We do not realise, that, from birth, a cross has been used in our daily life. It signifies so many things. As babies, we are baptised with water. The sign of the cross is made upon our foreheads by the Minister of our chosen church.

As we grow, the cross becomes synonymous with a kiss so we see it on everything - cards, letters, messages of hope, and on cards and flowers sent when someone dies. A sign of love.

People who cannot read or write are asked to sign a cross in lieu of their signature or 'mark' - in place of their name. This immediately sets them apart as being less than others. They may be poor, uneducated, but just because they cannot sign their name, are they beneath us? I think not. For we are all Children of God.

The sign of the cross is used on official documents as a notice for you to 'sign here'. Why a cross, why not a circle or a square?

In Greek, the letter X is Chi. In many languages if the X starts the word it is pronounced as Z. Also, X sounds different in other languages. The 3<sup>rd</sup> least used letter in the English language is X with a frequency of 0.15%.

In Roman Numerals X = 10; anything before the X is minus and after the X is plus, hence: 1X = 9. But X1 = 11. In mathematics X denotes 'times' the amount. In algebra X is used to represent unknowns in other circumstances e.g. X-Rays.

It can be used as an abbreviation for in-between - in the context of dates in history e.g. 1956 x 1958.

The sign of a cross is also used in computer codes and in programming.

When we look at maps X 'marks the spot' for a specific location.

In Morse code X is portrayed as - . . - (dash, dot, dot, dash).

As a Signal Flag X is a blue cross on a white background.

In Braille X is 'raised dots' 1346.



So, we return to the Presidential election. People are asked to put a cross beside the name of who they wish to elect. It is their vote, no-one else's. So, if, in months or maybe years to come, the citizens of America have cause to complain about who is leading their country - it was the cross that was put beside his name. Their cross put him into office.

The sign of the cross is a powerful thing. After Jesus was crucified and people realised just what they had done; that Jesus was truly the Son of God; it was too late....

It was their cross and they put Him there.

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## Déjà vu?

If you were at AMC over ten years ago, you will remember that we had a problem with a shabby back door. It was felt that we must do something about it as it gave a poor first impression to people coming to our then smaller community centre.

However, it was felt that whilst fixing the door, we should also spruce up the whole rear



*The community centre back entrance ten years ago.*

entrance area. Come to that, the hall was looking shabby, the kitchen was tired, the office was in the wrong place and upstairs was a bit of a mess. So eventually, the new back door morphed into a £1million redevelopment scheme. It was latterly driven not by the needs of the door but by our bigger vision of wanting to increase our outreach. For that we needed better premises. Since then, we have more than doubled the groups who use our premises, including many that cater for the disadvantaged.

We are in a similar situation now. The need for revamping the coffee bar has been known for years. However, as well as fixing the coffee bar, the inside front doors do not meet access legislation as any wheelchair user can tell you. Now if we change the inside doors to automatic, we will lose more heat. So, we need to fix the water-based heater between the doors, which doesn't work. The ceiling and lighting is looking a bit tired too and the disabled loo doesn't match the standard of the rest of the building. Looking round with the fresh pair of eyes all newcomers are fitted with, our present entrance area, whilst maybe fine for many of us, is actually looking tired and cluttered. So, a coffee bar makeover has morphed into £100,000 Church Welcome Area redevelopment.

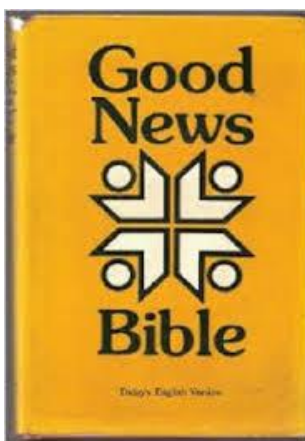
Just as our revamped community centre enabled us to respond to more needs, a revamped, attractive, flexible Church Welcome Area will provide yet more opportunities to follow our mission of putting even more people in danger of finding the love of Jesus Christ. We invite you all to share that bigger vision.

Peter Green

## READING THE GOOD NEWS

What good news it must have been for the protestants of England, when James I of England received the copy of the Authorised Version of the Bible from the translators in 1611. They had attempted “to make God’s Holy Truth to be yet more known unto the people” and, “having walked in the ways of simplicity and integrity as before the Lord”, their words were accepted as God’s Word for 250 years.

As a child I believed that I was expected to use Thee and Thou when addressing the Lord and words like charity (love) and quick (living) had to be explained to me, for of course God spoke in the vocabulary of the seventeenth century, in the 1950s.



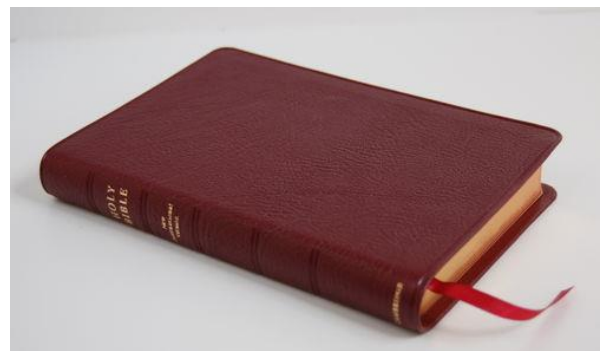
What joy it was to me, when I received a copy of The Good News Bible, when I found that an effort had been made to present the message in “standard, every day, natural English”.

Although I understand the New International Version is a more accurate translation, I shall not forsake my Good News Bible. It has been a source of true enlightenment for me. This is because of the way in which it is set out.

The accessible cross referencing allows me to find the context of the quotations from the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) which occur in the New Testament, and to compare the different approaches of the Gospel writers, at a glance. The simple pictures also help me to locate certain passages.

I welcome the introduction of the NIV but I shall treasure my Good News Bible, until it too is provided with this invaluable signposting facility.

Angela M. Smith





## **Christian Aid Week 14 -20 May 2017**

**We've been there for refugees since 1945. We won't turn our backs now.**



**“It's better to die in a refugee camp than to die in a war.  
To risk your children's lives in a plastic dinghy.  
And to leave everything you know behind.  
When the alternative is terror, bombs and bullets,  
almost anything is better.”**

This is the terrible choice facing tens of millions of people worldwide - fleeing conflict and disaster, making dangerous journeys in search of safety.

**Christian Aid Week was set up 60 years ago to support our work with refugees in Europe following the Second World War.**

Let's act again now, to help relieve suffering and build a world where everyone has a safe place to call home.

**Please support Christian Aid Week!**

**At AMC we shall be observing Christian Aid Sunday on 21<sup>st</sup> May.  
There will be a Retiring Collection after the service – please give generously  
and if you pay tax, please complete the GiftAid declaration on the envelope.**



## J Team News

As our numbers keep growing here is news from the front line!

We have 4 groups in J Team:

**0-4 years** - Crèche is held in the front vestibule, where there is a helper every Sunday **(except on a family service)**.

**4-7 years** - Activities include colouring, sticking, games and bible stories.

**7-11 years** - Activities include craft, drama, bible stories and informal discussions.

**11 +** - Activities include bible study, discussions and drama.

We meet upstairs in room 4/5 at 10.20am but if your child doesn't want to come upstairs first then please encourage them to sit with us at the front of the church so we can sit as a group. We can then leave the church to go to our activities in a quick and orderly fashion!!

We have a collection in J Team every Sunday, which is used to buy resources and give donations to charities chosen by the children. Last year we gave donations to the Alfa Foundation, and Florries Team who give nursing care to local children with terminal illnesses.

Finally, we are all very friendly and have great fun so why not come and join us. Due to our increasing numbers, we really need new volunteers to be teachers or helpers on a rota basis so why not come and join the chaos and fun!

Please see any of the Sunday School teachers if you can help.



# J TEAM



Welcome to the J Team pages

Psalms are like songs or poems and they were written to worship God. Most of the Psalms in the Bible were written by David, and he would write different Psalms for different occasions. Sometimes David's Psalms would be full of grief and sadness as he cried out to God for help or justice. Sometimes David's Psalms would be full of joy and gladness as he acknowledged God's goodness and faithfulness. The Psalms show us that no matter how happy, sad, joyful, or angry we are, we can always worship God and despite how we feel, He is with us.

Psalm 23 is one of the most well known Psalms:

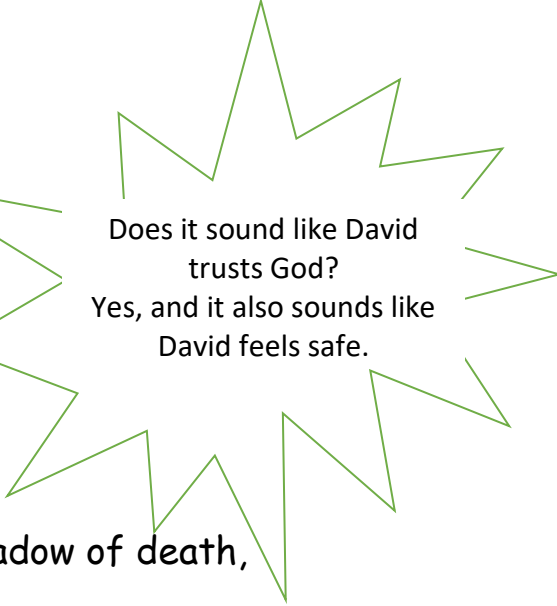
## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

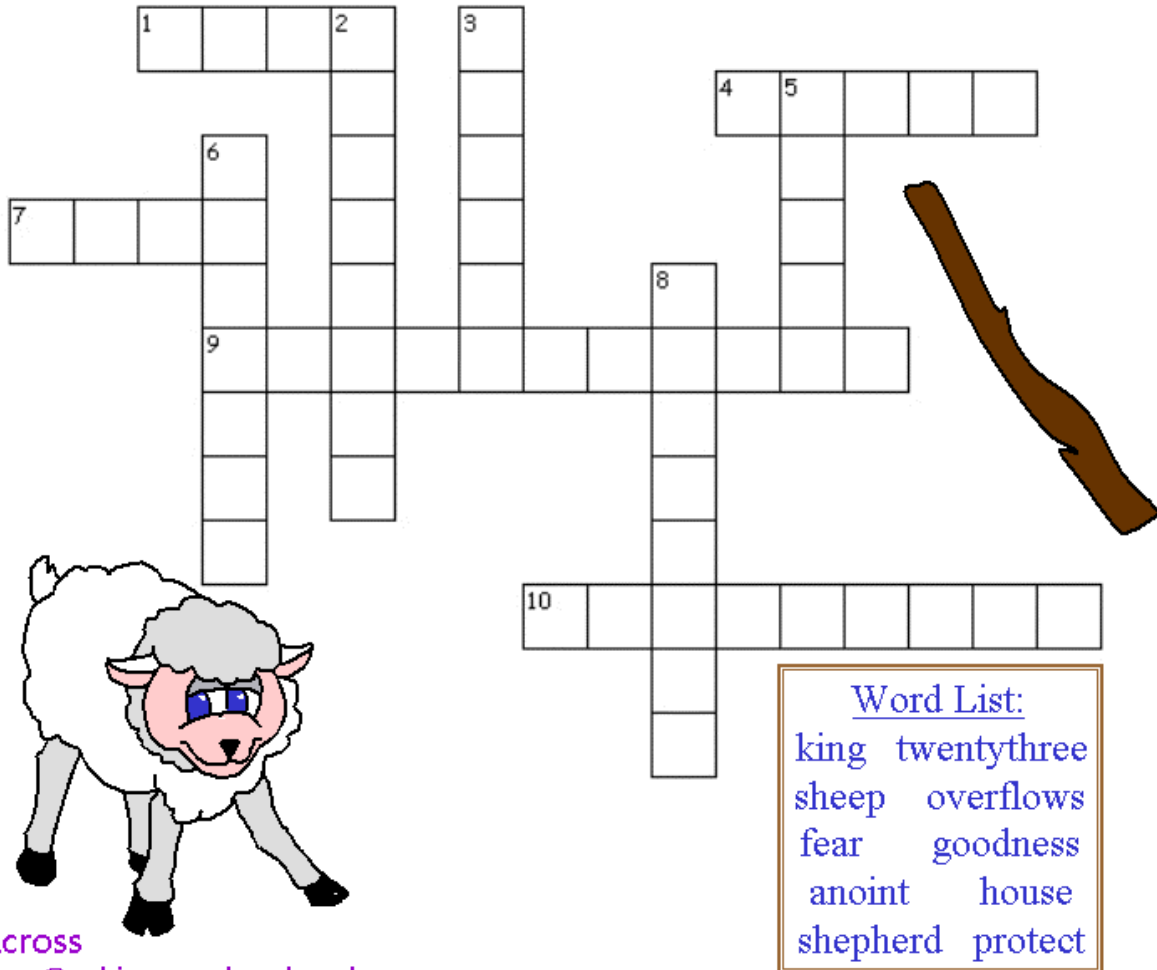


Does it sound like David trusts God?  
Yes, and it also sounds like David feels safe.



Just like David, we too can always trust in God and we can always worship Him. Even when times seem dark or scary, or when we are happy and joyful, in every moment we should worship the LORD because He is good.

## Psalm 23 Crossword



10

Word List:  
king twentythree  
sheep overflows  
fear goodness  
anoint house  
shepherd protect

### Across

1. God is our shepherd-\_\_\_\_\_.
4. In this psalm David compares himself to this animal.
7. David doesn't \_\_\_\_\_ evil because God is with him.
9. This lesson is about Psalm Chapter \_\_\_\_\_.
10. You anoint my head with oil; my cup \_\_\_\_\_.

### Down

2. Surely \_\_\_\_\_ and love will follow me all the days of my life.
3. This is done in a ceremony by pouring oil on someone.
5. David talked about living in God's \_\_\_\_\_ forever.
6. The shepherd's main job is to do this for his sheep.
8. David used this profession to describe how caring God is.

God loves us and watches over us



## London Marathon Run for the Florence Nightingale Hospice



Congratulations to Graham Tucker, Maureen's son, who completed the London Marathon in 4 hours 26 minutes and raised just under £3,000 for Florence Nightingale Hospice

Here's Graham's post-Marathon message:

*"A big thank you to everyone who sponsored me for the London Marathon! The hospice charity (Florence Nightingale) has received total donations of just under £2400, which is absolutely amazing!"*

*The race for me consisted of 2 halves - on track for a sub 4 hour up till around 16 miles and then my legs turned to lead. I think this is what's known as 'the wall'. Merely putting one foot in front of the other was a challenge.*

*The support and encouragement from the crowds and marshals was amazing and carried me through the final 10 miles.*

*My finish time was eventually 4 hours 26 minutes, cheered over the finish line by my wife Rachel, mum Maureen and sister Erica. They'd spent the day with Prince William, Kate and Prince Harry in the Royals & Media area - thanks to having special passes courtesy of Adrian Smith (thanks Ady!).*



*What an amazing experience - I would recommend any budding runners to apply for the ballot which opens in a week's time."*

Well done, Graham, and thank you so much for choosing the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity!





# KARIBUNI CHILDREN



# FAMILY FUNDAY



**17TH JUNE 2017**

FAIRFORD LEYS COMMUNITY  
CENTRE HP19 7HT

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BBQ, STALLS, CIRCUS SKILLS,  
GAMES,  
MUSIC AND MORE

**11-4PM**



Transforming Young  
Kenyan Lives

[www.karibuni.org.uk](http://www.karibuni.org.uk)  
Registered UK Charity Number 1044872



## MHA SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017

Loneliness can affect anyone at any time but with 3.5 million older people in the UK living alone it is a huge worry for our ageing population. Many people over 60 don't have any contact with friends or family for long periods of time and rely on the television as their main source of company.

As well as the immediate downsides of being lonely it can also affect health. Lonely individuals are more likely to visit their GP and have a higher use of medication; studies have even shown that loneliness can double your risk of developing dementia.

We want to reach out to the 1.2 million older people in the UK who are chronically lonely and we need your help.

**We've been improving the lives of older people for almost 75 years.  
With your help, we will help many more.**

The money you raise will go towards connecting older people in communities that care. From services like our 'Live at Home' schemes across Great Britain that reduce loneliness and isolation, to our groundbreaking Music Therapy for people living with dementia, every penny will make a difference to older people.

**MHA SUNDAY WILL BE ON 11TH JUNE AND THERE WILL BE  
A RETIRING COLLECTION AFTER THE SERVICE.**

**The next LINK magazine** will be the July - August 2017 issue.

**Please send in all contributions by  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017.**

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

Jennie Torpey: [jennietorpey@ntlworld.com](mailto:jennietorpey@ntlworld.com)

AMC Office: [office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk)

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



**Saturday OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 -  
7.00 pm**

**AYLESBURY METHODIST COMMUNITY  
CENTRE, BUCKINGHAM ST., HP20 2NQ**



**ADVANCE NOTICE**



**In aid of ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

**Tickets - £7.00 each**



**Including PLOUGHMANS,  
HOMEMADE CAKES & SOFT DRINKS**



**Evening includes a Raffle**

**!!! MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE!!!**

**Come and join in the fun –  
Tables of 6 (max 8)  
Make up a table or just buy a ticket,  
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Take care of your THOUGHTS because they will become  
WORDS.

Take care of your WORDS because they will become  
ACTIONS.

Take care of your ACTIONS because they will become  
HABITS.

Take care of your HABITS because they will form your  
CHARACTER.

Take care of your CHARACTER because it will form your  
DESTINY, and

Your DESTINY will be your LIFE.

THE QUALITY OF YOUR THOUGHTS DETERMINES THE  
QUALITY OF YOUR LIFE. (Dalai Lama)



## Saturdays

20<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017

4.00 - 6.00pm

'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](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk)





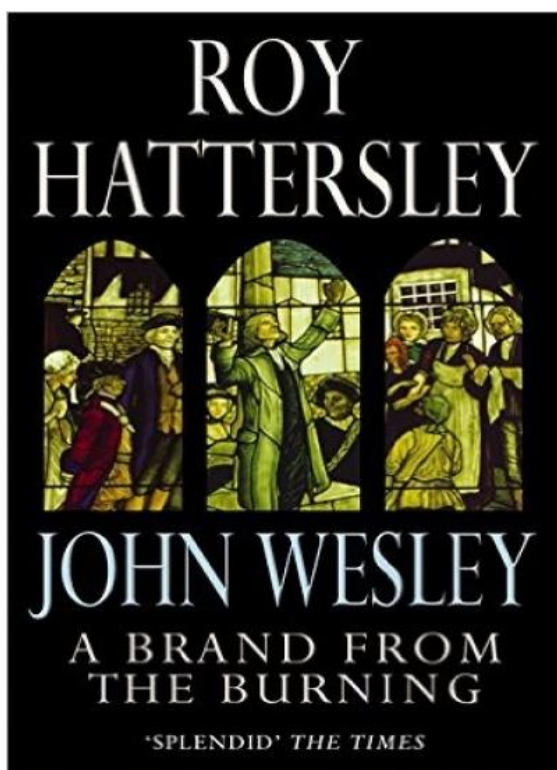
# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May: CHRISTIAN AID WEEK</b>		
Sun 14 May	10.30am	Family & Parade Service led by Mr Arthur Sara
Tues 16 May	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship - Talk by Mrs Joan Gregory
Wed 17 May	2.00 - 3.30pm	Bible Study
Thurs 18 May	7.30 - 9.00pm	Bible Study
Sat 20 May	4.00 - 6.00pm	Messy Church
<b>Sun 21 May</b>	8.45am 10.30am	<b>CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY</b> Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 27 May	2.00 - 4.00pm	Good Faith Book Club
Sun 28 May	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Aylesbury Creativity Group
Tues 30 May	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship - Members' Afternoon
Sun 4 June	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
<b>Sun 11 June</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>MHA Sunday</b> <b>Family &amp; Parade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk</b>
<b>Tues 13 June</b>	12.30 for 1pm	Tuesday Fellowship Lunch
<b>Wed 14 June</b>	<b>2.00 - 3.30pm</b>	Bible Study
<b>Sat 17 June</b>	11am - 4pm 7.30pm	Karibuni Family Fun Day at Fairford Leys Community Centre SOS: BBQ Fathers' (a) Day (early) with the Miskins
Sun 18 June	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk
Thurs 22 June	7.30 - 9.00pm	Bible Study
Sat 24 June	4.00 - 6.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 25 June	10.30am 5.00pm	<b>Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw</b> Open Air Circuit Service at Swanbourne
Tues 27 June	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship - Chris & Arthur Sara
Frid 7 July	Articles for July - August LINK magazine due in	
Sat 8 July	5.00pm	SOS: Posh Picnic at Tring Reservoir, Startops End
<b>Sun 9 July</b>	<b>ACTION FOR CHILDREN SUNDAY</b> <b>Stall with cakes and home produce in the hall after the service</b>	
Tues 11 July	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship - AGM with Rev Helen Kirk (Chair)
<b>Sat 22 July</b>	<b>Action for Children Charity Stall in Market Square</b>	
	2.00 - 4.00pm	Good Faith Book Club



## Good Faith Book Club

### John Wesley - A Brand From The Burning



Roy Hattersley's account of John Wesley's life and theology did not make an easy read for most of us, and provoked a lot of questions amongst the members of the Book Club, particularly those who had managed to finish it! But it offered us a chance to learn more about the person whose faith and works have inspired millions of followers.

Because we were seeing Wesley through the eyes of someone who is not a Christian, it was far from being a saintly picture. Wesley's faults were well displayed, though whether Hattersley fully caught the essential message that inspired Wesley's followers is less clear. We all felt that something was lacking in his understanding of people's spiritual needs.

The influence of John's mother Susannah was very evident, and the strength of her own views came through. But while John never shook off her influence, and often sought her opinion, it was felt that Hattersley may have pressed this too far, and she was a much more positive influence than he suggests. The picture given of John was of someone who frequently changed his theological opinions, and often submitted his mother's guidance on this. He was also portrayed as someone who consulted with others before deciding to follow his own opinion - which he then expected everyone else to share. But maybe this development of his theology in the light of experience is something to be admired rather than belittled.

Wesley was undoubtedly an autocratic leader, and no friend of democracy, but he was living at a time when the landed gentry were expected to be the leaders of the nation, and the clergy to be the people who led the Church. It was the failure of leadership by gentry and clergy to care for the outcast that pushed him into working to alleviate the suffering of the poor and to take his preaching to those places where the clergy were failing in their role. It was his aim to bring the Anglican Church back to its original task of preaching salvation and not to establish a separate church. However in this he largely failed, and step by step, he was driven to take decisions that put him more at odds with the Church orthodoxy of his time.

While Hattersley emphasised the importance of Wesley's organisational abilities, he failed to explain much about the detail of this organisation, such as the Class groups, which were a key feature of early Methodism.

The theological disputes of the age - Arminianism v Calvinism, Free Will v Antinomianism, Faith v Good Works - and Wesley's own struggles to explain his understanding of Christian Perfection, are well covered in the book. But as these are not the issues that generally concern us today, they are not easy for the average Methodist to relate to.

There was general agreement that Wesley lacked some interpersonal skills, particularly in his relationship with women. However we were not sure what he would think of Methodism today. We lack Wesley's single-mindedness, but would we want to be so focussed on our mission, that we could not lead more comfortable lives than he could ever have done on his horse?

Ken Harris  
September 2013

Grief comes in many forms when a loved one dies, and whether it be a partner, child, parent or friend, we all react and cope in different ways. This poem, for a partner, was sent to me a little while after my husband died, and in sharing it with you I hope it will help someone as it helped me.

***Bereft (Walking Alone)***

*It's happened to me, Master,  
that heaviest blow to Marriage,  
the death of a beloved partner.  
When we made our life long vows we knew it was  
'Till death do us part',  
but that moment seemed long away in a misty future.*

*Now my turn has come to walk alone.  
I'm glad that my loved one went first,  
glad that I could tend and help him to his last day.  
Thank you Lord for that.*

*Now I'm one of the great host of those who face single life,  
After years of intimate comradeship.  
I accept my lot without complaint,  
for I am but one among many.  
I have loved and have been loved,  
now I must meet life's challenges alone.  
Master, it is not easy, there is a painful shrinking from assuming burdens.  
A desperate need to confide in someone, to share with another.*

*For a time it seems half a life, a mechanical doing of duties,  
a painful remembering,  
but your presence relieves some of the sting and gives hope  
for the days ahead.*

*One day there will be a reunion in that beyond which you have prepared.  
So help me Lord, to live worthily, making of each day something of value.*

## THE GLORY OF THE LORD

I have been told by a member of Aylesbury Methodist Church, that one afternoon, when she happened to enter the building, she found it bathed in a most beautiful rose coloured light. The sun had struck the circular window above the balcony at a certain angle and the result was spectacular. It was as if the quotation from Ezekiel chapter 44 verse 4 was coming true. It reads, "I looked and saw the glory of the Lord filling the temple."



While chatting in the Church Coffee Bar one morning, my attention was drawn to the framed description of the David Wasley Window. I read it carefully and decided to copy it out, so that I could study it at leisure. Then I walked to the opposite end of the Church to see this window, high up near the roof. Like my friend, mentioned above, I was filled with awe. I took photographs of it, so that with the aid of a magnifying glass, I could appreciate its symbolism and meditate upon it.

There I found the circle, which represents the universe with all created things and the symbol of eternal with God and the healing mandala shape, with the star-like cross reminding us of Christ's life and death. The indescribable Holy Spirit is depicted as coming to the apostles as tongues of flame (Acts 2 verse 3) bringing the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, healing, miracles, prophecy and what David calls charity. (Corinthians 12 verse 8)



On either side of the central window are lights with other symbols – on the left an escallop shell associated with baptism and pilgrimage and adopted as a symbol of Methodism, and on the right the dove of peace amid air, fire and water.

Thank you, David Wasley, for giving me a lot to think about.

(Do go and read what David himself wrote about his window and see it for yourselves.)

Angela M, Smith

# SMILE!!!

*Do an act of kindness. Help one person SMILE*

“Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” Mother Teresa

“Peace begins with a smile.”

“People seldom notice old clothes if you wear a big smile.” Lee Mildon

“You’ll find that life is still worthwhile, if you just smile.” Charlie Chaplin

“You haven’t lost your smile at all, it’s right under your nose. You just forgot it was there.”

“Sometimes your joy is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your joy.” Thich Nhat Hanh

“If I can see pain in your eyes then share with me your tears. If I can see joy in your eyes then share with me your smile.” Santosh Kalwar

“Smile, even if it’s a sad smile, because sadder than a sad smile is the sadness of not knowing how to smile.”

“One who smiles rather than rages is always the stronger.”

If you smile when no one else is around, you really mean it.” Andy Rooney

“Today, give a stranger one of your smiles. It might be the only sunshine he sees all day.” P.S. I Love You



## CARIBBEAN EVENING

What a great evening we all had in March – at our annual Caribbean Evening, started some years ago by Beatie Francis!

This year we were raising funds for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity - a local charity close to the hearts of so many of us.

We had a brilliant evening of music, singing, dancing and recitations - all from local entertainers.

Then - the Caribbean meal - all cooked and donated by Church members and friends. So delicious, and with such a reputation, we sold out of tickets for the food and could only offer seats for the entertainment!



**RON ADAMS**



**Beatie presenting the cheque to Sue Jenkins**

The enormous support we had in organising the evening, selling concert and raffle tickets, cooking, baking, serving, and clearing up afterwards resulted in an amazing

**£1,010 for the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity!!**

Next year our own charity, Action for Children, has been chosen to benefit from the Caribbean Evening, so make sure you come along!!



**QUEENS PARK JAMMERS**



**KING KOLE'S MERRY OLD SOULS**



**BAREFOOT BELLYDANCE & BAND**





## Car Parking at AMC

It seems that a reminder about how we use the very small car park we have available to us all is perhaps overdue. Many of us already know that the car park is only to be used by people who are on the premises. It is not to be used as a parking place by members for a shopping trip into town. This approach maximizes the parking available to volunteers who are working on the premises as well as our clients.

The policy has been in place for over 10 years and has been ratified by Church Council. The policy is available for viewing, as all our policies are, in the Church vestibule, and is repeated on the following page.

There have been a few occasions recently where members have expressed their opinion that it is their 'right to park here as they are a church member' when they have been challenged by others.

This is not the case, so please will all members respect the policy as agreed at Church Council and only park here when they are on the premises.

Kevin Hardern, Resources Co-ordinator  
01296 481285



# **Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre.**

## **Car Parking Policy**

### **Background**

Car parking at AMC is very restrictive and has been a problem for the past 20 years. Since the redevelopment, spaces are even fewer, so a policy needs to be agreed which allows those on the premises on church or centre business to take priority.

### **Policy**

Car parking on site at Aylesbury Methodist Church is restricted to church members and helpers who are on site working at the church. If people have cause to go off site, for example shopping, then they should move their car to a public parking space. This applies from Monday to Saturday, 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.

At all times, parking is restricted to the designated tarmac area.

Cars should not be parked on the paved area, which is not designed to take the weight.

Kevin Hardern,  
Resources Co-ordinator,  
Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre  
October 2014

## They call the wind Jehovah

It comes so gently,  
Like a breeze through the trees,  
Echoing softly His name.  
The leaves whisper and  
Flowers sing together.  
Our mortal ears strain  
To hear the glorious melody.  
As nature communes with You.



All things manifested by  
Your wonderful awesomeness,  
Bow down before You.  
There is a subtle fragrance,  
That flows between us,  
As the Blessed spirit  
Moves amongst us all  
And fills our hearts with joy.



We feel the wind upon our face.  
It touches our very being  
With fingers of flaming fire.  
Moving around us like a  
Billowing, Smokey cloud.  
Almost palpable, but not.  
We can see it like a  
Veil of Heavenly lace.

Our hearts are so full of love  
As the spirit comes upon us.  
We feel only joy and Peace.  
All other things are past,  
Only the future is important.  
The sight of fire and flames united  
Sent by our Awesome Father,  
Sets our souls alight.

Breath of God, made visible.  
Love of God, made tangible.  
Peace of God, Entitled.  
We call the Wind Jehovah.

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## Aylesbury Bible Study 2017

Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30pm & Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm  
Focusing on Paul's letter to the church in Philippi

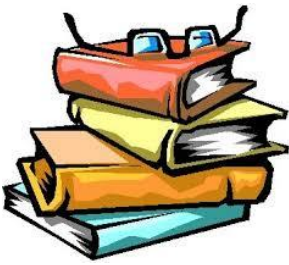


May	Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup>	Phil 4:2-9: 'How to survive a local church'
June	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Phil 4:10-23: 'Caring and sharing'

If you are looking for some challenging discussion, some help to understand the nitty gritty of the Bible, or you just want the opportunity to ask all the questions you've never dared to ask, please come along.

**You don't have to commit to all the sessions; just come to what you can.**

**All are welcome!**



## Tales from a College Manager

(A series of 9 tales)

### 4. Fire & Snow

The snow had been falling all day and conditions were becoming icy. The students had been out in the park next to the college and enjoyed their snowball fights. At 17.00, I went to the Principal with a request to shut down the college for the night. He refused to make this decision stating that I should monitor the Local Radio and take the decision if I thought it was necessary. By 19.30, all London buses were being ordered back to their garages; the Metropolitan Line was stopping all trains at Rickmansworth and the Chiltern Line was stopping at Amersham. I decided to close the college realising that I would have to find a B&B for the night.

After phoning Carol, I called the Caretaker on the radio, informed him of my decision and told him to meet me at the canteen for the start of the closure. Halfway round the college, I walked into a classroom where a colleague and family friend was teaching. Sometimes Course Leaders re-employed themselves as Part-Time Lecturers whenever they needed extra money under the pretence that they cannot find anybody else to teach the class. On this occasion, I was very glad that she had done so. She insisted that I should spend the night at her house and was happy to wait for me until I had completed the ceremony of keys with the Caretaker. The drive to her house was atrocious and we had a few skids on the way but I had a goodnight's sleep in her son's bed. He slept in a sleeping bag on the floor! Carol was surprised when I phoned from my B&B the next morning.

Six weeks later when I was again on Night Duty, I received a radio call at 18.15 from the Caretaker – smoke was seeping from under the door of the Pottery Room. Before calling the Fire Brigade, I decided to investigate further. By the time that I had arrived outside the room, the smoke was very wispy indeed. Looking through the glass window of the door, I could see that it was coming from the Kiln Room. Questioning the Caretaker, I found out that he had been notified that the kiln had been switched on at 16.00 hrs and was to remain on for 24 hrs. He didn't know where the cut-out switch was positioned in the case of an emergency. In spite of his protests that we should phone the Fire Brigade, I persuaded him to unlock the Pottery Room door on the assurance that if I couldn't find the emergency switch in the Pottery Room then I wasn't stupid enough to open the fire-door of the Kiln Room. The emergency switch was where I expected it to be - at one side of the fire-door. I was just about to give it a mighty whack when there was a shout from the corridor, "*Dave, don't do that! Remember the date!*" It was the Senior Lecturer in Pottery who had arrived in anticipation that his full-time students had performed their traditional 'April Fool' trick. Whilst loading the kiln, they had stuffed newspaper into their pots. It was the newspaper that was burning and causing the smoke. All that was needed was for the fire-door to be opened so that the smoke could escape into the lecture room and out through its open windows. Dave Rogers

## From London to Paris for Karibuni!

This July Gill Nord is taking on the challenge of cycling from London to Paris, all for Karibuni. That's 181 miles!

The cycle ride will take 3 days from the **20th - 23rd July** and the journey will finish in Paris in time for the final stage of the Tour de France.

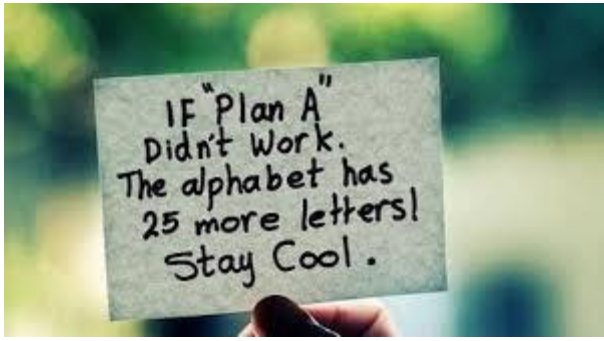
Gill is a keen cyclist, but has never covered such a huge distance or cycled for 3 days in a row!

Please donate generously and support Gill as she takes on the adventure!

You can find her donation page at  
[www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/gilliannord](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/gilliannord)

**Good luck Gill!**





## DEVELOP AN OVERCOMING ATTITUDE

'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world'

1 John 4:4

The disappointments of life can cause you to see nothing but negativity in your future. You express hopelessness, belittle your own abilities, refuse to take any risk, say no to personal growth opportunities, complain about the unfairness of life, and say that nothing you do will make a difference in a particular circumstance.

Do you recognise any of these attitudes in yourself? If so, there's good news. Dr Paul Meier, a Christian psychiatrist, said, 'Attitudes are nothing more than habits of thought, and habits can be acquired. An action repeated becomes an attitude realised.' That means with practice, you can develop an overcoming attitude.

Here's how:

- 1) Be honest about your quest to conquer pessimism. Give someone you respect the permission to point out when you are being negative.
- 2) Limit your exposure to negative input. Since you become like the company you keep, look for people who fortify your faith and not feed your fears. 'He that walketh with wise men shall be wise' (Proverbs 13:20 KJV).
- 3) Volunteer to serve others who are less fortunate. Serving creates positive feelings and gives you a sense of value; it's also the right thing to do.
- 4) Look for the good in every situation and always express faith that it's there! US President Harry Truman said, 'A pessimist is one who makes difficulties of his opportunities, and an optimist is one who makes opportunities of his difficulties.' When you face a difficulty today, see it as an opportunity because 'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world'.

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. A few copies (donation 50p) are usually available in the front vestibule. Please give the money to Jennie Torpey or leave it at the coffee bar for her.



## **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

**SUNDAY - JULY 9<sup>th</sup>**



**Sale of Homemade Cakes, Jams and  
Home Produce in the Hall  
after morning service**

**Please help us to raise funds to enable Action for Children to improve  
the lives of thousands of vulnerable children,  
young people and families under their care**

**Are you able to:**

**Bake us a cake, or bring home made produce  
to sell on the stall?**



**Offers to: Pauline Noble: 484940  
Jennie Torpey: 581414  
Sandie Steeden: 331278**

**Come and support the stall after morning service.**

**SATURDAY - JULY 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**CHARITY STALL IN MARKET SQUARE  
Tombola and Children's Lucky Dip**

**If you have any suitable gifts for the Tombola or Lucky Dip,  
please give them to Pauline, Jennie or Sandie.**



*Vale of Aylesbury  
Methodist Circuit*

*Songs of Praise 2017*

***CALLED BY CHRIST  
TO BE DISCIPLES***

*A celebration of service & ministry*

*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 16th July @ 6.00 pm*

***EVERYONE WELCOME***