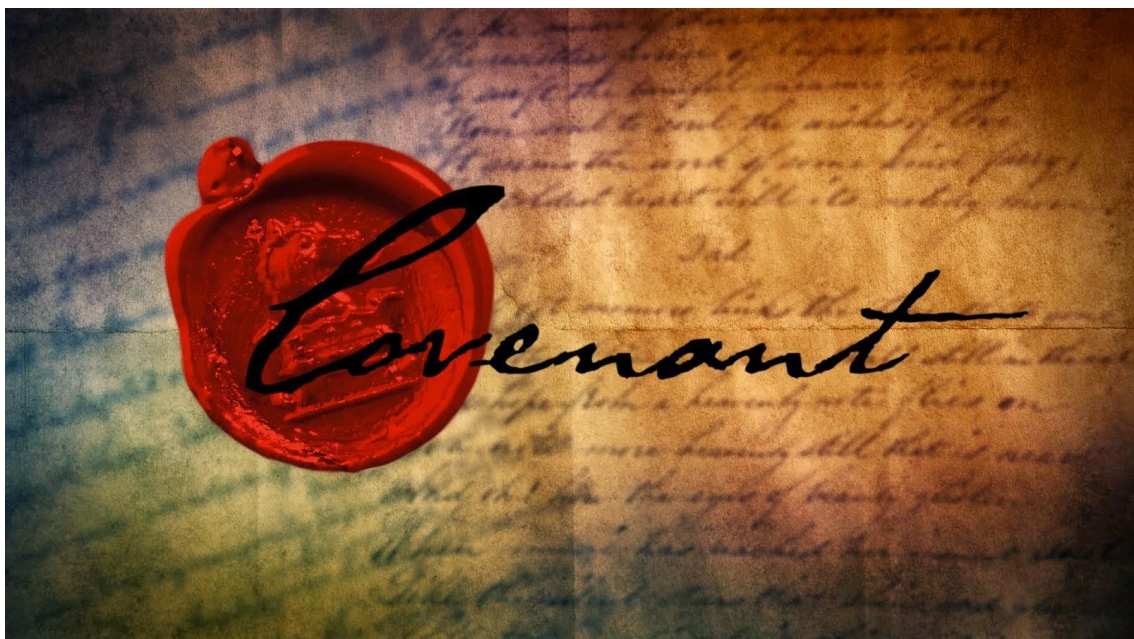


Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



‘LINK’

**January - February
2018**

**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre**

Buckingham Street

Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ

Registered Charity No. 1129749

Church Office: 01296 426526

e-mail: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

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

revhelenkirk@sky.com



Happy New Year!

As 2018 begins, I'm sure I am not alone in making New Year resolutions. This year I want to be down to a size 8, run an Olympic marathon, learn to speak Mandarin and write my first novel! Only joking!

Often we make resolutions that we will struggle to keep; not just because they are too ambitious (like those mentioned above) but because we are not willing to change the habits of a lifetime in order to fulfil them. We want to be different without having to change any of our routines. It is in cultivating new habits that we become new people.

In all seriousness, I do have a resolution for 2018, and that is to cultivate a rhythm of prayer. As a minister, you will not be surprised to hear that I do prayer but often it is fitted into busy days; a snatched moment or an arrow sent to a divine target. That is all ok, but I am committing myself to changing my routine; to intentionally stopping, even just for 10 minutes, at certain points in the day, and realising I am in the presence of God, and holding in his love the people and situations that concern me.

You see, I believe that prayer changes things and most importantly it changes me and how I see the world. For when I stop amidst all my busyness and remember who I am - a loved child of God - then I begin to know peace. When I allow a moment of stillness to begin to unravel the tangled mess of my thoughts, then I start to see things differently. When I think of another, I know that I cannot solve their problems, but I love them enough to give them this time.

All of this is prayer.

So this year, why don't you join me in a commitment to prayer? You don't need costly gym membership or a weightwatchers' subscription; instead, just an intention to 'Be still and know' - to know God's presence and to hold others within that knowledge.

Helen.

P.S. If you want to think further about prayer, I will be running a Lent Course based on the Lord's Prayer.

And from Ascension to Pentecost, all of the Circuit Churches will be taking part in 'Thy Kingdom Come' - a national prayer intuitive.

www.thykingdomcome.global More information on both to follow!

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 9TH & 10TH December 2017

AMC's first Christmas Tree Festival was a great success, hopefully to be repeated in the future, thanks to the hard work by Gill Marks and her team organising the event.

So much thought went into the many trees, real and artificial, which were donated and decorated by Church groups and by groups who use the Community Centre, each describing the purpose & aims of the group or activity.



The winning tree was by the NHS Blood Donation Team, with each dark red bauble carrying a thought-provoking message from a blood donor or member of the team.

The total raised over the weekend from donations and refreshments was £850, with a further £450 made on a craft stall run by Rosemarie Bucknell during the weeks beforehand. The proceeds are to be used for the planned Church Welcome Area.



Our own two trees during the Christmas period, one in the Church and one in the Centre Reception Area, were also much admired - 'so beautifully and tastefully decorated'!



Thank you all for your amazing response to the annual Shoebox Appeal. I have not received confirmation of the total number of boxes sent from the U.K. but thought that you would all like to see what was sent from this area.

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH	48 BOXES
3'S COMPANY	12 BOXES
1 ST AYLESBURY BOYS' BRIGADE	10 BOXES
OTTLEY AND WOZLEY	18 BOXES
EDGCOTT VILLAGE GROUP	28 BOXES
HIGHMARSH SCHOOL	59 BOXES
STONE AND DINTON FRIENDS	38 BOXES

The grand total from this area was a staggering 213 boxes, and there were bags of scarves, hats, gloves, soft toys and good quality clothes.

What a successful year, and I hope that we can continue to support the work of this charity in future years.

Margaret Miskin



HELP FOR HAROLD

How was he going to cope in the future? I think that was the question in the elderly gentleman's mind, when Margaret and I got into conversation with him, in the hotel lounge on Christmas Day. He had left his wife in their room, recovering from the hearty Christmas dinner and had found us, fellow guests to talk to. He told us his wife had recently been diagnosed with dementia and he was worried about what might lie in store for them.

Margaret was proud of the fact that she had been able to nurse her mother at home, until she had died peacefully earlier in the year. Their relationship had not been good in the past, but during the time that she had been her mother's carer, they had got on well and had had lots of laughs together.

But would this gentleman have the courage and strength to look after his wife like that, when her brain became more and more affected by her illness?

I decided to tell him about Harold. Harold and Audrey had lived in the ground floor flat, under my flat, years ago. He had introduced himself by telling me that they were entertainers. They had once sung in a concert in Winchester Cathedral and still sang for the old folk in a club in the town. They had married in their seventies and it had been a second marriage for them both. I would often see them going for their daily walk, hand in hand, and whenever I visited them, Audrey always pressed some little gift upon me - a cake, a chocolate, an orange.

But then, things started to go wrong. She was getting forgetful. They visited the doctor. A social worker came to see them. They were given leaflets about the Alzheimer's Society. Would Harold like a holiday? Should Audrey spend a week in respite care? No, said Harold. He could cope. They loved each other. Then things got worse. One night I heard him calling for help.

“She’s gone. Audrey’s gone,” he yelled. I rushed downstairs to find that she had left the house. The police located her, half an hour later. She had wandered into the nearby industrial estate and been found by the night watchman. She had thought that she was playing there with her grandchildren.

After that, there were evenings, when my neighbour and I heard alarmingly raised voices. Poor Harold was understandably losing his patience. We feared for their safety. The turning point came, when he fell and broke his hip. When he was admitted to hospital, Audrey had to go into a care home and after he recovered, he was able to have ‘Meals on Wheels’ and go to a Day Centre twice a week. On other days he visited his wife. Once he no longer had to look after her full time, he began to enjoy her company again. At Christmas he was able to join her for a few days in the Home. I went to see them there. She was not able to carry on a conversation by then, but they sat together holding hands.

I had tried to show that gentleman, in the hotel, that it might be possible for their love for each other to remain, even as her illness progressed, but that he must not be afraid to ask for help, if the time came when he felt he could no longer cope with the demands made upon him.

The next day he introduced me to his wife and I believe Harold’s story may have helped him in a small way.

Angela M. Smith





Our Action for Children Christmas Stall in Friars Square on Saturday 2nd December raised £365.69!! Many thanks to all who donated gifts and prizes and who helped us on the day!

Thank you also to everyone for the toys, gifts and money donations brought to the Toy & Gift Service, and the many hand-knitted baby garments, and cot & pushchair blankets knitted by some of our ladies, They were all delivered to the local Family Centre, who were delighted to be able to give them to the many vulnerable children in the area who would otherwise have had very little at Christmas.

The Christmas collections at AMC for Action for Children were:

- Christingle Service: £162.85
- Christmas Day: £456.81

The next Caribbean Evening, on Saturday 24th March 2018, will be in aid of Action for Children, so do mark the date in your diary!

We shall also be having our annual Tombola and Children's Lucky Dip in the summer in Market Square, so we would be very grateful for any unwanted gifts and items suitable for this stall. You can give them to:

Jennie Torpey (581414), Pauline Noble (484940)
or Sandie Steeden (331278)

Remember, we collect old and foreign currency (notes and coin), so if you have any lurking in drawers or cupboards, please give them to Jennie, Pauline or Sandie.

HOW
ACTION FOR
CHILDREN
WORKS

CARIBBEAN EVENING



Ken Cole's Merry Old Souls

Saturday 24th March
2018
6.30 - 10.00pm

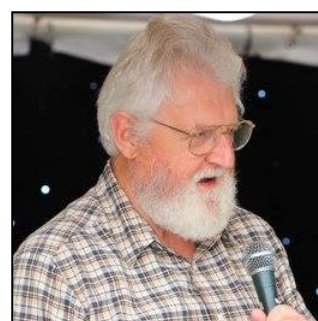
Come and join us for an evening of music,

*singing, recitation and dancing,
followed by a delicious Caribbean meal.*

Tickets: Adults £8.00 - Children £3.00

*Available soon from Beatie Francis 421505
or Jennie Torpey 581414*

All profits to Action for Children



Ron Adams

*There are a limited number of tickets for the meal,
but if you wish to come for the entertainment only,
between 6.30 - 7.45pm, please do come along and just make a
donation to Action for Children.*



Barefoot Bellydance



Queens Park Jammers

J TEAM



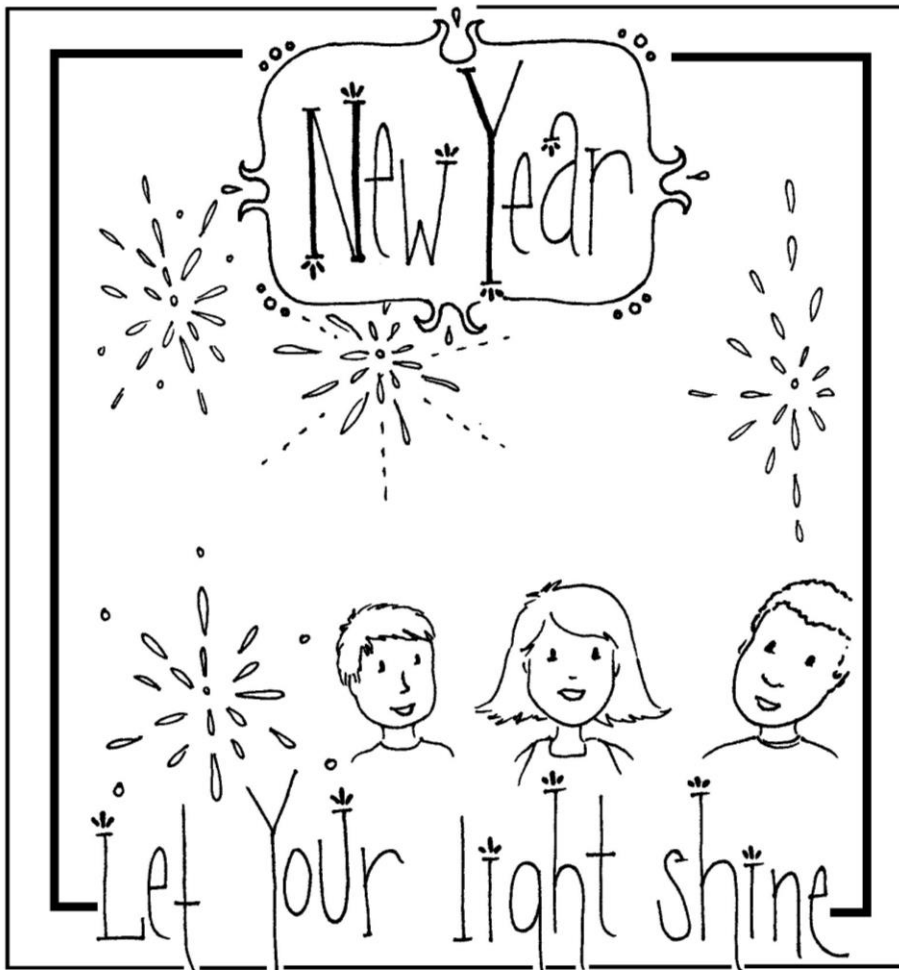
Welcome to the J Team pages

As the New Year begins we can keep with us the Christmas message: God is with us.

Isn't it comforting to know that God is always with us? We just celebrated Jesus' birthday. He came to earth as a little human baby and grew up and was tempted and went through tough times, just like us. He has gone through all the things we will go through and he is able to help us.

God Bless OUR

Colour it in



A new year offers us a chance to grow and do better things than we did the year before.

When we ask him to forgive us of our sins, it's like he erases it from our lives.

This year, we can have a fresh start, we can ask Jesus to forgive us of our sins and live in our hearts.

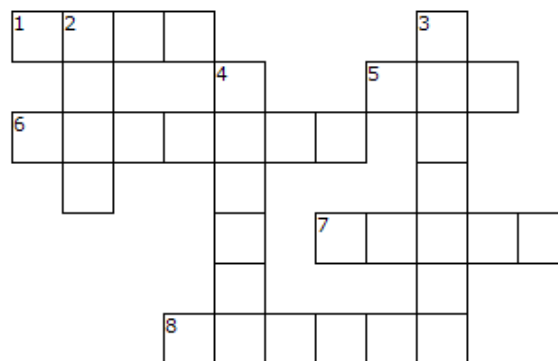
One thing we can fill this new year with is prayer and remember that God is with us wherever we are.

God's love is given freely, isn't it? We don't have to pay for it. When you have God's love, you can keep it to yourself, or you can choose to share it with others. As you share His love, as you choose to give it away, the more you get in return. You see, that's the way it is with God's love. The more you share it, the more you get in return.

Love One Another

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 (NIV)

Based on John 15:9-17 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
5. A state of happiness or delight
6. Someone that performs duties for a master
7. To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
8. A person that you like very much

DOWN

2. To do what you are told; follow the rules
3. An order which a person is expected to obey
4. One who has authority over another person

SERVANT	OBEY	LEARN	COMMAND
FRIEND	LOVE	MASTER	JOY

Dear God,
 Thank you for your love for us. Help me to spend each day with a smile on my face, love in my heart and joy in all I do.
 Amen

Aylesbury Bible Study 2018

Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30pm
(No evening sessions)



February	21 st	Judgement
March	14 th	Faithfulness
April	18 th	Who's included?
May	23 rd	All the bits we've missed!

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



The next LINK magazine will be the March - April 2018 issue.

Please send in all contributions by Friday 2nd March 2018.

To make sure I 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.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 14 Jan	10.30am	Family & Brigade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 20 Jan	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 21 Jan	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw
Tues 23 Jan	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: David Neville - Slides
Sat 27 Jan	2.00pm 7.00pm	Good Faith Book Club Karibuni Quiz Night at Fairford Leys Community Centre
Sun 28 Jan	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Arthur Sara
Sat 3 Feb	7.30pm	SOS: Winter Olympics at the Aylens'
Sun 4 Feb	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 6 Feb	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Rev Helen Kirk
Sun 11 Feb	10.30am	Family & Brigade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 17 Feb	4.00pm	Newcomers' Cream Tea
Sun 18 Feb	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Rev Ann Henman
Tues 20 Feb	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Arthur & Chris Sara
Wed 21 Feb	1.00pm	Bible Study - Judgement
Sat 24 Feb	7.30pm	Alfan Foundation Youth Concert
Sun 25 Feb	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Aylesbury Creativity Group
Sun 4 March	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 6 March	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Miss Angela Smith - Talk on Thomas Hickman
Sun 11 March Mothering Sunday	10.30am	Family & Brigade Service - Local Arrangement
Wed 14 March	2.00pm	Bible Study - Faithfulness
Sat 17 March	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 18 March	10.30am 6.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk Circuit Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 20 March	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: ANUKET Belly Dancers
Sat 24 March	2.00pm 6.30pm	Good Faith Book Club Caribbean Evening in aid of Action for Children

The Rape of Gaia

You gave to us this beautiful earth,
To care for it, help it grow;
And, ultimately, to love it.

Yet we have not cared for this,
Your living world.
We just divide countries
Into assets.

And fight for the purity of the citizens
Who were born in those countries.

Ethnic cleansing is an awful word,
And an even more terrible
Thing to happen.

We rape this beautiful Gaia
For everything that she can give:
Oil, gas, minerals, trees,
And much, much more.

We pollute the pure waters
With toxic waste and poison,
Which in turn will kill
All aquatic life.

We take, take and take again,
And give nothing back.
Greed is a terrible thing.

God is saddened by the injustice of it all.
But because we have been given free will,
All He can do is watch with deep sorrow.

Someday, in the future,
This beautiful blue planet
That is seen from space, and is alive,
Will be brown and yellow and dead.
And God will weep for the loss.

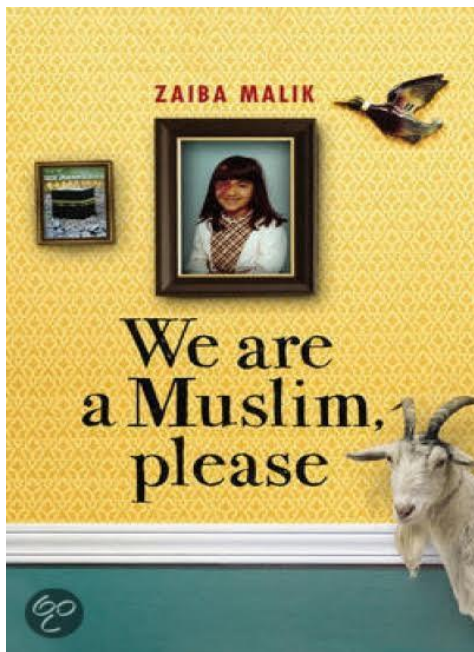
We must do something now.
We have to learn to love
Our awesome world again.

We need to stop taking,
And give back,
Just as we have been given.
So that we can, once again,
Live as God wants us to.

© 2016 Babs



We are a Muslim, please



We enjoyed this book, and found the letter to the 7/7 Bomber Shehzad Tanweer in the final chapter to be moving and a testament to the author's ability in the end to be both British and a good Muslim. The letter is profoundly sad and sets out to explain that when he "did what he did" on that day - killing innocent people - he was not being a good Muslim and there will be no reward for him in Heaven.

In the earlier chapters, Malik describes what it was like to be a practising Muslim from birth in Bradford aka Bradistan, Yorks. A feature of her faith was the emphasis on the afterlife and the need to be good in order to go to Heaven.

Heaven and Hell are graphically described by Malik. It was noted that there are some similarities in the experience she describes and our own past experience of Christian worship in Church, for example: the phenomena of the pious nature of the worshippers twinned with their practice of policing the neighbourhood and reporting on anyone who is seen to be out of line. However she also described incidents which contrasted with the Book Club's experience, such as the time she prayed for a flute but none arrived, leading her to conclude that she had not been good enough.

After leaving university, Malik stopped practising for a while but was forced to confront whether she was a Muslim when she was arrested and questioned in Pakistan. Her reflections led her to the conclusion that it was not her but her inquisitors who were not good Muslims.

It was noted that there was little evidence that Malik interacted with children from Christian or secular families. The absence of interaction between established and incoming communities is widespread, and numerous examples were made, such as British expats in Spain or workers in the oil industry. This led to a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the policy of multiculturalism.

One of the benefits of reading this book was the opportunity it gave us to learn about the interior world of the author as she was growing up.

Michele Challenger

Circuit Camping Weekend 2018

When 29 June – 1 July

Where Bridge Villa Camping and Caravan
Park Wallingford

Cost All prices per night for two people
£25 caravan or campervan
£21 tent, £5 for each extra adult
£3 per child, £1 per dog.
Awning £2 per night.

The site is situated less than half a mile from the River Thames and is a short distance from Wallingford which has good bus links to Oxford, Henley and Windsor. Boats can be hired just half a mile from the site.

For more information check the website
www.bridgevilla.co.uk.

As usual those wishing to extend their stay on either side of the weekend are very welcome to do so.

To book your place contact Chris Sara tel.01296484310 or email chrisara096@gmail.com.

A deposit of £10 per unit needs to be paid by 31st Jan.



Transforming Young
Kenyan Lives

www.karibuni.org.uk
Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

KARIBUNI QUIZ NIGHT

FAIRFORD LEYS COMMUNITY
CENTRE
HP19 7HT

27TH JANUARY 7PM

INCLUDES A
FISH AND
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TEAMS OF 6-8

BRING YOUR
OWN DRINKS
AND NIBBLES

TICKETS £12
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01296 641261
ROGERWATSON775@BTINTERNET.COM

Surprise Preacher

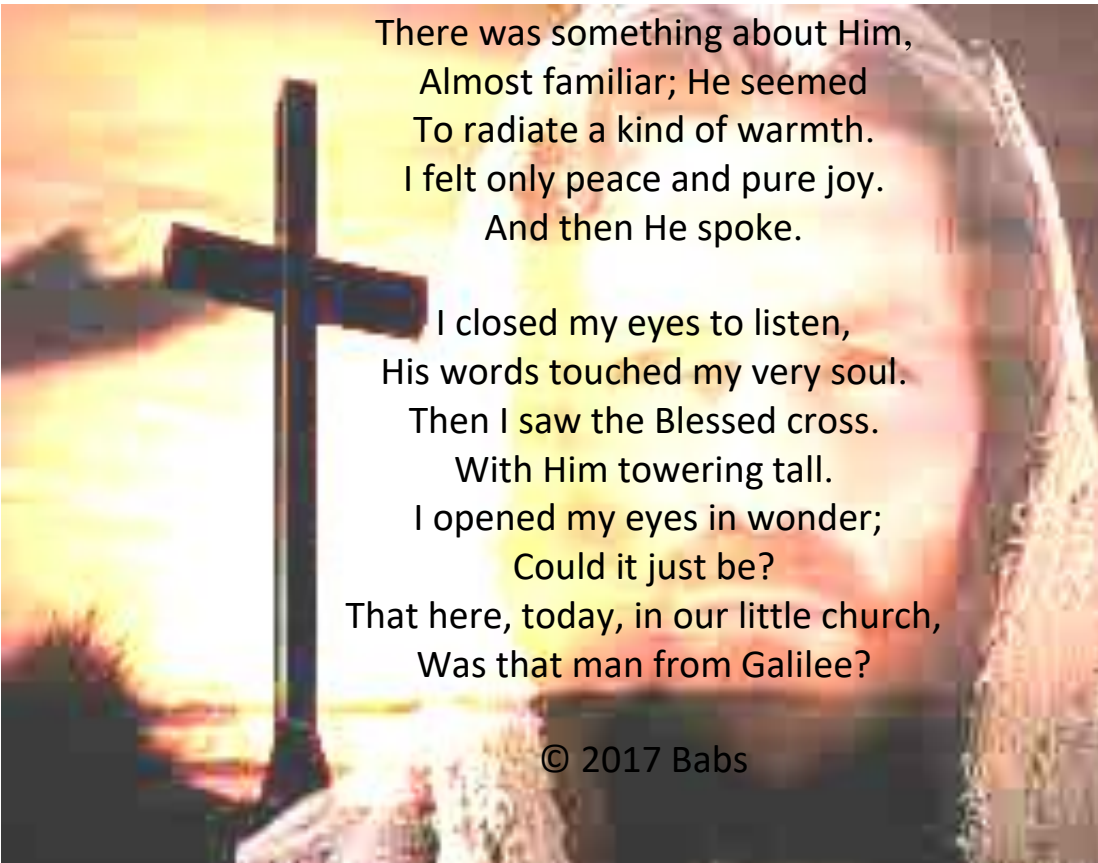
Our church had begun to fill;
The atmosphere was buzzing
More than usual for a Sunday.
We were all here to worship,
To Praise God,
And give Him thanks.
A Holy time to commune
With Our Awesome Father.

We have a new speaker
No-one has seen before.
I was excited; I love to
Hear new people preach.
It seems to bring the word of God
Alive again, newer somehow.
Not so dusty, as some people
Can make it sound.

I sat right at the front
As I wanted a good view.
So I was one of the first to see!
There was something about Him,
Almost familiar; He seemed
To radiate a kind of warmth.
I felt only peace and pure joy.
And then He spoke.

I closed my eyes to listen,
His words touched my very soul.
Then I saw the Blessed cross.
With Him towering tall.
I opened my eyes in wonder;
Could it just be?
That here, today, in our little church,
Was that man from Galilee?

© 2017 Babs





NEWCOMERS' CREAM TEA

**Saturday, FEBRUARY 17th - Rooms 4/5
Aylesbury Methodist Church 4.00 – 6.00 p.m.**

This Invitation is for all who may have been attending our Church over the last year, but have not been able to come to one of our informal teas. All the family are welcome so please make a note of the date and give one of the two people named below a ring and let us have your name and contact number for catering purposes.

**Pauline Noble
01296 484940**

**Julianne Wilderspin
01296 626065**



Way back in the dim distant past, a Methodist missionary went to a far-flung spot, to start his missionary work. He found a guide with a canoe to take him upriver to the remote site where he would be based.

About noon on the second day of travel up the river, they began to hear drums. The missionary asked his guide, "What are those drums?"

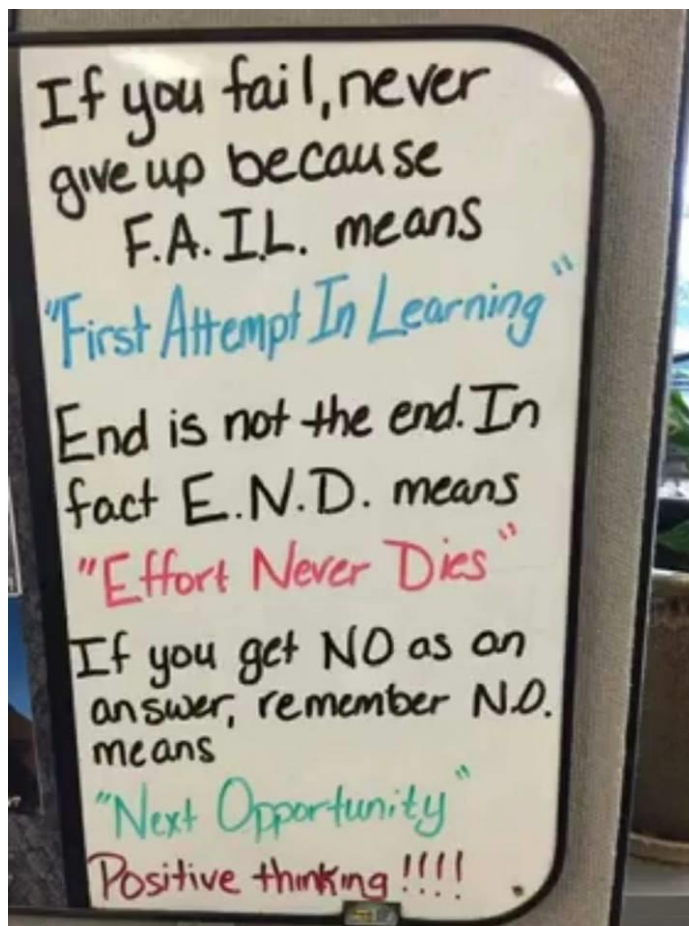
The guide turned to him and said, "Drums okay, but VERY BAD when they stop."

As they travelled, the drums grew louder and louder. The missionary was nervous, but the guide merely repeated, "Drums okay. Drums not bad. When drums stop, then very bad!"

Then the drums suddenly stopped. Terrified, the missionary yelled to the guide: "The drums have stopped! What now?"

The guide crouched down, covered his head with his hands and said, "Guitar solo."

'Methodically Recorded' - Facebook





People Building

'We ... ought to bear with the failings of the weak.'

Romans 15:1

If you think you've nothing of real value to offer others, consider the words of an unknown poet:

*One song can spark a moment; one flower can wake a dream.
One tree can start a forest; one bird can herald spring.
One smile begins a friendship; one handclasp lifts a soul.
One star can guide a ship at sea; one word can frame the goal.
One vote can change a nation; one sunbeam lights a room.
One candle wipes out darkness; one laugh can conquer gloom.
One step can start a journey; one word can start a prayer.
One hope can raise our spirits; one touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom; one heart can know what's true.
One life can make a difference; you see...it's up to you.*

Author Jon Walker says:

'Encouragement is part of God's nature. The New Testament word for encouragement is the same word Jesus used for the Holy Spirit, who comes alongside us as an advocate, constant comforter, resident reminder, holy helper, indwelling guide, supplier of courage. Another way God encourages us is when other believers come alongside us as agents of encouragement. Encouragers offer:

- affirmation and confirmation to those who see God's hand working in their lives (1 Thessalonians 2:3-4);
- exhortation and reassurance to those who walk through trials and tribulations (1 Thessalonians 5:14); and
- reconciliation and restoration to those who stray (Gal 6:1).

While there are many ways to bring out the best in others, in reality it only takes one: a willingness to 'bear with the failings of the weak and not ... please ourselves'.

That's how we strengthen them in the faith.

It's called people-building.'

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.



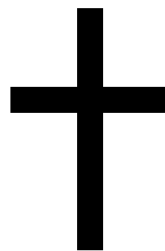
*Vale of Aylesbury
Methodist Circuit*

THE PROCESSION OF PALMS

and

THE MORNING OF THE DAY OF DAYS

by Malcolm Williamson



**An act of worship for Congregation and Choir
recalling some of the events during
Passiontide and Easter.**

**Presented by the Circuit Choir together with the
Choir of Tring Parish Church and friends from
other local churches and choirs under the direction
of Cliff Brown**

Led by the Rev Helen Kirk

**Aylesbury Methodist Church
Sunday 18th March 2018 @ 6.00 pm**

**(Repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring on
Sunday 25th March @ 6.30 pm)**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.