

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

[*See note on following page]

Church Office: 01296 426526

E-mail: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Website: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

This Church is God's house.
God loves and welcomes you
whoever you are, whatever
your age, gender, mental
health, physical ability, race,
sexuality or financial situation.
You are welcome here,
whatever your circumstances;
however much or little you
wish to engage; whatever you
feel about faith.

Sunday 21st April 2024

8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Noreen Daley-Lee.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Anthonia Allen.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are, at 8.45am: Frances Aylen, and at 10.30am: Elaine Hope and Gill Nord.

Please join us in the Hall after the service for tea, coffee, and a biscuit.

Hymns	8.45am: StF 293 588 736 10.30am: StF 58 327 481 356 81
Readings	8.45am: John 10: 11-18 10.30am: Acts 4: 5-12 John 10: 11-18
Organist	Derrick Matthews
Streaming	To safeguard children and any vulnerable adults, our live-streamed services will not show the congregation.

The words of the hymns are projected at the front of the Church.

If you would like to have a hymnbook for the service, please ask.



If your little ones (up to age 3) become restless during services, you are welcome to take them into the creche room in the Welcome Area to play. The service can be heard from there.

All children MUST be accompanied by an ADULT.

The flowers this week are given by Beatie Francis in loving memory of her two daughters, Jean and Judy.

News of the Church Family.

Brenda Horne has undergone a serious operation and is in hospital at Oxford. The operation has been successful and the Consultant is pleased with her progress and hopes that she will be home to convalesce in a few days. We send our love and prayers to Brenda, and of course to Allan, Caroline and Alastair.

Dennis Philips. As was announced a couple of weeks ago, Dennis unexpectedly died at home. At the moment there is no further information about his funeral but we hear this is not likely to be until the middle of May. We will advertise date and time as soon as we hear.

Mary Wright has unfortunately had a fall and damaged her vertebra, which means that for the moment she must wear a special brace. At present she is having a few weeks care in Lewin House and would very much welcome visitors. Any further information can be obtained from Pauline 484940.

Olwen Darlington. As we know, the funeral of her husband Cliff was a couple of weeks ago. The couple had been married for 70 years, and, as Olwen is almost blind, was her full-time carer. Olwen now feels desperately lonely and would welcome visits from any friends. Please contact Pauline 484940. or any further information.



Food Hub and Foodbank Collection

Our AMC Food Hub and Foodbank has been up and running for nearly 18 months now and has become a significant weekly event for around 20 people each week. We have lots of enthusiastic and committed volunteers, and we are very grateful for the support of the church with collecting food donations, and to the Coffee Bar team for being willing to share the Welcome Space with us. Thank you. On 29 April the volunteers will be having a training session with one of the team at AHAG (the local homeless charity that started its life in our Community Centre), who will be giving up two hours of their evening for us. We felt that, at the very least, we should offer a donation for the work of AHAG in gratitude.

*To enable us to do this, the collection in the Hall for tea and coffee after the service **THIS MORNING** will be for the Food Hub. Your generous support would be much appreciated.* Karen Crussell and the Food Hub team

*** A reminder that Richard Atkinson is currently on Sabbatical until July 8th 2024.**

For pastoral concerns, please contact either:

Rev Heegon Moon: 01844 698237, heegon5@gmail.com or

Rev Noreen Daley-Lee: 01525 240083, noreendaley1@hotmail.com

You are invited to attend the District Ordinand's Testimony Service for Reverends James Patterson and Phil Robinson on 19th May, 6pm, here at Aylesbury Methodist Church. Please come along to support James and Phil on this special milestone as they share their testimonies.

See posters on notice boards.

J TEAM. We have recently seen a large increase in our J Team numbers and now need extra help. We are looking for volunteers who would act as 'floaters' on a Sunday morning. You would have nothing to prepare but would just turn up by 10.30am and float between our 2 groups, offering assistance if needed, eg colouring, cutting and sticking in our younger group or helping with discussions in our older group. You would help on a rota basis, so the more floaters we have, the less frequently you will be on. If you are interested in helping in this valuable way or would like to know a bit more, please contact Vivienne Kemp on 01296 399315.



Our next Messy Church is on **Saturday, 4th May, 3.45 – 6.00pm.** To help us with catering please email amc22messychurch@gmail.com by **Thursday 2nd May** to let us know if you and your children are coming along. Would be lovely to see some new faces. Margaret.

The next Church Lunch Club will be on Wednesday 1st May, at 12.30pm, when we will be serving up Cheese and Bacon Macaroni Cheese with crusty bread. Lunch club is open to everyone; it is just a lovely social lunch, so if you are free please sign the sheet in the back coffee bar as we need to know how many we are catering for. See you there. Gill Marks 01296 748659



SOS on TOUR in 2024! Our next meeting is on **Saturday 27th April**, at the home of Viv and Steve Kemp, Tel 399315. Do come along. Tonight's theme is '*all things French*', and as Marie-Antoinette reportedly said, '*let them eat cake*', we will do our best to heed her words. French Fries also count! Ring Viv for more information.

If you still have an Easter Offering envelope to return, please bring it in next week. If you missed having an envelope, there are some in the display cabinet in the Welcome Space. Thank you, Ruth.

A Huge Thankyou to Ellesborough Silver Band for their foot-tapping concert last Saturday. An excellent afternoon's entertainment! Donations for entry and refreshments amounted to the grand total of £515.00, shared by AMC and the Band - **£257.50 each**.



AMC ORGAN CONCERT
Wednesday 15th May @ 7.30 pm.

For this, the 36th occasion, we welcome the return visit of the outstanding concert organist, **DANIEL MOULT**, reviewed as 'one of the finest organists of our time'. Daniel will present and perform a typical 'Town Hall Concert' programme designed to appeal to all.

Entrance £15.00 or £12.00 if booked in advance. (Students free)

Available at the church office on weekday mornings from 10.30am. Alternatively, direct from Derrick & Janice Matthews (01296 488076)

All profit from this occasion is donated to AMC funds.

Prayer Requests. If you have requests for people or situations to be included in the prayers, there is a Prayer Request folder in the display cabinet in the Welcome Space for you to write in, or you could let Richard know in advance.

Our Prayer Group also meets on alternate Tuesdays, 10.45-12noon, and are very happy to receive prayer requests. They would also welcome anyone who would like to join them. Please email Ruby: rubydarku@hotmail.co.uk



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

WEEDON

Dear All

This Sunday, 21 April, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Weedon, and we join with Sarah as she shares her story with us. Very few of us have the Emmaus Road experience; for most of us our recognition of the importance of God in our lives is a process that takes place over many years. Sarah reveals how she gradually became aware of God's influence in her life and how she slowly began to understand how important He was to her and to recognise His vital presence in her life. Pete.



When I first came to Weedon in 2000 my life became very different from the urban work environment in London where I had spent my twenties.

I grew up in a household without much faith. My Yorkshire father had spent his formative years at a boarding school in Germany for children of civilian workers, and my atheist mother had grown up in a Medway town and was evacuated during the war. These experiences meant that they settled into suburban life in my childhood county of Hampshire where there was little in the way of church life, although I regularly went to Girl Guides and Am-Dram meetings in a local church hall.

I began to experience life with God whilst at university. Our chaplain regularly held tea parties and provided a good listening ear, but still God was not a driving force in my thought processes. Nor did he come to me in the turmoil of my time in London as a trainee solicitor when my days were over-filled with work commitments and my evenings with friends and entertainment. Like many, I joined in the heady days of Four Weddings and a Funeral in the 1990s so my only contact with church was for numerous marriages in all seasons and across the country.

So, back to Weedon - Simon and I had ourselves got married and I started attending the services that Ralph Followell helped to organise, primarily led by Ann Varker, and later David Jenkins. And by the time I had young children, I had started also going to our partner parish church of St Mary's in Hardwick. These early years of church for me were time-out for reflection and meditation. I took in the messages that were passed on each week and began to get an understanding of how much God features in and affects my world. My life is

complete sharing it with God. He guides me and gives me strength. He allows me to remain calm. He shows me how to help others and he teaches me to be patient and to seek forgiveness. He answers my prayers and speaks to me every day. I was baptised in 2009 together with our three girls, a wonderful joyous occasion.

We're not all perfect and I don't profess to be, but I try to live my best life knowing that God is watching over me and my family. I still gain so much from just sitting in church or chapel and taking it all in every Sunday.

Thanks be to God! Sarah.



Dear All

Emma runs the Little Steps Toddler Group at the Methodist Church in Whitchurch and she is asking the Circuit if we can help one of her youngsters raise funds for medical treatment.

Emma and other supporters have organised a **May Day Fair**, which sounds like an excellent day out for all the family, with a variety of sideshows and attractions - see poster on opposite page.

Please try to support little Mara and help her obtain this desperately-needed treatment. Emma's contact details are shown below - she would love to hear from you now!

Pete.

Mara is a two, almost three, year old little girl from Whitchurch, whose family have regularly attended our Little Steps toddler group, since we started almost ten years ago.

Mara has a very rare neurological disorder, which drastically affects her ability to eat, sit, stand, walk and talk. She has been fortunate to have had a week's course of Stem Cell treatment, which allowed her to focus her sight, sit a little unaided and start to grasp things with her hands; it also started her path to communicating.

But she requires further treatment, and unfortunately this comes at a huge financial cost to her family. We are trying to support her by fundraising.

*The first thing on our calendar, is a **May Day style Fair**, in the village, on **Monday 6th of May**.*

***We desperately need company sponsorships** (to purchase resources for the fair, including food and beverage), and **high-end Raffle and Auction prizes**.*

***We'd also love an old-fashioned carousel**, if anyone knows of anyone?! If you feel that you are in any way able to help, please get in touch. Or, come along on the day to support Mara. God willing, it'll be a great day.*

With hope and thanks,

Emma Foulger-Clarke Tel: 07538 200091

CHURCH READINGS March – May 2024:

There are still 2 readers needed on the sheet on the noticeboard, (28 April and 26 May), so if you are willing to join our rota for reading the lesson in Church, **please sign up**, with just your name (no contact details) and a steward will contact you during that week with the reading. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the stewards or Richard.

Don't forget your donations for the Aylesbury Foodbank

Currently, the need is for donations of: *UHT milk, tinned meat, fish & fruit. Sponge/rice puddings, small jars coffee, long life juices, pasta sauce, tinned meals (eg chilli, curries). Tinned soups, jam & spreads, as well as toiletries, together with washing up liquid & laundry detergent pods.*



Next Week

Mon	22 April	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	23 April	9.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Prayer Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	25 April	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Sat	26 April	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 28th April 2024

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mrs Paulette Tedd.

The designated fire officers are the Duty Stewards

First Aid boxes are located in each of the kitchens

**Fire doors are not to be wedged open, except those fitted with Dorgard
(Please ensure other doors close behind you after passing through)**

Duty Manager - (John Miskin: 01296 422919 07988 960815)