

2010 NEWS ARCHIVE – Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

Please note that these archives were taken from our old website, so links to additional material no longer work.



Christmas 2010. Whilst the snow and adverse travel conditions caused the cancelation of the annual Candlelit Carol Service at Aylesbury and the Circuit Carol Service at Thame, remaining services are still planned to go ahead. Any changes to this will be posted on this website and also communicated via pastoral visitors.

Christmas Eve - 4pm Christingle service

Christmas Eve - 11.15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas morning - 10am - a 1/2 hour family service

Boxing Day - **10.00am** Sunday worship

Volunteers are required to help in a soup run for rough sleepers being organised via AHAG, the ecumenical Aylesbury Homeless Action Group. To offer help phone Sylvia Brown, the AHAG Day Centre Manager on 07908 400064.



Charity Card Shop success. Cliff Darlington, manager of the Cards for Good Causes charity Christmas card shop run in the church announced another successful year raising £21,800 for the various charities involved. Cliff thanked church members who had helped to run it, his volunteer managers, the church and all who bought the cards.



Toy Service. Following the 5th December Toy Service when members of the congregation brought gifts of toys and vouchers for children and young people at two homes in Milton Keynes run by the Action for Children national charity, local organiser Pauline Noble received the following letter:

"Please convey our very grateful thanks to the congregation of Aylesbury Methodist Church for their very generous donation of gifts and tokens for our families. Your kind donations do make a difference to the children and families to whom we work with. We are truly grateful and wish everyone at Aylesbury Methodist Church the Peace and Joy of Christmas and every blessing for the New Year."



Queen's Badges for Jonathon and Peter. The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher, presented the Queen's Badge to Jonathon Dalton and Peter Chandler at a Gift and Parade Service at Buckingham Street on 5th December. He said, "The Queen takes all her badges very seriously and is always delighted when young people achieve them." The Queen's Badge is the highest award in the BB [\(...more\)](#)



Aylesbury Faith Cafe. An evening of discussion and debate was held in the World Café format, as part of the Second National Interfaith Week.

The event was run by Bucks Forum of Faith in partnership with Learning Together and Living in Harmony. Around 50 people met to discuss topics of relevance to modern life, at the Oculus on Tuesday 23rd November 2010.

The event was for people of any faith and of no faith and the evening included plenty of time to share light refreshments and to get to know one another better.

Attendees shared ideas and thoughts on a 'Thoughts map' as shown in the picture. A summary of learning points from the evening will be published in due course.



Staffed on a rota basis by 100 volunteers from local churches and charities, the **Cards for Good Causes** Christmas Card Shop has opened again this year at Aylesbury Methodist Church in Buckingham Street. It is open 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday from now until 18th December.

[Click here](#) for more details or link to the charity's website by [clicking here](#).

Charity card shop volunteers



Church treasurer's reports are not renowned for excitement. Yet excite is what Roger Kirk's presentation of the year's accounts to the November Church Council actually did when he said, "The debt is now cleared." The significance was not lost on church council members. Schooled by successive ministers on their role as trustees of the church, they knew they had personal and collective responsibility for ensuring full payment of the £1 million community centre refurbishment scheme they had approved in 2007. Indeed, jokes had been made as to whose houses would have to be sold to make up any shortfall! Some thought Roger's news amazing, some thought it faith vindicated and some, mindful of past major schemes paid in full ahead of time, thought it business as usual for Aylesbury Methodists

Exciting stuff from Roger



Super wedding

"Paula, are you sure?" This was Rev. Jim Gorringer's opening question to the bride to the delight of a packed church of family, friends and church members from across Aylesbury vale before he **married** his Superintendent Minister **Rev. David Jenkins** to his bride **Paula Lewis** on 9th October at Buckingham Street. The service was followed by a reception in the community centre hall and an evening buffet and concert. The entertainment heavily featured the bridegroom with support from his bride and others. ([Click for more pictures and story](#))



Dee's the new Dawn

After ten years as **Cradle Roll Secretary**, Dawn Wright (on the right) has handed over to Dorcas (Dee) Marisa. Dee had her own 'baptism of fire' when a car break down meant the babe to be baptised didn't arrive till near the end of the service. (It's not always like that Dee!).

Dawn, who has moved on to other roles within the J Team (Sunday School) said of her ten years, "It's been good. You meet lots of different people, ([...more](#)).



Welcome Keith Edwards

From 1st September 2010, **Rev. Keith Edwards** is our new Minister. Our previous Minister Rev. David Jenkins remains as Circuit Superintendent in the new enlarged Vale of Aylesbury Circuit.

Keith Edwards will live in the King Edward Avenue manse vacated by Rev. Ann Varker. Keith is joined by his wife Dawn, who is training to be a doctor and their four children. Keith previously served in the Worthing and Brighton and Hove Circuits. His leisure interests include holidays, walking and photography. He can manipulate the photos into watercolours, oils and sketches and has exhibited these at a local Art Festival. He also enjoys electronics and fixes mobile phones as a hobby.

The church looks forward to welcoming Keith and his family and wish them all a happy and fulfilling time here.



Having offered to move from the Aylesbury church to allow Keith Edwards the 'one big church' he was keen to work with, **Superintendent Minister David Jenkins** now looks after six churches in the enlarged Vale of Aylesbury Circuit. These are Princes Risborough, Stoke Mandeville, Stone, Weedon, Whitchurch and Wingrave.

In Link, David said, "The other part of [Keith's] role relating to areas of new housing around Aylesbury, is an obvious extension of being Aylesbury' Minister...It has been an enormous privilege and delight to be your Minister. I look forward to all the occasions of being with you in various ways in the future."

Super mover



District Chair Peter Hancock

The District Chair, **Rev. Peter Hancock** will inaugurate the new Circuit and its 18 churches at a **Welcome Service at Buckingham Street on Wednesday 1st September at 7.30pm** and be the preacher.

At the service, Rev. Keith Edwards will be welcomed by the mayor, Cllr Graham Webster, Major David Stott, the County Ecumenical Officer and by Chris Sara, as Senior Circuit Steward. The service will also recognise the new roles of Revs. Fred Ireland and David Jenkins.



Squeaky clean

Over 40 church members volunteered over two weekends for **Operation August Deep Clean**. Organised by Tim Olufosoye with help from Brian Taylor (T-shirt: 'To save time, assume I'm right!') Tim reported that, "The main church and windows were cleaned, furniture polished and lights replaced. The community centre meeting rooms, main hall, kitchen, toilets and windows (see picture) were cleaned. The turn out was impressive, the dedication and quality of work exceptional." Thank you to Tim and his team.



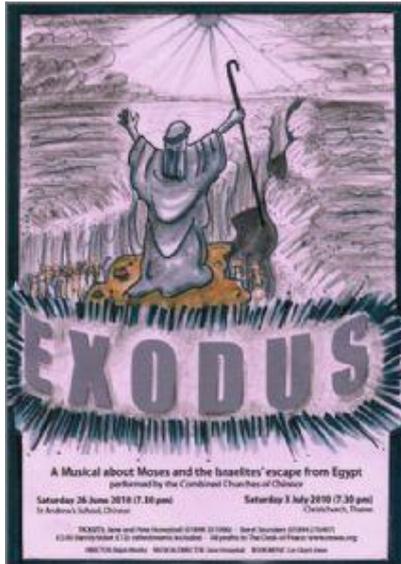
Cream tea anyone?

On Sunday September 5th Pamela and Peter Farmer are again opening their house to what has become an annual **Cream Tea Fayre**. This is an afternoon of fun and fellowship for the whole family and runs from 2.45pm to 5pm at 43 Dobbins Lane, Wendover. There will be games in the garden, the AMC youth orchestra, tombola and a first class cream tea (£3.50). It will also provide an excellent opportunity to welcome Keith Edwards and his family to the AMC family. Need a lift? Phone Peter on 01296 624280.



Record breaker Fred

Rev. Fred Ireland, the former Aylesbury Superintendent Minister and latterly minister at Fairford Leys ecumenical church, has hit another record.* He must surely be the longest serving Minister in Aylesbury's Circuit ever! After six years with us and ten years at The Church on Fairford Leys, Fred is now moving to be Minister at Christchurch-Thame ecumenical church, Chinnor, Cuddington and Haddenham, all within our newly expanded Circuit. * Fred's other record is baptisms, with 342 at Fairford Leys! He also continues his long term involvement in Aylesbury prison chaplaincy.



EXODUS - The combined churches of Chinnor are presenting a fresh adaptation of this dramatic story in a new musical: **EXODUS by Lyn Lloyd-Jones** on Sunday 17 October 2010 – 7.30 pm at Aylesbury Methodist Church. Featuring a seven piece band and a choir of 32 (including seven children), the musical includes ten songs, interspersed with drama. The musical is directed by **Ralph Westby**, with musical direction by **Jane Honeyball**.

Tickets for this new musical are available priced £5.00 (or £13.00 for a family) – to include refreshments from: **Pauline Noble (01296 484940) and Jane and Pete Honeyball (01844 351096)**. ([...More](#)).



Devon Cream After seven years in the Aylesbury Vale, Reverend Ann Varker is moving back to her native Devon. She is currently responsible for the Methodist churches at Princes Risborough, Weedon, Wingrave and Whitchurch, where a packed farewell Circuit service was held in mid July. ([...more](#))



Music for a Summer Evening was presented by the returning highly talented Anna Markland on piano, and the equally impressive Catherine van de Geest on violin to an appreciative audience at Aylesbury Methodist Church on 28th July.

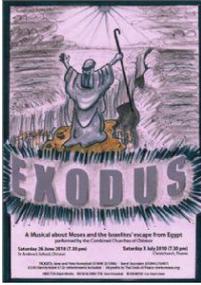


Great Scottish Hymns was the theme of this year's Songs of Praise programme organised by Derrick Matthews, Aylesbury Methodist's Music Director. Congregational hymn singing was led by a choir from the Circuit with friends from other local choirs. A trawl of church members ensured that each hymn writer was introduced with a Scottish accent!



An Evening with John Wesley (with Mark Topping as John Wesley) was experienced at Christchurch Thame (Methodist and United Reformed) on Saturday 19th June at 7.30pm. "Mark's presentation brings John Wesley to life and allows him to speak to our day." Rev. Dr John Newton.

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Exodus, a musical about Moses and the Israelites' escape from Egypt was performed by the Combined Churches of Chinnor on Saturday 26th June at 7.30pm at St Andrew's School Chinnor and on Saturday 3rd July at Christchurch Thame, also at 7.30pm.



Exploring Faith. On the four Thursdays in May (6th, 13th, 20th and 27th) Rev. David Jenkins explored issues of Dependence, Accountability, Thankfulness, Mystery and Awe from 7.30pm to 9pm in Aylesbury's Buckingham Street Church. Each session was complete in itself and open to all.



Tunes for Toddlers are structured music classes to encourage bumps, babies and toddlers to interact with each other through music and song and learn about the world around them whilst bonding with parents. Maria runs sessions at the Aylesbury Church from 11.30am - 1pm every Tuesday. ([...more](#))



Christian Aid Week this year was May 9th to 15th and church volunteers throughout the Circuit did their door-to-door collections. For the CA website [click here](#).



Dr Ian Tracey, one of Britain's most outstanding Concert organists gave the 25th anniversary celebration organ concert in Aylesbury Methodist Church on Wednesday 12th May at 7.30pm. It was Ian's fourth return after rave reviews. ([...more](#))



60's Reunion for 46 members and partners of Aylesbury Methodist Youth Club took place over the May bank holiday weekend. ([...more](#))

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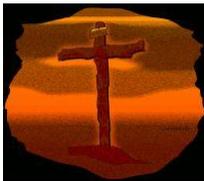
Easter Services at Aylesbury Methodists culminated in the traditional dressing of the Easter cross by flowers brought in by the congregation to symbolise the Easter story of Tragedy to Triumph. The SOS (Sometimes On Sundays) group served up their famed pre-service full English Easter Day breakfast.



General Election candidates will address the audience and answer their questions at an election hustings meeting at Aylesbury Methodist Church on Sunday 18th April at 8pm organised by [\(...more\)](#)



Shannon's Express (left) one of Europe's top 10 male voice choirs gave a concert at Aylesbury Methodist Church on Saturday 27th March. See review [\(...more\)](#).



Olivet to Calvary, an act of worship led by an augmented choir at Aylesbury Methodist Church on Sunday 21st March is being produced as a £5 CD. [\(...more\)](#)



Charity concert. The Aylesbury Music Centre Flute Choir & Quartet raised £619 for the Karibuni Trust at their concert at the Aylesbury Church enjoyed by over 100 people. [\(...more\)](#)



10,000 mile service. The preacher on the first Sunday in Lent at Aylesbury Methodist Church travelled over 10,000 miles to take the services. Retired Australian former Aylesbury Minister [\(...more\)](#)



Theatre Visit. 93 members and friends from the Aylesbury Church went in two coaches to see the divine musical comedy Sister Act at London's Palladium theatre. It was part [\(...more\)](#)



Homeless. Volunteers at the ecumenical homeless drop-in centre at Aylesbury Methodists plan a night visit to find the town's rough sleepers and see how they can help. [\(...more\)](#)

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Phenomenal Funding. The Aylesbury Methodist Community Centre's fund-raising team chaired by Tony Noble (left) is now within £2,000 of its target. The team committed to raise £120,000 towards the £1 million cost of the centre refurbishment. ([...more](#))



Happy 2010. David Jenkins, (left) at his New Year's Eve service said, "In all the excitement and volatility of change, faith rooted in the unchanging nature of God's love continues to be at the centre of what we are about" he said.



Christmas 2009. Lunches for Aylesbury's homeless, carols for Christian Aid, shoe boxes of goodies for children in Romania, toy service gifts to Action for Children family units in Milton Keynes and almost £24,000 of charity Christmas cards was the Christmas story. Steve Wright (left) comments. ([...more](#)).



New Year's Walk. 50 members of the Aylesbury church were brave enough to face the snow ice and biting cold for their traditional new year walk before enjoying a warming 'soup and pud' lunch ([...more](#)).



Amnesty International are supporting their annual Greetings Card Campaign to Prisoners of Conscience with a display in the Friars' Square shopping mall from 18th to 24th of January. ([...more](#)).



Silent Film Spectacular. Donald MacKenzie (left), organist of the Odeon, Leicester Square, presented the third of his accompanied programmes of comedy classics from the early cinema at Aylesbury Methodist Church ([...more](#))