

January – August 2015

## 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



**Welkommen** to the young people of the Daun sports club in the beautiful Vulkaneifel area of Germany. They arrive on 25th July to continue the 52nd year of the longest running youth exchange between Germany and the UK. Staying with their host families, they have an action-packed programme prepared by UK leaders Viv and Steve Kemp, culminating in a final concert and supper on Tuesday 4th August. Telephone 399315 if you wish to accept their invite to join them.



**Aylesbury Town Council** sought to "flood the town with flowers and make Aylesbury and attractive and colourful town to visit." Our church, along with other organisations and businesses, was invited to display subsidised hanging baskets on our premises. The cost included watering and maintenance in the summer months. We are happy to support this initiative and let the flowers brighten up all our days.



**A defibrillator** to help in cardiac arrest is now installed on the church wall in the car park for use by the general public. In the event of an emergency, dial 999, ask for 'Ambulance' and tell them where you are. They will give the code to access the portable machine from its yellow box. Church member Brian Latham has organised the initiative and also arranged for **free training** by the local ambulance service. This will be at **12noon on Sunday 28th June** in our community centre next to the church in Buckingham Street. Anyone interested in attending are asked to **contact Brian on 01296 624964**.



**Helen's on the run.** Not content with walking to all 18 of her circuit churches which she completes on 1st June, our Superintendent Minister Rev. Helen Kirk, has agreed, in a moment of weakness, madness, or both, to run the London10k on 12th July.

The purpose is to raise funds for the Karibuni Trust, founded by Aylesbury church members Corinne, Joy and the late Rev. Bill Murphy to feed, clothe and educate street children in Kenya. See [www.karibuni.org.uk](http://www.karibuni.org.uk) for more information. If you would like to sponsor Helen, visit her fundraising page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/HelenKirk3>. Alternatively, email her on [revhelenkirk@sky.com](mailto:revhelenkirk@sky.com) or give her a call on 01296 488963.



**House-to-house** collections by AMC members raised **£1,821.59** this year, with a few more envelopes still to come in. The earthquakes in Nepal were yet another reminder of the need for funds to help people of all faiths and none through local partner organisations.



**New home for our old chairs!** Glen Martin, senior steward at Rhuddlan English Methodist Church writes, "You very kindly gave us your chairs for use in our church after removing our pews etc. ...On Sunday we worshipped in the main church for the first time in several weeks and sat on our new chairs. We were very excited and thrilled with our new look chapel. We just want to say thank you once again to your church for their generosity. Thank you once again." Or as we say in Aylesbury, Diolch yn fawr.



**Talk the walk!** Faced with the challenge of getting to know 18 churches and their congregations, our new Superintendent Helen decided that she would 'walk the circuit', three churches at a time. The pattern was coffee at the first, lunch at the second and tea at the third with a brief reflection at all three. She is hoping that people will join her 'pilgrimage', enjoy the scenery and have a chat.

Her schedule is:

**Thur 23 Apr:** Thame/ Chinnor/Princes Risborough

**Sat 2 May:** AMC/Stoke Mandeville/Stone

**Sat 9 May:** Fairford Leys/Cuddington/Haddenham

**Tue 12 May:** Waddesdon/North Marsden/Whitchurch

**Wed 20 May:** Wingrave/Weedon/Cheddington

**Mon 1 June:** Stewkley/Swanbourne/Stoke Hammond

Husband Andrew, Arthur Sara and Paul Ingram were among the people who 'talked the walk' with her on May 12th, with some of Andrew's photos to prove it! Happy walking Super! Click for [Photo gallery](#).



**Josh Maguire (left) and James Hanson (right)** were presented with their Boys' Brigade Presidents' Badge by their BB Captain and District BB President, Margaret Miskin during Sunday morning worship on 10th May. The badge is the second highest award in the Boys' Brigade and both Josh and James are now working towards the highest award of all - the Queen's Badge. So congratulations and best wishes are in order!



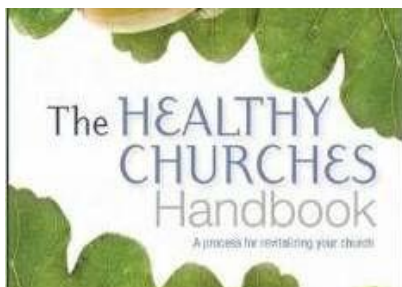
**Top Concert Organist Philip Scriven** enthralled the large audience at the 30th anniversary annual organ concert with his charismatic presentation and virtuoso performance. He played a selection of favourites from the organ repertoire and popular light classical music.

Former Organist and Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral, Philip nowadays combines being Organist in residence at Cranleigh School with being a conductor and accompanist to a chamber orchestra and Bach Choir as well as a freelance worldwide recital career.

The event raised £1,036.29 for the church Property Maintenance Fund.



**Christian Aid Week** this year is 10 - 16 May and several members of the church will be out house-to-house collecting with envelopes or collection boxes. As usual, the aim is to help people in poverty out of poverty. A £15 donation provides a family with a temporary tarpaulin shelter following a disaster like the Nepal earthquake. Of every £1 given last year, 74p was spent on direct charitable expenditure. Every £1 spent on fundraising raises £7 for the work of Christian Aid. Find out more at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org) (Tel 02075232493)



**The Church Health Questionnaire** was launched at the Sunday morning service on 26th April. All members of the congregation are asked to score the church against the seven Christ-like marks of a healthy church and return them to church by Sunday 31st May at the latest. After the scores are summarised, Helen Kirk will hold six follow-up meetings. Everyone is invited to attend one of them. For dates and times [click here](#).



**Act4, the Christian charity** will showcase how they 'equip children to make a difference' at The Church on Fairford Leys on Sunday 26th April at 4pm. With an HQ in Potters Bar, the charity is extending their incredible work with children, opening a new project in Aylesbury, thanks to the generous help of the ecumenical Fairford Leys church. The charity has made a positive impact with children and youth. ([...more](#))



**Concert Organist Philip Scriven**, formerly Organist and Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral, will play at the 30th anniversary of our annual organ concert. Regarded as one of the finest organists of his generation and renowned for his brilliant performances and charming presentation, Philip will appear on Wednesday 13th May at 7.30pm. [Click here for tickets](#).



**The Easter labyrinth** was designed to help us think about Christ's suffering as he journeyed towards the cross, and to reflect on the events of Easter. It was designed to help us think and pray about our own lives too, and think about people who are suffering in the world.

[Click here](#) to see some of Andrew Kirk's photographs.



**Our Easter services this year are:**

**Maundy Thursday** 2 April, 7.30pm - Communion

Friday 3 April 10am - **Good Friday** service

**Easter Sunday** 5 April, 8.30am - Early communion

**Easter Sunday** 5 April, 10.30am - Easter Sunday family communion service. All these services will be led by our Superintendent Minister, Rev. Helen Kirk. Everyone is invited to share in the communion of bread and non-alcoholic wine.

Sunday 12 April, 6pm - **Calvary to Glory**, an Eastertide act of worship led by David Neville for congregation and augmented choir.

On Easter Sunday morning at 9am, there will be a full **English Easter breakfast**. Places need to be pre-booked via the church office and again, everyone is welcome. For our Easter leaflet, [click here](#).



**The Labyrinth** is a reflective and inter-active way of engaging with the Easter story. It presents an opportunity to go on a spiritual journey about yourself, your relationship with God and how you make sense of the world in which we live.

It will be set out in the church and may be 'walked' at your own pace at the following times:

**Monday and Tuesday, 30th and 31st March** from 10-12noon; 2-4pm and 6-8pm.

**Wednesday 1st April** from 10-12noon and 2-4pm.



**A five week Lent Course, 'Parables & Possessions', will be run by Rev. Helen Kirk on Thursday afternoons from 1.30 - 3pm at church from February 26th to March 26th.** The course links traditional Lent themes such as Temptation, Betrayal and Forgiveness with the parables Jesus told about everyday life to help explore our relationship with God and how that might be affected by our relationship with possessions. The Bible has much to say about money, economics and making a living. Everyone welcome.



**High Octane and Guests** promise an enjoyable evening with music and songs from the 1920s and 1930s on **Saturday 25th April at 7.30pm**. The audience will sit around tables with soft drinks and nibbles plus tea and cake at the interval. The £10 tickets will go to The Karibuni Trust ([...more](#)).



**From Calvary to Glory** is an Eastertide act of worship for Choir and Congregation depicting the story of Christ from his death upon the cross to his ascension into heaven. Told in Bible readings supported with well known Hymns and Anthems. It will be presented by the Circuit Choir together with friends from the other local choirs at our church on **Sunday 12th April at 6pm** and repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul Tring on Sunday 19th April at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome.



**Amnesty International** invite you to send a message of hope to isolated prisoners of conscience and human rights defenders in numerous countries across the globe. Long time Amnesty supporter Annelies Varsey has her stand in the church vestibule and the local Aylesbury branch have a stall in the Hale Leys shopping centre from Monday to Sunday 12th -18th of January.



By popular demand our next **Silent Film Spectacular** will be on **Wednesday 11th February at 7.30pm**. Once again, the films will be accompanied by **Donald MacKenzie**, organist at the Odeon, Leicester Square. The main feature will be Harold Lloyd's classic *Safety Last*, supported by the 1903 short western, *The Great Train Robbery*. For tickets and more details, click [here](#).



**Bernard Dewey** has played the Good Samaritan. Whilst in the hall enjoying his morning coffee after a Sunday Service, he quietly enquired what had happened to the clock that normally hung on the wall. Enquiries were made and it seems that a game of softball with the Boys' Brigade proved to be not so soft after all and broke the clock. Nothing else was said, but the next Sunday, with his carer pushing his wheelchair, Bernard handed a plastic bag to one of the Welcomers. In it, was a replacement clock, which is the one that now adorns the wall in the hall. So a big thanks to Bernard for his quiet concern and typical generosity.



**Cliff Darlington**, manager of the **Cards for Good Causes** shop has had another good year, despite the increased competition and increased postage charges.

He writes, "I am pleased to report that the card shop had another successful year. The total sum raised was £17,200. "I vey much appreciate the help from members of the church who joined the volunteers from the Charities to work in the shop. Also, a big thank you to the team of managers. It would have been an impossible task without their help. They are - Bob Bucknell, Steve Marks, Geoff Nicholson, Arthur Sara and Brian Taylor.

"Finally, a big thank you for being able to use the Church, and to all of you who made purchases in the shop.



**The 2014 Annual Report, *An Enabling Church and Centre*** looks back at what has been happening in the church and centre during the last Methodist year of September 2013 to August 2014. The main themes are ministerial changes, more outreach, the funding of new chairs and the key role of our people in all that we do.

New minister Rev. Helen Kirk shares her early thoughts on how we might move forward, building on all that has gone on before and working together to find and realise God's vision for this church and centre. ([...more](#))