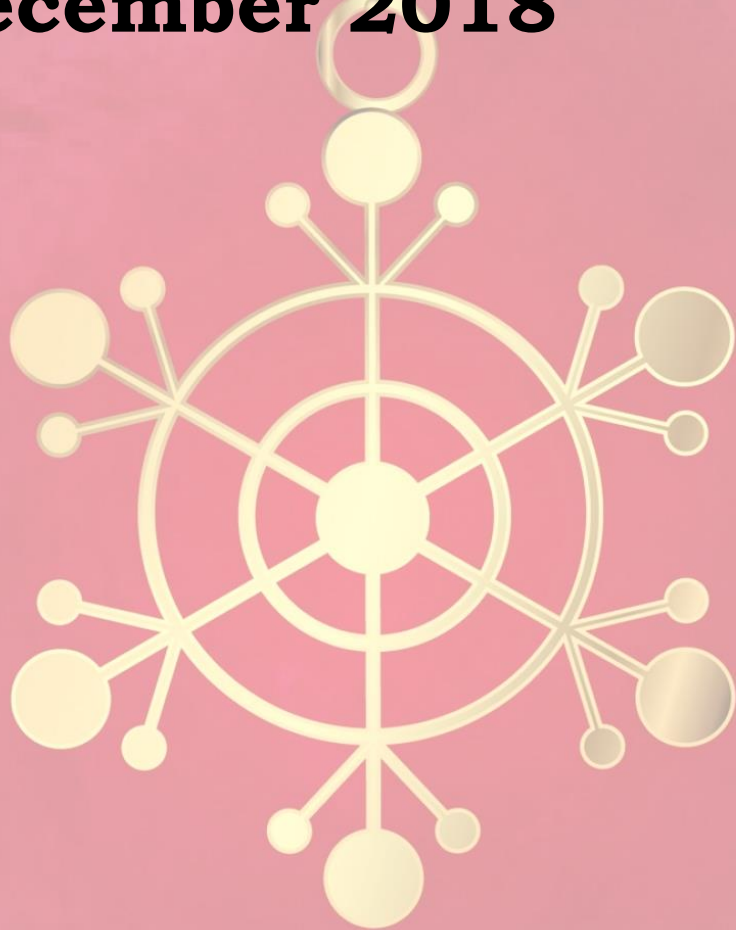


Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

‘LINK’

November – December 2018



JOY TO THE WORLD!

the Lord is come

**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

**The Office Staff
wish you all a
Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful**



I am always fascinated by the new words that appear in the dictionary every year:

‘Snowflake’ - an insult used against people who are judged to be over-sensitive.

‘Hangry’ - when you are really hungry and find yourself becoming increasingly angry.

‘YOLO’ which stands for ‘you only live once’ and therefore is used to explain reckless or impulsive behaviour.

Our language is always evolving and changing, and new words appear to help us describe what we experience as human beings.

Recently I made a really fascinating discovery that, up until the beginning of 19th century, the word ‘Loneliness’ didn’t exist. Presumably, because people lived in small communities in which everyone knew everyone, there was no need for a language of loneliness.

How things have changed! Today we have what has been termed an epidemic of loneliness.

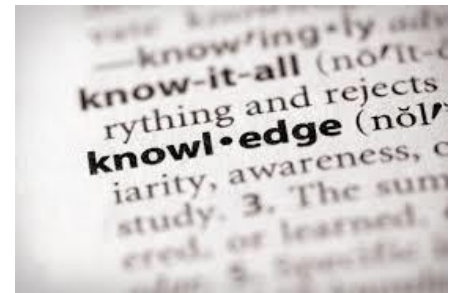
I actually think faith communities have a lot to offer this epidemic; perhaps we do not need a new language to address this, but instead to redeem an ancient language that can offer meaning today:

‘*Presence*’ - a belief, not in a ‘magic’ God who takes away all life’s problems, but one who promises again and again ‘I will be with you’, so we are never on our own.

‘*Church*’ - a gathering of people; a community that anyone can belong to, for there should be no qualification, just a welcome and an acceptance.

‘*Purpose*’ - to be part of something that makes a difference to the lives of others, through community engagement or support of charities.

‘*Sacred space*’ - a place, a community that we can belong to and be the people God created us to be. A community in which it is ok to be me.



In the next few months we will be hoping to start the building work on the 'Welcome Area'; much of the work is work that has needed to be done, such as improving disabled access; upgrading utilities; replacing structure that is tired or even falling down. The majority of the cost is due to much-needed infrastructure rather than a 'fancy' kitchen.

However, I also believe there is a bigger vision. To offer a safe space for welcome and belonging, to offer support to people who are struggling with loneliness. Perhaps it could be a 'listening space' for those who feel they have no one to hear them; perhaps a gathering place for parents of young children who feel isolated and alone; perhaps it could be a 'safe space' for those who are struggling to remember but may be prompted by shared memories; perhaps it could be a practical space for those who have no access to the internet in a world where everything is online.

These are some of the ideas that the Church Leadership Team are exploring, so that we might truly create a 'Welcome Area' that offers hospitality to those who need it most.

Perhaps this changes the word 'Welcome' from an easily-used expression to a description of something that truly transforms.

Helen



ON TRACK

We are still on track to start building work on our Church Welcome Project on January 7th.

In October, we received three tenders to do the work. From these, our preferred builder is Jet Construction from Milton Keynes. They submitted a competitive price and have done much local work including Turnfurlong Infants, Halton Combined and The Grange schools, Aylesbury police station and Aylesbury Perry's.



We have booked a mid-November meeting with them to finalise the tender and look for any further cost-savings. An Extraordinary Church Council meeting is being called for 12 noon after Sunday morning service on 25th November. By then, we will know the contract sum and the results of the Gift Day. Church Council will be asked for their approval to sign the building contract by the end of November. This will give Jet Construction time to order the specialist parts such as folding glass screen and automatic inner doors so they are ready when needed.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the project, please ask one of the project team. They are Paul Ingram (Chair), Helen Kirk, Jackie Simpson-Tyda (Project Planning), Roger Kirk (Finance), Dave Rogers (Meeting Secretary), Chris Sara (Coffee Bar Link), Gill Marks, Lynn Bernstone and Rosemarie Bucknell (Fund-raising Team) or Peter Green (Communications).

Meanwhile, the Leadership Team, with Helen's guidance, are fleshing out the plans to deliver on our project's vision of helping the lonely, and others in need in our local communities. It was this vision that so enthused our Methodist Church funders and those at WREN and Allchurches Trust. The detailed plans will gather pace, as the building work gets under way, early in the New Year.

Peter Green



WRITE FOR RIGHTS GREETINGS CARD AND LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN 2018

Once a year, between 1st November and 31st December, Amnesty International is asking people to send cards or letters with messages of hope, support and solidarity to victims of human rights violations and those who defend them.

Women human rights defenders are under threat worldwide, so much so that Amnesty International has chosen to focus all of this year's cases on courageous women peacefully advocating for human rights.

Despite the risk of harassment and violence, courageous women human rights defenders are at the forefront of social movements across the world.

This year's Write for Rights campaign involves women from Brazil, India, Iran, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, South Africa, Ukraine, USA and Venezuela.

Sending a card with a simple solidarity message or writing a letter to a government are powerful ways to defend those suffering human rights abuses.

A quote from Jenni Williams, National Coordinator, Women of Zimbabwe Arise illustrates that: *"Never think that you as an individual cannot make a difference. You are making a difference every day ... I'm still here because you care. Don't stop caring."*

And when Idil Eser, the Director of Amnesty International in Turkey, was released from prison, he said: *The most important thing for a prisoner is to not be forgotten. I knew people cared and that gave me the morale to stay strong."*

It is simple to take part: The material will be displayed in the vestibule shortly. Help yourself to a copy of the case(s) you have decided on and follow the advice given with each case.

It is important that we adhere to the instructions.

If you have any questions regarding the campaign, please do not hesitate to ask me.

On behalf of all those to whom you are writing, many thanks for taking part.

Annelies Varsey



REMEMBRANCE DAY



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION RED POPPY

- A Symbol of Remembrance and Hope, to commemorate the people who sacrificed their lives in the First World War, and conflicts following that war
- Red - the natural colour of field poppies

A WHITE POPPY FOR PEACE:

- To remember **ALL** Victims of War (today, over 90% of people killed in warfare are civilians)
- To Challenge Militarism
- To Build a Culture of Peace



THE BLACK POPPY ROSE

A Symbol of Remembrance for the contribution made by 'black' communities from all over the world, for various wars since the 16th century

THE PURPLE POPPY (and Purple Paw Badge)

- To commemorate the animal victims of war
- They do not give their lives – they are taken
- During human conflicts, animals have been used as messengers, for detection, scouting and rescue, as beasts of burden and on the front line.



The Final Inspection

The Marine stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, Marine,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.

I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.

I know I don't deserve a place,
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.



If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the Marine waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.

"Step forward now, you Marine,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

The poem was originally published and circulated anonymously, but later claimed to have been written by Sgt. Joshua Helterbran of the 224th Engineer Battalion.

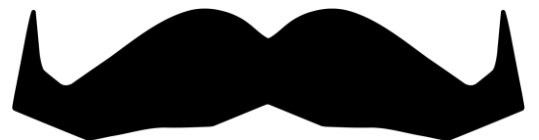
Once again I have decided to do something daring to raise money for men's health - I'm growing a moustache for Movember!

It would be great if you can donate some time during November; you can find donation details at: <https://mobro.co/smegbadger> where you can follow this year's progress.

Please add GiftAid if you can.

Cash donations are also very welcome!

Steve Kemp.



An Instant Answer



“Please God, show me what I am to do.” I prayed silently, as I sat in the hospital café. I had no idea how I was going to cope in the coming months. Life seemed so terribly difficult.

In 1977, I had finished the Midwife Teacher’s Diploma course, in Kingston-upon-Thames. Then I had come back to Norfolk and bought a bungalow, to share with my mother, and we had enjoyed two happy years together, before she had been diagnosed with a tumour in her ear. After having an operation and radiotherapy, she had seemed to recover, but then it had spread to her brain. As well as her physical symptoms, she became affected mentally and I became unable to care for her at home. She had spent Christmas 1982 in hospital, but could not stay there indefinitely. I had just visited a nursing home, which was prepared to accept her for continuing care, but I felt slightly guilty about sending her away. I did intend to visit her often, even though she would be about twenty miles away, in Hunstanton, and I had a demanding full-time job. There was also the problem, of the fact that the fees amounted to more than I was earning per week. How was I to manage with all the claims I had on me.

“Please God, help me.”

Quick as a flash, the answer came to me as I sat there. “Barbara!”

Barbara and another friend and I had shared a nurse’s flat, soon after I had qualified as a midwife, and we had got on well. She was still living in Health Service accommodation, but she had been accepted by the Midwife Teacher’s College, to begin the Diploma course, in the summer.

I got up from the table and went straight to her flat.

“I’ve had an idea,” I told her. “Just listen to me and don’t say anything to-night. See what you think about it. Then if you are interested, in what I have to say, ring me after the weekend.”

My idea was that she might like to lodge with me until her course began. She might agree to help me a bit by paying rent, but I should not expect her to pay the rate she was then being charged, and I should be very grateful for her company during this very difficult time.

On the Monday, she accepted my offer. By the time she went off to Kingston, Mum was happily settled in the nursing home. I had hired a beach chalet for the season and often took her to sit by the sea, when I visited. I had obtained financial benefits for her, so was no longer worried about money, and Barbara was also able to come back during her training to stay at the bungalow. The following year, she moved to be nearer her family and Mum died, but God had answered my prayers and Barbara remains a good friend to this day.

My prayer had been answered in an instant.

Angela M. Smith



Saturday 8th December
2018, 7.30pm

Concert

featuring

Wycombe Community Choir



Transforming young
Kenyan lives.

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

J TEAM

Welcome to the J Team pages

Jesus is the source of the true joy of Christmas

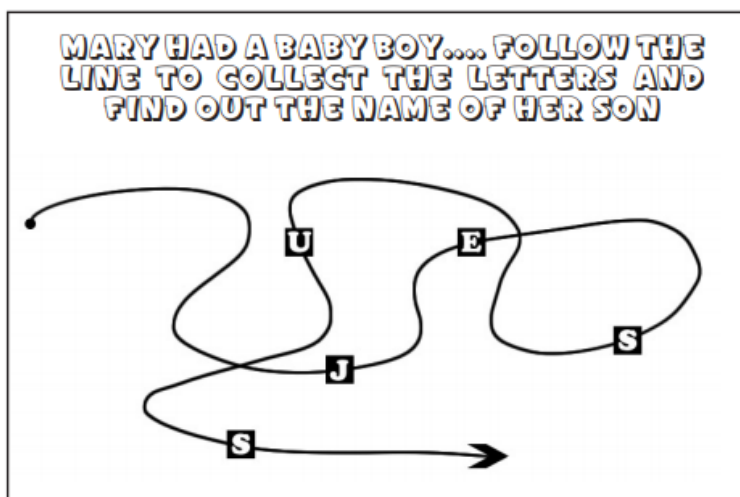


Christmas Wordsearch

At Christmas we remember the story of Jesus's birth. As you search for words below, think of that special story.



ANGEL
BABY
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSED
CHILD
FRANKINCENSE
GABRIEL
GIFTS
GOLD
INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
JOY
KING
MANGER
MARY
MYRRH
NAZARETH
SHEEP
SHEPHERDS
SON
STAR
SWADDLING CLOTHES
WISE MEN



The joyful sound of bells at Christmas reminds us that Christmas is a happy time. It is a happy time because it is the time we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Do you know what gives bells their joyful sound?

Inside there is a tiny ball which makes the ringing sound as it bounces around against the inside of the bell. Our joy comes from the inside too. It comes from having love for Jesus in our hearts.



Colouring in

Word Ladder

Make your way from BELL to STAR by changing just one letter on each step to make a new word

B	E	L	L
---	---	---	---

A metal musical instrument

	E	L	L
--	---	---	---

To give up in exchange for money

--	--	--	--

A marine mammal

--	--	--	--

To cook quickly with heat

--	--	--	--

A light in the night sky



Sometimes we get so caught up in giving gifts and going to parties that we miss the real joy of the season. It is important to remember that the reason we do these things during the Christmas season is to share in the joy of Jesus's birthday.



At this time, we can also remember what the bible says about Jesus:

It says that even though we haven't seen Jesus, we believe in Him and love Him, and because of that love, we are filled with joy.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help us to celebrate the joy of Jesus's birthday. May we remember that through His love we are filled with joy.

Will you be writing Christmas cards this year to people that you see each Sunday at Church?

As an alternative, why not write just one card to everyone and perhaps give a donation to one of the Church charities instead?

In December, when the post box appears, there will also be a board in the Church entrance where you can pin your cards.

Please then give your donation to:

Karibuni Children (Joy Murphy)

Missions (John Miskin)

Christian Aid (Jennie Torpey or Maureen Tucker)

Action for Children (Pauline Noble or Jennie Torpey).



Do support the
Charity Christmas Card Shop
in the Church.

Monday - Saturday
10.00am - 4.00pm

31st October - 13th Dec 2018.

CHRISTMAS POST BOX REMINDER!

This will be put up at the beginning of December.

Please remember that the Church post box is only for Christmas cards being given to **regular members of the congregation**.

They are not delivered to people, so if they are not collected, they are thrown away after Christmas.

If you're not sure that your friends and colleagues come to Church often, then please send your cards by ordinary post instead.

Please make sure you write surnames on your cards!



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

2018



<i>Sunday 2nd Dec</i>	<i>10.30am</i>	<i>Gift & Toy Service</i>
<i>Sunday 16th Dec</i>	<i>5.00pm</i>	<i>Candlelit Carol Service</i>
<i>Monday 24th Dec</i>	<i>4.00pm</i>	<i>Christingle Service</i>
<i>Monday 24th Dec</i>	<i>11.30pm</i>	<i>Midnight Communion</i>
<i>Tuesday 25th Dec</i>	<i>10.30pm</i>	<i>Christmas Day Family Service – bring a toy or gift to show!</i>



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tues 13 Nov	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mr David Heffer - Talk
Wed 14 Nov	2.00pm	Bible Study
Sat 17 Nov	4 – 6pm	Messy Church
Sun 18 Nov	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Rev Ann Henman
Frid 23 Nov	7 – 9pm	Friday Night Youth Group
Sat 24 Nov	9am – 4pm 4-6pm	Action for Children Christmas Stall in Friars Square Newcomers' Tea
Sun 25 Nov	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Ken Harris
Tues 27 Nov	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mr John Cotton – Karibuni Children
Frid 30 Nov	7.30pm	SOS: St Andrews Day with the Miskins
Sun 2 Dec	10.30am	Brigades, Toy & Gift Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 8 Dec	10am – 4pm 7.30pm	Christmas Tree Festival Karibuni Concert at AMC with Wycombe Community Choir
Sun 9 Dec	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Wed 12 Dec	2.00pm	Bible Study
Sun 16 Dec	10.30am 5.00pm	Morning Worship led by Aylesbury Creativity Group Candelit Carol Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Frid 21 Dec	6 – 9.30pm	Youth Ball
Sat 22 Dec	4 – 6pm	Messy Church
Sun 23 Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw
Mon 24 Dec	4.00pm 11.30pm	Christingle Service led by Rev Helen Kirk Midnight Communion Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 25 Dec	10.30am	Christmas Day Family Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sun 30 Dec	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Nick Aylen
2019		
Frid 4 Jan	Articles for Jan – Feb LINK magazine due in	
Sat 5 Jan	7.30 for 8pm	SOS New Year's Meal at the Marks' home
Sat 2 Feb	7.30pm	SOS Planning Evening at the Aylen's home
Wed 9 Jan	2.00pm	Bible Study
Sat 9 Feb	7.30pm	An Evening of Flanders and Swann
Wed 13 Feb	2.00pm	Bible Study
Wed 13 Mar	2.00pm	Bible Study

Aylesbury Bible Study 2018-19

Wednesdays, 2.00 - 3.30pm



2018		
November	14 th	Is it wrong to take home the office stationery?
December	12 th	Let's talk about sex – respecting self and other people
2019		
January	9 th	Stuck between a rock and someone I want to hit with it – why murder is bad for your health
February	13 th	Parents & kids – honouring mum & dad'
March	13 th	And breathwhy we all need a day off
April	10 th	Oh God! – misusing the Lord's name
May	8 th	The things we worship – creating idols
June	12 th	There is only one God.....

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 Jan - Feb 2019 issue.

**Please send in all contributions by Friday 4th January 2019
to both addresses below:**

Jennie Torpey: jennietorpey@gmail.com

AMC Office: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk



AN ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT



Why not make a difference this Christmas - to some of the poorest people in the world! Give an 'alternative' Christmas gift.

Instead of buying your family and friends gifts they may not need, like or want, you can buy something in their name that will help people who are living in poverty. With every gift, you receive a personalised Christmas Gift Card describing the gift chosen, to send to your friends or family.

There are many organisations that provide this service - here are some of the charities and a few examples of gifts:



Extraordinary gifts: Christmas Gifts to help the World's poorest people.

Practical gifts that help people in some of the world's poorest communities to become all that they can.

From helping a refugee child recover from the trauma of war to ensuring vulnerable women start new businesses, find out how your gifts for friends and family can really change lives.

Simply choose a gift from our selection and we'll send you a colourful card for you to personalise and give. <http://allwecan.org.uk/shop/>



Your purchase will enable us to continue providing vital help for those most in need. It will make a real and lasting difference for children in need – promising them hope for a brighter, happier future.

£6 - Many children fleeing for safety arrive at refugee camps with nothing but the clothes on their back. A soft and fluffy teddy bear for a child refugee can help to restore a sense of comfort and familiarity in a time of confusion and need. Often arriving with nothing, having their very own soft toy will feel even more precious.

£20 - Goats make great gifts. They provide nourishment for a family and extra income when they are bred and sold. Debby's family received five goats from World Vision in 2013, one male and four females. Her father, Obby, says that World Vision's goats transformed their lives: "God answered our prayers through World Vision. The breed which World Vision brought was a different breed. They were big goats. The cross breeding made our traditional goats bigger. They make more money." <https://www.musthavegifts.org/>



This is a charity gift website that supports the work of Christian Aid. Whether you buy a goat or life-saving equipment, your gift could transform the

lives of people living in poverty around the world.

£13 - 'Hook, Line & Dinner' can help turn poor Ethiopian farmers into prosperous fishermen. As the drought-ravaged land refuses to yield, Ethiopia's cattle farmers look to the sea. Fishing cooperatives are the way forward. With the support of Christian Aid's local partners, they'll get boats and nets to fish in deeper waters – which have yielded up to 3,000 fish a day for other communities Christian Aid has helped to train.

£9 - Many families in Bangladesh can't afford to send their children to school even though their children desperately want to go. For £9, you could give one of them the textbooks, stationery and school essentials they need to study.

<https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk/>



Karibuni Charity Gifts and cards: Each Charity Gift represents a tangible, life-changing item that is used in our Kenyan projects. **Ranging in price from £5 to £60, choose from a range of gifts, from school text books, mosquito nets, or meals for a month, up to a month's university education.** Whichever you buy, you will receive a card to

send to the recipient.

We also sell beautiful hand-made gifts and cards. All our products are ethically sourced and produced. All the profit goes directly towards helping the children we support in Kenya. www.karibuni.org.uk



Whatever the gift, however big or small, you can relax in the knowledge that we'll give it our all, because whether it's for a friend, a husband or wife, your gift helps to give everyone a better life.

£15 - A toolkit to maintain ten village water points

£54 – Bog builder: A mason to construct a family toilet. Every family deserves access to a loo they can call their own and this gift provides them with a mason who can make this a reality. Safer, and more convenient, home is now where the hygiene is. shop.wateraid.org

'Good Gifts introduced a new way of giving. It cut out unwanted gifts and gives practical help to those in need. And lasting pleasure to the person in whose name the gift was given.'

£15 - Medicine to save a life: Nowadays, once-fatal medical conditions can be successfully treated with a simple course of medication. This is not the case in vast tracts of the world, where health workers are pleading for medicines. Sick people arriving at hospitals are sent home, often to die for a lack of drugs, like antibiotics or sulphonamides. The average cost of a treatment? £15. And that's the cost of saving a life.

£27 - Employ a school mother: In South Sudan and Northern Uganda, obstacles prevent girls from going to school. Disapproving fathers have to be coaxed to allow girls to be educated. And girls walking to school risk sexual abuse. 'School Mothers' liaise with families, escort the girls to and from school and encourage them (even arranging for girls to return to the classroom in cases of early marriage). Their greatest achievement? Drop-out rates for girls are 50% down. Education is the key to future economic independence in this patriarchal society. <https://www.goodgifts.org>



OXFAM

'Oxfam Unwrapped' gifts are changing lives around the world.

£12 - HEROIC HONEY BEES: Living in poverty, families can struggle to put food on the table and support their loved ones. But the chance to earn a decent income can change everything. That's why Oxfam provides training for farmers to help them produce and earn more. In Ghana, Oxfam has provided bee keeping equipment, hives and training, so families can produce honey to sell.

£30 - SAFE WATER FOR A FAMILY OF TEN: For families facing drought, or living in areas far from the nearest water supply, providing clean safe water is life-saving. For years, Pumulo's village in Zambia didn't have a supply of clean water. She and her children spent nearly five hours a day fetching water from a pond. But thanks to people like you, Oxfam helped her community install a water pump, and it's a different story today. Before the pump was installed, Pumulo's family often became ill. But now that the community has clean, safe water, they're healthier and can focus on earning a living – and leaving poverty behind. "The water is clear and free from diseases. Since we've had it, no one has fallen sick." www.oxfam.org.uk/shop/oxfam-unwrapped



NEWCOMERS' WELCOME TEA

**Saturday, November 24th 2018 - Rooms 4/5
Aylesbury Methodist Church 4.00 – 6.00pm**

Have you joined us in the last year and not yet attended one of our welcome teas? If so we hope you **and your family** will join us at this informal CREAM TEA, with time to chat to other newcomers and members of the Church family.

Please see or phone Pauline or Julianne who will be pleased to give you a Newcomers' booklet with further information about the Church, and take your name and contact details for the tea.



Pauline Noble
01296 484940

Julianne Wilderspin
01296 626065

Frankincense and Fairy Lights



As you walk along the streets,
Shop windows beckon you,
'Come see, come look'
They seem to say,
'Come inside and buy.'
We've lots of things upon the shelf
Toys and glitter, lights so bright.
Saying - Christmas is nearly here.
But listen, can you hear it?
A sound is getting louder?

Plastic Santas nod their heads
As if to say 'Hello,
Come on down, fill up your bags,
If we run out there's plenty more.'
The money jingles in your purse
You really do not care,
When it's gone you use a card;
Into debt, worry later.
But listen, can you hear it?
It's so much louder now?

You stuff the trolley full of food,
So much for just two days.
Enough to feed a starving country,
But do you care?
Loaded down, you stagger home
Thinking only of yourself.
Passing a beggar
Without a second glance.
That noise, it is so loud
You start to hear it now!



It's Christmas Eve, and all is done,
Presents are under the tree.
Mince pies, turkey, cake and drinks
Are everywhere around.
You are so tired from shopping,
And preparing for this time,



That you sit, in the quiet,
And say 'God, what a day'.
Then you hear it, loud and clear:
Angel voices singing of His Love.

© 2018 Babs



Poster found in a Church in
France... (translated):

"When you enter this church
it may be possible that you
hear "the call of God".
However, it is unlikely that He
will call you on your mobile.
Thank you for turning off
your phones. If you want to
talk to God, enter, choose a
quiet place and talk to Him.
If you want to see Him, send
Him a text while driving."



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

'Christmas Songs & Carols'

After last year's successful Christmas Tree Festival, plans are well under way for an even bigger and better festival this year. The date is **Saturday 8th December**, with trees to be put up and decorated on the Friday.

Mulled punch and mince pies will be available between 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

The Tree Festival will be open to the public on Saturday 8th December between 10.00am and 4.00pm, with stalls selling cakes, produce and crafts, along with the Cards for Good Causes Charity Christmas Card Shop. There will also be a Raffle and Tombola.

Refreshments are being served all day, as well as light lunches. Contributions for the Stalls, Tombola and a Food Hamper Raffle would be gratefully appreciated, as would your help and support on the day.

Please see or phone Gill Marks 01296 748659 or Lynn Bernstone 01296 420817, who will be happy to give you more information.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

'Christmas Songs & Carols'

Aylesbury Methodist Church
Buckingham Street

Saturday 8th December 2018

10.00am – 4.00pm

**Free Admission,
but donations welcome!**

Many Craft, Cake & Produce Stalls

**Refreshments available all day,
including light lunches**

All proceeds to our new Church Welcome Area





***Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury***

***Oliver & Samuel Hancock
present an evening of***

FLANDERS & SWANN

***Singing many
of their famous
comic songs***



SATURDAY EVENING

9TH February 2019 at 7.30 pm

***Tickets on Sale from the Church Office
from the beginning of January***

***Proceeds in aid of the Church
Welcome Project***

My Journey for Footsteps*

I became a member of Aylesbury NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arranging Societies) around 3 years ago now. At the time I was studying for my C&G level 3 in Floral design, and I was interested to watch the demonstrations to see how the professionals arranged and created floral arrangements.

At the early part of this year, I was asked by the committee if I would lead a team to represent Aylesbury in a Flower Festival to be held in Dorchester on Thames Abbey, entitled 'Footsteps – Journeys of the Soul', during October.

Well, always up for a new challenge – I said "Yes, why not".

I arrived at the viewing day at Dorchester to be shown the area designated to be adorned it was a large wooden cross around 15ft/5m up. Now I'm tall but really! I learned that crampons were not required as it could be lowered by a rope via a pulley. Thank goodness!

I submitted my design and the date soon came around to produce it.

On our arrival at the Abbey on staging day, it was awash with flowers and foliage, full of busy people, some up ladders, some on hands and knees, some stepping back checking, some taking a well-earned break.

The cross was lowered down and we set about securing the flowers to it and creating the design. Once completed, it was hauled back up the wall into position. Thankfully all the elements stayed in place. Thought I would share it with you all.



My theme for the arrangement was:

'Darkness into Light - a Christian Journey'

**When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said
'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life' John 8:12 NIV**

*The Footsteps Centre, in Dorchester on Thames, provides intensive physical therapy for babies and children up to the age of 18 who are affected by a number of conditions, including cerebral palsy, neurological disorders, genetic disorders, epilepsy, stroke, meningitis, global delays and undiagnosed conditions.



We held a very enjoyable and successful Quiz on Saturday 22nd September, and raised a total of £567.50. Again, many thanks to Viv and Steve Kemp in particular, and to all who helped with the event and who donated raffle prizes



The Action for Children Christmas Stall in Friars Square is on Saturday 24th November.

Thanks to those who have donated items for the Gift Stall, the Tombola, and the Children's Lucky Dip.

Do come along and visit the stall!

Our annual Toy & Gift Service will be held on December 2nd at 10.30am. All our gifts will be going to the main Action for Children Family Centre in Aylesbury, and from here they will be distributed to families in need who live in Aylesbury and the surrounding towns and villages.

This year, one of the needs is for children under 5, but there will also be many families with older children who would love to receive a present.

If you are able, please bring along a new toy or gift for a child who will otherwise receive very little.

If you are unable to purchase a gift a small donation in a sealed envelope will also be welcome.

Please do not wrap your gift, as presents will be individually selected and wrapped by the Charity.

Rolls of giftwrap are also welcome!



**Help us support
ACTION FOR CHILDREN**



'LETS FACE THE MUSIC' - A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT MUSICALS

In the dark days of March, look forward to a
spectacular concert. Join us in the magnificent
Royal Albert Hall on



Sunday March 17th 2019 for this
celebration of musicals with the Royal
Philharmonic Orchestra and Soloists.



For a 2.30 p.m. performance, the coach will leave from
Aylesbury Methodist Church at 12.15 p.m. with further
pick up points of Jansel Square (Bedgrove) and
Wendover (Castle Park). Time for a coffee after
church and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the coach!



Cost (which includes a 35% early booking discount) is just
£49.50 & includes coach travel to and from the RAH,
excellent seats, free programme and drivers tip.

**Don't delay – take a booking form from the table in the
Church Welcome Area or phone/email [01296 484940](tel:01296484940)
61paulinenoble@gmail.com**



**FAMILY AND FRIENDS ALL WELCOME BUT TICKETS
ARE ONLY AVAILABLE UNTIL THE END OF
NOVEMBER.**



The Comparison Trap

*'In ... comparing and grading and competing,
they ... miss the point'*
2 Corinthians 10:12 Msg

If you've lost your joy in serving the Lord, maybe it's because you're comparing yourself to others and trying to be like them.

Paul said, 'Do your own work well ... don't compare yourself' (Galatians 6:4 CEV). Paul continually dealt with critics. And his response was always the same: avoid comparisons, resist exaggerations, and seek only God's commendation. He refused to be distracted by criticism, or compare his ministry, or engage in fruitless debates.

Author John Bunyan said if his life was fruitless it didn't matter who praised him, and if it was fruitful it didn't matter who criticised him.

Speaker and writer Anne Peterson adds: 'Kill the dragons of comparison ... When I see something that ruffles my feathers I pray for that person. It's easier when I'm honest with God – He knows how I feel anyway. Then I begin to praise Him ... I sing old hymns ... they're loaded with truths about the Lord. Instead of wondering when I'll attain the thing I'm working towards, I dwell on the wonderful things God has already done. Contentment is available as long as we keep our eyes on the King of Kings.'

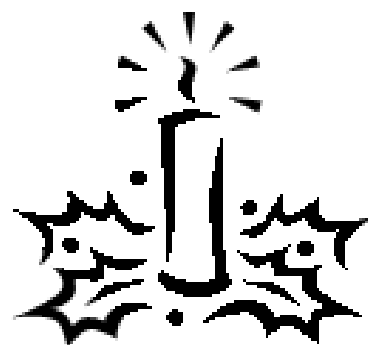
An unknown poet wrote: 'The stick I made for measuring, I used most every day. It helped me to compare myself with others on my way. I watched all those behind me, or further down the road, and I would readjust my pace or lighten up my load. The most important drawback with how I ran my race, was watching everything around – except my Saviour's face!'

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.



***Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury***

CANDLELIT CAROL SERVICE



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

*Telling the story of the Nativity with readings from the Bible,
Reflections on the events together with traditional Christmas
Carols and participation by the children of the Junior Church.*

Presented by the musicians and other members of the church,

Led by the Rev Helen Kirk

Sunday 16th DECEMBER 2018
at 5.00 pm

A WARM WELCOME IS EXTENDED
TO EVERYONE.