

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



‘LINK’

**March - April
2019**

**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre**

Buckingham Street

Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ

Registered Charity No. 1129749

Church Office: 01296 426526

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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 Easter!**





I often tell the story of how my son, when aged 6, was asked what he was giving up for lent. Without a moment of hesitation, he replied, 'Vegetables!'

So often the season of Lent has been condensed to be just about 'giving something up' yet it is about so much more. Lent is a time of the year when the Christian Church reflects on the last days of Jesus' earthly life, his struggles within and with those

around him; his courageous decision to hand himself over to others so that we might know the deep and unconditional love of God for ourselves.

In years past, Lent was a time of repentance, of turning your back on sin and seeking God, however most of us aren't really dreadful sinners, are we? So, what does Lent mean for us?

Perhaps our lives are a bit like a house whose occupants have gone away for a while – everything is quite neat and tidy but there is a film of dust over everything – the dust that takes the spiritual lustre from our lives. It is the dust of complacency, of apathy, it is dust that accumulates when we are too busy to care, it is the dust of unattended relationships, withheld apologies, face-saving untruths, small moral lapses, the suppression of our spiritual yearning, our terrible hunger for God, for meaning and love.

Lent therefore is the time to recognize the dust that has accumulated in our lives, and, through prayer & reflection, to allow ourselves to 'be dusted', refreshed, and renewed.

So what parts of our lives need 'dusting'? Which areas of our selves could do with a good 'spring clean'?

The point of a spring clean is that it offers us a new beginning, a changed house, a renewed sense of purpose. Lent, then, isn't just about inward reflection but outward change and action. Having cleaned away the dust, how might my house be a place of hospitality, welcome and care? How might I live a little differently in my care of others and the planet?

Although Lent is a time of self-appraisal and challenge of the status quo it should ultimately lead to Easter transformation for ourselves and those around us.

So, this Lent, don't just give up chocolate or cake but think about how you might change one thing in your life that will bring hope to another.

For then the joy of Easter becomes a living reality.

Helen

THIS LENT, COULD YOU...



Take up alternative forms of transport?



Give up single use plastics?



Live locally?



Buy nothing new?



Give up meat?



Give up electricity for an hour every day?

TO CHANGE YOUR IMPACT ON THE CLIMATE?



TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE AT
LIVINGLENT.ORG



Lent has just begun, and instead of giving up chocolate, why not go meat-free or decide not to buy anything new as part of a challenge to reduce our impact on the climate!!

These are just two of the lifestyle challenges from the 'Living Lent' climate change campaign from the Joint Public Issues Team. Others include living more locally, changing transport choices and reducing single-use plastics.

Could you join us? Find out more and sign up for resources at www.livinglent.org

Here is some information and suggestions taken from the website:

What could I do?

Make a commitment to changing your lifestyle for the climate during Lent. Choose something that will stretch you. What do you rely on most? What would be something that would change your daily habits?

Could you give up single use plastics for Lent?

By taking up the challenge to avoid using single-use plastics during Lent, you will be committing to only buying products which are not packaged with plastic film or bags. Sounds simple? Unfortunately, this is going to be quite a challenge. It may be impossible to buy your usual shopping items without them being surrounded by plastic – so it may call for drastic action: a significant change in your shopping routine.



- Fruit and vegetables – bring your own paper bags to the shop or get your produce from a local market
- Take away/bottled drinks – take a travel mug or refill your water bottle – refuse a disposable cup and stop buying bottled water.
- Do a plastic audit of your home – where can you find single-use plastics and can you research a 'greener' alternative?

This might mean having to give up things which simply can't be changed. We might have to let go of our favourite foods, drinks or magazines for Lent (they come in plastic wrap too!) in order to make a stand for the climate.

Forty days of no single-use plastic waste might feel like it will have an imperceptible benefit to the environment in the face of the huge challenge, but it will help us to realise that it is possible to reduce our plastic consumption throughout the year. The average household produces a tonne of waste each year, and every year this increases by 3%. Write to shops and supermarkets asking them to change packaging.

Could you go meat-free, or free of animal products altogether, for Lent?

By cutting meat out of your diet completely for the seven weeks of Lent, you will be reducing your climate impact by a significant amount. Per serving, meat-based dishes have significantly higher CO₂ emissions than plant-based foods.

On a wider scale, animal products dominate the greenhouse gases emitted by food production. In 2010, animal products contributed to around 70% of greenhouse gasses created by the food industry. At the current rate, by 2050, this is set to double. A vegetarian's carbon footprint is about half that of a meat eater.



According to research, cutting meat out of your diet could be the choice with the single biggest impact you could make to change your lifestyle for the climate.

Taking up this challenge for Lent doesn't mean you need to go 'meat-free' forever.

This is an opportunity to begin exploring the impact of what we eat on the climate, and to really make significant change.

Could you commit to finding alternative modes of transport this Lent?

In September 2018, there were 31.6 million cars in the UK, which contributed 18% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2017, 61% of trips were made by car. This rises to 76% for all trips of 2-3 miles, which on average only takes around 5 minutes. Individually, land-based travel contributes to 11.9% of our individual carbon footprint. But it's not just carbon that driving adds to our climate impact. Other pollutants, including nitrous oxide, and pollutants from brake and tyre dust, add to air that is getting dirtier and dirtier. In fact, air pollution from road vehicles costs the UK over £6 billion in health bills every year.

And it's not just driving which affects our climate impact. Whilst driving might be our most frequent choice of transport, it's flying that makes a big stamp on the climate too. On every return flight from London to New York, each passenger produces around 1.2 tonnes of CO₂. This is 17% of an average individual's total carbon production annually.

So, what changes can you make? How often do you get in the car when you could walk? Which journeys could be replaced by bus? Could any of your air travel be replaced by train?

If you were to replace a car journey with taking the bus once a week, you would halve the CO₂ emissions you would have produced by driving.

If you were to replace a 40-mile round trip in the car with travel by train on 6 occasions during Lent, you would save around 60kg of CO₂, reducing 9% of the average person's monthly climate impact.



Replacing a car journey with the bus once a week could halve the carbon emissions you would produce by driving.

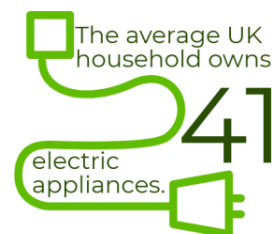
Could you give up electricity for an hour every day during Lent?

Turn off all your electrical appliances and lights for an hour every day during Lent.

Yes, that means phones, computers, TVs, heating, WiFi(!) We'll let fridges and freezers be an exception!

Giving up electricity for an hour every day isn't so much about significantly changing your carbon footprint, in the immediate sense. Instead, making this commitment is about focussing our attention on how we use electricity, especially in our homes, and how we might consume electricity more efficiently.

Where might we be using energy wastefully, or indulgently? Are there appliances we use automatically, when there might be an electricity-free alternative?



The average UK household owns

electric appliances.

Could you commit to living locally this Lent?

The average number of miles that our food travels has doubled over the last 30 years. Since 1992, the amount of food flown overseas has increased by 140%.

95% of the fruit and 50% of the vegetables we consume in the UK are imported. Whilst only 1% of food is transported by air, it accounts for 11% of carbon emissions.



It's not just the distance that food travels to reach our shops that matters. We now travel further for our shopping, and drive more to reach it. On average, we travel 135 miles annually to shop for food, adding further distance and impact.

It is estimated that buying food originating from within a 20km radius would save over £2 billion in fuel and environmental costs per year.

You'd also be supporting your local economy. Increased local spending has a 'multiplier' effect, as money spent locally typically re-circulates again at least 2 to 3 times, not just on wages and local suppliers, but also on services like accountants, marketing, printing, insurance, distribution, cleaning and so on. For this reason, locally produced food bought from a local retailer is worth almost 10 times as much to the local economy as the same food from a long distant producer, purchased in a supermarket. Pound for pound, spending in smaller independent local food outlets also supports three times the number of jobs than at national grocery chains.



If you want to continue eating food items that cannot be produced in the UK, such as rice or bananas, you could look for organic or fairly traded versions.

The four important choices are: Locally produced - Organically grown - Animal friendly - Fairly traded.

Could you buy nothing new for the whole of Lent?

Imagine buying nothing new! Excluding food, medicines and basic toiletries, could you spend Lent mending, borrowing, buying second-hand, or going without?

We live in a throwaway society. Yet the stuff we consume in our households is responsible for up to 60% of global carbon emission. Buying one new t-shirt can be the equivalent of 2 - 3 days energy use. And it's not just carbon emissions – it takes 20,000 litres of water to grow one kilogram of cotton, a process which also often introduces chemicals and pollutants to local eco-systems. On top of this, over 120 million trees are cut down every year to grow our clothes.



There's no point in buying a hedge trimmer if the person in the next road owns one. And imagine the delight of borrowing an outfit for a fancy party instead of having to buy one.

Going without is perhaps the biggest challenge: sometimes we may be called to refuse to get on the consumerist roundabout. Might there be times this Lent when we can decide to go without something new?

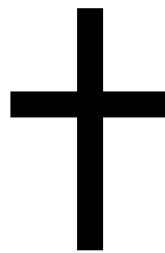


*Vale of Aylesbury
Methodist Circuit*

THE CRUCIFIXION

by

JOHN STAINER



**An act of worship for Congregation and Choir depicting
the events leading up to
Christ's death upon the cross.**

**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 Mr David Neville

**Aylesbury Methodist Church
Sunday 7th April 2019 at 6.00 pm**

**(Repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring on
Sunday 14th April at 6.30 pm)**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.

Circuit Service

An Invitation to Everyone!

Led by Mr David Neville, the extended Circuit Choir will present John Stainer's famous cantata 'The Crucifixion', a service of anthems, solos and congregational hymns providing a moving and inspiring act of worship for Passiontide.

'The Crucifixion' recalls the scenes which mark the last few days of our Saviour's life on earth. From the rejoicing as he entered Jerusalem, the Passover where he gives the new commandment of love for one another, the pathos in the Garden of Gethsemane, then the hostility and loneliness before Pilate, followed by the tragedy and triumph of Calvary.

'The Crucifixion' is on Sunday evening 7th April at 6.00 pm, lasting about one hour and followed by refreshments in the Hall.

Everyone is welcome to join with our friends from the Circuit as we contemplate Christ's suffering before the joy of resurrection at Eastertide.

J TEAM



Welcome to the J Team pages

Easter is a very special time. It is a time of year when we remember that Jesus died for us. We remember the surprise the women had when they saw that Jesus was not in the tomb, that it is a happy surprise, because the women and then his disciples discovered that Jesus had risen and was with them as He is with us today.

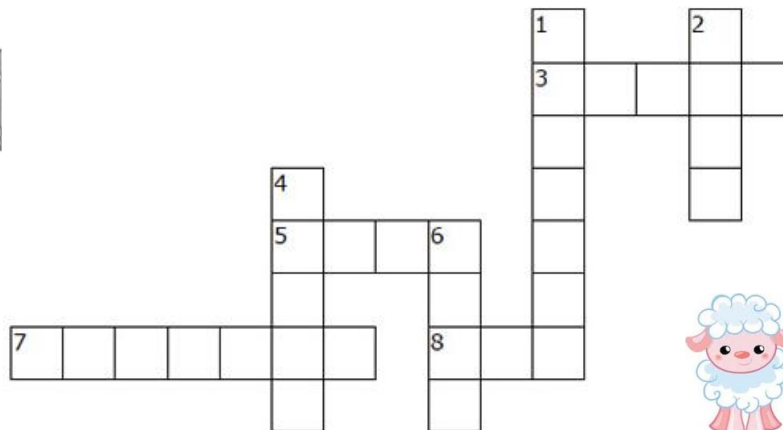
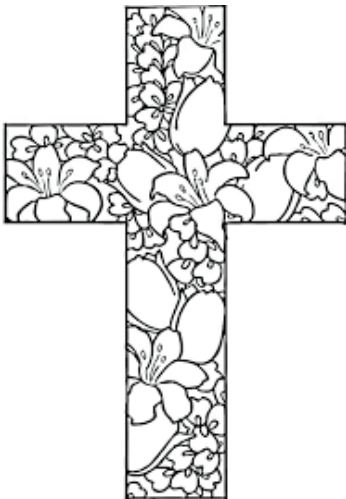
Surprise! It's Empty!

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:2-3 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:1-12



Colour it in



ACROSS

3. "He is not here, he has _____."
Luke 24:6
5. A place where someone, especially an important person, is buried
7. The first or early part of a day
8. A period of twenty-four hours

DOWN

1. To kill someone by tying or nailing them to a cross
2. A period of seven days
4. A hard solid substance found in the ground which is often used for building
6. The whole physical structure that forms a person

MORNING	BODY	RISEN	STONE
DAY	CRUCIFY	TOMB	WEEK

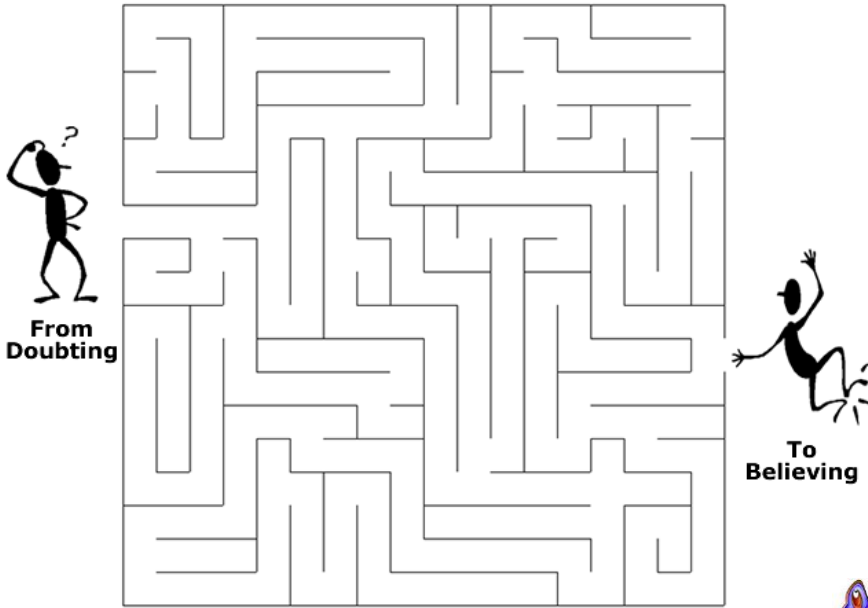


After Jesus had risen, he appeared to his disciples but Thomas (one of the twelve disciples), was not with the other disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." John 20:24-25.



Stop Doubting and Believe

Can you find the path from doubting to believing?



A week later, Thomas saw Jesus. Jesus invited Thomas to touch his hands where the nails had been. He told Thomas to put his hand in the wound in his side. Then Thomas believed. Jesus said to him:

"Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."
John 20:27 (NIV)



We believe in Jesus even though we do not see him.



At Easter we celebrate the new life that Jesus gave us. How many examples of new life can you see on these J Team pages?



Did you find 20?

**Dear Jesus,
Thank you for giving us new life.
Thank you for this special time of year.
Thank you for Spring, nature and friendship.
Help us to be kind to all, and to feel the peace and joy you bring.**

Amen

FLANDERS & SWANN CONCERT REVIEW 2019



Oliver Hancock (left) and Samuel Hancock (right) presenting an evening of Flanders & Swann

The highly personable and musically talented Oliver and Samuel Hancock delighted a very appreciative audience in the church with 'An Evening of Flanders and Swann' on Saturday 8th February. Flanders and Swann's songs are characterised by wit, gentle satire, complex rhyming schemes, linguistic play and memorable choruses.

Their work has been a feature of the Hancock brothers' family life for decades. Their father and uncles performed their songs and their grandparents had a famous meeting at a Flanders and Swann concert. Samuel Hancock, a music graduate specialising in performance and with an impressive record as a solo performer of operatic and other classical works, did most of the singing. His brother Oliver, a former organ scholar

at Jesus College Oxford and now with multiple music roles in Warwick did most of the piano playing, though they did swop roles once!

Their programme of more than 20 songs included well-known favourites and some less well-known delights as well. The programme began and ended with 'The Gasman Cometh' whilst assorted animals kept us amused. There was the Armadillo and its attempts to woo an armoured tank. We had the 'Introverted, elephocentric, hypochondriac who will stay in the elephant's nursing home till he gets his memory back'. We said, "How do you do?" to the gnu and learnt how sweet it was to be a sloth. We heard the moving tale of the unloved warthog who arrived overdressed at the ball, but left as, 'the sweetest little, dearest and completest little warthog – underneath'! The audience joined the hippopotamus in wallowing in glorious mud, or at least singing about it. We also heard about the man whose blood runs cold to meet, in pyjamas and bare feet, with a great big hairy spider in the bath.

There was the sinister, "Have some Madeira my dear!"; the very contemp-or-ar-or-y home whose 'boudoir on the plan had been a great success, though everywhere's so open, there's nowhere safe to dress!' And no Flanders and Swann evening would be complete without its 'big six-wheeler, scarlet painted, London transport, diesel engine, ninety-seven horsepower omnibus.'

The evening was well summed up by two concert goers writing to Derrick Matthews, the church Music Director and event organiser, when they said, "Thanks very much for a really delightful evening at the Methodist Church. It was like a breath of fresh air to hear good well thought out humour which is so typical of Flanders & Swann... we enjoyed the performance of Oliver & Samuel... It was a joy and a memorable evening."

On top of all that, the event raised £890 for the church welcome project. So, thank you Oliver and Samuel and thank you Derrick (and Janice).

Peter Green

Mary

She stood at the foot of the Cross.
Trembling. Weeping. Crying out
to anyone who would listen
That they had the wrong man.
Jesus was not a rebel.
He couldn't be. He was God's son.
They had made a dreadful mistake.

She stood and watched as the blood
Fell from His hands and feet.
The nails roughly knocked into flesh,
Seemed to reflect the light.
Blood trickled slowly down His face,
Where the Crown of Thorns
Had been pushed hard onto His head.
Dripping solemnly onto the ground below.

She stood and felt her Master's life
slowly and silently ebb away.
Watching, as with a last gasp
Of His earthly breath,
He delivered Himself into Gods hands.
Into His father's safekeeping.
And as the sky turned black
The people knew the truth at last.

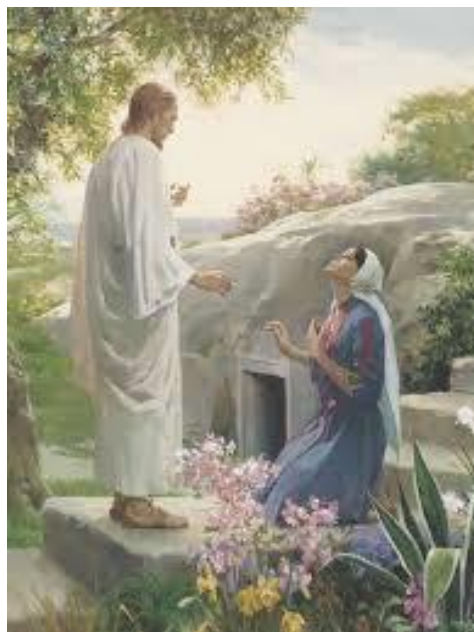
She stood by the open tomb,
Holding herself tightly for comfort.
Frightened by the sight before her.
The rock that had sealed the door
Had been moved away.
The soldiers guarding had disappeared.
Inside the tomb, only darkness
And emptiness.

As Mary stood in death's shadow
She noticed the white grave clothes
Had been left behind.
Then she wept for her Master.
For Jesus. For her friend.
She had journeyed with Him,
Witnessing His work firsthand.
As a woman, she felt privileged.

As she stood in silent prayer,
She heard a voice saying,
'Woman why do you weep?'
It was from angels inside the tomb.
Then she heard Jesus call her name,
'Mary, Mary why do you weep now.
Mary, Mary, why do you cry?'
She recognized His voice.

As she stood in glorious sunshine,
She turned around and her beloved
Master stood before her.
Following that awful Friday.
It was now the awesome Third Day,
And, as foretold - He Had Risen.
Jesus was alive!
Our Saviour lives forever.

© 2019 Babs





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 10 Mar	10.30am	Family & Brigades Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Wed 13 Mar	2.00pm	Bible Study
Sun 17 Mar	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Mr Arthur Sara Morning Worship led by Rev Mike Hall
Tues 19 Mar	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Rev Donna Broadbent-Taylor
Sat 23 Mar	7.30pm	SOS: 'Bye-bye Brexit, Brexit Godbye' at the Miskin's
Sun 24 Mar	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Ann Henman
Sat 30 Mar	4-6pm	Messy Church
Sun 31 Mar	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw
Tues 2 April	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Fellowship Afternoon
Sat 6 April	6.00pm	Ghanaian Night
Sun 7 April	10.30am 6.00pm	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Circuit Service: The Crucifixion led by Mr David Neville
Wed 10 April	2.00pm	Bible Study
Sun 14 April <i>Palm Sunday</i>	10.30am	Family & Brigades Service led by Mr Arthur Sara
Tues 16 April	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mrs Julie Willis
Thurs 18 April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Frid 19 April	10.00am	Good Friday Service
Sun 21 April <i>Easter Day</i>	9.00am 10.30am	Easter Breakfast (pre-book tickets) Family Communion Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 27 April	4-6pm 7.30pm	Messy Church SOS: '47 Years of Abba' at the Kemp's
Sun 28 April	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Mike Hall Circuit Service: Final Service and Thanksgiving at Stoke Hammond
Friday 3 May		Articles for May – June LINK magazine due in
Sun 5 May	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Wed 8 May	2.00pm 7.30pm	Bible Study Organ Concert: Scott Brothers Duo
Sun 12 May <i>Christian Aid Sunday</i>	10.30am	Family & Brigades Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 18 May	7.30pm	SOS: 'Mostly Harmless' at the Marks'
Sun 19 May	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Aylesbury Creativity Group

EASTER SERVICES 2019

Maundy Thursday 18th April - 7.30pm

Good Friday 19th April - 10.00am

Easter Day 21st April - 9.00am Easter Breakfast (pre-book)
10.30am Family Communion



Aylesbury Bible Study 2018-19

Wednesdays, 2.00 - 3.30pm

March	13 th	And breathe why 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 May - June 2019 issue.

**Please send in all contributions by Friday 3rd May 2019
to both addresses below:**

Jennie Torpey: jennietorpey@gmail.com

AMC Office: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk





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

34th ANNUAL ORGAN EVENT

Presenting the outstanding

Scott Brothers Duo

**Jonathan Scott-Organ and
Tom Scott-Piano**

**(Experience a foretaste by listening to their
performances on YouTube)**

WEDNESDAY 8th MAY 2019 @ 7.30 pm

(Doors open at 7.00 pm)

Entrance: £12.00

Or £10.00 If booked in advance.

(Students entrance free)

**Tickets on sale from early April, available from the
Church Office on weekday mornings or direct from
Derrick Matthews (01296 488076)**

AYLESBURY'S ANNUAL ORGAN CONCERT

This popular event has taken place in Aylesbury Methodist Church every year since 1986. The forthcoming visit of the Scott Brothers Duo on Wednesday the 8th May will mark the 34th occasion.

In earlier years, I was dismayed with the meagre aspect of provincial 'Organ Recitals' which were frequently stuffy affairs, with remote music, an absence of explanation and applause often being restricted until the end. It is not surprising that attendances were very poor!

I was determined to do something about this, and with the installation of a magnificent digital organ in this church, I commenced producing concerts featuring mainly top rank, often international, performers who were not only brilliant virtuosos, but had the personality to engage to their audience, providing interesting introductions to the various pieces to be played. Their programmes planned to satisfy the mixed musical tastes of most people in the audience.

This worked surprisingly well, with audiences growing each year, sometimes achieving capacity attendance. In 1998 we presented the legendary Carlo Curley and the queue for entrance went many yards down Buckingham Street! Other great names who have enthralled include Ian Tracey, Nigel Ogden, Joseph Nolan and many more.

Young virtuosos, Tom (organ) and Jonathan (piano), are already well established internationally and can be depended upon to provide an exceptional concert with guaranteed audience appeal.

Proceeds from the annual concerts are usually donated to maintenance of church and community centre premises.

Derrick Matthews.





HOW |
**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**
| WORKS

Our next event is the
ANNUAL CHARITY STALL IN MARKET SQUARE
Saturday 6th July 2019



Gifts suitable for the Tombola & Children's Lucky Dip
will be gratefully received at any time.

Please give them to: Jennie Torpey 581414
Pauline Noble 484940 or Sandie Steeden 331278

Coming Up! Saturday 12th October 2019, 7.00pm
Action for Children Quiz with a Ploughman's Lunch.
Tickets available nearer the time.
Put the date in your diary!!



Learn Mahjong

Come and join us for an evening of Mahjong, the traditional game for four people that is similar to rummy. It is a social, relaxing, and fun game.

No previous knowledge or experience required, it is easy to learn.



**Please contact Pat or Andy Seehusen (from AMC) if
you would like to play on Friday, 29 March at 7:30pm.**

mynameispat@hotmail.com or

aseehusen@yahoo.co.uk or 07766 235209.



Dates for Messy Church 4.00 - 6.00pm

Sat **March 30th** - Celebrating Mothers

Sat **April 27th** - Celebrating Easter

Sat **May 25th** - David and Goliath (date may be revised)

Sat **June 22nd** - Celebrating Fathers - The Prodigal Son

Sat **July 20th** - Noah and the Ark - Bring Pets to
Messy Church!

Sat **September 28th** - Count our Blessings (Harvest
Season)

Sat **October 19th** - The Story of Esther

Sat **November 23rd** - No Story: Singing and Psalms
- Making Instruments

Sat **December 14th** - Christmas: 😊😊

Any Volunteers?

Would anyone like to be a part of the amazing Messy Church team?

If you would like to get involved and give some time to Messy Church, please contact Mel: 07717 121887
or familyworker.amc@mail.com

Messy Church is **WONDERFUL!**
Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.
Thank you!

Acts 29 - We Are Courageous!



82 children and young people from around the district attended Acts 29, which took place in Bicester in February. The day was filled with engaging and exciting activities which encouraged the participants to explore what it means to be courageous. The theme was incorporated within the four elements of the Methodist Church: Courageous in worship; Courageous in learning and caring; Courageous in service and Courageous in evangelism. The Youth President Jasmine Yeboah who was the guest speaker for the day, challenged the children and young people to dare to be different, to be courageous and to be themselves. It was a very exciting event from start to finish with the participants taking part in worship, drama, sports, a Lego workshop, and sessions on exploring the Bible, service and evangelism.

Hannah shared her thoughts on how she thought the event went:

"I thought it was a fun and thought-provoking event which had a great atmosphere. It was lovely to meet lots of new people from around the district and hear their views which consequently made me reflect on my own. I would definitely recommend for people to go next year as the enthusiasm and caring approach made the day highly enjoyable,"

Hannah




We are Courageous!

We hope that more young people from the Circuit will attend next year.

3GENERATE

CHILDREN & YOUTH ASSEMBLY



**Let's go to 3Generate this
year!**

Let's go! Let's go!

Booking information: 3Generate 2019

3Generate 2019 - 22-24 November

Pontins, Southport

Group registration and ticket reservation will open on **Wednesday 24 April**.

Tickets will be available to registered groups from Wednesday 12 June.

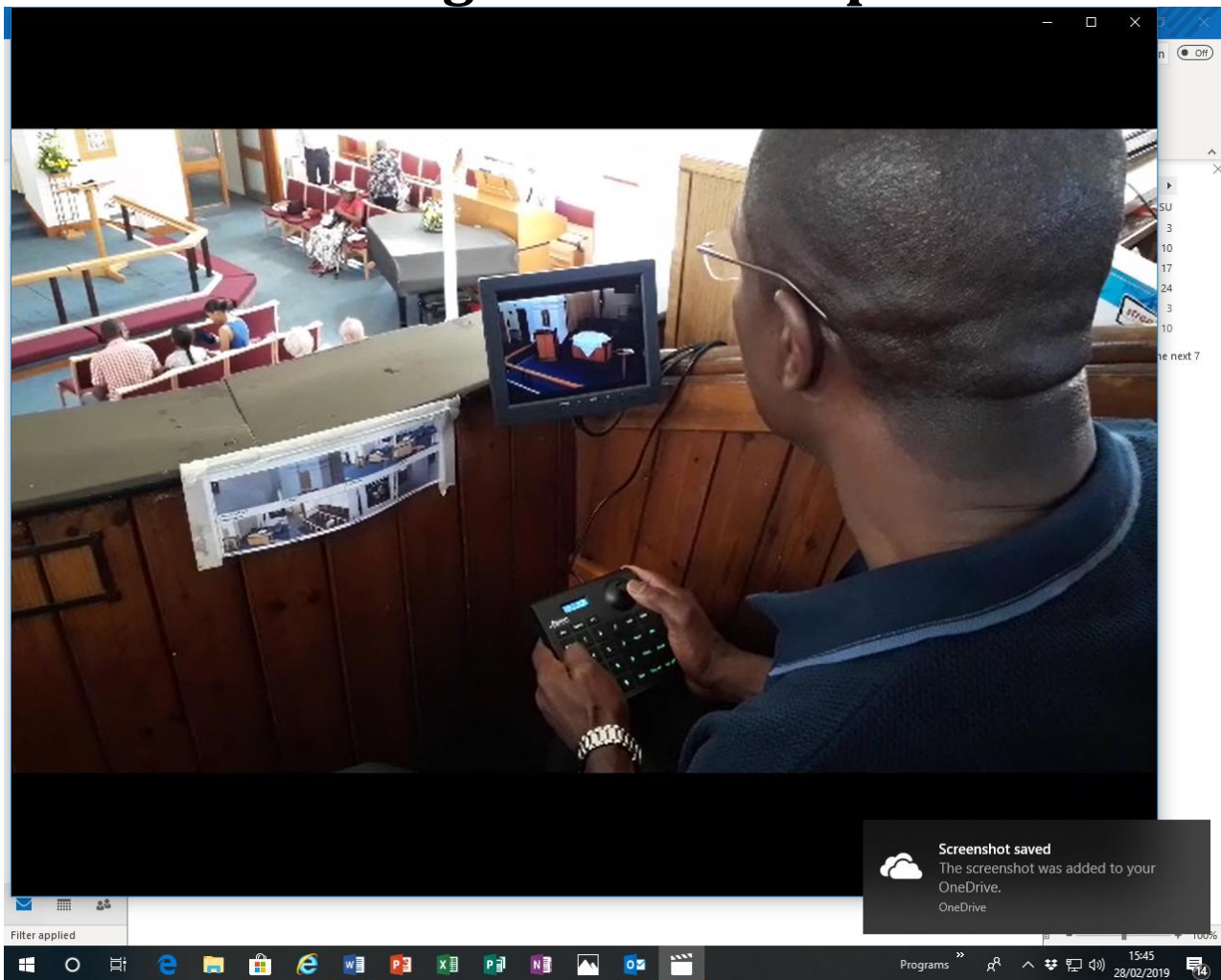
Ticket prices for children & youth (8-23 years old) will be £120 per person.

Tickets for accompanying leaders are free.

For more information go to The Methodist Church website and type in
3Generate.

**For Group bookings speak to Mel Brown (Family and Youth Worker)
familyworker.amc@mail.com**

We're Streaming For Your Help!



Broadcasting live! Albert Odro on the keyboard with the monitor and pictures of the pre-set camera shots.

You may recall that, last year, we agreed to be one of eight churches nationally, of various denominations, to take part in a free trial of live-streaming our Sunday services. Well we are now at the stage when we need your help with some feedback please. If you have any form of access to the internet, you can help us. We tell you how at the end of this article. Whether you do or don't have internet access, you may still like to know why we are doing this. So here is the background and benefits.

The Sunday Service is a website which hosts videos of live church services from all denominations. The project has been set up by CTVC, a multi-award-winning independent production company (and a charity) which specialises in producing content that raises important ethical and moral issues, from the perspective of all faiths and none.

The Sunday Service is funded by the Joseph Rank Trust, an independent Christian grant-making trust which works with all Christian denominations.

As with many European countries, increases in public health and nutrition in the UK have led to people living longer. With increasing age comes decreased mobility, often causing older people to feel more isolated and lonely. Some inevitably are no longer able to cope at home and move to care homes or sheltered accommodation. This trend is directly affecting congregations of churches across the country; the older generation are less able to participate in regular worship as physically getting to church becomes increasingly difficult for them.

At the same time, the rapid growth of stable, high quality internet connections allows viewers at home to watch events which they cannot physically attend. Whilst, even among older generations, smartphones, tablet computers, set-top boxes and smart TVs are becoming ubiquitous as a means to access digital content.

The Sunday Service directly supports churches by providing equipment, training and guidance in the filming and streaming of their Sunday services. The intention is that by enabling churches to live-stream their services, they can be experienced and enjoyed by those who may not be able to attend Church as regularly as they might like.

The main benefits for our church are:

- Providing comfort to those unable to attend services in person
- Helping those who are unable to attend in person to feel part of the congregation
- Increased visibility in the community
- Demystifying the work of the church

Why we need your help

Before we promote this to care homes and other people who can no longer get to church, we want to be sure it is a reliable service. As with any trial, there have been teething troubles both at our end and the provider's end. We now seem to have overcome most of them. So, we would now like your feedback on your experience.

How to see the broadcasts

You can access the programme by any one of the following ways:

1. Go to our website (www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk) and click on the Streaming button on the top right of any page. That takes you to the Sunday Service website for our church. Click on 'Upcoming' for live-broadcasts of services (10.25am to 12 noon) or click on 'Recorded' for the last service recorded.
2. Alternatively, you can go direct to the Sunday Service website (thesundayservice.org). Click on 'Watch a service'. At the top of the next page click either 'Live' or 'Recorded' and then scroll down to Aylesbury Methodists.
3. The third option is to go to YouTube, and in the 'Search' box, type in Aylesbury Methodists. That will take you to a few videos, the top one of which should be the latest service recorded, or the current service if you click during our normal Sunday service times.

Feedback Requested

Can you please let us know:

1. What equipment did you use? E.g. smart phone, tablet, laptop etc.
2. How easy was it to access our broadcast?
3. Might you access this again if you could not get to church sometimes?
4. Have you any suggestions for improvements?

Please email your feedback to peterb.green@ntlworld.com. Thank you for your time and for any feedback you send.

Peter Green on behalf of the 'Stream Team' of Albert Odro, Harry Darku and Solomon Awadzi.

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.

Maya Angelou



Aylesbury Choral Society

will be performing

W A Mozart – Mass in C minor (K.427)
and
Joseph Haydn – St Nicolai Mass

at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury

on Saturday 30th March 2019 at 7.30pm

with the Aylesbury Sinfonia

Conductor: Jeff Stewart

Eleanor Stevens: soprano

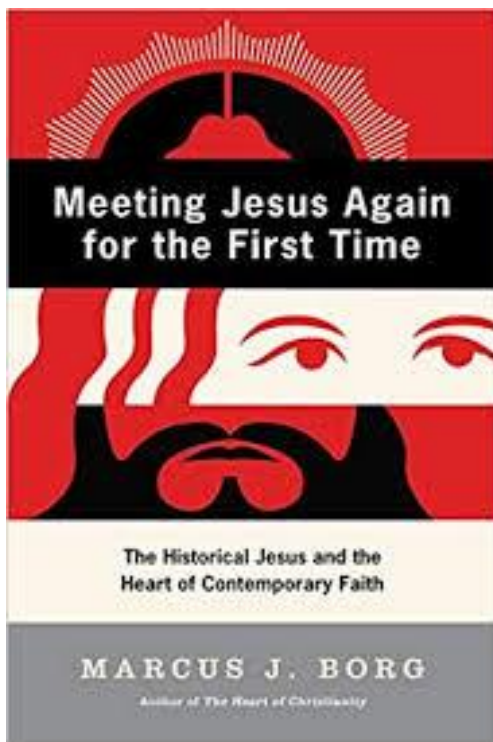
Elinor Cooper: mezzo-soprano

Adam West: tenor

Tomos Jones: bass

Tickets £15 (under 18s £5)

- from choir members or at the door,
- by post from C. Dalladay, 24 Chiltern St. Aylesbury HP21 8BT (enclose SAE)
- or visit our website: <http://www.aylesburychoral.org.uk>



On Saturday 26 January, twelve avid Good Faith book readers met to discuss Marcus Borg's book 'Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time'. We all agreed that, whether we were more or less familiar with Borg's ideas, we all had, indeed, seen Jesus afresh through the reading or rereading of this book!

The style of Borg's writing is scholarly, logical and accessible, which made it easy to read on one level; the difficult and challenging ideas made it less easy reading on quite another. There was much in the book to challenge any complacency that may have crept into our way of looking at our faith.

Borg discusses perceptions of Jesus under four categories: spiritual person, social prophet, wisdom teacher, and movement founder. His central point is that if we consider the character of Jesus looking **back** from our current perspective, we see Jesus in a particular way, depending upon what aspects of the 2000+ years of Christian history (since Jesus lived as a human on earth) we have been exposed to. If, however, we were to consider Jesus as his contemporaries would have seen him, we would see Jesus without all that 'baggage' and therefore in quite a different way. Borg uses the terms Post-Easter Jesus and Pre-Easter Jesus respectively to label these two sets of images. The former being shaped around church tradition which came later than the Jesus of history.

So, for example, as Christians we are reasonably familiar with the idea of Jesus as 'paying' for our sins on the cross so that we can be 'saved', or of Jesus offering himself as a 'sacrifice' in the manner of the priestly sacrifices of Jewish religious practice. Both of those ideas have their place in scripture to a greater or lesser extent, both have been helpful to people (those comfortable with transactional religion, or Jewish sacrificial codes, for example) AND problematic. There are other equally valid ways to understand Jesus.

So, with Borg, we looked at other approaches such as the idea of Jesus as 'Sophia', Greek for wisdom. This idea comes up time and again in scripture – Jesus as a spiritual man of compassion was a particular favourite of John's

gospel. Jesus showed us a way, a wisdom path, that leads to salvation from an inferior way. We also looked at the model of Jesus as leading us out of bondage into freedom, an idea that was widely understood in Jesus' time, through the Jewish community's understanding as themselves being led by God, through Moses, from bondage in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

However, before we got too comfortable in our more 'enlightened' understanding of Jesus, Borg reminded us about the pharisees and the dangers of being like them today. We talked about our own experiences of smugness, akin to that of the pharisees, about our beliefs and the sense that we might somehow know better than others

Along the way we discussed the following:

- how easy it is to get bogged down with doing the right thing and thereby forgetting to show the compassion that comes from listening to others 'from the heart'.
- remembering that words attributed to Jesus are not verbatim – they were so profound and helpful that they were repeatedly passed on until they were eventually written down.
- our experience of death and how blessed it is to 'mourn', if we can. In our culture we don't talk about death very much, least of all with our family.
- what it means to have a relationship with Jesus and how our views of God compare with those of the Old Testament
- how Jesus' connection with the Spirit was at the source of everything he did, and Jesus wanted that to be the same for us.
- that we all have gifts, and all gifts are for the common good.

Karen



Saturday 8th June 2019 from 6.00pm

'Farewell Do for Helen and Andrew Kirk'

Stoke Mandeville Community Centre and field,
Eskdale Road.

BBQ and Live music to dance the night away.

Tickets £5 each available from

Gill Marks 748659 or Lynn Bernstone 420817 at the end of March.

My Favourite Time of the Year



Do you have a favourite day or time of the year? One that stands out from all the rest? It could be a special Birthday, maybe one that ends with a 0 – we have all been there!

It may be your first kiss or wedding day. It could be a wonderful holiday, that you had been saving for a long time and thought would never happen. It could be the day that you took possession of your very first home. Or the birth of your wonderful children. It really could be anything that makes you smile and have a happy, warm feeling as you recall it.

My most favourite day of the year just beats the birth of my two children, and it took over 25 years to get to it!

I have been a Christian ever since I can remember. Going to Sunday School at 5 years old and then gradually, as I got older, changing churches from Anglican to Non-Denomination in the Military (I was an Army Nurse).

I then started to go to a Baptist Church after meeting my then Husband. His Mum was the Gorsley Baptist Church warden and lived in a delightful old cottage next to the church.

I naturally went to the Baptist church each time we visited, which became quite often, and I began to want to be Baptised. (This involves total immersion in a small pool that is next to the altar. It remains covered during normal services, and once it is filled, the Padre Blesses the water prior to the service of Baptism.)

The more I witnessed the Baptisms, the more I felt that God was calling me to become a Baptist.

So, on Easter Sunday 1978, dressed in a white tunic, I gave myself to God. As I broke the surface after the third immersion, and opened my eyes, all I could see was a white shimmering light; and as tears poured down my face, I felt the all-encompassing love of God.

I was completely His.

So, for me - Easter Sunday is so very special. Not only did Jesus rise from the dead, but I, after twenty-odd years, truly belonged to God.

© 2019 Babs



You Must Have Integrity

We are taking pains to do what is right.'

2 Corinthians 8:21 NIV

There's a cartoon depicting some pigs feeding while the farmer is busy filling their trough up to the brim. Overhead in bold letters a sign reads, 'Premium Bacon Company'. In the cartoon one pig says to the others, 'Have you ever wondered why the farmer is so good to us?'

Question: Do people have to wonder about your motives? They shouldn't! The apostle Paul defines integrity like this: 'In honour preferring one another' (Romans 12:10 KJV). Integrity always seeks the good of others. It believes that if something isn't good for both sides, it's not good for either side. Solomon warns, 'Exploit the poor or glad-hand the rich – whichever, you'll end up the poorer for it' (Proverbs 22:16 MSG).

If you want to test the depth of your integrity, consider these questions:

How transparent are you with others?

How well do you treat people from whom you have nothing to gain?

Do you assume different personas depending on who you're with?

Do you put others ahead of your own personal agenda?

Do you love people and use things, or love things and use people?

Do you make difficult decisions even when it costs you personally?

When you have something to say about somebody, do you talk to them or talk about them?

Are you accountable to anybody other than yourself?

These are important questions, so take time to consider them prayerfully. And remember, you may succeed momentarily because of what you know or do, but you'll only succeed permanently because of what you are.

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.



Ghanaian Night

(First of its kind)

Presenting Ghanaian Culture and Dance
Plus a taste of indigenous Ghanaian
cuisine/dishes
and display of artefacts

at

Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre
Saturday 6th April 2019

Time: 6.00pm – 10.00pm

Free Entertainment – Donations Welcome!

Meal Tickets

Adults (16 & over): £8 Children (under 16): £4
Family (2 Adults & 2 Children): £20

On sale from:

Solo Awadzi: 07748-750-547

Alfons Hanson: 07939-050-258

Harry Darku: 07939-337-374

Joy Murphy: 01296-428319

Aylesbury Methodist Church office: 01296-426526

In support of Karibuni Children and the Alfani Foundation



TransfOrming young
Kenyan lives.

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