

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



‘LINK’

May - June
2019

**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



Link May 2019

'Half way up the stairs is the place where I sit
There isn't really any place quite like this
It's not at the bottom and it's not at the top
It isn't really any place but half way up.'



Over Easter we were once again cat sitting for our son and his girlfriend. To be fair the cat isn't a problem unless you are trying to get up or down the stairs, as her favourite place to sit is right in the middle of the staircase. As I negotiated this feline obstacle one day, I found myself sitting down to stroke her and singing Kermit the Frog's song - much to the dismay and ridicule of my family!

Reflecting on that moment I realise that I feel 'half way up the stairs'; not upstairs not downstairs but in between. I am the minister at AMC and superintendent of this circuit and yet increasingly I am being asked to respond to events in my new job as chair of Chester and Stoke – a job I haven't got a clue how to do! I live with a mixture of sadness at having to leave but excitement and fear for what is to come.

I am in a liminal place.

Similarly, the church and circuit know that change is imminent as one minister leaves and another arrives – such a change offers exciting new beginnings but also frightening unknowns.

Liminal places are often not easy. We don't particularly like change as the unknown seems filled with fear and yet we follow one who stated that we were never to settle: 'Foxes have holes and the birds of the air nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head,' said Jesus.

We are called to be a people who are always moving, always changing, always re-creating and never complacent.

We are called to be a liminal people, living our lives in between the needs of the world and holiness of God. It is not an easy place to be: God's people in the world.

And yet it is this 'half way' place; this liminal existence that enables us to be a vehicle for God's grace; loved and precious children of God who strive to live that love in our community. It is only by occupying that 'in between' place that we fulfil our call to follow Jesus.

Here at AMC we have recently opened our 'Welcome Space'. My hope is that this becomes an 'in between' space; a place where the needs of the community are met by the love of God. A space that offers belonging to people of faith or no faith; hospitality to the stranger and welcome to the ones who feel like the outcast.

Inhabiting the 'in between' will never feel comfortable and yet we must remember that God will always be there; before us and behind us, for every place is his.

So, when we find ourselves feeling out of our depth or even 'halfway up the stairs', dealing with changes we cannot control, may we remember that we are in good company for we are always in God's company.

Helen.



A Welcome Opening

Newly refurbished, The WELCOME Space was officially opened on Saturday 4th May 2019 by Pauline Latham, wife of the late Brian Latham, who first championed and led this project. The event took place at an afternoon service, led by our minister, Rev. Helen Kirk who explained the story so far and vision for the future.



Rev Helen Kirk, Paul Ingram (Project Leader), Pauline Latham (Opener), Aylesbury Town Mayor Cllr Mark Willis

The service included a Bible reading by Pat Martin Seehusen, that had been used in some recent training in listening skills. All who had attended either or both the initial and intermediate training sessions were commissioned. The aim is to develop and set up a listening service for people of all faiths and none who live in and around Aylesbury.

Peter Green thanked the funders, our contractors and the rest of the Project Team, with special mention of Paul Ingram who took on the leadership role, and Helen Kirk, who opened our eyes to the potential for new ways of serving our communities.



Before declaring The WELCOME Space open and unveiling a commemorative plaque, Pauline Latham said that Brian was always one for welcoming people. She added, "So it is not surprising that Brian was so passionate about being involved in the development of the Welcome Space here at the church - a place to offer hospitality to all, a welcome to our worship,

our activities, our listening services and our love - a warm invitation to everyone in our local community."

After the service, attended by the town mayor of Aylesbury, Mayor Councillor Mark Willis, and by some of the funders and contractors, tea and cake were served in the hall by members of the project team. One of the cakes was a special celebration cake cut by Pauline, the minister and the mayor.

Peter Green: May 2019



PENTECOST

The day was peaceful,
Just another time for them
As they sat around.
Good men, Devout disciples.
They had come together
To eat and talk
About the past and future.
They were still reeling from
The Crucifixion of Jesus,
Their Friend and Master.

They were really a bit lost
wondering what to do next –
Suddenly, they heard a loud noise
Almost like thunder.
But this was so very different.
Through the windows and
Through the doors
Came the rushing of a great wind.
It seemed to be on fire
But was cool to the touch.

They became very frightened
But so calm within;
Each man looking to the other
For some answer to this phenomenon.
The tongues of flaming wind
Circled around the room,
And then touched each of them.
As it entered their hearts
They felt different somehow.
Suddenly they all knew what it was.



Hadn't Jesus promised them
He would not leave them alone,
But send His Comforter?
This is what it was
It was the Holy Spirit.
And each person who believed
In Him was filled with this
Holy gift from God.
People spoke in different languages
But could understand each other.

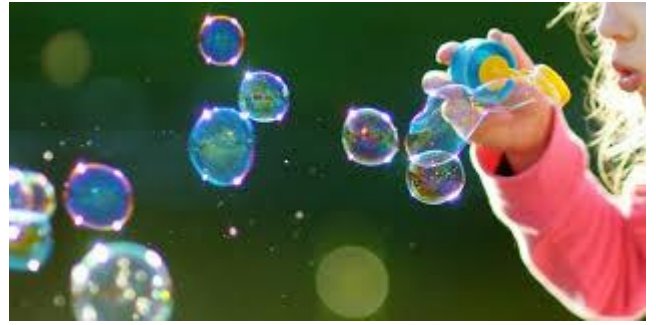
It was a joyous time,
Even though it was frightening
In the beginning.
The Disciples knew their purpose
Was to spread Gods word.
And tell of His Love and Mercy
To whoever would listen.
The Spirit within each of their hearts
Would help them.
And so they went to do God's work.

We can also be filled with
The Holy Spirit.
All we need to do is to ask.
God waits patiently for us,
And He listens, really listens
To us when we do.
So let this Pentecost
Be a new beginning,
And a new future
For us all.

2019 © Babs



Pentecost Just like Bubbles



The other day I was watching my grandson play with a bubble toy. As the soapy mixture was waved around through a plastic wand, it produced lots of bubbles. They rose up and floated

around the room - touching everyone and everything - until they disappeared. As I watched him, it made me think of Pentecost and how the Holy Spirit, when it first came down, touched the people.

It surrounded them, and then as it entered their hearts, disappeared. Just like the bubbles.

Watching, I saw that the light had caused the bubbles to shine with a myriad of colours.

Each one seemed to shine brighter and better than the first. I felt such Joy, as if the Spirit was upon me again.

If that was what it was like for the Disciples, all that time ago, when the Holy Spirit came to them - Surrounded them - Entered their hearts and then disappeared, leaving them filled with Peace I understand.

2019 © Babs

What a wonderful way to teach English grammar to young children



Easter Day Chat

It was Easter Day morning and we had all risen early - we sat at tables in the Church Community Centre. It was great - we were to have a cooked breakfast; for me it's one piece of toast usually - nothing more! The breakfast swiftly arrived, and it had everything a cooked breakfast should have - baked beans, egg, hash brown, bacon etc, all crowned by a super sausage!

I tucked in - I looked at the sausage - the sausage looked at me - he ho - I plunged my fork into Simon (must give him a name) - the fire alarm started to wail - I had only plunged into Simon - honest - nothing more! The alarm continued to wail - someone found the 'wailer' and started flapping at it. Some thought they might take their shirts off, and use those. I declined; the sight of an older person with their shirt off is not a pretty sight.

Superintendent Helen and Andrew were sitting close by, and I wondered if this might be some sort of leaving ritual - there was nothing about a ritual on the ticket I had bought for the do in June.

Suddenly a cheer went up from the assembled throng; two firefighters arrived clad in full firefighting gear, but not pulling hoses full of water thankfully. They did have radios and worried looks, though, as they eyed Superintendent Helen and Andrew.



The wailing did stop - thankfully.
The cause of all the wailing wasn't found.
I think it was magic from a Sausage called Simon!

Rob King

Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

The Annual General Church Meeting on 28th April 2019 asked that the AMC Growth Plan be published in LINK and made available on the church noticeboard. This will enable all of us to monitor and measure our progress and ensure that it is a living, meaningful document.

Thanks again to all those who offered input.

GROWTH PLAN 2019-2023

By June 2019 the Methodist Conference requires all Methodist churches to produce either a Growth Plan or an end of life plan. We began our own Growth Plan in 2015 with the start of the Healthy Churches process. The October 2018 Church Council agreed that we create our Growth Plan on the existing Healthy Churches framework. This is based on the seven marks or characteristics of healthy churches which are: *Energised by faith | Outward-looking focus | Seeks to find out what God wants | Faces the cost of change and growth | Operates as a community | Makes room for all | Does a few things and does them well.* The congregation were also given the opportunity, via an insert in the church notices, to input the draft plans.

The Growth Plan agreed by the 27th March 2019 Church Council is:

1. To meet existing needs by aiming to continue all our present church activities for all ages namely: Creche, Sunbeams, Messy Church, J Team, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Youth Exchange, AMC & Friends trips, Banner Group, Bible Study, Choir, Coffee Bar, Good Faith Book Club, House Groups, In Stitches, Music Group, Prayer Group, SOS, Tuesday Fellowship and the active supporting of agreed charities, such as Christian Aid, Action for Children, Missions, Karibuni and others.
2. To complete the refurbishment of our church welcome area by Easter 2019.
3. To train a team of Listeners and launch a Listening service by 4th May 2019.

Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

4. To develop an increasing programme of services to meet identified needs within the town centre and wider communities from 2019-2022. This might include some of the following:
 - Memory café – with photos etc. to encourage memories/ discussion
 - Death café – an opportunity for people to talk about all aspects of death
 - Internet café – helping people to access information, friends and family
 - Help café – signposting people to local specialist help available
 - Rough sleepers – one evening per week cold weather hot meal and socialisation
5. To appoint an Outreach Co-ordinator as early as possible in 2019 to facilitate these initiatives.
6. To appoint a small team to investigate, and report back to Church Council, how we might sustain our youth work in years to come after funding for our Family and Youth Worker ends in August 2020
7. To conduct a review of all that we do by 2022-23 to decide what to stop, what to start and what to continue.
8. To manage our premises and finances to ensure a sustainable town centre presence and influence.
9. To build all that we do on worship that is uplifting, challenging, inclusive and relevant today.
10. To work ecumenically where we can.
11. To actively seek ways of loving our neighbours locally, nationally and internationally, by promoting and campaigning for justice, fairness, equality, peace and the sustainable use of our planet.

Rev. Helen Kirk,
Superintendent Minister



No Room in Heaven!

A poorly educated man dies and goes to Heaven. On reaching the pearly gates St Peter stops him: "Unfortunately we have a room shortage at the moment so not everyone can enter. However, we give all an equal chance by asking you some test questions."

"Oh dear!" exclaims the man, "I didn't go to school much so am no good at tests!"

"Don't worry," says St Peter, "There are only 3 questions, which I shall ask you now. You can go away and think about them and then come back when you think you can answer them."

"That doesn't sound so bad, I suppose," says the man.

"Right," says St Peter, "Here are the 3 questions – listen carefully!"

Question 1: How many days of the week begin with T?

Question 2: How many seconds are there in a year?

Question 3: What is God's first name?

That doesn't sound very difficult does it?"

"Maybe not to you, but there are maths in there and I don't understand them," said the man sounding despondent. However, he goes away and cogitates for two days and then comes back to St Peter and says he is ready with answers.

"Right," says St Peter, "Let's go through them and you can tell me your answers."

Question 1: How many days of the week begin with T?"

"Well I make it 2," says the man.

"Quite right. But just to make sure we understand each other, can you tell me what they are?"

"Well it's **Today** and **Tomorrow**," the man answers.

"Oh dear, that's not the answer I was expecting, but I suppose you are right in your way, so we will say that is a correct answer," says St Peter

“Now on to Question 2: How many seconds are there in a year?”

“This was tricky it seemed to involve sums, which I don’t do,” says the man, “But I thought about it and realised the answer is not difficult. There are 12 seconds in a year!”

St Peter is surprised. “How do you arrive at that answer?”

“Well there’s second of January, second of February, right up to second of December, and that makes twelve!”

Again, St Peter is non-plussed. “I’ve never come across that answer, but I suppose I didn’t say what I meant by a second, so I will accept your answer – 2 correct!”

“Now to the third question; get this right and you can enter.”

“Question 3: What is God’s first name?”

“This one was easy” says the man. “God’s first name is Andy!”

By this time St Peter is more and more confused. “How did you work that out?” “Well I just remembered my Sunday School chorus: ‘Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own’.”

“What a great answer. You’ve passed. Welcome to Heaven,” says a somewhat bewildered St Peter!

David Neville



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.



Many of us will not have heard of a Child Contact Centre, or realise one meets upstairs in our Community Centre twice a month. From early beginnings in our Church, over 26 years ago, the need was seen by a Church Member and Social Worker, Janet Lawrence. Several of us came forward to help, were interviewed and waited for our police clearance. At this stage all the staff

were members of this Church, toys were obtained with help from the William Harding Charity (which still happens today) and the Centre started opening just one Saturday a month.

Over the years this has gradually changed, first the WRVS joined us, when we were then able to open 2 Saturdays a month. Funding was needed for a Co-ordinator to deal with all the paperwork, interviewing of parents and overseeing the Contact sessions, and also to pay rent and purchase toys, tea, biscuits, etc. and this comes through applying to various Charities.

So what is a Contact Centre? The Centres are there to help parents whose relationships have broken down, and who need help to sort out access to their children. For the non-resident parent, not seeing their children is often painful, and equally the resident parent may be nervous and upset about leaving their child/ren. The Centre provides a place of safety and support for both parents, and even grandparents, giving quality time for them to see, play, talk with the children they would otherwise have no or little contact with. Parents often say that they don't know what they would do without the Centre, and that it has enabled them to regain their greatest loss, that of not seeing their children. Children of all ages come; at present our youngest is a baby of 7 months, and the oldest are young teenagers.



However, it is not a walk-in Centre and parents need to apply and have a pre-visit before using its facilities. In the earlier days nearly all our referrals came through the Courts, but now with the lack of Legal Aid it is often through self-referral. Many parents do not know where to turn, and so we also need to turn our hand at advertising and showing that this service is available.

Volunteers and the Centre Co-ordinator are there to provide safety and support for both parents and children whilst at the Centre. Listening to parents and children in a non-judgmental way, but often with the satisfaction of seeing families enable their children to have some sense of normality, eventually leading to contact outside the Centre. It's a completely free facility to both parents.

For volunteers, as well as listening and playing, we make endless cups of tea and coffee and normally work 1 session each month, besides 3 training sessions over the course of each year.

Safeguarding is of the utmost importance, and here we are lucky enough to be able to hire the self-contained facilities here at the Church on the first floor, which offers rooms to play, an interview room and waiting room and of course the important kitchen.

As is usual in Charity work, we are very short of volunteers. We all work either a morning or an afternoon once a month and swap around with each other as needed. I can't offer that you come and see us in action, but if anyone is interested in volunteering or knowing more, please chat to Pauline Noble, Julianne Wilderspin or Pat Starr, who are all members of this Church and volunteers at the Centre, or visit aylesburyvalechildcontactcentre@gmail.com

Pauline Noble

The next LINK magazine will be the July - August 2019 issue.

**Please send in all contributions by Friday 5th July 2019
to both addresses below:**

Jennie Torpey: jennietorpey@gmail.com

AMC Office: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Or I can type them up for you if I have them early enough.

Ideally, please send as an A4 WORD document and 14 - 16pt size font





Circuit Caravan and Camping Trip 2019



STOP PRESS

Our Circuit camp at Cotswold View Caravan and Camping Park in Charlbury Oxon from 14 to 16 June still has vacancies. It's not too late to join in the fun!

10 units have already booked, but I am assured by the site that there is still room for YOU too!

You need to book directly with the site by phone on 01608 810314 or email info@cotswoldview.co.uk

Tell them that you are part of the Aylesbury Methodist group so that we can all be pitched together.

Further information can be obtained from us and *we would like to know once you have booked.*

Chris and Arthur Sara

01296 484310 or 07515472825

email chrisara096@gmail.com



Royal Albert Hall

Our Afternoon Trip to RAH

On Sunday afternoon, 17th March, another coach arrived at The Royal Albert Hall; the coach had travelled from Aylesbury Methodist Church. Most of us on board felt a bit apprehensive; after all, it was usually a classical concert we would hear. This trip, the programme was called 'Let's Face the Music'!

Pauline dished the tickets out on the coach and told us we would not be sitting together; some would be in Loggia Boxes - the same as the Queen uses when she visits. The management at the RAH must have realised we were an important lot!

The Orchestra arrived wearing white jackets, not the usual black - they looked 'special'. The concert started with music from 'Top Hat', backed by four vocalists, and students from The ArtsEd Ensemble, which comprises young people on a BA course in Musical Theatre.

Another unusual feature was the lighting; colour flooded the Albert Hall, with searching lights swinging through the dark heights and spaces. It all added to make for a unique atmosphere.

I'm not sure how to describe the sound from The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Inspirational, comes to mind, outstanding, superb, happy. Each piece of music was introduced by Petroc Trelawny from BBC 3. The programme included music from West Side Story, My Fair Lady, Chorus Line, Oklahoma, South Pacific, and The King and I - all shows that Mavis and I enjoyed years ago, at Drury Lane Theatre. For me, it all brought back lots of happy memories.

What an experience! Thank you, Pauline, once again, for a great trip!
Regards, Rob King



Musicals – and Memories.

The visit of a group from Aylesbury Methodist Church on 17th March to the Royal Albert Hall to see 'Let's face the Music' was a very special occasion. So, first of all, I would like to thank Pauline Noble and all those involved in organising the tickets and the coach travel, ensuring everything went beautifully smoothly.



Taking a quick cup of coffee in the hall after morning Service, it was easy to spot those who would be going as almost all were clutching various lunch bags and boxes fully of goodies to eat on the journey to London.

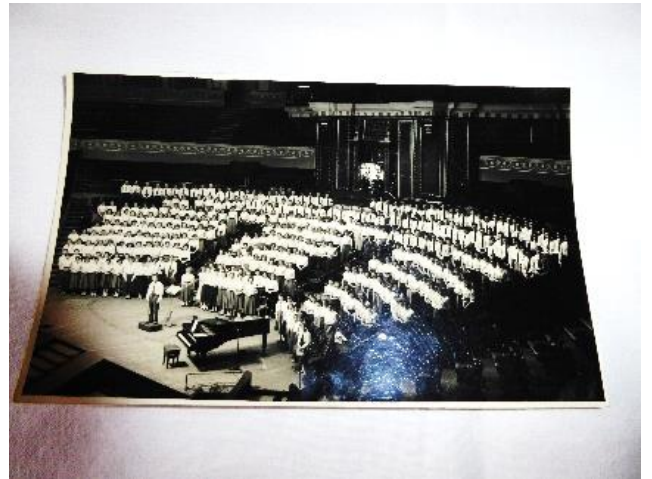
I am sure everyone found the music, singing and dancing in the magnificent setting of the Royal Albert Hall truly impressive. The programme performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra covered songs from much loved musicals from over the past 80 years – but all still seemed as fresh and vibrant as when first written. Vocalists were all in fine voice and the accompanying Artsed Ensemble gave backing in singing and dancing. Selections ranged from Top Hat to Funny Girl, via South Pacific, Wizard of Oz, Sound of Music and Cabaret and many, many more. No doubt among them would be songs that brought back special memories to most of the audience.

With the final encore the clapping died away and everyone started gathering up bags and coats for the journey home. How lovely to be whisked off in a comfortable coach and taken (almost) to my own front door – head still full of joyful, tuneful music.

But for me there were other memories that I recalled while sitting in the Royal Albert Hall – of being there over 60 years ago with a rather different group of Methodists – mostly teenagers! We were from a North London church youth club, attending the London Weekend celebrations

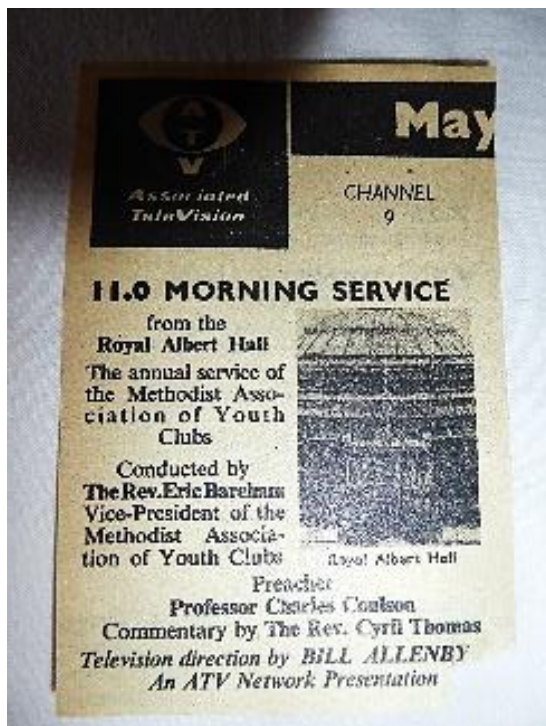
of the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs, MAYC, along with many other groups from youth clubs from all over Britain, filling the Royal Albert Hall.

Our enthusiastic young organist trained our choir in songs for the two Saturday performances and hymns for the Sunday morning service. We joined with choirs from many other Methodist churches while other youth club groups acted sketches, performed dance or acrobatics and even held mini sports matches. There was always a celebrity guest. One year it was the young up and coming Cliff Richard – his singing almost drowned out by delighted screams from fans in the audience.



After taking part on both Saturday and Sunday we would all have picnics across the road in Hyde Park and on those long ago May weekends the sun always seemed to shine. I wonder if any readers also shared those inspirational MAYC events?

Anne Dunbar





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 12 May Christian Aid Sunday	10.30am	Family & Brigades Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 14 May	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Arthur & Chris Sara
Sat 18 May	7.30pm	SOS: 'Mostly Harmless' at the Marks' home
Sun 19 May	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Aylesbury Creativity Group
Sat 25 May	2.00pm 4.00pm	Good Faith Book Club Messy Church
Sun 26 May	10.30am	Morning Worship – local arrangement
Tues 28 May	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Brenda Horne & Rosemarie Bucknell
Sun 2 June	10.30am 5.00pm	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Circuit Service at Stewkley: Rev Donna Broadbent-Kelly's Testimonial Service
Sat 8 June	6.00pm	'Farewell Do' for Helen & Andrew Kirk at St Mandeville
Sun 9 June	10.30am	Family & Brigades Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 11 June	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Fellowship Afternoon
Wed 12 June	2.00pm	Bible Study: 'There is only one God ...'
Frid 14 – Sun 16 June		Circuit Caravan & Camping Weekend
Sun 16 June	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw
Sat 22 June	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 23 June	8.45am 10.30am 5.00pm	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Rev Mike Hall Open Air Circuit Service at Swanbourne
Tues 25 June	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Melanie Brown
Sun 30 June	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Romilly Micklem
Frid 5 July		Articles due in for July - August LINK magazine
Sat 6 July	All day	Action for Children Stall in Market Square
Tues 9 July	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Annual General Meeting
Sun 14 July Action for Children Sunday	11.30am	Cake & Plant Stall in the Hall after the morning service
Sat 20 July	4.00pm 7.30pm	Messy Church SOS: 'Space & Junk'
Sat 27 July	2.00pm	Good Faith Book Club



Dates for Messy Church 4.00 - 6.00pm

- 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!

J TEAM



Welcome to the J Team pages

The Bible teaches us that just as our parents want what is best for us God, our heavenly Father, also hears and answers our requests. Sometimes we ask God for something one time and never mention it again. Maybe that is our impatience showing.

When we ask for something, we want God to say "yes," and we want Him to say it right now! Jesus said that we should always pray and not give up. Perhaps God just wants us to show that we are serious about what we are asking of Him. Does this mean that if we keep asking for something over and over again that God will always give it to us? No, but He loves us and wants what is best for us, and He will answer, "yes" if He can.

Keep On Praying

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
M	S	D	Y	U	L	N	R	A	F	K	V	E	B	J	C	G	X	H	W	P	Z	O	T	Q	I

- 21-9-8-9-14-6-13 _____
- 6-26-2-24-13-7 _____
- 5-7-15-5-2-24 _____
- 15-5-2-24-26-16-13 _____
- 8-13-10-5-2-13-3 _____
- 13-9-8-24-19 _____
- 20-26-3-23-20 _____
- 10-9-26-24-19 _____

JUSTICE	PARABLE	FAITH	REFUSED
EARTH	WIDOW	UNJUST	LISTEN

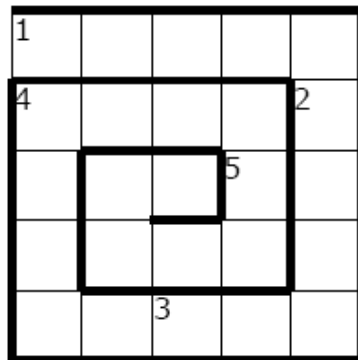


Have a look in the bible
 Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1

As we pray, we become closer to God. The closer we are to God, the more we feel the power of the Holy Spirit working in our life. Let's thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come." John 16:13 (NIV)



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. To show the way by leading, directing, or advising | 4. To receive a sound using your ears |
| 2. To express your thoughts, opinions, or emotions orally | 5. God coming to us without human body; The Holy _____. |
| 3. A statement proven to be or accepted as being true | |

truth	Spirit	speak	guide	hear
-------	--------	-------	-------	------

Dear Father,
 Please teach us to pray. and teach us to be patient and persistent in prayer. If we desire good things, remind us that we need to pray and pray again.
 We thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to guide us in the way you want us to go. Help us to stay close to you, so that we can feel the power of your Holy Spirit in our life.
 Amen



Linking with Pilgrims

How many of you know, that at one time, North Marston was the site of pilgrimages, ranked only below Canterbury and Walsingham, in popularity?

I certainly didn't until recently.

One rainy spring day last year, my friend Janice, who now lives in High Wycombe but who spent her teenage years in North Marston, drove me to see the places she used to call home. After touring Aylesbury, where she went to school, we visited the church in the village, where she had worshipped with her parents. I admired the beautifully embroidered kneelers there and she was pleased to find that the lectern bible that her parents had donated was still in the chancel. She lingered at the bookstall and picked out a copy of our LINK magazine, to which I had contributed. (I had not realised my words travelled so far.) Then we both gazed at the wall hanging depicting the church's own saint.



John Schorne had been the rector there between 1290 AD and 1313 AD. During a drought, he is said to have struck the ground with his staff and discovered a spring. The Holy Well, with its pump, is still in the heart of the village. John himself was a pious man and several miracles were attributed to him. Cures were reported for toothache and for gout. Because of this he was said to have cast the devil into a boot. This boot with the devil peeping from it can be seen on his picture. This may also,



centuries later, have been the inspiration for the child's toy, the Jack-in-the-box.

To the indignation of the local people, in 1478 John's remains were taken away and buried in the new St George's Chapel at Windsor, but the Holy Well still held its attraction and, believe it or not, was visited twice by Henry VIII.

I was intrigued to find out all this information from a leaflet I collected that day, and from the internet, but I was even more delighted to find that John is still remembered in East Anglia as well as in Buckinghamshire.



On holiday in Suffolk with a friend, last Christmas, I went off on a trip to Bury St Edmunds, while she stayed in Sudbury and visited the St Gregory's Church, which was a stone's throw from our Hotel. That evening, she excitedly told me she had seen a painted wooden panel with a pictorial representation of North Marston's John Schorne near the altar in that church. I simply had to get some of the parishioners to show it to me also after I had attended the Christmas morning service.

It seems wonderful, how the news of the good works of people can link places together.

Angela M. Smith

~~~~~  
Aspire to inspire before you expire.

~~~~~  
Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

~~~~~  
The irony of life is that, by the time  
you're old enough to know your way around,  
you're not going anywhere.

~~~~~

Where are they now?

As some of our young people immerse themselves in study and exams over the next few weeks, no doubt their thoughts turn to future choices of further education or possible careers. At AMC we have many families who bring their children to our Church from a young age and they grow up amongst us. We watch them in J team; appearing in nativity plays; reading lessons and performing in musical groups. As young adults they often leave Aylesbury to continue their lives elsewhere.



If you sometimes wonder what has happened to the children, please read on to find out about one group, now in their twenties who grew up in our church.

Back in 2008, six youngsters got together to form the Aylesbury Methodist Church Youth Orchestra. It was the idea of Peter Farmer, who thought they might perform at the Garden Party he and Pamela hosted for several years. The Youth Orchestra also took part in various church services, including the Carol Service.

What are they doing now?

Callum Kemp (cello) - An Academic Life

Callum went to Bath University In 2012 to study Maths. He committed to a four-year Masters Degree, and having gained that, he has continued his academic life there. Further study means breaking new ground in a very specific area of Maths. This year Callum will be going to Japan to address a conference, putting forward his research theories. He is hoping to further his studies in Vienna later this year. Studying Maths can take you around the world!

Claire Starr (flute) - A career in journalism

Claire went to Lancaster University in 2012 to study history. Whilst there, she discovered an interest in radio broadcasting and went on to City University, London in 2015 to do a Masters Degree in Broadcast

Journalism. She joined the BBC in 2016, working at Three Counties Radio in Dunstable, where she learnt a lot about producing and editing radio programmes. On occasion Claire also prepared, edited and presented her own programmes. She has recently moved to Tunbridge Wells to work with BBC South East TV in planning and production.

Rhys (Rhiannon) Nord (flute) - A career in sound recording

Rhys went to Surrey University in 2013 to study Music and Sound Recording. The course included a placement year working in a recording studio in London, during which she got a credit as assistant sound engineer on Alexander Armstrong's record. Following this, Rhys has been working for a company recording audio books, sometimes as an engineer, sometimes editing. Rhys has taken up playing ladies' rugby, and in September will be off to New Zealand for a year to explore the islands and watch and play more rugby.

James Seed (guitar) - Coffee supremo

If you stop off for coffee at Wyevale Garden Centre near Wendover, you may bump into James. He is currently a Barista at the Costa Coffee franchise there. James is keeping his options open as to whether to make his career with the coffee chain, or similar; or maybe run his own independent café one day.

Ailsa Kemp (clarinet) - Magic with plants and animals

Ailsa is brilliant with plants and flowers. She trained at Waterperry and at Kew Gardens. A couple of years ago she decided to make a change and follow her desire to work with small animals. At the moment she is enjoying working and learning at St Tiggywinkles. Ailsa is also volunteering at a vets' practice in Aylesbury one day a week and looking to study veterinary practice in future.

Jack Nord (saxophone) - Computing whizz

Jack took a gap year in 2015. He spent a few months earning funds to enable him to volunteer for three months in Kenya, helping with the work of Karibuni Children. He is currently at St Andrews University where he is in the third year of his four-year course studying computer science, and hopes to continue his studies into a fifth year to gain a Masters degree.



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

Then, on Action for Children Sunday, 14th July,
Cake & Plant Stall in the Hall, after the service.



Would you like a little Action for Children Home Collecting Box,
to pop in small amounts of loose change during the year?

These raise a significant amount of money for the charity each year.
The figure for the past 12 months was £562.14, with separate
donations through the Home Collecting Boxes scheme
bringing our total to **£832.14!!**

If you would like to have one at home, do ask Pauline Noble.



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!!





A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!!

Saturday 12th October 2019, 7.00pm
in aid of **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

Tickets: £8 each, available from
Pauline Noble 484940 and Jennie Torpey 581414
nearer the time.

**INCLUDING PLOUGHMAN'S & SOFT DRINKS
IN THE INTERVAL**

[Bring your own nibbles and soft drinks to have at your table]

Evening includes a Raffle

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!!!

TABLES OF 6 (max 8)

Make up a table, or just buy a ticket
and we'll make sure you're
on a table with others.



ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Come and help us support
ACTION FOR CHILDREN

Aylesbury Methodist Church, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2NQ

The Easiest Job in the World

Just imagine sitting down all day watching your favourite sport just feet from the live action. Well, I have that job. It's called Badminton Line Judging.

Now, as everyone knows, badminton is a nice gentle game of hitting a shuttlecock backwards & forwards over a net. I just sit there and make a call if it goes in or out of the court. And we very rarely have John McEnroe moments. What could be easier?

A lot of my line judging are English children from under 17 to under 19 years of age. By the way, I'm not being an Anglophile when I say English children, as Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own line judges. Once the children exceed 19 years they have to play as an adult. So how fast can a game of badminton be?

Now the true facts:

The fastest tennis serve ever recorded was 263.4Km/h (163.7mph); the average serve in a men's international tournament is 184.1Km/h (114.4mph). The serve is usually the fastest time a tennis ball travels.

The average smash by an under 17-year-old is 191 Km/h (118.7mph); an under 19-year-old can smash at 280km/h (174mph), so in a Under 17-year-old tournament I'm watching a shuttlecock traveling faster than an international tennis player serves and over a shorter distance. And a smash can happen several times during just 1 point in badminton.

Youth matches are only line judged during the semi-finals and finals so we only 'work' one day, usually a Sunday. Hence, I'm not trying to miss Helen's sermons on Sunday, I'm line judging, honestly Helen!

I also qualify to line judge foreign international tournaments such as France & Scotland; yes Scotland is classified as foreign because I belong to the Badminton Line Judge Association of England.

The most famous international in the world is the 'All England' and it attracts the top players from all over the world, with prize money of 1 million dollars. You have to be a first-class line judge to qualify for this event. I'm one of only 60 English line judges that qualify. The tournament takes place in March at The NIA Birmingham. It starts on a Wednesday and finishes on a Sunday (Sorry again Helen). However, we have to be there for briefings from Tuesday evening. We are also joined by other international line judges. This year we had judges from Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, France & Estonia.

Wednesday starts at 08:30 with a team briefing, matches start at 09:00. This year we finished at 22:45, so it was straight back to the hotel and bed for me. Some went to the bar.

Thursday was the same, except we finished at 21:20.

Friday, we had a lay-in as we did not start until 10:00 but I got the last match of the night so did not finish until 23:25.

Saturday was full on, as the quarter-finals were played in the morning and the semi-finals in the afternoon, so it was a 08:30 to 23:00 day.

Sunday was relaxing as we did not start the matches till 13:00; however, as this was such a big televised event, we had to be there early to practice parading on and off.

As with international tennis, we have our own 'Hawkeye' system which operates on court 1 during the tournament. But, unlike tennis, there are up to 5 courts in operation and you do not have to be quiet during a match; in fact the more noise the audience makes the better the players like it.

My last match of the day on Sunday was the most coveted Men's Singles. During the match the fastest smash of the tournament was recorded at 426.2Km/h (264.83mph). This match lasted 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Now, just imagine watching a shuttlecock going at over 200mph for up to 1 hour 30 minutes. Then imagine that this object, which is only 25mm across the base, is travelling towards a line that is 40mm wide and you have a fraction of a second to decide if it missed the outside of the line or landed on the line. Then, after you make that call, players can challenge your call and 'Hawkeye' comes into play. Because badminton is a noisy game they use 'heart beat' music while the computer works out if the shuttlecock was in or out. Believe me, your heart beats the same. Boom.....Boom.....Boom.....Boom...Boom..Boom as the image of the shuttlecock gets nearer the line.

Out of the 8 times I was challenged, I was right 7 times. The one time I was wrong was in the final game of the Men's Single Final. I called it in and 'Hawkeye' called it out, by 5mm. Even the player that challenged the call said that that it was close.

So perhaps it's not the easiest job in the world!

John Miskin BLJAofE



Fellow Line Judges



My Place of Work

Ghanaian Night – a success!!!!



The function proceeded under the auspices of Solo Awadzi and Harry Darku, who were the masters of ceremony for the occasion.



The church was decorated with rich and colourful Kente cloth and there was a display of artefacts and saleable items in the welcome area, which were transferred to the Hall at meal time. All the Ghanaians were in their colourful traditional attire. *We could have done a fashion show with the cat walk!*

A Welcome prayer was said by Rev. Helen Kirk. This was followed by emergency action announcements.

As the function was to support two charities: Karibuni Children based in Kenya and The Alfans Foundation in Ghana, representatives of the charities - Joy Murphy and Alfons Hanson - were invited to enlighten the audience about their work with the charities.

The first performance was opened with Ghanaian drumming by Alfons Hanson's family, which included a short tribal dance tune demonstrated by Edith Awadzi, to the delight of the audience



The Anuket belly dancers next performed their body movements to melodious music.

A duet by Shirley Francis on saxophone and Julie Maquire on piano delighted the audience with a

Morecombe and Wise sketch of *"playing all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order"*, followed by two classic sing-along tunes – Moon River, and Edelwiess (*from The Sound of Music*).

The Belly dancers returned to the stage and performed with another display of vibrant and exotic movements to excite the audience.





The final performance was the Ghanaian highlife music and dancing. This was the highlight of the evening performance. The first two highlife tunes were intended for all Ghanaians to dance, to be followed by an invitation to the audience to join in,

but the melodic and rhythmic appeal of the music was so irresistible that the audience could not wait sitting and tapping their feet, so they quickly joined the dancing and waving of white handkerchiefs (*that is Ghanaian highlife music for you!!*). The music went on until the food was ready to be served.



The entertainment was rounded up with Alfons Hanson thanking all those who played a part in getting the event off the ground, especially the 'unsung' hero Jennie Torpey, who was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Albert Odro.

In the hall, there was a display of delicious Ghanaian dishes including jollof rice, waakye plus fried plantain. There were also side dishes of salad and vegetables; in addition were a fruit platter and variety of cakes as dessert. Edith Awadzi and Ruby Darku organised and co-ordinated the preparation of the food.



The blessing was said by Rev. Hayford Ofori-Attah before food was served.



The dining tables were draped in white with decorative flowers and balloons in Ghanaian national flag colours – red, yellow and green; full size Ghana flags were also displayed on the walls. Ghanaian highlife tunes were played as background music during the meal. After the main course, the raffle was drawn, with loads of prizes.

This event was a 'talk of the Church' - lots of comments and compliments as to how people enjoyed themselves and how great the evening was, were echoed.

The good news is, the money raised was **£1011.70p** (net) for the two charities.
Solo Awadzi

Friendship in Action

Rough Sleepers and Vulnerable Adults

At a Sunday service in January, Ken Harris spoke about a new project in Aylesbury intended primarily for rough sleepers. He wondered whether AMC may wish to use its own improved premises to do a similar thing.

I would like to tell you a bit about this project and ask your opinion on Ken's suggestion.

The Friendship in Action project started in December 2018 when my friend Kathy and I met for a meal at Pizza Express in Kingsbury Square. We discussed, among other things, the increasing number of rough sleepers in Aylesbury. Before we left that evening, we resolved that we would do more than just notice the problem; we would find some way to make a difference.

I am a Methodist and a Quaker – a “Quethodist” as Brother Hugh, a fellow Franciscan and friend put it – and Kathy is also a Quaker so the local Quaker meeting house was the obvious place to take our idea for further consideration and support. The plan was to create a warm, safe and friendly environment on a Monday evening to which we could invite rough sleepers and provide hot drinks and food for them. This would supplement the pre-existing similar, and much-valued, provision at St Joseph's Catholic Church on Wednesday evenings. St Joseph's offered their support and encouragement, and Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (AHAG) helped with advice, training and their considerable local knowledge and experience.



The process of getting the project started was not straightforward, but the vision was enthusiastically received and supported by Aylesbury Quakers, and we had many offers of help. Everything happened remarkably quickly, although

it was hard work. We opened 33 days after that original pre-Christmas meal at Pizza Express!

We provide, on average, 12 meals each week, and each guest stays at the venue for about 45 minutes. We have welcomed about 47 guests in total, 10 of whom have come along for 5 or more sessions.

Guests

Less than half our guests are rough sleepers; others live in supported housing or 'sofa surf' (they do not have a home of their own; friends and family put them up on a casual basis). They simply value the companionship, or do not have access to proper cooking facilities, or cannot cook for themselves.

More than half our guests have drug or alcohol addiction problems creating and/or exacerbating their current difficulties. Some have learning difficulties.



Volunteers

Our project needs many people, all willing to do their little bit; we need at least five people for each session, as follows:

- 1) someone to cook a simple meal for our guests and to get the food to the venue (they like familiar, simple and traditional comfort food and do not generally eat large portions)
- 2) someone to serve the meal and tidy up afterwards.
- 3) someone to take charge of hospitality
- 4) someone responsible for security
- 5) a 'floater' moving wherever needed during the evening.

Because we work as a team, the work is not difficult, and indeed, as volunteers, we actually enjoy what we do. It does not feel like work.

All our volunteers are enthusiastic and realistic about the limitations of the help we can offer. We provide a friendly environment and hot meal, and engage with our guests on everyday matters for the mutual benefit of us all. Our default position is not to focus on problems, although such conversations are sometimes instigated by guests, and that is fine. But we are not there to solve them, because we do not have the expertise to do so. Instead, we can suggest places our guests can go to for the help and support they need.

Some of our volunteers have previous experience working with vulnerable adults, but most did not. AHAG's training allowed the natural sense of fear and trepidation of this latter group to dissipate swiftly and to be courageous. Without exception they quickly came to feel at ease in their roles. We leave each session having passed a pleasant and worthwhile evening in the company of grateful and friendly, albeit vulnerable, people.



Impact

The extent of the gratitude of our guests for our hospitality has been overwhelming and taken us somewhat by surprise. Sometimes guests have asked to speak to the cooks personally to thank them for the delicious meals.

Volunteers have been as much enriched by the project as guests. We have enjoyed getting to know different kinds of people, sometimes outside our comfort zones, and have developed our awareness and understanding of other people whose lifestyle is very different from our own. Our own perceptions and values have been challenged as a result.

Your opinion

So, here is the bit where I ask you what you think about this project and whether it could ever happen at AMC. Would you, not only be **willing** for it to happen, but be willing **to make it happen**? Twice a month (for two hours each time) is the maximum anyone would be asked to help; others could be on a support list. It would probably be on a Friday evening (a number of decisions have still to be made). Everyone would be trained beforehand and supported throughout. We need about 10-15 volunteers. If you could be one of them please do let me, or someone in the office, know. We will keep a list and if the project is viable, we will be in touch sometime in October. It can only happen if enough people are **committed and willing to making it to happen**. Over to you...

Look forward to hearing from you

Karen Crussell

karencrussell63@gmail.com

office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk





**3Generate 2019 | 22-24 November | Pontins,
Southport**

Booking information 3Generate 2019

Registration opens on Wednesday 24 April and **groups must register to buy tickets by Friday 7 June.**

What happens at 3Generate?

- a weekend of conversation, debate, indoor and outdoor activities, games, music, sport, crafts and challenges
- time and space to worship together in a range of creative and imaginative ways
- a chance to meet up with friends and make new ones - from other Methodist Churches all over the country

AND MORE!

Have a look at the website, it will give you details of everything that happens at 3GENERATE.

www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/3generate

If you would like to go, please let Mel know as soon as you can so that we can start planning soon.

07717 121887 or melvinabrown@hotmail.co.uk

Aylesbury Methodist: Buckingham Street, HP20 2NQ

Youth Group!

Weekly Youth Group starts **Wednesday May 1st**

From Year 6 upwards!

Every Wednesday 6:15 - 7:30pm (except half terms)

1st Wednesday - Singing modern worship songs!



2nd Wednesday - Drama!



3rd Wednesday - Bible, discussion & prayer!



4th Wednesday - Youth Social



To **SIGN UP** please email Mel:

familyworker.amc@mail.com

There's **NO** weekly **CHARGE**.

Just pay **£1** on Youth Social nights

Hokusai Says

Hokusai says look carefully.
He says pay attention, notice.
He says keep looking, stay curious.
Hokusai says there is no end to seeing.

He says look forward to getting old.
He says keep changing,
you just get more who you really are.
He says get stuck, accept it, repeat
yourself as long as it is interesting.

He says keep doing what you love.

He says keep praying.

He says every one of us is a child,
every one of us is ancient
every one of us has a body.
He says every one of us is frightened.
He says every one of us has to find
a way to live with fear.

He says everything is alive --
shells, buildings, people, fish,
mountains, trees, wood is alive.
Water is alive.

Everything has its own life.

Everything lives inside us.

He says live with the world inside you.

He says it doesn't matter if you draw,
or write books. It doesn't matter
if you saw wood, or catch fish.
It doesn't matter if you sit at home
and stare at the ants on your veranda
or the shadows of the trees
and grasses in your garden.
It matters that you care.

It matters that you feel.

It matters that you notice.

It matters that life lives through you.

Contentment is life living through you.
Joy is life living through you.
Satisfaction and strength
is life living through you.

He says don't be afraid.
Don't be afraid.

Love, feel, let life take you by the hand.

Let life live through you.

(Roger Keyes)

The poem refers to the prolific Japanese artist Katsushika [Hokusai](#) (1760-1849). Roger Keyes was an art historian and curator of Japanese art as well as a poet, and he 'translated' what he read in Hokusai's paintings into this poem.



A Positive, Faith-filled Outlook

'With thanksgiving, present your gifts to God'

Philippians 4:6 NIV

It happens so easily, especially in the company of the wrong people. Before you know it, you're criticising and complaining, and the atmosphere becomes negative. That's because words are like clouds or sunshine; they create a climate

You say, 'But I only say these things because I'm so worried.' Then read this: 'Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds' (vv. 6-7 NIV 2011 Edition).

You rise above anxiety by giving thanks, not by complaining.

Never let your level of thanksgiving be determined by your situation, because God is greater than any situation you face.

So how can you overcome your inclination to be negative, and instead develop a positive, faith-filled outlook?

1) Decide to. Abraham Lincoln told the truth when he said, 'Most folks are as happy as they make up their mind to be.' Refuse to spend another moment criticising and complaining.

2) Start now. Change doesn't come easily, but unless you make a start it won't come at all. Try to be more aware of what you say. Catch yourself in the act! When your first few sentences are negative, self-correct and steer the conversation back towards what's positive. Resolve that from now on if you can't say something helpful, you'll refrain from saying anything at all.

3) Look for what's good. 'Whatever is true...noble...right pure...lovely...admirable - think about such things' (Philippians 4:8 NIV 2011 Edition). Make this your prayer: 'Lord, give me a positive, faith-filled outlook.'

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.



The Ghanaian Methodist Fellowship-UK Choir, whose members are from Methodist churches within the London District, performs at various events aimed at raising funds in support of charitable causes.

It will be singing in support of

**Karibuni Children, at 6.30 pm on Saturday 25th May 2019
at Aylesbury Methodist Church, Buckingham Street**

The Choir specialises in popular Methodist hymns, choruses and praise, both English and Ghanaian, led by their Choirmaster, Mr John Ntow and Organist, Mr Thomas Bilson.

Come and enjoy an evening of song and fellowship while raising money for Karibuni Children, transforming the lives of children from 'the poorest of the poor' families and situations in Kenya.

Tickets: Adults £10 in advance (£12 on the door),
Children (under 16) ½ price
Family ticket (2 adults + 3 or more children) £32

Tickets available from Karibuni Office: 01296 614887 and
Aylesbury Methodist Church office: 01296 426526



**Transforming young
Kenyan lives.**

Registered UK Charity Number 1044872

Website: www.karibuni.org.uk

