

A vibrant rainbow arches across the sky, its colors transitioning from purple at the top to red at the bottom. Below the rainbow, a field of tall, golden-brown grasses stretches towards the horizon. The background is a soft, hazy sky, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

‘LINK’

**July - August
2019**

**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham Street
Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ**

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(AMC Weekly Notice Sheet and LINK magazine
can be found on the website)

Minister

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From September 2019:

Rev Richard Atkinson

01296 488963

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During the recent half term school holidays, Andrew and I went on a pilgrimage. We never really set out to go on a pilgrimage; we set out to have a walking holiday following the route of St Cuthbert's way, which begins at Melrose in the Scottish borders and ends at Lindisfarne, 64 miles later.

We had worn in our boots, bought good socks (a real necessity evidently), read all of the maps and booked our accommodation along the way, as well as tickets for the relevant trains. But despite our preparation, things did not always go to plan:

One of our trains was cancelled and the next train so full we ended up crammed into a carriage going to Berwick upon Tweed with a crowd of young men dressed as Hobbits (don't ask!)

After our first day walking Andrew injured his knee and so we had to spend the next day navigating public transport in the borders of Scotland to find some treatment.

The B&B's we stayed in were all unique I am being polite; there are too many stories to tell!

And we both realised that maybe we should have practised walking up few more hills as neither of us were as young as we thought!

However, for all the things did not go to plan, we had the privilege of walking every day through a beautiful and varied landscape; of seeing a rich variety of birds and bugs and hearing only their songs, as the rest of the world did not encroach here. Every day we had a deep sense of God's presence with us.

Of course, another joy was those we travelled with, who like us were walking 'the way'. We shared our week with people from Denmark, Holland, Australia, Canada, and from all over Britain. With this eclectic group we walked and laughed, talked and disagreed, shared food and experiences, occasionally cried, and then, because that was the nature of the week put on our boots again and started the next day's walking. The

whole point of the week was that we could not stay in one place – we had to go on to the next destination whether we felt like it or not.

Eventually we all caught our separate trains home but we were all a little bit changed. That is the nature of pilgrimage.

It made me think about the shared journey that is ministry and the life of the church. I am grateful for the last 5 years that Andrew and I have shared with you all at Aylesbury. For your hospitality, your stories, love, grace, laughter and friendship; for your openness to share your vulnerabilities and willingness to challenge us when we have got things wrong. A shared journey in the presence of God.

And now we now look to start new journeys, as you welcome the Atkinsons and Andrew and I begin a new phase of ministry in the Chester & Stoke District. It is the nature of being God's people that we are always journeying, moving forward together and in the presence of God. So, thank you for sharing this journey with us; it might not always have gone to plan but we have never doubted God's presence, and I can honestly say that we have been changed by your ministry to us. So, thank you!

May God's blessing be realised in our lives as we continue our pilgrimage in his name. (And if you are ever 'up north' we'd love to see you!)

*May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever He may send you.*

*May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.*

*May He bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders He has shown you.*

*May He bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.*

Helen.





*You are warmly invited to attend the
Welcome Service*

for Rev. Richard Atkinson

*as Superintendent Minister for the Circuit and Minister
at Aylesbury Methodist Church*

*on Saturday 24th August at 4pm
at
Aylesbury Methodist Church*

*Led by
Rev Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly and Rev Keith Edwards*

*Rev'd. Canon Helen D Cameron, District Chair,
Northampton District of the Methodist Church*

*will be preaching, and will preside over the presentation and
promises,
to be followed by the welcome from Circuit,
ecumenical and civic representatives.*

*An opportunity for you to welcome Richard with a handshake
and a few personal words.*

Please also join us for refreshments following the service.



We are living in peculiar times. One of the real challenges of ministry is the time of transition, when you are dealing with the excitement of moving to a new challenge contrasted with the sadness of impending departure, leaving people and the familiar behind. I confess I have been savouring my favourite view hereabouts. It is my Thursday night delight for part of the year as I return home from a house group in one of the villages near to Skipton. It is not famous but it has been a regular thing for me: as the road turns, and from the advantage of height, the valley sprawls out before me and it has a rare beauty. Equally there are the folk with whom I have journeyed over the past 10 years who like me are feeling the pain of impending departure.

Don't get me wrong - we are very excited about moving south and the exciting journey that lies ahead - but there is a rare beauty discovered in the people, and places that we will leave behind. Transition can be hard: the thought of trying to learn names, discover relationships and getting used to the new geography is not adding to the thrill of moving. What is intriguing is the stories of pilgrimage that will emerge as we arrive, settle and become part of the life of AMC, and then the even more exciting dimension of where our collective journey may take us as we seek the Spirit's guidance for the future.



I think the idea of pilgrimage is central to our faith that we are, to quote the hymn, "a wandering, travelling race." This is true whether we have moved about or if we have stayed in the same place. We have the privilege of blending what has been, where we are now and the way the future will map out, all safe in the knowledge of the God who journeys with us. So, these are exciting times as we await where God will lead us.

I am so grateful to Helen, who has rightly encouraged momentum and is now removing the foot from the pedal, for the church is much more than the person in the dog collar. We come to help shape the journey rather than impose a set of co-ordinates and expect everyone to follow. We are

a community of faith with no hierarchy, no elite - a people, hopefully intent on journeying together. You will read something of who we are in the Circuit Magazine; we come with our foibles and peculiarities, our strengths and our weaknesses, but with the belief that Aylesbury is where God has called us, and over the ensuing months and years we will hopefully together discern what God has in store.

I have no doubt when we come to say our farewells tears will be shed; we have been very happy in Yorkshire. Final visits and last services are emotional times because of the bonds of love developed over time. In a sense we will be fragile when we arrive, but safe in the knowledge that love awaits, for which we are so grateful

Blessings,
Richard

WITHOUT GOD
our week would be
SINDAY
MOURNDAY
TEARSDAY
WASTEDAY
THIRSTDAY
FIGHTDAY
SHATTERDAY
7 days without God
makes ONE WEAK

YOUTH WORK AT AMC

MESSY CHURCH



Although the focus is Youth Work, I wanted to mention the wonderful work that is done in Messy Church with our younger children and families. Before coming to AMC, I had heard of Messy Church but I had never had the opportunity to be involved. Now Messy

Church is one of my favourite things. Apart from all the crafts and the fun that we have, it really provides an opportunity to encourage non-church families to join our church families in fun, food and learning about God.

A parent of one of our families from Sunbeams (that's our Toddler Group which is led by our amazing Margaret), when they first started coming, told me that she didn't really believe in God but she would come along and see what we did. This family now attend on a regular basis, and in April when they came to Messy Church, the little girl whispered in my ear, 'Are we learning about Jesus?', and I whispered, 'Yes, we are'. She then whispered again to me, 'I love learning about Jesus!'

That statement said it all to me. Messy Church makes a difference! So I would like to take the opportunity to thank the amazing Messy Church team for all their efforts and commitment, which started before I came, when Helen started Messy Church, and they have continued faithfully.

YOUTH TEAM

Speaking of teams, I would like to introduce the Youth Team to you. Look at those beautiful faces! Hannah, Charlie and Ruby work alongside me in everything pertaining to Youth work. They are involved in every stage, creating the ideas, the planning stage, the preparation and the delivery. On



many evenings we've had online meetings to discuss ideas or plan upcoming events, and we keep in regular contact via WhatsApp. They are incredible and wonderful to work with and I see them as current and future leaders.

YOUTH BALL

The largest event we have planned was our Christmas Youth Ball. We had around 40 young people in attendance. The purpose was to have a really great time, and to be seen as a church which provides exciting and interesting activities for young people. It was so successful that we hope that this will be an annual or biannual event.

REVAMPED YOUTH GROUP

We started a monthly Youth Group over a year ago and we have recently changed from monthly to weekly. 3 young people who attended the Youth Ball have been attending the weekly Youth Group from the start and they really seem to feel at home here. I send regular reminders via email to some of the young people who attended the Ball, as we are hoping that they will return and possibly join our group.



We have a number of activities: We are learning modern songs and hymns which we hope to have the opportunity to sing in church, and even teach the wider church some of these songs. We have drama once a month: for any young people out there who haven't attended a session yet, we have drama on Wednesday. We are also concerned about our spiritual growth, so we have one week which focuses on the bible and discussion; and then we have a youth social, which just means we have fun all night.

Does that sound good! Yes, I think the team came up with a great schedule. So, to all the young people who are free on a Wednesday.....



Come along! It would be great to have some more young people from this church. We are often outnumbered at Youth Group, as the majority of young people are not from this church. So, if you are in year 6 and above, please come along.

ACTS 29

5 of us attended Acts 29 in February. This is a District event which focusses on the national theme for Children and Youth, this year it was: Be Courageous. This was broken down into the themes: Courageous in worship. Courageous in learning and caring. Courageous in service. Courageous in evangelism. Charlie was roped in to be one of the leaders.



3GENERATE:

We are planning to attend 3Generate at Pontins in November. This should be quite an exciting experience as there will be around 150 children and young people in one place for 3 days. Fantastic!



THE GRANGE SCHOOL

With regards to outreach, for the past year I've held a discussion and prayer group at the Grange School on a Wednesday at lunch time. This came out of prayer. When I first started, I spent time in prayer just asking God to show me what to do; and I was inspired to write to 4 schools, to introduce myself and ask if they were interested in having a prayer space. The Grange was the only school that responded positively, and it just blossomed and blossomed.

Over the year we have had 15 students attend consistently, half of which are Christians, some agnostic and some atheist. On several occasions we have had between 20 and 25 students attend. We have had vibrant times of discussion which are always followed by a time of prayer.

It has been quite incredible, as I have seen the Christian students become bolder in talking about their faith and in praying out loud in a group. And I have seen the atheist and agnostic students question and really think about the possibility of God`s existence. It has been quite a blessing.

THE DISTRICT STREERING GROUP / THE ROC (Mentoring for young people)

On a district level I have worked closely with Jill Marsh on various activities. We are currently developing the One Programme Scheme which is an opportunity for young people ages 16-23 to input into a local church project in a year-long, paid, part-time position. The program is in the developmental stages but we are hoping that the scheme will begin in September. I am hoping that one or two of our young people can be involved in the programme.

Finally, a new project was launched last year called ROC Aylesbury – which stands for Redeeming Our Communities. I stood in for Helen and Peter when it was launched and somehow remained and became a member of the action group. This project brings together different community groups, churches and local authorities, with an aim to work together to better serve the needs of the community. One need which has been identified is the need for on-going mentoring for young people. One initiative that we hope to develop is a mentoring scheme that could add value to the agencies which are already established in the town, and which can be easily accessed by young people.

And that brings me to the end! I hope it has given you all a clearer picture of some of the work that is underway. God bless you.

Mel Brown

Aylesbury Methodist Church
Buckingham Street, HP20 2NQ

Youth Group!

From Year 6 upwards!
Every Wednesday. 6.15 - 7.30pm
(except school holidays)

1st Wednesday - SINGING



2nd Wednesday - DRAMA



3rd Wednesday - DISCUSSION



4th Wednesday - SOCIAL



To SIGN UP, please contact Mel
Familyworker.amc@mail.com Tel: 07717 121887

There's NO weekly charge.
Just pay £1 on Youth Social nights



German Exchange.

For over 50 years, groups of youngsters from our church community have been exchanging with youngsters from a sports club in Daun, in the Rheinlandpfalz area of Germany.



The Exchange started in 1963, only 18 years after the end of the second world war, and it was, I understand, partly prompted by a serious wish to build bridges between two countries that had so recently been at war.

Over the years we have seen hundreds of German and English young people take part. Our young people take part for varying lengths of time but all agree that it has given them a taste of life in another country and a chance to build up relationships with young Germans of their own age.

Some of the friendships built up between the leaders have endured. Several former leaders, such as Kevin and Elaine Hardern, Peter and Marion Green and Pauline Noble, still regularly visit and host the Germans who were leaders with them. Not forgetting Brian and Chris Taylor, who I understand were founder leaders of the exchange. This summer Walter and Johanna Haser who led the exchange with Tony and Pauline Noble are visiting us and will travel over with the coach in July and hopefully join us on some of our trips. Pearl Riley, who hosted Gorden Nickel over 30 years ago as a teenage boy, has made regular visits to Germany to see him and his family and was visited by him when he became a leader in turn. Dawn Wright, who has led the Exchange with



me for the past few years, was a participant herself and now has two children doing the Exchange.

In its present format, we receive and host a group of up to twenty 11-18 year-olds. The German Exchange partners come to England one year and we return to visit them the following year. We plan a programme for their visit which includes sporting activities and informative or cultural visits, and plenty of socialising time where the youngsters can get to know one another and just enjoy one another's company. Language has never been a barrier as our German youngsters and leaders always speak English and from time to time we've had leaders and youngsters who have a bit of German.

We start our visit with a sports day and barbecue where the youngsters play football or rounders (usually in national teams but we've fudged that sometimes over the years) and we finish off with a barbecue to which families are invited. We plan this early in the visit as it can be a real ice-breaker, especially for new participants who may not know many people.

We always include a trip to Thorpe Park theme park where those who are so inclined can scare themselves silly, or those who prefer can enjoy the calmer water rides. Over the years we have visited Cadbury World, a variety of different museums (such as the Chiltern Open Air Museum, the Natural History and Science Museums in London). We have swum, bowled, mini-golfed and tobogganed our way around the area. We have participated in high ropes, crate-stacking, potholing, climbing and sailing activities at Green Park, Aston Clinton and Caldecotte at Milton Keynes. On



one memorable occasion we took part in Segway, laser clay shooting and

axe throwing at Newton Longville – all very well supervised and no accidents, I'm happy to report!

We have punted and picknicked in Oxford and Cambridge; visited Harry Potter World and Bletchley Park; followed treasure trails, and had days out in London ending up at the theatre. One particularly enjoyable moment of our 2017 Exchange was the Scavenger Hunt planned by Dawn and Hannah Wright. Split into mixed English-German groups, our youngsters were tasked with carrying out a series of challenges and bringing back photographic proof. Completely unsuspecting Aylesbury shoppers were accosted for random photos and took it in good part, and I'm sure Marks and Spencer's has never been the same since Charlie Levitt and Jonas Schmitz secretly filmed their fashion catwalk in the changing rooms. We're not sure if M&S even know it happened but the photos were hilarious. Who says you have to spend loads of money to have a good time!



Many of our days are spent out in the coach with our regular German driver, Richie Kroeffges, who comes over and spends the week with us. We've been lucky in the last few years that some of our parents have opened their homes to our young people in the evenings and they've had an opportunity to meet

up again after dashing home for a bite to eat. This has also helped to keep any homesickness at bay as the group is together for much of the time.

On these open evenings the youngsters are often busily rehearsing their items for the Farewell Concert which happens on the final evening of their visit. They organise the entertainment themselves and treat us to an evening of singing, dancing and sketches, and we round it off with a slide show of the week's activities, assembled from photos that the youngsters or leaders have taken during the week. This gives parents an opportunity to see just exactly what we've been getting up to.

Daun is a lovely little town, smaller than Aylesbury and situated in the very scenic Eifel area of Germany and surrounded by masses of conifer forests. The area was previously volcanic and several volcanic lakes remain, the most notable of these is the Gemundener Maar, known simply to our young people as 'The Maar'. Swimming in this beautiful lake has often proved to be the highlight of the youngsters' visit, particularly last year when temperatures reached heights of 38° plus. Luckily temperatures were considerably lower on the day we cycled 20 kms through the Mosel valley, down an old railway track which has now been tarmacked for cyclists use. The Germans have, of course, always led the way in recycling!



The programme in Germany includes a similar mix of sporting, cultural and fun activities, such as the obligatory visit to Phantasialand, their bigger and better version of Thorpe Park. We've visited Chocolate and Sports Museums in Köln (or Cologne to the uninitiated); taken part in gladiator games in the old town of Trier; toured a slate mine in Mayen where we learnt that the villagers had sheltered there during the worst of the Allies bombing raids; made bread in the local open air museum; and tobogganed on the Rutschbahn after visiting the local wildlife park.

The Germans always make us most welcome and there are sometimes a few tears on departure.

Now to the serious business: Dawn and I now feel it is time to hand over to new leaders and intend to finish our leadership of the Exchange next year. We are looking for someone to take over from us. It is our hope that, by giving some notice, new leaders could possibly join us for part of the Exchange this year so they could learn the ropes, and we would work alongside them next year and support them with planning and preparation. When Steve and I started we were able to work alongside the then leaders, Gill and Steve Marks and were very grateful for the hints and tips they gave us.

If you think that you might be interested in learning more about leading the Exchange, please have a word with Dawn or me. Phone or email one of us, and we can give you a more precise idea of what is involved.

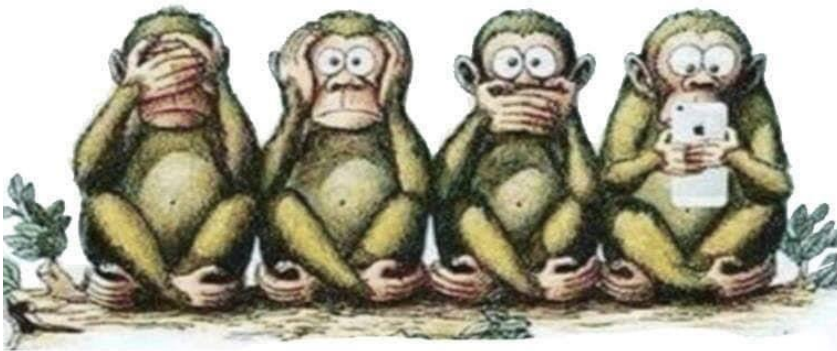
It may seem a mammoth task but actually doesn't take up loads of time to prepare the programme and there's lots of support and experienced former leaders in the church who have always been happy to help.

We hope that, whichever way Brexit goes, we will not lose this precious link which we have built up over the years with Germany. Dawn, Steve and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time as leaders; the youngsters have been great and so well-behaved, and we've had a lot of laughs together.

Viv Kemp

Viv Kemp:	vivienne.kemp.valhalla@gmail.com	01296 399315
Dawn Wright:	wright.dawn2@gmail.com	01296 580221

**Finally the fourth ape!
He is the sum of the first
three: He sees nobody, hears
nobody and speaks to nobody.**





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 14 July Action for Children Sunday	10.30am 11.30am 6.00pm	Family & Brigades Service led by Rev Helen Kirk Cake & Plant Stall in the Hall for Action for Children Circuit Service: Helen's Farewell Service
Sat 20 July	4.00pm 7.30pm	Messy Church SOS: 'Space & Junk' with Gill & Trevor Nord
Sun 21 July	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Mr Arthur Sara Morning Worship led by Rev Ann Henman
Sat 27 July	2.00pm	Good Faith Book Club
Sun 28 July	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Ken Harris
Sun 4 Aug	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Hayford Ofori-Attah
Sun 11 Aug	10.30am 12.00 noon	Morning Worship led by Mr Arthur Sara SOS: 'The Summer of Love' – BBQ organised by Viv & Steve Kemp
Sun 18 Aug	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Hayford Ofori-Attah 'Away Day'. No service at AMC. An opportunity to visit other Churches in the Circuit
Sat 24 Aug	4.00pm	Welcome Service for Rev Richard Atkinson
Sun 25 Aug	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Hayford Ofori-Attah
Sun 1 Sept	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Richard Atkinson
Tues 3 Sept	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Member's Afternoon
Frid 6 Sept	ARTICLES FOR SEPT - OCT LINK MAGAZINE DUE IN	
Sun 8 Sept	10.30am	Family & Brigades Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson
Sat 14 Sept	7.30pm	SOS: 'A Five for Four' with Mel & Mike Dean
Sun 15 Sept	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Richard Atkinson Morning Worship led by Mr Peter Honeyball
Tues 17 Sept	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Malcolm Ernst – 'Outreach on the Canal'
Sun 22 Sept	10.30am	Church Anniversary Service led by Rev Peter Mortlock
Sat 28 Sept	2.00pm 4.00pm	Good Faith Book Club Messy Church
Sun 29 Sept	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson
Tues 1 Oct	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Marilyn Storer – Visit to the Himalayas
Sat 5 Oct	7.30pm	SOS: 'It's ... Monty Python's Flying Circus' with Marilyn & Nick Storer
Sat 12 Oct	7.00pm	Action for Children Quiz
Tues 15 Oct	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Rev Donna-Marie Broadbent-Kelly
Sat 19 Oct	4.00pm	Messy Church

Jesus Lives

It was at the planning meeting at Wycombe Marsh Baptist Church, during the Easter Holidays this year, that I happened to mention that I had been involved with the annual Holiday Club there, almost from its inception, getting on for thirty years ago. When I said this, Sarah, who is the present organiser of the event, said, "I remember; at one time you were the leader of my small group." I could not place her from those days and I certainly could not recall what the theme had been then.

Luckily, I have kept records, and when I got home I was able to discover that, way back in 1998, when we had based that week in August on the old hymn, 'Tell me the stories of Jesus', she had indeed been a nine year old member of my group. What is more, I had written an article about it, which was published in the magazine, 'Together with Children'. I simply had to put a copy of it in the post for Sarah, enclosing a letter of encouragement.



Each day, we had taken a verse from that hymn, told the appropriate Bible story, and based craft work and play activities on it. On the final morning, the resurrection experiences had been enacted with

readings taken from the Bible, and everyone had added a felt flower to the outline of the cross displayed on the banner, which proclaimed, 'Jesus Lives'.

Later that summer I went on holiday to the Isle of Wight, and found myself sharing a table in the dining room with the coach driver, Ron. At breakfast on the last day, after all the cases had been loaded onto the

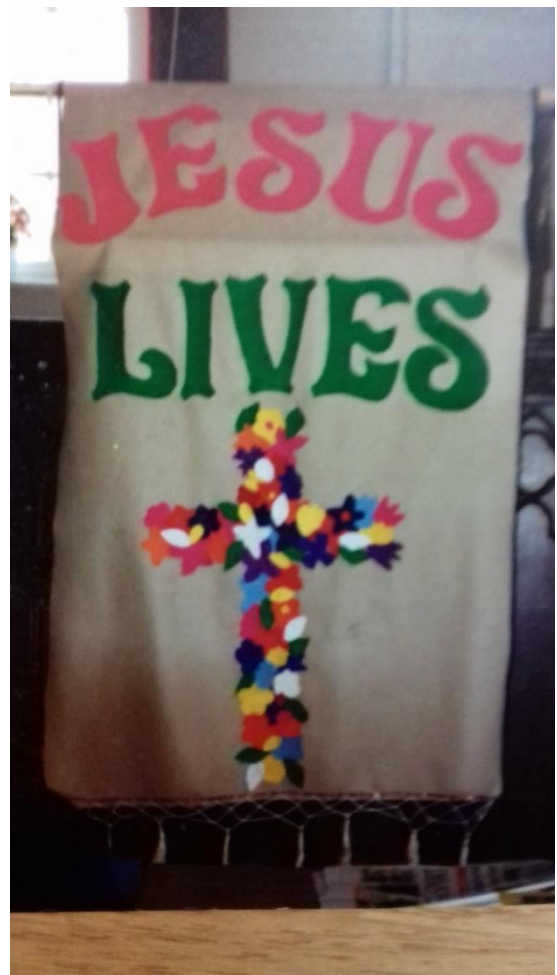
coach, I showed Ron the pictures I had taken during the week. Photographs of the Children's Holiday Club were on the same film. Seeing the banner we had made, he looked thoughtful.

"I know Jesus died on the cross and then rose again," he said, "but what I should really like to know is, where is he now?" I told him, that I believed I saw him in other people. "Oh, I wish we had had this conversation earlier in the week," he said. I already knew that he did not live far from me, so I suggested that we might be able to keep in touch.

Through the years I got to know the rest of his family, and after he died on the 3rd January last, I was invited to speak at his funeral. He was reluctant to come to church with me, but the last time we met was on the Sunday of the Candlelit Carol Service at Aylesbury Methodist Church. I had invited Ron, his wife, daughter, granddaughter and sister-in-law for lunch on that day and, after the meal, Ron played his keyboard organ for us and we sang most of the carols in the hymn book.

In spite of the fact, that I have lost one dear friend, I have gained many more friends since 1998 and I can see a continuing pattern in my life. I detect a purpose. I must keep on proclaiming to others what we wrote on that banner – 'Jesus Lives'!

Angela M. Smith



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Following on from the article in the May - June LINK magazine, about the young members of the AMC Youth Orchestra, we thought it would be really good to have a brief update on **ALL** our young people. Here we have two Church families, and, hopefully, in future editions of LINK, we shall be able to catch up with more.

The Kirk Family

Our three children were Christened at AMC, and grew up through Brigades, J Team and Youth Group. They are all married and have two children each.



Philip lives in Kingswood, Glos. with his wife Sarah (currently running the village playgroup), and children Alex, 7 years old, who is developing into a good runner; also sister Isabelle, 4 years old, who starts school in September.



Philip, after taking 2 degrees, is now a Naval Architect working at the MOD in Bristol; sailing is his passion, although he still runs. He has taken part in many sailing challenges: the most noteworthy was 3 years ago, when he sailed round GB in a 'Wayfarer' dinghy; some of you came to the talk he gave about the trip afterwards. As reported in today's national press, another 'Wayfarer' has just completed the same journey in a quicker time, but a shorter route, and without stopping!



Nigel lives in Bicester, Oxon. with his wife Hayley, Jacob, 4 years old, due to start school in September, and also Teddy, 6 months old. Nigel, after taking 2 degrees and Officer Training, works for the Air Force as a Meteorologist, based at several Air Force bases. He is still into sport, when he has time, and has done several Triathlons with his brother and sister.

Sarah lives in Aylesbury with her husband Rob and their two children: daughter Chloe, 10 years old, who sings and dances at Adele Peters Performing Arts School, and who recently performed at the Aylesbury WhizzFizzFest; also Thomas, 7 years old, who is becoming a very good swimmer.

Since taking her degree, Sarah has worked for the Environment Agency, based at the Wallingford office; she also takes part in Triathlons, and plays her flute with the AMC Music Group.



The Torpey/Snowdon/Finn Family

Claire sometimes used to help in the creche and loved coming to Youth Club. She has wonderful memories of taking part in the German Exchange - a family tradition also followed by her two brothers, Steve and Michael, and finally her son, Joe, now 14 years old and at the Grange School.

Claire has tried a variety of different jobs, but has always settled back into the 'care' world: nursing homes, assisted living, child-minding, and now teaching assistant at Stocklake Park Secondary special school. I suppose being a pub manager in Cardiff in her early twenties could also count as 'care' - a different sort of care, but dealing with people who often need a friendly face and a chat!!! Claire loves being with children and has become a Cub leader – I think she especially enjoys the fun at Scout and Cub camps with all the outdoor activities – and the campfires, and the 'smores'!!



She and Joe also love reptiles, and have 2 lizards and 3 bearded dragons!!! She has to breed cockroaches to feed to the lizards!!

They both belong to Barefoot Bellydance troupe - Joe as a drummer and Claire as a dancer, with Mum Jennie (after years of teasing her, she got the dance bug herself! HA!).

Steve went to Bangor, North Wales for his Psychology degree, but never wanted to use it. Instead he settled happily into a job with Breast Cancer Care in London, working on compiling and editing advice publications, and also photographing events for promotional purposes and videoing interviews for support and information. Last year he was married to Scarlett and they live in South London. They're looking forward to getting all the decorating done so they can allow themselves to have a cat!! Their rule!



Michael went all the way through Boys' Brigade to gain his President's and Queen's Badges, both of which he was very proud. It was touch and go whether he would stay at the end of his Anchor Boy stint, as he 'didn't like colouring in', but he was assured he wouldn't have to do much more of it if he stayed on!! Working for a few months on a Saturday in a local charity shop, as part of his community service, is the only job he ever had in his teenage years, so *'Thank you, BB'!!*



Michael went to St Andrews to take Computer Science & Maths, then stayed on for a Masters in Maths, then stayed on for a PhD in Maths - he had to do something to enable him to stay in such a lovely place!! His 'continued residence' is now assured as he will begin as a Computer Science lecturer there in September. He is engaged to

Claire (yes, it DOES get confusing!), who he met in his first year, and they are planning their wedding for next summer. They both took part in a Triathlon this spring, along with Michael's Dad, Richard, but Michael says, *'Never again!!'*

EVER PRESENT

When all we can see is hatred,
Open our eyes to Your Beauty.

When pain is all we can feel,
Let Your Peace gently encompass us.

When we are so very alone,
Remind us again – that You are our Father.

If the Bullying becomes overbearing,
Hold us in Your arms - until it is over.

If all we know is hopelessness,
Show us Your Footprints to follow.

When we are unwell,
Please, Father God. Heal us.

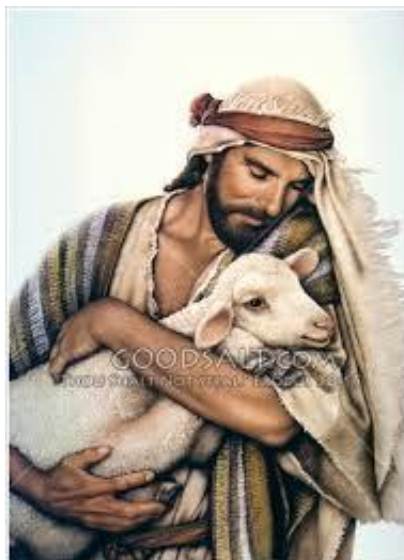
When we become hungry,
Let our Souls be nourished.

Thank You, Father God,
For being Ever Present in our Lives.

And, at the very end,
Please fill us with Your Love,
And take us Home.

Amen.

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HOW |
**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**
| WORKS

Our annual Charity Stall in Market Square on 6th July raised
£204.50.

Many thanks to all who helped and who donated prizes.



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!!



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.



Would any of you be interested in joining our small team to
raise funds for this extremely worthwhile charity?
It would be really good to have a few more to help us plan events.

If so, do speak to: Jennie Torpey 581414
Pauline Noble 484940 or Sandie Steeden 331278



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, HP20 2NQ



J TEAM



Welcome to the J Team pages

Have you ever wished for something? We all have. Sometimes we make a wish without thinking about what would happen if our wish did come true.

James and John were two brothers who were disciples of Jesus. One day, they came to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask."

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus replied.

"In your glorious Kingdom, we want to sit in places of honour next to you," they said.

Jesus answered them and said, "You don't know what you are asking." Then he explained that whoever wants to be great must be a servant of all. He said, "For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many."

To Be Like Jesus

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 10:35-45



F I R S T E A R M O S B Q L A
 F D H I L Q E F W H K W K M W
 S E S H E F D Y F A V O R U V
 G Q L P F W L R G L P U G X E
 R N Y U T L X U I R D M U S Y
 E L S K W F E L W R G O B E R
 A T H H A C O E A X L M R R Y
 T J H O S L L R M K O V L V L
 Z D T R N D I E W K R Z T A I
 G Y H G O O Y W A C Y J B N H
 S R F W E N R Q P D F W K T I
 A I Y Y K A E Q X L E T J N A
 O G T B J X B R H Y A R Q Y R
 M H J D H J P X Q O P C L T F
 Y T S L A V E R M B O S E Y A

Sometimes you and I may say, "I wish I

SERVANT	SUFFER	THRONE	RULER	HONOR
FAVOR	SLAVE	GREAT	GLORY	LEADER
FIRST	SIT	RIGHT	LEFT	PLACE

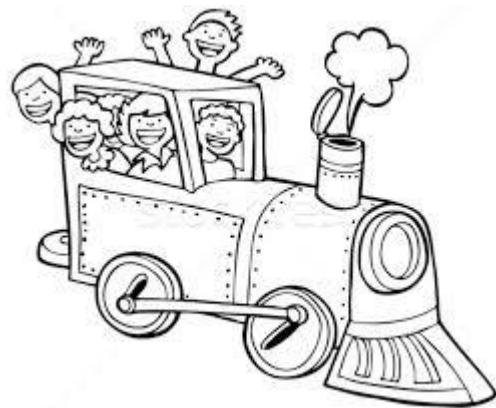
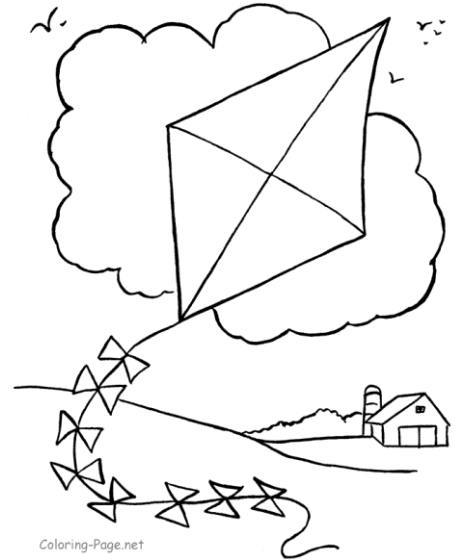
could be more like Jesus." Is that really our wish? If we really want that wish to come true, we must give our lives in service to others.

It's time for the summer holidays.

What do you wish for this summer?

What could you do to help or serve others?

Colour in the different ideas



Dear Jesus,
Help us to mean it when we say, "I wish I could
be more like Jesus."
Amen





Dates for Messy Church
Saturdays, monthly
4.00 - 6.00pm

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

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

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

Sat **Dec 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!



In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And, moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and She will take care of us."

The first replied, "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by Her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

*Maybe this is one of the best explanations to the concept of GOD.
– this lovely parable is from 'Your Sacred Self' by Dr. Wayne Dyer.*

Babs

THE CRACKED POT: A STORY FOR ANYONE WHO'S NOT QUITE PERFECT!

A water bearer in India had two large pots, one hung on each end of a pole, which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it. While the other pot was perfect, and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to her master's house.

The perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of [its own imperfection](#), and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a [bitter failure](#), it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream: "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

Why?" asked the bearer. "[What are you ashamed of?](#)"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts", the pot said.

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in her compassion she said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path."

Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some.

But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side? "That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have

been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my mistress's table. Without you being just the way you are, she would not have this beauty to grace her house."

Moral: *Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. We've just got to take each person for what they are, and look for the good in them.*

There's a lot of good out there.



The next LINK magazine will be the September - October 2019 issue.

Please send in all contributions by Friday 6th September 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



True Humility

'He gives grace to the humble'

1 Peter 5:5

There are two kinds of humility mentioned in Scripture:

1) False humility. Paul writes, 'Do not let anyone who delights in false humility...disqualify you' (Colossians 2:18 NIV 2011 Edition). Whether it's in your manner of dress, your speech, or your behaviour, anything that draws attention to you and away from Christ is displeasing to God.

2) True humility. Truly humble people don't take offence easily or fight back; they turn the other cheek. And yet their humility is not cowardice, for true humility requires courage. It makes you willing to take a lower place than you deserve, to keep quiet about your merits, and to bear slights, insults, and false accusations for the sake of a higher purpose. True humility doesn't make you think less of yourself; it just makes you think of yourself less. Peter addresses the subject in these words: 'God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honour' (1 Peter 5:5-6 NLT).

The story's told of a guy who entered a contest to see who was the most humble. When he won, he was given a badge of merit – but then he wore it and was disqualified!!!

Seriously, pride disqualifies you from enjoying the favour of God. That's why you need to remind yourself regularly: 'Everything I am, I owe to God; everything I have, came from God. To Him be all the glory.'

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.

While getting a check-up, a Methodist minister tells his doctor that he thinks his wife is losing her hearing.



The doctor says, "You should do a simple test. Stand about 15 feet behind your wife and say, 'Dear?' Move 3 feet closer and do it again. Keep moving 3 feet closer until she finally responds. Remember how close you were when she gives you an answer. That will help me know how bad her hearing loss is."

About a month later the minister is seeing the doctor again and the doctor asks, "Well, did you do that experiment with your wife's hearing?"

The minister says, "Yes".

"How close did you get before she answered?"

"Well, by the time I got about 3 feet away she just turned around and said, "For the FIFTH TIME... WHAT???"

I took a photo of two plump pigeons perched on the ledge, but ended up getting a photo of two massive pigeons looking for their car.



[Both items from facebook]



Advance notice



**JOHN RUTTER'S
'CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION'**

With the **ROYAL PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**



This year will be

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11th 2019 - 7.30pm

At the ROYAL ALBERT HALL, LONDON

**Don't miss this pre-Christmas favourite, brimming with
sparkle and festive works.**

**Excellent seats in the stalls plus coach travel from
Aylesbury and Wendover, so no worries about transport.**

**Booking forms available from late August
or ring Pauline on 01296 484940 for
further information.**

