

# **Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre**



**‘LINK’**

**March - April  
2020**

**Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre  
Buckingham Street  
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Registered Charity No. 1129749

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**Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre Website**  
**[www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk](http://www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk)**

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

**Minister:**

**Rev Richard Atkinson**  
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**The Office Staff wish you all  
a Happy Easter!**



Dear Friends

Holy Week is fast approaching, and it is perhaps the most important week of the year as it encourages us to go the very heart of faith as we journey with Jesus. It has been described as a roller coaster experience as the journey from Palm Sunday through to Easter Day is one of heights and troughs. It is a vital journey for us; the worst thing we can do is avoid it. The temptation is strong to celebrate the excitement of Palm Sunday and then ignore the midweek events as we await the joy of Easter Day. I want to encourage us all to take Holy Week seriously and to purposefully reflect on the events as a means of intensifying our Easter celebrations.

So, three thoughts about how to mark this critical week.

The THURSDAY is, to my mind, one of the most important days in our calendar as we recall the institution of the Lord's Supper. It is too easy to forget how, on the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took the ordinary and made them special. Jewish feasts were structured affairs: you will have noticed in our Communion liturgies it tells us that Jesus gave thanks before sharing the bread and then, again, the wine. In all probability he used a familiar formula of words; it was what followed that then gave new meaning, with talk of remembrance based on bread and wine. Note, he did not use the word 'remember' which is locating something from our memories. 'Remembrance' invites us to see ourselves as sharing in that momentous first Eucharist. It is a common concept that many of the Jewish festivals are about seeing the events as part of history and the current. Hence, at Passover, people are dressed for travel, the meal is set, the story is recounted with great ritual and importance. So we need to take Maundy Thursday seriously; there is the service at Church that evening, but for all us it should be a time when we find space to sit with bread and wine, be it actual or imagined, and contemplate their significance; to pause and remember how Jesus invested new meaning and to consider what this says to us.

Then there is the darkness of the FRIDAY. It is difficult, as it screams with injustice from sham trials to the horror of crucifixion. It should be a painful day, as writ large is the capacity of our human race to take the beautiful and life affirming and destroy it for no good reason. To the community of faith, it speaks of our ability to protect the way we want things and fail to see the evidence of the Divine in our midst. It is a powerful reminder that our sinfulness adds to the weight of the darkness that envelops light and seeks to extinguish. It is a day for tears of remorse, for our struggle to conquer self and allow the infusion of the Divine. Again, there is a service in church to aid our reflections. However,

there is also the need for all of us to find a quiet space and to hold the cross in our sight and reflect on it what it says to us. For, from the horror, forgiveness and the promise of eternity will emerge and we need to allow the reality of the day to touch and inform us; it invites us to consider who we are before God and bow our heads in shame, but to do so with the hope that comes the Good News of Easter.

Finally, there is Holy Saturday, the day between the pain of Friday and the joy of the Sunday morning as news is delivered of Resurrection. Traditionally it was a day for vigils: awaiting the news of Easter some would pray throughout the night; some each Easter will gather at daybreak to mark the tidings of the most awesome of days. Could Saturday be a time to commit ourselves to reading the story starting with the triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Choose a Gospel - it starts in Matthew 21 verse 1 or Mark 11 verse 1 or Luke 19 verse 28 or John 12 verse 12) and then reading until the end of Good Friday. Reflect on the story of the changing emotions of the crowd, listen to the wisdom that flowed, ponder the signs of love amidst the horrors. Allow the recollections of the week to travel in your mind, and sense what they have to say to you. To see Our Lord's willingness to walk this fateful journey for us.

All of this we need to do, knowing Easter will come, but remembering for those who were there that the story still had to be unveiled. This is our story and we need to hear it, respond to it, shed tears and await the joy that will come.

May this Holy Week touch us anew and may our Easter celebrations abound with joy.

Blessings,  
Richard.

## ***EASTER SERVICES 2020***

**Maundy Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April - 7.30pm**

**Good Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April - 10.00am**

**Easter Day 12<sup>th</sup> April - 9.00am Easter Breakfast (pre-book)  
10.30am Family Communion**





## God speaks through our thoughts

*'You have an anointing...and you know all things.'*

1 John 2:20 NKJV

Have you ever held a conversation with someone in your mind? You took one side of the issue and then the other. So, think about this: if **you** can have a conversation with yourself in your mind, don't you think **God** can have a conversation with you in your mind too?

The trouble is, our minds often prove to be unreliable because we've polluted them with so much junk; therefore, we doubt His ability to speak through our thoughts. Once God redeems you, He starts renewing your mind (see Romans 12:2). Paul writes, "*Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?*" But we have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Did you get that? When God saves you, He starts thinking *His* thoughts through you. He speaks through many different channels – your mind is just one of them. The Bible says, '*God...works in you to will and to act in order to fulfil his good purpose*' (Philippians 2:13). Note the phrase 'to will and to act'. God will actually direct your *will* and create a desire in you to do the thing that pleases Him. And there's persistence in His leading. When you have a desire to do something that keeps recurring, it may be God directing you. That's why it's crucial to monitor your mind and screen the thoughts you entertain.

Jesus said, '*You are already clean because of the word...I have spoken to you*' (John 15:3). Bathe your mind every day with God's Word, and fine-tune your 'receiver' to hear what He's saying to you.

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.

## **Cup of sorrow**

In the distance  
The crowds had gathered,  
Ready to see Him die.  
To be put to death.  
They had made up their minds  
A long time ago  
That He was guilty.  
Only His followers believed Him.

He didn't even try  
To protest His innocence.  
He was given the chance –  
But knew it was pointless.  
It was foretold in the Scriptures.  
It was Ordained  
That He alone would drink  
From the Cup of Sorrow.

Jesus went quietly to  
The place of Sadness,  
Where the crosses stood.  
He carried His alone,  
almost all of the way.  
Until, with Simon of Cyrene's help,  
He now awaited the  
Painful journey's end.

Then Jesus was crucified,  
By fixing Him to the cross  
With nails in His Blessed  
Hands and Feet.  
Feet that had travelled the dust  
To speak His Father's words.  
And Hands that touched  
The Poor and Sick.

A Crown of Thorns  
Had been roughly pushed  
Onto His innocent head,  
And blood dripped slowly down,  
Making a crimson pool,  
That mixed with His tears.  
Precious, so Precious,  
His Sacrificial Blood.

As Jesus Surrendered His Life,  
The people knew  
That they had done wrong.  
But it was too late.  
This was on a Tragic Friday;  
Followed by a Reflective Saturday;  
Then an Awesome Sunday,  
When Jesus Rose Again. Alleluia.

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## Easter Offering 2020

On Psalm Sunday you will receive an envelope for the Easter Offering collection. The tradition of giving a little extra at Easter goes back to the late 1800s when folk were asked to give a penny per head! The money collected forms a large part of the World Church budget, enabling work across the world with vulnerable people and folk in times of crisis.



Please see the piece from Zimbabwe, written from someone actually living in an area of crisis. The piece is not relating strictly to the work of the world church but does give us an idea of what folk are experiencing here at this time. We have too much water, but there they have a disastrous water shortage.

Ruth Watkins

## Recent news from someone living in Zimbabwe



When I put my finger into a black china bowl of water in the sink to scoop out what I thought was a leaf, I found myself holding a small black scorpion. A yelp of alarm, a few unrepeatable swear words and a quick flick of my wrist left the scorpion running around the sink, its stinger poised, and me realizing what a close call I'd had. The thought of a 30km journey on eroded, potholed roads to the nearest health facility

which very likely wouldn't have electricity or water, would probably not have a doctor, definitely wouldn't have medicine, and with no cash in my purse to pay any help I needed, made the reality of life in Zimbabwe very frightening.

This is the fact of the shocking situation Zimbabweans are trying to survive in the second collapse in our country in just over a decade. A situation where taps are usually dry, the power is almost always off, banks have no money, fuel stations are mostly dry, over half the population needs food aid and the rest of us can't afford most of the food in the shops. Drought or not, it's fair to say that Zimbabwe is again in a state of deep failure.



In the past fortnight we have seen scenes in Zimbabwe not witnessed since 2008; things we thought, hoped, prayed we would never have to see again. We have yet again run out of our staple food: maize meal.

It's not as if we didn't know this was coming: for months International Aid agencies have been calling for donations, warning of hunger, starvation and even famine. Meanwhile our government has been talking about it, promising no one would go hungry and putting a positive spin on the looming disaster in interviews in Davos, but all of that did nothing to stop us going full speed ahead into the brick wall.

Speaking in Bulawayo two weeks ago, our Agriculture Minister said there was only 100,000 tons of maize left in the country's grain reserves. Zimbabwe consumes 80,000 tons of maize a month, which meant that a fortnight ago there was only enough maize left in the country for five weeks. The cold hard fact of the situation now is that Zimbabwe needs to be moving twenty thousand tonnes of maize into the country every single week.

For the past fortnight there has been no maize meal to buy in the shops. Empty shelves have been filled with rice, an unaffordable option for most people; in urban areas you see queues of hundreds of people outside supermarkets waiting for the chance to buy one 10kg bag of roller meal. As deliveries come in, the queues swell, tempers flare, queue jumpers push in, and in a ridiculously short space of time the sales stop and the managers say they have nothing left, everything's been sold. Exactly as it was twelve years ago - every dirty trick in the book played. Mysterious night-time loadings from back doors, cars with tinted windows and an instant black market has emerged.

In a nearby rural area, the Headman called the whole village to a meeting to relay the news that the International Food Aid was about to come. Representatives of two hundred families in the village gathered and were told that every family was going to be given international food aid once a month for the next four months. This would consist of 10kgs of maize meal per person in the family and an unspecified amount of cooking oil and dry beans. The Headman proceeded to make a numbered list of all the two hundred families in that village.

The news of food aid had come from the Chief of the district, representing twelve villages, each with an estimated two hundred families. From village to village the people were called, the lists made and one person from each family told to go to a central distribution point at a school seven kilometres away. Representatives of two and a half thousand families gathered, arriving early in the morning and then they waited and waited. At 4pm an announcement was made. There was only enough food for five families from each of the twelve villages, only sixty of the two and a half thousand families would get food, everyone else must go away and try again next week.

Zimbabwe is restless, people are desperate but there is no sign of relief from our government. We are still crippled by the 2% tax on every bill we pay, every item we buy, every service we use, every mouthful of food we eat.

It seems we just keep on putting our hand into the bowl with the scorpion.



# Coronavirus: what we haven't heard from Government

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5th March 2020

## The Bishop's Coronavirus Golden Rules

***Not official advice: – but this is food-for-thought about our attitudes.***

**Golden Rule One.** Each one of us can think about how we can protect and support our neighbours. So much of the public rhetoric is sowing fear about the danger of other people. So, taking all the official precautions, offer help and reassurance to others – and don't demonise anyone or any group.

**Golden Rule Two:** Think about who may be suffering more than me. For those of us who are healthy there is much less to worry about but the elderly, the housebound and those with chronic health conditions may be very anxious. How about each church undertaking an audit of all the vulnerable people they know and sharing out the responsibility to phone them each day. There's nothing like a friendly voice to offer solace when someone is worried. A smile can bring cheer, even on the phone. If you visit, follow all the official precautions or don't go.

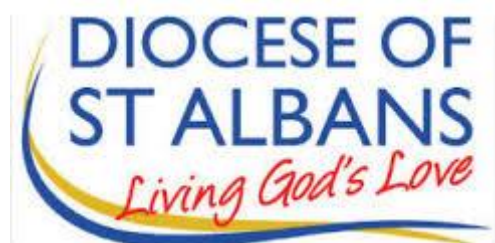
**Golden Rule Three.** Don't give into panic and start hoarding food. There is plenty to go around, so practise the Christian discipline of sharing. Ask your neighbours what they need and do your best to help them get it. If you are self-isolating you will of course need some supplies.

**Golden Rule Four.** Live today to the full. None of us ever know what the future holds. In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 6. 25 – 34), Jesus challenged his followers to live each day fully and not be afraid. Every time we are tempted to give in to fear we need to make a conscious choice to respond in trust and openness.

And, along with just over half the adults in the UK, don't forget to pray. Here's a suggestion from the Revd Louise Collins, a Team Vicar in Borehamwood, Herts:

*Dear God our Shield and our Defender, guide and protect my neighbour in this time of health emergency; deliver them from all harm and may your love and care ever grow in this place. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.*

+Alan St Albans



# J TEAM

Welcome to the J Team pages



We might have some things in our heart that shouldn't be there. Things like bitterness, anger, jealousy, selfishness, pride, and greed. When we come to church, everything may look great on the outside, but God may look inside and see that our heart isn't right. When we know that we have a heart problem, we need to do what David did. We need to pray to God and say, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Do you have some things in your heart that aren't right? Let's ask God to fix it!

**De-coder**



## Psalm 51:10

### Jumble

SWAH   
4 6

AGRET   
9 3 8 10

CEFA   
1

OVLE   
2 7

WSNO   
5

"Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_  
 O God." Psalm 51:10 (KJV)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Bible Memory Verse

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.  
 Psalm 51:10 (KJV)

• f • g • k • l  
 • c • h • j • m  
 • i  
 • n  
 • o  
 • p  
 • q

*Create in me a pure heart, O  
 God, and renew a steadfast  
 spirit within me.  
 Psalm 51:10 (NIV)*

Dear Father, we know that  
 you can see what is in our  
 heart and we know that  
 there are some things  
 there that aren't right.  
 Create a clean heart in us,  
 O God.  
 Amen.

## The Joy of Easter

We are happy because we know that Jesus rose from the grave and that he lives forever.

Colour by number

1 - brown      3 - pink      5 - purple      7 - yellow  
 2 - gray      4 - red      6 - green      8 - blue

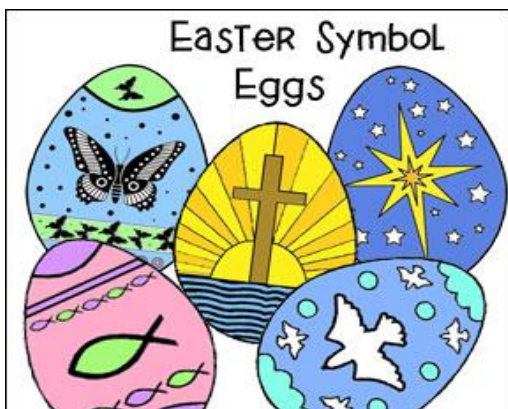


## The Crucifixion and Resurrection

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

Find these words:

alive	Gospel	rolled
angel	guard	soldiers
body	hammer	spear
burial	Heaven	spices
Calvary	Jesus	stone
cross	joy	Sunday
dawn	king	tell
disciples	morning	tomb
earthquake	nails	women
empty	risen	worship
Galilee	robe	



Jesus came to earth,  
 To show us how to live,  
 How to put others first,  
 How to love and how to give.

So we live our lives for Jesus,  
 Think of Him in all we do.  
 Thank you Saviour; Thank you Lord.  
 Help us love like you!

## Volunteering at a soup kitchen doesn't make you a saint

The **Oldie** BLOG | BY FERDIE ROUS | JAN  
20, 2020

If you want to learn what a city is like, go to its soup kitchens. The guests, volunteers and venues – even the food – tell you all you need to know.

I have volunteered on and off (mainly off – I have to confess) at a soup kitchen for the last five years. Every Thursday a Catholic church in central London opens its hall doors to the hungry and the destitute.

The charity that runs it is the Companions of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta – an arm of the Knights of Malta. The Order proper has accrued a few names since it was originally founded in 1048 as the Order of St John. But it is most easily identifiable as and claims continuity from the Knights Hospitaller. It maintains strong links to the Vatican and even has its own state – in Rome, of course.

The volunteers are from all over the world. The majority of non-British volunteers are European, but others are from as far afield as the States or Japan. And they are anything from teenagers – many are students – to err... the venerable!

There is no faith requirement to work with the Companions. I asked one volunteer – a tall blond chap of about twenty-four with an endless neck – whether he was Catholic, only for him to say, 'Me? No. I hate Catholics!', before muttering a quick 'no offence' as quizzical eyes turned towards him.

Volunteers start coming in at around 6pm – doors open at 7.30. The tables and chairs are brought out from storage. Litres of soup, tea and coffee are prepared. And volunteers are sent out in pairs to local eateries. They return with trolleys full of food – sushi, pasta bakes, croissants, rock cakes, you name it, it's there. Say what you like about chains like Pret and Eat, but it really is fresh every day. With leftovers from five or six outlets you can easily feed forty. But I wonder how many across London put their leftovers to such good use...

When I first came, there were maybe forty guests. Now there are as many as eighty.

They are a very diverse bunch in everything bar gender – almost all of them are men. But – much like the volunteers – they are from all over. A decent number of London geezers, of course, but there are French, Irish, a few Middle Eastern, quite a few Eastern Europeans and one or two from the Caribbean.



*Volunteers of America Soup Kitchen,  
Washington, DC (1936)*

The doors open and, almost immediately, the guests split off into groups – they always sit at the same tables.

Providing food, books, toiletries and the like are all important, but are only part of the gig. What most volunteers spend ninety per cent of their time doing is talking. Some of the guests haven't spoken to anyone in weeks.

It isn't always easy. Some of the guests really don't want to speak. One of the few female guests, who drops in only occasionally, doesn't sit at a table. She prefers to sit by the wall in silence.

Others are more talkative but rather than a discussion they have a set message. I joined two smokers outside the hall a couple of years ago. I got a couple of questions in, but their response was indifferent at best. When they got onto the subject of the coming winter, one turned to me and explained how it had been so bad a couple of weeks previously that he had asked the police to put him inside. They turned him down, so he smashed a window and they gave him what he wanted.

I remember another chap – a slightly tubby, ever-smiling builder in his late forties with a booming laugh and not a hair on his head – explain how he had lost his chance at accommodation. He said he'd been as much as told in late 2013 that he was to get a flat, only to hear a couple of months later that some 'higher priority' individual had been given it instead.

One of the odd things about going to the soup kitchen is that you occasionally see someone you've spoken to in the street. Last Tuesday, I remember passing a man in Regent's Park. He had a bergen on his back, a rucksack on his front and a Sainsbury's bag in each hand. He didn't recognise me, but I remembered his story well.

He was born in a rectory, was public school educated and had been homeless for only a few years. I remember him sitting at the end of a table by himself, icing from a bun all over his face, and complaining about having to spend his time in 'places like this' with 'people who are my inferiors'. It left me speechless. And I still don't know what to say...

So why do it? Why serve at a soup kitchen?

Some go as a substitute for church – their good deed for the week. Others go for the social aspect – likeminded folk and the pub session that follows clean-up. One of the volunteers from overseas said he came to improve his English. But it is a mistake to go in search of the fuzzy feeling of doing good. You fool yourself into expecting gratitude. Though most guests are very grateful, getting them a cup of soup or a coffee doesn't make you a saint. So, if you get a 'there's too much sugar in this, take it back', save the outrage. Because you'd probably do the same thing.....

## **Friday Food at the Aylesbury Methodist Church** **Report on the first 3 months**

Following a period of discussion and deliberation, the AMC Church Council agreed to the establishment of the Friday Food project in the newly-refurbished Welcome Space at the entrance to Aylesbury Methodist Church. Volunteers were recruited, DBS checks carried out and a training session organised, together with a manual for those taking part.

Friday Food opened up on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019, and, in doing so, the Church joined with the Quakers and Catholics who were already providing meals on Monday and Wednesday evenings respectively. This meant that there were now three evenings during the week when those who were homeless or struggling with feeding themselves could have a free hot nutritious meal.

During its first three months, the project operated on 14 evenings, opening its doors at 6 pm and serving meals up until 7 pm, although guests were not obliged to leave until 7.30 pm. During this time, 54 different people have used the drop-in facility, with an average number on each night of around 10 guests.



The meals have been provided by 9 different volunteers, with an additional 16 people taking turns to act as stewards on the evening itself. On each evening, a team of 4 volunteers have taken on the different roles of Team Leader, Security, Hospitality and Kitchen. This division of labour has worked well, although in practice, people have

doubled up on roles as necessary. As well as providing meals, there have been plenty of opportunities for chatting and listening to people's problems.

The meals have been very much appreciated, and while the primary aim of the project has been to provide good food and a welcome to people who



have been on the margins of society, it has also been able to provide some additional support in particular circumstances.

There have been some individual stories, with two of the regular guests being people who have been homeless on and off for at least ten years. With these two and others, it has been possible to engage with them in seeing whether there might be some additional help that they could access in addressing some of their long-term problems. Where necessary, guests have been pointed towards the work of the Aylesbury Homeless Action Group (AHAG), which assists individuals in finding accommodation, and to the Council's Severe Weather Emergency Provision. A couple of guests have also linked in with other church activities, with one writing a prayer request and another attending a Sunday morning service.

The church itself has also benefited, both from seeing the Welcome Space used effectively for a wider purpose, and from building relationships with people with whom it might not otherwise have much interaction.

*Ken Harris*

What Jesus never said: "Feed the hungry only if they have papers." "Clothe the naked only if they're from your country." "Welcome the stranger only if there's zero risk." "Help the poor only if it's convenient." "Love your neighbor only if they look like you."

– *James Martin, S.J.*

## **'THAT PARTICULAR PASSOVER'**

*This is a play written for Holy week by Angela M. Smith.*

Would you like to join in **reading** or **listening to** this?  
(No acting, props, costumes or scenery involved, but there  
is some hymn singing)

at Aylesbury Methodist Church

**2pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

Contact Angela 01296 483696 for more  
*information.*



Every minute someone leaves this world behind.  
We are all in 'the line' without knowing it.  
We never know how many people are before us.  
We cannot move to the back of the line.  
We cannot step out of the line.  
We cannot avoid the line.  
So, while we wait in line -

Make moments count.  
Make priorities.  
Make the time.  
Make your gifts known.  
Make a nobody feel like a somebody.  
Make your voice heard.  
Make the small things big.  
Make someone smile.  
Make the change.  
Make love.  
Make up.  
Make peace.  
Make sure to tell your people they are loved.  
Make sure to have no regrets.  
Make sure you are ready.





If anyone would like to have an **Action for Children Home Collecting Box** for your loose change, please speak to Pauline Noble: 01296 484940.



These boxes are a very valuable source of income for the charity, and every penny counts towards helping the most vulnerable children and families under their care.

### **Coming up:**

#### **Action for Children Weekend!**



**Saturday 11 July 2020**

**Charity Stall in Market Square**

when we hold a Tombola and Children's Lucky Dip

*We would be very grateful for items for the Stall - at any time!!!!*

*Please give these to: Jennie Torpey 581414,  
Pauline Noble 484940, or Sandie Steeden 331278.*



**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2020**

**Cakes, Plants and Home Produce Stall**

in the Hall after the Morning Service

*Nearer the time, we shall be asking for donations of the above for the stall.*



**On Saturday 26th September 2020 at 7pm  
we have our annual Quiz.**

**Please put the date in your diaries!!**



**Safe and happy childhood**



Action for Children protects and supports children and young people, providing practical and emotional care and support, ensuring their voices are heard, and campaigning to bring lasting improvements to their lives.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 15 March	8.45am 10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw
Tues 17 March	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Fellowship Afternoon
Sun 22 March	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson
Sat 21 March	7.30pm	SOS: 'All a Board' – Board Game evening with the Miskins
Sat 28 March	5.00pm	Beatie's Charity Bash 2020: Faith Tea for charity
Sun 29 March	10.30am 3.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson Circuit Service: Stainer's Crucifixion
Tues 31 March	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Rev Anthony Howells from Fairford Leys
Sun 5 April	10.30am	<b>Palm Sunday.</b> Morning Worship led by Mr Richard Maguire
<b>Thurs 9 April</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b>
<b>Frid 10 April</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Good Friday Service</b>
<b>Sun 12 April</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>9.00am</b> <b>10.30am</b>	<b>SOS: Easter Breakfast (Book in advance)</b> <b>Family Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson</b>
Tues 14 April	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Members' Afternoon – Easter hymn requests
Sun 19 April	8.45am 10.30am 3.00pm	Communion Service led by Mr Arthur Sara Morning Worship led by Mr Peter Honeyball Circuit Service at Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church
Sat 25 April	2.00pm 7.30pm	Good Faith Book Club 'Gloria' Concert by Aylesbury Festival Choir
Sun 26 April	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson
Sat 2 May	4.00pm	Messy Church: God Answers Prayers
Sun 3 May	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson
Frid 8 May		<b>ARTICLES FOR MAY-JUNE LINK MAGAZINE DUE IN</b>
		<b>Christian Aid Sunday</b>
Sun 10 May	10.30am	Family & Brigades Service led by Mr Arthur Sara
Wed 13 May	7.30pm	Annual Organ Concert with Ian Tracey
Sun 17 May	8.45am 10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson Morning Worship led by Mr David Neville
Sun 24 May	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson
Sun 31 May	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Ann Henman
Sat 6 June	4.00pm	Messy Church: Jesus Loves Little Children

# 'BEATIE'S CHARITY BASH 2020'



Now that we are no longer holding our annual Caribbean Evenings, Beatie is very keen to have a fundraising event each year for charities which are important to her and the Aylesbury community.

A chance, also, to get together for a chat!

So, we intend to have a **FAITH BUFFET TEA**

on **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 5.00 – 7.30pm.**

It will be very informal and all are welcome.

**NO CHARGE**, but we ask everyone to bring **FOOD TO SHARE**

and also to make a **DONATION** on the evening if possible

– we shall have donation buckets available.

**Plus a Raffle!**

We would like the evening to be fuss-free, so all food needs to be brought **ready to serve** on a plate/dish.

You can bring whatever you like! A few ideas:

- Pastry dishes: (quiches/flans/sausage or veg rolls/pizza)
- Different Salads: (leafy/tomato/pasta/rice/couscous/bean/vegetable)
- Cold meats/cheeses, etc
- Filled rolls/sandwiches; sausages, falafels .....

You might prefer to bring a Cake for dessert instead!

(we won't be having other desserts – just different cakes).

Beatie would like to share the proceeds from our first 'Bash' between the Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity and Epilepsy Research.

**PLEASE LET EITHER BEATIE OR JENNIE KNOW THAT YOU'RE COMING.**

**AND AN IDEA OF WHAT FOOD YOU'LL BRING!**

**We need to have some idea of numbers asap!.**

Beatie Francis (421505) \* Jennie Torpey (581414)



## After the Fire

I was unbelievably shocked, when I heard that the Church in one of my home villages in Norfolk had probably been damaged beyond repair, by a fire. To clarify my mixed emotions, I had to write about it. This is what I produced.

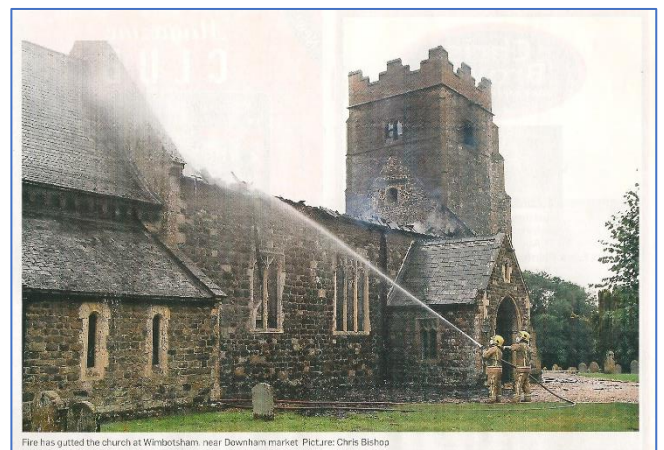
“Church Fire causes Devastation!” Why did this newspaper headline distress me so much? I could not get it out of my mind for several days. It was not the church where I was christened, nor was it where my parents had been married, but it was the spot where their funerals were held and they were both laid to rest in the churchyard.

I was born in the neighbouring Norfolk village of Stow, where Holy Trinity Church stands, only about a mile away along the road. My mother’s family attended both churches. When the Sunday morning service was held in one, the evening service was held in the other. I was told that my Grandpa had sung in the choir in each of them in turn. When I was a child, Grandpa’s three sisters sat in pews near the front, with their spinster niece, Gwen, and they all had to be dutifully kissed at the door when we left.

When Mum and Dad moved into a Council house at the far end of Wimbotsham, Mum wrote a poem containing the lines, “the street that winds its uphill way past cottages and farms, the church perched high upon the hill, the Green where children play, the leafy lanes from prying eyes tucked secretly away, dear Wimbotsham, my home.”

Following the fire, the reporter from the local paper quoted residents’ comments. One said, “You do not have to go to services every week to love the Church,” and another remarked, “It’s part of the village life and it has been there for a very long time.”

I looked at the photographs of firemen battling with the flames. The roof of the nave was completely gone, as had all its interior woodwork. I shall never again be able to stroke the carved, muzzled dog, at the end of our pew. It seemed so sad, and yet, I wondered how many people still attended this building. The congregation had not been large, when I



Fire has gutted the church at Wimbotsham, near Downham market. Picture: Chris Bishop



The roof of St Mary's in Wimbotsham was destroyed in the blaze.

left it in the nineteen seventies. The Bishop of Ely said his thoughts and prayers were with the community, and the Archdeacon said the congregation would survive, even though it was not known how much of the premises would be able to be rebuilt.

How would I feel if it were just left as a ruin? Had I ever felt particularly close to God there? We went to it because that was where Mum's family had always gone.

Dad was seldom with us because he usually had to work on Sundays. Yet it seemed it was our duty to go. I learned to be patient within its walls. I sat silently while everyone sung psalms and canticles I could not read nor understand, and looked at the pictures in my little Bible when the Vicar spoke from the pulpit. I was left forlornly, when all the grown ups went up to the altar rail to take Communion, thinking only about my painful knees pressed on the rough kneeler. Why did prayer involve such agony? I don't remember seeing other children in the congregation. Two of the Vicar's sons sung in the choir during their school holidays, but girls never got a look in and the only woman who had an active role was Florrie, who struggled to play the organ very slowly. In winter it was very cold. Electric fires were suspended above our heads, so the rafters benefited from them but our feet were frozen and I shivered. There was no question of having a cosy cup of tea following the benediction, for there was no kitchen and everyone needed a strong bladder as there were no toilet facilities. After Dad retired, I think one of the reasons he was reluctant to accompany Mum and me, was because car parking was so difficult. There was only a small gravelled space in front of the North door which was reached by means of a narrow tree-lined drive.

The Church was certainly a significant landmark, but it was never the place where the God I worship dwelt.

So, where is God? According to the Lord's Prayer, God is in Heaven. But where is Heaven? I believe that Heaven is where God is.

The ancient Hebrews never saw God. They only heard his voice, so the Word of God came first. They said his voice was heard in the Garden of Eden. He spoke to Noah and to Abram, they said, and Moses had a conversation with him beside a burning bush. The Children of Israel believed he was going in front of them, through the wilderness, in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Moses declared he had received God's commandments on a

cloudy mountain top. Once this wandering tribe had finished fighting the inhabitants, of what they believed was their promised land, they decided that God required a permanent home, so Solomon built a Temple which became filled with clouds of incense, and people came to worship God in his special place.

Yet it was never necessary to go to the Temple to hear God's voice. There were many who heard God speaking and told others what he said. Elijah heard his still small voice after the earthquake, wind and fire, and Jeremiah heard it in distant Babylon.

Crowds still flocked to the Temple though, in the hope that God would listen to them if they presented him with gifts. Priests were chosen to accept these sacrifices at the altar and pleaded to God on their behalf to seek forgiveness and be put right with God.

Then Jesus came. While he was with them, some of his followers reported that they heard the voice of God, and on one occasion three of his closest friends said they saw him surrounded by light and then covered with cloud. They believed God was within him. He saw how the Temple had been corrupted and foretold that it would soon be destroyed, but they were reassured that the God that they had seen in him would survive. Jesus spoke a lot about the Kingdom of Heaven, which must mean the place where God is. He said it is impossible to give it a geographical location for "the Kingdom of Heaven is within you." Luke 17 verse 21.

Later, Paul was able to write to the Corinthians that they must surely know that they were God's Temple and that God's Spirit lived in them.

When the Book of Revelation was written, it stated that in the vision of the Holy City, there was no need for a Temple to house God for he was all around the place.

Where is the God I worship? I cannot see him but I am aware of his presence, and, with my inward ear, I can hear that still small voice and know when I am doing what he wants me to do, because I feel at peace.

I switched off my computer just in time to listen to the Morning Service on the radio. The reading came from Revelation 21, verses 1-5. The same bit upon which I had just been pondering. It ended with the words: "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Angela M. Smith



## CIRCUIT DIARIES

In the hope of avoiding too many clashes, there are two ways you can ensure that your planned events will not clash with others around the circuit.

- **The Circuit Website:** [www.aylesburyvale.org.uk](http://www.aylesburyvale.org.uk) – you just need to click on ‘**CIRCUIT DIARY**’ in the headings, then choose a month. If you click on any entry in this diary, full details are shown.  
To include your event, contact **Roy Collis:** [01296 630989](tel:01296630989) or [r.collis245@btinternet.com](mailto:r.collis245@btinternet.com)
- **Circuit Diary** held by **Shirley Francis**, the AMC Office Administrator, at [office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk](mailto:office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk) or 01296 426526. She will be able to advise if there are any clashes for your preferred date.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

**Sat 25<sup>th</sup> April:** Aylesbury Festival Choir Concert - ‘Gloria’

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> May:** Annual Organ Concert

**Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Aylesbury Festival Choir Concert – ‘A Summer Serenade’

**Sat 11<sup>th</sup> July:** Karibuni Event

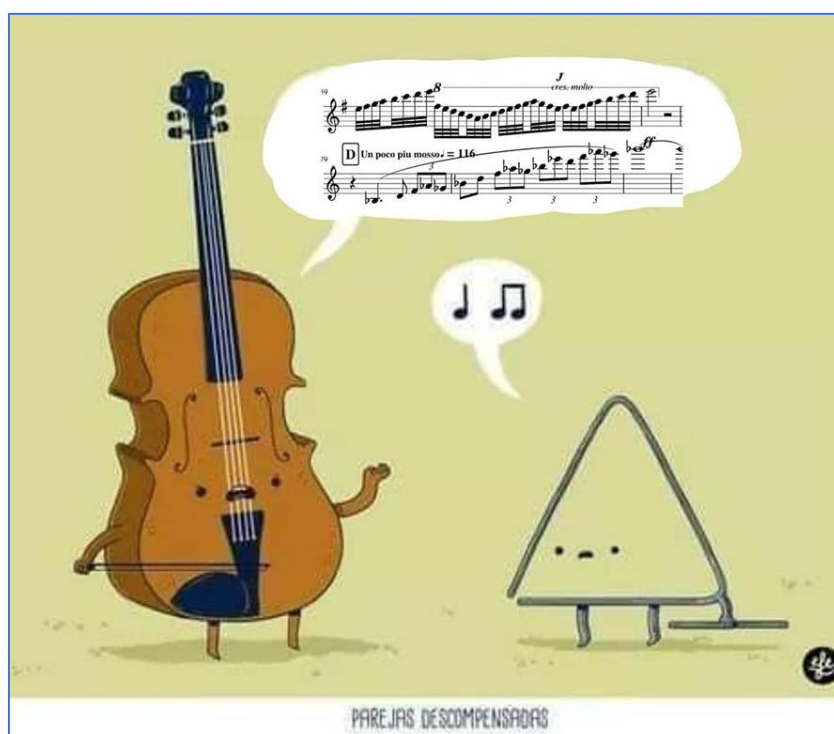
**Sun 19<sup>th</sup> July:** Circuit ‘Songs of Praise’

**Sat 26<sup>th</sup> September:** Action for Children Quiz

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> October:** Alfán Charity Event

**Sat 28<sup>th</sup> November:** Aylesbury Festival Choir Concert – Handel’s Messiah

**Sat 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> December:** AMC Christmas Tree Festival



## Gift from God

I love to garden, and last year I had a new patio laid and some raised beds, etc done for ease.

When I moved into my home in 1990, I had a ramp built to allow me to exit into the garden via the patio doors. We constructed a 2ft high raised bed all the way along the ramp to give it some structure. I then planted a gazillion daffodils, roses and of course rhubarb. Every year, without fail, up come the daffodils, then the roses – the rhubarb just grows!

I have always coveted the beautiful snowdrop, the flower that heralds renewal, rebirth, a sure sign that Spring is on its way. It is the one flower that I have never tried to grow. I have natural bluebells in abundance, which I started from a single plant and then used the seeds over the years; also, I have allowed them the freedom to self-seed.

Recently my faith had been shaken by a visiting Minister, before Candlemas. And I was feeling spiritually frail. I tried prayer and silent contemplation, but could not shake off the deep feeling that I had lost my connection with The Father. I seemed to just be going through the motions, without it being a two-way flow between myself and God.

I went out into my garden on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, just after Candlemas, still carrying that spiritually empty feeling – hoping that something may give me a lift, as Spring is my most favourite time of the year. Imagine my surprise and joy to see in my raised bed, two areas of pure white, virginal Snowdrops – Candlemas Lily. As I looked at their simple purity, I felt God renew me spiritually. I felt so much Peace.

He showed me that He is always with me, and indeed never left. I had just let someone's actions cause a distant memory to surface and cloud my vision.

Hopefully, now that I have snowdrops, they will show me every Candlemas .....

The Precious Gift from God.

© 2020 Babs



## FAIRTRADE

Fair trade is a way of buying and selling products that **allows the farmers to be paid a fair price for their produce**, and have better working conditions.

Trade is 'unfair' when farmers receive very low income and have poor conditions, while the companies that sell their products make lots of money from them.

The Fairtrade Mark was introduced in 1994; it is a symbol awarded to products that are sold under certain fair-trading conditions.



### Top 10 facts

1. There are over 4,500 Fairtrade Mark products sold in the UK.
2. Products with the Fairtrade Mark are sold in over 120 countries.
3. The Fairtrade Foundation was formed in 1992, with the Fairtrade Mark first being used in 1994, over 20 years ago now.
4. The first product to get the Fairtrade Mark was **Green and Black's Maya Gold** chocolate bar.
5. **Divine Chocolate** is the only chocolate company in the world to be fully owned by farmers.
6. **The first ever UK Fairtrade Mark banana was sold in the year 2000.**
7. A third of all bananas sold in the UK have the Fairtrade Mark.
8. There are over **1.4 million farmers and workers worldwide who work to produce Fairtrade products.**
9. Fairtrade products include both food and non-food items – there are standards for each type of item that need to be achieved before it is classified as Fairtrade.
10. Fair trade towns are dedicated to supporting fair trade – there are over 550 in the UK alone.

### Did you know?

- 'Fair trade' as a term means 'moving towards fairer trading conditions', while **'Fairtrade' is the label used to identify products with the Fairtrade Mark.** Fairtrade is a registered trademark.
- The Fairtrade Mark symbol is made up of a blue sky that symbolises optimism, and an arm, raised in the air – this symbolises empowerment. The Fairtrade Mark also incorporates the colour green to symbolise growth.
- **Fairtrade products come from over 70 different countries** from around the world. The people who produce these items receive a minimum price and premium for their products.
- Fairtrade has encouraged many farmers to farm in a more sustainable and environmentally-friendly way, using fewer chemicals and effective irrigation.

**Do look out for the Fairtrade logo when shopping. You can also buy goods from the Traidcraft catalogue in the display stand in the Welcome Space.**

## **Growing up in the Methodist Church**

### **Childhood Memories**

### **The Sunday School Anniversary**

During the 1960s my father was a Methodist Minister in Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Initially we lived near the town (later moving to a new estate to be near the modern church there), and we attended the town centre church every Sunday morning.

This was a Victorian church not unlike AMC (as it was originally). The pulpit was at the centre, with the communion area in front behind low railings; the organ loft behind with the choir ranged on either side.

For the Sunday School Anniversary, a wooden platform was set up around the pulpit with 4 levels for all the children to stand on.

We wore our best clothes – often a new outfit for the event. I remember wearing a pretty pale yellow dress with frills. We had our cleanest white ankle socks and sandals.

Some of us would be persuaded to recite a poem, read a short passage from the Bible, maybe sing a solo. Together we sang such classics as ‘Jesus bids us shine’ and ‘Jesus wants me for a sunbeam’.

There must have been around 25-30 children from the age of 5 to 10 or so, and a full church including all the proud parents.

Philip Gee remembers the Chapel Anniversary ‘up North’ in Outlane, Yorkshire as a major production! There was a morning service and an evening service; all printed in a programme, with major choir items – a mini Songs of Praise with a sermon. More important than the new outfit, Philip remembers the extra shilling his Grandma gave him, so that he had money to save, in addition to the sixpence for the collection and sixpence to spend on sweets on the way to Chapel, so that he had something to occupy himself with during the lengthy sermon!

Roger Kirk remembers being terrified as a child the first time he had to stand in the pulpit and read the Bible passage.

Interestingly, as we are all singers, we have specific memories of hymn singing.

Roger remembers his mother going round the villages near Taunton singing Moody and Sankey songs. Philip notes that the Chapel in Outlane, although small, had two choirs, as did many other Chapels in Huddersfield at the time. He remembers his Sunday School teacher Mary and her sister singing in the choirs and in the Huddersfield Choral Society. One of my early memories is of 'Auntie' May, my Sunday School teacher, when I was 3 or 4, who would regularly sing 'Blessed Assurance' with real passion.

I am sure many of you have childhood memories of growing up in the Methodist Church. It would be lovely to hear more!

Pat Starr

[Do let Pat have your memories for future LINK articles!]



## Princes Risborough Methodist Church



**Church Anniversary 2020**  
**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11-00am**

**Guest Preacher: The Right Hon. the Lord Boateng**



Paul Boateng, Baron Boateng, a life long Methodist and Methodist Local Preacher, was member of Parliament for Brent South from 1987 to 2005. He became UK's first mixed race Cabinet Minister in May 2002, when he was appointed as Chief secretary to the Treasury. Following his departure from the House of Commons, he served as British High Commissioner to South Africa from March 2005 to May 2009. He was introduced as a member of the House of Lords on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010

Church Lunch will be held following the service, to which everyone will be welcome. However to assist with catering please book your place in advance . Call 07894159544

Princes Risborough Methodist Church, Wycombe Road, Princes Risborough, HP27 0DH



## Dates for Messy Church

**Saturdays**, monthly

4.00 – 6.00pm

May 2nd: God answers prayers - Luke 18:1-8

June 6th: Jesus loves little children - Matthew  
19:13-14

July 4th: Celebrating Messy Church! - The  
Messiest Play Ever!

**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](mailto:familyworker.amc@mail.com)

Messy Church is **WONDERFUL!**

Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

Thank you!

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

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



2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday - DRAMA



3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday - DISCUSSION



4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday - SOCIAL



To SIGN UP, please contact Mel  
[familyworker.amc@mail.com](mailto:familyworker.amc@mail.com) Tel: 07717 121887

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

## Circuit Camping and Caravan Event

Dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Venue: Bridge Villa Camping and Caravan Park, Wallingford, OX10 8HB



Cost: £27 per unit per night (includes 2 People and electricity)

This site is within easy walking distance of the town and the Thames River. On our previous visit we thoroughly enjoyed the excellent facilities and the opportunities this offers for walking, links to other places of interest and the chance to explore historic Wallingford.

This year we have been allocated an area for ourselves, so please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to join us on this fun filled weekend. A deposit of £10 will secure your pitch, and the payment can be sent to us, as this year we are making a group booking.

The programme will follow the usual format with a communal meal on the Friday evening, walks or other activities on the Saturday followed by a bring and share barbecue in the evening. There will be a short service on Sunday morning and the possibility of a pub lunch for those who wish.



For more information or to book your pitch, contact Chris Sara.  
Telephone 01296 484310  
Mobile 07515 472825  
Email [chrisara096@gmail.com](mailto:chrisara096@gmail.com)





On Saturday, 11 April, Pat Martin Seehusen and Andy Seehusen will be walking 25 kms along the Thames to raise money for Alzheimer's Society. Pat's mum lived with the disease for 9 years and for most of that time was not able to recognise any family and friends and missed family celebrations such as the birth of her great grandsons. Please sponsor us to help families who have a dementia sufferer and to further research into dementia.

You can donate to: [justgiving.com/fundraising/patmartinseehusen](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/patmartinseehusen) or [justgiving.com/fundraising/Andrew-Seehusen1](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Andrew-Seehusen1) or, if you prefer, you can give your donation to one of us. Thank you, in advance, for your support.

*Dear Friends, please share the poster below with any pastoral workers or volunteer pastoral visitors that you think may be interested.*

*The day will start at 9.30am with refreshments and conclude at 3.30pm.*

*Please remember to bring a **packed lunch** with you. To book, please email or call me at the District Office (contact details below).*

*With best wishes, Susie Palmer.*

*District Administrator, Northampton Methodist District Office,*

*Tel: 01604 630128 Email: [northampton.distoffice@gmail.com](mailto:northampton.distoffice@gmail.com)*



## Pastoral Workers Gathering

A day of sharing and thinking together about Pastoral Care – for paid workers and volunteer pastoral visitors.

**Tuesday 5 May 2020**

**9.30am (for 10.00am start) until 15.30**

To be held at  
Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church  
Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, HP22 5UJ

Led by  
**Rev Helen Cameron** (Northampton District Chair) &  
**Jane Bingham** (Methodist Learning Network)

Tea and coffee will be provided but please remember to bring your own lunch

Bookings are important as they help us to plan and have the right resources ready.

You can book through the Northampton District Office

Tel: 01604 630128 or

Email: [Northampton.distoffice@gmail.com](mailto:Northampton.distoffice@gmail.com)



## Another Deborah

After Deborah Jayne was born, my cousin Stephanie invited me to be her Godmother. I was celebrating the successful completion of my midwifery training by holidaying in Cornwall, when I first saw Stephe's baby in Treliske Hospital in Truro. Then the following Spring, I stayed in Penryn and attended her christening in St Gluvia's Church.

The kindly Vicar held Debbie in his arms and announced that the Deborah mentioned in the Bible was a very war-like lady. I decided to read all about her, in the Book of Judges, when I returned home. After I had unearthed her story, I was not very happy that my Goddaughter shared her name.



Then, one day, I was scanning through the Book of Genesis and found a reference to another Deborah. Genesis 35 verse 8 states, "Now Deborah, Rebekah's nurse died ..." - Rebekah's nurse. Did this imply that she had been, what used to be termed a wet nurse? Had Deborah fed Rebekah, when she was a baby? If so, she must have known Rebekah all her life. I had to find out if there was any other news of her. I flipped back the pages. Then I found exactly what I was looking for, in Genesis 24 verse 59.

Abraham's servant had been sent to find a wife for his master's son, Isaac, and it says, "So they sent Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men".

I returned to the original quotation and read to the end of the sentence. "Now Deborah died and was buried under the oak in Bethel, so it was named Allon Bacuth, which means Oak of Weeping."

Bethel, I remembered, was the place where Jacob had dreamed of a stairway to Heaven and it means House of God. What an inspiring place to be laid to rest. But why was it called the Oak of Weeping? May it have been because Deborah was greatly missed, because she had been much loved?

I pictured her giving unconditional love to all that troubled family, through such a lot of stress and emotional turmoil. I saw her calm and serene, seeing their mistakes but caring for them all through the years – Rebekah, Isaac, Esau, Jacob. I studied their stories through her eyes and wrote about them at length, to clarify my thoughts. I hoped that one day my Deborah might resemble the dear lady, I had conjured up.

I have also condensed my interpretation of these Bible stories in a short play.

Angela M. Smith

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough, and we'll be more content when they are.

After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage.

We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our partner gets his or her act together, when we get a nicer car, are able to go on a nice holiday, when we retire.

**The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now.  
If not now, when?**

Your life will always be filled with challenges. It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway.

A quote comes from Alfred D. Souza. He said,  
"For a long time, it had seemed to me that life was about to begin - real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way, something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, or a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life."

This perspective has helped me to see that there is no way to happiness. Happiness is the way.

So, treasure every moment that you have, and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special; special enough to spend your time ... and remember that time waits for no one.

So, stop waiting until you lose ten pounds, until you gain ten pounds, until you have kids, until your kids leave the house, until you start work, until you retire, until you get married, until you get divorced, until Friday night, until Sunday morning, until you get a new car or home, until your car or home is paid off, until spring, until summer, until winter, until your song comes on, until you've had a drink .... there is no better time than right now to be happy!

Happiness is a journey, not a destination.

Work like you don't need money,  
Love like you've never been hurt,  
And dance like no one's watching!

*St Elizabeth Ann Seton Church.*



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

***ANNUAL ORGAN CONCERT***  
***35<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY***



***Presenting the outstanding  
International Concert Organist***

***Ian Tracey***

***Organist Titulaire of  
Liverpool Cathedral***

***WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020 at 7.30 pm***

***Entrance: £15.00 or £12.00 if booked in advance.  
(Students entrance free)***

***Tickets on sale from the 1<sup>st</sup> April, available from the  
Church Office on weekday mornings or direct from  
Derrick Matthews (01296 488076)***



**We've got the whole world in our hands!!!**



**HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DECOMPOSE ?**

- PAPER TOWEL - 2-4 WEEKS
- BANANA PEEL - 3-4 WEEKS
- PAPER BAG - 1 MONTH
- NEWSPAPER - 1.5 MONTHS
- APPLE CORE - 2 MONTHS
- CARDBOARD - 2 MONTHS
- COTTON GLOVE - 3 MONTHS
- ORANGE PEELS - 6 MONTHS
- PLYWOOD - 1-3 YEARS
- WOOL SOCK - 1-5 YEARS
- MILK CARTONS - 5 YEARS
- CIGARETTE BUTTS - 10-12 YEARS
- LEATHER SHOES - 25-40 YEARS
- TINNED STEEL CAN - 50 YEARS
- FOAMED PLASTIC CUPS - 50 YEARS
- RUBBER-BOOT SOLE - 50-80 YEARS
- PLASTIC CONTAINERS - 50-80 YEARS
- ALUMINUM CAN - 200-500 YEARS
- PLASTIC BOTTLES - 450 YEARS
- DISPOSABLE DIAPERS - 550 YEARS
- MONOFILAMENT FISHING LINE - 600 YEARS
- PLASTIC BAGS - 200-1000 YEARS.

**Read the Question**

On returning to the hotel following Christmas morning service some years ago, some of my fellow guests, who had been working on a cryptic quiz sheet in the lounge, pounced upon me. "How many sheep went into the Ark?" they asked. "It was two wasn't it? But that seems too obvious."

I wondered if the quiz setters had been ardent Bible students and had known that in Old Testament times, sheep had been regarded as clean animals - good to eat - and so had gone in seven by seven. Alas, when the answers were read out on the following evening, none of us had got the answer right, for the question had actually been, "How many sheep did **Moses** lead into the Ark?"



Angela M Smith

# Aylesbury Festival Choir

Music Director - Nick Austin



## GLORIA!

Music by Vivaldi, Haydn, Telemann and Monteverdi.

Soprano - Elizabeth Adams  
Mezzo Soprano - Sarah Ann Champion  
Trumpet - Craig Burnett  
Organ - Ben Giddens

with

The Keats Ensemble

Saturday 25th April 2020 7.30pm  
Aylesbury Methodist Church  
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury HP20 2NQ

Tickets £15 (£5 under 18) available from members,  
on the door or via our website:

[aylesburyfestivalchoir.net](http://aylesburyfestivalchoir.net)

**This Concert is sponsored by Martin Kemps, Estate Agents**

Singing in a choir is beneficial to health; we all know this and it can be tremendous fun!

Come to our concert and enjoy a musical evening with Aylesbury Festival Choir, in the comfort of your own church, no less.

Better still, come and join us, we are a friendly bunch.

Our summer concert will be a light hearted look at Gershwin, Rutter and Flanders and Swann, to name but a few.

We thoroughly recommend it!!

Kay and Brenda

## Learn & Play Mahjong

Join us for a relaxing evening of Mahjong, the traditional Chinese game for four people. It is a social and fun game, and no previous knowledge or experience required; it is easy to learn.

We meet every fortnight, and our next games will be on Fridays, 20th March and 3<sup>rd</sup> April in Room 2 at 7.30pm at Aylesbury Methodist Church.

If you would like to join us, please contact Pat or Andy Seehusen at [mynameispat@hotmail.com](mailto:mynameispat@hotmail.com), [aseehusen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aseehusen@yahoo.co.uk), or 07766235209.



**The next LINK magazine will be the May - June 2020 issue.**

**Please send in all contributions by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 to both addresses below:**

Jennie Torpey: [jennietorpey@gmail.com](mailto:jennietorpey@gmail.com)

AMC Office: [office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk](mailto: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, with 2cm margins and 14 - 16pt size font***



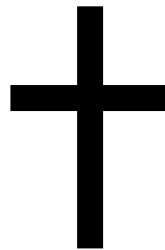


*Vale of Aylesbury  
Methodist Circuit*

# THE CRUCIFIXION

by

**JOHN STAINER**



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

**Presented by the Circuit Choir together with the  
Choir of St Peter and St Paul, Tring and friends  
from other local churches and choirs under the  
direction of Cliff Brown**

**Led by the Rev Richard Atkinson**

**Aylesbury Methodist Church**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 3.00 pm**

**(Repeated at St Peter and St Paul, Tring on  
Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April at 3.00 pm)**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

**Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.**