

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 22nd October 2023

This Church is God's house.
God loves and welcomes you
whoever you are, whatever
your age, gender, mental
health, physical ability, race,
sexuality or financial situation.
You are welcome here,
whatever your circumstances;
however much or little you
wish to engage; whatever you
feel about faith.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, this morning, are Elaine Hope and Derek Adams.

Please join us in the Hall after the service for
coffee or tea and a biscuit.

The words of the hymns are projected at the front of the Church.
If you would like to have a hymnbook for the service, please ask.

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| Hymns | StF 25 319 327 489 418 |
| Readings | Matthew 22: 15-22 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10 |
| Organist | Derrick Matthews |
| Streaming | To safeguard children and any vulnerable adults, our live-streamed services will not show the congregation. |



If your little ones (up to age 3) become restless during services, you are welcome to take them into the creche room in the Welcome Area to play. The service can be heard from there.

All children MUST be accompanied.

**The flowers this week are given by Valda Brewster,
in memory of her husband Chester, and her siblings.**



LINK TO HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL

It is nearly time to complete your filled shoebox for Link to Hope. I can still take any monetary gifts to fill a shoebox on your behalf or to just send as a donation. Times are still hard for those in Eastern bloc countries and our small gifts can make such a difference to a family's life and happiness. Many boxes were sent into Ukraine last year. **Shoeboxes MUST be with me by 5th November.** They can be left in the office or give me a ring on (422919) and I'll happily pick them up directly from you. Forms are still available in the Welcome Space Coffee Bar. Many Thanks. Margaret Miskin

Our next Messy Church is on Saturday, 4th November 3.45 – 6.00.



Our theme is 'Who is God' and there will be some lovely activities for everyone to do, plus our usual board games, bean bag game and air hockey table.

To ensure a place and your tea, please message **amc22messychurch@gmail.com** by Thurs 2nd November.

If you haven't been before then why not come along and have some fun - we don't bite! Margaret Miskin.

MESSAGE FROM AYLESBURY FOODBANK:

Here is the food weight of your 'Year to date' donations up to and including Sept 2023 for Aylesbury Methodist Church: **767.35 kg.**

Your September donation was 74.77 kg.

Thank you for your consistent support; without community support like yours we would be unable to feed the local people in crisis that we do.



SHOUT OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS!

*In addition, please email if you know of anyone who is interested in volunteering - we have a volunteering drive on at the moment to cope with the increased demand. We have vacancies in the **warehouse** and for **drivers**. We are a happy team of friendly volunteers, working together, and we welcome people for as much and as little time as they have.*

Nick Andrews, Collections Team, Aylesbury Foodbank, 07583 550676.

collection@aylesbury.foodbank.org.uk



In church – but lonely

‘No one cares for my soul.’

Psalm 142:4 NKJV

People come to church looking for light and warmth! They want to know we care. Good preaching and music may bring them in, but relationships that nurture will keep them coming back.

You can feel lonely in a crowd, even one that preaches love and has a ‘greet your neighbour’ moment in every service. If we kept 10 per cent of those who came through our church doors, we’d be in constant growth mode.

You say, ‘Well, the Bible teaches that if a man would have friends, he must show himself to be friendly.’ True, but people bring with them the wounds of their past, the struggles of their present, and the unspoken anxieties of their future. What they want to know is, ‘Will you love me as I am, even if I don’t fit your mould and change as quickly as you’d like me to?’ Often our rigid structure keeps that from happening.

Pastor and Church members, if your greatest concern on Monday is ‘How many people did we have in church yesterday?’ check your hearts. You may be more concerned with your own image than meeting people’s needs.

Jesus told His disciples, ‘I have called you friends’ (John 15:15 KJV). Many people are shy, distrusting, or hurting. Our mandate is to make ‘friends’ out of them, not just bench warmers and financial contributors.

The Scripture says, ‘Bear one another’s burdens’ (Galatians 6:2 NKJV), because a burden shared is a burden lightened.

Many of those who come to church aren’t looking for profound answers, they just want to feel cared for. When that happens, they open up to God’s love, and miracles take place.

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.



GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

STEWKLEY

Dear All

This Sunday, 22 October, Stewkley is the focus of our Circuit Prayers. We join Lynda who shares with us how Stewkley purposely reaches out to offer love and a warm meeting place for people to come and share together. It also provides an opportunity to demonstrate that our prayers are nothing mystical or clever, but simple thoughts of our hearts and a conversation with Jesus. Please pray this Sunday that all who seek to share the love of Christ may find joy in fellowship together, whether lifelong disciples or new enquirers seeking to know more.

Pete.



The last few weeks have been busy. Harvest festival weekend and afternoon tea to name but two, both of which were well supported by many of our supporters. Keeping in touch through our notices, which most of our group receive by email. The above events continue to bring people, family and friends together.

Last Saturday, I witnessed a very busy chapel, being used to reach out to and to show love to those who had come to support us. Groups of friends were using it to meet old friends and relations, some had not seen each other for some time and some were making new friends. There was joy in God's house.

This was then followed on Sunday by Cafe Church where I asked the question, "What is prayer?" We usually have a number of younger people at this service. I said I think that prayer begins with our thoughts and ideas that we have in our head, which we want to share with God. We praise God, we thank God, we ask things of him. We then went round the circle of people there, and, if they wished, they said out loud what their prayer was. The adults and children all contributed. Prayers were said for all people everywhere, for the people of Israel and Palestine and all caught up in war. For the sick, the sad, the carers, for all who work to look after us, for families, for friends who we name and then, finally, our six-year-old finished with the very simple words "I pray for my

Daddy". It felt like it said it all. Prayer can be very complicated; it can be dressed up with long words and that can be right too. But when it is said so simply from the heart of a child, I feel it had so much more meaning. Say it simply, say it from the heart, and say it in love. "Dear Lord I pray ----"

Thank you for all your prayers.

Love, Lynda.

OUR NEXT ORGAN CONCERT is fixed for **Wednesday 15th May 2024**, featuring a return visit of the outstanding Concert Organist **DANIEL MOULT**, reviewed as *"one of the finest organists of our time"*.

This promises to be another splendid event and full details will be publicised next Spring. Meanwhile, please note this in your diaries!



CHURCH READINGS: November - December 2023

There are still some spaces to be filled (**19th Nov and 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st December**) on the sheet on the noticeboard, so if you are willing to join our rota for reading the lesson in Church, **please sign up** for the week you would like to read, with just your name (no contact details) and a steward will contact you during that week with the reading. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the stewards or Richard.

Aylesbury Foodbank. Currently the Foodbank are asking for donations of: **Chocolate, chopped tomatoes/pasta sauce, tinned fruit, longlife fruit juice, tinned fish, biscuits, table sauces, soup, tea & coffee. But ALL donations are welcome!**



Prayer Requests. If you have requests for people or situations to be included in the prayers, there is a Prayer Request folder in the display cabinet in the Welcome Space for you to write in, or you could let Richard know in advance.

Our Prayer Group also meets on alternate Tuesdays, **10.45-12noon**, and are very happy to receive prayer requests. They would also welcome anyone who would like to join them.

Please email Ruby: rubydarku@hotmail.co.uk



Murmurations

They start to gather as
The day ends.
Pure, visible joy,
As the starlings begin the
Evening homage,
To the Creator of all things.

At first it is just like
An ancient feathered quill,
Writing upon parchment -
Black squiggles on the skyline -
Until it unites
To become truly spectacular.

The birds fly together
Across the dusky sky,
Like ballerinas on a giant stage,
Their wings almost touching,
As they move seemingly as one.
The only light is a setting sun.

The aerial choreography
is breathtakingly beautiful,
as they change direction in a heartbeat.
Thousands of Your creations, Father.
Each one individual, and yet
Part of the whole.

No dance is ever the same,
Each time the movement differs.
We watch in awe, as
The winged acrobats continue.
Until it seems they have finished,
And the spectacle is over.

Suddenly, Majestically, Like an encore,
They soar again, to the heavens.
Then, they are gone.
And as night descends,
We thank God
For His daily gift to us.

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Next Week

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| Mon | 23 Oct | 6.15pm 7.30 - 9.00pm | Girls' Brigade AMC FOOD BANK |
| Tues | 24 Oct | 9.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm | Chair Yoga Banner Group Boys' Brigade |
| Thurs | 26 Oct | 10.00am | Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group |
| Frid | 27 Oct | 2.30pm | Social Badminton Club |

Sunday 29th October 2023

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

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| The designated fire officers are the Duty Stewards |
| First Aid boxes are located in each of the kitchens |
| Fire doors are not to be wedged open, except those fitted with Dorgard (Please ensure other doors close behind you after passing through) |
| Duty Manager - (Kevin Hardern: 01296 481285 Mobile: 07785 950 702) |

..... Take seriously the words of Jesus: 'If you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. *But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins*' (Matt 6:14-15).

When you pray, 'Treat me as I treat my neighbour' (see Matthew 6:12), are you aware of what you're really saying to God? *'Give me what I give them. Grant me the same peace I grant them. Let me enjoy the same tolerance I offer them.'*

If you want peace, make peace. If you want God's generosity, be generous to others. If you want the assurance of God's forgiveness, extend forgiveness to others.

Source: The Word for Today. UCB - United Christian Broadcasters.