

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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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.

Sunday 12th November 2023

Remembrance Sunday



10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Hayford Ofori-Attah.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, this morning, are Gill Nord 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.

Hymns	StF 57 'Let there be love' StF 707 132 465
Readings	Matthew 5: 43-48
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 from Gill Marks,
in fondest memory of her parents.**

Appeal for increased giving

For those who give regularly to the Church by Standing Order or by the Envelope Scheme, you may have picked up my appeal letter from the foyer.

If there is no letter for you it may be because you have recently changed the amount you give or are very new to the Church.

If you do not use either of these two giving schemes, you may wish to consider doing so and also, if possible, Gift Aid your giving. You may also wish to revise the amount you give in the light of increasing costs which affect the Church.

Please see or contact me if you wish to have more information about these giving methods or Gift Aiding your collection.

Roger Kirk, Church Treasurer. 01296 415312. Email: kirk_roger@yahoo.co.uk

Found: A RING. Please let the office know where and when you think you lost it, including a description of it, by the end of November. Tel 01296 426526 or Email: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk Thank you.

Please note error now corrected below for Christmas Morning Service:

Christmas services at Aylesbury Methodist Church

3rd Dec. 10.30am: Toy & Gift Service - Mr Arthur Sara

17th Dec. 5.00pm: Carol Service - Rev Richard Atkinson

24th Dec. 4.00pm: Christingle Service - Rev Richard Atkinson

24th Dec. 11.30pm: Midnight Communion - Rev Richard Atkinson

25th Dec. 10.00am: Christmas Morning Service - Mr Arthur Sara



A forward announcement that our annual **Toy and Gift Service** this year will be held on **Sunday, December 3rd**, during the morning service. This is the time when we hope that all members of the congregation, if able, will bring a new toy or gift, which will be taken to the Family Centres in Aylesbury, to be given at Christmas to those children and young people who would otherwise have very little to open at Christmas. If you would prefer to give a small donation in a sealed envelope this will also be very welcome.

Save
the Date

Christmas/NewYear walk.
Wednesday 27th December.
More details to come in December.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Today is Remembrance Sunday.



Most of us wear a **Red** poppy - a Symbol of **Remembrance and Hope**, to commemorate the people who sacrificed their lives in the First World War, and conflicts following that war.

You might also like to wear a **White** poppy for **Peace**:

- *Remembrance of **ALL** victims of war, including both civilians and members of the armed forces. We remember people of all nationalities. We remember those killed in wars happening now, as well as in the past. We also remember those who are often excluded from the mainstream, such as refugees and victims of colonial conflicts.*
- *Challenge to war & militarism and attempts to glorify or celebrate war.*
- *Commitment to peace and to seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict. By drawing attention to the devastating human cost of war, white poppies highlight the urgency of our ongoing struggle for peace.*



I still have some available to buy in the Welcome Space, before the service, today, if you would like to buy one.

£1 each (and any extra donations will go to the Peace Pledge Union).

Jennie Torpey

Aylesbury Foodbank. Don't forget your donation for the Foodbank, including toiletries.



Her Hero

It was a cold, grey, wet day.
It always seemed to rain at this time,
This day of Remembrance.
As if God was weeping for the lost.
Everyone had been a husband, wife
A son or daughter.
But all of them His children.
Yes. He was weeping.

And so was she, very quietly,
Bundled up in a too-large coat,
that swaddled her tiny form.
On her head, was an old, battered hat
Worn only at this time of year.
She stood in the shop doorway
that had been closed for months,
waiting for the right time.

She watched as the dignitaries,
All dressed for the occasion,
Came and laid down their wreaths.
The redness of the poppies
Spreading out like the blood
that had been innocently shed,
Some, a long time ago –
But to her it was yesterday.

Many of the soldiers had medals.
They seemed too young to have
Even been to war, she thought.
They looked just like babies....
Her heart ached, as it always did
As she remembered her husband.
He was so handsome, so young.
Just as they married, he went to war.

She had waited daily for his letters
Until they suddenly stopped coming.
She was told that “He died a Hero”,
Putting others before himself.
Each November she visits the Cenotaph
And when the people have left,
She wanders around the cobbles
Picking up the discarded poppies.

She carefully weaves them into a wreath,
Then, walking slowly, she painfully climbs
to the top of the stone memorial,
and gently lays down her wreath.
As she does, the sun weakly shines
on the Victoria Cross pinned to her chest
Yes, she remembers....
He did die a Hero.

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GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

CHRISTCHURCH, THAME



This Sunday, 12 November, it is the turn of Christchurch Thame to be the focus of our Circuit Prayers. This week we journey alongside Ken as he shares his story of the way God has used him on his journey. For many years Ken has been a stalwart of the Thame church, always so reliable and committed.

God has used Ken powerfully in his ministry in Thame. Please remember Thame in your prayers this week and thank God for all those who have worked so hard to bring us the good news of Jesus.

Pete.

Here's some of my story relating to Church and Circuit and how they have been an influence on my life. My first reaction is on how unworthy I am to have received so many blessings from the Church and Methodist Circuit.

I was brought up in a Christian home and always thankful for my dear Mother's influence. The family business seemed to be my Father's chief concern, although Methodist Church attendance, sometimes both morning and evening, was compulsory.

So how did God use me? Not very effectively I'm sure but conversing matters who did God use to influence me. The memory of our Circuit minister at that time was Rev White, and, together with his son, we would often attend evening services at one of the village chapels, so numerous in those days. He was of great influence throughout what was then the Thame and Watlington Circuit, including me.

Fast forward to the age of 18 when National Service was compulsory. This was my first experience of leaving home, and meeting so many in the same situation. It became easy then for me to become one of the 'lads'. My kind Father had bought me a small car, the only one in our section, which added to my popularity! Church attendance was only compulsory on special occasions. All claimed to be Church of England. Non-conformists were dismissed, and to my shame I claimed to be C of E. Well, my sister was, anyway. I enjoyed the social events to the full.

After demob, I returned to live with my parents in Thame, working in the Gents Outfitters business. My father's health deteriorated and I found myself doing everything I could to please him. I had agreed to be a steward at the Methodist Church, still within the Thame and Watlington Circuit. One of my responsibilities was to switch on the oil central heating on Saturday evenings. April 2nd 1966 was the day I married dear Sylvia, the heating responsibility was forgotten, and there was a cold church Service the following day.

By now my father had died. Responsibilities multiplied, but at the same time we both felt drawn more towards the Church and to worship the Lord Jesus. Our commitments included the Methodist chapel in Bledlow. It was a small but devoted community. Sunday evening worship was led by a circuit minister because each was more available after leading a morning service elsewhere. We were greatly blessed always with friends from Christchurch.

Back to the question of how has God used me? Here with faith I can only hope with much humility. Serving as a Church Steward still in the Thame and Watlington Circuit was a role I could undertake. Today this position must be far more complicated and beyond my ability. Aylesbury Vale is fortunate indeed having professional Stewards to serve us all.

About 20 years ago, Christchurch Members and friends, led by our Minister, embarked on a full restoration project of the Church premises. With God's help, the new Property/Finance committee was formed to ensure the work was completed according to the plans and contract; also to assist in the practical work ourselves.

By this time, both our sons and daughter had been to University, but before leaving home had joined other Christian groups. We had the pleasure of seeing both baptised and our daughter made a member of a community church.

It's our dearest wish that they in turn can influence our grandchildren to love the Lord Jesus and to know how much He loves them.

"All things work together for good to those who love God."

A final word. We are, as Christians, horrified at the wars and atrocities in many countries today, bringing chaos and division. The Bible still teaches about the enemy and the roaring lion. When considering this, I conclude I do believe in Satan because JESUS did, and He will be victorious in the end.

Ken.

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



Next Week

Mon	13 Nov	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade AMC FOOD BANK
Tues	14 Nov	9.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Banner Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	16 Nov	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	17 Nov	2.30pm	Social Badminton Club

Sunday 19th November 2023

8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

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)