

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 24th December 2023

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

4.00pm: Christingle Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson

11.30pm: Midnight Communion led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

Monday 25 December - Christmas Morning. 10.00am: Mr Arthur Sara.

Sunday 31st December. 10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr Ken Harris

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are: **10.30am** - Jackie Simpson-Tyda and Frances Ayles, **4.00pm** - Elaine Hope, and **11.30pm** - Gill Marks.

Monday 25th December - Christmas Morning: Elaine Hope and Derek Adams

Sunday 31st December: Gill Nord and Jackie Simpson-Tyda.

Hymns	10.30am: StF 187 210 186 169 214 4.00pm: StF 196 167 191 176 202 11.30pm: StF 217 208 204 202 Christmas Morning: StF 195 330 216 196 212
Readings	10.30am: Isaiah 7: 10-17 Luke 1: 26-38 4.00pm: Luke 2: 1-7 11.30pm: John 1: 1-14 Christmas Morning: Matthew 1: 18-25 Matthew 2: 1-12
Music	10.30am: Derrick Matthews. 4.00pm: AMC Music Group. 11.30pm: David Brooker Christmas Morning: AMC Music Group
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.

There will be a collection for Action for Children at both the Christingle Service this afternoon and on Christmas morning, for Action for Children. Please give as generously as you can.



The retiring collection at the Carol Service totalled £311.70. Thank you all for your generosity. There will be another collection for Christian Aid this evening at the Midnight Communion service, if you still wish to give.

Please remember to look in the Christmas card post box in the Welcome Space to see if there are any cards for you.



The cards are **NOT DELIVERED**, and *there are already a number of cards for people who no longer attend church or without surnames, so are unlikely to be received.*

*If you have put any of these in the post box, **please do retrieve them** as they will just be recycled in the new year.*

Please note that this notice sheet covers today, Christmas Day, and 31st December. The next one after that will be on Sun 7th January 2024.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Every year at this time, Amnesty run the **Write For Rights** campaign, encouraging us to write messages of support to people around the world who have suffered injustice, and showing us how to support their campaigns for justice.

For more information, go to: www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights

It introduces you to each case and sets out how you can write to victims of injustice, and also how to write to the authorities on their behalf.

1. Write an appeal letter: In a world of petitions, physical post **does get noticed!** As well as writing to the people suffering human rights abuses, we also ask you to write to the authorities who can bring them justice.

You can also take action online for our UK focus cases.

2. Write a message of solidarity. This is where Write For Rights began: writing to people who are wrongly punished, to show them that they're not alone.

PLEASE DO HAVE A LOOK AND SEND A MESSAGE TO THOSE SUFFERING – a few minutes of your time could make a huge difference to someone imprisoned unjustly.

CHURCH READINGS: Jan – Feb 2024

There is a new 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.



A BIG THANKYOU to everyone who has donated to the Foodbank this year - your donations have been vital in ensuring the Foodbank continues. The need in 2023 has been greater than ever and is increasing.



Currently, the need is for donations of: *UHT milk, tinned meat, fish & fruit. Sponge/rice puddings, small jars coffee, long life juices, pasta sauce, tinned meals (eg chilli, curries). Tinned soups, jam & spreads, as well as toiletries, together with washing up liquid & laundry detergent pods.*

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR WALK AND LUNCH, WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER.

This year's walk is going to be starting on the A4010, on the left travelling south just after Little Kimble Station, the large layby at the junction with Ellesborough Road, post code HP17 0XP. Good walking boots are essential and the walk should start at 10.30am and last about 1.0-1.5 hours. Whilst walking off the pudding may be some people's aim, there are those of us that cannot, for whatever reason, partake in such an exercise. Therefore, there will be a soup and sweet lunch from 12.00, following the walk, for walkers *and non-walkers alike* to enjoy at Elaine and Kevin's house, 82 Wendover Road, Aylesbury. If you want to attend, as a walker or a non-walker, ring Kevin on 01296-481285 to book a place.



NO CHARGE, but lunch donations will go to Karibuni Children.

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



Circuit Holiday 2024

After Christmas we'll be sending round the full Itinerary and Booking Form but until then here are a few details to whet your appetite:

- We will be staying at the Afton Hotel, Eastbourne (opposite the pier).
- The dates are **Monday 1 July till Friday 5 July**: four nights in the hotel, with breakfasts and three-course evening meals.
- Rev Heegon Moon will be accompanying us.
- The cost of the holiday is £595, based on a minimum number of 25 people joining the holiday. Deposits of £60 will be required to book your place once you have a booking form.
- Single rooms will again be available without a supplement, but we are limited to only 15 single rooms and these will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Our Itinerary will hopefully include trips to Rye and Hastings, the Bluebell Railway, Paradise Park Garden (Newhaven) and Lewes.

Gordon McCallum will once again be driving the coach and looking after us.

We will be in touch again in the New Year with the full Itinerary and Booking Form. In the meantime keep the first week in July free and tell your friends.

Anyone and everyone will be welcome to join us.

With all our best wishes for a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Jane & Pete Honeyball. 07703 174 656

Sunday 7th January 2024

10.30am: Covenant Service 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
w/c 25 Jan: Duty Manager - Kevin Hardern: 01296 481285 or 07785 950 702
w/c 1 Jan: Duty Manager - John Miskin: 01296 422919 or 07988 960 815

Christmas Ago

It was the middle of winter back in last year,
When a fellow in blue jeans stopped off for a beer.
Well, that's what I thought, as our pub light shone bright,
But what he really wanted was a bed for the night.

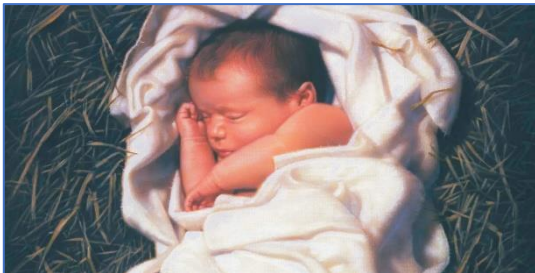
“Sorry”, I said, “Full up, you know.
You and your wife, find elsewhere to go.”
Then he told me “Baby's on the way.
What am I to do? We've nowhere to stay”.

Well, being kindhearted, I remembered the shack,
That we kept beer kegs in, out round the back.
I told him, “You're welcome, it's warm and it's dry.
It will do 'til morning; I'm sure you'll get by”.

About 3 in the morning, I heard a small cry,
So, I went out the back to find out why.
Well, blow me down, when what do I see
But a baby in a box, smiling at me.
The little one's head was bathed in a light.
Then I remembered, last night – Christmas night.

I stood there and trembled, then asked who they were,
Even though I knew, I just wanted to be sure.
“I am Mary” she said, “Hubby's name's Joe,
And baby's name is Jesus”.
..... was it that long ago?

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‘Indescribable!’

‘Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.’

2 Corinthians 9:15 NKJV

Paul says that the gift God gave to each of us that first Christmas is ‘indescribable’. *The Living Bible* says it’s ‘too wonderful for words’.

Consider this: Isaiah says, ‘Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given’ (Isaiah 9:6 KJV). Jesus was both God and man. As a child He was **born**, but as the Son of God He could only be **given**, because He always existed.

So He is the perfect solution to our sin problem because He understands both the claims of divinity and the struggles of humanity.

Today, let’s examine this ‘indescribable gift’.

First, **He is our ‘daysman!’** Job said, ‘Neither is there any daysman [umpire, mediator, or middleman] betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both’ (Job 9:33 KJV). ‘Daysman’ is an old English word for someone who was more than just an umpire; they could actually join the game and bring both sides together. So when you mess up, Jesus keeps one hand on you and the other on God so that the connection is never broken. ‘Indescribable!’

Second, **He is our intercessor!** The Bible says, ‘He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them’ (Hebrews 7:25 NIV).

If you had to remember and confess all the sins of omission and commission you commit each day, you would never sleep; you would live on your knees. But Christ’s death covers all the wrong you have done (commission), and His life covers all the good you have left undone (omission). So, He is fully qualified to represent you before the throne of God.

There is only one word that fits such a Christmas gift: ‘indescribable’.

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

CIRCUIT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear All

This Sunday, 24 December, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on the Circuit Leadership Team.

In common with many organisations, this team of dedicated people rarely hit the headlines; they work away quietly in the background and as long as all is running well, they remain almost invisible. This group has a lot in common with other similar set ups, to ensure that the daily business runs efficiently and achieves its set objectives, that everyone involved knows what their role is, and has the resources to finish the job in a satisfactory manner.

What this group does not have in common with those other similar leadership teams in different organisations, are the unique gifts that God has provided to enable them to carry out the task that Jesus gave the church to do all those years ago, and that is desperately needed more than ever today. That task is to ensure that all people, everywhere, regardless of ethnicity, geography, ability or gender, get to hear and experience the love and warm embrace that Jesus offers to everyone.

Offering the love of Jesus to everyone around you does not come easily, and sometimes difficult decisions have to be made, risks have to be taken when opening ourselves to the possibility of hurt, to offer love knowing that the love we offer will not always be valued or reflected and there will be a cost.

In all the decisions that this team is called upon to make, the good news of Jesus, the gospel, is always kept in the front of people's thoughts, along with the implications of that good news in a particular situation. This ensures that our decisions may not always share the response of the bank manager, or the CEO of a top financial establishment, but instead, will be prepared to take a risk, to offer love and whatever else we have, to stand alongside those in need, just as Jesus asked us to.

Pete.

**Quiz Supper in aid of Karibuni Children
on Saturday 20th January 2024, 7pm**

at Fairford Leys Community Centre,
Hampden Square, HP19 7HT.



Join us for our annual Quiz evening with Fish &
Chip Supper

(or veggie burger alternative).

Tickets: £15 per person, available from

office@karibuni.org.uk

or 01296 614887. Also from website:

www.karibuni.org.uk/shop



Karibuni Children



Derek the Cleric