

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 7th January 2024

10.30am: Covenant Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are Frances Aylen and Elaine Hope.

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 25 354 548 161 30 564
Readings	John 15: 1-18 Acts 2: 42-47
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 Michele and Mandi - in loving memory of their mother and family no longer with them.

There will be a retiring collection for the Benevolent Fund this morning, after the service. The collecting bowl will be marked.



The Christmas collections for **Christian Aid:**

Carol Service - £311.70

Midnight Communion Service - £80.50



The Christmas collections for **Action for Children:**

Christingle Service - £105.10, of which £34.50 was Gift Aided.

Christmas Morning - £262.20, of which £137.00 was Gift Aided.

Thank you all for your generosity!

The Christmas walk and lunch raised £175 for the Karibuni Children charity. Many thanks to those who attended. Roger and Kevin.

We have received the following letter, thanking us for all the gifts donated at our Toy & Gift Service.

Dear Pauline and the congregation.

I would like to thank you all, on behalf of the Family Support Service, for the incredibly generous donation of toys and gifts again this year.

The family workers, who work directly with our vulnerable families in Aylesbury Vale, have been able to pass these gifts on. The gifts make an incredible difference to these families, who have multiple complex needs. Gift vouchers were purchased with the cash donations, and used as gifts for the older children we support.

Thank you for organising the appeal, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Della Holmes

Information & Outreach Officer

Family Support Services



There are a number of uncollected Christmas cards on a table in the Welcome Space. Please have a look. These are addressed to:

**J.Blair, L Blair, V Brewster, R Bucknell, C Edney, P Farmer, T Goodridge,
P Gordon, P Green, R Hatcher, J Hamblin, Y Jackson, R Maguire,
T Nyemba, T Olufosoye, L Strain, J Taylor, M Tucker, A Varsey, G Winlow.**

Any cards left, will be recycled in the next week or so.





The start of a new year is a good time to express our thanks to everyone who has helped to make our Church so welcoming, not just over the Christmas period, but all the year round.

So many of you, working tirelessly, but quietly, in the background, to keep our building in great condition and functioning smoothly, and making our services and our welcome colourful, meaningful, and full of life.

Special thanks to our musicians and our flower team

It's time to count the money in your little Home Collecting Boxes.



Please either hand in the box for us to open and count, or count the money yourself and bring it to church in a **plastic bag clearly marked with your name.** *Pauline Noble or Jennie Torpey will be very pleased to receive it.* Any queries, ring Pauline on 01296

484940. If you do not have a box and would like one at home to put in small amounts of loose change please talk to Pauline.



This Wednesday, 10th January at 12.30pm, sees the first Church Lunch Club for 2024.

If you are thinking of coming, please put your name on the list or give Gill Marks a call on 01296 748659
- no later than this evening 7th January.

Late bookings I'm afraid, will not be catered for, as shopping and cooking needs to be done.

It's not too late to take part in the **Write for Rights** campaign.

www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights **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.

Don't forget your donations for the Aylesbury Foodbank

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.*





'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

KARIBUNI CHILDREN



Karibuni Children

Dear All,

Last Sunday, 31 December, it was the turn of Karibuni Children to be the focus of our Circuit Prayers. As it is one of the charities that our Circuit supports, it is good to hear that we are helping to make a difference in the lives of so many young people who do not enjoy the lives of plenty that we are privileged to accept as normal. This charity aims to enable and equip these young people to lift themselves out of poverty through education and the learning of life skills.

Below, John shows us just how effective the help offered to these young students can be - it is a life-changer, so please remember the vital work of this organisation, pray for them and support them where you can.

Pete.

If, like me, you had cause to visit a supermarket during the days immediately prior to Christmas, you will have probably experienced longer queues than usual, as people 'stocked up for the Christmas break'. Of course, in practice, most shops reopen on Boxing Day, but that does not stop the rush to fill supermarket trolleys.

Contrast that with the experience of the typical Kenyan communities in which Karibuni Children works, where families often live a hand-to-mouth existence, home being one room slum dwellings with rusty tin roofs, mud walls and floors. They have no need of grocery cupboards. They have no money to stock up.

From such challenging circumstances come the children and young people whose education Karibuni supports and whose lives we seek to transform. Take Ronnie, who comes from one of Nairobi's slums. Here, in his words, is evidence of amazing transformation in practice.

"My name is Ronnie, currently a first-year student at the Railways Training Institute. I am doing a course in Diploma in Civil Engineering. The course duration is three years.

I have been a total orphan from a tender age; I never got to know my biological parents. I have a relative of mine who agreed to be my guardian after the burial of my parents; however, she cannot fully take care of me due to the

financial pressure from her own kids, but I am lucky enough to have always had a shelter, food and clothing. She doesn't have a stable job. She does laundry for people; the laundry job isn't guaranteed because at times she may fail to find the opportunities.

I have been a beneficiary of one of the projects of Karibuni Children. This project has been there for me as my second guardian. I have received clothes, food, education and moral support from the project. I never missed the daily meals provided in the project, because it is what we at times solely depended on; due to this we rarely slept hungry.

I am looking forward to finishing my course in few years to come. The skills acquired will help me to become a better person in the society and to help people in need by giving back to the community. Without the Karibuni support I wouldn't have reached this far. I am thankful for the support, hopefully believe and pray that the organisation never lacks finances to continue supporting children to achieve."

As we look forward to a New Year, let us pray for Ronnie and all other such children supported by Karibuni Children.

John Cotton.

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

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



Karibuni Children



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



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

FAIRTRADE

Dear All

This Sunday, 7 January, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Fairtrade. Gone are the days when Fairtrade was just a new, novel idea. It has become an integral part of our Christian ethos, and our faith requires that we consider the needs of others in every sphere of activity that we engage in. Rod shares below, his thoughts on how the principles of Fairtrade and the practice of his faith, dovetail into practical awareness and concern for those around him. Please remember these principles and consider the effect on others whenever you have a choice to make.

Pete.



This contribution was pulled together in Advent while pending a trip away to spend time with family. Thus, I have at least two reasons to be anticipating Good News. One allows a long awaited (and so missed) physical meeting with a son, his wife and two grandchildren. The second invites me to remember the Birth of God's son. Each bring to the fore the message of love and sharing something special.

I was introduced to the words of the 13th chapter of 1 Corinthians many a year ago. I have read it and heard it many a time since at weddings and services. Its reference to Faith and Hope, but with a priority on Love, have long provided a backdrop for what I do (or at least try to), how I cope with the ups and downs and why I feel that it is important to see all around me, both the animate and inanimate, as being of concern to me.

I've spoken before of my history and principles that drive my involvement in Fairtrade. The drivers include a recognition of the comparative benefits and privileges I have, as well as factors that have been in play in my life, many of which have been outside my control.

My life's fellow travellers have, in the main, been good. This has been highlighted by others I have met who have been less fortunate in their birthplace and their life setting.

I have faith in the notion that Fairtrade works, hope that it will make a difference, backed by the calling to love, which we are seemingly asked to employ without definition or the limitations that we see acted out or mooted in many World events.

I'm of the view that, if the example of, and setting for giving and receiving as shown in Jesus could be extended into the everyday, there is potential for increasing the feeling of fairness and contentment in the life of more of our fellow travellers.

May the happiness of your New Year be added to by other's actions towards you and yours towards others.

Rod

Circuit Holiday 2024

Very soon, 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

CHURCH READINGS: Jan – Feb 2024

There are 3 dates needing a reader, (**28 Jan, 11 Feb and 25 Feb**), so if you are willing to join our rota for reading the lesson in Church, **please sign up** on the sheet on the noticeboard, 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.



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	8 Jan	6.15pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	Girls' Brigade AMC FOOD BANK
Tues	9 Jan	9.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Prayer Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	11 Jan	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	12 Jan	2.30pm	Social Badminton Club

Sunday 14th January 2024

10.30am: Family 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**

Duty Manager (Roger Kirk: 01296 415312 Mobile: 07484 392734)