

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 21st January 2024

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.

8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Andrew Shergold.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are, at 8.45am: Elaine Hope, and at 10.30am: Gill Marks 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	8.45am: StF 17 595 615 10.30am: StF 228 495 250 H&P 687 StF 564
Readings	8.45am: 1 Cor 1: 10-18 10.30am: Jonah 3: :1-5, 10 Mark 1: 14-20
Organists	8.45am: Derrick Matthews 10.30am: David Brooker
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.

(this is in place of 7th Jan)

FAMILY NEWS: David and Judith Purling. News from Australia is that Judith is now spending most of her time with David. She will be unable to answer any messages. We send our love and prayers to them both.



Come and join us on Saturday 3rd February for MESSY CHURCH in the hall from 3.45pm – 6pm.

Lots of craft, games, table tennis, air hockey and bible story.

Tea will be served at the end of the session, so to make sure

we have enough food, I'd love for you to email amc22messychurch@gmail.com by *Thursday 1st February*, giving us numbers of children. Please do come along for a fun afternoon. Margaret Miskin

TUESDAY FELLOWSHIP

The group will not meet until March, due to weather and transport difficulties, so will book for the first **Tuesday, 5th March 2024, 2.30pm.**

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.



*Caroline and Matt Stephen are currently partway through their **Challenge 100 to raise money for the Epilepsy Society**, and would be very grateful for your support. They are each walking 100 miles over*

100 days. 1 in 100 people in the UK are living with epilepsy. Three people are diagnosed with epilepsy every day and a third of people with epilepsy do not have access to effective treatments.

Please help them to raise as much as possible for those who need it most.
Donations can be made online:

<https://epilepsysociety.enthuse.com/pf/puffinpower>

OR cash donations can be given to Brenda and Allan Horne, who will pass them on to Caroline and Matt.

Following Richard's appeal, and my personal letters in early November 2023, for people to review their regular giving, the following is the result for those people who give by bank standing order.

Number of increases in Nov and Dec 2023: 24 people out of a total of 77.

Total of monthly increases is £430 which means £5,160 in a full year. This is a 10% increase of total monthly giving.

I am expecting further increases in January which will increase this total, hopefully towards my target of a 15% increase.

Individual increases have ranged from 9% to 200% with most 10-25%.

Next month I will report on the result of those people who give by the envelope system, as well as an update on standing orders.

Thank you all for thinking about your giving even if it meant that you were unable to increase your giving at this time.

Roger Kirk, Church Treasurer.

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.*



SOUP LUNCH

Saturday 27th January, 12.00-2.30pm

The Manor House

Church Walk, Weston Turville, HP22 5SH

Raising money for the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal

IF YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN US, PLEASE TEXT DAVID BLACKMORE
on 07811 116152, or email: davidbblackmore@gmail.com



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

AYLESBURY

Dear All,

This Sunday, 21 January, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Aylesbury. We share in the story of Derek and hear how he has been 'looked after' throughout his ministry. Peter G has supplied some background and then Derek's family continue. I am sure that we are all 'looked after' in our journeys of faith; I am also sure that some of us cause our Guardian Angels a lot more work than others! Pete.



I don't believe you have ever had a 'Good News from the Circuit' written by a Guardian Angel. Well, you have now!

Our church steward, Derek Adams, on reaching 80, vowed to trek the coast of Britain before he was 85, and, in the process, fund-raise for the RNLI, BHF and Cancer Research. Now 81, and after five completed legs, he is half-way there, having trekked the whole east coast of England and Scotland up to the Orkneys and Shetlands, and all the south coast and the west coast from Land's End to Cardiff. He hopes to start the sixth leg sometime this spring.

Here, Derek's Guardian Angel gives a fascinating account of his spiritual adventures.

(Note that Wikipedia says that tipi is an alternative spelling to teepee.)

Peter G.

Encounters with Faith.

Guardian Angel. No 23697477

My journey as Protection Officer [CPO] to Derek William Adams. BA. FRGS.

Within a year of Derek's birth, I had a portend of what was to come. I had to deflect a stick of bombs away from the Anderson Shelter in which the family were taking cover. The blast from the bombs shattered the windows and blew the back step off, but the Adams family were safe and Derek and I began our journey together.

In his eighth year, my charge joined two life-enhancing Organisations: The Scouts, as a Wolf Cub, and the Methodist Association of Youth Clubs. The Scouts helped to equip him for survival and enjoying life in The Great Outdoors, amid the wonders of nature and the security of God's Kingdom.

The Methodist Church nurtured his spirituality, pointing him along the correct path. One influential episode enjoyed with the Youth Club was taking part in an International Youth Camp, in North Wales. This was his first experience of interacting with people from different ethnic groups and cultures. This inspired both his love of travel, meeting new people and living in the Great Outdoors.

Two early influencers I introduced to Derek's life were a Quaker Preacher, with whom he shared a train carriage, and a very long, probing conversation on a journey to Wales; and fellow Northamptonian, Stanley Seamark, also a Quaker Preacher.

These friendships and many deep conversations were the catalyst for Derek's involvement with the grass roots of the CND movement, the latter resulting in many arrests, one of which involved being locked in a cell with Bertrand Russell and three Bishops. Bertrand Russell commented to him that "there are times when even our wisest men will be incarcerated for their beliefs. At this moment you are in the right place."

In his late teens/early twenties, Derek kept me busy, trekking around Europe and the Middle East, living with people of different religions: Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh. I enjoyed listening to his many conversations and comparisons of the roots of different religions/sects.

He was impressed by the similarity between different religions, particularly that between Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. Still fresh in his memory (and mine), is an evening spent snowed in, with a Scottish friend, and two shepherds, on the col between the twin summits of Mt Ararat, and a Christmas Eve spent with Syrian shepherds.

Then, in 1990, my charge was invited to join a Commemorative Trek, joining 360 Native Americans to retrace the 180-mile trail to Wounded Knee, where a similar number of their forebears had been massacred

100 years previously. Derek spent two nights, atop Bear Bute in blizzard conditions, prior to joining his friends, ridding himself of all his European norms and thoughts, with the Chinook winds dropping the temperature to minus 81 [verified by the USA Meteorological Office, your freezer should be set at minus 18 as a comparison.] The weeks of trekking that followed were very spiritual, and, despite extreme cold, no one complained. Living in Tipis, this band of Christian souls celebrated Christmas Day with a joyous meal of Buffalo, antelope and prairie dog!

The prayers said at the start and ending of each day confirmed to each participant the Lord's blessing, and the fact that each was at the right place, with the right companions, doing the right thing.

Now in his 80's and still testing me with his travels, Derek is aware that I am with him on his journey, and that he will never be alone.

'If you cannot do great things, do little things with great love. And if you cannot do them with great love, do them with little love. And if you cannot do them with little love, do them anyway. Love grows when you serve people!'



'Derek the Cleric'

©Andy Robb

A Time of Peace

As we start this New Year afresh,
Please can it be one of Peace.
Let Man stop his hatred,
And let there be Light
Instead of Darkness.

May Your Holy Word be spread
Throughout the world.
And let it be heard by all.
For it is now the time
of Renewal and Rebirth.

So may we all cast off
The sins of last year,
and try to begin again.
Then, just maybe,
We can start afresh.

Let wars stop in all places,
So that Your children
can finally draw breath,
away from the violence.
May the hatred cease.

Please, Father God,
may we start 2024
as a Blessed New Year.
Enveloped in Your Awesome
Peace and Love.
Amen.

(C) 2023 Babs

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	22 Jan	6.15pm 7.30pm 7.30 - 9.00pm	Girls' Brigade Leadership Team meeting AMC FOOD BANK
Tues	23 Jan	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
Thurs	25 Jan	10.00am From 1.45pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
Frid	26 Jan	2.30pm	Social Badminton Club

Sunday 28th January 2024

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr David Neville.

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)