

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

01296 339899

revrja@outlook.com

Church Office: 01296 426526

E-mail: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Website: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 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: Reader Service led by Mrs Louise Atkinson**

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are: at 8.45am - Gill Marks, and at 10.30am - Gill Nord and Frances Aylen.

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.

<b>Hymns</b>	<b>8.45am: StF 346 531 443</b> <b>10.30am: StF 21 483 251 633 465</b>
<b>Readings</b>	<b>8.45am: Mark 1: 9-15</b> <b>10.30am: Isaiah 40: 21-31 Mark 1: 29-39</b>
<b>Organist</b>	<b>8.45am: Derrick Matthews 10.30am: David Brooker</b>
<b>Streaming</b>	<b>To safeguard children and any vulnerable adults, our live-streamed services will not show the congregation.</b>



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 by an ADULT.**

The flowers this week are given by Anne Dunbar in memory of her parents, her husband Stephen, and her grandson Chris.

**Church Family News:** With sadness we have heard that *John Yabsley* passed away last weekend. Barbara and John had worshipped with us for many years and recently decided that, due to health reasons, they would worship more locally in Wendover. We send our love and prayers to Barbara.

*Pearl Riley* has now happily settled and become a resident of Fremantle Court Care Home, Risborough Road, Stoke Mandeville, HP22 5XL. She would love to hear from friends, and values phone calls. Please talk to Pauline if you would like her phone number.

Other Church members now residents of Fremantle are *Pat Olde* and *Rita McKelvie* who both struggle with their health.

*Joan Orlik*, now aged 97 and living with her son in Aylesbury, also struggles with her health. Please remember them all in your prayers.



### World Day of Prayer

The Aylesbury committee of the World Day of Prayer invite you to their service on **Friday 1st March 2024**. This year's service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Palestine.

They have taken as their theme:

***"I beg you, bear with one another with love".***

It is a day of prayer for everyone. All are welcome – men, women, and young people. There will be just one service in the afternoon. This service will be held at 1.30pm at the church, Our Lady of Lourdes, Cambourne Avenue, Bedgrove, Aylesbury. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the café area of the Church of the Holy Spirit which is directly opposite.

**We do hope that you will be able to join us.**



### **A Special Mothering Sunday Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Ghana's Independence Day**

**On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Time - 10.30 am.**

**This morning's worship will be conducted by Rev Dr Hayford Ofori-Attah.**

**This special service will combine celebration of 'motherhood' with colourful and vibrant Ghanaian style of Methodist worship and rhythmic hymn singing. There will be bible readings in some Ghanaian and English languages.**

**There will be a special collection for the church and the Spinal Unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.**

**Light refreshment will be provided in the hall after the service.**

**All are invited to join in this colourful celebration service.**



**On Saturday March 9th** we hope that all those who have joined our congregation in the last twelve months will join us for **Afternoon Tea from 4.00 - 6.00pm**, to be held in Rooms 4/5. All the family are welcome but we do need details in order to cater. If

you would like to join us, please take and complete the form enclosed in this notice sheet, and place it in the reply box in the Welcome Area. Please feel free to phone either Pauline or Julianne if you need further details.

**CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED: A course for Lent**

**It's not too late to join us for the remainder of the course!**

**Thursdays from February 22<sup>nd</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup> at Aylesbury Methodist Church, in Room 2, starting at 7.30pm.**

**If you have any further questions, please contact Richard Atkinson. 01296 339899 [revrja@outlook.com](mailto:revrja@outlook.com)**

[See details in Welcome Space]



**MAUNDY THURSDAY:** Our Maundy Thursday service will be on **March 28th** in the evening. We will again mark this important night in the context of a meal. *Please save the date!*

**Result of Appeal for increased giving**

As at the end of January the increases are:

27 out of 77 standing orders	£ 5,448 pa
7 out of 22 envelope system users	£ 1,508 pa
1 lump sum donation	£ 300
Resulting increase in Gift Aid	£ 1,600 pa
The total annual increase is about	£ 8,500

The percentage increase in giving is 9.5%.

These figures don't show the whole story, as some people increase their giving without being prompted and others will be new members who have only just started giving regularly. Others, I know, cannot afford to make an increase at this very challenging time.

**Thank you to all of you**, and do speak to me if you have any questions about giving, or Gift Aid. *Roger Kirk, Church Treasurer.*

**PLEASE NOTE** that the notice sheet for *next Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb*, will be printed early on Wednesday morning. Any late notices can be given to the stewards to read out in the service.

**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](mailto:rubydarku@hotmail.co.uk)

**CHURCH READINGS March – May 2024:**

A new sheet is now on the noticeboard, so if you are willing to join our rota for reading the lesson in Church from time to time, **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.

**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.*

**Next Week**

<b>Mon</b>	19 Feb	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade AMC FOOD BANK
<b>Tues</b>	20 Feb	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
<b>Thurs</b>	22 Feb	10.00am 7.30pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Christianity Explored course
<b>Frid</b>	23 Feb	2.30pm	Social Badminton Club

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**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 (Roger Kirk: 01296 415312 Mobile: 07484 392734)**



## 'GOOD NEWS' TO THE VALE OF AYLESBURY

Dear All,

Something slightly different this week; a short reflection on the theme of some recent sermons:

One of the main themes recently has been revealing the light of the world. As Jesus travelled steadily onward to Jerusalem, he spent time teaching his disciples, preparing and equipping them to carry on his mission when he would no longer be with them.

Jesus wanted the message of his Father's love, the gospel, to be proclaimed to all people. He wanted his followers to be evangelists and to spread that good news throughout the world.

The Methodist Church views all its members as evangelists, each one of us. You and I all have a mission to spread the good news to all those that we meet on a daily basis.

If you look at the way Jesus spread the good news in the gospel accounts, you will see that he used many different ways to get his message across: he revealed the scriptures to some, told stories to others, healed some, and fed even more.

Jesus did not just quote God to people, he gave of himself in ways that were appropriate and meaningful for those he was ministering to.

*So, this week, the task is not only to pray for all those people you meet every day, but also to go further and offer them the good news through a smile, a handshake, a hug (where appropriate) and a kind word.*

**Just stand alongside people and behave as a friend!**

**Reflect the love of Christ!**

**Because that is what Jesus would do!**

Pete.



## Let's work together

*'For we are labourers together with God.'*

Corinthians 3:9 KJV

The Bible says we must love, honour, and work together. So, why don't we do it? **Ego!** We like to think we can do everything ourselves – but that's not reality! There are no supermen or superwomen. So, the question isn't whether or not you can do everything on your own; it's how soon are you going to realise you can't?

Philanthropist Andrew Carnegie declared, 'It marks a big step in your development when you come to realise that other people can help you do a better job than you could do alone.'

After training His disciples for ministry, Jesus sent them out in twos; there were no solo acts! Why? For many reasons: to prevent one another from straying off the path, to hold each other accountable, to encourage one another when the going got tough, to offset a weakness with a corresponding strength.

We each have 'blind spots' and we need someone with 20/20 vision in those areas to help us see things the right way.

As recorded in Exodus 17, when Moses held up his hands (symbolising reaching for God's help), Israel's armies prevailed against the Amalekites. But when Moses got tired and lowered his hands, the battle went against Israel. What was the solution? 'When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone... put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up – one on one side, one on the other – so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army' (Exodus 17:12-13 NIV).

A couple of questions to think about:

Who is holding up your hands?

Whose hands are you holding up?

*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.*