

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 1st December 2024



**10.30am: Toy & Gift 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 Jackie Simpson-Tyda and Derek Adams.

Please join us in the Hall after the service for tea, coffee, 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 354 332 175 170 173 188
Readings	Jeremiah 33: 1-3 Luke 21: 25-36
Music	AMC Worship Band
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 by an ADULT.





Our next Messy Church is **NEXT Saturday 7th December from 3.45 till 6.00pm**. The theme is Christmas. Please let us know if you're coming along, by emailing amc22messychurch@gmail.com by Thursday evening 5th December. This is to allow us to have enough craft activities and also for the ladies who make our sumptuous tea. Please come and make it the start of your Christmas celebrations. Margaret Miskin

SOS. Saturday 7th December 2024 at 7.30pm: at the home of Richard & Louise Atkinson, tel: 339899. Today is National Gazpacho Day. A soup served cold in the warmer Spanish climes. As winter embraces us, perhaps we can find warmer Spanish dishes to share tonight?

All are welcome!

All you need to do is to call the host to say that you're coming.

On **Boxing Day**, the Aylesbury Fun Run is using our hall as a base and would love to have teas and coffees available.



If anyone is free and able to offer this service between 10-12 that morning, please speak to Gill Marks 01296 748659 or Robin Barrett 07737 000410.

Any monies raised can go to the charity of your choice.

Christmas Services at Aylesbury Methodist Church

1st Dec. 10.30am: Toy & Gift Service

15th Dec. 5.00pm: Carol Service

24th Dec. 4.00pm: Christingle Service

24th Dec. 11.30pm: Midnight Communion

25th Dec. 10.00am: Christmas Morning Service

All services led by Rev Richard Atkinson



The **2023/24 Annual Report** is now available from the display cabinet in the Welcome Space.



CAROL SERVICE CHOIR

For Sunday 15th December at 5.00pm

We are forming an augmented choir to sing two anthems and support the congregational singing in our forthcoming Annual Carol Service. If you feel you would like to join and contribute, you would be most welcome.

Practices are Friday afternoon, 6th December at 4.00pm and Thursday afternoon, 12th December at 3.00pm.

There will also be a 'warm up' practice on the Sunday afternoon at 4.30pm. Just come along to the church; but if you want further details, please feel free to phone me on 01296 488076, or speak to a member of the choir. Derrick.



Christmas Walk and Lunch: We are holding this year's walk on Friday 27th December. Roger will be providing more details of the venue and when to turn up, in due course. If you cannot do the walk, please feel free to

register for the lunch anyway; you will be more than welcome. To book your place on the walk and lunch, or just the lunch, please ring Kevin on **01296 481285**. Roger and Kevin.



The Christmas card post box is now in the Welcome Space for you to post your cards *to those who regularly attend Church services*. *The cards are **NOT DELIVERED**, so please do not put cards in unless you are sure the recipients regularly attend church.*

Please also put SURNAMES on the envelopes as folk might not think to look in the other pouches.

If you wish to send a card to **everyone at Church**, the board is on the radiator by the display cabinet for you to pin your card.

If anyone has a security fob for the building that they no longer need, please could you return it to the office for reuse.



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

CUDDINGTON

Dear All, This Sunday, 1 December, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Cuddington.

We hear Shanti's story of how God has equipped and used her over many years. Shanti shows us that, whatever our doubts and fears, we can trust in God for He will not fail us. Please pray this week for those who find it difficult to trust God when all seems so final, and human means have become exhausted.

Pete.



My testimony written in the book Giant Awakes

Author of Giant Awakes book is Rev Jim Graham, Pastor of Goldhill Baptist Church, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks. UK

I was a member of this church from 1977 to 1982.

This church was one the 3 lively charismatic churches in the UK at that time! Late Rev Jim Graham was well known in UK and overseas and this was the first book he wrote. He was the one who prophesied my coming out of ENT work in hospital and going into community as a paediatrician which was fulfilled in April 1982. I am still living in Aylesbury, the place where I was a community paediatrician!

Chapter 10 in Giant Awakes on divine healing he is writing my testimony.....

The other three channels by which God wants to minister his healing life are through spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:9); by the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18); and through biblical fellowship (Matthew 18:19,20).

With regard to the first of these we have a doctor within our Fellowship who has a quite remarkable testimony to the reality of spiritual gifts being used in healing. Dr Edwards was born in Sri Lanka and lived in the capital city of Colombo. She is the eldest of a closely-knit family of five children, and was

raised in a climate of nominal Christianity. She read Medicine in Colombo from 1961-1967 and then proceeded to do her pre-registration year before qualifying in 1969. During this time, she says: 'My understanding of Christianity was to do good works, but I did not believe much in prayer or regular church attendance.'

She was transferred to a hospital 120 miles away from the family home, and it was there in February of the following year she heard of the illness of her twenty-three-year-old second sister, Carmini. Carmini had been reading Accountancy in Colombo when she suddenly became ill with what seemed to be 'flu'. However, her condition deteriorated, and typhoid, TB, malaria, and rheumatic fever were all regarded and explored as possible sources of her illness. She was hospitalised and tests for all of these were carried out - but all were negative. Two months passed and her symptoms gave reason for real concern. Her temperature rose considerably and severe pain and swelling had now come to her joints. Fresh symptoms had begun to appear - bleeding from the gums and skin, and blood and proteins in the urine. She rapidly became anaemic and very weak, and blood transfusions gave only a short temporary improvement. Dr Edwards confesses that this was a very difficult time for her - she was 250 miles away from her sister and communication was difficult. Carmini was referred to a number of specialists and intense investigations continued. Blood tests, liver biopsy, and bone marrow biopsy eventually divulged the true nature of her condition. Dr Edwards was called into the physician's office in early July 1970, and was told that her sister was suffering from systemic lupus Erythematosus which is one of the collagen diseases. Her reaction was one of shock and panic, since she had seen a doctor suffer and die from this condition during her undergraduate days - it is a crippling, incapacitating disease which creeps progressively towards death. As a doctor, she knew, too, of no medical treatment which could cure it, and apart from steroids, little medication could helpfully be administered.

She went to her church and asked for help, but returned angry and disillusioned when she was told that miracles happened 2,000 years ago, but not today. Her anger was directed towards God since she felt that the Bible had given her false hopes. In this frame of mind, she and her family turned to occult and other practices - but her sister's condition continued to deteriorate. Carmini was transferred to Colombo and arrived there on the 7 August, 1970. Her body had become distended as a result of steroid therapy, and her joints

continued to be swollen and very painful; her gums continued to bleed; her hair had begun to fall out; and her temperature was around 106°F on average. She begged to be allowed home to die, and at the end of August she lost consciousness. The physician who cared for her gave her twenty-four hours to live, since there was no way of giving her drugs or intravenous therapy.

So decisive was the situation that friends and relatives had begun to arrive from different parts of the country for the funeral. That evening, however, another pastor called at their home at the request of one of Carmini's other sisters. He shared with the family what the Bible had to say about healing and asked them to believe with him for a miracle. He went to Carmini's bedside and prayed for her. Dr Edwards shares her reaction to this: 'I stood there inwardly mocking all that he shared with us.' The pastor asked the family to continue with the medical treatment that was being given until the doctors on their own told Carmini that she was well.

Dr Edwards takes up the story again: 'Next morning to my amazement I found my sister conscious. Her temperature had come down and she looked cheerful and well. However, my medical knowledge gave a good explanation of that too - it was obviously an unusual remission. Gradually, however, she started recovering, and towards the end of the year she was perfectly normal - although still on a small dose of steroid.' She tells of beginning to attend the church where the pastor who had ministered to Carmini was in leadership. She was intrigued to see the gifts of the Holy Spirit operating in a New Testament pattern. She tells of the continuing struggle, within her own spirit: 'It was in December,' she says 'that my sister went forward to an altar call. Through a word of knowledge, she was told that she was healed. I could not believe that and insisted that my sister continue her steroid treatment.'

It was not until 1972, however, that Dr Edwards was really convinced that healing had actually and unmistakably occurred and this led her into a living relationship with Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour.

Shanti.



Transformed from rubbish into treasure

‘He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.’

Hebrews 7:25 NKJV

A Christian leader writes: ‘The Italian violin maker Antonio Stradivari was a poor man. And yet his violins are now the most prized violins ever made because of the rich and resonant sound they produce. The unique sound of a Stradivarius cannot be duplicated.

What may surprise you is that these precious instruments were not made from treasured pieces of wood; they were carved from discarded lumber. Because Stradivari couldn’t afford fine materials, he got most of his wood from the dirty harbours where he lived.

He would take those waterlogged pieces of wood to his shop, clean them up, and dry them out. Then, from those trashed pieces of lumber, he would create instruments of rare beauty.

It has since been discovered that while the wood floated in those dirty harbours, microbes infiltrated the wood and ate out the centres of those cells. This left just a fibrous infrastructure of wood that created resonating chambers for the music. From wood that nobody wanted, Stradivari produced violins that now everybody wants.’

You say, ‘How does any of this relate to me?’ Just as this violin maker transformed rubbish into treasure, God can transform you into what you were actually meant to be.

You might say, ‘But you don’t know how low I have fallen or the things I’ve done. I doubt that Jesus could save and transform someone like me!’

Give Him a try. Put Him to the test. You won’t be disappointed.

The Bible says, ‘He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.’

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:

United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF, or email ucb@ucb.co.uk or telephone 01782 911 000.

Or you can read them online at <https://www.ucb.co.uk/read>.

As a charity, UCB relies on donations, so a gift would be appreciated from time to time.



CHURCH READINGS: December 2024 to February 2025.

A new sheet is now on the noticeboard, so if you are willing to join our rota for reading the lesson in Church occasionally, please sign up for the week you would like to read, with just your name (no contact details – **unless you are new to reading the lesson**), and a steward will contact you during that week with the reading. If you have any questions, **or if you are joining the reading rota for the first time**, please speak to one of the stewards.

Don't forget your donations for the Aylesbury Foodbank

Currently, the need is for: *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, and toiletries, also washing up liquid & laundry detergent pods.*



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 a steward 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	2 Dec	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	3 Dec	9.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Prayer Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	5 Dec	10.00am From 1.45pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
Frid	6 Dec	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club
Sat	7 Dec	3.45pm	Messy Church

Sunday 8th December 2024

**10.30am: Family Communion 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**