

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson**

**10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Fred Ireland.**

**5.00pm: Candlelit Carol 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 at 8.45am, and Derek Adams and Gill Marks at 10.30am.

**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.

<b>Hymns</b>	<b>8.45am: StF 171 564 378</b> <b>10.30am: StF 182 186 205 706 615</b>
<b>Readings</b>	<b>8.45am: Zephaniah 3: 14-20</b> <b>10.30am: Zephaniah 3: 14-40 Luke 3: 7-18</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.**



**Our Carol Service is this evening at 5.00pm.** We would love to serve tea, coffee and mince pies after the service, so all donations of mince pies would be greatly appreciated. Please leave them in the kitchen or bring them along before the service. Many thanks Gill Marks

### Christmas Services at Aylesbury Methodist Church

15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5.00pm: Carol Service

24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4.00pm: Christingle Service

24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11.30pm: Midnight Communion

25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00am: Christmas Morning Service

All services led by Rev Richard Atkinson



There will be the following collections  
at our Christmas services:

- Carol Service: Christian Aid
- Christingle Service: Action for Children
- Midnight Communion: Christian Aid
- Christmas Morning: Action for Children

**Please give generously!**



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.



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

### PLEASE NOTE:

Next Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, will be the last notice sheet for 2024

The next one will be for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

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

**Christmas Walk and Lunch:** We are holding this year's walk on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



**'Derek the Cleric'**

©Andy Robb



**CHURCH READINGS: December 2024 to February 2025.**

There are a few dates left, 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](mailto:rubydarku@hotmail.co.uk)



**Next Week**

<b>Mon</b>	16 Dec	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
<b>Tues</b>	17 Dec	9.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Prayer Group Boys' Brigade
<b>Thurs</b>	19 Dec	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
<b>Frid</b>	20 Dec	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 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)**

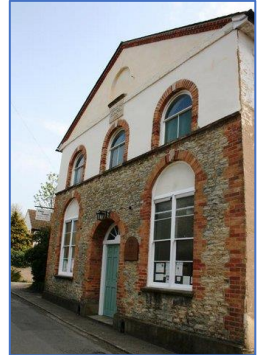


## 'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### HADDENHAM

Dear All,

This Sunday, 15 December, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Haddenham, and Heather shares her story with us. Music is a wonderful gift and we are blessed by those who provide the music for our worship every week. So, this week in your prayers, please say thank you for all those who, like Heather, enrich and bless our worship with their gifts. Pete.



I grew up in a small Bedfordshire village, where my Dad was Organist and Sunday School Superintendent at the Methodist Chapel.

I started learning the piano when I was about 7 years old, and later, when I became more proficient, I played for the children's songs at Sunday School Anniversaries. Eventually, in my teens, Dad thought I should play the organ at some services. He also encouraged me to go with him to Ampthill Choral Society, which I enjoyed, and I sang in the choir at Bedford High School.

Michael and I met when we were both training in the Pathology Lab. at Bedford Hospital and we married in 1963 when he started working at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. I got a job in the new Biochemistry Research Lab. at St. John's Hospital at Stone. I joined Aylesbury Choral Society of course!

I joined Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church and played the organ there until 1967 when we moved to Haddenham, where I was asked to play the Harmonium at the Methodist Church - good exercise for the legs! We eventually acquired a new organ and piano and I've been playing there ever since.

When I was 40, I decided to continue my piano studies and I gained my Diploma. My musical career has been varied - teaching piano and 'directing' choirs, playing for weddings and various services, playing for dancing classes and accompanying choirs and soloists. I've loved it all. I'm always looking for new music to use in services, my latest discovery being - gospel and jazz versions of hymns for piano, which I can use before and after services! I think the congregation likes them!

I do feel that I was given the gift of music, encouraged by my parents, and have tried to use it to the best of my ability in the service of God and the community, and it has been a great comfort to me in difficult times.

Heather.

## 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](mailto: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.*