

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 22nd December 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.

10.30am: Morning Worship 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 Ayles and Gill Nord.

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 188 187 186 205 215
Readings	Micah 5: 2-5a Luke 1: 39-45
Organist	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 by an ADULT.



Christmas Services at Aylesbury Methodist Church

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



There will be the following collections
at our Christmas services:

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

Please give generously!



Tea and Coffee mornings held on every 3rd Sunday of the month in the Hall after the service have raised **£315.33** for the year 2024. **The money is shared between Florence Nightingale Hospice and Alzheimer's Society.** We are very grateful of your support and hope you will continue to support our Coffee mornings in the coming year. Thanks again. Edith and Ruby.

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:

There will be no notice sheet for next Sunday, 29th December. Any notices can be given to the Church Stewards to read out.

The next one will be for Sunday 5th January 2025.

The Northampton District, of which we are a part, is looking for people aged 18 to 30 who might be interested in going on a cultural exchange to southern India for 12 days in the January of 2026.

All costs would be met while in India, but any participants would have to find funding for their air fare, inoculations, etc. If anyone might be interested, please could they talk to Richard as soon as possible

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

Christmas Walk and Lunch: Friday 27th December.

Please meet at 10.30am, for a 10.40am start, at the Cricket Pavilion car park in Witchell, Off South Street, Wendover. Post Code is HP22 6EG.

Please wear stout footwear for a walk part way up Coombe Hill, taking in stunning views of the Vale of Aylesbury and pausing on the new bridge over HS2. We aim to arrive at Kevin's house at about 12.15pm for a warming soup lunch, for which there is a voluntary donation.

To book your place on the walk and lunch, or just the lunch, please ring Kevin on 01296481285.'

Many thanks, Roger.



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.

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



Sunday 29th December 2024

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

Sunday 5th January 2025

Covenant Service & Communion 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)

'Derek the Cleric'



Combining the church panto and the Christmas nativity wasn't Derek's brightest idea!



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Dear All,

This Sunday we join Geoff as he shares his story of how the Lord has helped him through difficult times. May Geoff's story help us all to rediscover the joy and assurance that prayer has to offer. Please pray for Geoff and all those we know who are recovering from serious illness, that they may know the comforting presence of Jesus in their lives. Also pray for our friends at North Marston this Sunday, that they may experience the blessings of our prayers and support.

Pete.

For those who don't know me, I have been a Worship Leader at Buckingham Street for a number of years. Before that I had been a Steward, a Reader and a Treasurer. Full life in the Church you might say, for thirty plus years.

Well, all that came to a halt on December 20th 2023 - that day I suffered a stroke. In a moment, my life changed: I was rushed to Wycombe Hospital and spent 7 ½ months there and at Amersham Hospital. Not, you may say, much in the way of good news. I missed Christmas and New Year, finally coming to on January 2nd.

Now, one of the things that happen with a busy Church life, is that you are often so busy, especially on Sundays, that it is easy to lose sight of God. As I lay in my bed in Wycombe, however, I started to pray. I'm not an easy prayer sayer, as I've often said before, so this was a new step for me. I can't say that I got an immediate response, but having some difficulty with speech, and finding it difficult to engage with people face to face at that time, prayer suddenly seemed a way forward.

After some weeks in the ward, I got an upgrade to a bed with a window! The first day, the sun shone directly through my window and bathed me in warmth and light. I suddenly felt supported. Nurse opened the window slightly, and as I lay there, I thought someone spoke to me and said, "I'm here...". Tears came to me but I felt comforted. Over the next 3 months I spoke to the Lord as I lay there and received...what? It's difficult to express in words the relief and comfort I had. Family, friends and nursing staff all contributed to the empathy and support I was getting, but I had something else as well.

Eventually I was moved to Amersham Hospital for rehab, and then, on August 1st, I arrived home at last. I'm now wheelchair-bound; my left side is "frozen". I rely on carers and my dear wife for daily needs, but I haven't forgotten those early days and I still manage daily prayers of a kind: more of a news report on how I'm doing at physio etc. Do I ask for anything (such as please make me better)? No. I know to let things take their own course. Do I feel occasionally depressed, down, at odds with the world? Yes, of course I do. But now I know He is with me - always.

Geoff



When it doesn't 'feel' like Christmas

'He sent me to...heal the heartbroken.' Isaiah 61:1 MSG

At this time of year, it's tempting to buy into the myth that everybody else is enjoying a picture-perfect Christmas. The truth is, there are thousands out there whose lives have been forever altered by death, divorce, sickness, and financial problems.

Tammy Hanson Maltby writes: 'It was December 20. There was no hint of Christmas around our house ... Most years, our tree was up the day after Thanksgiving ... Christmas music ... and luscious aromas filled the air ... Our house had been Christmas central. Not this year ... My 20-year marriage had just dissolved ... My budget was stretched ... and my spirit was strained even further. Some days I could barely manage to get out of bed ... All four of my kids were home on Christmas break. And there was still no tree. "This is really depressing," I heard one of them grumble, and my heart broke again. "I'll get a tree tomorrow," I repeated. Even I didn't believe my words.

'That evening ... I heard voices ... in the ... basement ... There, near the piano, stood the scuffy little artificial conifer ... I'd bought ... years before, and I used it to hang [the kids'] school ornaments ... creations that just didn't look right on my majestic, fragrant, decorated, upstairs tree ... The kids had ... set it up, draped it with lights, and hung their childhood ornaments ... It was still scuffy, but it was beautiful ... I was happy ... And overcome with gratitude that they had got together to make it happen for me.'

If you're having a tough Christmas, don't beat yourself up. Remember, you can get through anything for one day (see Deuteronomy 33:25). Jesus understands. He came to 'heal the heartbroken', so turn to Him this Christmas and ask Him to restore your peace and joy.

Source: UCB The Word for Today