

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 5th January 2025

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.

Covenant Service & Communion 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 and Elaine Hope.

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 21 44 547 345 20 H&Ps 770
Readings	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Romans 12: 1-2
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.



There will be a retiring collection for the Benevolent Fund this morning, after the service. The collecting bowl will be marked.

FAMILY NEWS

We were saddened to hear of the death of Rob King shortly before Christmas and also his 96th birthday. Until he had to give up driving a while ago Rob had been a very regular attender at morning worship for many years. We send our love to his family. Funeral details will follow shortly.



Wednesday 8th January will be lunch club. We will be serving up Beef Casserole and all your vegetables at 12.30pm. All are welcome, so please feel free to come and join us for lunch and a social chat. All we ask is please put your name on the list in the hall so we know how many to cater for, or give Gill a call on 01296 748659.

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

SOS 11th January 2025, 7.30pm at the home of Gill and Steve Marks, Tel 748659. The SOS New Year Meal! At this time for family and friends, we remember a Christmas filled with joy and look forward to a new year which we will share together.

SOS are a group of people, some regular church-goers, others who are not - it makes no difference - all are welcome. Meeting together at each other's homes and sharing a Faith Supper; sometimes there's a theme to base food around, other times not. The evenings usually start at 7.30pm and finish when the last person goes home. All you need to do is to call the host to say that you're coming.



The start of a new year is a good time to express our thanks to everyone who has helped to make our Church so welcoming and meaningful, not just over the Christmas period, but all the year round.

There are so many of you, working tirelessly, but quietly, in the background, to keep our building in great condition and functioning smoothly, and making our services and our welcome colourful, meaningful, and full of life.

Special thanks to our Minister, Preachers, Musicians and our Flower Team.

The Christmas collections for **Christian Aid**:

Carol Service - £219.60

Midnight Communion Service - £65.11

The Christmas collections for **Action for Children**:

Christingle Service - £88.55

Christmas Morning - £363.80



Thank you to everyone who supported these charities over the Christmas period.

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



There are a huge number of uncollected Christmas cards in the Welcome Space. Please have a look.

Any cards left, will be recycled in the next week or so.



Start by forgiving

'Forgiving each other...as...God forgave you.'

Ephesians 4:32 NIV

If you would like to start the New Year with a clean slate and travelling lighter, let go of the old grudges that are weighing you down.

Philip Yancey describes forgiveness as 'an unnatural act'. He says, 'You don't find dolphins forgiving sharks for eating their playmates. It's a dog-eat-dog world...not dog-forgive-dog.'

Bitterness and hatred come *naturally* when you have been hurt. Forgiving is *supernatural* and requires the grace of God, but remember, Jesus said, 'If you do not forgive...your Father will not forgive your sins' (Matthew 6:15 NIV).

Think about it – there is not one single, solitary reason God should ever forgive our sins, yet the offences He pardons us for every day far outweigh anything we will ever be asked to forgive our parents, spouses, and friends for.

The Bible says forgive 'each other...as...God forgave you'. Forgiveness opens the doors of a prison, where you are both the prisoner *and* the jailor. Grudges not only isolate you from people who were once friends, they shorten your life by producing deadly enzymes that contribute to a host of physical ailments.

One man told his counsellor, 'I wish my brother could come to my wedding, but we haven't spoken in years.' The counsellor asked, 'How come?' Pausing, the man replied, 'It sounds ridiculous now, but I don't even remember!' Drifting apart is the natural result of an unforgiving spirit; forgiveness reverses the trend by healing broken relationships.

It's a scientific fact that forgiveness adds years to your life. As a rule, when you talk to individuals who have passed the eighty-year mark, you find they're at peace with themselves because they have learned to forgive and let go.

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.



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

STEWKLEY

Dear All,

This Sunday, 5 January, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Stewkley. Lynda shares some more of her story with us from her days as a youngster in the Sunday School. It is amazing what we can remember from our childhood, and what better memories can we have than when we learned about how much Jesus loves us? We must value and celebrate that love in every part of our lives, and really take time to show it every day. Please pray for our brothers and sisters at Stewkley this week, and all the unsung heroes of our Sunday Schools, who, Sunday by Sunday, offer the love of Christ and give such a wonderful start in life to so many youngsters. Pete.



Here are a few more thoughts from my story.

My first memories of going to Sunday School were of rushing down my Sunday Lunch, and either Mum or Dad would take me to Mr. Jack Chappell's house so I could go to Afternoon Sunday school with him. Aunt Alice, his wife, had already gone to the chapel. It seemed to me that we were always late, because we had to wait in the porch area until the prayers were finished before we went into the schoolroom and joined the other scholars. Once there I enjoyed the stories we heard and the activities we took part in. I particularly liked the way that one of our superintendents (Harold Cheney) told us about what happened to him each week and how he felt that God was his guide. This would seem to have had a lasting effect on me. I hope I follow this in my everyday life and feel that guiding hand in my life.

I have been involved with Sunday Schools and with young people most of my life and I hope it helps others to love God as I do. We cannot know always what a child or young person will remember, but we can hope that what is told to them in Sunday School, Young people's group or wherever they hear God's word, it will help them to find his love for them and they will find it a help when they need it most.

My experience of the church through Sunday School was good and I have many happy memories of wonderful times, like Christmas parties, Sunday school outings and picnics. Some would say perhaps idyllic, but I hope the joy that I found can be passed on to others and so grow into a love for God.

May you all have a Good and peaceful new year.

Lynda



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Last one from 2024!

PRINCES RISBOROUGH

Dear All

As we approach Christmas, that wonderful time of the year when we look forward to the birth of the Messiah, we pray for a peaceful time of love and harmony for all. We pray that this is a time of blessing for you all!



Last Sunday, 29 December, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Princes Risborough, and Maureen shares her story with us. As we look back at our lives it can be fascinating to discover the connections and people that have influenced us along the way, often in seemingly casual ways that did not make much of an impression at the time, but which did in fact guide our paths significantly. This Sunday, remember in your prayers the lovely folk at Princes Risborough, and all those who have had an influence on the directions that our lives have taken as we learn of and enjoy the love of our Lord Jesus.

Pete.

My Journey.

My parents were married at Kempston East Methodist Church in 1939 and started married life in Princes Risborough at a General Store in Wycombe Road which is where I was born. My mother was a housewife but did help out in the shop when necessary. My father was a full-time shop keeper six and a half days a week, and local preacher on Sundays.

The only Sunday service at the PR Methodist Church was at 6.00 pm and there was no Sunday School so when I was old enough, I went to the Baptist Sunday School. My mother and Rev Roland started a Sunday School in about 1946/47 with twin boys, but other children, and myself, soon joined. The Sunday School flourished when elderly Mrs Beecroft who lived in Monks Risborough started bringing children along with her, particularly the Carter family whose children numbered 7 in total. (Jamie Carter, well known in Risborough for his quizzes, is a grandchild.)

I remember my time at Sunday School with great fondness and there always seemed to be something going on. Early in the year were the Scripture exams, an Eisteddfod at Aylesbury Methodist Church, followed by the Anniversary, Circuit sports day, and soon after the summer holidays was Harvest and then Christmas, and of course participation in the Nativity. One of our members started a Wesley Guild and this allowed us to stay in touch with the church in our teens, and it was through the Guild that I met my husband who, with some of his friends, could hear us having a good time and came to see what it was all about.

It was about this time that Billy Graham was making a name for himself, and a coach party was arranged to go to Wembley to hear him. I think, because of my lifelong association with the church, I considered myself a Christian, but as two of my friends went forward at Billy Graham's request, I knew it was expected of me to do likewise. My husband continued to come to Guild and was accepted into the church just before we were married, and eventually was very helpful on the maintenance of the property. Our children all attended Sunday School but it was not the same as in my day.

I have held several positions within the church but I am feeling that now is the time to take a 'back seat', although I can do the weekly notices at home, which keeps me in touch with all that is going on.

Maureen.

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	6 Jan	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Wed	8 Jan	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Thurs	9 Jan	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	10 Jan	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 12th January 2025

10.30am: Family Service led by Mr Steve Kemp.

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) But not on 9th and 11th January