

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

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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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**

**10.30am: Service of Holy 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 Jackie Simpson-Tyda 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 689 405 161 407 401 459
Readings	Jonah 3 Matt 15: 21-29
Organist	Derrick Matthews
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.**



The flowers this week are given by Rita and Neil  
in loving memory of Douglas, Ian and Mary,  
and members of the McKelvie and Malcolm families.

**There will be a retiring collection for the Benevolent Fund after the service. The bowls will be clearly marked.**

**We have embarked on a series on Jonah.  
The remaining titles for each of the Sundays are:**

**Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>                    Jonah 3: Mission accomplished**  
**Feb 16<sup>th</sup>                  Jonah 4: A mixed-up missionary**

During each week of our series on Jonah, there will be an exercise for anyone who is interested. Ideally these will involve more than one person, but could work as a solo reflection

**Jonah 3.** *In a group, or individually, read the passage aloud twice.  
What strikes or surprises you about the passage?  
How does Jonah's response in chapter three differ from his response in chapter one? List and reflect on the verbs associated with the repentance of Ninevah in verses 5 to 9  
How do you think the repentance of the Ninevites might challenge us today?  
Who are the Ninevites today, whom God is calling us to reach?  
How much of the text encourages or challenges in our own life and faith?*



Lunch club will be this week on **Wednesday, 5th February**. Come along and join us in the hall from 12.30pm for a mild chilli and jacket potato. (There will of course be a vegetarian option). Please add your name to the list in the Hall coffee bar so we know how many to cater for, or phone Gill on 01296 748659.

This is open to everyone, so please come along and enjoy a social lunch with friends.



It's time to count the money in your little Home Collecting Boxes. Please either hand in the box for us to open and count, or bring the contents to church in a plastic bag, **clearly marked with your name**. Pauline Noble or Jennie Torpey will be very pleased to receive it. Any queries, ring

Pauline on 01296 484940.

If you do not have a box and would like one at home to put in small amounts of loose change, please talk to Pauline.



As some of you will be aware, Gill Nord, who is one of our Church Stewards, it is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. Please pray for Gill, Trevor and the family at this anxious time.

This does highlight the fact that we are low on our number of stewards at present, and, therefore, it seems appropriate to us, the church community, to consider who might be able to serve in this important office.

Our stewards have a key role in enabling worship in our church, both in terms of liaising with preachers in advance of their appointments, as well as the duties that we can all witness on a Sunday morning.

**So who might be the people who you think could serve in this work?**

If you would like to nominate someone, preferably with their consent, could you please send/phone the details to Richard by the end of February?

If you would like more information, then please talk to existing stewards or to Richard.

In July 2025 our Granddaughter, Ruby, is undertaking a trip to India, where, amongst other things, she'll be trekking in the Himalayas and undertaking a Community initiative in an Indian school.

Part of the scheme is to raise funds herself to pay for this trip.

**On Saturday, 1st March** we have a fundraising  
**Quiz Night at Wendover Memorial Hall, 7pm for a 7.30pm start.**  
**Tickets are £10 per person**, bring your own nibbles but there will be drinks available to buy.

Teams of 8 but don't worry if you can't get a team, we'll make sure you're sat with others! If you are interested, please contact David or Julianne Wilderspin on 01296 626065/ 07765511249 / 07551166196.



## 'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### WADDESDON

Dear All,

To keep the Good News fresh and interesting, every few weeks the circuit staff are going to offer short introductions to the various books of the Bible, which will then be collated on the circuit website. We looked at Matthew's Gospel a few weeks ago. This week we look at Mark. We will, of course, continue to encourage our pattern of praying for each church in turn.



So, this Sunday, 2 February, we offer our prayers for the fellowship at Waddesdon, that God may continue to bless them and work through them in their fellowship together, and also their ministry of outreach to their local community. Waddesdon are known for their hot lunches (served every fortnight) and their friendly atmosphere, so please support them in your prayers this week and if you can join them for lunch you are assured of a warm welcome. Pete.

### ***The Gospel of Mark***

**Author:** *Mark is generally identified as the author who figures in the New Testament (Acts 12-15; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11; 1 Peter 5.13). Mark developed into an effective missionary and later became a valued companion of the Apostle Paul himself (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4.11). And Peter speaks of Mark as a dearly loved son (1 Peter 5.13). Some described Mark as a follower and "interpreter" of Peter, who is usually identified as the John Mark of Acts, whose mother had a house in Jerusalem. He accompanied Barnabas and Paul on the 'First Missionary Journey' and may have helped Peter and Paul in Rome in the 60s. Those who rejected this tradition claimed that the author may have been an unknown Christian named Mark. The unanimous tradition is that the Gospel of Mark was written in Rome.*

**Date:** *Mark was written first among the canonical gospels. It is thought to have been written just before or after Peter's death, around the mid-or-late 60s. Some thought it could be in the 70s.*

**Style:** *Mark is one of the synoptic gospels and is known as the Action Man. Mark is the briefest, and in some ways the most attractive, of the four Gospels.*

*His preamble is brief. Jesus is God's Son. His sparse, unpretentious prose provides uniquely vivid images of Jesus as a man of action. His narratives are marked by the frequent use of the Greek word, 'immediately' that sequentially carry us along from scene to scene, which culminates in Jesus facing the cross. His use of the present tense draws us into the scenes he sketches and helps us see events as he does. Mark's vigorous but blunt Greek reflects the language of the common man.*

**Features:** *Mark writes with a Gentile audience in mind. Shorter than either Matthew or Luke. Mark often uses graphic imagery to get the story across, for example: he looks round with anger (3:5), or takes a child and sets him in the midst (9:36), or takes an invalid by the hand (1:31, 5:41, 1:41).*

*Mark is broken down into two parts:*

**1:1-8:26: Part One: Ministry of Healing and Preaching in Galilee**

- 1. Introduction (1:1-3:6)*
- 2. Jesus chooses the Twelve and trains them as disciples by parables and mighty deeds; (3:7-6-6)*
- 3. Sending out the Twelve; feeding 5,000; walking on water; controversy; feeding 4,000; misunderstanding (6:7-8:26)*

*The encounter on the road to Caesarea Philippi is often seen as the hinge, as, after Peter makes his confession, Jesus then begins to explore what is going to happen.*

**8:27-16:8: Part Two: Suffering Predicted; Death in Jerusalem; Resurrection 16:9-20**

- 1. Three passion predictions; Peter's confession; the transfiguration; Jesus' teaching (8:27-10:52)*
- 2. Ministry in Jerusalem: Entry; Temple actions and encounters; eschatological discourse (11:1-13:37)*
- 3. Anointing, Last Supper, passion, crucifixion, burial, empty tomb (14:1-16:8)*
- 4. An abrupt ending (describing resurrection appearances) (16:9-20)*

**Passages worth looking at:**

*Mark 1 – Mark's goal is dual. He intends to show us in Jesus the ideal man, committed, active, and vigorous. And he intends to show that Jesus was the Son of God: God here in the flesh. This key theme is emphasized over and over in Mark's brief Gospel.*

*Mark 6 - Jesus' miracles of feeding the 5,000 (vv. 30-44), of walking on the stormy sea of Galilee (vv. 45-53).*

*Mark 7:1-13 – Mark deals with the religious leaders who evaluated Christ's teaching and miracles – and rejected His claims. The religious focus on tradition and ritual (7:1-8) and in doing so "nullify the Word of God" (vv.9-13). Jesus points out the hypocrisy of their external approach to religion, when the real issue is the state of one's heart (vv. 14-23).*

*Noreen.*



**2025 marks Karibuni Children's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** and we shall be marking this milestone by putting on a number of events throughout the year.

One event will be a charity concert at Wycombe Swan Theatre featuring the LP Swing Orchestra and vocalists Matthew Ford and Nicola Emmanuelle. Their programme, entitled '**100 Years of Big Bands**' will involve a range of familiar big band musical numbers and songs. Profits from the event will be used to support Karibuni Children's work amongst children living in the slums of Nairobi and other places in Kenya.

**The Concert takes place on Sunday 23rd March at 3:00pm**  
**and tickets can be booked online ([www.wycombeswan.co.uk](http://www.wycombeswan.co.uk)) or by telephone (0343 310 0060).**

**Derek the Cleric**



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## Don't give up!

*'To everything there is a season,  
a time for every purpose under heaven.'*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1 NKJV

Solomon says there is 'a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck *what is* planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace' (vv. 2-8 NKJV).

That's a total of twenty-eight different 'times'. But notice what Solomon does **not** give us – a time to give up!

As long as you stay on the battlefield, God can turn your situation around and give you victory. If you're worried today about your marriage, your children, your health, your finances, your job, and your future, here is a promise you can stand on:

*"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me,"* says the Lord (Isaiah 54:17 NKJV).

God didn't say that the weapon wouldn't be formed against you,  
but He said it wouldn't prosper.

### **So don't give 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:

**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.

**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>	3 Feb	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm 7.30pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub Leadership Team meeting
<b>Tues</b>	4 Feb	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
<b>Wed</b>	5 Feb	12.30pm	Lunch Club
<b>Thurs</b>	6 Feb	10.00am From 12.30pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
<b>Frid</b>	7 Feb	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**10.30am: Family Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.**

<b>The designated fire officers are the Duty Stewards</b>
<b>First Aid boxes are located in each of the kitchens</b>
<b>Fire doors are not to be wedged open, except those fitted with Dorgard (Please ensure other doors close behind you after passing through</b>
<b>Duty Manager - (John Miskin: 01296 422919 07988 960815)</b>