

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 9th February 2025

10.30am: Family 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 Gill Nord 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.

The Worship Band will lead you in your preparation for worship and the words will be shown on the screen. Please join in.

Hymns	StF 530 6 24 15 343 41 332
Readings	Isaiah 6: 1-8 1 Corinthians 15:11
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.



The flowers this week are In remembrance of our parents, Jephthah and Gwendolyn Morris on his 100th and her 101st birthday. May God bless them. From the Morris/Taylor family.



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.



Our planned **CIRCUIT HOLIDAY** to Eastbourne is not now going to happen. However, Gordon McCallum, our lovely Coach Driver and Tour Organizer has come up with one more offer:

We will be staying at The Ocean Beach Hotel & Spa, Bournemouth.

The dates are **Monday 30 June till Friday 4 July**: 4 nights in the hotel, with breakfasts and three-course evening meals.

The cost of the holiday is **£649**, based on a minimum of 25 people. Single rooms will be again be available without a supplement but we are limited to only 14 single rooms. Any extras will be subject to availability and would probably incur a supplement.

The hotel has added the following paragraph about mobility:

Mobility - There is a small lift for 2 people to all floors, however due to the age and style of the building, it is necessary to negotiate steps to access most of the bedrooms. The hotel is not suitable for those with severe mobility issues as the lift is not large enough to take a scooter, for example, plus each floor has the steps to negotiate. The restaurant is in the basement and is accessed via 15 or so steps, or the hotel's lift. Coach parking - on site or at the Suncliff Hotel next door.

Pete and I are really hoping this holiday will go ahead. Please can you get back to us by **tomorrow, Monday 10 February** at the latest, if you're interested and spread the word around your friends.

We'll get on and prepare the Booking Form and Itinerary (which will probably include Swanage and Weymouth) when we think enough people are interested. Please feel free to ring me if you have any queries.

Many blessings. Jane & Pete Honeyball 07703 174 656



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

On Friday 7th March 2025 at 1.30pm

At St Mary the Virgin, St Mary's Square, Aylesbury.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED AFTERWARDS

Our sisters from the Cook Islands have spent the last few years deepening into the theme: "I Made You Wonderful," based on Psalm 139:1-18.

The 2025 programme invites us into the knowledge that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we can receive this profound truth, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat every other person as made wonderful by God.

The Worship Service invites us to notice aspects of our divinely created bodies that we often take for granted. The scripture reading from Psalms 139:1-18 is woven together with stories of three women from the Cook Islands. We come to understand that God knows us, is always with us, and made us unique and special.

The service leads us to offer prayers of adoration and thanksgiving to our Creator, followed by prayers of confession and longing. Finally, the prayers of intercession guide us to ask God for wisdom, courage and healing, that our world would come to treat all people as "fearfully and wonderfully made."

The Bible Study prompts dialogue around Psalm 139, particularly focusing on the relationship between God and each one of us. The study looks at 3 sections of Psalm 139, each with a different focus: verses 1-6 (God knows us), verses 7-12 (God is with us), and 13-18 (God made us wonderful).



**Please join us if you can at this service
to celebrate the Cook Islands.**

**The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical
Christian initiative, and all are welcome.**

**[Full details can be accessed on the
Circuit Website News Item.]**



SPRING-CLEANING DAY

Saturday 22nd March

Come and join us for an hour or two, or whatever time you can spare that day, helping to make OUR Church spick and span!
More details later!

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.



2025 marks Karibuni Children's 30th 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) or by telephone (0343 310 0060).



Friendship

'A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.'

Proverbs 17:17 NLT

Jonathan was the rightful heir to the throne of his father, Saul, but David had been called by God to succeed Saul as Israel's next king.

From day one, they were on a collision course. They had everything to lose by becoming friends, because ultimately only one of them could reign.

So how did they handle it? Were they competitive, or suspicious, or jealous of one another? No, because neither was interested in promoting himself.

The Bible says, 'Jonathan made a solemn pact with David...by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt' (1 Samuel 18:3-4 NLT). These were his most treasured personal possessions.

He was willing to risk his life for David despite his father Saul's warnings that Jonathan's throne would never be established as long as David was alive (see 1 Samuel 20:31). Likewise, David jeopardised his life fighting the Philistines to help Saul and Jonathan establish their kingdom.

The point of the story is this: a true friend is 'there for you', even when they would rather be somewhere else. As one celebrity said, 'Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down.'

Solomon said, 'A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.' When was the last time you thanked God for the true friends in your life? What is it that makes them so special?

Don't assume they know how much you appreciate them. Tell them!

And one more thought: if you want to have true friends – become one!

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

WEEDON

Dear All,

This Sunday, 9 February, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Weedon, and we join Sarah as she shares her thoughts on the love that God has for each one of us. So many people in this world never feel that wonderful touch of God's love in their lives. Please pray for Sarah and the lovely fellowship at Weedon this Sunday, and remember and pray for those who will not feel the warmth of God's love supporting them and walking with them. Pete.



This week our congregation heard a Bible passage from 1 Corinthians 13, that well-known piece written by Paul to the Christian church in Corinth that is often trotted out at weddings, because it speaks of faith, hope and the greatest gift - LOVE. It is a glorious aide-memoire of the qualities that the gift of love bestows - it is kind, thinks no evil, believes all things and, above all, never fails.

Richard reminded us at our service on Sunday, that of course this passage is chosen by newlyweds because it expresses the love that they have in their relationship. But we should think more deeply about the relationships that Paul was originally talking about. What we know is that Paul was encouraging the Church to use their knowledge of Christ and their spiritual gifts to spread the fellowship of Christ, but in love. What he was emphasising in this letter was that other spiritual gifts are meaningless without love. He believed that love is the foundation for living a godly life and that love is a way of life that involves self-sacrifice and service to others.

I am not a romantic by any means, but I am a true believer in love and a believer in true love. And not in any soppy, flaky kind of way. Yes, I love my husband and children, my parents, greater family and friends in an emotional and sentimental way, but my love for God is based on his love for us. His love is unconditional and does not need to be earned, it is not dependent on levels of 'holiness' and it is constant. I do believe that God sees us for what we are,

and understands that our emotions can therefore guide us in our actions and decision-making, but he is love in infinite measure.

His love is so great that he sent us his only Son - and that love, that truth, that constancy gives me the ultimate comfort to live my best life. In our world today, where our cultures and societies bombard us all with endless messages, opinions, views, data and logic, it can be hard not to have information-overload and grow confused about what is actually true.

But what I know, and what this passage reminds me, is that love is a truth-seeker and we should share it with others. This is the love which we wake up with in the morning, we work with, we play with and socialise with. It builds friendships, networks, communities and social groups. It makes me feel whole.

Amen. Sarah.



'DEREK THE CLERIC'

Derek had heard of 'pop-up church'
but didn't actually know what it was!

©Andy Robb

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	10 Feb	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	11 Feb	9.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Banner Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	13 Feb	10.00am From 12.30pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
Frid	14 Feb	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 16th February 2025

8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr Arthur Sara.

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)