

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 11th May 2025

10.30am: Family Reader Service led by Mrs Louise 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 Kaz Tyda.

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 264 489 481 403 553 94
Readings	Psalm 23 Luke 15: 1-7
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 Worship Band will lead you in your preparation for worship and the words will be shown on the screen. Please join in.

FAMILY NEWS: Andrew Doughlin sadly passed away on 14th April 2025, aged 89 years. He will be dearly missed by Greta, and all his family and friends, and we hold them in our prayers. Andrew's funeral will be held here tomorrow, Monday 12th May at 10.30am, followed by the committal at Aylesbury Cemetery, Tring Road, at 11.30am. Family flowers only, please, but donations can be made to the British Heart Foundation in Andrew's name.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2025 is 11th – 17th May, but we celebrated Christian Aid Sunday last week and held a **retiring collection for their vital work at the end of the service.** If you still have a collection envelope, please hand it in today or over the next couple of weeks. There are spare envelopes in the display cabinet.

Please give as generously as you are able.



Green Christian

Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

*'O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes.*

*Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.*

*Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain
at the expense of the poor and the earth.'*

[‘A Prayer for our Earth’ was published in Pope Francis’ encyclical, Laudato Si’.
It is for all who believe in God who is the all-powerful Creator.]

The **Green Christian** magazine is available online and there are also some copies in the display cabinet in the Welcome Space. Please, do have a read. It's particularly relevant to our upcoming ECO Church Council meeting on 22nd May. <https://greenchristian.org.uk/resources/prayer-guide>



ECO CHURCH MEETING:
Thursday, 22nd May at 7.30pm
Rooms 4/5 in AMC Community Centre.

The Northampton District is supporting the target of the Methodist Church to become a net zero carbon emissions Church by 2030, in recognition of the Climate Emergency and its call for the UK to achieve net zero emission well before 2050.

At the last Church Council meeting, it was agreed to hold an **Extra-ordinary meeting** to begin discussions to introduce an Environmental Policy and set up an 'Action for Hope' Working Group toward becoming an Eco Church

It was agreed to open this up to any of the congregation who are interested in these issues, and wish to take part.

There are copies of the document available, in the display cabinet in the Welcome Space for anyone who is interested.

Please let Jackie Simpson-Tyda, our Church Council Secretary, know if you are planning to come. 07834 780543. jackiesimpson88@gmail.com

Please do come along to the meeting to share your thoughts and ideas!

The proposed Circuit Day 'IGNITE' on May 17th at Fairford Leys Church will *not now be taking place*. We hope to offer the circuit days in the future but an option that we've hit the mark with this one in terms of those interested in coming. If you have any ideas about what you might welcome in terms of a circuit study or reflection day then please let your minister know.

Our Aldersgate Sunday celebration, marking the conversion of John Wesley and the birth of Methodism as we know it, is happening at **6.00pm on May 25th at Waddesdon**. *There will be community hymn singing beforehand from 5.45pm*, followed by a service on the theme of being people of a warmed heart. [See poster on following pages]

Sunday 25th May: Please note that there will be **no notice sheet** for that Sunday. If you have any notices, please email them or give them to the stewards before the service.



The poster for the Ellesborough Silver Band Spring Concert features a central photograph of the band members in blue uniforms, holding various brass instruments. The background is divided into colored sections: a green banner at the top, a blue circle on the right, and a yellow circle at the bottom. Decorative elements include musical notes, a trumpet, a tuba, and flowers. Text on the poster includes the band's name, the concert date and time, the venue name and address, and details about ticketing and donations. Specific instrument solos are highlighted with arrows pointing to the band members.

**ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND
SPRING CONCERT**

**Saturday 17th May
3:00 - 5:00 pm**

An afternoon of **live music** from stage and screen


Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham St,
Aylesbury HP20 2NQ

No ticket required
Donations welcome on the door
Interval refreshments available
Proceeds split between the band
and the church

SOPRANO SOLO
FLUGEL SOLO
TROMBONE FEATURE
TUBA SOLO

Do come along to an enjoyable afternoon of music from Stage & Screen from our excellent Ellesborough Silver Band! They never disappoint!!

We still need a few volunteers to help move tables/chairs, and serve refreshments during the break,

Also offers of donations of home-made cake, please.

Please let Shirley know if you can offer help. Thank you.



**BOOKWORM invites YOU
TO THE GREAT**

BOOKFEST CAFÉ DAY

for **CHRISTIAN AID**

@ STONE METHODIST CHAPEL

SATURDAY 17th MAY

10.30a.m. – 4 p.m.

Heaps of *BOOKS* to browse and buy.

“Oh, what bargains!”, you will cry.

TEA AND COFFEE both on tap,

Enjoy a *TOASTIE*, or perhaps a BAP.

Help to support this worthwhile cause

Come on in through the open doors.

OPEN ALL DAY from 10.00 till 4

Who could ask for anything more?

Vale of Aylesbury Circuit

‘Big Sing for Aldersgate Sunday’



Sunday 25th May, 6.00 pm

at Waddesdon Methodist Church
78-80 High St, Waddesdon, Aylesbury HP18 0JD

Theme:

‘Walking the way of the warmed heart’

Romans 1:16-18

**Celebrating John Wesley's conversion experience
on 24th May 1738.**

Community hymn singing from 5.45pm.

All welcome!

Derek Treks Britain (continued)

Leg 9, day 12

Derek started his day with a chat with Annabel on Radio Northampton. He mentioned seeing porpoises and seals over the last few days, not close enough to get decent pictures unfortunately. It was a bit of a transition day today - he's walked about 5 miles - as he bid farewell to the lovely Tongue Hostel and made his way to Thurso. The brilliant Barbara was kind enough to pick him up and take him the rest of the way. They had a good chat on the way, putting the world to rights and - as regular church-goers - talking about the future of their respective churches. It's definitely one of the main highlights for Dad, getting to meet so many lovely people and have good conversations with them.

Thurso's history is intertwined with a Viking presence. The town's name, derived from the Old Norse 'Thorsá', translates to 'Thor's River', reflecting the Norse god's influence on the area. Thurso was an important Norse settlement and a major gateway to mainland Scotland during the Viking era, and Dad could see evidence of this with the remains of an old Viking fortress across the river.

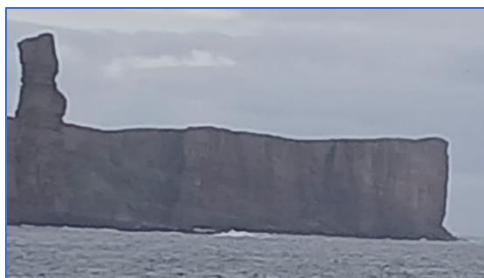


Leg 9, day 13

Derek caught an early ferry from Scrabster to Stromness on Orkney. Aith is almost in sight! On his walking today he visited a neolithic settlement at Skara Brae, above Stromness on Orkney. It's over 3000 years old and the finest example in Europe.



Here's a shot of the Old Man of Hoy (that's the rock formation, not the fella in the yellow tabard!!).

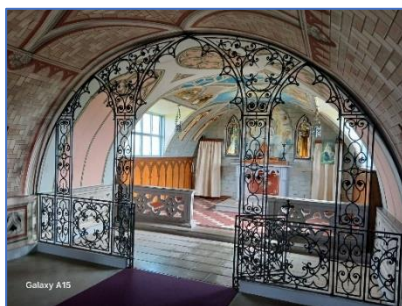


Leg 9, Day 14

Derek set off from Stromness, part bus journey, part walking, and partly lift, heading for the Churchill Barriers, over 20 miles away.

In 1939, HMS Royal Oak was sunk at her moorings in the natural harbour at Scarpa Flow by a German U-47 which took advantage of high tide to enter the harbour. Of the 1,234 men and boys serving on the Royal Oak, 835 lost their lives. Winston Churchill, who was the First Lord of the Admiralty, ordered the construction of the Churchill Barriers to block the eastern approaches to the naval anchorage at Scapa Flow. The work was carried out by 550 Italian P.O.W.s who had been captured in North Africa, and brought to Orkney in 1940 to start to build the Barriers. The Barriers consist of 4 causeways. The work was completed in Sep. '44, and since May '45 the Barrier has also served as a road link between the different islands.

During their time there, the Italian P.O.W.s were given 2 Nissan huts to use as



they saw fit. They decided to turn them into a Catholic Chapel on Lamb Holm. The huts were joined end to end, then covered in plasterboard to cover the corrugated iron. The photos show what love was poured into the construction. There are decorative lamps in the Chapel that were made out of tin cans, such as baked bean tins! The Chapel was completed at the end of WW2, and restored in the 60s, and again in the 90s.

Derek spent a lot of time, I think, walking along the Barriers. He called me whilst there, but the sound of his voice was largely drowned out by the sound



of the wind today! We were not able to finish the conversation, but he was well, and later sent the following photos, with descriptions. The first photo shows 'A Blackening'. This is a joint hen/stag do where the couple are kidnapped, wrapped in cling film and driven around town on the back of an open-backed lorry, with whistles, tin cans etc, drawing attention to them. Then the

poor souls are taken to the beach and rolled in treacle and feathers. Looking at the photo, it seems at some point they are also tied to a lamppost.



The Old Boy himself outside Kirkwall RNLI with the Lifeboat and the harbour light in the background.



Our Hero, with one of his heroes, - John Roe of Stromness. Both are/ were Fellows of the Royal Geographical Society, and noted for living and travelling with USA/Canadian Native Indians.

That's all for tonight, Folks. Goodnight, all.

Leg 9, day 15.

Breaking News - 134th and final lifeboat station reached today - Longhope!

The Old Fella started the day with a choppy crossing on a small ferry over to Hoy. The Captain greeted him with "Welcome aboard, Derek, you're our guest"! The word 'notorious' springs to mind - but they treated him well!

Upon reaching land, he headed to the local cafe, and was warmly welcomed by cafe owner Rob, who knew he was on his way (smaller close-knit communities, word travels fast!). Rob and wife Cristle fed and watered Derek, and not only refused to accept any payment, but Rob offered to drive him up to the lifeboat station!



While waiting a moment for Rob to get some bits he needed to take to the Post Office (also the other end of the island), a white van with RNLI on the front pulled up - cue Scott, who had been advised (warned) of Dad's arrival by John at the Stromness RNLI station, and brought the van to give him a guided tour! They then went on a several-hour tour of Hoy, seeing the sites and meeting the (mostly avian) locals. Among others, they saw many hen harriers and more puffins than people!

Scott is the coxswain of the current RNLI Lifeboat at Longhope on Hoy, and was proud to show the living history of the RNLI on the island. Several of Scott's family were lost in the 1968 Longhope Disaster, and he took Derek to both the graveyard and the monument which the Queen Mother had paid for. A moving reminder of why the RNLI are so important, and of what they risk.



Derek at Longhope RNLI station on Hoy - his 134th and final RNLI station

Having seen Scott's new home, with its epic view of "the flat bit at the top of Scotland", from Duncansbury Head to Dunnet Head, along to Thurso Bay and Cape Wrath, I think the Old Fella is going to find land-locked Aylesbury a bit of a bore! The Chiltern Hills and the canal don't quite match up!

So, with 8,000 ships passing each year, a school with only 20 pupils and hundreds of puffins, the 134th and final RNLI station has been visited!

After the visit they once again saw Rob from the cafe, who sent him off with a bag of goodies! He has had "a brilliant day, couldn't believe it", so thank you to all the folks of Hoy for making him welcome and showing him your kindness and generosity.

The plan from here - he's staying the night at a youth hostel (not sure how he qualifies for that, again!), and then tomorrow is heading back to Stromness, across Orkney to Kirkwall and the bank overnight ferry to Lerwick.

Thank you all once again for your donations - if you have a little to spare, do please give a little more to help bump up his running total.

*He's 82, and I'm exhausted just thinking about what he's put himself through!
He sends love and best wishes to all x*

Leg 9, day 16.

Sorry Folks, no contact with our intrepid hero today. He should now be on an overnight ferry to Shetland. I am sure you will join with me in wishing him 'smooth sailing'.

Leg 9, day 17 (although I think I'm the only one keeping count any more! 😊)

A bit of a rambling chat with our very, very tired trekker this evening. Derek had an eventful evening, taking the late ferry from Kirkwall to Lerwick. Not much sleep after a bit of a choppy ride!

In the last 48 hours he's met lots of lovely new people and bumped - quite literally - into his new Hoy buddy, Chris (pictured). Chris was running late for a ferry and, being a former Royal Marine, saw no issue with scrambling down a steep scree-slope. Picking up speed, his options for stopping were limited to tumbling to the floor at the bottom (presumably in a controlled, Royal Marine fashion), or running into the arms of our intrepid explorer, who's attention had been drawn to the noise of tumbling scree and was now bracing himself for the impact!! What a way to introduce yourself! They spent the rest of their journey together sharing stories and laughing themselves silly.



Derek's now moved across from Orkney to Shetland and is looking forward to a much-needed sleep at the Islesburgh House Hostel ahead of a packed day tomorrow. Travelling up to Aith he is going to be interviewed on Radio Shetland, and I think there's a call with Annabel on Radio Northampton too. Later in the day he's been invited to join in some VE Day celebrations, in particular, the 'Shetland Bus'.

A brief history: On 9 April 1940, German forces invaded Norway. The Norwegians were unprepared and the country soon fell to the invaders. King Haakon VII with the Norwegian Royal Family and government went into exile in London. Thousands of Norwegians escaped to the west, mostly in fishing boats, in order to continue the fight for a free Norway. For the majority, Shetland was their landfall.

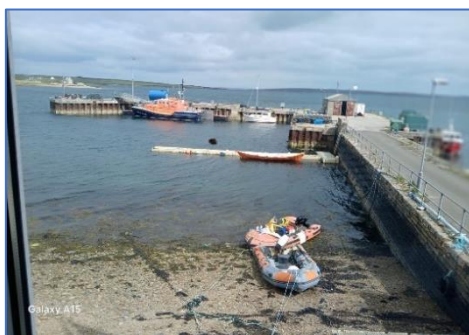
Birth of the 'Shetland Bus' (picture: one of the 3 remaining Shetland Buses – Erkna.

Large, disorganised resistance groups remained in Norway. The groups needed leaders, arms, equipment and expertise in sabotage to combat the invader. Winston Churchill set up a secret organisation, the Special Operations Executive (SOE), to work



behind enemy lines with these groups. This required a regular transport system between the UK and Norway, and it could also provide an escape life-line for refugees and fugitives. This is how the 'Shetland Bus' was conceived, using some of the many Norwegian fishing boats that had escaped. They were crewed by young Norwegian volunteers, mostly fishermen and seafarers, and they made many hazardous trips across the North Sea in the dark and stormy months of winter.

There is a memorial boat trip due to moor (in Aith I think he said) and he has been invited by the RNLI to join in the celebrations, which he is very much looking forward to! Pictures: Lerwick and Longhope lifeboats.



Leg 9, day 18



Our intrepid octogenarian spent today welcoming Norwegians to Scotland! Lerwick was host to a convoy from Norway as part of the VE Day 80th Anniversary celebrations. This included the three remaining original Shetland Buses - see Day 17 above. There was also a wartime cargo ship which docked, flanked by RNLI lifeboats to give them a warm welcome. The Old Fella

spent the day being shown round the boats, meeting the crew and then joining them for fish and chips. He says it was amazing to see the ships which had transported his heroes from his teen years. I think he had dreams of being 007...?! A quieter day planned tomorrow - he's off to a loch to look for a Bronze Age settlement, or something along those lines. Maybe Nessie?



Leg 9, day 19. Derek started the day hitching southwards, before starting a pleasant walk of approx. 8 miles. This included Sumburgh Head which is very popular many species of birds, and twitchers alike.

He experienced skuas which nest in North Scotland, and, Derek reports, are likely to divebomb you if you unwittingly walk too close to their nests.

He was thrilled to see puffins, but said that they were very tricky to spot if they had their backs to you, as they are completely black from behind.

He then returned to Lerwick where 4 days of commemoration of VE Day continue. He notes that all bunting and flags are Norwegian, and that there are many Norwegian visitors there for VE Day. The people have a very strong allegiance with Norway and the Norwegian people. This is hardly surprising when you realise that Shetland is much closer geographically to Norway than it is to Scotland.

Derek has now been on all 3 of the Shetland buses, and tomorrow he hopes to board Hestmanden, the Norwegian cargo vessel that plied the route from Norway to Shetland throughout WW2, backward and forward, as did the 3 Shetland buses. Today there are two large cruise ships moored overnight at Lerwick. This is a more common sight now as cruise lines are favouring Orkney and Shetland, rather than Russia and Balkan States.

Photos today show the **Broch** on Clokimin Loch, south of Lerwick. A Broch is a roundhouse building found throughout Atlantic Scotland. Dating from 1st century BC, it is unique to the



Scottish Iron Age. It consists of concentric

walls built using the drystone technique. They are the tallest prehistoric structures in the British Isles. **Inside the Broch**, shows three levels of living quarters, with steps and passages within the 18' thick walls.

Just to remind everyone of the fundraising Derek is trying to achieve: £10,000 to be divided across his chosen three charities: RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution), BHF (British Heart Foundation) and CRUK (Cancer Research UK). Any donation to get him closer to his target is very much appreciated. <https://justgiving.com/team/DEREKtreksBRITAIN> or donations can be given direct to Derek's wife, Sue.



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

HADDENHAM

Dear All,

This Sunday, 11 May, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Haddenham, and we join Christine as she shares her story of God's presence in her life during her time in Zimbabwe.

Christine discovered the truth in a dramatic way - that we are indeed never alone; wherever we go, whatever we do, Jesus is with us and if we call him, he will come to us. Please remember the lovely people of Haddenham in your prayers this week and also pray for those who feel so alone in what can be a daunting world, that they may see the presence of Jesus in their lives. Pete.



The wonderful work of God's experience in my life in Zimbabwe.

My spiritual background started when I was about 6 years old. I was born into a family of 12 children and I was the last born in the family. Our parents had a big farm and that is where all the children were born. My father's uncle was a reverend at the local church but he did not live with us.

Every evening after supper we would all gather in the lounge, and Dad would choose who would be praying that evening. It was either him or Mum or any one of us children. That is how we learnt how to pray. We were encouraged to read the Bible on a daily basis. On Christmas day we used to go to church and dramatise the birth of Jesus Christ. My brother would be the shepherd and I would be the sheep!!!!

When I grew up I was sent to a Methodist secondary school as a boarder. I joined the church choir. I was at this Mission school for 4 years.

Now this is the story of how, through my belief and trust in the promises of God, that when we call out his name he will come to our rescue:

I was visiting my son who was at a Boarding school in Masvingo in Zimbabwe, a 5 hours' drive distance from Harare where I lived. We were meant to arrive around 3 pm but our bus had a breakdown. I was with my sister and my 10-year-old daughter. The mechanic arrived late. We then continued the journey and arrived at midnight. Our dropping off point was at a forested place where

we had to walk a further 15 minutes to reach the Boarding school. There was nobody else walking with us.

As we were walking, we heard a male voice saying, "Hey you, stop where you are!!!" The man had a white cap on which we could see in the moonlight. We knew we were in trouble. My hair stood up with fear.

Immediately I knew who to call!!! I shouted loudly, saying, "Jesus, please come to our rescue." I kept on calling louder and louder. The man was then almost near to where we were. He threw a stone which hit my sister and knocked her to the ground. Then the man disappeared.

I lifted my sister up but she was bleeding from the stone's hit. I lifted her up and held her by the hand. We walked about 100 yards and found a bottle store which was still open. The owner was so kind. After hearing our story, he called the police and we were taken to the nearest hospital, where my sister had sutures sewn on her bleeding head.

In Daniel 3 v 25, in the story of Shadrak, Mishak and Abednigo, another man appeared in the fire. This story came to my mind. I think the man ran away because there was a fourth person standing with us who he saw as he got nearer to us.

*Psalm 50:51, Call upon me and I will rescue you,
All glory and honour belongs to God. God is faithful to his promises.*

from Christine de Silva, May 4th 2025

'Derek the Cleric



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, **11.15am-12.30pm**, 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	12 May	6.15pm 6.30 – 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	13 May	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
Thurs	15 May	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	16 May	2.30pm	Friday Feathers Badminton Club

Sunday 18th May 2025

8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Carina Shergold.

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 - (Kevin Hardern: 01296 481285 Mobile: 07785 950 702)