

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 3rd May 2026

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 Mr Arthur Sara.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, this morning, are Jackie Simpson-Tyda and Andy Gilbert.

Please join us in the Hall after the service for tea, coffee, and a biscuit.

(Oat milk now available. Please ask.)

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 94 248 322 470 736
Readings	Acts 7: 55-60 John 14: 1-14
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 Pam White and Family
in memory of Brian, on what would have been his 90th birthday.
Always in our thoughts.**

SOS: Saturday 9th May at the home of Viv and Steve Kemp. The theme is 'Dessert Island Discs' - list your favourite 8 and play your number 1. Their contact number is 399315

SOS stands for 'Sometimes on Sunday' as we are a group made up of both regular Church goers and others who are not. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** We get together at each other's homes with the evening based around fellowship and food. Sometimes there is a theme for the food but not always; it's more important to be there. Usually we start at 7 o'clock, and all that's needed is a call to the host.

Next Sunday is Christian Aid Sunday, and you will find a collection envelope in your notice sheet. This can be returned at the end of the service or over the next few Sundays.



Please complete the Gift Aid declaration if you pay tax so that Christian Aid can claim back an extra 25p for each £1 you donate, at no extra cost to you.

WADDESDON METHODIST CHAPEL ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th May 2026

12.30 – 3.30pm

FLOWER FESTIVAL

Tea Coffee
Cakes



Raffle
Table Top Sale

Everybody

Welcome!

There are two unfilled spaces on the Reading sheet in the Welcome Space for Sunday 31st May if anyone is happy to add their name.



KEEP PERSEVERING AND REFUSE TO GIVE UP

'We count as blessed those who have persevered.'

James 5:11 NIV

We often think of great artists and musicians as having 'bursts' of genius. But, more often, they're models of painstaking patience and perseverance. Their greatest works tend to have been accomplished over longer periods and through extreme hardships.

Beethoven is said to have rewritten each bar of his music at least a dozen times. Joseph Haydn produced more than 800 musical compositions before writing *The Creation*, the oratorio for which he is most famous. Michelangelo's *The Last Judgment* is considered one of the twelve master paintings of the ages. It took him eight years to complete, producing more than 2,000 sketches and renderings in the process. Leonardo da Vinci worked on *The Last Supper* for ten years, often working so diligently that he forgot to eat.

When renowned pianist Paderewski was quite elderly, an admirer asked him, 'Is it true that you still practise every day?' He replied, 'Yes, at least six hours a day.' The admirer said in awe, 'You must have a world of patience.' Paderewski said, 'I have no more patience than the next fellow. I just use mine.'

It is said that in the Kentucky Derby, the winning horse effectively runs out of oxygen after the first mile and runs the rest of the way on *heart*. Basketball legend Michael Jordan says, 'Heart is what separates the good from the great.'

In the Bible, James wrote, 'As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about.' Those who are 'blessed' with success are those who keep persevering and refuse to 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 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 greatest need is for: Long Life UHT Milk, Tinned Fish, Tea Bags (40 or 80 per box) or Coffee.

But all donations are welcome. Strong Carrier Bags, Toiletries, washing up liquid & laundry detergent pods are always needed.



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, 10.45am-12 noon, 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

The Coffee Bar in the Welcome Space is usually open on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am – 12 noon.

Mon	4 May	6.15pm 6.30 – 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	5 May	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
Thurs	7 May	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	8 May	2.30pm	Friday Feathers Badminton Club



Sunday 10th May 2026

**10.30am: Service of Holy 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 must not 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)



Aylesbury
Methodist Church & Centre



WANTED

Wild gardeners

Anyone, wild or house-trained,
young or old, who would like to
help us create a wild garden
behind the church is invited to an

Ideas and planning
meeting
..... on
Saturday May 16
at 10am
in the Welcome Space
coffee bar.

Let's go wild!



Father Richard, drawing on the wisdom of Scripture and tradition, urges respect and recognition of God's presence in the natural world:

Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274), a Doctor of the Church, wrote: “Grace does not destroy nature, but perfects it.”

[1] Grace brings nature to a sense of its own sanctity, and it evokes this sacredness within the human heart.

This is the reason St. Francis could speak of animals as “brother” and “sister.” This manifold and diverse world is held together in a *uni-verse*, which means a reality turning around one thing. Our common name for that one thing is ‘God,’ but the word is not necessary to appreciate the reality. Aquinas explained this theologically; Francis knew it experientially.

Aquinas continues with “The whole universe in its wholeness more perfectly shares in and represents the divine goodness than any one creature by itself.”

[2] Paul said the same thing long before Aquinas: “What can be known about God is perfectly plain, since God has made it plain. Ever since God created the world, God’s everlasting power and divinity, however invisible, has been there for the mind to see in the things that God has made” (Romans 1:19–20).

How could humans think we were the only or even the main event? Not only did we think that Earth was the centre of the universe; we were certain our human species was the only one that God really cared about. All of creation was just a stage set for the human drama. Normally that is called narcissism. We extracted the soul from everything else. Nature was simply here for our utilitarian purpose, to be used for our consumption. With this belief system, we entered into a state of profound alienation from our own surroundings. We no longer belonged to this world because there was nothing worth belonging to. It was no longer naturally sacred, deserving our reverence or respect. We could rape, plunder, and misuse the earth. We could torture animals and destroy ecosystems because we thought they had no inherent value. We acted as though we were fully in charge.

Every day we have opportunities to reconnect with God through an encounter with nature, whether an ordinary sunrise, a starling on a power line, a tree in a park, or a cloud in the sky. This spirituality doesn’t depend on education or belief. It almost entirely depends on our capacity for simple presence. Often those without formal education and ‘unbelievers’ do this better than many educated, religious people. I have met many like this who put me to shame.