

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.

WELCOME TO
AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

07300 105 277

revrja@outlook.com

Church Office: 01296 426526

E-mail: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Website: www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Sunday 23rd August 2026

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr Nick Aylen.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, this morning, are Gill Nord and Gill Marks.

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 440 78 81 489 443
Readings	Philippians 4: 1 and 4-9
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.



Olwen Darlington's funeral will take place next Tuesday 25th August 2026, 10.00 am at Berton Crematorium. No flowers, please, but donations can be made in Olwen's memory to Save the Children via Dignity Funerals <https://www.dignityfunerals.co.uk/funeral-notice/26-07-2026-olwen-mary-darlington/> For those who cannot attend, there will be a live stream - <https://watch.obitus.com/login/d9s9gt> Username: **bidu1514** Password: **563930**

Bob Earl's funeral will take place on Monday 24th August, 11.00am at Whitchurch followed by Cremation at, I think, Watermead in Aylesbury.

New Wi-Fi account in operation

The Community Centre has a new Wi-Fi account. The details are displayed on the office noticeboard by the shredder/under the office clock so that those with access to the office can note the details. You can also request it by email. The old Wi-Fi account, Vodafone BOF637, is no longer in service.

revrja@outlook.com
07300 105277

Dear Friends,

As you may be aware, six of our Circuit churches: Aylesbury, Cheddington, Cuddington, Haddenham, Stone and Waddesdon have agreed to be part of a new multi-site church council. At the time of writing, Princess Risborough still have to make their decision as to whether they wish to join the new endeavour as well.

For this to work we are looking for someone to act as 'Treasurer' of the new entity.

I need to stress that Shirley Francis, who works in the office at Aylesbury, is going to be doing the book-keeping, the sending of invoices, and most of the mechanical parts of the role.

What we are looking for is someone to oversee Shirley's work and be the official Treasurer. This person has to be a church member.

In the short term, the Treasurer, hopefully with help from those with experience, will be involved in:

- Opening a new bank account(s), ensuring the appropriate safeguards required by the Church nationally. Shirley is working on this.

- They would also need to establish a new Central Finance Board Account for the new Church Council. This helps with reserves and assessment payments.
- To help in the setting up and implementation of the new book-keeping process. Shirley Francis used to do this when working for the Town Council so she is confident it can be straightforward.
- To help in the transition of existing church accounts into the new bank account. The hope is that this will be straightforward.

Then once the new process is in place:

- To oversee Shirley's work.
- To help in the production of annual accounts.

There are other areas we need to decide where responsibility lies, and we would want to hear the thoughts of the new Treasurer. That is, they could be done by someone else. These are:

- The negotiation of utility contracts. The hope is that being a group of churches we can acquire a greater discount for all.
- The Circuit Payroll – this is done through the Methodist Payroll Bureau for some church employees and for Emma Foulger-Clarke, the Circuit children's work enabler. This traditionally has been done by the Treasurer at Aylesbury.

If you would like to know more, please talk to Richard Atkinson.

SOS: September 19th at the home of Gill and Steve Marks - the plan is for an early evening walk followed by jacket potatoes. Their contact number is 01296 748659.

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.



CHURCH READINGS: September – November 2026. If you are willing to join our rota for reading the lesson in Church from time to time, a list is in the front Welcome Space - please sign

up for the week you would like to read, with just your name (no contact details unless you are new to reading the lesson) and a steward will contact you during that week with the reading. ***We are aware that our Church family is made up of many different denominations, and are more than happy for you to read in your own language, as it will be displayed in English on the front screen.***

If you have any questions, please speak to one of the stewards or Richard.

Don't forget your donations for the Aylesbury Foodbank.

Currently, the greatest need is still for: Long Life Fruit Juice, Long Life UHT Milk, Pasta and Rice. 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 meeting is taking a break for the Summer.



Next Week

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

Mon	24 August	6.30 – 8.00pm	Food Hub
Tues	25 August	9.30am	Chair Yoga
Frid	28 August	2.30pm	Friday Feathers Badminton Club

Sunday 30th August 2026

10.30am: Reader Service led by Mrs Louise 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)

Buckinghamshire Council Local Plan – Cooper's Yard and Whitehill Car Parks

As Richard mentioned last Sunday, we have received the following important update regarding the future of Aylesbury Town Centre and how proposed planning changes may affect access for local shoppers, businesses, visitors, and our community here at AMC, St Mary's and Grenville Street Churches.

The Bigger Picture: A Plan for Buckinghamshire

Buckinghamshire Council is currently finalising its **Draft Local Plan 2045**.

A Local Plan is a necessary and important document - it helps protect surrounding greenbelt land, directs growth onto previously developed town-centre sites, and ensures developers contribute toward local roads, schools, and infrastructure. In broad terms, having a clear plan for sustainable growth is vital for the region.

However, town-centre development must be balanced with practical day-to-day access for the people and institutions that keep our town heart vibrant.

The Challenge: Redeveloping Central Car Parks

Under the current draft proposals, two primary town-centre parking areas - **White Hill** and **Cooper's Yard** - are earmarked for residential redevelopment. While brownfield housing in central locations brings benefits, removing these car parks without a clear plan for replacement capacity creates significant issues across the town centre:

- **Town Centre Footfall & Local Services:** Shoppers, market visitors, diners, and people needing everyday town-centre services - eg visiting the doctor, bank, solicitors, or getting a haircut - rely on convenient central parking. Losing key spaces risks driving visitors away to out-of-town retail parks.
- **AMC, St Mary's Church and Grenville Street Church:** are open 7 days a week and host the vast majority of Aylesbury's civic, cultural, and community events and groups.
- **Essential Visitor Access:** Because these churches have no dedicated on-site parking, their entire congregations, elderly visitors, performers, guests, and community groups depend directly on nearby public car parks like White Hill and Cooper's Yard.

- **Accessibility for All:** Convenient parking is essential for families with young children, elderly residents, and anyone with limited mobility visiting the town centre.
-

Key Meetings which members of the public could attend took place on Sunday, 16 August at 12.30pm at St Mary's and on Monday, 17 August at 7.00pm at the Aylesbury Town Council.
A few members of AMC attended at least one of these.

How You Can Submit Your Representation:

Every individual voice matters crucially in this process!

If you would like to share your views before the public consultation closes on **Sunday, 6th September 2026**, here is how you can submit your own representation:

1. **Submit Feedback Online:** Visit the [Buckinghamshire Council Local Plan Portal](#) to submit comments via their OPUS consultation system.
2. **Emphasize Town Centre Access:** Highlight the importance of preserving accessible town-centre parking to support local shops, services, cultural events, civic venues, and community life.
3. **Keep Our Town in Your Thoughts:** Please join in supporting local leaders and planning teams as they work to shape a positive, accessible future for Aylesbury.

