

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 30th November 2025

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Arthur Cowburn.

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 Derek Adams.

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 185 706 748 169 188
Readings	Matthew 24: 36-44 Isaiah 2: 1-5
Organist	William Parker
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.



PLEASE NOTE that Rev Richard Atkinson's phone number
is now **07300 105 277**.
(The old number 01296 339899 is no longer in use.)

Rita McKelvie's funeral will take place at Amersham Crematorium tomorrow, on Monday 1st December at 3.15pm.

Augmented Choir for the Carol Service,
Sunday 21st December, 6.00 pm.

We invite anyone who is able and willing to join with our choir for this occasion. Besides supporting the congregational carol singing, the choir will be singing two short anthems.



The main rehearsal is in the church on
Wednesday morning 17th December, 10.30 am.
There will also be a short 'warm up' rehearsal in the hall at
5.30 pm on the evening.

For more information, please speak to Brenda Horne, Kay Foote, Roger Kirk or myself; alternatively, just turn up before 10.30 am on the Wednesday morning, you will be most welcome.
Thank you, **Derrick.**

Car Parking - Please note that the car park opposite the church, behind the offices, is *now out of use for us*. They now have CCTV cameras in use and will be ticketing cars that are parked without permission.

SAVE THE DATE



The **Christmas Walk and lunch** will be held on **Monday 29th December** this year; save the date if you'd like to come. More details on the walk will be provided nearer the time, and lunch will be served as usual at 82 Wendover Road, Aylesbury afterwards - time to be announced when details of the walk are sent round.
Roger and Kevin.

CHURCH READINGS: Dec 2025 – Feb 2026.

There is a new Reading Rota on the noticeboard, so if you are willing to join our rota for reading the lesson in Church occasionally, please sign up for the week you would like to read, with just your name (no contact details needed – **unless you are new to reading the lesson**), and a steward will contact you during that week with the reading. If you have any questions, **or if you are joining the reading rota for the first time**, please speak to one of the stewards.



present 'CHRISTMAS LIGHTS'.

Saturday 6th December, 7.00pm at St Mary's,
Hardwick, HP22 4DZ.

Tickets: £15 (Under 16s: £5) on the door,
or email weedonhardwickchurches@gmail.com
Wine and mince pies on sale during the interval.
See poster on noticeboard.

SOS. Saturday December 6th: This evening, we will travel to the Emerald Isle, actually Wendover. Here at the home of Marilyn and Nick Storer, Tel 622656, starting at 7pm, let us celebrate Irish culinary delights.

SOS is a group of people, some regular Church goers, others who are not - it makes no difference, all are welcome. Meeting together at each other's homes and sharing a faith supper; sometimes there's a theme to base food around, other times not. The evenings usually start at 7.00pm and finish when the last person goes home; all you need to do is call the host to say that you're coming.



Our next Messy Church is on **Saturday 6th December**, from 3.45pm – 6.00pm. There will be crafts and games and a lovely tea. Don't forget to let us know if you are coming by emailing amc22messychurch@gmail.com

by Thursday 4th September so we know how many to cater for.
Margaret Miskin.

SECRET SANTA SUNDAY

As you know by now, this year, in place of the Toy Service on 7th December, we shall be supporting the **Action for Children 'Secret Santa Appeal'** (see below) with our own **'SECRET SANTA SUNDAY'**.



Last Sunday there was a Special Secret Santa envelope in your notice sheet (if you don't have one, there are some in the display cabinet).

Then, **NEXT Sunday 7th December**, we ask you to return your envelope, to be pinned on the display board in church as you arrive.

If possible, please complete the Gift Aid details, which makes a huge difference to the amount given for the children, at no extra cost to us.

**If you are not going to be here on 7th Dec,
you can hand in your envelope today or in the next couple of weeks.**



*Each year, we ask people to be a charity
Secret Santa for a vulnerable child with
Action for Children by donating to our*

Secret Santa Appeal.

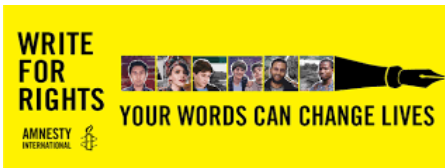
*Because, for vulnerable children across the UK,
Christmas is anything but magical.*

*No stockings. No presents. No festive food - maybe no food at all.
Their first memories of Christmas could be going to bed hungry, being
too cold to sleep, and losing all hope when Santa doesn't come.*

**But you could help change that. Your gift could help a vulnerable
child feel the magic of Christmas.**

*Being a Secret Santa means you could buy a child the essentials of warm
clothes, a hot meal, or a special present just for them. They'll know
Santa has remembered them - but they won't know that Santa is you!*





Write for Rights' Letter Writing Campaign 2025

Welcome to Amnesty's Write for Rights 2025 campaign. The campaign features people from around the world, all of whom are connected because their human rights have been violated. Some by their governments, others by the police, or even by big corporations. Real letters and cards can bring hope to people in the direst of situations; people who've been harassed, threatened and jailed just for who they are and what they do.

When letters arrive in huge numbers, they are also an unmistakable reminder to prison authorities and others that the world is watching.

For every case, there are two types of messages you can write – one to the person we are fighting for, or their family, so they know we will never forget them, and one to the person in authority.

1. Write a message of solidarity. This is where Write for Rights began: writing a card/letter to people who are wrongly punished, to show them that they're not alone and not forgotten by the rest of the world.

2. Write an appeal letter

In a world of petitions, physical post does get noticed! As well as writing to the people experiencing human rights abuses, you can write to the authorities who can bring them justice.

All the details of how to write to authorities are in our campaign booklet.
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/9347/2025/en/>

Rather stay online?

If writing letters isn't for you, you can also take action online – see above.

DOES IT WORK?

Yes! Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. People wrongfully imprisoned are released. Abusers are brought to justice. And people in prison are treated more humanely. A few words go a long way, for all of us. They can make us feel seen, supported, safe.

***For a few weeks, I shall include two people, with their details
and where to send your card/letter/email.***

Your message could make all the difference!

GUERRERAS POR LA AMAZONÍA, Ecuador.

“We are not just activists; we are daughters of the earth, of our communities; we are the warriors of the forest that refuses to die. We are the Amazon that resists the impacts of the oil industry, and for which our communities and our planet are burning.” The Guerreras por la Amazonía (Warriors for the Amazon) are a group of activists aged 10 to 20 years. They are fighting alongside the ***Union of People Affected by Texaco’s Oil Operations (UDAPT)*** and the ***Eliminen los Mecheros, Enciendan la Vida (Remove the Flares, Ignite Life)*** collective, to protect their communities from the toxic fumes and physical devastation caused by gas flares. Used in the process of extracting oil, gas flares are one of the largest contributors to the climate crisis. With the support of UDAPT, the **Guerreras por la Amazonía** joined a lawsuit against the Ecuadorian state in 2020. And won. In 2021, a landmark ruling required the government to eliminate the use of gas flares. Nevertheless, the “fire monsters” continue to burn. Instead of being celebrated for their bravery, the young defenders face stigma and violent intimidation. Rather than investigating the threats against them, the Ecuadorian authorities told the group that they will only provide them with protection if they stop their activism.

SHOW THE GUERRERAS POR LA AMAZONÍA, UDAPT AND THEIR COMMUNITIES THAT YOU’RE WITH THEM

Send your messages of support to the young climate defenders, letting them know their fight is inspiring action around the world to protect the planet.

**Guerreras por la Amazonía, c/o UDAPT, Av. Venezuela y Progreso,
Lago Agrio, 210150, Ecuador.**

WRITE TO THE PRESIDENT

Call on the Ecuadorian authorities to uphold the ruling to eliminate gas flares and ensure the safety of climate defenders.

**President of Ecuador,
Palacio de Carondelet,
García Moreno N10-43 entre,
Chile y Espejo,
Quito 170401, Ecuador.**

[Salutation: Dear President]



UNECEBO MBOTENI, South Africa.

‘My son died in a death trap set up for poor people... his death will not be in vain.’ Loyiso Mboteni, Unecebo’s father.

On 18 April 2024, 3 year old Unecebo Mboteni drowned in a pit toilet at his pre- school in South Africa’s Eastern Cape province. A year and a half on, no one has been held accountable, and his family continues to seek justice. Despite multiple children dying in pit toilets at schools in South Africa, the Department of Basic Education has consistently failed to meet deadlines to eradicate them. Pre-schools such as Unecebo’s remain excluded from official sanitation plans.

Unecebo’s death highlights broader systemic failures in early childhood education and infrastructure. It also reflects the ongoing impact of inequality in South Africa’s education system, where the poorest and youngest remain most at risk.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Andiswa and Loyiso Mboteni

c/o Amnesty International South Africa,

97 Oxford Road, Rosebank, Johannesburg 2916, South Africa.

Language English, isiXhosa

Suggested message Dear Andiswa and Loyiso, we stand with you in your fight for justice for little Unecebo.

Creative solidarity ideas

Unecebo loved playing with toy cars, so you could send a drawing or a picture of one.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the minister to work with the police to carry out a prompt and thorough investigation into Unecebo’s death, with those responsible held to account.

Write to: Minister of Basic Education,
Ministry of Basic Education Private Bag
X9034, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa
[Salutation: Dear Minister]

In your letter Also emphasise the urgency of removing all pit toilets from early childhood development centres, to prevent more tragedies.





Vale of Aylesbury Circuit

‘Big Sing for Advent’

NEXT Saturday 6th December, 10.30am

at Wingrave Methodist Church

Nup End Lane, Wingrave,

HP22 4PX



Community Hymn Singing from 10.15am.

All welcome!

PARKING adjacent to Wingrave Methodist Church is very limited, so we are most grateful that the Head Teacher of Wingrave Church of England School has offered us the use of the school carpark that morning.

The school's address is:

Wingrave Church of England Combined School

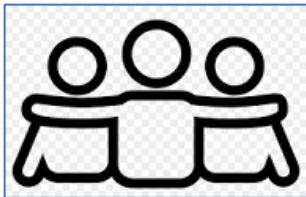
Twelve Leys, Wingrave, HP22 4QG.

Arriving in Wingrave from the A418 (Aylesbury to Leighton Buzzard road), Twelve Leys is the second substantial road on the right. Having turned right, you will find the School entrance about 50 yards on the right.

You will then be directed by someone from the church who will also point out the footpath leading to the Church.

Please exercise particular caution when turning into the school premises as it involves a partial blind spot. We are also asked to remain respectful of neighbouring properties.

We look forward to seeing you on 6th December. Please join us for refreshments following the service.



THE BENEFITS OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP

‘As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.’

Proverbs 27:17 NLT

Here are four benefits of a true friendship:

First, a true friend is someone who, when you feel like you have made a mess out of things and a fool out of yourself, still believes in you and reassures you that you haven’t done permanent damage. The Bible says, ‘There are “friends” who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother’ (Proverbs 18:24 NLT).

Second, a true friend is someone who is there when the good times are **not**. The Prodigal Son discovered to his hurt that when your money runs out, many of your so-called friends go with it.

Third, a true friend is someone who gets in your way when you are on your way down. James writes: ‘My dear brothers and sisters, if someone among you wanders away from the truth and is brought back, you can be sure that whoever brings the sinner back... will save that person from death and bring about the forgiveness of many sins’ (James 5:19-20 NLT).

Solomon writes, ‘An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a sincere friend are better than many kisses from an enemy’ (Proverbs 27:5-6 NLT).

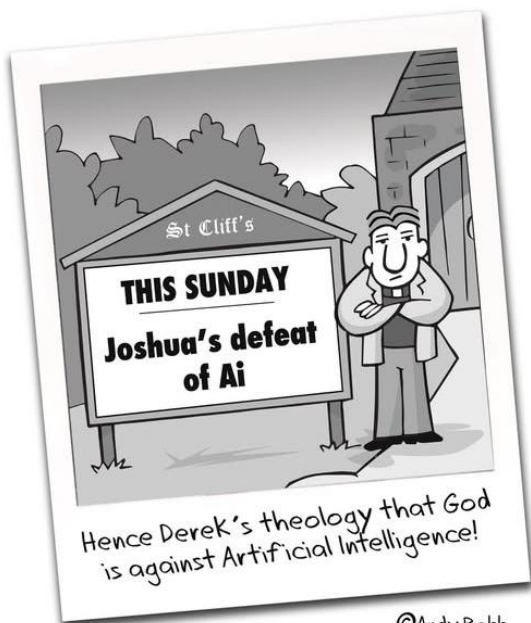
Fourth, a true friend is someone who comes in when the world walks out. The Bible says, ‘A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need’ (Proverbs 17:17 NLT). If you have friends like this in your life, treasure them – they’re a gift from God. And don’t just be a taker, be a giver. Go out of your way to be a true friend to someone else.

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.



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CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US
at
AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH
Buckingham Street, AYLESBURY HP 20 2NQ

21 st December, 6.00pm:	Carol Service
24 th December, 4.00pm:	Christingle Service
24 th December, 11.30pm:	Midnight Communion
25 th December, 10.00am:	Christmas Morning Service



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

WHITCHURCH

Dear All,

This Sunday, 30 November, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Whitchurch, and Lizzie shares how she has felt and experienced the love and strength of God in her life, helping and guiding her. We may not always feel the presence of God, but He is always there and we can rely on Him in every situation. Please pray this week for the lovely fellowship at Whitchurch and all those who are struggling in their faith that they will experience the power and presence of God in their lives. Pete.



After the birth of my first child, I struggled with Post-natal anxiety and low mood, and couldn't see the light at the end of the tunnel. I really clung to a few verses, one being: New King James Version. 2 Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of sound mind."

I would habitually speak those verses, and despite not feeling that they were true to my circumstances at the time, and still often feeling fearful, I knew them to be true, and that ultimately, they would guide me to a more peaceful mind and peaceful resolution. I knew and trusted that God was journeying with me, and he would guide me through the tunnel and out into the light.

I feel that, because of my experiences, God provided me with a gift of empathy, and afforded me the confidence to mentor others in similar circumstances. Through God's guiding hand, I have been enabled to use a personally dark time to shine God's light, and speak his word.

I am reminded of this with my favourite hymn, 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness':

- 1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou for ever wilt be:*
- 3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!*

With every blessing, Lizzie-Bonson-Forbes.

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



Don't forget your donations for the Aylesbury Foodbank.

Currently, the greatest need is for: *Biscuits, Tinned Fruit and Vegetables (but not Potatoes) and Tinned Fish. But all donations are welcome. Toiletries, washing up liquid & laundry detergent pods are always needed.*



Next Week

Mon	1 Dec	6.15pm 6.30 – 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	2 Dec	9.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Prayer Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	4 Dec	10.30am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	5 Dec	2.30pm	Friday Feathers Badminton Club
Sat	6 Dec	3.45pm	Messy Church

Sunday 7th December 2025

10.30am: Morning Worship 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 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)