

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 7th December 2025

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: Service of Holy Communion 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 Elaine Hope 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 188 167 156 183 176 177
Readings	Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-13
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.



PLEASE NOTE that Rev Richard Atkinson's phone number is now **07300 105 277**.

(The old number 01296 339899 is no longer in use.)

SECRET SANTA SUNDAY



Please bring up your envelope, to be pinned on the display board in church, as you arrive. *If you don't have an envelope, there are some in the display cabinet).*



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.

Some of you have already handed in your envelopes.

If necessary, envelopes can be returned next week.



The Christmas card post box is now in the Welcome Space for you to post your cards *to those who regularly attend Church services.* The cards are **NOT DELIVERED**, so please do not put cards in unless you are sure the recipients regularly attend church.

Please also put SURNAMES on the envelopes as folk might not think to look in the other pouches.

If you wish to send a card to **everyone at Church**, the board is on the radiator by the display cabinet, for you to pin your card.



Come and pull a cracker with us on **Wednesday 10th December**. A Christmas-themed lunch will be served at **12.30pm** and all are welcome as long as we know you are coming.

Please add your name to the list in the back coffee bar or give Gill a call on 01296 748659 to book your seat. See you there.

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.**



Our attempts to establish a **Circuit Prayer Group** on a Thursday morning have not been as successful we would like, possibly because of the timing. Therefore, I would like to invite those who will be interested in joining a prayer time on Zoom on a **Tuesday evening at 9:00pm.** It will last for a maximum of 30 minutes and the format will be the responsibility of the person designated to lead. *Anyone interested in joining this group needs to let Richard Atkinson know so he can send the invitation.*



Christmas Walk and Lunch: Monday 29th December.

For the walk, please meet near the Half Moon pub in Wilstone at 10.45am. The route includes canal towpath and field paths. Nothing too muddy, but please wear suitable footwear.

No wooden stiles!

For those just going for the soup lunch, please arrive at 82 Wendover Road after 12.30pm. Parking available at the nearby sports ground.

Contributions for the meal will go towards Karibuni Children.

Please let Kevin know whether you are coming on the walk and/or the lunch.

Tel 01296 481285. Queries about the walk to Roger Tel 01296 415312.

**The 2024/2025 ANNUAL REPORT is now available from
the display cabinet in the Welcome Space.**

Thanks to all those who contributed to it.

A CAUTIONARY TALE

showing the Holy Spirit among us at all times.

1963, Skopje, former YUGOSLAVIA – 80 volunteers, having worked non-stop through the first day and night of the major earthquake that destroyed much of the City, bringing survivors and bodies out of the rubble (almost 1,000 dead in the final counting weeks later), were invited to enjoy a HOT MEAL!

The authorities had found the remains of a kitchen still in working order, and four local chefs volunteered to risk cooking, sitting on the ground floor of a Hotel, tilted more than the Tower of Pisa, with all doors buckled, and entry/exit only through a 2-foot- wide slanted gap in one wall.

Having rapidly and thankfully enjoyed the main course, the dessert was interrupted by a loud crash, rumbling, and the ceiling falling into the meal and onto all within.

The gap was slowly closing. 84 people stood up from the tables, and with smiles and back-patting, calmly climbed over the rapidly increasing rubble and out of the crumbling building. In less than one minute. No shouting, no waving of arms, no panic, as each felt that they were living their last moments of their life. Each knowing that the Holy Spirit was with them.

The recent Fire Drill at AMC matched the timing, so - well done all; each of us must do as they did in Skopje: NO PANIC, NO SHOUTING, NO ARM WAVING! Just walk calmly along to the Exits, so well described by John Miskin – well done John.

How do I know the details so vividly? My Mountaineering Scottish comrade, Doug, and I, were just 2 of the 84 who survived the experience, and who worked so well together over the following weeks.

Derek Adams

*Having worked in rescue and danger situations for many years, one of our Church Stewards, Derek Adams, wishes to stress that **TWO** words underline every success, be it an earthquake in Turkey 1968, or a Fire Drill at AMC 2025 = **KEEP CALM!***

A smile and your calm will succeed in any situation

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



YOUR WORDS CAN CHANGE LIVES

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 cases, with their details
and where to send your card/letter/email.***

Your message could make all the difference!

MOTHER NATURE CAMBODIA (MNC) is an award-winning youth-led environmental group known for major campaign victories, including stopping a dam in the Areng Valley and halting destructive sand exports. Its members use peaceful activism to protect forests, rivers and coastal communities. Since 2016, MNC has faced relentless repression by Cambodian authorities. In July 2024, six activists were sentenced to six to eight years for 'plotting' and 'insulting the King'. These charges are widely seen as punishment for peacefully exposing environmental abuses.

Ratha Sun fled Cambodia to continue their work, but the remaining five young activists remain in prison in poor conditions: Ratha Thun, Kunthea Long, Keoraksmey Phuon, Chandaravuth Ly and Leanghy Yim.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY.

Email Sana at sana.nguyen@amnesty.org for MNC's postal address.

Take photos of your messages and post on social media before sending: facebook.com/mothernaturecambodia

Language: English, Khmer



Suggested message: *Dear Mother Nature Cambodia, we stand with you and support your activism. Your important work has inspired many young people to take climate action. We will continue to speak up and call for your freedom.*

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Call for all convictions against Mother Nature Cambodia activists to be quashed and for the five detained activists to be immediately and unconditionally released from prison.

Write to: Prime Minister Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia, Office of the Council of Ministers, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Email: ocm@cambodia.gov.kh

Or send your letters to the Prime Minister, c/o Royal Embassy of Cambodia, 64 Brondesbury Park, London NW6 7AT. [Salutation: Dear Prime Minister].

In your letter, avoid referring to Cambodian opposition parties.



CAMBODIA

Mother Nature Cambodia

"The fear of arrest is not as great as the fear of losing our natural resources."

Ratha Thun, Mother Nature Cambodia member

Young activists jailed for protecting the environment

SONIA DAHMANI – Tunisia

Sonia is a lawyer and media personality, has been arbitrarily detained since May 2024 for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression. She faces five prosecutions and is enduring cruel, inhumane detention conditions that seriously threaten her health.

Sonia has long spoken out on racism, migration, and prison conditions in Tunisia. Since late 2023, she has faced mounting legal harassment for her public comments. Authorities have charged her under a repressive cybercrime law for 'spreading false news'.

Her arrest follows President Kais Saied's authoritarian power grab and growing repression of civil society. Sonia is one of dozens of people targeted for criticising the government, and her case reflects the sharp decline of free expression and judicial independence in Tunisia.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY:

Sonia Dahmani, c/o Amnesty International Tunisia, 5 Rue Zouhair, Ayadi El Menzah 4, Ariana, Tunis 1082, Tunisia.

Language: French, Arabic, English

Suggested message: *Dear Sonia, you are not alone. People around the world are standing with you and raising their voices to demand your release. Your courage in defending truth and dignity inspires us. We hope you feel our love and solidarity through every message you receive.*

Share drawings of her dog, Carla. Write messages referencing her love of art, beaches and/or classic Arabic and '80s music. Send postcards with scenes of the sea or football motifs. Include theatre-themed notes or quotes; and/or handwritten playlists or movie titles she might enjoy.

Solidarity messages can be posted on Instagram, tagging **@soniadahmani**.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Urge the president to immediately and unconditionally release Sonia Dahmani, quash her sentences, and drop all charges against her, as she is detained solely for exercising her right to freedom of expression.

Write to: Kais Saied, President of the Republic of Tunisia, Carthage Presidential Palace, La Goulette Road, Carthage Archaeological Site Tunis, Tunisia.

Email: contact@carthage.tn

[Salutation: Your Excellency]



SAI ZAW THAIKE - Thailand

Photojournalist Sai Zaw Thaike was arrested in 2023 after documenting the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha. Sentenced by a military tribunal to 20 years of hard labour, he has been tortured and held in solitary confinement simply for exposing the truth.

Since the 2021 military coup, the junta has cracked down on dissent – revoking media licenses, jailing journalists, and silencing activists. Sai Zaw, who worked for the banned outlet Myanmar Now, risked his life to continue reporting inside the country. He was arrested in Rakhine state, beaten during interrogation and sentenced without legal counsel in a single-day trial. In prison, he has endured torture, including severe beatings and degrading treatment. His case reflects the wider repression of freedom of expression in Myanmar.



SEND A MESSAGE OF HOPE AND SOLIDARITY:

Sai Zaw Thaike, c/o Amnesty International East and Southeast Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, M. Thai Tower, All Seasons Place, 87 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Phatumwan, Bangkok 10330, Thailand.

Language: English, Burmese

Suggested message: *Your photos speak truth to power, Sai Zaw Thaike. I join many voices across the world demanding your freedom.*

Can I send a religious card or message? No

Creative solidarity ideas: Include references, drawings and/or photos of Sai Zaw Thaike's interests – cats, football and photography.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER:

Demand the immediate and unconditional release of Sai Zaw Thaike. Also call on the Myanmar authorities to ensure he is not subjected to further torture or ill- treatment while in detention.

Write to: State Administration Council: **Email:** sacministry1234@gmail.com

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission: **Email:** info@mnhr.org.mm

Prisons Department: **Email:** webadmin@myanmarprisonsdepartment.org

Also write to: Embassy of Myanmar, 19A Charles Street, London W1J 5DX.

Email: ambassadoroffice@londonmyanmarembassy.com

In your letter *Do not mention or refer to Sai Zaw's family, as this could put them at risk.*



YOUR EMOTIONS MATTER TO GOD

*'Let all bitterness, wrath, anger...
be put away from you.'*

Ephesians 4:31 NKJV

Like Jesus, we have been created in the image of a God who expresses emotions. Neither the Father nor the Son was afraid or embarrassed to feel deeply, and we shouldn't be either.

In Scripture, God's heart broke for His wayward children (see Hosea 11:8-9). Jesus wept openly at the grave of His dear friend Lazarus (see John 11:35). He expressed righteous anger over moneylenders defrauding worshippers in the temple (see Luke 19:45-46). And when it comes to our own feelings, we are neither *powerless pawns* nor *fearful fugitives*.

God wants us to own them, understand their message, and seek His counsel in engaging them for His glory and the benefit of others.

The psalmist often voiced his emotions before God. In Psalm 22:1, he cried out, 'My God...why have you abandoned me? Why are you so far away when I groan for help?' (NLT). Think how he must have felt to make him say those words: intense fear, panic, confusion, disappointment, and betrayal.

But note what he did with his emotions. He took them to God, addressed Him personally, and called on His help: 'Do not stay so far from me, for trouble is near, and no one else can help me' (v. 11 NLT).

David's approach was bold, and he found the help he needed: 'For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy. He has not turned his back on them, but has listened to their cries for help' (v. 24 NLT).

When you bring your feelings to God, you will find that 'all who seek the Lord will praise him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy' (v. 26 NLT).

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

WINGRAVE

Dear All,

This Sunday, 7 December, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Wingrave, and Sandra shares her journey with us. Sandra's story confirms to us all just how vital our welcome on the doorstep is to those entering our buildings, especially for the first time. First impressions are vital to those who may be feeling very uneasy about stepping foot into what can be an intimidating building, full of possibly judgemental people. We need to work hard to ensure that the welcome we give is overflowing with the love and joy of Jesus.



We will all have an opportunity to experience an excellent welcome at first hand this Saturday morning as we gather at Wingrave for the 'Big Sing for Advent', which promises to be a wonderful occasion, do come along.

This Sunday, please pray for the lovely people of Wingrave, and for all those who are searching for love and forgiveness, that we may be guided to the love of Jesus and not be obstacles in His way. Pete.

I arrived in Wingrave in October 2002 as my husband took up a post of resident caretaker at Wingrave Primary School, along with our young family.

The welcome I received at Wingrave Methodist church was one that many of you who have been there would have received also. It was full of warmth and invitation to join a wonderful community of giving Christians.

My faith journey had started in my baptism at Booth Road Methodist Church in Colindale, North London, followed by several years in an Anglican church before my father and I became members of Kenton Methodist Church in Middlesex.

I was excited to become involved in supporting various aspects of church life in Wingrave, including supporting the church's work with the young children in the village alongside the parish church, as well as being a circuit steward in the Aylesbury Methodist Circuit.

Although I moved away from Wingrave in 2006, I have always returned – for a couple of years whilst living in Weston Turville, and now on an ad hoc basis

whilst living in London and now Hertfordshire. This is dependent on when I'm not on duty as a steward at my current Methodist Church.

Wingrave Methodist Church has a special place in my heart, as the members and ministers have all played a role in showing the love of Christ through their actions and words to all those that they connect with, both in the village, circuit, UK and overseas.

This has been a wonderful example to continue in my life's journey as I continue to trust in Jesus Christ who guides me every day.

Welcoming

Innovative

Neighbourly

Giving

Receptive

Active

Volunteers

Enthusiasm

Sandra Lavender.



KARIBUNI CHILDREN'S NEXT QUIZ NIGHT

(with a Fish and Chip Supper) will be held on
Saturday 24th January 2026, commencing at 7pm.

This time the venue will be Fairford Leys
Community Centre.

Tickets can be obtained by calling Genevieve Smith at
the Karibuni Office (**01296 614887**) or via the Karibuni
online shop: (<https://www.karibuni.org.uk/shop>)



Karibuni Children

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.

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: *Tinned Fruit and Vegetables (but not Potatoes), Teabags (40 or 80), Table sauces, eg Ketchup, brown sauce. **But all donations are welcome.** Toiletries, washing up liquid & laundry detergent pods are always needed.*



Next Week

Mon	8 Dec	6.15pm 6.30 – 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	9 Dec	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
Wed	10 Dec	12.30pm	Lunch Club
Thurs	11 Dec	10.30am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	12 Dec	2.30pm	Friday Feathers Badminton Club

Sunday 14th 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 - (Kevin Hardern: 01296 481285 Mobile: 07785 950 702)