

WELCOME TO
AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 14th December 2025

10.30am: Morning Worship 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 Jackie Simpson-Tyda and Vicky Fiadzeawu.

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 175 'Come and see the shining Hope' 170 356 331 59
Readings	Isaiah 40: 1-5 John 1: 19-28
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.**



We welcome the family and friends of Ava Marysia-Kay Pawlowicz, who is being baptised this morning.

Family News: On Wednesday, Joan Goodridge, an AMC member for many years, passed away peacefully at home in Wendover surrounded by her family, after her brave fight with Motor Neurone Disease. Please think, in your prayers, of husband Terry, sons John and Gareth and their wider family.



SECRET SANTA SUNDAY

Please hand in your envelope this morning
if you still have one.



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.

**Please note that there will be no notice sheet on
28th December and 4th January.**

Please give any notices to one of the stewards to be read out in the service.

***Notice sheet for next Sunday, 21st December, will be printed on Thursday!**

GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT: In spite of his treatment, Pete Honeyball has attempted to keep the weekly Good News piece arriving in inboxes of people around the circuit. He has now agreed that he can take a rest from this, so it will not be appearing here for a little while.

The hope is, that once Pete is feeling better, we can think about how this might resume. Pete is entering into the final stages of his six weeks of radiotherapy and trying to cope with the effects of his treatment. As many of you will be aware this is not easy. Pete is incredibly grateful for all the prayers for himself and Jane in the midst of this ordeal.

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 Carol Service next Sunday is at 6.00pm, and tea/ coffee and mince pies will be served before the service from 4.30pm. So please come and join us in the Christmas festivities. *All donations of mince pies can be left in the kitchen during the week.* Looking forward to seeing you all. Gill and Steve.



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.

**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.

***The final cases is on the following pages, with their details
and where to send your card/letter/email.***

Your message could make all the difference!

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' VISAS REVOKED – USA

Students face detention and deportation for taking part in protests.

Across the USA, international students have faced detention and deportation simply for exercising their right to protest. Many of them had spoken out against the genocide in Gaza and the US government's role in supporting the Israeli authorities' ongoing apartheid and illegal occupation against Palestinians. Earlier this year, US immigration authorities wrongfully arrested and detained at least 10 students for protesting. These incidents are part of a wider, deeply troubling crackdown on student activism, dissent and civic space. It is a pattern we are also seeing echoed on campuses here in the UK. This is a warning to the world: our hard-won rights can be lost overnight. We refuse to remain silent in the face of the Trump administration's human rights abuses. The right to protest, organise and speak out must be defended. All students should feel like they belong on their campus and are free to be themselves without being harassed or singled out.

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY:

To your local university or the university you attended.

Suggested message I am writing in solidarity with students in the USA whose rights to express themselves, assemble and associate are under attack. We have seen protests shut down in the US, and similar actions in the UK. We must remind our institutions in both countries that the rights to speak, protest, dissent and demand change and human rights must be upheld. I urge you, as a leader of [name of institution], an institution dedicated to learning, academic freedom and rights - respecting campuses - to recognise your responsibility to speak clearly and publicly in defence of human rights. Defending these rights is essential to the academic mission, and those who undermine them must be held accountable.

Can I send a religious card or message? No

Include my name and address? Yes, use your full name for the solidarity call; **but for the appeal letter, only use your first name and country**, as there could be a risk of names being recorded and potential visa issues when travelling to the US.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER: Urge the Secretary of Homeland Security to restore the visas and immigration status of these students and visitors; release all students from immigration detention; refrain from deporting any of them; and end the targeting of students based on their immigration statuses and for exercising their human rights.

Write to: Secretary Kristi Noem, Department of Homeland Security, 300 7th St SW, Washington, DC 20528, USA

Email: dhssecretary@hq.dhs.gov **In your letter:** Also state that all students, faculty and staff have the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and due process and to be free from discrimination



CHARACTER IS WHAT COUNTS

*‘Man looks at the outward appearance,
but the LORD looks at the heart.’*

1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV

Here is a description of Saul, Israel’s first king: ‘There was not a more handsome person...among the children of Israel’ (1 Samuel 9:2 NKJV). But his looks couldn’t compensate for his lack of character, and he died prematurely in shame and defeat. When Samuel the prophet went to the house of Jesse to anoint one of his sons as Israel’s next king, God said, ‘Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.’

Many years ago, a boy was born in Russia who thought himself to be so ugly, he was certain there would be no happiness for him in life. He bemoaned the fact that he had a wide nose, thick lips, small grey eyes, and big hands and feet. He was so distraught about his appearance that he asked God to work a miracle and turn him into a handsome man. He vowed that if God would do this, he would give Him all he possessed.

That boy was Count Tolstoy, who became one of the world’s foremost authors, best known for his epic War and Peace. In his books he admits that, through the years, he discovered that the beauty of physical appearance he had once sought was not the only beauty in life – and it was not the best beauty.

Instead, Tolstoy came to regard the beauty of a strong character as having the greatest good in God’s sight.

Character is not a matter of money or looks, but of doing what is right apart from money, and standing up for what’s right apart from appearances.

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.



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>) (see posters on notice boards)

CHURCH READINGS: Dec 2025 – Feb 2026.

Please sign up if you can!



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: *Long-life UHT milk and Custard, 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	15 Dec	6.15pm 6.30 – 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	16 Dec	9.30am 10.45am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Prayer Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	18 Dec	10.30am From 1.45pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
Frid	19 Dec	2.30pm	Friday Feathers Badminton Club

Sunday 21st December 2025

8.45am: Communion service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr John Shaw.

6.00pm: Carol Service 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 - (John Miskin: 01296 422919 07988 960815)

