

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

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**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

**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: Family Service 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 Gill Marks.

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

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.

***The Worship Band will lead you in your preparation for worship and the words will be shown on the screen. Please join in.***

Hymns	SoF 268 StF 40 24 15 477 351
Readings	Psalm 139: 7-18 Galatians 5: 22-26 1 Peter 1: 8-9
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.**

**Today's flowers are in loving memory of Janet and Hilary.  
David Neville and Judy Seed.**



We have received a letter from Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust, thanking us for the donation of £300 raised at the Ghanaian Sunday Service earlier this year, for the National Spinal Injury Centre at Stoke Mandeville. A copy of the letter is on the noticeboard in the Welcome Space for you to read.

**Methodist Prayer Handbook:** If you require a copy of the Prayer Handbook, cost £4.20, please leave me a message on my phone 01296 485087 or email me. [ruthmwatkins@aol.com](mailto:ruthmwatkins@aol.com). Ruth.

**Angela Smith's funeral will be on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:** the committal at Aylesbury Vale crematorium, Watermead, at 12.30pm, and a service of Thanksgiving here at 1.30pm. Please will you let Jennie know if you will be coming to the service at 1.30pm.

Also, if you have any tales or anecdotes about **Angela**, please do let Jennie Torpey have them asap for her to pass on to her cousin for her eulogy.



Thank you for continuing to support Aylesbury Foodbank by collecting food donations. The weight of your Jan - May 2024 donations for Aylesbury Methodist is 431.38 kg and for May alone is 67.47kg. Thank you for your ongoing support; without community support like yours, we would be unable to feed local people in crisis in the way that we do.

**SHOUT OUT FOR VOLUNTEERS!** Don't forget we're still recruiting people to help with food collections at supermarkets on Saturdays over the next few months - we'd love to hear from you if you or someone in your organisation can help! Collections Team, Aylesbury Foodbank. 01296 395514



**TODAY, 14 July!** Please remember that Maureen's daughter Erica is running for the 17<sup>th</sup> time, raising funds for Cancer Research UK, at Northampton. If you wish to donate to this very worthwhile cause, the online link is:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/ericas-race-for-life-171529182937>.

Cheques made payable to Cancer Research UK, and cash, are obviously still acceptable. **Our total raised last year was £1,235 so here's to 2024.....**

Contact: Maureen Tucker 01296 486619 / 07790 581 197.

By the way, before you go ..... HOW TIME FLIES!  
 A RED-LETTER DAY!! Ten years ago next weekend, occurred such a day in the life of our Church here at Buckingham Street.  
 Any thoughts? Babs.



**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, 10.45-12noon,** 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](mailto:rubydarku@hotmail.co.uk)



**Don't forget your donations for the Aylesbury Foodbank**  
**Currently, the need is for donations of:** *UHT milk, tinned meat, fish & fruit. Sponge/rice puddings, small jars coffee, long life juices, pasta sauce, tinned meals (eg chilli, curries). Tinned soups, jam & spreads, as well as toiletries, together with washing up liquid & laundry detergent pods.*

**Next Week**

<b>Mon</b>	15 July	6.30 - 8.00pm	Food Hub
<b>Tues</b>	16 July	9.30am 10.45am 2.30pm	Chair Yoga Prayer Group Tuesday Fellowship
<b>Frid</b>	19 July	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

**8.30am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.**

**10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Richard Atkinson.**

<b>The designated fire officers are the Duty Stewards</b>
<b>First Aid boxes are located in each of the kitchens</b>
<b>Fire doors are not to be wedged open, except those fitted with Dorgard (Please ensure other doors close behind you after passing through</b>
<b>Duty Manager (Roger Kirk: 01296 415312 Mobile: 07484 392734)</b>



## 'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT



### CUDDINGTON

Dear All,

Last Sunday, 7 July, the focus of our Circuit Prayers was on Cuddington, and we join Margaret as she shares her story with us. Words of hymns can have quite an impact on us, and Margaret tells how one in particular stirred memories for her. Please pray this week for those who are still searching and enquiring, that the Lord may speak to them, bringing the gospel alive and an understanding of His love for us all. Pete.

*At our service last Sunday, the opening hymn was 'Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine'. The Lord reminded me of a book I was given as a prize for the Northampton Area for the Scripture Exam entitled, 'This is my story'. This is part of the hymn and so I took it off my bookshelf - pages showing the yellowing of age but with hard covers at a price of 6 shillings!! (that would be 30p in today's money)!! It was written in 1959 and told the stories of sixteen 20th Century Evangelists.*

*The book had a DEDICATION: to - BILLY GRAHAM and his team. Everyone reading this will have their own personal opinions about Mass Evangelism, but the Greater London Crusade of the Spring 1954 caused the Gospel to be the topic of Conversation on the bus, train, home, work and the daily newspapers.*

*I lived in Olney, Bucks, and the Congregational Church that I attended ran a bus to Haringey. I was 12 years old at the time. Dr Billy Graham, supported by 1000 Clergy, ministers and Evangelists put 2 words into circulation - BIBLE and TESTIMONY. The singing of the Choir (which frequently reached 1500), and the 'theme song', was Blessed Assurance.*

*I thought that I was a Christian but Billy Graham kept saying that we are all sinners. I was sat high up in Haringey and watched all these 'sinners' going to the front to give their lives to Jesus.*

*After all, I was all right, as I was a faithful attender at the Chapel!*

*When I got home God spoke to me, and, in my bedroom, I gave my life fully to Jesus. Did I feel different? No, not at that moment - as I had just begun my*

*walk with my Lord and Saviour and had a lot to learn and experience. Our Minister held Bible Classes and gave us a deeper knowledge of the Bible and how to wait on God in prayer. I am so grateful for his support. That was a momentous time in my spiritual life.*

*I am praying as God seems to be moving in the lives of the young people of our nation. I would love to see a move of the Spirit in these days, as I am sure that would be our heart's desire.*

*I can truly say 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine and this is my story and my song'.*

*I have proved that God is so faithful. Colin and I celebrate our Diamond Wedding this year and we have been so blessed through our marriage and family and friends.*

*I recommend my Saviour to you.*

*In His service,  
Margaret Watts.*



### **'GOOD NEWS' FROM THE CHAPLAINCY OFFICE AT STOKE MANDEVILLE HOSPITAL**

We have recently focussed on what mission and outreach might look like in the world outside the doors of our churches, and I think many of us have been more than a little frightened by the prospect.

One area that has never cropped up in my thoughts is that of Chaplaincy, because I think the role of a Chaplain calls for a very special person with the ability to cope with all sorts of different situations, both happy and also desperately sad, from one extreme of human emotion to the other. We will meet one such person below in the form of Marilyn. Marilyn has, in my eyes, an amazing gift for getting alongside people, sharing in their joys and sorrows, and bringing vital comfort and solace in times of grief. Do share in Marilyn's story below, and if it inspires you to get involved, please talk to Stefan. You can ring him - Stefan Tiran on 07557 633289. If you want to ask Marilyn for more details she is on 01296 622656. The Chaplains would really like more Methodists to get involved! Pete.



*The name Chaplain is thought to derive from the actions of a Roman soldier in 4<sup>th</sup> Century. He shared his cape (cappella) with a beggar who was cold. To me that gives an idea of what we volunteer Chaplaincy Visitors do. We are there to try to understand the needs of patients and staff and offer help where we can. This may be tangible help like getting an additional blanket, or, most often, listening.*

*We have a very diverse team of people from various religions, and Humanists too. We are there for people of all religions and none. The latter makes up the majority of people we encounter, but, even though they may not have religious needs, they can still have spiritual ones. We work in most areas of the hospital and you can recognise us by our turquoise polo shirts.*

*My day is usually spent half in the Emergency Department (ED) and half in Spinal Unit wards. Typically, I start by signing in at the Chaplaincy Office and getting a briefing about any patients that we may be supporting. In the ED I report to the Nurse in Charge who may point me in the direction of someone that they have identified as needing support. I well remember my very first patient. She was a young lass who was worried about her pregnancy. She had phoned her partner but they could not get to the hospital in time for the scan. So I stayed with her for the scan (happily OK), and until her partner arrived. More often than not, though, I will be directed to someone who is, for some reason, agitated or confused, and who just needs someone to chat with them and ensure that they either do not wander off, or perhaps do not interrupt staff dealing with other patients. Often a family member is on the way to the hospital and I am able to relinquish my task once they arrive. On one memorable occasion, though, I spent a couple of hours having the same 5 minute conversation repeated over and over. During the time I was there a doctor came up to me and remarked that he didn't think I knew how useful I was being. It really endorsed what I was doing. On other occasions the need might cover End of Life, and here the need may be religious and I may have to go back to the office to obtain the relevant service or prayer books, or to arrange for a representative of a specific religion to attend.*

*If there is no identified need, I move around the ED looking to see if there is anyone who I feel may value my presence. I look at body language and facial expressions. I always start by introducing myself, and, depending on the reaction, I take it from there. The conversation may be with the patient or the person with them, or both and, obviously, depends on the*

circumstances. There are occasions where I glean information that they have not advised the staff and I then try to ensure that they do. More mundane messages such as the need for a bedpan may also need passing on.

After lunch I go to any or all of the Spinal Unit wards. I am usually going to see people I know and may have known for several months, or, in some cases, years. This is what makes the Spinal Unit different from general wards. I usually know their story and the ups and downs of their stay in hospital. Very often the concerns and information I am told are areas that the particular patient would not discuss with the friends or relatives. It can get very personal and cover intimate elements of the impact of a spinal injury. I have no medical qualification and cannot, obviously, have any medical input, but I can help them raise concerns with the medical staff if appropriate.

In both the ED and the Spinal wards, my contact may be solely with a concerned relative or close friend, and I may never actually chat to the patient themselves. One recent such encounter resulted in the relative squeezing my hand and saying that they were thankful that I really did understand. It is these moments that validate my role and make my job so rewarding.

Marilyn.



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## Stop Covering it Up

*'He who covers his sins will not prosper.'*

Proverbs 28:13 NKJV

The Bible says, 'He who covers his sins will not prosper. But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy' (v. 13 NKJV).

Could this be the reason you're not succeeding?

Unresolved guilt has the ability to corrode your confidence like acid. But there is an answer: 'Whoever confesses and forsakes [his sins] will have mercy.'

Confess it to God! He already knows what you have done – He is just waiting for you to deal with it so He can forgive you and bless you again.

'God is Light, and there is no darkness in Him at all [no, not in any way]' (1 John 1:5 AMPC). The light of God reveals things. When a light is switched on in a room, we can see dust and bugs scattering. And when God gets involved in our lives, He begins to show us things we may prefer not to see; things we have been hiding, even from ourselves.

We're often deceived, especially about ourselves. We don't want to deal with our faults, and we don't enjoy having them exposed. Privately we feel condemned about them, but at least we feel like they're hidden.

But anything hidden has power over us because we fear it may be discovered.

Refuse to live that way. The best and most liberating thing you can do is to face what God wants to take care of and get beyond the fear of it.

David said, 'I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin' (Psalm 32:5 NKJV).

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

**FREEPOST RLTX-ABUL-GRAR, United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF**, or telephone **0845 60 40 401**. Or you can read them online.

As a charity, UCB relies on donations, so a gift of at least 50p per copy, which just covers the cost of printing the booklet, would be appreciated from time to time.

**There are a few copies in the display cabinet in the Welcome Space just now.**