

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 21st 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.

8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

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 Gill Nord at 8.45am, and Gill Marks and Frances Aylen at 10.30am.

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.

Hymns	8.45am: StF 74 322 340 10.30am: StF 3 20 346 409 51
Readings	8.45am: Psalm 81 10.30am: Ephesians 2: 11-22 Mark 6: 30-34
Organist	8.45am: Derrick Matthews 10.30am: David Brooker
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.

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. Ruth.

Angela Smith's funeral will be tomorrow, Monday 22nd July: the committal at Aylesbury Vale crematorium, Watermead, at 12.30pm, and a service of Thanksgiving here at 1.30pm, followed by refreshments..

Aylesbury Methodist Church Food Hub: sharing and practical hospitality

We had over 25 people in the Welcome Space last Monday, plus one crisis situation to deal with involving social services and taking a vulnerable guest to hospital. The four dedicated volunteers on duty were kept busy all evening, leaving little time for circulating and chatting with our guests. At least as important as the food we offer is the gift of our time to be there for our guests - to listen and chat, encourage and support. Not everyone can commit to the rota (we are grateful for those who do, because without them we could not open) but could you help out, nevertheless? We can always use one or two more volunteers with a caring attitude and a genuine interest in chatting to others sensitively with the aim of encouraging and supporting them. If you find yourself free between 6.30pm and 8.00pm on an occasional Monday evening, would you consider enriching the experience of our guests by just showing up and helping? If you want to email me beforehand, I can send you some information about the routine of the evening, but you could equally just show up unannounced. You would not be committing to anything beyond that session, and your offering of time could make all the difference to someone else. Please do consider if this is something you could do. Karen Crussell.

karencrussell63@gmail.com



SOS On Tour. 10th August: no cooking tonight, therefore no washing up! We are meeting at the **7 Stars of Dinton**, and we will make a group booking, so, well in advance, please contact Gill Marks who is coordinating, Tel 748659.

Peter Farmer is having a good **honey** season and is selling it to raise money for Karibuni. The jars, which are available after the morning service, are in 3 sizes: small, medium and large (1 lb). The suggested prices are £3, £4.75 and £6.50. Peter also invites **blackberry** lovers to pick their own from his garden, in exchange for a contribution to Karibuni. He is normally at Sunday morning services but will be absent on the 28th. His phone number is 01296 624280.



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

HADDENHAM

Dear All

This Sunday, 21 July, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Haddenham, and we join Keith as he shares his journey with us. I always imagined that a Solicitor's life would be quite sheltered and quiet (boring!), but Keith seems to have got around and enjoyed life to the full.

We are grateful to Keith for the gifts that he brings to share with us and we thank him for a life of devoted service to enabling the Church facilities and structures to be fit for purpose, and a good launching point for mission to those who need it. Please pray this week for all who bring their talents into our midst and share them to meet the needs of the church in this day and age. Pete.



I was brought up in a Christian home in the north east of England. My father, a Scot, was a Presbyterian and my mother, a farmer's daughter from North Yorkshire, a Methodist. I was baptised in a Scots Presbyterian church and attended Sunday school in a Methodist chapel in Darlington, County Durham. After grammar school in Stockton on Tees I read law at Leeds University.

I then gravitated south to London where I was articled to a partner in a commercial property firm, and after several years as an employed lawyer working in the solicitor's office of British Railways Board, I joined a Westminster law firm, taking my railway property portfolio, and where I became a partner in 1998. By this time, I had become involved in the firm's ecclesiastical practice, advising clients from various Church denominations on property and education matters. As well as various Anglican dioceses, I acted for the Methodist Church, West London Mission, at Hinde Street (from where Donald Soper carried out his ministry), as well as the King's Cross Methodist Church, which had a thriving Chinese congregation. I advised both Churches on property and employment matters and I still recall the sweet sound of Wesleyan hymns sung in mandarin Chinese during a client meeting at the King's Cross church.

While working in London, I met Ann, who was teaching in the east end and we married and bought our first house in Walthamstow (before it became gentrified!). Our first child was born at Whipp's Cross hospital. We went on to have four children and have since been blessed with four grandchildren, two in Austria and two in Buckinghamshire.

My spiritual journey, from early schooldays through university and the law, has been gradual and constant. There has been no Damascine conversion moment for me, but, rather, a certain faith, often strewn with obstacles and doubts along the way. One source of confirmation of my belief has been my experience of what I feel to be God's grace visiting me during times of doubt and anxiety. Sometimes these experiences appear during the early waking hours, sometimes randomly and inexplicably: when I am with people, perhaps in a meeting or socialising; sometimes when I am quiet on my own; sometimes when I am annoyed or angry with the way a discussion or debate is going. I believe in the still, small voice inside me. Psalm 23.2 resonates for me; "He leads me beside quiet waters".

I also believe in the power to be found in silent prayer and in that part of Psalm 46 "Be still and know that I am God"

My office in Westminster was in the Sanctuary, immediately adjacent to the west door of the Abbey, and, from my front balcony, I witnessed many state occasions, such as the wedding in 2011 of the present Prince of Wales to Catherine Middleton, and the funerals of Princess Diana in 1997 and the Queen Mother in 2002, as well as the comings and goings of the royal family and politicians to services at the Abbey. It is piquant to consider that the same area, immediately at the west door of the Abbey where I worked, was the drying area for the monks' dirty washing. How ironic that the future occupants of the area should be lawyers!

There have been some interesting events and characters associated with the office.

Early in the Second World War, the Crown Jewels of Abyssinia were stored for safekeeping in the vaults of the office, after being brought to Britain by Emperor Haile Selassie to his friend the Archbishop of Canterbury, when he was expelled by the Italians in the 1930's.

Also in the 1930's, a famous member of the office staff was the former captain of the England cricket team, Douglas Jardine, famous or infamous for his policy

of bodyline bowling which caused ill feeling between England and Australia during the ashes series at that time.

I was encouraged by David Jenkins, the then superintendent minister, to become a Circuit Steward in 2013. I have relished the challenge of encouraging others to serve since then, whilst enjoying the fellowship and friendship of church and Circuit stewards throughout the Circuit. I regard putting my legal experience to the use of the Circuit as part of my seeking to serve others in my community and beyond, and as a way of supporting the Circuit churches.

I recall, when I qualified as a solicitor, receiving a note from the senior partner of the firm which read; "Congratulations. Welcome to the ranks of the ungodly!" I am doing my best to confound him.

Keith.

A reminder that Fred Ireland will be preaching his last service before he retires, on Sunday 28th July, 10am, at Long Hanborough Methodist Church, Witney, OX29 8JX.

Although he doesn't want any fuss, his daughter Rachel knows he would be really pleased to see some old friends from AMC.

The answer to the Red Letter question last week is as follows:

On 20.7.2014, we had a dedication for the new chairs that were purchased.

The congregation were asked to purchase a chair each if they could, (150 were required) and the sum total required was to be £12,750.

Brian Taylor became the 'Chairperson of the Chairpeople' – this was the committee who made it all possible.

So, there you are; I think that the chairs have worn well, considering the amount of use they have been put through over the last decade.

Babs.



One Night of Silence

Father God, when this world
Was newly born by Your hands,
There was utter silence.
Then you added Flora and Fauna.
Your world was taking shape.
Over time you put in place beauty,
By way of trees and scented flowers.

Vast oceans and deep blue seas,
Supported the life you created.
Massive whales, turtles and fish.
Your Greatness then put light in the sky.
Sun for warmth during daytime
And a cool moon for the night;
Sprinkling silver stars, along the way.

You then put birds upon the earth.
And the silence was no more.
There was such a beautiful sound,
All around us – Everywhere.
Even when it was dark and still
Somewhere over the world birds sang.
Animals called out to each other,
Praising Your Awesome Work.

But Man has all but destroyed many parts
Of this wonderful, verdant world.
The only noise heard now is crying;
Coming from tiny bodies dying from hunger.
And children screaming in pain,
As bombs rip into their innocence,
Changing their lives forever.
What has caused this Inhumanity?

Please, Please, Dear Father God
Let us have Just one night of silence.
Just as it was in the very Beginning.
Maybe, Just maybe, in the stillness,
In the utter pure silence,
The Men of war can hear Your voice,
Imploring them to open their hearts
To Your perfect Love.
Then Peace, Hopefully will prevail.

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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



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

Mon	22 July	6.30 - 8.00pm	Food Hub
Tues	23 July	9.30am 10.45am	Chair Yoga Prayer Group
Frid	26 July	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 28th July 2024

10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr Arthur Sara.

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)