

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 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: Morning Worship led by Mr Ken Harris**  
**Theme: 'Speech and Wisdom'.**

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 Frances Aylen.

**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	StF 536 H&Ps 682 StF 399 StF 416 StF 398
Readings	James 3: 1-12 James 3: 13-18, 4: 11-12
Organist	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.**

**The flowers this week are given by Doris Moore,  
in loving memory of Eric and Graham.**

## CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

**Arthur Sara** is slowly recovering after the tumble from his bicycle. After a major operation and a replacement Hip, Arthur is now taking it easy at home until his leg becomes weight bearing again. I think his wife Chris will forbid him to cycle again!.

**Brian Taylor** has also had an accident, with a tumble from his bed! With a badly broken rib and very low blood pressure, he is remaining in hospital at the moment. I think his wife Chris will insist he has a mattress on the floor!

Our love and prayers go to both Arthur and Brian, and of course to Chris and Chris for their devoted care.

**Mary Wright**, who now resides in Lewin House, will celebrate her 90th Birthday on **Sunday 1st September**. There will be a small celebration party between 11.00am and 1.00p.m. on that day at the Home, and the family are inviting any folk at the Church who knew Mary to call in at Lewin House, 61 Belgrave Road, Aylesbury, HP19 9HP, between those hours on 1st September. All will be welcome. Any further details please refer to Pauline Noble.

The funeral of **Peggy Harmer (Costas)** will take place here on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August at 11am**. If anyone is available to come and swell the singing, the family would appreciate this, as their expectation is that it could be a very small turnout, because the deceased was a very private lady. Thank you.

**Letter from MHA:** "Your generous MHA Sunday 2024 donation of £120.70 is hugely appreciated, and will help people to live later life well. We are also grateful for allowing us to claim Gift Aid on this donation, where eligible. We also acknowledge the £363.70 from Aylesbury Methodist Church."



Thank you, everyone who supported our open day yesterday, whether in person or by donation., We were really lucky with the English weather to have a dry sunny day right up until the end, and, so far, we have raised just over **£480** for Breast Cancer Now, and donations are still coming in. Many thanks Gill and Lynn.

**Tuesday Fellowship is closing for this coming winter time and will start again next spring. Our numbers need to have grown, from church members and friends, to make it possible!**

**In August we will be following a sermon series on the letter of James**

<b>4<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>James 1</b>	<b>Doers of the word</b>	<b>Richard Atkinson</b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>James 2</b>	<b>Faith and works</b>	<b>John Shaw</b>
<b>18<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>James 3 - 4:12</b>	<b>Speech and wisdom</b>	<b>Ken Harris</b>
<b>25<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>James 4:13 - 5: 20</b>	<b>Living for the Lord</b>	<b>Richard Atkinson</b>

This series is based on some materials produced by the Methodist Church. These do include some materials for midweek reflections. Anybody who would be interested in having sight of these, please talk to Richard. If you happen to miss one of the weeks, please remember that you can catch up the services on the streaming page of the church website

As you are hopefully aware, during his recent sabbatical, Richard Atkinson was looking to produce some materials to help ***'Understanding of the way in which the Old Testament flows into the New'***. From the beginning of September, he will be trialling these materials with the two Zoom groups that meet each week. If you would be interesting in sharing in this endeavour, be it every week, or on an occasional basis, could you please let Richard know.

What will happen is that, in advance of each session, you will get some materials to have a look at, (nothing too extensive), included in which will be some points of reflection that will form the basis for any discussion at the Zoom group. If you are not a confident user of Zoom but still interested, again, if you let Richard know, he will see what other possibilities there might be.

**The Evening group meets on a Tuesday at 7.30pm, and the Afternoon group meets on a Thursday at 2.00pm.** Sessions last for about an hour, and hopefully occur in such a way that folk can dip in and out if they're not able to attend every week, or, as an alternative, it would be possible to move between groups if that suited.

Richard can provide you with more details but please be aware that he is on holiday from the 7th to the 20th of August.

*If you have ever wondered about the relevance of the Old Testament and what it has to say to us then this might be an opportunity to find answers to some of your questions.*

The Circuit Preaching Plan for Sept – Nov 2024 is now available from the display cabinet in the Welcome Space



### **CHURCH READINGS: September - November 2024.**

A new sheet is now 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), 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.

### **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.*



**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)



### **Next Week**

<b>Mon</b>	19 Aug	6.30 - 8.00pm	Food Hub
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### **Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2024**

**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

### STONE



Dear All,

This Sunday, 18 August, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Stone, and Richard shares his story with us. Many

of us will be able to relate to Richard's story as he gradually began to make sense of life and discovered the difference Jesus could make in his life. Please pray for all who struggle to find sense and meaning in life, and pray that we may have the gifts to nudge them in the right direction, and show them the love that comes from Jesus. Pete.

#### ***My first Bible***

*I was brought up with little contact with Christians or any church involvement. I was raised on a diet of secularism and evolution theory. Yet whenever Jesus was mentioned there was a stirring in my soul. I was moved, interested, yet knew nothing nor how to find out more. I grew up in a fairly mechanical way going through school and finding a job with no real ideas who I am nor where I could go in life.*

*I remember the Gideons coming to school and taking an assembly in the late '70s. This was the first time I had been told about Jesus and the Bible. I was fascinated and wanted to know more. I analysed all this and could not find a downside. I am a critical thinker who will examine everything from first principles up to see if it is true and will work. They gave us a New Testament and Psalms; I knew I had something of value yet the text was small and it was the King James version, and the old English was a struggle. I read things so different to what I was used to. I was intrigued yet could not deal well with the size and language.*

*The '70s turned into the '80s and my search for meaning beyond the physical carried on. In the mid '80s I heard of something called New Age; it offered easy access to the spiritual, and people into this were keen to share it with me. I tried meditations, crystals, tree hugging, self-help books, spiritualities and other things. Yet none of it satisfied; I likened New Age to meals of candy floss, attractive to look at and lacking in substance, eventually getting nauseous and unsatisfied on consuming too much. I recalled the Gideon New Testament I was given and lost years ago; it was different and held the promise of something ultimately truthful and life-giving within.*

*Skip forward to spring 1989; I wanted to know more and read a Bible properly - I had a hunger to learn. Nervously I walked into WH Smith in the High Street to look for a Bible. I was daunted, I did not know how to access the Bible; it contained writing so different to what I was used to which was mostly car magazines and technical manuals. I am a nerd and I love anything technical to do with cars, motorbikes, bicycles and photography.*

*On the shelf I saw a blue Bible, and on the spine, I read "with introductory helps". I bought that one. I took it home and began with the introductory helps and the introduction "About the Bible". Soon I had a framework to begin reading. I put down my manuals and magazines and got to work on the Bible. For the first time it was making sense, I perceived a narrative from beginning to end. I asked questions of the Bible, I tested what I read, as far as I could go and I could not break the logic. I was used to New Age writing and found the inconsistencies quickly, realising there was no truth there; the premises within could all be broken under examination. I went further into the Bible and nothing came apart. I learned of history, prophecy, prophecy fulfilment, people who are types and shadows of Jesus. I saw patterns: God is a God of order not of disorder, the Bible has a tight structure and doctrine only a supreme intelligence could put together over millennia. All human history is there predicted and fulfilled. Most importantly, the advent and person of Jesus. I read Isaiah 53 and it describes Jesus, his suffering and victory on the cross hundreds of years before this all happened. I read the Gospels giving a rounded account of Jesus' ministry and victory over sin and death. For the first time in my life, I knew who I was and where I am going in life in Jesus. I read I could be a new creation, my mind could be renewed and I could have eternal life in Jesus. Everything I was looking for was there in the Bible and most of all in Jesus.*

*I read that Bible lots, eventually the cover began breaking. I put it away and bought another Bible. I will not throw the Word of God away and I put this Bible somewhere and left it. It is easy to read and handle, I did not forget it. About five years ago I bought some book-covering film, remembering what I used to do at school with books. I did a fairly crinkly re-covering job and this Bible is back in use. I used it for services; it is easy to read and well-handled, so I can find texts by visual/tactile navigation. Today it is next to my desk and in regular use; the introductory helps and quick text look ups are as useful as ever.*

*Kind Regards, Richard Maguire.*