

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 25th 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 Rev Richard Atkinson.
Theme: 'Living for the Lord'.**

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are Gill Nord and Elaine Hope.

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 353 331 251 713 337
Readings	Amos 8: 4-6 James 5: 1-17
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.**



**We welcome the family and friends of Amelia Grace
Brathwaite, who is being baptised this morning.**

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Chris and Brian would like to thank everyone very much for the cards, phone calls, offers of help and prayers, while Brian has been in hospital.

Thank you to everyone who has sent cards and good wishes and held me in their prayers since my fall. I feel uplifted by your concern and your prayers. I am making a good recovery, but unfortunately my leg can't be weight bearing for another 6 weeks, so I won't be joining you in the near future! I look forward to thanking you in person in due time. Blessings to all. Arthur

Mary Wright, who now resides in Lewin House, will celebrate her 90th Birthday **next 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 27th 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.

Wednesday 4th September sees the return of our forever popular lunch club. We will be serving up chicken casserole at **12.30pm** and all are welcome; but we would like to know you are coming, so please sign up on the board in the coffee bar today or give Gill a ring on 01296 748659.



Our next Messy Church is on **Saturday 7th September from 3.45pm till 6.00pm**. Our theme is **LOVE YOUR WORLD**. Activities to include bird tables, suncatchers, bowl bugs and leaf printing. Do come along and have some fun. Tea will be served afterwards so please email **amc22messy church@gmail.com** by **Thursday 5th September** so we know roughly how many to cater for. Looking forward to seeing you. Margaret Miskin.



SHOEBOX APPEAL. Have you noticed that Christmas cards have started to appear in the shops? If so, you will know that it's time to start thinking of this year's Shoebox Appeal. The leaflets are in The Welcome Space display cabinet, all ready for you to pick one up. Please support this worthwhile cause which has been running since 1992. They have delivered thousands of smiles to families in Eastern Europe. The shoeboxes go to the poorest families in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania. You can watch a YouTube video highlighting their deliveries. It has brought many a tear to people. If you have any queries about the appeal, then please have a chat with me. As usual, I am willing to accept money and fill a box on your behalf. Happy Shoebox filling. Margaret Miskin.

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.



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 – **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.

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



Next Week

Mon	26 Aug	6.30 - 8.00pm	Food Hub
Tues	27 Aug	10.45am	Prayer Group
Frid	30 Aug	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 1st September 2024

**10.30am: Service of Holy Communion
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



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

SWANBOURNE

Dear All,

This Sunday, 25 August, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Swanbourne, and Chris shares his story with us, from singing in the choir in Great Missenden

to half-way around the world and back again. Chris encountered life as it is lived from one extreme to the other - a real glimpse of the life that many in this world see as 'normal'. My Mother taught me that though we may approach Him from many directions, there is only One God, and ultimately we worship Him. Please pray for our brothers and sisters across the world, across different faiths, across different cultures, and enjoying or enduring widely differing standards of living, that all may find God and live a life to the full, blessed with His love. Pete.



I spent my early childhood in Great Missenden. I was baptised into the Church of England and attended Sunday School and sang in the choir.

We moved to Aylesbury when I was 11 years old. We were not as integrated into the community there, and my religious and spiritual life was with daily school assemblies and an R.E. teacher who was a member of the Christadelphian Church. He encouraged us to discuss our thoughts and beliefs and to think critically about these. He had a big influence on me, and as my family encouraged me to develop my political thinking, these things have become enmeshed in who I am.

My teens and twenties took me away from any religious influences in my life. In 1969, I spent some time in the Trucial States of South Arabia (now the United Arab Emirates) which was a British Protectorate at the time. Oil had just been discovered. I was astonished by the extreme poverty and squalor in which many people lived, and also astonished at the hospitality with which we were received.

In 1974, I went to live in Israel on a kibbutz for a while. I spent my Saturdays off exploring Jerusalem, and at the end of my stay, I visited the North around the Sea of Galilee and Nazareth, the Negev Desert and Israeli Occupied Egypt along the Gulf of Aqaba coast.

Again, I was amazed at the persistence of poverty among the Palestinian populace, the low standard of living of the Israeli population, and the higher standard of living on the kibbutz, albeit at the cost of some independence. The kibbutzim children were brought up in a children's home and the committee that ran the kibbutz had more input into their upbringing and beliefs than their parents did.

Over my life, I have attended all kinds of churches, Spiritualist to Quaker meetings, but I have always been an outsider. In my late sixties, I was invited to attend Swanbourne Methodist Church and I found a congregation that positively welcomed me.

Chris.

God will deliver you

'He heard me from heaven; my cry reached his ears.' Psalm 18:6 TLB

Have you suffered a series of defeats and setbacks? Are you discouraged because the attacks have been long and tiring? Read these words from the psalmist David and stand on them:

'Lord, how I love you! For you have done such tremendous things for me...In my distress I screamed to the Lord for his help. And he heard me from heaven; my cry reached his ears... He reached down...and drew me out of my great trials... On the day when I was weakest, they attacked. But the Lord held me steady. He led me to a place of safety, for he delights in me. The Lord rewarded me for doing right... What a God he is! How perfect in every way! All his promises prove true. He is a shield for everyone who hides behind him. For who is God except our Lord? Who but he is as a rock? He fills me with strength and protects me wherever I go' (vv. 1, 6, 16, 18-20, 30-32 TLB).

You have heard it before, and you know what to do – spend more time with God in prayer and reading His Word! Instead of striving in your own strength, plug into God and start flowing in His strength. Check and see who is on the throne of your life. If it's anyone other than the Lord, including yourself, it's an idol that must be dethroned.

How long will this battle last? God knows, and He will never permit the attack you face to be greater than the great grace He provides. Today He is saying to you, *'My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness'* (2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV).

[From: UCB Word for Today]