

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024**

**10.30am: Service of Holy Communion  
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 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 8 394 161 156 580 465
Readings	Psalm 119: 9-16 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5
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.**



**There will be a retiring collection for the Benevolent Fund after the service this morning. Collecting bowls will be clearly marked.**

## **CHURCH FAMILY NEWS**

Birthday cake is being served in the Hall after the service to celebrate Roy Collis reaching 90! But it is also to celebrate Roy's eldest Granddaughter Gemma competing for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the Paralympic Games. (See details on further pages)

**This coming 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 **next Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> September** so we know roughly how many to cater for. Looking forward to seeing you. Margaret Miskin.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all those who sponsored my daughter Erica who ran in this year's **Race for Life** at Northampton on 14 July. **Together with Gift Aid, we raised the amazing sum of £1,769.50 for Cancer Research UK.** As always, a big thank you to Jean Taylor for her support. Maureen Tucker 01296 486619.



## **Whitechapel Mission**

**Harvest Festival this year is on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September**, and we will again be supporting the Whitechapel Mission. The needs of the mission

never go away and they rely on Harvest gifts to help them through the winter months.

Please see the list on the insert enclosed, and remember **quantity over quality** - it doesn't matter where that tin of baked beans comes from, just that it is there for breakfast!

For more information go online to <https://whitechapel.org.uk> Ruth Watkins.

**Waddesdon Methodist Church is celebrating Harvest Festival next Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> September at 4pm.** Do join them for their service, led by Rev Richard Atkinson, and for the Harvest Auction afterwards.



**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.*

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.*

**SOS on Tour:** The next social meeting is on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm at John & Margaret Miskin's home. 01296 422919. All are welcome.



## 'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### CHRISTCHURCH, THAME

Dear All,

This Sunday, 1 September, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Christchurch Thame. Mary shares how her faith and ministry have grown over the years and how she has benefitted from the prayers of the faithful. We do not all have the Damascus Road experience; for most of us our journey of faith is one of a gradual realisation of the influence of the Spirit in our lives. Please pray for those known to you who are growing slowly but surely in faith, and facing difficult times, whether it is sickness or the stress of living in a society of rising expectations. We pray that the Spirit may intervene and hold them fast, leading them rejoicing into wholeness with Jesus.

Pete.



*I was born into a Christian family and have an elder brother. My parents met at a Youth Rally in Bristol in the late 1920s and were both members of the Congregational Church - my father in Redland and my mother in Brislington. Every Sunday we went to Knowle Park Congregational Church both morning and evening.*

*Unfortunately, I contacted Mastoid Meningitis when 5 yrs old and was taken to Bristol General Hospital where the drugs were not successful in treating it. So I had the operation to move the Mastoid bone but the chances of success were very slim. The Church offered many prayers on my behalf. Afterwards the surgeon said technically I should not have survived and it was more than his skill that pulled me through. I went on to make a full recovery and went to Grammar School and worked at the Westminster Bank.*

*As a child, I collected Ship Halfpennies which were sent to the John Williams Missionary Ship. I became a Sunday School Teacher and later was welcomed into the Church, and am proud to still have the Certificate of Membership signed by my Father who was Church Secretary at that time.*

*I met my husband through Guiding and Scouting; he was a member of the Plymouth Brethren. We married in 1961 and had three children. We moved*

to Southampton where one of them went to the Congregational Church Sunday School. Later we moved back to Bristol, and by then we had three children who went to Sunday School at the Plymouth Brethren.

We moved to France in 1984 and stayed there for five years until my husband and I split up. Then I returned to the UK and bought a house in Keighley. After a couple of years, I moved to Thame where I have lived for 30 yrs. I joined Christchurch, where I was made very welcome.

The move was not only a physical one but also a spiritual move. I soon became absorbed in the Church and offered my services in the Sunday School. Later I became Church Secretary. I joined the Worship Group, and eventually became the Convenor of the group, and then leader when 'Thame in Prayer' was formed. A retired Minister joined the Church, and he was a great help to me with 'Thame in Prayer', and also with my spiritual life, encouraging me to give one or two talks.

I have had two major operations recently and I am sure that the prayers of the Church have sustained me during those times, and I look forward to being able to do more at Christchurch as my body heals.

Mary Higgs.



©Andy Robb

'Derek the Cleric'



## Always be open-minded

*'When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction.'*

Proverbs 24:32 NKJV

King Solomon is considered one of the wisest men who ever lived. He wrote three books in the Bible and is quoted regularly. And he was a lifetime learner and seeker of truth. *'When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction.'*

Note the words *'I considered it well'*. That should be your fixed attitude in life. God's plan for you is to keep learning, changing, growing, and maturing until you draw your last breath. And that means always being open-minded.

Consider the Pharisees. They were 100 per cent committed to their belief system. They were also the best-educated people in society. Yet they resisted Jesus and the truth He shared at every turn. Why?

For three very common reasons:

- 1) *Pride*: 'If what Jesus says is right, that makes us wrong.'
- 2) *Security*: 'If we accept what He is teaching, what will happen to our reputation and our income?'
- 3) *Tradition*: 'We have believed and done things this way for generations.'

Can you see where we're going with this line of thought? And can you see how it may apply to your life?

One pastor said, *'It's good to be saved and sanctified, as long as you are not saved, sanctified, **and stuck!**'*

Spiritual growth requires two things: a hunger for truth, and the humility to acknowledge that you still have more to learn.

Those are two qualities that God always honours: *'The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way'* (Psalm 25:9 NKJV).

So always be open-minded.

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.



Please enjoy a piece of my Birthday Cake; but for me this is not just a celebration of my 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday but also a celebration of the fact the Gemma, my eldest Granddaughter, is competing for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the Paralympic Games.

As you munch on your piece of cake, will you join with me, and many others across the Country, in wishing her well as she competes in her two chosen disciplines, with the Sabre on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and with the Epée on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September.

Gemma competed in the Paralympics in London 2012, RIO 2016 and Tokyo 2020. (actually 2021 due to Covid)

She is an 18-time World Cup medallist, and the Epée European Silver Medallist this year. The picture below shows her winning the Semi-Final, beating her Spanish opponent.

She is Chair of the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation's Wheelchair Fencing Athletes' Council and a member of the IWAS Wheelchair Fencing Gender Equity Commission.

Gemma has been largely self-funding since 2013, when Sport England withdrew funding for Fencing. Some funding was restored to Wheelchair Fencing as results improved, but was mainly spent on the male competitors, who are proven Medal Winners; Gemma aims to join them to fly the Flag in Paris. Hence my choice of the flag on the cake!!!

## Roy Collis







### **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](mailto:rubydarku@hotmail.co.uk)



### **Next Week**

<b>Mon</b>	2 Sept	6.30 - 8.00pm	Food Hub
<b>Wed</b>	4 Sept	12.30pm	AMC Lunch Club
<b>Thurs</b>	5 Sept	10.00am From 12.30pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
<b>Frid</b>	6 Sept	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club
<b>Sat</b>	7 Sept	3.45pm	Messy Church

### **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**10.30am: Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Hayford Ofori-Attah.**

**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)**