

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 29th September 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 Miss Jane Knight
HARVEST FESTIVAL**

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are Gill Marks and David Wilderspin.

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 51 727 130 487 663
Readings	Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-30 (Reading from The Message)
Music	Organist: Derrick Matthews and 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.





SHOEBOX APPEAL. Many of you have picked up a Link to Hope shoebox form and some have been very generous with donations of money. The last date for me to receive boxes is the **8th November** so that they are with me in time for the van to come and collect them from my house. I am on holiday from 25th October till 1st November but you can leave any filled shoeboxes in the office while I am away. There is still plenty of time, so if you haven't picked up a leaflet yet, there are still some available in the Welcome Space.
Happy shoebox filling. Margaret Miskin.

Thank you to all who came along and supported our Action for Children coffee morning with bacon rolls. We raised £55.00 for this worthy cause. Watch this space for our next fundraising event.
Margaret.



Our next Messy Church is on **Saturday 12th October** from 3.45pm till 6.00pm. The theme is LOVE GOD.
To reserve your place, please send an email to amc22messychurch@gmail.com Do come along and join in the fun, activities and food. Margaret Miskin.

ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND AUTUMN CONCERT.

An afternoon of live music from stage and screen on **Saturday 12th October 3:00 - 5:00pm at The Church on Fairford Leys, Hampden Square, Fairford Leys, Aylesbury HP19 7HT.**
No ticket required - donations at the door to support the Karibuni Children charity and the band.
Refreshments and Karibuni merchandise available in the interval.



Karibuni Children



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

WHITCHURCH

Dear All,

Last Sunday, 22 September, it was the turn of Whitchurch to be the focus of our Circuit Prayers. Karen shares her story with us; a story involving a complete change of direction as God nudged her into a different career entirely. God's call to us can come from any direction, at any time and in any form, as Karen shows us below. Please pray for all those people who are struggling to understand where God is leading them, and give them the understanding and the grace to listen to Him and hear and respond to that call. Pete.



My Grandma had a little saying she passed on to my Mum. A saying I heard and went on to use many times.

"God works in mysterious ways, shutting doors to open others."

When I was choosing my career, I didn't have to put a lot of thought into it, as all I ever remember wanting to do was illustrate and write children's books. So I put all my efforts at school into achieving the relevant qualifications to go to art school. That door was wide open for me to go through; my dreams were being fulfilled.

Or were they?

Something else happened,,,,,I was literally passing Stoke Mandeville Hospital on my way to visit a friend, and I had this overpowering sense to walk in and talk to someone about nursing.

(This is the girl who didn't like illness and fainted at the sight of blood, who had little if no confidence talking to strangers.)

Brilliant! What on earth was I thinking?

I started nurse training 8 weeks later!

The door I had dreamed of going through had been shut (but not locked). And a very challenging and frightening door had been opened, and I had walked through.

But I do believe God knew exactly what he was doing, and really did walk beside me in my new career.

With his help I went on to do further training, eventually becoming a nurse specialist in the treatment, and palliative and terminal care of children and their families suffering from cancer.

God never let me down; on a daily basis he would give me the help I needed and the courage to say and do the best I could for the child and family in front of me. I didn't just love the job; I felt truly blessed to be a very small part during the journey these families were travelling.

But I do know I could have never achieved any of that without his help, guidance and love.

Just one other thing I want to mention.

God closed the door that was mine to go through, but didn't shut it completely.

During the job He wanted me to do, He left it ajar for me to nip in and out of; those little trips became my stress releases, enabling me to continue loving the job He chose for me. As Grandma said....

"He works in mysterious ways. Shutting one door but opening another."

And sometimes, only on reflection can we truly see the plan He has for us.

Karen.



'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

WINGRAVE

Dear All

This Sunday, 29 September, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Wingrave, and John shares his thoughts on responding to the challenge of the Gospel and living a life of faith and service. Do remember this Sunday all those in your church who have offered guidance and hospitality quietly in the background and yet made such an amazing difference. Pete.



During the Covid lock-down, Richard Atkinson commenced weekly Bible study sessions on Zoom, one on Tuesday evenings the other on Thursday afternoons. These proved popular, and four years later they are both still going strong.

I opted to join the Tuesday evening sessions and have valued them immensely. They have given me opportunity to study Bible passages in depth with members of other Circuit churches, some of whom I hardly knew when we started. Friendships have developed, we enjoy each other's company, and feel able to share insights and personal challenges. I think that is exactly the fellowship which Paul had in mind when writing to members of the church at Thessalonica: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thessalonians 5 v 11).

Before our short Summer break, the Tuesday evening group was studying 1 Peter. Chapter 4 provides guidance on the way in which, as members of the Christian family, we should live our lives. It includes these words from Peter: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms". (1 Peter 4 v 10). Surely John Wesley will have had those instructions in mind when he wrote:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

What a challenge that seems to be! Yet I am sure that, like me, you can think of Methodist folk you have known over the years whose lives have exemplified those words.

I think of Mrs Gee, a member of Gawcott Methodist Church, which my family attended when I was growing up. When I knew her, Mrs Gee was elderly and had limited mobility, yet she took every opportunity to put her faith into action. That included being a stalwart of the church, and regularly providing Sunday tea in her small cottage near the church for those children who had attended afternoon Sunday School, and whose parents would be joining them for the evening service. Seventy years later, Mrs Gee's witness stays in my memory - just as does the horsehair sofa on which we boys sat barelegged to eat our sandwiches and cake!

I know that our Circuit contains numerous Mrs Gees; people who, without fuss, quietly get on with doing exactly what St Peter and John Wesley encouraged them to do.

By the way, if you would be interested in trying out the weekly Bible Studies via Zoom, just drop Richard Atkinson an email (revrja@outlook.com).

John Cotton.

Derek Treks Britain

Leg 8 - On his way!

I am not calling this Day 1, as the trek has not yet begun, but just to let you all know that he arrived safely in Carlise, thumbing 3 or 4 further lifts, all in lorries, after Mick dropped him off at a truckers' cafe.

He's feeling weary - due to late night last night, and 4am alarm this morning. Tomorrow he will head to Glasgow. No more free bus passes now.

Leg 8 - Days 1 & 2. Thursday/Friday 19/20th Sept.

I think the Old Fella has mentioned bits that have already been covered, but essentially, day 1 = ludicrously early start - Mum Sue drove him up to Rothersthorpe Services, in their home county of Northamptonshire. His first lorry lift was courtesy of a company who heard the appeal on the radio and offered their help! The Old Fella had three different lorry lifts yesterday, with thoroughly nice chaps, the last of which drove him to a bus stop in the outskirts of Carlisle before heading back to the motorway! Thank you, gents! In Carlisle, he met up with the folks at Martin's Cafe again, 'Espresso Bar', to catch up on news on their local museum. They also had a whip round to cover his train fare (by far the best option, apparently), or it could be said that they paid him to go away! It was good to catch up with folks at the Espresso Bar, he said.

So, train from Carlisle to Glasgow, at which he had a (claxon sounds) 🚩 Greggs! His first of three or four, by the sounds of it!

He's spending the night in lovely digs, courtesy of Cousin Gemma (not actually a cousin, something like.... Second cousin? Once removed? A lovely relative, anyway!), hubby Ian, son Rowan and 'suspicious-of-pigeons-but-welcoming-to-little-old-men' dog Mia, who sang "harrooooooo" to me down the phone this evening!

Plan for tomorrow: 10am ferry to Aldrossen, and by lunchtime he should be setting off walking to his first RNLI station of this leg, on The Isle of Arran!

Love to all, thank you for your support, as always. Please spread the word and tell people about the octogenarian rambler, and help raise more funds for CRUK, the British Heart Foundation and the RNLI. Thank you!

Leg 8, Day 3. Saturday 21st Sept

After a fantastic stay with Gemma, Ian, Rowan and Mia, Derek was dropped off (thanks Ian!) at the railway station from where he travelled to Troon - the

new venue for departure by ferry, as the one he had planned on, Ardrossan, wasn't running ferries due to "strong easterlies". So that sounds like it may be fun. On the ferry he met a lovely couple, Yvonne and her husband (notice



Holy Island from Lamlash Bay

having met keen golfer Kema on the bus on the way! He's sharing a dorm with 7 others (I believe one of whom is called Snow White), and as we were chatting, one of his new room-mates came in - Ralph, who sounded decidedly Irish to me, so he's in for a good night! He says Arran is gorgeous - I assume he means the island, and I haven't just mis-spelled another room-mate's name.



He visited the (sadly not manned) Lamlash RNLI station today. They'll be open one day in November to sell Xmas cards, but until then it's manned by the engineer.

Tomorrow he will be heading to the Mull of Kintyre (altogether now...)

As our call drew to a close, Ralph came back into the dorm, apparently freshly showered and wrapped in a towel. So that's Dad's evening! What's the *opposite* of "there but for the grace of God?"

Leg 8, Day 4. Sunday 22nd September

Our intrepid explorer made some new friends in Ralph (see Day 3 post) and Paul who were also staying at the hostel in Lochranza last night. Ralph is a mountain guide who specialises in tours of the 3 highest peaks in Scotland. Ralph is also an experienced traveller who was a helicopter pilot in the Royal Engineers, before becoming a civilian pilot. I can only imagine the stories these three could share!

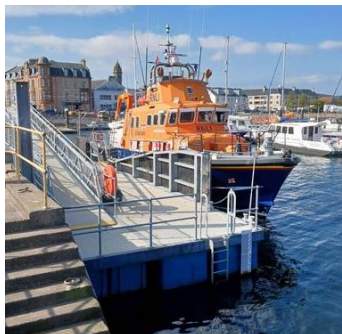
he remembers the *lady's name!), who were on their way to celebrate their 47th anniversary, so congratulations to them!

So, an easy crossing, and a pleasant day for a walk with busy beaches and smashing people.

He's now in Lochranza, the way! He's sharing a dorm



All 3 gents made an early start after breakfast at the hostel, and Dad took the ferry from Lochranza on Arran to Claonaig on Kintyre. His day was then a long walk south to Campbeltown. The day started cloudy but turned sunny later on so we have a couple of nice pictures of the RNLI Lifeboat at Campbeltown, and the bay itself. There is a plaque in the town to commemorate Linda McCartney.



Tomorrow he will be walking around the Mull of Kintyre, but tonight he is enjoying the company of a friend of a friend - Mark and Lizzy and family who are kindly putting him up for the night tonight/tomorrow!

Good evening, all. (Anyone else here old enough to remember 'Dixon of Dock Green'?) Just to say we seem to have some communication problems tonight. Amy can see from the tracker that he is safely at Mark and Lizzie's house, but I cannot get a reply from him - neither have we received a call from him, which is what usually happens. So no update tonight.

Further 'bad' news is that you won't be getting one tomorrow night either - unless he phones through very early, because the entire admin team have other pressing engagements to attend.

One of us will be at a football match, no prizes for guessing which one, and the other two of us will be at a pub quiz.

I really must have a word with Personnel to make sure this situation doesn't arise again. 😞

Leg 8, Day 5. Monday 23rd September

As mentioned earlier, a few technical difficulties with getting an update today, but we know he visited Campbeltown RNLI. More information when we get it!

Leg 8, Day 6. Tuesday 24th September

Following a hearty breakfast, Derek bade a fond farewell to Lizzie, Mark and Family. Thank you all for looking after him so well. ❤️

Derek then walked back along the Kintyre Way to the start/finish point.

Kintyre has a very fairly well-recorded ancient history - here is a sample: from

the 7,000 BC Stone Age, Flint flakes and tools have been found in different settlements.

However, flint is not naturally found here and must have come across the sea from Ireland. Who knows what type of craft was built to cross

the seas at this time? No doubt



Kintyre Path

an early form of Currach, an early Irish boat with a wicker or wooden frame, with animal skins stitched together and stretched over the frame. It was propelled by oars, then later by sail.

Development of seacraft over the years brought the need for different forms of fortification, to repel invasion. Initially there were Duns - pronounced

Doon - which was essentially a fortified dwelling for a single family.

Forts followed, where much larger organised groups of families lived.

In spite of this, Viking raiders held the upper hand. Sea power was everything, and lands ceded to who controlled the sea.

In 1098, King Malcolm III of the Scots granted control to Magnus Barelegs (great name!) King of Norway, of all the land he could sail around. He claimed all of the islands, followed by Kintyre itself. He achieved his claim of Kintyre by having his ship, with him at the helm, pulled across the narrow neck of land that joins Kintyre to the mainland at Tarbert. The name Tarbert means 'boat pull'.

Here endeth today's history lesson; if you want any morehave a Google!

Derek passed by Paul and Linda McCartney's home, High Park Farm. This was bought by Paul back in 1966 when Beatlemania was at its height. It was a



retreat for him, and he loved the tranquillity and natural beauty of the area, as was shown by his famous and much-loved song dedicated to the area.

The farm looks across the bay to Campbelltown.

As Derek continued northwards, he was looking across to the Isle of Islay. Picture postcard views in every direction.

Onwards to the banks of Loch Fyne, a name made more familiar recently by a chain of fine fish restaurants, the fish, supposedly sourced here.



View of Loch Fyne

Unconcerned with fine restaurants, Derek tucked into a sausage roll while sitting and enjoying the views. Then, on to his accommodation for the night at Argyll Backpackers in Inverneill.

The first 2 photos show the start/end of the Kintyre Path, followed by a view of Loch Fyne.

Leg 8, Day 7. Wednesday 25th September

Setting off at about 6.30 this morning, our wanderer has covered about 20 miles walking today. Working his way from his digs in Inverneil down to Tarbert (see fabulous sunrise), Derek was greeted enthusiastically by the



Caledonian MacBrayne staff who operate the ferries in the Western Isles. They've been very generous in support of Dad's fundraising efforts and effectively given him a free pass for the duration of his time there. This saves him having to fork out for those journeys but also, word has got out amongst the staff about this mad old fella doing his fundraising trek. So more often than not now, he gets greeted with a "Hello Derek" when he gets to the ferry! Today's ferry trip took him from Tarbert across to Portavadie. While waiting to embark, he got chatting to Caroline and her husband Mark and a chap called Arty from Hungary. Dad had managed to surprise them all when he

greeted Arty in Hungarian (don't ask me to type it out, it sounds complicated!) Unsurprisingly, a new friendship was formed on the ferry journey over and when they got to the other end, Arty insisted on giving him a lift over to Tighnabruaich, from where Arty was going to be getting his next ferry. They just about had time for breakfast at The Tea Room there run by generous hosts Carol and Kim, who were pleased to hear the tales from both of their guests. Arty is actually in the process of moving there, starting a new job and new life there. Good luck with it all Arty!

Tighnabruaich offers a bit of insight into how life is changing in Scotland. Many years ago, it was a popular spot for holidays from Glasgow, but this fell away and the town started to suffer. 7 or so years ago, the school there was on the verge of closing due to the lack of young families in the area. Fast forward to now and the school is being expanded due to the high numbers of young families moving there from the more expensive areas like Glasgow, and the area is starting to thrive once more.

After leaving The Tea Room, Derek's day was a mix of walking different areas and getting lifts from friendly locals to different parts (most of who knew who he was before they offered him a lift!). He did of course visit Tighnabruaich RNLI station - that's three on this leg so far. Another gorgeous day!

On his way back to Portavadie, he was picked up by an RNLI staff's family member and they saw dolphins just off the coast; the first he's seen on this leg (and he apologises for not taking any pictures-maybe next time!). The ferry took him back to Tarbert, where he enjoyed a Scottish 'Cullen skink'

(look it up) for his supper before making his way back to the hospitality of Kate and Pam at the Argyll backpackers' digs in Inverneil.

Tomorrow he heads to Islay; no accommodation sorted there as yet, so if you know anyone!!



Just to remind everyone of the fundraising Derek is trying to achieve: £10,000 to be divided across his chosen three charities: RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution), BHF (British Heart Foundation) and CRUK (Cancer Research UK).

Any donation to get him closer to his target is very much appreciated.

<https://justgiving.com/team/DEREKtreksBRITAIN>

or donations can be given direct to Derek's wife, Sue.

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	30 Sept	6.00pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	1 Oct	6.15pm	Boys' Brigade
Thurs	3 Oct	7.30pm	Church Council meeting
Frid	4 Oct	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 6th October 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 07785 950 702