

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 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 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 and Jackie Simpson-Tyda.

**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 50 471 354 SoF 20 481
Readings	Matt 28: 16-20 Jeremiah 31: 31-34
Music	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.**



**The Worship Band will lead you in your preparation for worship, and the words will be shown on the screen. Please join in.**



**We welcome the family and friends of Wren Thompson,  
who is being baptised this morning.**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> October till 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



**Heating.** The heating system in the church has failed and there is no heating available for the whole building. We await an engineer to replace faulty items. It may take a week or two.

Church Maintenance Group.



**Whitechapel  
Mission**

**HARVEST:** A Thankyou letter from Whitechapel Mission can be found on the notice boards in the Welcome Space and the Hall.

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, 8 – 9.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Aylesbury.**

Sharon is a neuroscientist and well-known Christian apologist. She has written 3 very helpful books in recent years:

“Why”: exploring the question of suffering as her husband is diagnosed with a debilitating condition

“Broken Planet”: why does God allow natural disasters?

“Am I Just My Brain?”: what science, philosophy and Christianity say about who we really are.

She'll be bringing along her books and we will have an open forum for questions. She is a wonderful speaker, so we encourage your church to bring along their non-believing friends, family and neighbours.



A Christian  
neuroscientist  
asks...

**Am  
I just  
my  
brain?**

**WHY I BELIEVE  
Dr Sharon Dirckx**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
Holy Trinity Aylesbury  
8-9.30pm

## Derek Treks Britain (continued)

### Leg 8, Day 16. Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

Today has been spent hiking the Hebridean Trail, plus a ferry, a bus and a lift! He's currently in a hostel in the Outer Hebrides, and hadn't met his room-mates when we spoke (about 6:30pm, I'm sure he has by now!)

Earlier today, he met a lovely couple, Jordan and Mag, and together they took the ferry over to

wherever he is now - but the bus driver wouldn't take bikes (against their regulations, and not enough room apparently!), so Dad tried frantically to mime this out the bus window to them as the driver headed off (in a grump because he had been delayed by two minutes by some old man with a beard and rucksack asking whether he could take bikes)! So, Mag and Jordan, if you're reading, he's sorry it was such an abrupt end, but he thinks you'll be back over at John's bunkhouse for tonight and he wishes you well!

The Atlantic Ocean (yes, really!) was very choppy, but the ferry had some dolphins swimming alongside - which would have been a great photo opportunity but somehow he only captured the waves!

Also pictured, a lovely lady called Magda who is visiting from Australia. G'day Magda!

When asked what the plan is for tomorrow, he replied "get up when I get up, and start walking". He'll be 82 in a month, folks! I'm 45 and my plan

for tomorrow is not get up until I absolutely have to, and start sitting on the sofa. Consider this a charity tin being rattled under your noses! How does he do it?!



He is full of praise for the ferry folk again, they're really looking after him. Longest ferry crossing so far - about six hours. More tomorrow.

### **Leg 8, Day 17. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October.**

Having walked many miles today in an Outer Hebrides-style gale, our intrepid explorer (81 and 11/12s), is feeling a bit damp and sniffly this evening. He has digs for tonight and tomorrow in Tarbert, so is going to take it very easy



tomorrow.

Tarbert is the second town called Tarbert he has visited - apparently it is Norse for 'boat pull'. Apparently, they took the islands as a short cut between their homelands and the Irish Sea - and they would simply drag the boats across any land they encountered on the way / it was still faster than sailing around the outside of this islands!

Bird fans - he reports seeing murmurations, but of birds which are too big to be starlings. Any ornithologists / outdoors / Scotland experts have any ideas? Or do the starlings in the Scottish

islands grow to be HUGE because there are no cats, foxes etc?



### **Leg 8, Day 18. Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October.**

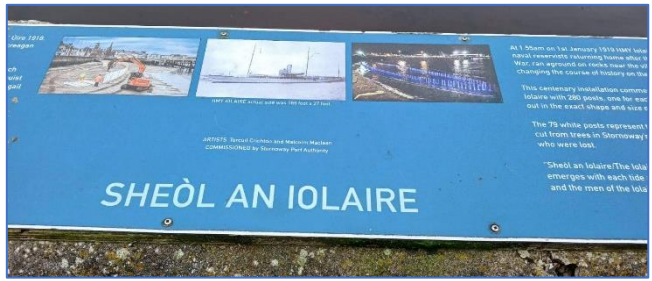


In a change to yesterday's plan, Derek has spent today travelling to Stornoway, visiting the Scottish Free Church and visiting the harbour. If one were to swim north from the harbour, one wouldn't hit land until Iceland!

More nice people today, despite drizzle (I'm told it improved after the church service, maybe some help

from above?!), but still no puffins! Hello to the Adagio walking group, who enjoy walking in places where there isn't a coffee and souvenir shop every mile or so!

One of the photos is of a memorial to the HMV Iolaire, a sad story of soldiers returning home after WWI had finished, but perishing in a shipwreck at Stornoway harbour.



This happened on New Years Day 1919, and many of the area's young men were lost in the tragedy (over 200 souls lost). Her wreck is now protected as a war grave.

Tomorrow, he'll be heading back to Tarbert, where he stayed last night, and sleeping there before hopefully catching an early morning ferry on Tuesday morning (the harbour is right by the hostel, hurrah).

Today's fact: the Isle of Lewis has 38 churches - the most highly concentrated area of churches in the British isles (churches per head, I believe - someone fact check me. I'm not JD Vance).

Another early night, and I don't blame him!

### **Leg 8, Day 19. Monday 7th October.**

A very wet start for our intrepid explorer today as he made his way from Stornoway to Tarbert; the plan was to stay there overnight in readiness for a ferry trip to Uig on the Isle of Skye in the morning. However, after covering a few miles (thinks he's done 15 or so today), a nice chap called



Robbie took pity on the soggy strider, and, as it happens, was heading to Tarbert. This meant he got there early enough to catch an afternoon ferry over to Uig.

Once again on the ferry, whilst meeting the Captain, he saw some dolphins, but once again they seemed to know when he was getting ready to take a picture and disappeared!

The weather seemed to realise he was leaving the Outer Hebrides and started to brighten up as he got chatting to some of the other passengers, one of whom was Jamie, an off duty ambulance driver.

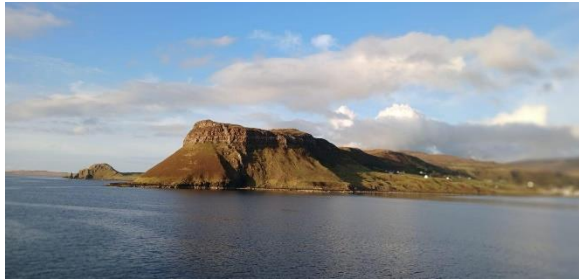
Jamie offered him a lift once they docked and, as luck would have it, he was passing through Broadford on his way home! Door to door service, it doesn't get much better than that!

So he's ahead of schedule, had a great evening catching up with old friends and neighbours, Rod and Caroline, whilst enjoying a home-made chilli con carne and should sleep well.

Admins are all busy tomorrow evening so you might not get an update but the plan is a walk to Kyle of Lochalsh to visit their RNLI station; his penultimate one in this leg!

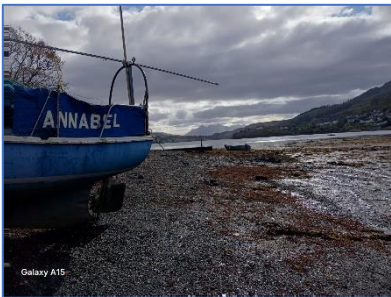
Pictures: Captain George on the MV Hebrides.

“O'er the seas to Skye”



### **Leg 8, Day 20. Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.**

As planned for today, Derek walked to the Kyle of Lochalsh where he visited the railway muse situated at the bottom of the pier. He met Marie here who told him she was the wife of the RNLI engineer, Euan. She called him and he came down and proudly showed Derek their boat and various trophies. He also kindly opened the shop so that Derek could buy another of the RNLI lapel badges with the individual Station names, to add to his collection.



There is a memorial plaque at the Kyle of Lochalsh Railway station to the yacht Iolaire which was the vessel carrying over

200 Lewis men returning from their duties in WW1.

The men embarked from this pier on Dec 31st 1918, mostly to lose their lives when the ship struck the Beasts of Holm rocks at 0155 on 1st of Jan 1919. Of the 248 passengers and Crew, 205 perished. It was the last leg of their return to the Isle of Lewis from France.

Derek met a fascinating elderly gent, Owen, in the local cafe, by the RNLI. Owen invited him to share his table. A very well-spoken gent, he told Derek he had been born in India during WW2, but returned to Scotland to study

medicine. He realised that his calling was the academic world, and spent his working life producing many works/ texts for the benefit of medicine. Derek walked back towards Broadford, and was given 3 lifts to help him on his way.

The first from David, probably in his 50's and adorned with gold chains, he recounted that he had once been a drug baron, but was now trying to redress the harm he had caused by helping those in need.

Derek was then picked up by Leslie and Frank, a lovely couple from Alabama, who left him on the road to Portree.

He had time to explore the area around the 2 harbours, and to acquaint himself with the RNLI crew at Portree.

Yet another lapel badge bought to add to his collection of happy memories.

He walked partway back to our friends' home, but was again offered a lift, by another David who dropped him close by. What a wonderful system this is, that people stop to offer lifts to those walking. Part of island life, and maybe something we could learn from



Another pleasant evening shared with old friends, some family members, and another wonderful meal. Thank you. Caroline and Rod.

Tonight's photos all taken in Portree.

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



### Next Week

<b>Mon</b>	14 Oct	6.00pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
<b>Tues</b>	15 Oct	9.30am 6.15pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
<b>Thurs</b>	17 Oct	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
<b>Frid</b>	18 Oct	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

### Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Hee-gon Moon.**

**10.30am: Reader Service led by Mr Brian Stabler.**

**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)**





## 'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

### CIRCUIT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear All,

This Sunday, 13 October, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on our Circuit Leadership Team, and we share in Richard's journey as he shares his story with us. Events such as Richard describes make a lasting impression on young minds, and the 'Church' can seem a strange organisation that is not always easy to understand. Please pray this week for all those in our midst who struggle to make sense of the 'Mysteries' of our faith, and, where possible, stand alongside and guide them to understanding the love of Jesus.

Pete.

*I can remember, like it was yesterday, sitting in our house, the phone ringing and my Dad, as happened in those days, going into the hall to answer it while my brother and I watched whatever delight was on the television. Dad came back into the room looking dreadful as he told us that our maternal grandmother had died. This came as a terrible shock; I knew she was ill because my Mother had gone to be with her, but in my innocence I didn't grasp the full picture, and my parents, in their wisdom, had decided I was too young to be told that my Gran's condition was terminal.*

*My life collapsed around me and I can remember struggling to understand all that was going on. My maternal grandparents lived 100 yards away and so we spent a lot of time at their house as we were growing up, and the thing that brought me some solace was the recollection of my Gran's usual parting words. They would be either goodbye or good night followed by God bless.*

*I claim no Damascus Road-style experience but looking back now, it was this event that really began my journey in earnest. I went to Sunday School, and my Church of England Primary School had taught me many of the Bible's stories, but it was my confrontation with mortality that encouraged me to try and find meaning, to help make sense of the world. It took a while; I struggled to make sense of my Gran's belief alongside the somewhat fussy practices of Anglicanism.*

*As my faith grew, I became more accepting of the, as I saw it, of the men in dresses, the hushed tones and the rigid liturgical formalities of worship, but continued to struggle with the church as I experienced it.*

*University saved me. My Methodist friends sensed my discontent with the Church of England and invited me to experience their church. It was a revelation: worship was less formal, the people were more outgoing and friendly and the music made my heart sing. It felt different, there was enthusiasm and it all seemed to make sense, especially ways in which the hymns related to the preacher's theme. Looking back, it was the first time that church felt like a spiritual home, and I will ever be thankful that in my undergraduate days I was so blessed by the Methodist community of St John's English Methodist Church in Bangor in North Wales.*

*This all helped me to see things in a different light, sermons became more real and more challenging. Methodism's delight in singing and the way the words of the hymns wove themselves around the preacher's theme resonated with me, along with the absence of liturgical dress. Methodism felt real.*

*I still question the church, I still ask questions as I try to reconcile faith and the realities of life as we experience it, and I continue to be moved by examples of those who live out the way of faith. I am still fascinated at the revelation of God in Scripture and in history, still amazed that God is mindful of me, and I am still striving to comprehend the fullness of what being blessed involves.*  
Richard.

**COME AND JOIN US AT  
STEWKLEY METHODIST CHAPEL  
ON SATURDAY 19th OCTOBER 2024  
FOR AFTERNOON TEA  
FROM 2.30 P.M.  
£12.50 PER PERSON  
PRE-BOOKING REQUIRED**



**PLEASE CALL  
SUE ON 01525 240761  
TO BOOK, PAY AND COLLECT**