

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

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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.

Sunday 10th November 2024

**10.30am: Remembrance Sunday Service
led by Mr Arthur Sara.**



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

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 132 707 594 696 470
Readings	Ruth 3: 1-5, 4, 13-17 Mark 12: 28-34
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.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Today **10th November**, it is Remembrance Sunday.



Most of us wear a **Red** poppy - a Symbol of **Remembrance and Hope**,

to commemorate the people who sacrificed their lives in the First World War, and conflicts following that war.

You might also like to wear a **White** poppy for **Peace**:



- *Remembrance of **ALL** victims of war, including both civilians and members of the armed forces. We remember people of all nationalities. We remember those killed in wars happening now, as well as in the past. We also remember those who are often excluded from the mainstream, such as refugees and victims of colonial conflicts.*
- *Challenge to war & militarism and attempts to glorify or celebrate war.*
- *Commitment to peace and to seeking nonviolent solutions to conflict. By drawing attention to the devastating human cost of war, white poppies highlight the urgency of our ongoing struggle for peace.*

I shall have some available to buy in the Welcome Space, before and after the service, today, if you would like to buy one. **£1 each (and any extra donations will go to the Peace Pledge Union)**. Jennie Torpey

We are running critically low on clothing donations, mainly men's and ladies winter clothes. If you are having a wardrobe reshuffle and think you can help, we would be so grateful. Kindest Regards, Angela.

The Salvation Army Shop, 2-6 High Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1SQ.

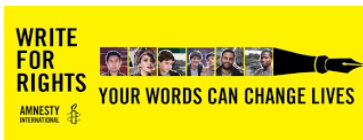


AYLESBURY
Choral Society

Aylesbury Choral Society

**Our next concert is Rossini's 'Petite Messe Solennelle'
at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury
on Saturday 7th December at 7.30pm**

**Tickets at £16 can be obtained from Sue and Roger Kirk or Pat Starr.
[Tickets can be bought on-line or at the door, but at £18 each.]**



'Write for Rights' 2024 Letter Writing Campaign 2024

Last week I introduced you to Amnesty's Write for Rights 2024 campaign, and I am including the information again in case you missed it. The campaign features people from around the world, all of whom are connected because their human rights have been violated. Some by their governments, others by the police, or even by big corporations.

Real letters and cards can bring hope to people in the direst of situations; people who've been harassed, threatened and jailed just for who they are and what they do.

When letters arrive in huge numbers, they are also an unmistakable reminder to prison authorities and others that the world is watching.

For every case, there are two types of messages you can write – one to the person we are fighting for, or their family, so they know we will never forget them, and one to the person in authority.

1. Write a message of solidarity. This is where Write for Rights began: writing a card/letter to people who are wrongly punished, to show them that they're not alone and not forgotten by the rest of the world.

2. Write an appeal letter

In a world of petitions, physical post does get noticed! As well as writing to the people experiencing human rights abuses, you can write to the authorities who can bring them justice.

All the details of how to write to authorities are in our campaign booklet.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act30/8281/2024/en/>

Rather stay online?

If writing letters isn't for you, you can also take action online – see above.

DOES IT WORK?

Yes! Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. People wrongfully imprisoned are released. Abusers are brought to justice. And people in prison are treated more humanely. A few words go a long way, for all of us. They can make us feel seen, supported, safe.

For the next few weeks, I shall include two different people, with their details, and where to send your card/letter.

Your message could make all the difference!

MANAHEL AL-OTAIBI, Saudi Arabia

In recent years, Saudi Arabia's authorities have claimed they are advancing women's rights in the Kingdom.

Thirty-year-old Manahel al-Otaibi believed these promises and felt free to express her views and wear what she liked. Now, facing over a decade behind bars, these promises are utterly hollow.

Before her arrest, Manahel was a fitness instructor and a brave and outspoken advocate for women's rights, using social media to call for greater freedoms for women in her country. Manahel was arrested on 16 November 2022, and charged with violating the Anti-Cyber Crime Law due to her tweets supporting women's rights and posting to Snapchat photos of herself at a shopping mall, not wearing an abaya, a traditional loose-fitting long-sleeved robe.

Her case was referred to the country's counter-terrorism court, the Specialized Criminal Court, notorious for its grossly unfair trials and harsh sentences. On 9 January 2024, Manahel was given an 11-year prison sentence for "terrorist offences" for her online expression, in a secret hearing the results of which were only revealed weeks later.

In November 2023, Manahel told her family she had been beaten by a fellow prisoner, and as a result she was cut off from the outside world, unable to communicate with anyone. In April 2024, Manahel was able to call her family for the first time in months, and sounding distressed, told them she was being held in solitary confinement and had again been brutally beaten, leaving her with a broken leg and no medical treatment.

SHOW MANAHEL SHE IS NOT ALONE

Send your messages of support in a card or letter to Manahel and her family; let them know you care.

Manahel al-Otaibi
c/o Saudi Arabia Team
Amnesty International
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW,
United Kingdom



OQBA HASHAD, Egypt

Twenty-seven-year-old Oqba Hashad was studying at university in Sadat City, north-west of Cairo, Egypt, when, on 20 May 2019, life as he knew it came to an end. In a seemingly random raid, National Security Agency agents stormed Oqba's dorm, arresting all the students present, including Oqba. After a few days, the other students were released – except Oqba.

Agents realized Oqba was the brother of Amr Hashad, a human rights activist who, after fleeing Egypt earlier that year, continued to denounce the country's human rights violations from exile.

For 77 days, Oqba's family had no idea where he was, and they feared for his safety. During this time, Oqba was tortured – including electric shocks to his genitals and to the stump of his right leg, which had been amputated following an accident when he was a child.

In August 2022, the prosthetic leg Oqba needs to move freely broke. For 16 months prison authorities denied him a replacement, and Oqba has become reliant on other prisoners for everyday tasks.

On 4 January 2024, Oqba was finally given a new prosthesis; however it does not fit and causes further injury when used. Officials are also denying him the medicines needed to care for his stump, increasing the risk of infection.

On 20 February 2024, a judge ordered Oqba's release, as he had been held in pretrial detention for longer than the two years permitted by Egyptian law. To bypass this, prosecutors opened a new bogus case against him to justify his continued detention.

Oqba is being detained solely in retaliation for his brother's human rights work. Denied proper medical care and even a bed to sleep in, Oqba's psychological and physical health is gravely deteriorating.

SHOW OQBA AND HIS FAMILY THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE

Send your support to Oqba and his family; share your messages of hope in a card or letter.

Oqba Hashad
c/o Amnesty International Tunis Regional
Office
24 Avenue de la livre,
Les Berges du lac 2,
1053 Tunis,
Tunisia.





'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

AYLESBURY

Dear All,

This Sunday, 10 November, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Aylesbury, and we join Frances as she shares her story with us. Many people influenced and encouraged Frances as her faith grew, from early days in Sunday School to serving as a Steward and giving that same encouragement to others.

Often, we will never know how our example may inspire others, but we hope and pray that the faith that we enjoy, may come across in a positive way to all those who we may touch in our lives.

Please pray this week for those who strive to offer us the best start in life and work often so quietly, helping and serving others in the name of the gospel.

Pete.

In last Sunday's service, Richard asked us to think about 'saints', the people who had had influence over our Christian lives. As others spoke about their lives, I thought about my experience.

My earliest memories involve Methodist Sunday Schools in the 1960s. My parents, Margaret and Denis, were the people with the greatest influence on my Christian life and they took me to church every Sunday. Sunday School was always enjoyable, with stories and best of all, singing. My Grandma was in the choir, so I was always encouraged to sing. On one occasion, I remember standing in the lounge while my Mum played the piano and I sang a verse from the hymn book for Grandma.

Most of my Sunday School teachers were women. I remember their names as they seemed so funny to me. There was Betty Bacon and her sister Esme Wragg who between them taught the infant class. There were some elderly sisters (who had taught my parents), Lizzie Stoneman and her sister Eda Kell. They gave wonderful Christmas and Easter parties for the children, catered by their amazing housekeeper, Ida. All of these women showed their love of God through their example of lives lived to help others.

Here in Aylesbury, from the age of 7, I encountered more people to help me to learn: Des and Kath Ffoulkes running the Junior Church together, and again music and singing were important. I joined the choir as a teenager (how proud was Grandma?) and again singing was a way of expressing my growing faith.

More and more 'saints' continued to help me, too many to name, but they all know who they are!

At university, I joined a choral society run by the music lecturer. This gave another opportunity to use music to express what was inside. Singing 'In Paradisum' from Faure's Requiem sent shivers down my spine as we sang in the college chapel overlooking the spire of Canterbury Cathedral.

After Nick and I were married, we lived in a tiny village called East Marden. The local church warden, Anna Clarke, had a huge impact on both of us, as she instigated a monthly family service in an almost unused local church, along with a Lay Reader, Peter Blencowe. During the service, Peter would bring the children to the front where they would all sit on kneelers while he told them a story. After that, Nick and I would teach the children a song. A reminder of my Sunday School days when stories and songs were so important to me.

Back here in Aylesbury, more than 25 years ago (where does the time go?), we joined the music group, meeting Katrin and John Hackett, who again were very influential in our approach to music and different styles of music, all adding to worship. We also joined SOS, a group of wonderful friends who have continued to help us to find the love of God in our lives.

Frances

Derek the Cleric



©Andy Robb

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	11 Nov	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	12 Nov	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
Wed	13 Nov	7.30pm	Leadership Team meeting
Thurs	14 Nov	10.00am From 1.50pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
Frid	15 Nov	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 17th November 2024

8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson.

10.30am: Morning Worship 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)