

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 24th November 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.

If you are visiting our Church for the first time, do introduce yourself to one of our stewards, who, today, are Elaine Hope 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 8 362 743 'God who sets us on a journey' 94
Readings	Daniel 7: 9-14 Revelation 1: 4b-8
Organist	David Brooker
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.





Our **Toy and Gift Service** this year will be held **NEXT Sunday, 1st December**, during the morning service.

This is the time when we hope as many members of the congregation as possible will bring a new toy or gift. These will be taken to a local Centre to be given to those children and young people who would otherwise have very little to open at Christmas. Please do not wrap your gift as these will be sorted appropriately by the Centre. If you would prefer to give a small donation in a sealed envelope this will also be welcome.



Our next Messy Church is on **Saturday 7th December from 3.45 till 6.00pm**. The theme is Christmas. Please let us know if you're coming along, by emailing amc22messychurch@gmail.com by Thursday evening 5th December. This is to allow us to have enough craft activities and also for the ladies who make our sumptuous tea. Please come and make it the start of your Christmas celebrations.

Margaret Miskin

SOS. Saturday 7th December 2024 at 7.30pm: at the home of Richard & Louise Atkinson, tel: 339899. Today is National Gazpacho Day. A soup served cold in the warmer Spanish climes. As winter embraces us, perhaps we can find warmer Spanish dishes to share tonight?

All are welcome!

All you need to do is to call the host to say that you're coming.



Well, that's another year over for the Link to Hope shoebox appeal. The number of boxes were down on last year until a lady came along with 31 boxes from her church in Chalfont.

122 boxes (36 from AMC) were picked up from my house last Wednesday and taken to their head office in Worthing, where they are stored prior to being delivered to very needy recipients in Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Moldova. There are going to be lots of happy faces this year. Many thanks to all those who supported this year's appeal either by filling a box or giving a monetary donation.

May God bless you all. Margaret Miskin

On **Boxing Day**, the Aylesbury Fun Run is using our hall as a base and would love to have teas and coffees available.



If anyone is free and able to offer this service between 10-12 that morning, please speak to Gill Marks 01296 748659 or Robin Barrett 07737 000410.

Any monies raised can go to the charity of your choice.

Christmas Services at Aylesbury Methodist Church

1st Dec. 10.30am: Toy & Gift Service

15th Dec. 5.00pm: Carol Service

24th Dec. 4.00pm: Christingle Service

24th Dec. 11.30pm: Midnight Communion

25th Dec. 10.00am: Christmas Morning Service

All services led by Rev Richard Atkinson



Christmas Walk and Lunch: We are holding this year's walk on Friday 27th December. Roger will be providing more details of the venue and when to turn up, in due course. If you cannot do the walk, please feel free to

register for the lunch anyway; you will be more than welcome.

To book your place on the walk and lunch, or just the lunch, please ring Kevin on **01296 481285**. Roger and Kevin.



The Christmas card post box will be put up in the Welcome Space at the beginning of December for you to send cards to those who attend Church regularly.

*The cards are **NOT DELIVERED**, so please do not put cards in unless you are sure the recipients regularly attend church.*

Please also put surnames on the envelopes as folk might not think to look in the other pouches.

If you wish to send a card to **everyone at Church**, the board will be on the radiator by the display cabinet for you to pin your card.

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL

YOUR WORDS CAN CHANGE LIVES

'Write for Rights' Letter Writing Campaign 2024

Over the few past weeks I have introduced you to Amnesty's Write for Rights 2024 campaign, and I am including this 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 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.

Here are the details of the last three people we can help in this year's campaign, and where to send your card/letter.

Your message could make all the difference!

All this information can be found on both the AMC website and the Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit website

MARYIA KALESNIKAVA, Belarus

A professional musician, Maryia Kalesnikava has filled her life with music, art and people. She's passionate about meeting people and learning from them, and dreams of a Belarus where everyone is respected and allowed to speak freely. This led Maryia to become involved in the August 2020 presidential elections. She joined the campaign of independent candidate Svyatlana Tsikhanouskaya alongside Veranika Tsapkala. The three women united after the leading male candidates had been jailed or fled. In a country where rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly are severely restricted, this formidable trio called for change and offered hope to many.

It is widely believed the opposition won, but the election was rigged, and Alyaksandr Lukashenka returned for his sixth term. Following the election, Svyatlana and Veranika were forced into exile and Maryia emerged as the highest profile opposition figure. She stood at the front line of peaceful protests, confronting abusive police officers, and making a heart-shaped symbol with her hands in front of riot police.

On 7 September 2020, Maryia was abducted by the Belarus authorities. Dragged into a van by masked men, she was taken to the border, intimidated and pressured to leave the country. She escaped through the van's window and tore up her passport to resist deportation. Maryia was arrested, detained and later sentenced to 11 years in prison on charges including "undermining national security" and "extremism".

Maryia is imprisoned in appalling conditions, with limited access to the healthcare she needs and isolated from other inmates inside the prison.

Maryia's family and friends have not heard from her for over a year.

SHOW MARYIA THAT SHE IS NOT ALONE

Send Maryia messages in letters/cards of hope and solidarity. Let her know you support her in her fight for human rights in Belarus.

Include red hearts and musical notes in your messages.

Maryia Kalesnikava
Penal colony No. 4
vul. Antoshkina 3
246035, Homel
Republic of Belarus



JOEL PAREDES, Argentina

Twenty-nine-year-old ceramicist Joel Paredes lives in Humahuaca, a small town in Jujuy, a northern Argentine province. In June 2023 the local government pushed through changes to the province's constitution, including restrictions on the right to peaceful assembly, as well as measures that may cause damage to the environment, and risk violating Indigenous Peoples' land rights. The changes were approved without consultation with Indigenous Peoples or the wider population.

Jujuy is a province rich in lithium, a metal known as 'white gold' due to its worldwide demand for the creation of batteries. Argentine authorities want to expand lithium exports. But people who live on the land, like Joel and his family, have serious doubts.

Although not Indigenous himself, Joel sympathized greatly and was concerned for the future of his children who would grow up on the land. In support, on the evening of 30 June 2023, Joel joined a protest in Humahuaca square. Alongside hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, Joel played a 'bombo' drum with his band while the City Council discussed the changes in a nearby building. For Joel: *"Our musical instruments are our weapons."*

In the early hours of 1 July, the police arrived at the square and started recklessly firing rubber bullets into the crowd. Joel was hit in his right eye. The injury required surgery, but doctors could not save his sight and Joel is now permanently blind in his right eye. Joel is also left with debilitating nerve pain that impacts his daily life. No one has been held accountable for what happened to Joel and the other protesters.

SHOW JOEL AND HIS FAMILY THAT YOU SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

Send your messages - letters/cards of support to show Joel and his family that they are not alone.

Joel Paredes
c/o Amnesty International Argentina
Santos Dumont 3429, 2nd Floor
1427 Buenos Aires



NETH NAHARA, Angola

For Ana da Silva Miguel, a 32-year-old singer and mother with two young children, life in Angola was frustrating and hard. How could a country with so much potential, allow so many of its people to live in poverty?

Fed up with the lack of schools, employment and opportunity, Ana took to TikTok, becoming ‘Neth Nahara’ – social media influencer and commentator. Neth shared stories of her life with her followers, good times and bad. She was bubbly, fun and unafraid to speak her truth. Neth encouraged women to seek out education and gain independence. She also bravely shared that she had HIV and gave advice on how to stay healthy.

On 12 August 2023 Neth went live on her TikTok channel, openly criticizing President João Lourenço. The very next day Neth was arrested at her home in Luanda, Angola’s capital. She was summarily tried, convicted and sentenced to six months in prison. On 27 September 2023 the sentence was increased to two years.

The Angolan authorities are using a controversial law (criminal code 333) to silence critical voices like Neth. The law was passed during the Covid-19 pandemic – a time when the Angolan people took to the streets to express their discontent with the president’s leadership – and makes “insulting” the president a crime.

For the first eight months Neth spent in arbitrary detention she was denied the daily medication needed to treat HIV. Only after repeated requests from her lawyers, was she finally given the necessary medications.

Neth Nahara and others like her are being detained and mistreated because they dare to speak out.

SEND YOUR LETTERS AND CARDS OF HOPE TO NETH

Help keep Neth’s spirits up; let her know she is not alone.

Ana da Silva Miguel (Neth Nahara)
Estabelecimento prisional feminino de Viana
Vila de Viana
Avenida 11 de Novembro
Rua Nzinga Mbande
Luanda
Angola





CHURCH READINGS: December 2024 to February 2025.

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: *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, and toiletries, also 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	25 Nov	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	26 Nov	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
Thurs	28 Nov	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
Frid	29 Nov	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club
Sat	30 Nov	4.00pm	Aylesbury Festival Choir Concert

Sunday 1st December 2024

10.30am: Toy & Gift Service 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 (Roger Kirk: 01296 415312 Mobile: 07484 392734)

Aylesbury Festival Choir
FEEL THE SPIRIT



The David Aylett 10th Anniversary Concert

Saturday 30th November 2024, 4pm

Poulenc - Gloria
Aylett - Elegy
Rutter - Feel the Spirit

Genevieve Bentham - Soprano
Ben Giddens - Piano & Organ
Richard Santner - Clarinet
Nick Austin - Music Director

Aylesbury Methodist Church, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, HP20 2NQ

Tickets £15, Under 18s £5, Family £30 (2 adults, 2 under 18s)

www.aylesburyfestivalchoir.weebly.com
Registered Charity Number: 297856





'GOOD NEWS' FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

CHINNOR

Dear All,

This Sunday, 24 November, we hear the story of a member who has spent many years as a Local Preacher, starting in 1959 when she was 23.

Elizabeth tells us that she grew up in a Norfolk village and says:



"I went to the Methodist Church every week with my parents. When I was 12, the Minister asked me directly about my faith. I said 'Yes', and from then on was a Christian. I went on to Teacher Training College where I was a member of Meth Soc and witnessed for Christ.

My first teaching post at Great Yarmouth High School was teaching Cookery, Needlework and Scripture. In those days, this was Christian-based. I felt led to train and qualify as a Local Preacher. I then went to Australia, teaching there for a year on an 'Exchange'.

I taught for 5 more years before starting work with the Bible Society, covering the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex, where I drove around to various churches in the area, encouraging members to read their Bibles regularly.

I met and married David and we had two boys, Simon and Ian, who now live abroad. David and I came to Oxfordshire where I was a Lay Preacher at Wallingford Methodist Church, and where I led services including Funerals and Holy Communion, and undertook pastoral support work.

We retired to Bicester, later moving to Chinnor to be near one of our sons and his family who then lived here. I continued as a Local Preacher and ran a Bible Study group.

My Christian Faith and continuing witness is as important to me in the Care Home where I am living now as it was when I was young. I attend church and church events as often as possible and use the Methodist Prayer Handbook and Bible Reading notes regularly. I welcome new residents in, encourage residents to join with the Bible studies and Communion services here, and visit those who are unable to leave their rooms.

God has a purpose for us all in all stages of our lives."

Elizabeth.