

WELCOME TO

**AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**10.30am: Family Communion 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 Frances Aylesn.

**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 186 59 531 508 575 477
Readings	Luke 3: 1-6 Malachi 3: 1-4
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.**





Come and join us at the **Christmas Lunch Club** on **Wednesday 11th December at 12.30pm** when we will be serving up a delicious Chicken-themed Christmas lunch. All are VERY welcome but please sign up on the board in the coffee bar so we know how many to cater for. Or give Gill a call on 01296 748659.



### **THANK YOU!**

We have received a letter from Della Holmes, from Bucks Council Children's Services, thanking us for 'an amazing collection of such generous gifts' donated at last Sunday's Toy & Gift Service. Along with the toys, there was £240 cash donated, which Della has used to purchase gift vouchers and selection boxes, to be distributed to families with children who would otherwise have very little to open at Christmas.



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.



**If anyone has a security fob for the building that they no longer need, please could you return it to the office for reuse.**

### CAROL SERVICE CHOIR

**For Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 5.00pm**

We are forming an augmented choir to sing two anthems and support the congregational singing in our forthcoming Annual Carol Service. If you feel you would like to join and contribute, you would be most welcome.

**Practice is Thursday afternoon, 12<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm.**

There will also be a 'warm up' practice on the Sunday afternoon at 4.30pm. Just come along to the church; but if you want further details, please feel free to phone me on 01296 488076, or speak to a member of the choir. Derrick.

### **Christmas Services at Aylesbury Methodist Church**

**15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 5.00pm: Carol Service**

**24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 4.00pm: Christingle Service**

**24<sup>th</sup> Dec. 11.30pm: Midnight Communion**

**25<sup>th</sup> Dec. 10.00am: Christmas Morning Service**

**All services led by Rev Richard Atkinson**



**The 2023/24 Annual Report is now available from  
the display cabinet in the Welcome Space.**

**Christmas Walk and Lunch:** We are holding this year's walk on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 is now in the Welcome Space for you to post your cards *to those who regularly attend Church services*.

*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 is on the radiator by the display cabinet for you to pin your card.



## 'GOOD NEWS' FROM RICHARD

Dear All,

A change of direction this week!

As with any subject, a knowledge of the background and context can add massively to our understanding of what an author might be saying, and the Bible is a good example of that in practice. Often some passages may seem a little odd or difficult to understand, so to help us all in our understanding, alongside our Good News features from the churches, we will be introducing some extra items along the lines of the article below.

We start with an introduction to the Gospel of St Matthew.

Please do read the article from Richard below, and if you have any thoughts or constructive criticism, do feed them back to me and we will discuss your thoughts.

Pete.

### ***The Gospel of Matthew***

***Author:*** Probably not Matthew the tax collector and disciple named in the Gospels. More likely to be somebody with a Jewish religious background who was familiar with the structure of the laws of the Old Testament.

***Date:*** Nothing certain but scholars assume it was written after Mark for the reasons below. There are opinions about when Mark is thought to have been written, but probably in the 60s AD

***Style:*** One of the three synoptic gospels. In simple terms, this means that Mark, almost in its entirety, is copied by both Matthew and Luke. Then there are the stories that are unique to Matthew and Luke.

***Features:*** Matthew is the most Jewish of the Gospels - he talks about the Kingdom of Heaven rather than the Kingdom of God, reflecting the Jewish unwillingness to use God's name.

*His Jewishness is also thought to be reflected in the way in which he arranges his material. In the flow of his narrative, there are five distinct teaching blocks which may relate to the five books of the Law in the Old Testament. The first of these, the Sermon on the Mount, is the most important exploration of Christian morality.*

*The genealogy in Matthew 1 traces the line of Jesus back to Abraham, while Luke, the most Gentile of the Gospels, takes the line back to Adam.*

*You might like to look at the 5 teaching blocks to try and sense how the theme runs through. They are:*

*Matt 1: 5-7. The Sermon on the Mount – the discipleship discourse*

*Matt 1: 10. The missionary discourse*

*Matt 1: 13. The parabolic discourse*

*Matt 1: 18. The discourse on the church*

*Matt 1: 23-25. The Olivet discourse*

*Passages worth looking at:*

*Matthew 5:1-12. The Beatitudes – how do these words resonate with us?*

*You could compare the three versions of the Parable of the Sower to see how similar they are (Matt 13: 1-8, Mark 4: 1-9, Luke 8: 4-8).*

*Then have a look at the following passages that are only in Matthew, and ask what they tell us about Matthew's belief:*

*Matthew 25. The three parables are all unique to Matthew.*

*Matthew 28:16-20. Some would say this is the most impactful ending of all the Gospels.*

*Richard*



**The Vale of Aylesbury Circuit**

## **CIRCUIT DAY**

**Ignite: Rekindling Passion  
and Purpose in Our Church Family!**

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Venue: The Church on Fairford Leys  
Hampden Square,  
Aylesbury HP19 7HT**

**The day will start at 10.00am, with drinks from  
9.30am, and will finish at 3.00pm.**

**[Participants are invited to bring their own lunch]**

***Further details to follow, but please save the date!***



## Think right, and you will live right

*'The mind of the wise instructs his mouth.'*

Proverbs 16:23 AMPC

The Bible says, 'The mind of the wise instructs his mouth, and adds learning and persuasiveness to his lips. Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the mind and healing to the body' (vv. 23-24 AMPC).

Your thoughts and your words are intimately connected. Because of this, it's important that you think pleasant thoughts so that you can speak pleasant words.

Your thoughts are silent words that not only you and the Lord hear, but when verbalised, affect your emotional, spiritual, and physical well-being.

Solomon says, 'Pleasant words are...healing.' Your thoughts are silent words that affect your inner man, your health, your joy, and your attitude.

The things we think about often come out of our mouths and sometimes make us look foolish. But if we live God's way, our thoughts and words can make our lives and the lives of others more enjoyable. The New International Version of the Bible says, 'The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction' (v. 23).

Don't make the mistake of thinking that you can let your thought life run in any worldly direction it wants and then fake it by speaking godly words. Either both are pleasing, or both are negative and sinful. There is no middle ground.

Paul writes, 'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5 NKJV). Scripture is your doorway into a new realm of living. As you spend time letting Jesus adjust your thinking, you won't have to think about speaking pleasant words, wise words, instructive words, or healing words. It will just happen naturally.

**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:

**United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF, or email [ucb@ucb.co.uk](mailto:ucb@ucb.co.uk) or telephone 01782 911 000.**

Or you can read them online at <https://www.ucb.co.uk/read>.

As a charity, UCB relies on donations, so a gift would be appreciated from time to time.



### **CHURCH READINGS: December 2024 to February 2025.**

There are a few dates left, 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](mailto:rubydarku@hotmail.co.uk)



### **Next Week**

<b>Mon</b>	9 Dec	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
<b>Tues</b>	10 Dec	9.30am 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Boys' Brigade
<b>Wed</b>	11 Dec	12.30pm	Lunch Club
<b>Thurs</b>	12 Dec	10.00am	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group
<b>Frid</b>	13 Dec	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

### **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**8.45am: Communion Service led by Rev Richard Atkinson**

**10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr Richard Maguire.**

**5.00pm: Candlelit Carol 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 - (Kevin Hardern: 01296 481285 Mobile: 07785 950 702)**