

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



‘LINK’

**March - April
2018**

**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham Street
Aylesbury, Bucks. HP20 2NQ**

Registered Charity No. 1129749

Church Office: 01296 426526
e-mail: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre
Website

www.aylesburymethodists.org.uk

(AMC Weekly Notice Sheet and LINK magazine can
now be found on the website)

Minister

Rev Helen Kirk

01296 488963

revhelenkirk@sky.com





Many years ago, on a cold, miserable Saturday afternoon in Winter, having run out of ways of entertaining two small boys, we decided to have a film afternoon. ET was on the tv and so with popcorn in hand we sat down as a family to watch. The boys were enchanted by the tale of Elliot & his alien friend until, of course, ET became ill. Joel was about 6 years old at the time and as he watched ET die, tears rolled down his cheeks and he begged us to turn off the tv as he couldn't bear the sadness. As a parent all I

wanted to do was to stop his pain, to take away his grief, but I also knew how the story ended. So, Andrew and I, each holding a tearful child mourning the loss of their fictional friend, waited for the hopeful ending when ET was restored to life and able eventually to go home.

We are at that time of the year again when we watch the unfolding horror of Christ's passion; his suffering, both physical & psychological; his public execution; and there is a part of us that longs to look away, to 'turn off' the awfulness and to move on quickly to Easter Sunday. Even though we know the end of the story, we do not want to linger in the darkness.

And yet part of our faith is to live in that place of struggle; we recognise in Good Friday the pain of the human condition; the hurt, loss and grief that we have experienced, or we have seen in others. All we desire is to make it better and yet we know through the story of our faith that you cannot rush hope; Good Friday and Holy Saturday must be lived through before Sunday arrives. But the assurance is that it will arrive; that light will enter dark places and new possibilities will come to barren experience. This is our faith.

I am always interested to reflect on how difficult we, the church, finds the concept of death. I do not mean the personal loss of a loved one but the idea of some aspect of our church life changing or even ceasing. Despite our central story being one of death and resurrection, we seem to view change in the life of the church, not as a part of a natural cycle in which we look forward to something new, but as a failure or a personal affront.

The Methodist Church is asking every church in the country two very simple questions: 'How can we be more fruitful in our worship and witness?' and 'What needs to 'die' for our fruitfulness to grow?'

Over the course of this next year it is a question we will be asking at AMC and all the circuit churches. They are questions that might cause us some pain and some soul searching but they should not be questions we are afraid to answer, for, if we are truly Easter People, we have faith that in God there are always new possibilities; there is always hope.

Helen

Thy Kingdom Come 10th -20th May 2018

'Thy Kingdom Come' is a national initiative that takes place between Ascension and Pentecost to enable people to engage in prayer. The Circuit Leadership Team is encouraging all churches in the circuit to take part this year, and for each church to have a prayer event during that time, e.g. a prayer walk, prayer stations, setting up a prayer wall or prayer tree (there are lots of ideas on the website: www.thykingdomcome.global)



So watch this space for our event and look out for events that are happening in other churches in the circuit.

If you would like to be involved in any way please get in touch with Pat Powell or Rev Helen Kirk.

On Sunday 13th May at 5pm, Swanbourne Methodist Church invite us to share in their 'Thy Kingdom Come' event as part of the evening service,.

On 20th May at 6pm we will have a Circuit Celebration at AMC to finish off 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

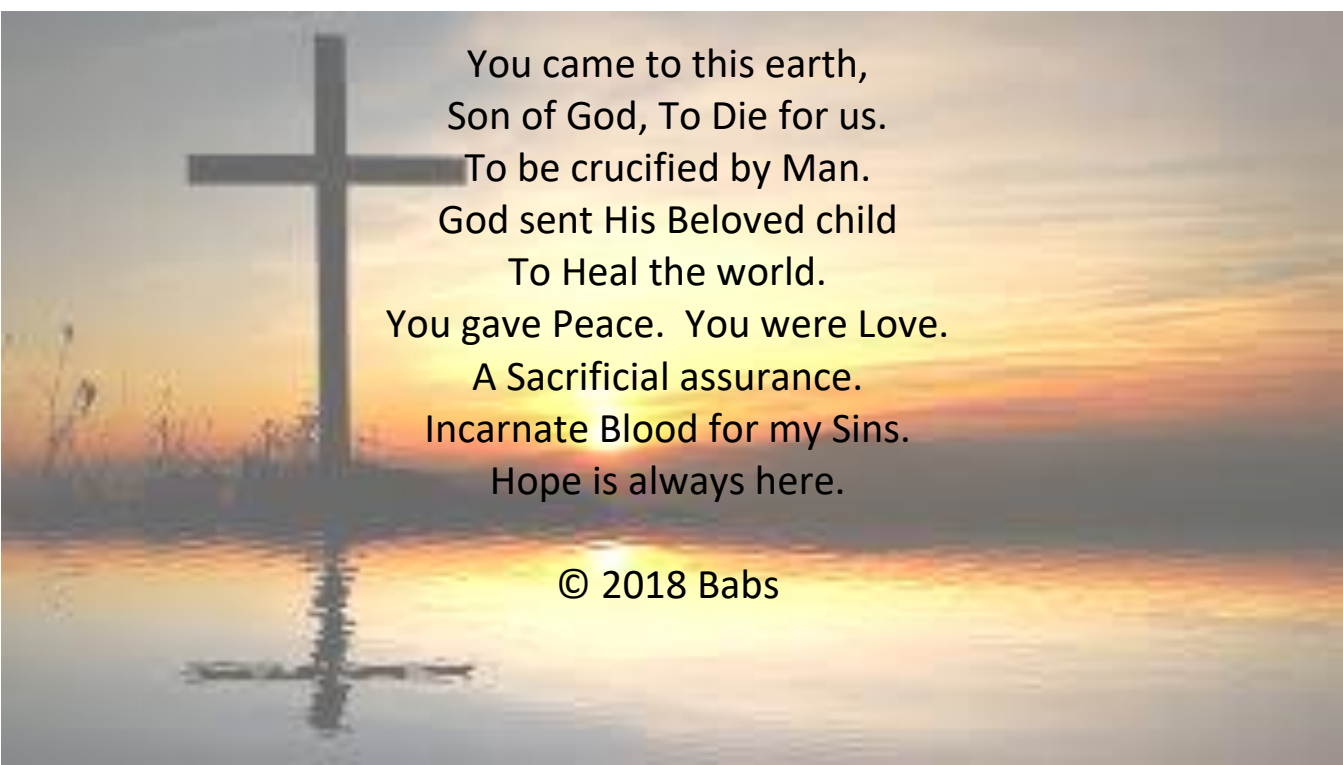
Helen



Hope

You came to this earth
As a baby. A virgin birth.
Our great Hope. The Messiah.
Stars foretold this long before
You came to us –
A brilliance in the heavens.
An Event Horizon
Read by scholars long ago,
That Hope was the future.

You came to this earth
As a man, Baptised by John.
Our great Hope had come -
The true Messiah.
John foretold this before
You were human flesh.
He travelled the land
Telling all who would listen
That Hope was on its way.



You came to this earth,
Son of God, To Die for us.
To be crucified by Man.
God sent His Beloved child
To Heal the world.
You gave Peace. You were Love.
A Sacrificial assurance.
Incarnate Blood for my Sins.
Hope is always here.

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J TEAM



Welcome to the J Team pages

Easter is a very special time as we remember Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. We follow the story from the days after his crucifixion...

Mary stayed behind and stood outside the tomb weeping. As she knelt down and looked inside, she saw two angels dressed in white. They asked her why she was crying. She told them that someone had taken her master and she didn't know where they had taken him. Then, Mary turned and saw a man standing behind her.

"He has risen! He is not here."

Mark 16 :6 (NIV)



"He has risen! He is not here."
Mark 16:6

DRAK

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1

TIRSF

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2

3

KEWE

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4

WMOAN

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5

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1 2 3 4 5

Bible Memory Verse

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:6 (NIV)

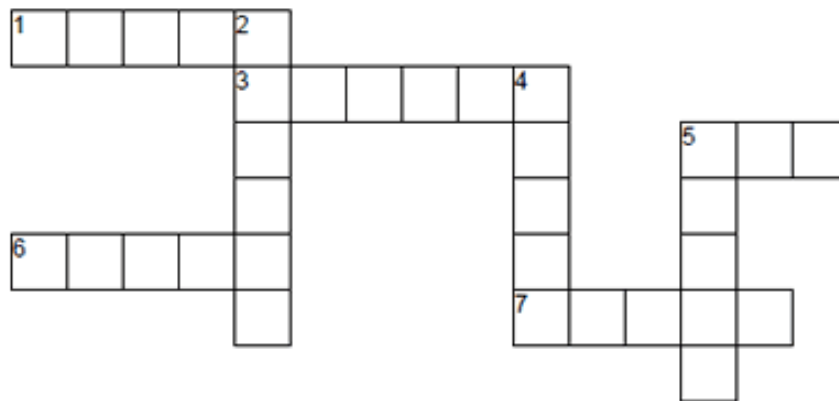
It was Jesus, but Mary did not recognize Him. She thought he was the gardener. Then Jesus called her by name and, when she heard his voice, she recognized Him. After she saw that it was Jesus, she went to the disciples and said to them, "I've just seen Jesus! He is alive!"

Some people, like Mary, Peter, and John can't see Jesus because they are looking for Him in a grave. He isn't there! He is risen and is seated at the right hand of His Father in heaven. If you want to see Jesus, look in His Word, He will reveal Himself to you, just as He did to Mary!

I've Just Seen Jesus

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). John 20:16 (NIV)

Complete the activity below. The words in the puzzle are found in John 20:1-18.



ACROSS

- The color of snow; the opposite of black
- Messengers from heaven
- To produce tears; to weep
- Not dead
- To have nothing inside

DOWN

- The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
- What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb
- A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers

EASTER	CLOTH	CRY	EMPTY
ALIVE	WHITE	STONE	ANGELS

Dear God, we thank you that Jesus, our Saviour, is not in a grave.
He is alive! Amen

“Rejoice with me”

He was a dear little Parkistani man. All of us at the Day Centre for the elderly, where I worked as a volunteer, were very fond of him. I can picture him now, in his little wool hat with its turned-up brim. The only problem was that he had very little English. He was always smiling, though, nodding his head, and when there was any music, he would sway in time to it and sometimes even dance.

Then one afternoon, Jean, the team leader, came to me, when most people were engaged in a game of Bingo.

“I’m a bit worried,” she said. “I’m sure he was wearing his teeth this morning. Did you notice? I’m certain he has not got them in now.” She had tried to ask him about them, but he had just smiled and nodded as usual.

We looked all around the room - on the tables - on the shelves. Jean went in the gentlemen’s loo. There was no sign of them. She looked in the kitchen. They were nowhere to be found.

“His daughter will be so upset, if we have lost them,” said Jean. “There’s only one other place to look. I hardly like to ask you, but do you think you could help me?” I knew what she was suggesting. We put on rubber gloves and set to work on the bag containing kitchen waste. After we had transferred all the mess into the second bag, we had still not found any teeth.

Perhaps Jean had been mistaken. Perhaps he had left his set at home.

The taxi arrived to collect him. Everyone was reaching for their outdoor clothes. It was then that the teeth appeared - from inside the brim of his hat.

I’ll leave it to you, to imagine the relieved laughter that followed.

Angela M Smith





At a service in January, Arthur Sara referred to a flipchart covered with numbers.

January, Arthur Sara

13, 17, 30, 200+, 2,720, 249,180, 389,651, and finally 638,831.

“Do you know what those numbers refer to? The answer is the Christmas Card shop that we run here each year for the charity Cards for Good Causes.

*The **£638,831** is the total value of sales that the shop has made since it was opened by Gordon Bonham **30** years ago; but after **13** years and sales of **£249,180**, Gordon stepped down, and **17** is the number of years that the shop has been managed by Cliff Darlington, with sales in these 17 years being **£389,651** .*

*The other numbers are my estimates and may give a small indication of the huge amount of work Cliff puts in each year. As these are estimates they may well be inaccurate, but I think that, since each day the shop is open it needs four volunteers to sell the goods, and a manager to be in charge, that is Cliff's 5 a day! But with his contacts and friendly manner he has organised people to fill those **2,720** job slots.*

*Finally, I think the church has had to be rearranged, and chairs moved, at **least 200** times in Cliff's 17 years. If you add to that all the meetings, the ordering of stock, the pricing and all the other organisation, it has been a huge commitment on his part.”*

Arthur went on to explain that Cliff is now retiring, and that he was privileged and delighted to make a presentation to Cliff to show our love and appreciation for all he has done on our behalf throughout those 17 years.

Cliff replied, *“It has been my pleasure. I have had a great team and met some wonderful people from the local churches and charities and made some new lifelong friends.”*

Cliff was pleased to be able to announce that John Miskin has offered to become the new manager when the shop reopens in November.





Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 has just ended, and hopefully we all made an effort to buy a new Fairtrade product, or to try a fairly-traded brand of one of our regular groceries.

As a Fairtrade church, we are happy to promote the brand, which ensures that fair prices are paid to farmers in developing countries.

Nowadays, many Fairtrade products are available from the supermarkets. They will all have the distinctive Fairtrade logo.

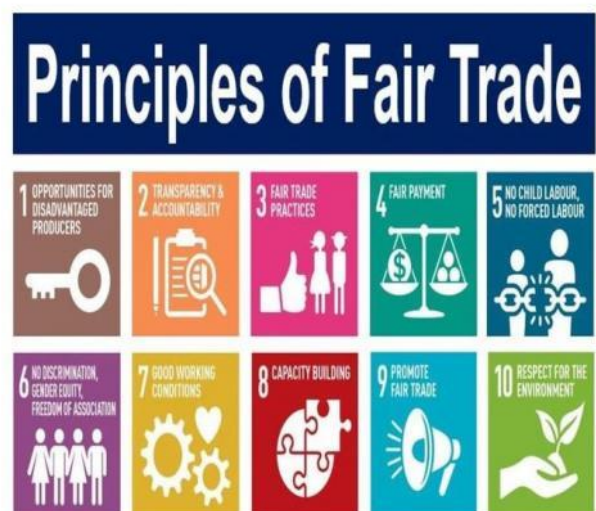
Traidcraft have been promoting Fairtrade principles since 1979. They pioneered the first fairly-traded tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar, wine, rubber, and even the first Fairtrade palm oil! This year, they have some special offers to encourage more of us to join them on their journey and to increase the number of fairly-traded products that we buy.

Look at the Traidcraft website to order: www.traidcraftshop.co.uk

The ten principles of Fairtrade are:

1. Create Opportunities for Economically Disadvantaged Producers
2. Transparency and Accountability
3. Fair Trading Practices
4. Payment of a Fair Price
5. Ensuring no Child Labour and Forced Labour
6. Commitment to Non-Discrimination, Gender Equality, Freedom of Association
7. Ensuring Good Working Conditions
8. Providing Capacity Building (developing practical, management and business skills)
9. Promoting Fair Trade
10. Respect for the Environment

We can all show support for these principles by committing to buy at least one new Fairtrade product this year.



"Poverty reduction through trade forms a key part of the organization's aims. The organization supports marginalized small producers, whether these are independent family businesses, or grouped in associations or co-operatives."

A Fairtrade Easter

If you are buying Chocolate eggs, whatever the size, why not consider those made of Fairtrade chocolate. Certain lines of Easter egg even include the Easter story to add meaning to the experience of eating Britain's favourite sweet. [Sugar -free and Milk-free options are available.]

Remember that Fairtrade is a philosophy for trading, not a taste.

There are multiple flavours and textures available in the various ranges of coffee and tea, etc.

You can avoid delivery charges if you place your order through Rod Thorpe, our Fairtrade champion, based at Chinnor Methodist Church. There is a Traidcraft catalogue for you to look at in one of the display stands in the Church vestibule.

Contact him on rodandlizthorpe@gmail.com



A selection of Fairtrade gifts and food are also available from **JUST**, (formerly @stmary's shop), 11 High Street, Wendover, HP22 6DU. Tel: 01296 623123

Open 10am-5pm on Monday-Friday and 10am-4pm on Saturday.

A small selection of Fairtrade chocolate, Easter eggs and chocolate Advent calendars is usually on sale at the **Oxfam shop in Aylesbury High Street**.





**Methodist Women
in Britain**



Spring Event

Speaker: Mrs Sandra Goodwin
National President, Methodist Women in Britain

'Titfers, tatties and toilets'
Life in Bolivia, a land of contrasts

Venue
Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church
Eskdale Road HP22 5UJ
(5 minutes walk from Stoke Mandeville Station)

Tuesday May 8th 2018
2:30 - 4:00pm

Methodist Women in Britain local event

Each year the women's groups from the Aylesbury, Wycombe and Amersham circuits come together for an afternoon event.

This year's event will take place at Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church on Tuesday 8th of May.

We are fortunate that Sandra Goodwin, President of MWiB will be coming to speak to us about her visit to Bolivia.

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to belong to a group.

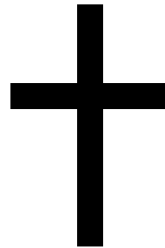
Just come along for an afternoon of fellowship.

Enquiries to Ruth Watkins 485087 or ruthmwatkins@aol.com



*Vale of Aylesbury
Methodist Circuit*

THE PROCESSION OF PALMS
and
**THE MORNING OF THE
DAY OF DAYS**
by Malcolm Williamson



**An act of worship for Congregation and Choir
recalling some of the events during
Passiontide and Easter.**

**Presented by the Circuit Choir together with the
Choir of Tring Parish Church and friends from
other local churches and choirs under the direction
of Cliff Brown**

Led by the Rev Helen Kirk

**Aylesbury Methodist Church
Sunday 18th March 2018 @ 6.00 pm**

**(Repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring on
Sunday 25th March @ 6.30 pm)**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.



Family & Youth Work at AMC

Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March; 11th & 18th April 2018, 11.00am -12.30pm

Aylesbury Methodist Church and Centre

Buckingham Street
Aylesbury
HP20 2NQ

Let's Cook!

Tuesdays 24th April and 22nd May 2018, 11.00am – 1.00pm.

Being a parent is one of life's greatest joys, but it is also one of its biggest challenges.

Parentalk is for parents of children aged up to the early teenage years, giving you the opportunity to talk about the day-to-day challenges you face, as well as sharing the things that are going well.

What can you expect from Parentalk?
<i>Parents can have the opportunity to share experiences</i>
<i>Explore parenting principles</i>
<i>DVDs – Watch real life stories and animations</i>
<i>Humorous dramas</i>
<i>Opportunities to befriend other parents and more.</i>
Let's Cook <i>will provide the opportunity to cook, bake and eat together.</i>

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Please email or phone Mel for a registration form:

Mel Brown
Family and Youth Worker
Email: familyworker.amc@mail.com
Mobile: 077-171-21887



Let's Get MESSY!

Saturday March 17th: 4 pm – 6 pm
'GOD LOVES ME'

Activities Songs Food
Crafts Stories

Come and join us!

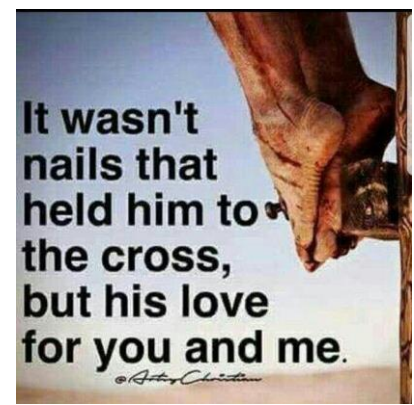
Messy Church Dates to come:

April 21st - May 19th - June 16th - July 21st 2018

Aylesbury Methodist Church
Aylesbury
Buckingham Street
HP20 2NQ



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Sun 11 March Mothering Sunday	10.30am	Family & Brigade Service led by members of J Team
Wed 14 March	11.00am 2.00pm	Parentalk Bible Study - Faithfulness
Sat 17 March	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 18 March	10.30am 6.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk Circuit Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 20 March	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: ANUKET Belly Dancers
Wed 21 March	11.00am	Parentalk
Sat 24 March	2.00pm 6.30pm	Good Faith Book Club Caribbean Evening in aid of Action for Children
Sun 25 March Palm Sunday	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Jill Marsh
Wed 28 March	11.00am	Parentalk
Sun 1 April Easter Sunday	9.00am 10.30am	Easter Sunday Breakfast Family Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Tues 3 April	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Rev Keith Edwards - slides
Sun 8 April	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Steve Kemp
Wed 11 April	11.00am	Parentalk
Sat 14 April		Jigsaw & Book Fair
Sun 15 April	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship – Local arrangement
Wed 18 April	11.00am 2.00pm	Parentalk Bible Study: 'Who's Included?'
Sat 21 April	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 22 April	10.30am 11.45am	Morning Worship led by Mr David Blackmore Cake & Plant Stall in aid of Action for Children
Tues 24 April	11.00am	Parentalk - Let's Cook
Sun 29 April	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk
Friday 4 May	ARTICLES DUE IN FOR MAY-JUNE LINK MAGAZINE	
Sat 5 May	7.30pm	SOS: 'Out & About' at the Bucks Balti
Sun 6 May	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Cameron
Tues 8 May	2.30pm	MwiB 'Spring Event' at Stoke Mandeville Church
Thurs 10 – Sun 20 May	'THY KINGDOM COME'	

Sun 13 May Christian Aid Sunday	10.30am 5.00pm	Family & Brigade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk 'Thy Kingdom Come' event at Swanbourne Church
Sun 13 – Sat 19 May		CHRISTIAN AID WEEK
Wed 16 May	7.30pm	Organ Concert: Joseph Nolan
Sat 19 May	4.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 20 May	10.30am 6.00pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk Circuit Celebration of 'Thy Kingdom Come'
Tues 22 May	11.00am	Parentalk – Let's Cook
Wed 23 May	2.00pm	Bible Study: 'All the bits we've missed!'
Sat 26 May	2.00pm	Good Faith Book Club

A Methodist minister asked, "Is there anyone in the congregation who wants a prayer said for their shortcomings?"

"Yes," said a man in the front pew. "I am a spendthrift. I throw money around like it's growing on trees."

"Very well," said the minister. "We will join in prayer for our brother in a moment. First, though, it's time for the collection."

Misheard in the AMC Office:

A note was left by Carla for Jennie, who coincidentally was organising a rota of volunteers for a Christian Aid collection at Tesco. A bit confused, Jennie rang Abdul! He was phoning to arrange collection of our old Ricoh photocopier!!! (Ricoh Machine!!!!!!)



Spring

The frigid earth has been sleeping,
Over wintering, just like
Bears in deep hibernation,
Patiently waiting for the
Tentative fingers of Spring
To penetrate the frozen earth,
And begin the thaw.



Slowly, almost unperceptively,
Snowdrops poke out their
Virginal sleepy heads.
Their tiny bells shiver in the cold,
As they break through the soil,
Ready to herald the beginning
Of a brand-new season.

Daffodils, strong bedfellows
Of the tiny snowdrop,
Begin to push their way through
The now-warming earth.
Each one ready to show
(with vibrant yellow trumpets)
That spring is coming.

Trees start to show off,
As their seemingly dead branches
Enliven, and become covered
With fresh new leaves and buds.
They look like coquettish ladies,
Adorned in new dresses,
Awaiting the magic of a spring ball.





The sun appears to be smiling
Benignly over these scenes
Of wonderful transformation,
As the colours change everywhere
From brown to vibrant green.
Soon there will be a swathe of colours
As crocuses show their rainbow faces.

Bluebells carpet the forest floor,
And impart a most heavenly scent.
Along with this floral transformation,
Small animals have emerged
From their sleepy beds in readiness.
And the birds sing in joyful unison,
'Praise God the Creator of all.'

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**The next LINK magazine will be the
May - June 2018 issue.**

Please send in all contributions by Friday 4th May 2018.

To make sure I receive them, please send them to both addresses below:

Jennie Torpey: jennietorpey@ntlworld.com

AMC Office: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

or I can type them up for you if you let me have them in time.





We shall be holding a Cake and Plant Stall in the Hall on Sunday 22nd April 2018 after the morning service, and would be grateful for offers of home produce and plants to sell.



Our next fundraising event will then be on
SATURDAY 7th July 2018

CHARITY STALL IN MARKET SQUARE

Tombola and Children's Lucky Dip

If you have any suitable gifts for the Tombola or Lucky Dip, please give them to Jennie Torpey 581414, Pauline Noble 484940, or Sandie Steeden 331278 at any time.

Coming up: **Saturday 22nd September at 7pm**
ACTION FOR CHILDREN QUIZ

with a Ploughman's Lunch.

Tickets £7 each, available nearer the time.

Make a note of the date!!



If you have one of our little home collecting boxes which hasn't been emptied recently, please will you give it to Pauline Noble or Jennie Torpey in the next couple of weeks? If you would like to have one for you to add your loose change, do ask Pauline. We raise a lot of money for Action for Children in this way and they are emptied once a year.

ALSO: if you have any old £1 coins, Action for Children will be happy to have them - please give them to Jennie, Pauline or Sandie.

Don't forget your tickets for the Caribbean Evening on Saturday 24th March at 6.30pm and enjoy a sumptuous Caribbean dinner.

***If you don't wish to stay for the meal, NO TICKET NEEDED!
Please just come along to the entertainment between 6.30 and 8.00pm and make a donation to Action for Children instead!!***

CARIBBEAN EVENING



Saturday 24th March 2018

6.30 – 10.30pm

*Aylesbury Methodist Church,
Buckingham Street*

*Come and join us for an evening of music, singing,
recitations and Tribal Bellydancing,
followed by a delicious Caribbean meal..*

Tickets: Adults £8.00 – Children £3.00

Available from Beatie Francis 421505,

Jennie Torpey 581414 or AMC Office 426526



All profits to

Action for Children

*There are a limited number of tickets for the meal, but
if you wish to come for the entertainment
only, between 6.30 & 8.00pm, please do
come along on the night and just make a
donation to Action for Children*



Who is Jesus? (Facebook)

In chemistry,

He turned water to wine. *John 2:6-10 John 4:46*

In biology,

He was born without the normal conception. *Isaiah 7:14 Luke 1:26-37*

In physics,

He disproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven. *Mark 16:19*

In economics,

He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 men with two fishes & 5 loaves of bread. *Matthew 14:19 John 6:13*

In medicine,

He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.
Matthew 15:30 Mark 1:34

In history,

He is the beginning and the end. *John 1:1-5 Revelation 21:6 and 22:13*

In government,

He said that He shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6-7

In religion,

He said no one comes to the Father except through Him. *John 14:4-6*

So, Who is He? He is Jesus! The Greatest Man in History

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.

He had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

He had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

He had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world.

He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

I feel honoured to serve such a Leader who loves us.

Tell the world about HIM today!



Prayer for The Grange School



In March we will be embarking on a new relationship with *The Grange School*. We have been invited to have weekly prayer with staff and students. We hope that our presence will make a difference. Please give you support by praying for the school continually.

Pray for:

- ***The Head, Teachers and Staff***

Pray that staff will recognize the responsibility they have for the best interests of the students. Pray that they will be led in wisdom, integrity, grace, and truth.

- ***The Students***

Pray that the students will strive to reach their learning potential, and they will also thrive in other aspects of their lives.

- ***The School***

Pray that the school will be directed by biblical values and high moral standards. Pray that staff and students will come to faith in Jesus Christ.

- ***The Church***

Pray that the church will be a positive presence in the school for many years to come.



Ada's Medal

On the occasion of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the local health authority put forward Ada's name for a Jubilee medal. They knew that everyone in West Norfolk would agree that she deserved it.

When I returned to my home patch, to work in the Queen Elizabeth Maternity Department in King's Lynn General Hospital, all my friends said, "Oh, then you must know Ada Bayfield." They all loved her. I wonder how many of their babies she had delivered?



Actually, looking back, I realised that I had known her ever since I was a child. She had been Nurse Norman then and my mother and I had often chatted to her, at the post box, in our village. She was working at the Maternity Home in what had been the Vicarage before the War. I think it was partly because I liked her, that I told my school pals, at age six, that I wanted to be a nurse when I grew up.

Ada had trained as a midwife, in London, during the Second World War. She had had to cope with shortages of staff and equipment and dealt with more emergencies than I can possibly imagine. Then as a district midwife, she had pedalled along Norfolk county lanes attending families at their times of need, always with a joke and a smile.

Sister Bayfield was back working in hospital, on night duty, when I encountered her again and by then her name had become a household word. She pretended she did not like little boys and kidded their mothers about them, with her great sense of fun. Her mischievous streak did not always go down well with officialdom though. After the new Maternity Department was built, surrounded by woods, on Holdings Hill, she complained that there were too many flies there, so she wrote a requisition for spiders. The office took a dim view of that. But they did order some fly zappers. She also thought the corridors were so long that she really needed her bike to negotiate them.

Ada was very good at making us laugh, but when a handicapped baby was born, she knew exactly the right things to say to the family. She had had a baby daughter when she was newly married, but much later in life she gave

birth to Helen, who had Down's syndrome. She was devoted to Helen and did a lot to support the special school, which Helen attended.

When the award of the medal was suggested however, Miss Jennings, the Senior Nursing Officer was rightly rather worried. What would Ada say about it? The day after it had arrived in the post, a reporter from the local paper appeared, to take her photograph, but by then Ada was half way down the by-pass, off to keep her hair appointment. She hadn't got time for that sort of fuss.

Miss Jennings was very afraid Ada would send it back to the Queen, but somehow or other managed to talk her round and organised a lovely party for her, to which all her friends and colleagues were invited.

I, like so many others, am so glad that I knew her.

Angela M. Smith

Aylesbury Bible Study 2018

Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30pm

(No evening sessions)



March	14 th	Faithfulness
April	18 th	Who's included?
May	23 rd	All the bits we've missed!

If you are looking for some challenging discussion, some help to understand the nitty gritty of the Bible, or you just want the opportunity to ask all the questions you've never dared to ask, please come along.

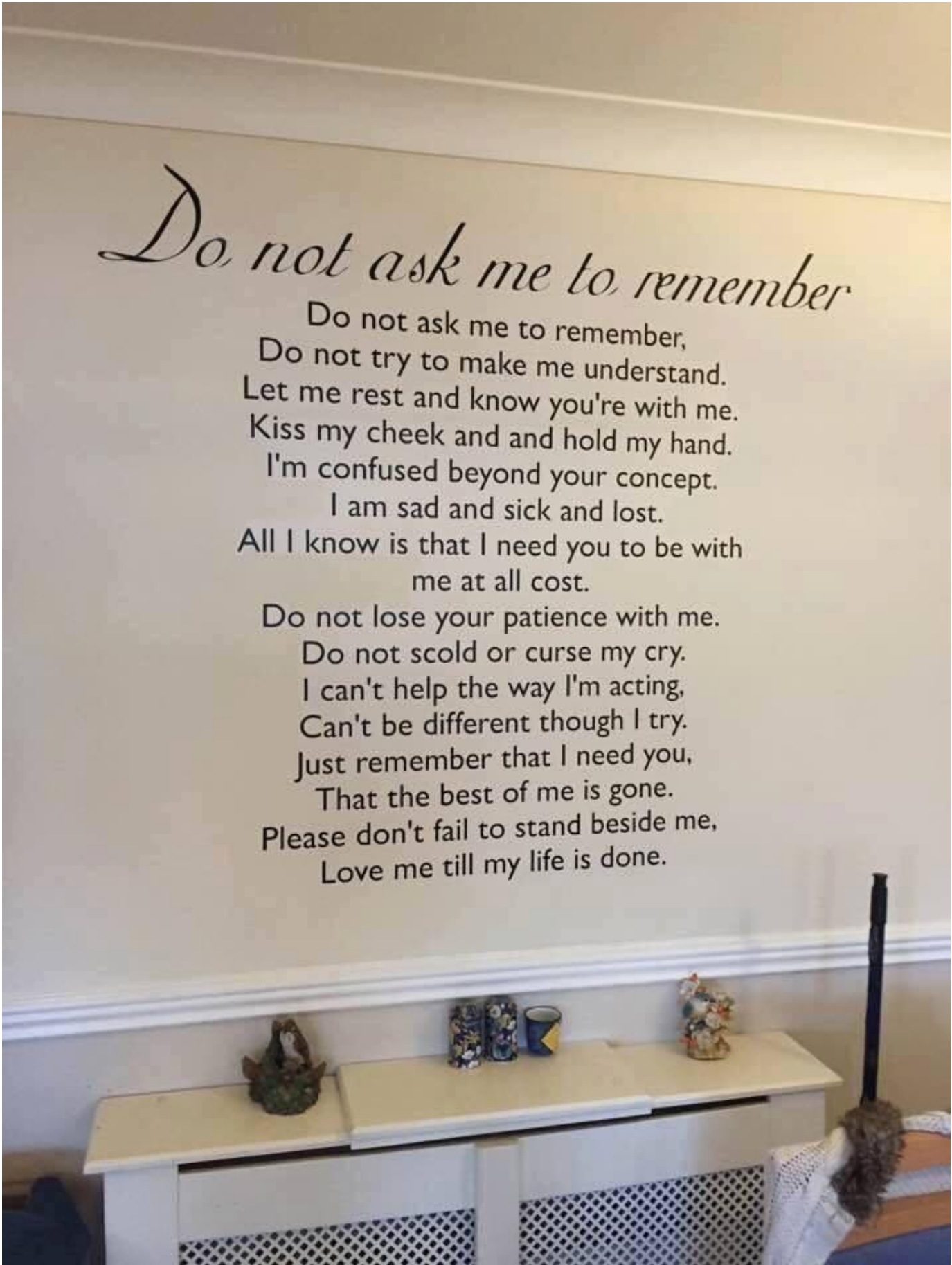
**You don't have to commit to all the sessions;
just come to what you can.**

All are welcome

Do not ask me to remember

Do not ask me to remember,
Do not try to make me understand.
Let me rest and know you're with me.
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.
I'm confused beyond your concept.
I am sad and sick and lost.
All I know is that I need you to be with
me at all cost.

Do not lose your patience with me.
Do not scold or curse my cry.
I can't help the way I'm acting,
Can't be different though I try.
Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone.
Please don't fail to stand beside me,
Love me till my life is done.





Seven Seconds

(it takes that length of time to make a first impression!!)

'I am the good shepherd.'

John 10: 11

Ever noticed how some people have bad memories of growing up in church? They think back to stern, grumpy faces, delivering harsh messages of condemnation to the world, the sky, and anyone who'd listen.

It's a bit of a disservice to God when you think about it – especially when you remember that Jesus called Himself the 'good shepherd', and that what we translate as 'good' means winsome (attractive, pleasant, engaging).

- If we spent a while thinking, really thinking, about what we'd been given by God, Christians would be the Blackpool illuminations of religious people.
- We'd be constantly, brightly, lit up with joy.
- We'd wear smiles the size of other peoples' mellow frowns.

It tells us something that the usual response these days to the joy of God is 'Oh, of course, but Christians have troubles too.' But they happen against a backdrop of an incredible joy that we might have lost sight of – the type of joy mentioned in Ephesians 5:19, which makes us spontaneously start singing in our hearts and out loud.

We talk about how the joy of God shows up on our faces. If you've realised that you're actually not sure you've ever known that, inside, then today might be the day to check in with God and ask for it.

You can ask Him honestly, because He says He's the good shepherd.

He's totally for you, and He says that the joy He has is actually available to you too – not just as a one-off, or a deposit at the start of your Christian life, but through it all, and into eternity.

Why not ask?

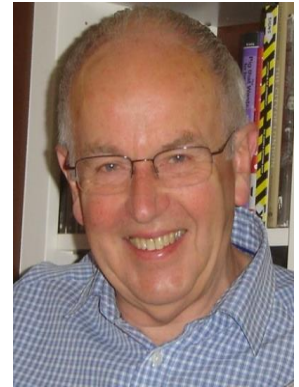
Source: The Word for Today, a daily devotional, produced free of charge by United Christian Broadcasters. For your regular quarterly copy write to UCB at FREEPOST RLTX-ABUL-GRAR, United Christian Broadcasters, Westport Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 4JF, or telephone 0845 60 40 401. As a charity, UCB relies on donations, so a gift of at least 50p per copy, which just covers the cost of printing the booklet, would be appreciated from time to time. *You might find a couple in the display units in the Church vestibule, but if you wish to read it regularly, do get in touch with UCB and it will be delivered straight to your home!*

Who's Who!

We thought it might be useful, especially for newcomers to AMC, to be able to put a name to some of the faces of those with specific 'jobs'. Many are shown on the AMC website, and also in Annual Reports each year. We shall introduce a few in each publication of LINK.

Peter Green is our Website Editor and looks after much of our external communications and social media, with a team of contributors. He would like to hear of any errors, omissions, problems or suggestions for improvement. Peter also runs the Good Faith Book Club, which meets on the 4th Saturday of alternate months – all are welcome!

Tel. 01296 424653 Email: peterb.green@ntlworld.com



Roger Kirk is our Church Treasurer and Gift Aid Secretary. For anyone wishing to gift aid their weekly offering with the resultant tax benefit to the church, he can arrange the paperwork discreetly and in confidence. Roger also sings in the Choir and AMC Music Group.

Tel. 01296415312 Email: kirk_roger@yahoo.com

Dave Rogers is our Finance officer - he looks after the money! He issues invoices and arranges payments and deals with any payment queries. Tel. 01296 426526

Email: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk.



Kevin Hardern is our Resources Co-ordinator, heading Finance and a team of Property Stewards and reporting on such matters to our Church Council.

Tel. 01296 481285

Email: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk.

Tim Olufosoye is our Safeguarding Officer, overseeing our use of adopted best practice policies and procedures in the way we look after children, young people and vulnerable adults. Any questions on safeguarding should be addressed to Tim. Telephone: 07950 652999.

Email: timolufosoye@hotmail.com.



Trevor Nord is our Senior Church Steward, leading a team of stewards responsible, with the minister, for the smooth running of church services. This includes liaising with and looking after visiting preachers. Tel. 01296 483157

Email: trevor.nord@btinternet.com

Mel Brown is our full-time Family & Youth Worker. Her role is to seek ways of finding and meeting the needs for spiritual and 'whole person' development of our children and young people. To do this, she aims to get to know all our church families with youngsters from birth to late teens. Mel works closely with our minister and all the other youth leaders in the church.

Tel. 07717 121887 Email: familyworker.amc@mail.com



Carla Barnes is our Office Administrator & Bookings Co-ordinator. Contact Carla for all enquiries about the hire of one of our nine community centre meeting rooms.

Tel. 01296 426526

Email: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk

Jennie Torpey is our Church Office Co-ordinator and edits our church notices and Link magazine. She is also church representative for Christian Aid and MHA (Methodist Homes) Tel. 01296 581414 Email: jennietorpey@ntlworld.com

If you have any items for the notice sheet of LINK magazine, please send them to Jennie at both her home email address above and also the Church one: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk



The position of Church Council Secretary had become vacant, and two people volunteered for the job [Ok, I realise this is a fantasy, but please go along with me - Ed].

They both appeared equal in ability, so the minister decided to set them a little test about Methodist practice, and the running of a Church Council.

Upon completion of the test, both volunteers had missed only one of the questions.

The minister visited the first applicant and said, "Thank you for your interest, but I've decided to give the post to the other applicant."

"And why would you do that? We both got 9 questions correct," asked the rejected applicant.

"I have based my decision not on the correct answers, but on the question you missed," said the minister.

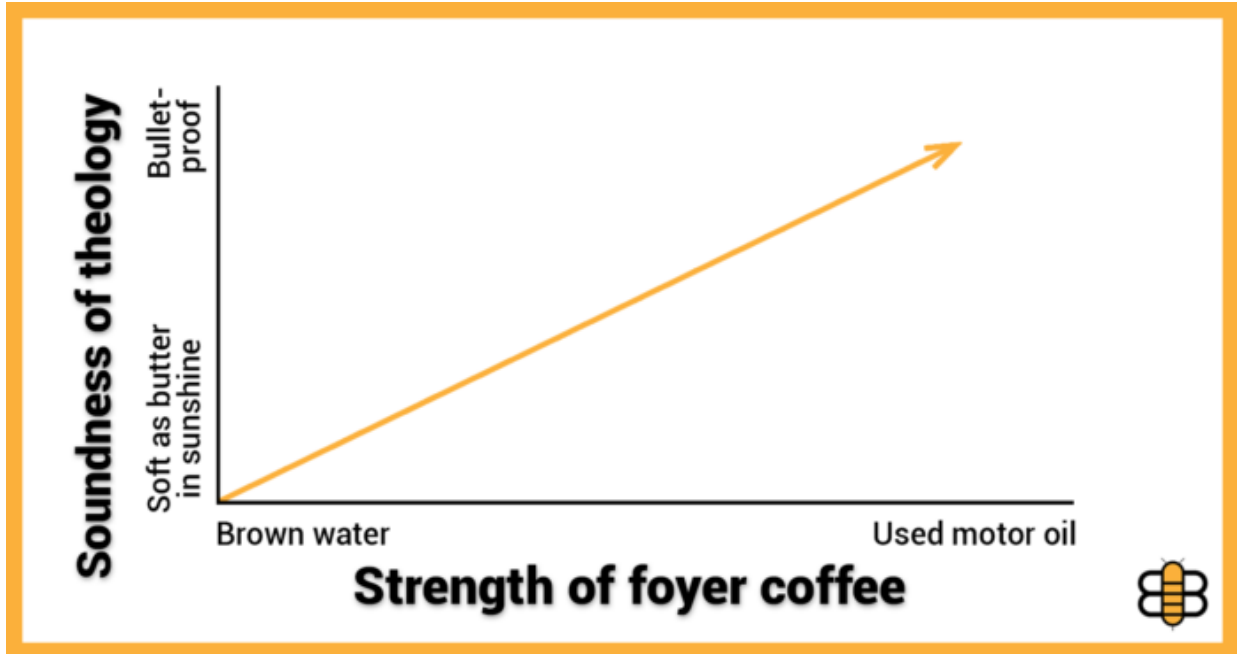
"And just how would one incorrect answer be better than the other?" the rejected applicant inquired.

"Simple," said the minister, "Your fellow applicant put down on question 5, 'I don't know.' You put down, 'Neither do I.'"

Methodically Recorded – Facebook



Study Finds Connection Between Strong Foyer Coffee And Sound Church Theology!!



US - A recent LifeWay Research Center study found an “undeniable” connection between the strength of a church’s foyer coffee and the soundness of its theology, a report by the organization revealed Monday.

“Those churches that had coffee rated as ‘weak’ or ‘very weak’ suffered from much more watered-down, biblically feeble sermons than those that had bold coffee available in the foyer,” the report read in part. “Churches with strong, full-bodied coffee were found to boast much more solid, well-rounded theology from the pulpit.”

According to the report, the strong correlation between the two variables suggests some kind of causation. Further, the study suggested that churches that served tea or hot cocoa in place of fresh coffee suffered from more aberrant theology than even the congregations being given watered-down cups of joe (coffee).

Churches that didn’t serve coffee at all were not included in the study, as they were assumed to be either apostate, or entirely non-Christian in the first place, according to LifeWay.



**Aylesbury Methodist
Church & Centre
Buckingham Street, Aylesbury**

**33rd ANNUAL
ORGAN CONCERT**

Presenting Concert Organist

Joseph Nolan

Organist of Perth Cathedral, Australia

WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2018 @ 7.30 pm
(Doors open at 7.00 pm)

Entrance: £12.00

Or £10.00 If booked in advance.

(Students entrance free)

**Tickets on sale from 1st April, available
from the Church Office on weekday
mornings or direct from Derrick Matthews
(01296 488076)**