

WELCOME TO

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Richard Atkinson

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Sunday 23rd March 2025

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
Frances Aylen and Derek Adams.

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 91 442 563 336 276
Readings	Luke 13: 1-9 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
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.



**The flowers this week are given by Ceita and Tom in loving memory
of Ceita's Dad and Tom's Mum and Dad.**

We were saddened to hear that Rev Peter Dudeney, who served as one of our Circuit Ministers some years ago, died the week before last. Please remember Peter's family in your prayers.

Find Me, Keep Me. From time to time, a small knitted doll will be left in the church. If you find it, please keep it. They're made by the ladies from the knitting group that meets in the Welcome Space, and they hope that they will bring cheer to your day.



COLLECTION ENVELOPES: The new collection envelopes for 2025 are available from the Welcome Space. Please take yours and any that you are able to take for those not attending church. Many thanks, David Neville.

You are commanded to love

'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another.'

John 13:34 NKJV

Love is not an emotion, because you cannot command someone to *feel* a certain way. Loving someone is a choice that manifests itself in your attitudes and actions towards that person. Jesus said, 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another' (vv. 34-35 NKJV).

Jesus called this 'a new commandment'. What's new about it? These words: 'as I have loved you'. Since Christ lives in you, you can love others with *His* love. Jesus always put His disciples first – washing their feet, saving them from storms, patiently teaching them. He didn't look out for number one; He looked out for the twelve. You say, 'But how can I love someone I don't even like?' Jesus answers, 'As I have loved you.'

C.S. Lewis tells of how he came to view others' faults differently: 'There is someone I love, even though I don't approve of what he does. There is someone I accept, though some of his thoughts and actions revolt me. There is someone I forgive, though he hurts the people I love the most. That person is *me*... If I can love myself without approving of all I do, I can also love others without approving of all they do.'

And what Jesus commands you to do, He empowers you to do: 'The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us' (Romans 5:5 NKJV). From 'The Word for Today'

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

17th April - MAUNDY THURSDAY: 6.30pm Holy Communion & Meal
(details to come)

18th April - GOOD FRIDAY: 10.00am Service

20th April - **EASTER DAY**: 8.15am: Holy Communion service
9.00am: Easter Breakfast (pre-book)
10.30am: Easter Day service



Don't forget to bring your spring flowers to decorate the cross!

Easter Sunday Breakfast



A Full English Breakfast* cooked by the SOS team is the way we have been starting our celebration for many years, and today is no different. Tickets £6 each on sale during Lent or ring Lynn or Derek to book your place on 420817. A fundraiser for Whitechapel Mission. * a vegetarian

option is available.



CHURCH READINGS: March – May 2025.

There are still some dates available on the Reading Rota 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 needed – **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.

PARKING: As parking becomes increasingly difficult on Sunday mornings, please may we remind you all that the **Church car park** needs to be reserved for the Minister, the Organist and those who have mobility issues.

On Saturday 29th March 2025 from 10am until 12.00 noon

The *Gentlemen* of Princes Risborough Methodist Church

will hold a COFFEE MORNING to which you will be warmly welcomed.

This Coffee Morning is to raise funds for: *Princes Risborough Lighthouse*

Your support will be invaluable

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	24 March	6.15pm 6.30 - 8.00pm	Girls' Brigade Food Hub
Tues	25 March	9.30am 2.00pm 6.00pm	Chair Yoga Banner Group Boys' Brigade
Thurs	27 March	10.00am From 1.40pm	Sunbeams Baby & Toddler Group Blood Donor sessions
Frid	28 March	2.30pm	Friday Feathers – Badminton Club

Sunday 30th March 2025

Mothering Sunday



10.30am: Morning Worship led by Mr Nick Aylen.

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 FAIRTRADE



Dear All,

This Sunday, 23rd March, the focus of our Circuit Prayers is on Fairtrade, and we join Neville from Princes Risborough as he gives us some interesting background information on other ways that we can help, through financing farmers and other businesses to get started. Thank you, Neville, for showing us more ways in which we can get involved and help. Please read and help if you can by checking out the links below. Pete.

Living in Western Europe, we are often sheltered from the reality of the difficulties faced by farmers and producers based in other parts of the world. As Christians, though, I think that we have responsibility, if not desire, to look beyond our immediate experience and look to support and benefit others through our choices – to seek for social justice.

One of the obvious and easy everyday ways to contribute to achieving this is through supporting Fairtrade and buying Fairtrade options. I found this definition: "Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world., By requiring companies to pay sustainable prices (which must never fall lower than a minimum price or a price based on real costs), Fairtrade addresses the injustices of conventional trade, which traditionally discriminates against the poorest, weakest producers with pricing that is set by the 'market', supply and demand, regardless of real costs. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives."

As we know, Fairtrade has become more mainstream over the years, and there are now more options than ever available to us, but there are concerns that such a movement is still needed, and perhaps the approach and focus since the movement started in the 1960s needs re-considering to re-gain some momentum. There are some quite interesting articles in the Journal of Fairtrade (www.joft.org.uk) for those interested in the theory as well as the practice.

In addition to making Fairtrade choices, I think there are other ways in which we can make a difference. For me, one way (above the micro level but below the macro level of the Fairtrade movement) has been through 'Shared Interest' (www.Shared-interest.com). This is an organisation set up in 1990 which brings together over 11,800 people in the UK with a shared goal of investing in a fairer world by providing finance to fair trade businesses in up to 47 countries. Funds invested by members are used to make loans to organisations of farmers and craftspeople as well as some fairtrade buyers. The focus is on supporting communities where income opportunities may be limited and where businesses are facing increasing challenges. The majority of businesses financed by Shared Interest support smallholder farmers who produce around a third of the world's food but often struggle to feed their families. The loans typically fund seeds, plants, materials, crops, equipment or finished goods. Once the crops or crafts are sold, the organisation repays Shared Interest the capital plus a fair rate of interest. The funds are then recycled and lent out again. Typically, lending goes to coffee (51%) and cocoa (25%) producers, but also covers handcrafts (8%), nuts (5%), chocolate, honey, sugar, fruit and herbs.

In a similar vein, but down at the level of individuals, is the 'Lend with Care' organisation (www.lendwithcare.org). This provides 'microcredit' to people in the form of short-term loans of modest amounts for working capital or small-scale investment. The loans are administered locally and interest is charged to the borrower. The person making the loan can select the business, group or person they want to help fund, and is updated on repayments once the borrower is fully funded. Unlike Shared Interest, the person providing the funds doesn't receive interest and at the end of the loan the lender can re-lend or withdraw their loan. Lend with care operates in 14 countries ranging from Cambodia to Zambia, covering a range of business sectors although farming and shopkeeping feature significantly. I once helped fund the growth of a bicycle taxi firm in Rwanda!

*There are, of course, other ways of seeking reform of international trade and social justice, and with perhaps more widespread impact, but I wanted to share ideas that work for me. Don't forget, of course, that it is **Fairtrade Fortnight 9th - 22nd September this year**. If you can't wait that long, Princes Risborough will be hosting a Fairtrade stall at the coffee morning run by the men of the church on Saturday 29th March! Neville.*