

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre

‘LINK’



**March - April
2017**

**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

**The Office Staff wish you all
a Happy Easter!**



As many of you know I was privileged to be able to go to Kenya with the Karibuni Children work party this February. As a new trustee to the charity it was immensely helpful to see the projects and to get a 'hands on' perspective of the work Karibuni does. I have sat through many trustees' meetings where we have discussed budgets, staffing and school results, but that cannot come close to listening to dedicated teachers who struggle to educate young people with very limited resources; or going to the homes of families who live in immense poverty and yet want only the best for their offspring; or indeed playing with those children; and even though our communication is verbally limited we still share the common language of laughter & tears, hunger & hugs.

I'm afraid I may be talking about my trip for a long time, but there is one aspect that is very relevant at this time of the year. You see for most of my fortnight in Kenya I lived out of a suitcase and realised very quickly, when meeting people whose entire possessions would fit into the said case, that in truth I had brought too much stuff. We all have too much stuff in our lives: possessions that we do not need, wardrobes full of clothes, cupboards full of food, loft spaces filled with things that might one day 'come in'. Our lives are filled with stuff!



From 1st March to 15th April we are in the period of time we call Lent. Lent is not just to be observed by religious and holy folk, Lent is a time when we should all reflect upon our lives, and, as we remember the story of a man giving up his life for love, consider what we might give up, let go of or use.

Perhaps Lent is the time to finally clear out those cluttered spaces; to sort out the material stuff that we seldom use but are loath to get rid of – those possessions in the loft or at the back of the wardrobe or shed? Could someone else make use of them; why not give them away to a charity?

Perhaps Lent is the time to reflect on the stuff that fills our diaries and our time: the busyness of life that means we chase from one thing to the next and seldom have time for anything. Why not make time for something/one important thing?

Perhaps this Lent we may have the courage to look at the other stuff: the personal baggage we carry – the hurts, fears, resentments and wounds that weigh us down but are so hard to let go of. Lent is the time to hand all those things to God so that when Easter comes we may realise new life.

What 'stuff' do we carry that we might need to let go of?

Helen.

EASTER SERVICES 2017

Maundy Thursday, 13th April at 7.30pm Communion

Good Friday, 14th April at 10.00am



Jesus

**God's precious son.
He came to earth
To take away sins.
His Holy name -
Is Blessed Jesus.
The Beloved one.**

**He was cruelly hung and crucified upon a cross
made of wood. A crown of thorns on His head.
With nails in each of His hands and in His feet.**

**He died for us all,
For you and me.
To make us pure.
Then rose again
After three days.
O Glory, alleluia!
Then ascended,
Back up to God.
But His Spirit is
forever with us.
He walks with us;
He talks with us.
His Love is always
Within our hearts.
If we let the cross,
And what it means,
Always be lived as
Part of our daily life.
We will never be alone.**

AYLESBURY METHODIST CHURCH & CENTRE

Minutes of the Annual General Church Meeting held

in the Church Hall on Sunday 24th April 2016 12.05pm



Present Rev Helen Kirk (Chair) Janice Matthews (Meeting Secretary) and 48 attendees.

1. Helen opened the meeting with a welcome and prayer.
2. Apologies - Robert Bucknell, Angela Smith, Lynn & Derek Bernstone, David & Julianne Wilderspin, Peter Farmer.
3. Minutes of last meeting held on the 26th April 2015 were signed, after the meeting had agreed that they were correct.
4. No Matters arising.
5. Stewards Report: Melanie Dean read her report – copy attached.
6. Helen thanked the Stewards for all their hard work especially Gill and Elaine for remaining as stewards.
7. Election of new Stewards – We had only had one volunteer to become a steward Hannah Rogers. She was nominated by Melanie Dean and seconded by Roger Kirk. Approved by a show of hands.
8. There were no retiring members from the Church Council this year.
9. Helen explained how we were trying to find a different way to function the Pastoral System. On 25th April 2016 Pauline Noble and Helen were visiting another church, which had similar Pastoral Care problems and changed their method of organisation.
10. AMC – Health Check. Helen stated that it was a pity that Peter Green wasn't here as he had all the facts. But we had had 100 responses to the survey and 60-70 people attended various discussion groups.

The following had come out of the discussions.

Monthly Bible study, between 6 and 26 has attended.

New website is up and running, also Facebook and Twitter.

Peter Green was thanked for his hard work.

Welcoming at the door is important and new welcome packs produced.

We had also organised a Welcome Tea for newcomers.

Coffee Bar problem has been going on endlessly. A small sum was agreed at the Church Council to explore what we need.

Many people attend the back premises; it would be good if we could help to raise the awareness of the Coffee Bar with these people. We will also need to consider how the Coffee Bar is run but that is much further down the line.

Young people are considered a priority; we have J Team, Sunbeams, Youth Choir. A small group is meeting to discuss how we can take this further. This needs to go forward as soon as possible.

Melanie, speaking for the Girls Brigade, said that they have now doubled the number of girls, and they have 12 attending on the regular basis. They are going ahead with paying fees etc. Fairford Leys was mentioned as a possible source of girls and we should advertise to see if we could get more youngsters. Helen thanked the leaders for all the hard work that they do.

11 Viv Kemp – speaking on behalf of David Wilderspin. The Missions need new people to help with fund raising. They only have 3 meetings a year and need new ideas for raising money. They were advertising a lunch to celebrate the Queen's Birthday.

Pauline Latham is planning a production. Helen had given her some samples of scripts for ideas. Usually she has organised the show with small items. A play might be more difficult to cope with. It was suggested that we started in October, break for Christmas and the production takes place at half term in February. If anyone has any ideas and can help in anyway contact Pauline. Babs Trend volunteered to help with the scripts.

Melanie Dean raised the idea of a Messy Church, usually for families with young children. Helen explained that families usually arrive about 3.30-4.00pm starting with drinks and biscuits followed by craft tables and songs. It would then be followed with tea. Depending on numbers this could be sandwiches or something cooked i.e. shepherd's pie. Families do not always have time to play with children doing messy things at home. Ruth Watkins commented that she did not think it would work as we are a Town Centre Church and have to draw on people from outside the Town.

Marilyn Storer said that Holy Trinity have a messy church, we might ask them for advice.

Local schools have mixed religions and have no natural relationship with our Church.

Helen asked for anyone who would be willing to help. Melanie, Dean, Gill Marks, Joy Murphy, Francis Aylen volunteered. (Following the meeting more volunteers approached Helen with offers of help).

To conclude, Helen said we had lost a very dear member in Brian Powell and we should take a few moments of quiet to remember him and his family.

Helen remembered Brian Powell for his humour and he would always go the extra mile. Also we must think of Pat, Susie, Nicky and their families, as they struggle to come to terms with the loss of Brian.

Meeting closed at 12.45pm with the blessing.

ANOTHER ANGEL

“Your friend came to see you to-day and left you a note,” said my new neighbour.

“Oh,” I said, “I don’t know who that was. I haven’t got any friends.” As I said it the full extent of my loneliness hit me. What had I done? I had taken a new job a hundred or so miles from my childhood home. My mother had died nearly two years ago. My only relatives were miles away and I had left all my old friends behind.

“I think it was someone from the church,” added Mr Harman.

The previous Sunday evening, I had explored Wycombe Marsh for the first time. I had been living in temporary accommodation in High Wycombe and had attended Wesley Methodist Church but I thought it would be good to find a place of worship nearer to my new flat. On the map, there were three churches marked, which were a stone’s throw away. I had been brought up as an Anglican and the Church of England I came to first was rather pretty, with a garden but it had no service that evening. The Baptist Church, almost next door looked tempting but I was not a Baptist. I did not relish total immersion. Then I discovered the third church. A sign over the door proclaimed that it was Free Methodist. I thought the sign must be a relic of the past, for I thought all the Methodists united in the nineteen twenties. (I found out later that this was wrong, but never mind.) The door was open, so I wandered in. I was met by a welcoming congregation of mainly elderly ladies. My visitor must have been one of them.

The next Sunday evening, I thought I would find out who had left the note, so I went along again. Edna Lacey was there; she took me home with her to have a cup of tea after the service. She had only received a very basic education and I knew she would not be able to remember half I said because she was getting forgetful in her old age, but that was an advantage. I could tell her all about my difficulties at work without any fear that she would tell others about them. She was a good listener. Edna was very poor in the worldly sense but she was

rich in her relationship with Jesus and although she declared that she had once been very shy, she had an amazing number of friends. Through her I was introduced to friends, who worked at Bulstrode, the Headquarters of the World Evangelical Crusade, a friend who had been employed in a Dr Banardo's Hostel in London and Sonia Hine, the daughter of Stuart Hine whose father wrote the hymn, 'How Great Thou Art'. Sonia worked with the Wycliffe Bible Translators at Horsley Green and came to tea on one very wet afternoon.

I also took Edna to an Open Day at the place where she worked and one day we also toured the gardens at Henley Management College because she had a friend who was a gardener there. I still went regularly to Wesley Church on Sunday mornings though, and eventually decided to become a member there. When the day came for me to be received in the Church, I needed someone to support me so I invited Edna to come with me and have lunch with me after the ceremony. I said I would like her to be my 'Rent-a-Mum'. She loved that, for to her regret she was a single lady.

I was extremely grateful to her for her friendship, and was pleased that I was able to buy her a new television when hers needed to be replaced and provide her with a new oven. I used to take her on outings and trips to see her friends in Wiltshire and Reading. She called me her "angel with an A" but she was truly **my** angel for she helped me through some of the darkest times of my life.

Angela M. Smith





Saturdays
4.00 - 6.00pm at
Aylesbury Methodist Church

**18th March,
20th May, 24th June 2017**

'Gods family, our family'

An event for the whole family to enjoy.
Crafts, story, songs and food.

All are welcome.

No charge - just a donation.

Contact the Church office to let us know
you're coming!

01296 426526 or office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk



...and she threw in two mites...

Mark 12:42

GIVING AT A HIGHER LEVEL

'She ... has given everything she had. "Mark 12:44

God doesn't want your generosity to be restricted by fear. Either you'll trust Him financially and experience the joy of participating in His purposes on earth, or trust your own earning ability and live with anxiety.

The danger of not moving to a higher level of giving is that you can miss out on something great that God wants to do for you - and through you. Count on it; at some point He'll challenge you to give more than you've ever given before. And at that moment your faith will cause you to say yes, or your fear will cause you to dismiss it as impractical.

That's a pivotal point in your life, because your response to God's challenge will determine your future. Some levels of giving are effortless, while others make us uneasy. Sooner or later we all hit a wall called fear, and unless you recognise it you'll never be able to break through it. As a result you'll live with less than God intends you to enjoy.

What's the solution?

Change your concept of ownership!

Adolphe Monod said, 'There's no portion of money that is our money and the rest God's ... **It's all His; He made it all, gives it all, and has entrusted it to us for His service.**'

If you believe that, there's no reason not to give. However, getting God involved in your finances means surrendering control of your money to Him. And that can be scary.

Jesus' model for generosity was a widow who gave her last penny, without having anything to fall back on except God's promise to meet her needs.

When you reach that point, you're on the threshold of the miraculous.

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. A few copies (donation 50p) are usually available in the front vestibule. Please give the money to Jennie Torpey or leave it at the coffee bar for her.



Whitechapel Mission

When we asked you to observe Homeless Sunday by giving to Whitechapel Mission we did not expect the wonderful generosity you displayed. We were overwhelmed, and a mere 'thank you' does not seem enough. What a wonderful 'lot' you are.

We then had the problem of getting the goods to Whitechapel! Our first thought was getting Tony to come out with the trailer but then found he was on holiday. So, with some difficulty, we loaded our car (see below) and early on Saturday February 4th we made our way to the Mission.

We arrived early but at a busy time for the area as the Bangladeshi children go to school nearby. The only thing to do was to get some of the chaps out of the Mission, block the road, and go for it. This we did and folk were understanding.

On his return Tony rang to say thank you and a letter has been sent – you can see it on the notice board or here in Link.



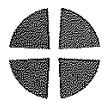


The Methodist Church
WHITECHAPEL MISSION

(Founded by Revd. Thomas Jackson, 1896)

212, Whitechapel Road, London, E1 1BJ
(Tel: 020 7247 8280) (Fax: 020 7392 2707)

www.whitechapel.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 227905



Peter & Ruth Watkins
14 Dorset Place
Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire
HP21 9BW

Monday, February 20, 2017

Dear Peter & Ruth,

Further to your recent letter, I write to express our grateful thanks to the members of Aylesbury Methodist Church for their generous donations of Food, Clothing and £80.00 which will help to maintain and further the mission's work of supporting people who are homeless.

Winter is with us once again. The low temperatures we have experienced recently make life even more uncomfortable for those who live on the streets of London.

As always, we open our doors at 6.00 am; offering hot drinks, a full breakfast, showers, clothing and a warm welcome to all who come through our doors

Demand always increases when the weather is cold so your gift is even more welcome as we seek to continue satisfying the needs of our homeless family into the New Year.

With every blessing,

Tony Miller
On behalf of The Whitechapel Mission

Receipt No: 25597
/C

Daycentre
practical approach to helping people who are homeless, with food, clothing, showers, advice and counselling
020 7247 8280
mission@whitechapel.org.uk

Lifeskills Centre
changing lives programme aims to equip people with the skills to sustain a tenancy and to get back to work
020 7392 2715
lifeskills@whitechapel.org.uk

Education Centre
citizenship programme showing the effects of drugs and alcohol on real lives whilst gaining a knowledge on poverty, deprivation and exclusion
020 7392 2702
education@whitechapel.org.uk

Whitechapel House
residential project offering affordable housing to London's key workers



Several years ago we heard about HOST UK, an organisation that places students from abroad who cannot get home for holidays, with families in this country. Until now we have not had spare bedrooms at Christmas but in 2016 we had and so we decided to apply.

What a blessing we received! Two Chinese girls, doing their Masters Degrees came to stay from 24 to 27 December. They were delightful! It was like having young children in the house again as everything, for them, was exciting and new. They came with us to The Christingle Service having never been inside a church before and even joined in the singing. They were very pleased to be given a Christingle each which had pride of place on our dining table and had to be lit for each meal.

On Christmas morning they came with us to Arthur's service at Haddenham and were delighted to be asked to light the candles on the Advent ring. We tried to serve traditional food at each meal and it was all received with excitement and everything had to be photographed and all was thoroughly enjoyed.



In early January we answered an appeal and hosted a Chinese and a Japanese student. They too were delightful and joined in a communion service taken by Arthur at Wingrave and afterwards said they had thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We cannot recommend this experience more highly and are hosting two American students in March. If any of you have a spare room or two and would like company we would urge you to get involved. You can commit to just Christmas, or one or more weekends throughout the year. For more details speak to either Arthur or me, or contact:

www.hostuk.org

email hosts@hostul.org

Chris Sara.

Aylesbury Bible Study 2017

Wednesday 2.00 - 3.30pm & Thursday 7.30 – 9.00pm

Focusing on Paul's letter to the church in Philippi



March	Wed 15th & Thurs 23rd	Phil 3:12-4:1 'Pressing on towards the goal'
May	Wed 17th & Thurs 18th	Phil 4:2-9: 'How to survive a local church'
June	Wed 14th & Thurs 22nd	Phil 4:10-23: 'Caring and sharing'

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!

A Star, A Manger, The Cross

The stars came together
To create a singularity.
Thus, the New Star
Foretold Your birth
And led the Magi to You.

You were born poor,
In a stable housing animals.
The only cradle for You to rest in
Was a manger full of hay.
Upon this, Your blessed head was laid.

Your name was to be Jesus,
Son of God, The Holy One.
You would die upon a cross.
But no one knew that.
Except You and God.

You walked this earth
With twelve true men,
Who became Your disciples.
They knew nothing of Your foretold death.
This you carried within You

So many people were touched by You -
Healed if they were sick,
Made to see when once blind,
And to walk again if lame.
From death, You also brought life again.

For these things, amongst others,
You were branded a rebel,
And sentenced to death.
(the Jewish Leaders feared You)
It was agreed - You would be crucified.

Jesus knew this would happen,
As it was foretold by the Magi
Who paid homage at his birth.
When they brought gifts.
For his birth and his death.

And so, Jesus, who was born
In the shadow of a bright New Star,
Who slept in a manger with animals,
Would now die, as predicted.
Upon a wooden cross.

Nails were driven into Blessed hands
That knew only Peace.
Nails were driven into His feet,
That had only trod this earth with Love.
Blood that dripped from Him
Belonged to God.

Throughout His life
He cared not for Himself,
But only to forgive others.
And as He drew His last mortal breath,
So, our sins died with Him.
We were forgiven.

Only one man - Jesus -
Could carry the burden of such things,
And then take them to His death.
Because it began with
A Star, The Manger, and finally....
The Blessed Cross.

© 2017 Babs





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 12 March	10.30am	Mr Arthur Sara - Family & Parade Service
Wed 15 March	2.00 - 3.30pm	Bible Study
Sat 18 March	4.00 - 6.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 19 March	8.45am 10.30am	Rev Helen Kirk - Holy Communion Service Aylesbury Creativity Group - Morning Worship
Tues 21 March	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Rev Wallace Edwards
Thur 23 March	7.30 - 9.00pm	Bible Study
Sat 25 March	2.00 - 4.00pm 6.30pm	Good Faith Book Club Caribbean Evening
Sun 26 March	10.30am	Rev Helen Kirk - Morning Worship
Sun 2 April	10.30am 6.00pm	Service of Holy Communion led by Mr Arthur Sara Circuit Choral Service - Olivet to Calvary
Tues 4 April	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Charles Pope Ladies' Choir
Sun 9 April	10.30am	Family & Parade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Thurs 13 April	7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday 14 April	10.00am	Good Friday Service
Sun 16 April Easter Sunday	8.30am 9.00am 10.30am	Early Communion Service led by Rev Helen Kirk Easter Breakfast Family Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sun 23 April	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Irena Byron
Sat 29 April	7.00pm	'An Extravaganza of Talent' Concert
Sat 29 April	11am - 6pm	'An Extravaganza of Talent'
Sun 30 April	12 noon - 3pm	Exhibition in Rooms 4 and 5
Sun 30 April	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Rev Peter Hancock
Friday 5 May	Articles for May/June LINK due in	
Sun 7 May	10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk
Wed 10 May	7.30pm	32 nd Annual Organ Concert presenting Piers Maxim
Sun 14 May	10.30am	Family & Parade Service led by Mr Arthur Sara
Wed 17 May	2.00 - 3.30pm	Bible Study
Thurs 18 May	7.30 - 9.00pm	Bible Study
Sat 20 May	4.00 - 6.00pm	Messy Church
Sun 21 May	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Morning Worship led by Rev Helen Kirk
Sat 27 May	2.00 - 4.00pm	Good Faith Book Club
Sun 28 May	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Aylesbury Creativity Group
Wed 14 June	2.00 - 3.30pm	Bible Study
Thurs 22 June	7.30 - 9.00pm	Bible Study
Sat 24 June	4.00 - 6.00pm	Messy Church

CARIBBEAN EVENING

At Aylesbury Methodist Church



Saturday 25th March 2017
6.30 – 10.00pm

Come and join us
for an evening of music, dancing
and delicious Caribbean food

Tickets: Adults £7.00 Children £3.00

Available from Beatie Francis 421505 or
Jennie Torpey 581414



All profits to the
Florence Nightingale hospice

There are a limited number of tickets for the meal, but if
you wish to come for the entertainment only,
between 6.30 – 7.45pm, please do come along and just
make a donation to the Florence Nightingale Hospice.

J TEAM

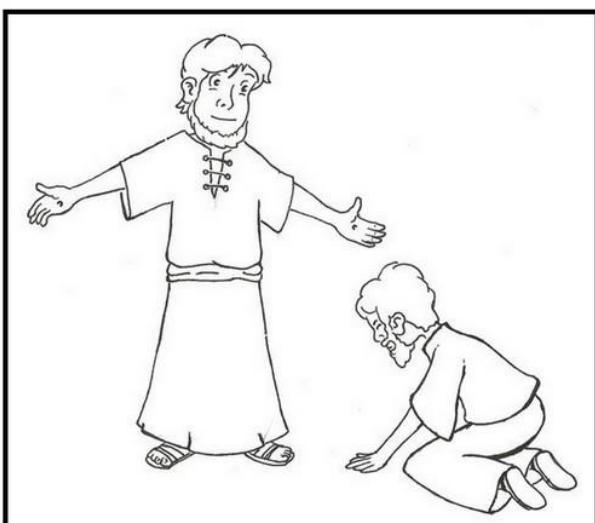
Welcome to the J Team pages



The Easter story is one of the most well-known events in the bible. We learn about the time leading up to Jesus's death, when he was crucified and when God raised him from the dead.

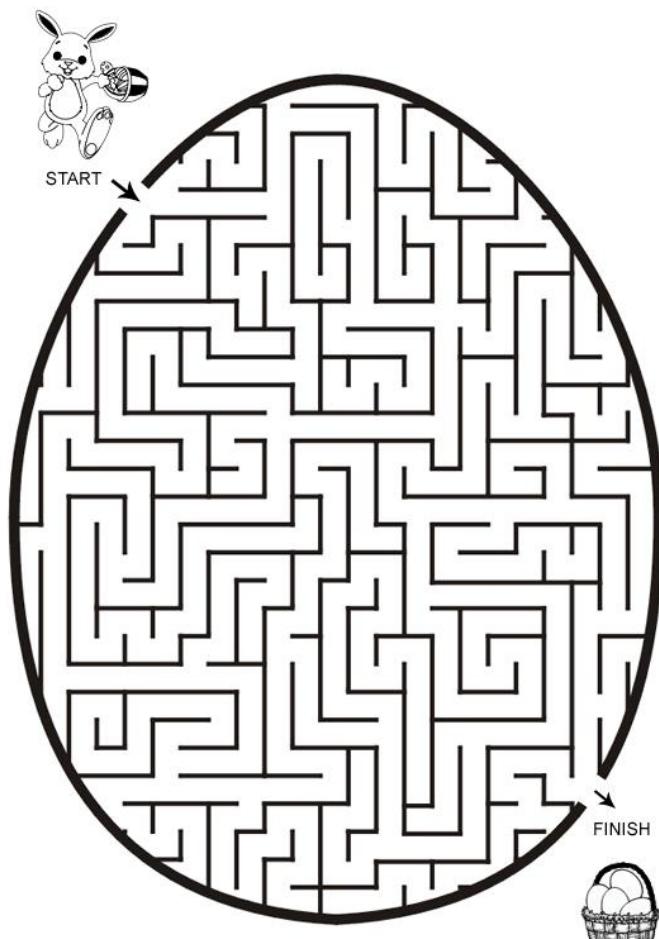
His disciples saw him when he had risen from the dead and not all believed he was alive again. Thomas was one of them, he wanted proof that he was alive again. One of the times Jesus appeared to his disciples, he told Thomas to touch his wounds where the nails had been. Thomas didn't need to touch his wounds, he believed immediately and fell on his knees.

CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE?



Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"
Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me,
you have believed; blessed are those who have not
seen and yet have believed." John 20:28-29 NIV

Jesus died that we may be forgiven, have new life. Easter eggs represent the new life that Jesus gave us.



Dear God,
Thank you that you sent Jesus to die for us on the cross.
Thank you that He was raised from the dead.
Thank you that Jesus is alive again.
Help us to always believe that Jesus is Alive.
Amen

Colouring In





NEWCOMERS' TEA

**Saturday, April 1st 2017 in Rooms 4/5 at
Aylesbury Methodist Church, 4.00 p.m.**

Are you new to the Church or have joined us in the last year? If so, we hope you **and your family** will join us at this informal tea gathering with time to chat to our Minister and members of the Church family and other newcomers.

Please see, or contact, one of the following who will be pleased to give you a Newcomers' booklet, with further information about the Church and the Newcomers tea.

Pauline Noble
01296 484940

Julianne Wilderspin
01296 626065

Some words alternatively defined.....

Denial: Where Egyptians sail their boats.

Hair raising: What William and Kate are doing.

Tomfoolery: Making the cat think its dinnertime when it isn't.

Cheque Account: What happens when Dracula goes through Customs.

Basin: What an Old Etonian calls a buffalo.

Rose: What houses are built in.

Taxidermy: Packing all you can in a London cab.



Premium Bond: James's wealthier brother.

Miss Marple: What you do if you take the A6 out of Manchester.

Capital Letters: People who rent out rooms in London.

An Extravaganza of Talent

Come and be amazed at the wealth of talent being shared by



those involved with Aylesbury Methodist Church

CONCERT
to be held in the church
on Saturday, 29th April 2017, at 7.00 pm

and

EXHIBITION
to be held in Rooms 4 and 5
on Saturday, 29th April 2017, from 11 am until 6 pm

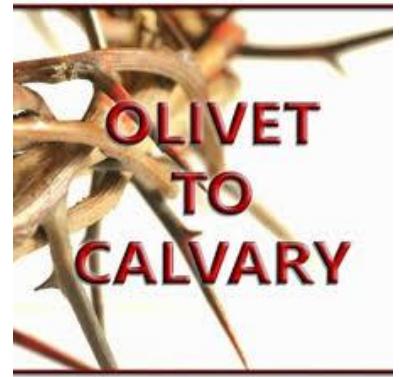


and on Sunday, 30th April 2017, from 11.30 am until 2.30 pm

Concert tickets, priced at £5 (£4 for children and seniors, £15 for a family) will be available from the Church vestibule on Sunday mornings and from the AMC church office on weekday mornings. Exhibition entry will be free, but donations will be welcome.

This is a fundraising event, with proceeds being donated to the fund for the improvement of our Church Welcome area

An Invitation to Everyone!



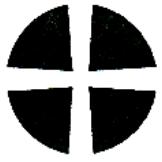
Led by Rev Helen Kirk, the extended Circuit Choir presents 'Olivet to Calvary', a service of anthems, solos and hymns providing a moving and inspiring act of worship for Passiontide.

'Olivet to Calvary' recalls the scenes which mark the last few days of our Saviour's life on earth. From the rejoicing as he entered Jerusalem. The Passover where he gives the new commandment of love for one another, the pathos in the Garden of Gethsemane then the hostility and loneliness before Pilate followed by the tragedy and triumph of Calvary.

'Olivet to Calvary' is on Sunday evening 2nd April at 6.00 pm, lasting about one hour and followed by refreshments.

Everyone is welcome to join with our friends from the circuit as we contemplate Christ's suffering before the joy of resurrection at Eastertide.





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

**32nd ANNUAL
ORGAN CONCERT**

Presenting Concert Organist

Piers Maxim

**Director of Music
Malvern Priory and President of
Aylesbury Festival Choir**

**WEDNESDAY 10th MAY 2017 @
7.30 pm**

(Doors open at 7.00 pm)

**Entrance: £12.00
Or £10.00 If booked in advance.
(Students entrance free)**

**Tickets available from the Church Office on
weekday mornings or direct from Derrick
Matthews (01296 488076)**



Our next event is our annual

Charity Stall

with

a Tombola and a Children's Lucky Dip
in Market Square
on Saturday 22nd July.



If you have any donations of unwanted
gifts/tombola prizes or
items suitable for the Lucky Dip,
please give them to:

Jennie Torpey (581414),
Pauline Noble (484940)
or Sandie Steeden (331278)

Dates for your Diary:

**Sunday 9th July: Action for Children Sunday
Cake Stall after the morning service, in the Hall
Do come round and support us!**

Saturday 14th October: Action for Children Quiz

Calling all those who have Home Collecting Boxes.

March 31st is the end of the financial year.

Has the money in your box been counted in
the last few months? If not please bring in
the box, or just the money, and hand to
Pauline Noble by the middle of this month.
Thank you!



EASTER OFFERING 2017

It is that time of year again when you will be asked to contribute towards the work of the World Church through the Easter Offering. The envelopes will appear on Palm Sunday and collected over the following 3 weeks. The World Mission Fund supports God's mission in 65 Partner Churches outside Britain and Ireland through:

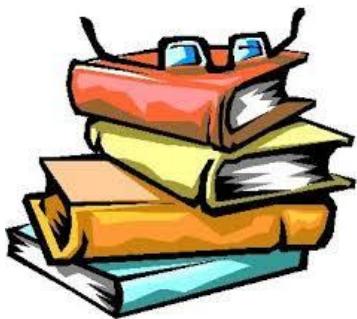
- Mission partners
- Nationals in mission appointments
- Scholarship and leadership training
- other grant giving.

Without your generosity the work cannot continue, so prayerfully consider what you might contribute.

This year's theme is 'Shine like Stars' (Philippians 2:15), and will feature stories from nationals in mission appointments (NMAs) in Brazil, Ghana and Pakistan.

Ruth Watkins





Tales from a College Manager

A series of 9 tales

3. Night Duty

Night Duty starts at 1700 hrs and continues to anything from 21.30 to 22.00 hrs. You sit in your office and watch both students and lecturers go home at 1700 hrs. At 18.30, you have to choose whether to go to the canteen for an evening meal or take a micro-meal to the staffroom and eat in perfect isolation. Don't forget to take your personal radio with you. You are in charge and must be contactable immediately there is a problem. Your call sign is "*Greenhill Three*". Whilst you are eating your meal, evening class students are drifting in for the start of their classes at 19.00. At 20.15, you must check that the canteen has closed successfully and that the caterers are able to clear the room and depart at 20.30. After that you wait in your office for any incoming telephone calls. The Receptionist will have shut her office and set the switchboard to your office number before notifying you by radio that she was going home. Her duties ended at 20.00.

Then, at 21.00, comes the most important task of the day. You join the Caretaker in reception for the ceremony of the keys. You have to witness him locking every room that has been used that night including the toilets. On several occasions, I walked into female toilets to discover a woman in a state of undress in spite of giving a warning shout. Each time, I'm not sure who was the more embarrassed. Finally, you are outside the main entrance standing next to the Caretaker watching him locking the doors. It's a quick "*Good Night*" and both of you go your separate ways.

Canteen problems were never caused by the students. Invariably when you walked in, the Canteen Manager would point to a table where a group of mature women were sitting. Smiling politely, you walked over to them, quietly reminded them that the canteen had closed and they should now return to their lectures. There is always a bolshie one and an agitated one trying to shut the bolshie one up. According to the bolshie one: their lecturer was rubbish; so bad she couldn't remember his name

nor the subject he taught; it was much nicer sitting in the canteen then in reception waiting for their husbands to pick them up; reception was far too cold; all their student identity cards had been lost or left at home; etc. Finally, you waved the radio at them stating that with no student identification you had no choice but to use it to call the police in order to have them evicted from the premises. This bluff usually did the trick provided you had stayed calm and accepted all abuse that was offered. Today, I am so shy that I daren't say boo to a goose!

This canteen problem was very popular in the late 1980's and early 1990's. Certain women preferred an early night out at a college rather than down at the pub. My college was very relaxed about it providing they obeyed college rules. We never had to call the police. Many London colleges had a very different attitude towards this phenomenon. They told tales of alcohol being brought onto the premises and men fighting over the women. They had no choice but to employ Security Guards from 18.00 to 21.00 in order to check photographic student identification cards before students were admitted to their evening classes.

Dave Rogers

(Coming next LINK: 'Fire & Snow')

The next LINK magazine will be the May/June 2017 issue.

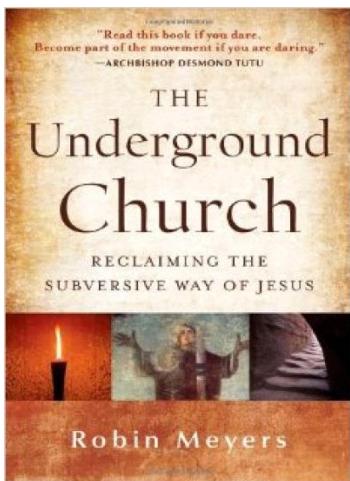
Please send in all contributions by Friday 5th May 2017.

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.



The Underground Church by Robin Meyers

Here is a summary of one of our Good Faith Book Club discussions.



Looking at liberal and conservative Christians, Meyers says that we should move beyond labels and act together. The following paragraph summarises the book for me:

"I have conservative friends who lead lives of sacrifice and service yet believe things about Jesus that I do not believe. But their lives count for more to me than their beliefs. Besides they may be right and I may be wrong. I can only hope that they feel the same way about me. Otherwise we are all in trouble. Whether families or in churches, uniformity of belief has never and will never be achieved. Uniformity of spirit, however, is not only a possibility but the hallmark of the most successful and authentic Christian communities in the land. This is the hope of the Underground Church"

Although this is another American author we felt that, generally speaking, his arguments apply equally to this country. We all agreed with the general premise of the book, namely that we should learn from the early church. This attracted people from all walks and stations in life. They cared for each other, for their communities and about what was just and right. They stood up to authority, though peacefully, despite danger and unpopularity for themselves.

The Underground Church therefore urges us to be active in the community and put money into outreach rather just for our own buildings. It teaches that being loving is more important than being right. It recognises that there was no unanimity of view in the early church so we should, for instance, accept different types of worship, rather than seek one style for all. The early church also served an actual meal as communion rather than merely bread and 'wine', before or after the service. This might be possible sometimes and could be one small step towards our joining the Underground Church.

Mike Cragg - July 2013

We meet on the fourth Saturday of every other month from 2-4pm. Our next meeting is on 25th March and we will be discussing *The Book of Joy* by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. If you would like any more information, please ask me. Peter Green



Methodist Women in Britain MWiB

Please see the posters about 2 events that are open to anyone.

May 2nd at Little Chalfont.

The speaker for the afternoon will be Claire Welch from AllWeCan, formerly the Methodist Relief and Development Fund. She will give up-to-date news on some of the worldwide partnerships supported by this Methodist Charity. The afternoon takes the form of some worship with the speaker followed by refreshments.

There is no charge for the afternoon but a collection will be taken.

Little Chalfont Methodist Church is easy to find, with local parking, and is opposite Chalfont and Latimer railway station.

May 9th at Dunstable Methodist Church

Entitled 'A Baby in Bethlehem' - a chance to hear firsthand what life is like in Bethlehem today. The Revd. Nichola Jones is, as I type this, in Bethlehem working. Having heard her speak on several occasions in the past I can certainly recommend this day.

Again there is no charge for the day. There will be a collection during the Opening Worship, a Bring and Buy stall and Nichola will have handmade items from the region for sale.

There is plenty of parking behind the church at a reasonable rate with charges only in the morning on Tuesdays.

More information about these events from Ruth Watkins - ruthmwatkins@aol.com or 485087



Methodist Women in Britain MWiB

THREE-CIRCUIT SPRING CELEBRATION
(AYLESBURY - AMERSHAM - HIGH WYCOMBE)

Tuesday May 2nd at 2.30pm

Little Chalfont Methodist Church

Chalfont Ave, Little Chalfont, Amersham HP6 6RD

AllweCan

Formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund

**Come along and hear about the latest partnerships
from all over the world.**

Speaker

Claire Welch

The afternoon concludes with light refreshments.

An afternoon for both men and women



Beds, Essex and Herts District
Methodist Women in Britain

District Day

TUESDAY 9th May
at

THE SQUARE METHODIST CHURCH
DUNSTABLE
LU6 3SN

10.30am - 3.00pm

'A BABY IN BETHLEHEM'

Led by

Revd. Nichola Jones

*Come and hear a firsthand account of life Bethlehem from
Nichola who has recently been working there.*

Easy parking behind the church
Bring and Buy stall

Tea and Coffee served
Bring a packed Lunch

An opportunity to purchase handmade goods from the region

The Vale of Aylesbury Methodist Circuit

CAMPING AGAIN!!

After the success of last year we are planning another adventure

WHEN? 7-9th July
(can be extended if you wish)

WHERE? Anita's Touring Park
Just north of Banbury

COST? £22 per unit per night for 2 people including electricity
£2 extra for any additional people or dogs.



We have been allocated a field with just 12 hook-ups and space for tents not needing electricity. We need to pay a £20 deposit per unit by the end of March so please let us know as soon as possible if you plan to join us.

All are welcome.

To book or for further information
Contact Chris Sara **01296 484310**
Email chrisara096@gmail.com.



AS I'VE AGED!!

As I've aged, I've become kinder to, and less critical of, myself. I've become my own friend.

I have seen too many dear friends leave this world, too soon; before they understood the great freedom that comes with ageing.



Whose business is it if I choose to read, or play on the computer until 4 am? I will dance with myself to those wonderful tunes of the 60s & 70s, and if I, at the same time, wish to weep over a lost love, I will.

I will walk the beach, in a swim suit that is stretched over a bulging body, and will dive into the waves, with abandon, if I choose to, despite the pitying glances from the jet set. They, too, will get old.

I know I am sometimes forgetful. But there again, some of life is just as well forgotten. And, eventually, we remember the important things.

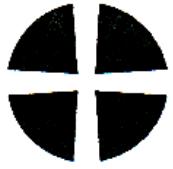
Sure, over the years, my heart has been broken. How can your heart not break, when you lose a loved one, or when a child suffers, or even when somebody's beloved pet gets hit by a car? But broken hearts are what give us strength, and understanding, and compassion. A heart never broken, is pristine, and sterile, and will never know the joy of being imperfect.

I am so blessed to have lived enough to have my hair turning grey, and to have my youthful laughs be forever etched into grooves on my face. So many have never laughed, and too many have died before their hair could turn silver.

As you get older, it is easier to be positive. You care less about what other people think. I don't question myself anymore. I've even earned the right to be wrong.



So, to answer your question, I like being older. It has set me free. I like the person I have become. I am not going to live forever, but, while I am still here, I will not waste time lamenting what could have been, or worrying about what will be. And I shall eat dessert every single day (if I feel like it).

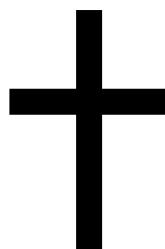


*Vale of Aylesbury
Methodist Circuit*

OLIVET TO CALVARY

by

J H MAUNDER



**An act of worship for Congregation and Choir
recalling some of the incidents in the last days
of the Saviour's life on earth.**

**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 2nd April 2017 @ 6.00 pm**

**(Repeated at Sts. Peter & Paul, Tring on
Sunday 9th April @ 6.30 pm)**

EVERYONE WELCOME

Refreshments will be served in the Hall after the service.