

Aylesbury Methodist Church & Centre



‘LINK’

**September - October
2018**

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

Registered Charity No. 1129749

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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



September is here; the kids have gone back to school; summer is coming to an end and autumn is just around the corner; it is that time when everything starts again, and although I don't miss having evening meetings through the summer, by 1st September I am usually ready to begin the Methodist year afresh. However, I am only ready because I have had time away: time to rest; to read books; to catch up with family and friends; to perhaps experience something new that offers challenge and food for thought. The latter, for me was a trip to Dubrovnik.

This year Andrew and I were lucky enough to spend a week on holiday in Croatia; it is a beautiful country, rich in history and culture; inhabited by hospitable people who welcomed us warmly. Whilst there we visited the historic city of Dubrovnik and as we walked the ancient walls which surround the city, we were surprised to see that nearly every building, even those that were centuries old, had a new roof. In talking to local people, we realised that, only 25 years ago, this place now filled with tourists and sightseers, had been heavily bombarded during the war which saw the bitter break up of the former Yugoslavia.

Robert, the manager of our hotel, told us that he had fought in the war for 18 months; 'It is ridiculous' he said, 'I was expected to kill fellow human beings simply because they were not Croatian; yet they were still my neighbours, colleagues, associates. They were like me, human beings'

In the stories we heard there was still a sense of disbelief at the way division escalated so quickly into violence and ultimately war that destroyed, not just buildings, but people's lives. I do not think for a moment that we might face a similar situation in this country and yet Robert's words were a timely reminder that, despite the issues that divide us, we should never lose sight of our common humanity, and as Christians, the call to love.

And that is Jesus' command again and again - to love:

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

‘Love your enemies’

‘Love each other as I have loved you’

Love: the easiest word to say yet the hardest one to do, for it demands that we put aside ourselves; our long-held views; our prejudices; our political affiliations; our ideological interpretations; our national identity; our assumptions and quickly made judgements; and instead see people. To look not at labels of race, religion, or ideology, but to actually see fellow human beings; each made in the image of God and each as vulnerable and as hopeful and in need of love and affirmation as we are. Each valued so deeply by God that he entered our flawed humanity to show us the enormity of his love.

So, this summer, I was reminded by a stranger in a foreign land that it is not the things that divide us that matter, but that which unites us. And so, as everything begins again, may we aim in all things to be challenged by the command of the one we follow - to love.

Helen

as I have
loved YOU,
LOVE one
another
John 13:34

Aylesbury Bible Study 2018-19
2nd Wednesday of the month, 2.00 - 3.30pm



2018		
September	12 th	Living by Comparison – Don't Covet your neighbour's ass
October	10 th	Fake news – truth, lies and the stories we tell
November	14 th	Is it wrong to take home the office stationery?
December	12 th	Let's talk about sex – respecting self and other people
2019		
January	9 th	Stuck between a rock and someone I want to hit with it – why murder is bad for your health
February	13 th	Parents & kids – honouring mum & dad'
March	13 th	And breathwhy we all need a day off
April	10 th	Oh God! – misusing the Lord's name
May	8 th	The things we worship – creating idols
June	12 th	There is only one God.....

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

At the start of this new Methodist year, here is an update on our Church Welcome Project, including funding, tendering, timing, people and more.

Funding - From previous news items, you may recall that of the £105,000 budgeted cost, we have £93,000 promised. This includes £63,000 from Circuit, District and Connexional grants, £27,000 from WREN and Allchurches Trust and £3,000 so far, from our own fund-raising. This is enough to enable us to start the work.



Andrews Eades

Chartered Surveyors

Project Management - We have appointed Philip Eades of Andrews Eades, Surveyors in Thame, as Project Manager. Philip will help us with the technical information, tendering process and then with overall supervision of a contractor, once appointed.

Kitchen - A small sub-group has been revisiting the kitchen design to determine what we really need. This has included

looking at alternative quotes from different suppliers. If you have any questions or concerns about the kitchen, please feel free to ask any of this group, who are Helen, Paul Ingram, Gill Marks, Lynn Bernstone, Jackie Simpson and Peter Green.

Timing - Our schedule is:

Invite tenders mid-Sept

Receive tenders from contractors by mid-October

Appoint builder by the end of November

Start building work on Monday 7th January 2019

Complete project by Easter 2019.

This timetable avoids the problems over the Christmas period (Cards for Good Causes & Christmas Tree Festival) whilst ensuring that the project is completed in time for the May Organ Concert.

Church Services - The builder will need the whole of the front terrace and probably 2 metres of the Church floor. It is possible that we may need to consider Church Services moving to the Hall as happened with the earlier £1million scheme. It will partly depend on our ability to access the sound desk and filming keypad in the gallery.

Coffee Bar - The weekly coffee bar will continue in the Church where the Music Group plays allowing access to the church kitchen and the corridor toilet. Suitable security arrangements will be made. Chris Sara who is co-ordinating coffee bar activities is on the main Project Steering Group.

Budget - A key task of the Steering Group will be to scrutinise all the returned tender documents to help ensure we stay within budget. This promises to be a major challenge of our flexibility and creativity, as it often has been in past projects.



Paul Ingram – Leading the way forward!

Gift Day – Whatever the final figures, we know that we will have a modest shortfall, currently some £12,000 of our £105,000 total. So, in addition to our on-going fundraising programme, we will be having a Gift Day on Saturday November 10th. Further details will follow nearer the time.

Leadership - Finally, our thanks go to Paul Ingram for stepping into the breach and taking the lead on this project after Brian Latham's sad and untimely death.

Peter Green

I was inspired to write this poem following the terrible acts of violence that occurred in recent times. It isn't our place to judge, as Our Father has this in hand. All we can do is to ask -

Father, Forgive

A bright sunny day, with the sky so blue.
Birds singing in the trees.
People walking by holding hands tightly.
All without a care in the world.
Then a Bomb.
Then a Flash.
Then Blood all around.
Father Forgive.

A beach in the sun, children play on the sand
The sea blue and inviting.
People enjoying the water and sunning themselves.
All without a care in the world.
Then a Gun.
Then a Bang.
Then Blood in the sand.
Father Forgive.

A bridge in the City, across the river Thames.
Packed with tourists, visitors,
Just wanting to see history and our famous buildings.
All without a care in the world.
Then a Crash.
Then a Smash.
Then Blood on the street.
Father Forgive.

Please, Father, forgive these atrocious acts of violence
And those who undertake to partake in them.
We cannot understand what goes through their minds,
Or their hearts.
All we can do is ask
That in Your Mercy.
You will Forgive.
Amen

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Kingfishers, Heaven and Prayer

"I've just seen a kingfisher." I get so excited whenever I catch a glimpse of the scintillating blue and vivid orange of this bird's feathers, as I walk beside a canal or stream, that I have to tell the next person I meet what I have seen.

I think I caught my sense of wonder from my mother. I was brought up on the edge of the Fenland and did not see a real mountain until I was in my twenties. There was not a view to equal those from Coombe Hill or Ivinghoe Beacon anywhere around, but my mother would share her enthusiasm with me whenever we encountered a clump of trees beside a pond on a clear summers day, when we were out on our bicycles.

"Oh Ange," she would say, "can Heaven be any more beautiful than this." My auntie would wonder what all the fuss was about.

"It's only a few trees," she would say. But Mum would savour the moment and I would rejoice with her.

It is like that, when I come upon an instance of answered prayer. Sometimes things happen which take my breath away. I have to tell other people what has happened. Often, they dismiss my fervour, by saying it was simply a coincidence, but just occasionally, they share with me a similar event that they have experienced, and we rejoice together.

Although the answers to prayer can take a long time to come, there have been times when they have come for me, as quick as the flash of a kingfisher's wing. And there really are too many coincidences.

On Sunday 8th July, I thought I had completed this article. I just needed a photograph of a kingfisher to accompany it. But that morning, Annelies met me, after the church service. "Have you received the email, I sent to you, in May?" she asked. "No," I said.

"I'll send it to you, when I get home," she said. I thought that was strange. Why did she not just tell me what was in the email, when we were talking face to face?

When I eventually got it, I discovered why this was. She had sent me a photograph, which her neighbour had taken, by a pond in Aylesbury, of two kingfishers!

Angela M. Smith



Circuit Youth Event!

The Circuit Youth Event was held on July 7th. We kicked off the evening with prayer and worship led by Casey Leigh and the band from Aylesbury Vale Community Church (AVCC). The band helped to create a wonderful atmosphere from the very start by leading the group in a session of worship.

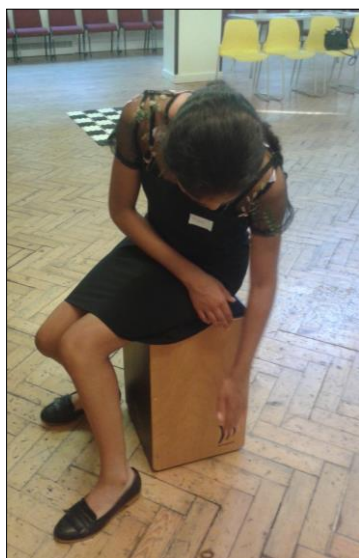


The evening was divided into four sections: Donna encouraged the groups to think about and give thanks for the things they were good at; and she led them in prayer about the areas which they thought they needed to develop.

Keith shared a talk on Psalm 139:14, expanding on our theme, 'Be the best version of you.'

Mel ran a drama activity, where the young people planned and demonstrated their interpretation of the theme; the younger group later performed their sketch to the entire group.

Casey and Zac delivered a singing and music session; Casey taught the group a new song; whilst Zac gave a brief tutorial on how to play the drum box to a beat.





13 children and young people attended the event; the support from AVCC was overwhelming. Everyone confirmed that they enjoyed the evening; friendships were formed and faith was encouraged.

Providing an opportunity for children and young people from around the Circuit, to get to know each other and experience faith-forming exercises is invaluable.



Widening their circle of Christian friends will help to reaffirm that they are not on their own, but there are other young people in different places who share the same beliefs with similar experiences. I hope that in the future more of our children and young people around the Circuit, will take the opportunity to build friendships and share in faith-building experiences together.

Mel Brown





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sun 9 Sept	10.30am	Family & Brigade Service led by Rev Helen Kirk
Wed 12 Sept	2.00pm	Bible Study: Don't Covet your Neighbour's Ass
Frid 14 Sept	7 – 9pm	Friday Night Youth Group
Sat 15 Sept	4 – 6pm	Messy Church
Sun 16 Sept	8.45am 10.30am	Service of Holy Communion led by Rev Helen Kirk Church Anniversary Service led by Rev Fred Ireland
Tues 18 Sept	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mr Derrick Matthews - Musical Afternoon in Church
Sat 22 Sept	7.00pm	Action for Children Quiz
Sun 23 Sept	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Nick Ayles
Sun 30 Sept	10.30am	Morning Worship led by Mr Arthur Sara
Tues 2 Oct	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mr Ken Harris – Talk on his work with the homeless
Sat 6 Oct	7.30pm	SOS: 'Room 101' at the home of Marilyn & Nick Storer
Sat 13 Oct	7.00pm	Karibuni Concert at Fairford Leys Church with Ellesborough Silver Band
Wed 10 Oct	2.00pm	Bible Study: Fake News – truth, lies, and the stories we tell
Tues 16 Oct	2.30pm	To be arranged
Frid 19 Oct	10 - 12	Coffee Morning in aid of Epilepsy Action
Frid 26 Oct	7 – 9pm	Friday Night Youth Group
Sat 20 Oct	4 – 6pm	Messy Church
Sat 27 Oct		AMC Big Birthday Party
Tues 30 Oct	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mrs Alison Watkins - Talk
Sat 3 Nov	6.00pm	SOS: Firework Evening with Viv & Steve Kemp
Sat 10 Nov	7.30pm	Karibuni Concert at AMC with the Laid Back Band and Group Therapy
Tues 13 Nov	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mr David Heffer - Talk
Wed 14 Nov	2.00pm	Bible Study: Is it wrong to take home the office stationery?
Sat 17 Nov	4 – 6pm	Messy Church
Frid 23 Nov	7 – 9pm	Friday Night Youth Group
Tues 27 Nov	2.30pm	Tuesday Fellowship: Mr John Cotton – Update on Karibuni Children
Sat 30 Nov	7.30pm	SOS: St Andrews Day with the Miskins
Sat 8 Dec	7.00pm	Karibuni Concert at AMC with Wycombe Community Choir

Frid – Sun, 7 – 9 Dec		Christmas Tree Festival
Wed 12 Dec	2.00pm	Bible Study: Let's talk about sex – respecting self & other people
Frid 21 Dec	7 – 9pm	Friday Night Youth Group
Sat 22 Dec	4 – 6pm	Messy Church

The next LINK magazine will be the Nov - Dec 2018 issue.

Please send in all contributions by Friday 2nd November 2018 to both addresses below:

Jennie Torpey: jennietorpey@gmail.com

AMC Office: office@aylesburymethodists.org.uk



**TEA & COFFEE MORNING
at Aylesbury Methodist Church
in the coffee bar
on FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER, 10AM - 12NOON.**



Cakes and Crafts for sale

**Please come along and
support Epilepsy Action**



J TEAM



Welcome to the J Team pages

Living in Harmony

As you begin a new year at school it is a good time to put extra effort into getting along with others, to live in harmony.

Once upon a time, there were two brothers. Their father had a large farm. When he was too old to work, he called his sons. "I am too old to work now," he said. "I will divide my farm in half and give each of you one half. I know that you will always work together and be good friends."

When the brothers first started farming on their adjoining farms, they were the best of friends and would share everything together. Then, one day there was an argument and they stopped speaking to one another. For many years, not a word was spoken between them.

One day, one of the brothers was at his house when a carpenter came to his door and said, "Do you have any work that I can do?" The brother thought for a moment and then replied, "I would like for you to build a fence on my property. Build it near the stream that separates my farm from my brother's. I don't want to see my brother anymore so please build it high. I'm going into town and I'll be back this evening."

When he came back that evening, he was shocked to see that the carpenter had not followed his instructions. Instead of building a fence there, he had built a bridge over the stream. The man walked down to take a look at the bridge, and as he did, his brother walked towards him



from the other side. His brother said, "After all the terrible things I've done to you over the years, I can't believe that you would build a bridge and welcome me back." He reached out to his brother and gave him a hug.

The brother then walked back up to his farmhouse to talk to the carpenter. "Can you stay?" he asked. "I have more work for you to do."

The carpenter answered, "I'm sorry but I can't stay. I have to go, for I have many other bridges to build."

Sometimes we have a disagreement with our brothers and sisters or friends. When that happens, we often build a fence between ourselves and them. We stop talking to them. We don't want to see them. We don't want to be around them. That isn't what Jesus wants us to do. Instead of fences, he wants us to build a bridge of love between us.

Tips to live in harmony:

- resolve disagreements in a kind way
- be quick to forgive
- don't be selfish and show concern for others.

When you are unsure of what to do, think of Jesus.

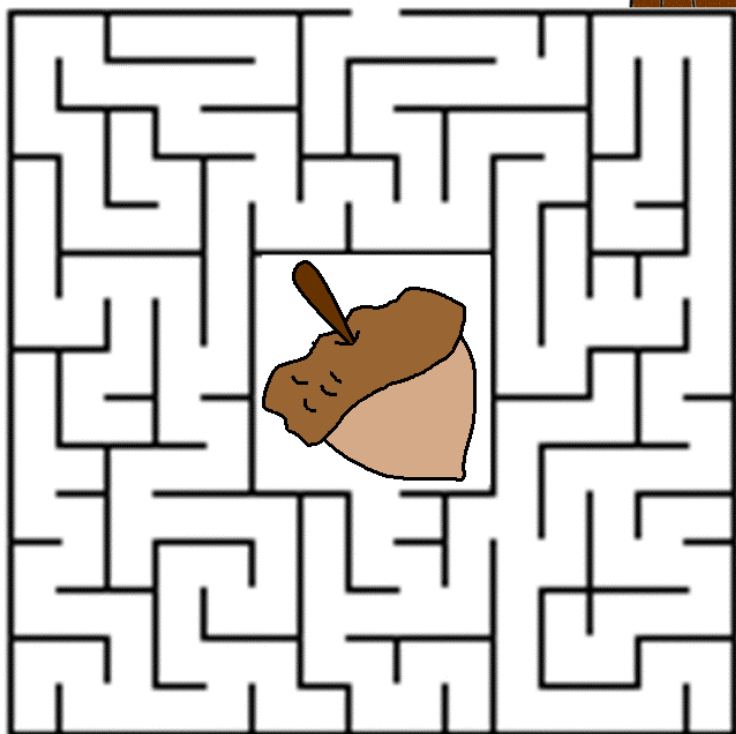


Colouring in

What
Would
Jesus
Do?

Autumn Maze

Help the
squirrel find
his acorn



Autumn is a beautiful time of year. We think about others through our harvest festival and many animals are busy preparing for the winter.

Dear Father,
We know it is your desire for
us to live together in peace
and harmony. Help us to love
one another.
Amen.



Whitechapel Mission

Bringing hope where there is despair

Each year, and often during the year, we support the Whitechapel Mission in London; if you are new to this, you can find it online at whitechapel.org.uk.

At Harvest time we make gifts of the dry goods needed to sustain their work throughout the winter, and, during the year, events are held raising money for their work. It is an easy way of helping those less fortunate than ourselves at the mission. For those who work there, life is not easy, and it is a real commitment to get up daily and serve the homeless of the capital, which never sees a decrease.

Tony and Sue Miller have lived and worked at Whitechapel over a good number of years and have brought their children up in a challenging environment. Recently I heard how they had gone the 'second mile' for one of the clients.

Billy came from a childhood of abuse and neglect and ended up homeless and dependent on alcohol, eventually being a regular at Whitechapel. Over time he turned his life round; he got a room and Tony gave him a job at the Mission. Apart from general jobs, he was able to relate to the clients, having been one himself. Recently he became unwell and Sue accompanied him to the hospital where it was discovered he had advanced cancer. Tony realised that Billy would need help and company, so a room was found for him at the Mission. Sue continued to accompany him on hospital visits, and as the illness progressed they watched over him until he died a few weeks ago - he was never alone. As Tony said, 'Is this not what the Lord would have us do?'

Nearer Harvest Sunday there will be a list of the items most required; we will also at that time be accepting items of good clothing.

Ruth and Peter Watkins.

Come and
join us for:



Lets Get Messy!

Messy Church will be on:

- Saturday September 15th - I am the true vine
- Saturday October 20th - I am the light of the world
- Saturday November 17th - I am the good shepherd
- Saturday December 22nd - Messy Christmas! (yeah!!)

4.00 – 6.00pm

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

Harvest of Man

When our Great Creator
Began His awesome work,
There was nothing.
So, He started from the beginning.
Using His immense power,
God made this earth,
Putting all that He needed
Into place and then
Started it spinning.
How magnificent!



God then created a Heaven
To be above the sky.
Our Father divided the day into
Two equal halves -
Night and day.
Our world as we knew it,
Was starting to shape up.
The Master Builder then made
Green fertile lands, blue sea.
And He was Pleased!

God gave time to earth
So, he made morning and evening.
Putting myriad of stars in the
Great Heaven he created,
To let them be compasses
And guides in the future.
So that His Immense creation
Could flourish, He made seasons,
For future man to live.
In Praise of Him.

And then He fixed the sun
and moon in the Heavens,
So that there would be light.
Both Day and Night.
He brought life to the oceans
And let the land run free,
With all kinds of animals,
Saying "Go forth and multiply –
Fill this great earth with all
Of your kind."



Then at last God made Man,
In His own image.
Using the dust of the earth
And the wind,
He blew life into him.
He then made woman,
Using a rib from Man,
And the dust of the earth.
This was our beginning.
Then Our Great God rested.

We are all created from
Our Most Wonderfully,
Awesome Father.
He guides us through our lives,
And is always with us.
He walks beside us,
He talks to our spirit,
And is ready to receive us
At the end.
When it is our Harvest -time.

KARIBUNI: WHAT'S ON AUTUMN 2018

ELLESBOROUGH SILVER BAND
FAIRFORD LEYS CHURCH
13TH OCTOBER 7.30PM



THE LAID BACK
BAND AND GROUP
THERAPY
AYLESBURY
METHODIST
CHURCH
10TH NOVEMBER
7.30PM



WYCOMBE
COMMUNITY CHOIR
AYLESBURY
METHODIST CHURCH
8TH DECEMBER
7.30PM

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ALL OUR
EVENTS: 01296 614887 OR
WWW.KARIBUNI.ORG.UK



Planting your garden

PLANT THREE ROWS OF

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul



PEAS:



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness



PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind
Lettuce be patient
Lettuce really love one
another



NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

TO END - OUR GARDEN MUST HAVE THYME:



Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

**Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.
There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you
SOW.**

Friday Night Youth Group



Fridays: September 14th, October 26th,
November 23rd, December 21st
7pm - 9pm

Who is it for? Anyone in Secondary School.

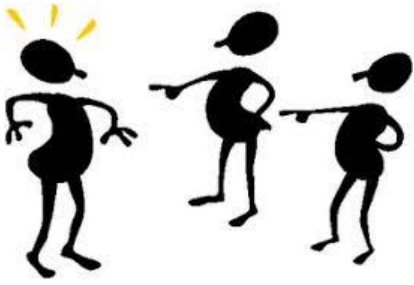
Where? Aylesbury Methodist Church,
Buckingham St, Aylesbury, HP20 2NQ

Cost? £1

Coming? Please let Hannah or Charlie know.

Adult Volunteers? Would you like to be on a rota and
volunteer to help?

Please contact Mel familyworker.amc@mail.com
Mobile: 07717 121887



Stop Blaming Others and Accept Responsibility!

*'Forgetting those things which are behind...
(reach) forward to those things which are
ahead'*

Philippians 3:13

Whatever your past may have been, God has a better future in mind for you. But before you can 'reach' for it, you must forgive the people who've hurt you, forgive yourself, and let it go. When you do that, you'll likely experience a wide range of emotions.

You may feel anger, thinking life's unfair and it wasn't what you wanted. You always envisioned a husband or wife who'd be there to take care of you. You never expected to have to take responsibility for life on your own.

You may feel fearful, afraid you won't be able to do it – and that if you fail you'll only have yourself to blame.

You may feel annoyed that now you have to consider your life in a different light, from a different perspective.

You may even feel sad over the way you've blamed others in the past, knowing deep down inside that your life wasn't proceeding the way you wanted because of your own choices and decisions.

You may feel ashamed of your past mistakes, unsure if you really can take personal responsibility and move forward

Whatever emotion comes up, good or bad, know that it's normal when you're making a significant life change. And however you feel, don't judge yourself! Acknowledge what you're feeling; ask yourself if your thoughts are rational or if they're just old fears talking to you. Then stick to your commitment to stop blaming others and take responsibility for your own life.

The word for you today is: 'Forgetting those things which are behind...[reach] forward to those things which are ahead.'

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.



HOW |
**ACTION FOR
CHILDREN**
| WORKS



Saturday 22nd September 2018, 7.00pm
in aid of **ACTION FOR CHILDREN**

Tickets: £7 each, available now from
Pauline Noble 01296 484940 & Jennie Torpey 01296 581414

INCLUDING PLOUGHMAN'S & SOFT DRINKS
IN THE INTERVAL

[Bring your own nibbles and soft drinks to have at your table]

Evening includes a Raffle

COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!!!

TABLES OF 6 (max 8)

Make up a table, or just buy a ticket
and we'll make sure you're
on a table with others.



ALL ARE WELCOME!!



Come and help us support
ACTION FOR CHILDREN

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