



ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices—August 2015

2nd August

10.30am Rev John Marriott : HC

9th August

10.30am The Congregation

16th August (BBQ at 1pm—see page 6)

10.30am Family Service* : Mrs Norma Baxter

23rd August

10.30am Mr Paul Barford

30th August

10.30am Mr Paul Wilson

On Duty at 10.30am Aug—Hysom/Boenke Sept– Stretton/Bell

Eastcote Baptist Chapel

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk

Ministers Letter for August from Rev John Marriott

Just a thought on giving

The Town of Northampton and the County of Northamptonshire is steeped in the traditions of Rugby Union. It cannot have escaped your notice that the Rugby World Cup is almost upon us, less than one hundred days, by the time you read this it will be under fifty.

The small but beautifully formed William Webb Ellis trophy is about to be played for once again, this time in the Northern Hemisphere in our own back yard. It is great and we will welcome teams and their supporters from all over the world.

I first learnt about the William Webb Ellis Cup in a quiz. Name the Rugby World Cup? Sorry, I hadn't a clue. I could honestly say it was a point of learning so it served a good purpose. I would say that is often how things start and develop. Rugby at it's most basic level is about picking the ball up and running down the other end of the pitch and putting it down. Simple isn't it?

By its simplicity it helps other people and a wider sphere of people engage with a great game. I was reminded of this in trying to explain cricket to a person who had no contact or understanding at all of cricket. It was a hard task and I struggled and didn't make a very good job of it. Rugby brings people together, sport having a purpose, not only winning in the right spirit but sharing in something which brings people together where a deeper unexplainable enrichment takes place within the human race. There is only one human race and therefore common ground of experience. All of the nations and teams coming here have their own objectives and fulfilment, but they are also bringing their own unique character and culture together at the tournament. Tournament rugby has its own dynamics and characteristics that need to be exercised at a different level to normal in and out Aviva Premiership rugby for example.

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different level to normal in and out Aviva Premiership rugby for example.

We as hosts will also have expectations, not only in the welcome, fellowship and sharing with so many other people but in our words and deeds and organisation that goes into making a memorable event.



Of course if your team wins or achieves beyond its own expectations then it will be memorable because it is part of wider life journey achieved through a sporting environment.

If your team wins the cup then often we will remember it even more in the wider context of the whole of life. When, for example, England beat Australia to win the cup in 2003 the whole nation erupted. I could feel it in my bones, a memorable morning for those left here in the United Kingdom and particularly in England.

So what do I really want to say to you all in this letter? All this is possible because of the act of giving something away. Giving the game of rugby to the world has created something, and continually develops something which is of lasting value to all.

By giving the game away it gave something that had lasting value, and enduring value to the world in which we all live. Physique, power, athleticism, intellect, pride, passion, joy, love, tactics, strength, courage, goals, targets and achievements. The list goes on.

This is all because the game has been given away to the world. Would it be as it is today if it had been kept by a few people? No, it is better to be given. Scripturally and spiritually it is better to give than receive, for in giving it is that a blessing is received, not that one is expected back. God works and practices in the "giving way" from day one when God decided to start and sustain all of creation in a new way, and he gave something that runs through creation; that is his love, the love of giving.

Jesus Christ did a lot of giving. The Holy Spirit did a lot of giving. Are we glad? Yes we are! All of this giving says that we have received the great and good things in abundance and from this giving, deep and lasting relationship and relationships are formed.

The spirit of giving does have to be developed and I would like you to think of the things that have come about by giving, both for yourselves and for others. These far out-weigh any other method. So we as Christians, as people of faith in a faithful God, are knowledgeable and experienced in the nature of a giving God. The gospel for all people is about giving the "Good News" of Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour, in word and in deed, and I know that all of you will rise up to that challenge.

Giving away the Good News says we have a confident faith, a living faith, and vibrant faith. A faith that says we have a very distinctive character with an edge to it. Enjoy living this way, giving in ministry and giving in mission.

I have proved that giving, if you are resourced and able to give in God's way, it's right, it's the way the truth and the life. God bless you all.

The Churches in Northampton are actively becoming involved in the Rugby World Cup as part of mission and Rev Romeo Pedro who specialises in all aspects of mission, and we as a ministry team will inform, help and support you in living the Christian faith, so that others will come to faith.

Rev John

Rev John Marriott



Mission Meetings at Astcote—What is happening?

After several meetings with Rev Romeo Pedro when we have been looking at discerning the way forward for our church the following four areas have been decided to focus on in order to build us up in our faith:

- Finding out and using the gifts of the congregation.
- Deepening the spirituality of the congregation by bible study, meeting together etc.
- Earning the right to share our faith by being a church that serves the community
- Prayer and Worship

If you have any views or thoughts or questions please share them with Jackie, Kate or Ann in the coming weeks.

During August we will be praying about these points at our Sunday services using the prayer in this newsletter.

We will continue to meet with Romeo to develop and plan for the future.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 10th September 7.30pm at the Chapel. Why not come and be part of the future of Astcote Chapel?

News & Dates

BBQ 16th August 1pm at Steve & Wendy Boenke's, 4 Littlefield Close, Eastcote. Ring Ann on 830907 if you would like to come. Just bring a salad/pudding and a bottle. Meat provided (donation on the day). Please join us

Looking ahead to 12th September: While the Chapel is open for the Annual Ride & Stride we will be spring cleaning in the morning and serving Afternoon Tea 2-4.30pm. We hope to have a stall selling books and jigsaws. Please save any you may have for the stall. Thank you

Mission Meeting: Thursday 10th September 7.30pm

Church Council Meeting: Monday 28th September 7.30pm

A Prayer

Please Lord help us to discover the gifts you have given us so that we may use them for you. May we deepen our understanding of your word through study, prayer and worship so that we may serve you in a more meaningful way in our community. Bless all that we seek to do in your name, and guide us every day.

Amen

Please make this your prayer during August

Lunch Club - is for the retired and will usually be held on the 2nd Tuesday each month. Maureen Corbett can be contacted for more details on 830296.

New members are welcome. Please give Maureen a ring.

The Well Group - An ecumenical ladies group which offers a time to socialise and share for Christian women or those interested in the Christian faith. Meeting 12-2pm, including a simple lunch
Contact Alison Brierley if you would like to come along on 830770

The next meeting will be in September.

Monday Club (Reception, Years 1 & 2)

'Sunday School' after school 3.15-4.15pm

Wednesday Bible Club 'Friends & Heroes'
12.30-1pm (yrs 3-6)

For more information please speak to John Atkin on 830907. Both groups held at Pattishall Primary School

Northampton Methodist Circuit Team Ministry

Superintendent: Rev Tina Swire

Rev John Marriott

Rev Romeo Pedro

Rev. Phil Snelson

Deacon Richard Beckett

Contact point is Circuit Office: 01604 721 908

At Park Avenue Methodist Church

Northampton

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**To book the Chapel rooms** please ring Kate Stretton on  
830115

Please also contact Kate if you would like to place flowers in the  
Chapel in memory of a loved one or to celebrate a birthday,  
anniversary etc.

For items or suggestions for this newsletter  
please contact::

Ann Atkin, Church Secretary on 830907

[ann.atkin51@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.atkin51@btinternet.com)