



ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices—October 2015

4th October

10.30am The Congregation

11th October

10.30am Rev Tina Swire : HC

18th October—Welly Boot' Harvest Festival *

10.30am Family Service : Mrs Linda Leathersich

25th October

10.30am Rev John Marriott

* More details page 4

On Duty at 10.30am

Oct—Gulliford/Sue/Roz

Nov— Hysom/Boenke

Eastcote Baptist Chapel

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk

Ministers Letter for October from Rev Tina Swire

Our walls reveal a lot about ourselves. The wall in my office, just in front of my desk has a number of things on it. One is a piece of paper with important phone numbers on it. That witnesses to my practical side and in life we all need to be practical. Another, is a list of dog rules for humans, for two reasons. One, I am amused by such things and two, I have a dog and it is a fair description of my life with Sandy. Another is a tapestry given to me by a wonderful sister in the faith, because I believe that we are all united in Christ, no matter where, or when. There is the emblem of the Royal Newfoundland regiment, because we should honour our past. There's a picture of John and I on our wedding day, because love is the most wondrous gift and miracle there is. The hymn, Who would true valour see, is there too. This one I wrote with all female pronouns on a day I needed encouragement and a reminder of whose I am and why I am. Sometimes in our faith journey, we all do and we are called to encourage, support and build each other up, as Christ does with us.

In the middle, is the a cross. There is a painting of the world on it, of all the peoples of the earth, holding hands and the Holy Spirit, the dove of peace is in their midst.

The cross is what holds all of this together. It is a very simple design, when you think about it, but it says so much. It is said that the vertical line talks about our connection with God and that the horizontal one is our connection with creation and one another and that where the two lines meet, there you find Christ and the peace of Christ and the hope of Christ and the life only possible in Christ.

God, in Christ, is in the midst of all our relationships in life. In the daily getting on with getting on, Christ is there. In our relationships with creation and those we share it with, Christ is there. Just as God has been active in the past, God is today and will be tomorrow, for God, who is love, never ends. In the challenges of life, God in Christ, is there. In its joys, God, in Christ, is there.

Matthew 18:20 says, “ for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” them.”

We often hear this verse to talk about how many people you need to have a worship service. And it does speak to that. We do not worship in a vacuum. Worship is a relationship, with God and with one another. It is like a conversation or a dance where we bring our prayers and concerns and listen for God’s voice and feel Christ’s presence in the midst.

The verse then talks about all our relationships in life, for in all of them, we are called to be aware of God’s presence in our midst, making them holy. To truly live this way, how could we be about anything other than the work of Christ, who came to reconcile and make all things new in manger cross and empty tomb.

This is true justice and righteousness and reconciliation and creation restored. God is in our midst and we are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Tina



News & Dates

Welly Boot Harvest Festival & Family Service 10.45am & Lunch 12.30ish Sunday 18th October



Wear your clean wellies to church ready for a farm walk after the service.

Jacket potato lunch—ring Ann on to 830907 to book a potato!

Collection for Farm Africa, and,

Tins, etc for the Hope Centre who are particular need of: Sugar/ Coffee/ Biscuits/ Bottles of Squash/Tins of meat, fish, vegetables and fruit. Also needed are clean men's underwear and socks.

Gardening Afternoon—Friday 30th Oct 2-4pm

Bring a fork, secateurs, etc and help us have a tidy-up

Make your own Cards this Christmas

Book a place at the Card Making Workshop on Saturday 14th November at Astcote Methodist Church from 2-4pm to discover new card making techniques. The cost will be £5 per person to include all materials, tea and coffee, all proceeds to church funds. This will be a relaxed and friendly event and is open to all, so why not come along. To book a place or for more information:

E-mail kate.stretton@btinternet.com or phone 01327 830115

Messy Church 2-4.30pm at the Parish Hall on Saturday 21st November—Planning Meeting 9th November 7.30pm at Ascote

Messy Church really is for all ages and everyone in the family so if you haven't tried it yet please come along.



Mission Meeting with Rev Romeo Pedro—Thursday 25th November 7.30pm at Ascote

Join us as we plan how we will be reaching out to the Community in 2016.

News from the Circuit Meeting where all the Churches in Northampton meet each quarter It has been agreed to extend the appointment of Rev Tina Swire by two years until August 2018, and Deacon Richard Beckett by five years until August 2021.

On Saturday 7th November from 10-4pm there will be a **Multicultural Workshop** at St. Andrews Methodist Church where Dr Lia Dong Shimada will be exploring how we make our churches welcoming and inclusive for people from all backgrounds. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Kingsthorpe Methodist Church has struggled for several years with building problems, the building having formerly been a cinema. The decision has been made by the Church Council to close on 7th February, 2016 while a rebuilding project is undertaken.

Circuit Stewards needed Circuit Stewards work alongside the Ministers to engage with the churches by attending Church Council, helping with planning, and visioning for the Circuit. If you think this might appeal to you speak to Rev Tina Swire on 01604 758637 for more information.

News from the Astcote Church Council Electrical work has been completed so we can now obtain the necessary certificate. The Circuit have given us a grant of £500 towards the extra costs which totalled approx £1,000 so that is a real blessing. We have drawn up a list of property items that need to be addressed fairly soon.

Mission Meeting Report: Following several meetings with Rev Romeo Pedro it was agreed that our focus should be on Worship, Prayer and Bible Study. On the first Sunday in each month, from January 2016, there will be a short time of Worship and Prayer for the Community from 9.30-10am at the Chapel. A large map of the Parish will be provided so that a tea light can be placed where a person lives who is being prayed for, or for a particular road, building etc. Ann and Roz will lead these initially. We will also have a letter box on the railings outside where prayer requests can be placed. All of this will be mentioned in Around Pattishall nearer the time.

Looking ahead to Christmas Which charity would you like our Christmas collection to go to? Please place your suggestion in the envelope in notice board in the kitchen - we will choose one or two nominations at the beginning of November.

Prayer: Lord God, as we plan your work in this community, please help and guide us so Your will is done and not ours. Amen

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 on 28th October—
Guitars & Song.

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)