



ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices—April 2016

3rd April

9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Rev Tina Swire

10th April

10.30am Mrs Angela McNally

17th April—Family Service

10.30am Rev John Marriott

24th April

10.30am Mrs Linda Leathersich HC

Eastcote Baptist Chapel

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

3rd April—Mr Andy Hicks

On Duty at 10.30am

April— Gulliford/Sue/Roz

May— Hysom/Boenke

www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk

Ministers Letter April 2016 from Dcn Richard Beckett

As some of you will know, there were ten children and young people who joined with about 600 others at the 3GENERATE Methodist Youth Assembly last November and I want to use this opportunity to share with you something of what came out of the weekend.

The weekend was divided into three age 'streams' and each group has produced a Manifesto which sets out the things which children and young people aged between 8 and 23 believe the Methodist Church should be focussing on. The following is a snapshot from each of the age streams:

8-11's

THE ENVIRONMENT: Climate Change, littering, pollution, trees being cut down – what can we do in church and our communities to make a difference?

WHERE IS GOD?: – we want opportunities to talk about this and to ask questions.

OUR CONCERNS: – about violence in our world, terrorism and wars, and our fears about a third world war. We want opportunities to talk about this on Sundays and in our groups.

OUR CHURCH: We are a part of our church life and community and are keen to play a full part in all its activity.

We would like to know and understand more about Methodism and why it is called Methodism.

We have lots of questions about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and being a Christian and we would like time in worship and in our groups to explore them.

Participating in the whole of church is important to us and we want worship that is interesting and relevant to all people in the church.

OUR COMMUNITY: We care about the communities we live in and want to be a part of them and contribute to making them caring and good places to live in. We want to talk about, learn, and make a difference in the areas of bullying, coping with change and helping others.

11-18's

Discussions about same sex marriage. In particular reflecting on biblical perspectives and exploring the Church's understanding.

Discussions around the issue of war and conflict. In particular the use of prayer as a response.

Accessibility for those with disabilities. Change the focus from 'disability' to 'different abilities' and improve access in worship.

Refugee and Asylum seekers. In particular showing them welcome, love and protection.

18-23's

Exploring the question 'How do we love thy enemies?' On a local church level in pro-active, theological, contextual and, most importantly, practical ways.

Challenging negative representations of marginalised groups. Actively speaking out on behalf of groups, such as migrants or young people.

Taking a lead on practical responses to climate change. Revisiting Hope in God's Future, updating policies and enabling local churches to learn about taking action at a local and global level.

Using the language of love to challenge the poverty gap. So that no one is shamed or excluded. A person's worth is not assigned by their wealth.

I was greatly heartened when I read these to see that the young people in our churches are actually asking the same questions and deeply affected by the same issues many others are also raising. I am also challenged as to how best we should respond through leading, preaching and worship.

If you can get online you can read the full Manifestos at www.methodist.org.uk/3Generate or contact me for details and I will gladly send them to you.

With thanks to Ellen Rufus for the work of co-ordinating the young people who went from our Circuit and a gentle reminder that plans are in hand to take even more children and young people from the Circuit to 3GENERATE in November 2016.

Every Blessing,

Deacon Richard Beckett

News & Dates

Looking ahead to April and 2016

Our Fairtrade Afternoon Tea on 19th March raised £205
Many thanks for everyone's support.

Please note—due to unforeseen circumstances we will postpone both the Church Council Meeting Monday 4th April 7.30pm and Tuesday 5th April 7pm SHAPE course final session

New dates will be arranged soon.

Change of Date for Lunch Club in April Due to the painting work Lunch Club will be a week earlier on Tuesday 5th April.

Chapel painting will start on Monday 11th April. This will mean clearing the Chapel of a lot of items after the service on Sunday 10th, and the service on 17th April will probably be in the Upper Room. It will be worth one more bit of disruption to get the walls painted and the Chapel finished.

School Visit from Namibia 4-7th May

A group of 10 children aged 11-12 years, and 7 teachers from Romeo's former school in Namibia will be visiting Northampton. A wide range of activities is being arranged for them and on their first evening they will be coming to Astcote for a BBQ. We will need the help of some of the congregation who we hope will join us and provide some salads, puddings etc.

We will update everyone nearer the time.

Saturday 4th June Plant Sale & Afternoon Tea 2-4.30pm

Rev Tina Swire has asked to bring this to your attention. After all, Jesus himself was a refugee. Please sign the online petition.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILS

HAVE SAID “NO” TO WELCOMING ANY SYRIAN REFUGEES

In spite of a promise last September by Mary Markham, the leader of Northampton Borough Council, that NBC would accept 50 Syrian refugee families over the next 5 years, the controlling majority on the Council have reneged on that promise and voted not to accommodate any. This follows a Northamptonshire County Council claim that, in spite of specific government support which is given for settling refugees, it was not financially possible for NCC to accept any.

We belong to a town and county that will do NOTHING to respond to what is a major humanitarian crisis.

“I was a stranger and you did not invite me in” (Matthew 25:43)

If you want to see this decision reversed, please let your feelings be known.

There is now a petition on line:

www.gopetition.com/petitions/calling-on-northampton-borough-council-to-offer-sanctuary-to-50-syrian-refugee-families.html

If you do not have a computer, you can take this web address to your local library, or a friend, and they will help you.

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 a meal 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 Thurs 31st March—with Jayne Elliott from the Jesus Centre

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

~~~~~

**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)