



ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices-May 2015

3rd May

10.30am Rev Tina Swire HC

3pm Mr Ian Markey : Eastcote

10th May

10.30am The Congregation

3pm Mr Michael Mabbutt : Eastcote

17th May

10.30am Family Service : Mr Chris Hardy

3pm Rev Tina Swire : Eastcote

24th May

10.30am Mr Paul Wilson

3pm see noticeboard : Eastcote

31st May

10.30am Mr John Atkin

3pm Mr Bruce Furniss: Eastcote

On Duty at 10.30am

May-Hysom/Boenke

June-Stretton/Bell

Ministers letter for May from Rev Tina Swire:

Now there are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 1
Corinthians 12: 4-6

In pride of place in my home is a tea doll, which is special to the Innu of Labrador and they are the only people in the world with this tradition.

It is as you would expect, a doll stuffed with tea, but its significance is far deeper.

The Innu live in an environment which we might consider harsh, but which for them is a veritable Garden of Eden. They live in close relationship with the land and one another and seek in all things to walk gently upon the earth often for many miles and for long periods of time.

However, it gets cold in Labrador and the only thing that its land and animals could not provide was a hot warming drink made from tea.

Tea, which they got at the trading stations became a precious commodity. They would barter for a portion which they knew would last until their next visit to the trading store, and then they would get an extra, emergency ration, which went into their daughters dolls.

And then they would journey, drink the tea, empty the dolls and fill them with moss, by which time they would return and trade and the cycle would begin again.

The daughters, the smallest of the group, would have felt valued and honoured, being entrusted with such a gift and the entire family would have been built up by this gift in their midst.

How much more so does the Holy Spirit do for us! Its warmth sustains and empowers us, comforts and renews us and enables us to live as the people of Christ and family of God. In its warmth and light, all know and feel their value and worth.

And what a gift! To be created in the very image of God, to be members of the body of Christ and to dream and see the dreams and visions of the Divine.

This gift is not for ourselves alone. We are invited to share this gift in love that all might drink deep at the well and be set free.

As we journey, let us hold on to this truth. God has placed within our care a gift more precious and life giving than any tea. It is ours to share in love, justice righteousness compassion, hope, trust and faith. It is the good news that we are not alone. God is with us. Thanks be to God.

Rev Tina Swire



News & Dates

Faith Sharing Course

Do you find it hard to speak to others about your faith?

A four week course will be starting in May, led by Rev Romeo Pedro, to help us tackle this problem.

The dates are Tuesdays 7.30-8.30pm, May 12th, 19th, 26th and 2nd June and the course will be held at Towcester Road Methodist Church, Far Cotton, Northampton.

If you would like a lift give Ann a ring on 830907.



Plant Sale & Afternoon Tea Saturday 6th June 2-

4.30pm If you are dividing plants please pot some up for the sale, or if you have extra plants they will be most welcome. Please bring to the Chapel on the morning. Helpers and cakes needed on the day.

Thank you Ann 830907

Messy Church Saturday 13th June 2-4.30pm for the whole family together.

(Suggest that planning will be Monday 1st June 7.30pm at the Chapel).

[Have you decided who to vote for at the General Election on 7th May?](#)

If not the following may help you make your mind up ...

On *CARE's election website you will find:

- Biblical resources
- Briefings on key issues
- Prayer points
- Blogs with the very latest developments
- The essential hustings guide

The website is: www.engage15.org.uk

Who will get your vote?

How will our church make the most of this opportunity?

*CARE (Christian Action, Research & Education)

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

Next Meeting

Thursday 28th May Juliet & Peter Storey with guitars

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

[Well done Malcolm!](#)

Malcolm swam 5K in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care Swimathon in just 2 hours 2 minutes 29 seconds. That's 200 lengths of the pool at Towcester!

He would like to thank everyone for their support in raising £520.

It may still be possible to add to this total via www.swimathon.org.uk (then click on 'get involved', then 'sponsor', then add 'Malcolm Hysom').

What's the next challenge Malcolm?

[Easter Offering for the Methodist World Mission Fund](#)

Raised £199. Thank you for your generosity.

[Valdermira & World Vision](#)

The extra collection we take every week in the house with the green roof supports our regular giving for Valdermira. In addition we were recently able to send £300 from that collection in response to an Emergency Flood Relief Appeal from World Vision. Although our individual giving to this is small, together we can make a big difference. Thank you.

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)