

ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices-June 2015

7th June

10.30am The Congregation

14th June

10.30am Rev John Marriott : HC

21st June

10.30am Family Service : Dcn Richard Beckett

28th June

10.30am Mrs Angela McNally

On Duty at 10.30am June-Stretton/Bell July-Gulliford/Roz/Sue
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Eastcote Baptist Chapel

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk

Ministers letter for June is from Rev Phil Snelson who is a Methodist Minister at Emmanuel, Weston Favell

When it comes to preaching or teaching about Pentecost, I've found that people either try to explain away the supernatural signs – the rushing wind, tongues of fire, speaking in other languages – or more often, ignore them altogether and focus on other aspects of the story e.g. as the beginning of the Church.

Pentecost was a wonderful event, a time when God came to people in a whole new way, something to really celebrate. The difficulty with Pentecost is that it is all a bit supernatural and kind of tricky to explain and - *let's be honest* - makes some of us a bit nervous. So how do we handle it? Is it better to focus on other things in the story? I don't think so!

When we see signs of the Holy Spirit's presence we need to celebrate, even if it "throws" us for a moment and it isn't quite what we had planned. We need to celebrate not so much the signs themselves, but that God is here with us and powerfully at work for good.

I know that by the time you read this Pentecost may well have already passed but I hope you are still thinking very much about the Holy Spirit, particularly His involvement in the mission of the early Church.

In the days and weeks that followed Pentecost the Church grew rapidly. Several times it is reported that '*the Lord added to their number, those who were being saved*'. One of the most important things for us to remember is what Jesus said to the disciples before he left: they needed to wait for the Holy Spirit to empower them to be witnesses. I don't think they knew much about evangelism programmes or techniques, important and helpful as these can be. The early church simply knew that they were dependent on God to bring new people into faith in Christ and so we find them very often at prayer seeking God's help and leading.

It is really important to review our mission and outreach plans: I'm not "knocking" that at all. We really need to ensure that mission, evangelism and making disciples are high priority in what we do and plan as Church. A church without mission at its heart would be like Coca-Cola deciding that their only aim is to run the cleanest, most perfectly tuned factory and forget that the purpose of the factory is to produce fizzy drinks; a church with no evangelism is like Northampton Saints management team focussing all their effort into running a nice club-house and forget all about their true purpose to be the best rugby team playing the most entertaining rugby.

It's also vital that we remember, like the early Church, that we depend on God to touch people's lives. We need to pray asking for His help and trusting in Him, being careful not to put our faith solely in the latest technique, or a "tried and trusted" method i.e. human effort alone. Remember that it is the Lord who adds to our number '*those who are being saved*'. When we pray for God's help and leading in outreach, and step out as His witnesses, He opens up opportunities in which we can simply share our faith. Our role as witnesses is more to "midwife" people another step or two further along the way of faith toward new birth in Christ, and that's where our training and mission strategy plans etc. come in.

So I invite you, encourage you, challenge you, particularly as we move on from Pentecost to pray more, to seek more of the working of the Holy Spirit, especially in our mission and outreach as churches and to be open to receive, to go with and to celebrate whatever the Holy Spirit is doing...

Yours in Christ,

Phil



News & Dates

June is a busy month at the Chapel and gives us opportunities to welcome people and get to know them.

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

Monday 1st June 7.30pm planning for

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

Mission at Astcote—Monday 8th June 7.30pm a further meeting with Rev Romeo Pedro to talk about how we share our faith.

Aspects of WW1—20th & 21st June—Chapel open both dates—more details on page 5

Church Council Meeting—Monday 22nd June 7.30pm

Don't forget—a Book Club for the community is held at Astcote on the last Wednesday evening of every month—contact Kate on 830115

Aspects of World War 1—20th & 21st June

There are a variety of events and displays across the Parish—at Holy Cross, in the area of the Detention Camp in Eastcote and at Astcote Chapel. At Astcote there will be a small display about the shoe industry and people who went to fight in World War 1 from the village. The event will be officially opened by Colin Chapman, Lord of Pattishall Manor, at Holy Cross, Pattishall at 11am on Saturday 20th June.

On Sunday 21st June at 2pm a talk will be given at Astcote Chapel about the Detention Camp at Eastcote.

The Chapel will be open 11-5pm on Saturday 20th, and 12-5pm on Sunday 21st (following our Family Service at 10.30am). Refreshments will be available on both days.

Victoria Sandwich and Tea Bread will be served in keeping with the era and donations would be very welcome.

Please contact Ann on 830907 if you are able to help serve teas or donate a cake.

Any profits, after expenses, will be sent to the Royal Star & Garter Home which was set up in 1916 for injured service men and their families.

This event has been organised and run by people across our community—come and find out more about where we live.

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 is an outing on

Thursday 25th June Coton Manor

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

PRAYER

Great and generous God,
we give our thanks to you today for life in all
its fullness and the joyful hope that your
kingdom values will permeate our world
entirely.

We thank you for our Lord Jesus who came
among us, gave his all for us, is among us,
and moves ahead of us, encouraging us to
accompany him.

We pray that you will continue to give us
grace to follow, even through the darkness of
the cross to the glorious light of the
resurrection.

Amen.

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)