



# ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

*News & Notices—September 2015*

## **6th September**

10.30am Miss Pam Kirkland

## **13th September**

10.30am Rev Romeo Pedro : HC

## **20th September**

**10.30am Family Service** : Mr John Atkin

## **27th September**

10.30am Mr Ian Harrison

On Duty at 10.30am Sept– Stretton/Bell Oct—Gulliford/Sue/Roz
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## **Eastcote Baptist Chapel**

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

[www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk](http://www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk)

## ***Ministers Letter for September from Rev Romeo Pedro***

Someone asked some time ago: “So what is this church stuff all about...?”

He continued to assert: “Just because we call ourselves ‘church’ does not mean we are church, it just means that is what we call ourselves. After all, by calling myself an astronaut doesn’t make me an astronaut. And by being an astronaut in name only is a real turn off to others considering being an astronaut themselves – after all, who wants to join a bunch of astronauts who never go up into space?”

It made me think of these words of Pope Francis, in his address from St Peter’s Square on 18 May 2013: “Today’s world stands in great need of witnesses, not so much of teachers but rather witnesses. It’s not so much about speaking, but rather speaking with our whole lives.”

We are only ‘church’ to the extent that as a community we incarnate the life and teachings of Jesus in the world in which we live. So what does it mean to incarnate Jesus in our living?

We incarnate Jesus by hungering for what he hungers for – and he hungers for no one to be hungry. We incarnate Jesus by bravely loving those who he loves – and he especially loves those who others think should not be loved. We incarnate Jesus by forgiving those who he forgives – ourselves and others, when we least deserve it. We incarnate Jesus by trusting in what he trusts in: that truthfulness is liberating; that gentleness is real power; that generous giving is actually abundant receiving; that we have come from love and to love we will return, and therefore we need not fear to love here and now.

The world’s third largest international sports event, the Rugby World Cup comes to the UK during September/October 2015. Involved are 20 national squads - including all the home nations, 48 games and 50 training centres, 400,000 visitors from over 100 nations. What does it mean for us to incarnate Jesus in the

context of the Rugby World Cup and beyond?



Friends, we incarnate Jesus by living out this hymn by Marty Haugen called:

All are Welcome...

Let us build a house  
where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where  
saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions;

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found  
In water, wine and wheat:  
A banquet hall on holy ground,  
Where peace and justice meet.

Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
Is revealed in time and space;  
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place. (Marty Haugen©)

Robert Schnase in his book *5 Practices of Fruitful Congregations* refers to this as Radical hospitality: "people offering the absolute utmost of themselves, their creativity, their abilities, and their energy to offer the gracious invitation and reception of Christ to others".

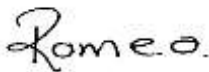
Jesus said his followers were to be like lights on a hilltop -

- good news for travellers in the dark, offering direction and the promise of a welcome – and that the things they do to make this happen should cause others to praise God. The World Cup 2015 gives us the opportunity to make that a reality in our communities. It is another great occasion to make Christ's love visible - to incarnate Jesus.

Robert Schnase makes the point that: "Churches practicing Radical Hospitality offer a surprising and unexpected quality of depth and authenticity in their caring for the stranger. Newcomers intuitively sense that."

My prayer is that we will make every effort and plan during this time (and after this) to invite people into our chapels. I appeal to each of you that we will incarnate Christ, by welcoming the strangers into the community of love – Christ's Church!

Grace

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Romeo." The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

(Thank you for embracing a stranger like me.)

Rev Romeo Pedro

*A Prayer ....*

*Loving God, our Father and our Mother,  
You call each of us, by name, into a community  
In which your love is known and shared.  
Increase our joy in coming together,  
And transform us into the community of your vision,  
AMEN*

## News & Dates

**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.

If you can help in the morning with tidying the garden, dusting, window cleaning, wiping out cupboards, hovering, cleaning toilets etc. That would be great—every if just for an hour.

In the afternoon we will need cakes and helpers to serve teas. We hope to have a stall selling books and jigsaws. Please save any you may have for the stall—there is a box in the kitchen for donations. We will also need cakes and helpers on the day. Please fill in the rota at church or speak to Kate on 830115.

Thank you

**Mission Meeting:** Thursday 10th September 7.30pm  
with Rev Romeo Pedro Why not join us and be part of the future of Astcote Chapel?

**Church Council Meeting:** Monday 28th September  
7.30pm

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# Please support HomeStart in Daventry & South Northants .....

*Flower Arrangement Demonstration*

*From an experienced florist; unusual decorations; tips to help with arranging flowers.*

*Wednesday September 16th, 7.30 - 9.30pm*

*Pattishall Parish Small Hall*

*Light Refreshments / Raffle / Tickets £10 each*

*Everybody Welcome*

Tickets available from Yvonne Orchard 01327 830528

## THE WELCOMERS

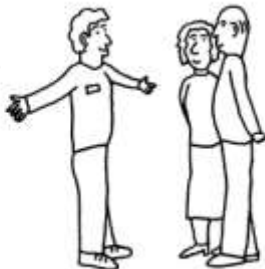
IT IS THE  
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TO BE  
WELCOMING  
AND WEAR  
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OF ANY  
NEWCOMERS  
ATTENDING  
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SUMMONED  
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THE SAME  
PEOPLE  
DO NOT  
HAVE TO BE  
WELCOMING  
EVERY WEEK



**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 September 24th.

**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)