



ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices—June 2016

5th June

9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30am led by Worship Leaders

12th June

10.30am Rev John Marriott HC

19th June—Family Service

10.30am Mr Paul Wilson

26th June

10.30am Dcn Richard Beckett

3rd July—9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30 The Congregation

Eastcote Baptist Chapel

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

5th June—Rev Tina Swire

On Duty at 10.30am

June-Stretton/Bell

July-Gulliford/Roz/Sue

www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk

Ministers Letter A group of African porters were once rushing through the jungle at a ridiculous pace set by the Europeans who had hired them. Eventually they got to a clearing and sat down. The Europeans tried to get them moving again but the head porter said, “No, we’re not moving. We’ve come so far and so fast that we now have to wait for our souls to catch up with us.”

I have recently been pondering on Mark 1: 29-39. We read that Jesus goes home with Simon where Simon's mother-in-law is very ill and Jesus heals her. It's a touching story of remarkable particularity in Jesus' ministry. It reveals his care for and commitment to the individuals who had chosen to follow him.

There is no question, when we read this story, that God is a personal God, available to each of us individually.

But, then, immediately after this story, we discover the whole community gathering at the door of the house - bringing their needs to Jesus. And, again, with this nameless crowd, Jesus is present, available, and compassionate.

Finally, after taking some time out to recharge, the disciples tell Jesus that people are looking for him, but he tells them that they must continue on to other villages in the region to minister to others.

It's like the Gospel writer wants to show us how Jesus' ministry moved so comfortably from the individual to the community. It is encouraging to see how Jesus moved so easily from serving a friend's mother-in-law to serving a whole town. Perhaps we can't all do this. Some of us are, perhaps, more able to serve one-on-one (that's me!), bringing God's grace to individuals one at a time. In this way, we represent one aspect of Christ's grace to others. Others of us may be more effective at serving groups, but find one-on-one ministry difficult. In this way, we represent the other aspect of Christ's grace.

Both of these are valid and valuable ways to serve. When we can partner with each other, so that both individuals and groups are well served, then we are able to more fully embody Christ's message and grace. This is one of the reasons why the Church remains an important organisation.

However we may serve, though, it's important to take note of the fact that even Jesus needed to take time out by himself to pray, to rest, and to recharge his energies. When we fail to manage our health like this, our ministry will inevitably begin to lose its effectiveness. We do well, though, when we follow Christ's example, and make time for the things that restore us. Then, when we have recharged, we can return to service with enthusiasm and strength.

Remember the image of our porters at the beginning of this letter? The pace of daily life is accelerating and the demands are unremitting. It's as if we got on the slow train that stops at every little village, but instead of chugging its way gently through the countryside it gets faster and faster, accelerating steadily and relentlessly, streaming through every station, until the carriage is swaying alarmingly and we're hanging on to our seats and to our luggage – and the speed still increases! When is it going to come off the tracks?

In a culture where speed and the ability to 'pack in more' is becoming self-defeating, many people are crying out for space. They long to slow down.

We need to build some slowing – down time into our lives. Then we can listen to the quiet whispers of God. We need to create times for stopping and resting.

Slowing down is a vital part of the spiritual journey. Then we can stop panicking about when we're going to come off the

Slowing down is a vital part of the spiritual journey. Then we can stop panicking about when we're going to come off the rails, and start noticing the fascinating countryside we're travelling through..

How best do you serve God and others - in groups, or one-on-one? How can you do more of this today? How can you value and respect the way others serve God? And as you serve, how can you make time to rest and recharge?

Grace

Romeo.

Rev Romeo Pedro



News & Dates

Looking ahead to June and 2016

By the time you read this the Plant Sale will have happened and we will be working on plans for Messy Church on 11th June. For a small church there is a lot going on. As well as our Sunday morning services where we enjoy being part of our Church Family, our members are involved in Schools Work, Street Pastors, Christian Motorcycle Association, and other loving, caring activities showing our Christian faith to our local community such as running and organising Good Neighbours, Youth Club, WI and much more. Whatever we do in our lives can be seen as worship and serving God and our neighbour. We all have a part to play.

do in our lives can be seen as Worship and serving God and our neighbour. We all have a part to play.

Messy Church Saturday 11th June 2-4.30pm at the Parish Hall: Why not join us if you, see what goes on and meet new friends. (Planning 7.30pm Monday 6th June at the Chapel)

Tuesday evenings : Worship Time Everyone is welcome to join a few of the musicians and other members of the congregation for a time of worship—singing new and old songs as led by the Holy Spirit. We arrive from 7pm, and sing from 7.30pm-8.30pm. We have had friends from other churches join us and we will continue to do this (providing people are available) for the foreseeable future.

Sunday 10th July 10.30am Our Service will also be our Annual General Meeting led by Rev Tina Swire.

Travelling Blessings

Fiona recently spent some time on Iona in Scotland and she was prompted to write the following poem. First here are some words from Fiona

“I was sitting in the grounds of Iona Abbey contemplating the work of God and my experiences so far from being on the Island and it struck me how amazing it is that I have no lock on my door, I thought about island life and how cooperation is the key to survival and with that comes trust. So then I pondered on how much we rely on all the material things we put our trust in and maybe it's the islanders we can learn from, locks can be picked, money can be stolen but trust in God and that can never be taken and we are rich indeed!

Cont'd

Then the poem just popped out! Thanks Holy Spirit for writing it through me! “

Security

Throw away all your locks, your keys, your safes,
You do not need them here.
Instead put your trust in the Lord,
He makes all things new.

Time? Think you have enough?
It can go so slowly, so swiftly, it's passing you by.
The question is not what is time to you, but who?
God is time.

God is all things to all men,
So come eat, he will sustain you,
Come rest, he will walk with you,
Come and be, and be who you were always meant to be,
Where? At his side.

Lean not on money, or power, they are but dust,
Lean not on career, or friends, or status,
But instead trust in the Lord and be secure.
Put your trust in Him, He is the key.



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 Thursday 30th June, visit to Hope Centre leaving Astcote 11.50am

Monday Club (Reception, Years 1 & 2)

'Sunday School' after school 3.15-4.15pm ..

Not meeting in May

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)