



# ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

## *News & Notices—July 2016*

### **3rd July**

9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Service from Iona

### **10th July**

10.30am Rev Tina Swire AGM HC

### **17th July—Family Service**

10.30am Dcn Richard Beckett

### **24th July**

10.30am Dawn Smith

### **31st July**—Service at Roade

10.30 John Atkin

### **Eastcote Baptist Chapel**

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

3rd July—Mr Ian Markey

On Duty at 10.30am

July-Gulliford/Roz/Sue

August—Hysom/Boenke

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

## Ministers letter from Rev Phil Snelson

At the end of June Revd Canon Margaret Johnson retired from ministry. She started here at the beginning of her ministry, as a curate, and served twenty one years in ministry at Emmanuel Group of Churches. She is a "larger-than-life" character and it is hard to say who will miss who more! But it is time for her to move on and it is also therefore time for the Emmanuel churches to move on too.

Each of our congregations is following a process called a "*Growth Action Plan*". We have prayed in preparation asking God to help us be open to His guiding and leading. We gave a Sunday morning over to working together in small groups. We reviewed congregational life and then, based on this, looked to the future and our hopes & dreams for where we might be in five years' time. As the final part of the morning we set five specific actions that would move us forward over the next year and different groups of people committed to take on each action to progress and report back. It is really important that as many people are directly involved and own the vision as possible.

Most recently I shared in Rectory Farm's vision time for their Growth Action Plan. There were three working groups, one of which was mostly children, primary school age and younger, with their leaders. We found much to celebrate in our church: worship & God's love, our sense of community, family and genuine welcome, care and support and that we liked to have fun together. We were concerned about being relatively small in number as a church and particularly our lack of teenagers in the congregation on Sunday mornings.

The vision time looking forward rather took me by surprise - should have had more faith! All three groups independently came up with very similar ideas including the children, who were particularly impressive. In five years' time we hope to have grown in number and to see people growing deeper in their faith and love for God and each other; to be meeting in our own building (*we meet in a school*); to have a thriving children and youth work.

For the next year we plan to:

Pray for our vision – already featured in several services, and a bookmark for individuals to help them in praying for the vision

A specific working party to explore possibilities for a building

Follow a course to develop faith – “Fruitfulness on the Frontline”; men’s group already started, others to follow soon.

To take a lead in an event in the wider community – e.g. act of service like a tidy up of the walk-ways followed by a BBQ

To organize a “Fun Event”

All this has encouraged us that God is with us and has given us a renewed sense of purpose and direction that we share as a church. I wonder: Does your church have a Growth Action Plan for the coming year? Do you know what it is? How are you involved?

May God help you to know and love Him more fully, and to encourage others to do the same!

*Phil*

Rev Phil Snelson

Phil is the Methodist Minister based at Emmanuel Church, Weston Favell (A Local Ecumenical Partnership)



## News & Dates

Messy Church on 11th June was well attended. Our theme was being invited to the Party (Luke 14 v15-23) with activities such as Donut Bobbing, Too-Busy Obstacle Course, Decorating Balloons, and hitting the Pinatas which proved to be the most popular of them all! Here are some photos:



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.

Boenke BBQ Steve & Wendy have kindly invited members/friends to a BBQ one Sunday in August. We are just waiting to check the date with a few more people but will confirm that very soon.

Circuit Service Sunday 2nd October 6pm—visit from Rev Dr Val Ogden from the British Methodist Church in Fiji, at Park Avenue Methodist Church in Northampton.

Messy Church 8th October date for your diary. Would you be willing to help? Please let Kate, Jackie or Ann know.

Manna & Mercy Bible Study—a 10 week journey from Genesis to Revelation led by Rev Romeo Pedro Tuesday evenings from 11th October 7.30-8.45pm at St Andrews Methodist Church, Harlestone Road. Register with Ann in the Circuit Office—see poster at Chapel

28th October 7pm at Astcote ... 'Old Friends' - an evening of songs from Bob Dylan to the Beach Boys. Led by Stephen Beer, Steve Pointer, Dave Tomlin and others. A fun evening in aid of EVE (Nene Valley Christian Family Refuge). Raffle prizes donations (non-alcoholic) very welcome.

**A Prayer of Reconciliation following the  
EU Referendum  
from the Church of England**

Eternal God, Light of the nations,  
in Christ you make all things new:

Guide our nation in the coming days through the  
inspiration of your Spirit,  
that understanding may put an end to discord and  
all bitterness.

Give us grace to rebuild bonds of trust  
that together we may work for the  
dignity and flourishing of all;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



**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

No Meeting July & August

29th Sept : Janet Robinson from Uganda

**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

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