



ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices—August 2016

7th August

9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Rev Alan Sharp

14th August

10.30am Rev Malcolm Oliver HC

21st August—Family Service

10.30am John Atkin

28th August

10.30am Ian Harrison

On Duty at 10.30am

August—Hysom/Boenke

Sept— Stretton/Bell

Eastcote Baptist Chapel

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

7th August—Mr M Mabbutt

www.astcotemethodistchurch.org.uk

Ministers letter from Rev Tina Swire

As you read this I will just have returned from holiday in Canada, and so I am reflecting on family.

I am going to Newfoundland and Labrador. It is the land of icebergs and whales, adventurers and song. And it is only about four or five hours away, depending on the jet stream.

It is also the place of my birth. My family, or families as family trees go, all came from the UK and settled in Newfoundland many generations ago. You can still pick out Elizabethan riffs in some of the folk music. Pirates hid out. Fortunes were made from the cod fishery. We have had wars fought on our soil for sovereignty, mostly because of the cod fishery. We have answered the monarch's call and our children sleep in the Somme and other places. During the cold war when planes needed to stop and refuel at Gander, it became known as the hole in the iron curtain and a site of defection into a new world.

It is one of my families, the family of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Then there is my immediate family; my Dad, sisters, brothers, brother in law and nieces. And my Dad is one of ten, so I am longing to be with all of them; aunties and uncles and cousins, this loud, loving, messy, glorious thing called family.

And I am also aware that I do not have so much a family tree as a family rainforest, and all the branches lead right back to here, my UK family.

And I also have another family.

Jesus once said that "Whoever does God's will is my brother, sister and mother." This teaching was so important to the early church that it is recorded by Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Family, for Jesus, was both an earthly reality and a spiritual one as well. As family, in all our history, stories, in our joys and struggles, messiness and love, we point to something about the way of God. There is something here about the faith not being lived in a vacuum, but in the endless possibilities and hope of relationships, with God, between ourselves, within ourselves and with creation itself.

The will of God is to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God, as the prophet Micah tells us. It is about trusting in and sharing the love, hope peace and joy of God. It is about knowing that we are not alone. God is with us, creating, redeeming and sustaining in all things.

All these families I am part of are linked by faith. Lawrence Coughlan came to Newfoundland to be with people who were doing the dangerous job of fishing the north Atlantic, but not sharing in its full economic benefits. They may be taking the risks, but someone else saw the benefits.

Coughlan came and lived and shared and lived the will of God. It so inspired a people that they built him a church from trees they cut down themselves from the forest. It was not an insubstantial church.

From such acts of faith and faithfulness a family of faith grew and I have returned to my family here.

May we all live as the family of God, living justice, mercy love, peace, joy and love in all the families we live in. For we are not alone. God is with us. Thanks be to Jesus.

Rev Tina Swire



News & Dates

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.

Boenke BBQ—Sunday 14th August 1pm Steve & Wendy have kindly invited members/friends to a BBQ one Sunday in August. I will check with everyone nearer the time to see what we can bring.

Circuit Service Sunday 2nd October 6pm at Park Avenue Methodist Church—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.

Sunday Afternoon Teas: Make the most of the weather and go out for afternoon tea at Litchborough Parish Church, Great Billing Methodist Chapel (see posters in the kitchen) or at Holy Cross, Pattishall on 7th August and 4th September.



A Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, so many people in this world are prevented from reaching their true potential, whether by being oppressed by others, or by lacking confidence in their own abilities. Reach out to them, Lord, and lift them. Show them that you love and value them for who they are, not what they have, or have not, done.

You were able to use ordinary people like fishermen and bring out the best in them in order to spread your word of love, peace, joy and justice. Be close, now, to the oppressed of this world, those seeking justice, those whose lives are torn apart by wars, those who are being bullied. You are truly our Saviour, and we pray in your name. Amen

From the Methodist Church website: www.methodist.org.uk

Space to Think

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 in August

29th Sept : Janet Robinson from Uganda

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)