



ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

News & Notices—April 2017

2nd April

9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Rev Romeo Pedro (Holy Communion)

9th April—Palm Sunday

10.30am Mr John Atkin

Tuesday 11th April—Service for Holy Week

7.30pm Deacon Richard Beckett

16th April—Easter Family Celebration

9.30am Easter Breakfast

10.30am Dcn Richard Beckett

23rd April

10.30am Mr Isaac Agyapong

30th April

10.30am Mr Paul Barford

Eastcote Baptist Chapel

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

More details on
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On Duty at 10.30am
April– Gulliford/Roz/Sue
May– Hysom/Boenke

Ministers Letter from Rev Phil Snelson

On Easter Sunday little Johnny listened as his Sunday school teacher told the class that the lesson would be about the meaning of Easter. "Can anyone tell us the Easter story?" she asked. When no one volunteered to speak, she called on Jimmy. "Umm, I don't think I know," Jimmy said. The teacher reassured him that was okay and moved on to Betty. "I don't know how to tell it," she responded.

Finally, little Johnny decided to raise his hand. He said he would tell the Easter story. The teacher was pleasantly surprised at his willingness, since he was usually the class clown. "On Easter," said Johnny, "Jesus and his disciples were eating the Jewish Passover at the last supper, but later Jesus was deceived and turned over to the Romans by one of his disciples. He was accused of teaching he was the Messiah and when he confessed it, the Romans made him to wear a crown of thorns, took him to be crucified, and he was hung on a cross with nails through his hands and feet. He said 'It is finished' which means 'Debt paid in full' and died. He was definitely dead because the water was separated from his blood when they stabbed his side. So they buried him in a nearby cave on Friday which was sealed off by a large boulder."

"Very good, Johnny!" the teacher gasped excitedly. "And what else happened that we celebrate on Easter?"

Johnny thought for a moment before continuing. "Now, on Easter Sunday each year, we move the boulder aside so that Jesus can come out. And if he sees his shadow, then we know there will be six more weeks of winter!"

... and he was doing so well!

In some ways it is much easier to speak of the great sacrifice and death of Jesus. It is extraordinary, but it need not be seen as supernatural if you really don't want to. People will probably listen if you want to talk about Jesus as a good, even a great moral teacher and may even be persuaded to acknowledge a sad and horrible, yet sacrificial death. But that is not the end of the story, there is a very definite "to be continued" attached to the end of Good Friday.

On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead, and **the resurrection changes everything!** Jesus being raised from the dead cannot be anything else but supernatural and miraculous. Jesus was raised bodily, he wasn't just a spirit; they touched him; he ate with them; the physical nature of it is what makes it resurrection and it changes defeat into victory. The resurrection is the heart of Christian belief and our faith makes no sense without it. The resurrection changes everything.

As they journeyed toward Jerusalem I think the disciples felt an increasing confusion and Jesus' own heaviness of heart. Then with Jesus having been executed they must have been very fearful and grief stricken. And before they really had a chance to come to terms with all of that, first Mary, and then Peter and John discover that the tomb is empty. The disciples left, but Mary waited at the tomb and Jesus appeared to her in her grief and then you can see it, hear it, feel it; what a difference! She will not be swayed in her testimony to the risen Lord.

The resurrection changes everything!

The disciples all found this as Jesus appeared to them and their utter conviction of the truth of the resurrection, empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, changed the world. No one could change their minds. They were totally convinced.

Too easily we allow Christianity and ourselves to be pressed back into the good moral teaching, “one faith among many”, that our culture would very much prefer. We need to talk far more often about the resurrection, about our own experience of the risen, living Lord Jesus and seek to live with the conviction that knowing Jesus and the empowering of his Holy Spirit brings in our hearts. Let’s celebrate this Easter with joy and conviction, the wonder of Jesus’ loving sacrifice on the cross and the glorious fact of the resurrection that changes everything!

Have a blessed Easter,

Phil

Rev Phil Snelson is a Methodist Minister in the Northampton Circuit who is based at Emmanuel Church, Weston Favell



News & Dates

1st April 7.30pm 'Old Friends' at Harpole—

Tickets from Mary Burt 01604 831 365

Holy Week Service : Tuesday 11th April 7.30pm

This service will reflect on the events of Holy Week with Deacon Richard Beckett and include some modern hymns.

Easter Family Celebration Service 16th April

9.30am Easter Breakfast to include bacon sandwiches and cereal. Contact Ann on 830907 to book a seat.

Service at 10.30am led by Deacon Richard Beckett.

Please join us, even if you can't make breakfast!

Monday 24th April 7.30pm Church Council Meeting

Saturday 3rd June 2-4.30pm Annual Plant Sale—Please pot up any extra plants you have to be sold on the day

Saturday 10th June 2-4.30pm Messy Church

Fairtrade Afternoon Tea Saturday 4th March :

£174 raised for Church funds, plus over £40 towards our Easter Collection for Action for Children—thank you for your support.

Tuesday evenings : Worship Time 7.30-8.30pm

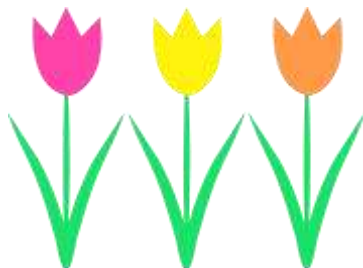
Everyone is welcome to join a few of the musicians and other members of the congregation for a time of worship. Arrive any time from 7pm. Check with Roz 830103.

Help Children Learn to Read

Pattishall Primary School would welcome anyone who could spare an hour or so on a regular basis to sit and help young children learn to read. This could be a rewarding time for both the helper and the child. Please speak to John Atkin or ring Pattishall School, 830301 and ask to speak to Mr Wood (Head Teacher).

Don't forget we have a Book Group ...

meeting on the last Wednesday of the month at 8pm and organised by Kate—next meeting 29th March. If you're interested find out more details by ringing Kate on 830115



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 or Ann Atkin on 830907

Thursday 30th March—Rev David Bown : Needs and pitfalls of rural Village Life in South India

Thursday 27th April– Margaret Williams :
the Challenge of William Carey

Monday Club (Reception, Years 1 & 2)

**'Sunday School' after school 3.15-4.15pm at
Pattishall Primary School**

Organised and run by John Atkin and Jackie Bell.

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.

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

For items or suggestions for this newsletter  
please contact::

Ann Atkin, Church Secretary on 830907

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