



# ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

*News & Notices—June 2017*

## **4th June—Pentecost**

9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Rev Romeo Pedro (Holy Communion)

## **11th June**

10.30am Mr Ian Harrison

## **18th June—Family Service**

10.30am Mr Keith Brooks

## **25th June**

10.30am the Congregation

## **2nd July—AGM**

9.30-10 Prayer for the Community

10.30am Rev John Marriott (Holy Communion)

## **Eastcote Baptist Chapel**

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

On Duty at 10.30am

June-Stretton/Bell

July-Gulliford/Roz/Sue

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

## **Ministers Letter from Rev Tina Swire**

Have you ever heard of Julia? She is my best friend. We have been best friends since we have been four. She lives in Vancouver, now. We haven't seen each other for about 20 years. We can go years without speaking to each other on the phone, and yet, when we do, we just pick up where we left off.

Friends like that are a gift. Deep, real, beyond even space and time, they are enduring and inspiring and comforting and altogether wonderful.

One of our friends in the faith is Prisca. Ever heard of her? She was a contemporary of Paul, one of his dearest friends and follower traveler in this journey of faith.

She is referenced only a few times in the Bible, however, the picture which comes across about her is one of courage, generosity, bravery, passion for Jesus and someone one not adverse to taking risks for the glory of God. She is warm and loyal. She teaches others about the faith. She runs a church from her home and in Romans 16, her group is the only one named as a church. Her deeds were well known in the early church .

Paul in his final letter, makes sure she is mentioned as one who is to receive his final greetings. Now there is a statement.

Maybe you have heard of her as Priscilla, which would have been her more informal, or nickname.

Perhaps you have not heard of her at all.

I believe Prisca is someone we should highlight more as a follower of Jesus and in whose example there is much to commend, if nothing else, because she highlights so much of our about discipleship. That is about being a friend of Jesus and one another.

Discipleship, being a friend, is about taking risks, about opening your heart, about being passionate, about being the church wherever, whenever and however you are. It is about being generous and sharing the story with others. It is about being passionate and compassionate.

It is about friendship. It is about being in a warm loving honest and real relationship with God, creation and the wider human family. It is about understanding that we are all called to be as sisters and brothers with one another, even if that comes at a cost and that cost is sometimes about reminding others of that truth.

This is real friendship; deep long lasting. Friendship with God and one another. It is the friendship which reconciles and makes all things new. It is the friendship of manger cross and empty tomb, which says I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

God ever calls us to be friends, especially to the strangers in our midst and to live real lasting friendship, trusting in Christ, our guide and our friend.

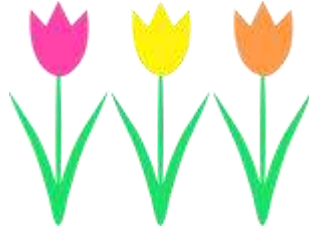
And let us draw inspiration from the friendship of those whose shoulders we stand on. They are there, waiting to listen and hear and tell their tale again, ready to pick up where we left off. For that is Christ's way.

## Tina



## *News & Dates*

**Saturday 3rd June 2-4.30pm Annual Plant Sale & Afternoon Tea**—Many thanks for your help and support. This is one of two regular events we hold in aid of Chapel funds.



**Saturday 10th June 2-4.30pm Messy Church** Unfortunately this has been cancelled as it clashed with various events and we just didn't have enough helpers.

**Help needed at Monday Club:** Could you be available on Monday afternoons (Term Time) for 1.5 hours to help John and Jackie? This is a great opportunity to share bible stories and simple activities with the young children at Pattishall School who we look upon as our 'Sunday School'. With up to 20 children attending it is important that we have one or two more people to help. Please speak to John 830907 or Jackie 01933 228829 to find out more.

**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 Fiona 830154 or Ann 830907.

## **Astcote AGM at our service on Sunday 2nd July**

As before, in recent years, we will hold our business meeting as part of our morning service ... don't worry this is not a painful experience! Rev John Marriott will lead us through the meeting and service which will include Holy Communion.

## **Looking ahead in the Circuit ...**

**Sunday 4th June 4.30pm Circuit Pentecost Service at Queensgrove Methodist Church in Kettering Road**

**Circuit Bible Study on the Book of James** will be held on Wednesday evenings during September at St Andrews Methodist Church in the Harlestone Road. Please put this in your diary now if you would like to attend.

**Manna & Mercy—led by Rev Romeo Pedro** This Bible Study Course will run again from 26th September taking you on a 10 week journey from Genesis to Revelation. Please see the details on the Notice board in the kitchen.





The recent announcement of a General Election surprised just about everyone. We now face questions as Christian disciples, not only about how we should vote, but also what we and our churches should be saying and doing during the campaign.

In the weeks leading up to the election, the Joint Public Issues Team will be offering reflections and balanced analysis, seeking to support Christians and local churches as they engage with the issues, and working to keep important things on the political agenda.

If you would like to have guidance on how to vote look at the website for the Joint Public Issues Team of Churches Working for Peace & Justice:

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



The Church of Scotland

The Methodist Church



**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

*29th June—Rachel Menon—Women's Worker at Moulton Parish Church*

*No Meetings in July and August*

**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.—see page 4 regarding extra help needed

**Book Group**—Last Wednesday in the month at 8pm—variety of books—contact Kate Stretton on 830115 for more information.

## **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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