

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



**ASTCOTE  
METHODIST CHURCH**

*News & Notices—May 2016*

**1st May**

9.30-10am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Mr John Atkin

**8th May**

10.30am Mrs Mary Winchcombe

**15th May—Family Service**

10.30am Mrs Norma Baxter

**22nd May**

10.30am Rev Tina Swire HC

**29th May**

10.30 Mr John Atkin

**Eastcote Baptist Chapel**

3pm Service on 1st Sunday in the month

**1st May—Wendy Manley**

On Duty at 10.30am  
May– Hysom/Boenke  
June–Stretton/Benn

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

## Ministers Letter May 2016.

They say that writing, or writing a sermon as a preacher is ninety percent perspiration and ten percent inspiration. Well it certainly feels like one of those occasions.

I recall a Beatles song Lady Madonna with the line, "Father McKenzie writing the words to a sermon that no one will hear". That line must have come from the Beatles themselves, Liverpool Lads! Christianity and The Church feature prominently in their local area, and when they worked with Sir George Martin who recently "passed to glory" it was sung across the world time and again and became part of our experience in "Popular Music".

Have you noticed something that has been going on this year with the number of music and entertainment personalities "passing to glory" heaven must have some new entertainment and shows going on!

"Lemmy" an extraordinary electric guitarist, song writer and vocalist, Lemmy was always loud, extra loud, I can see heaven emptying now. Shortly after Lemmy came David Bowie. Songwriter, musician, vocalist, film star amongst other things.

David Bowie was an acquired taste in contemporary music. What he did I believe over five decades or more was to connect with people of different generations and cultures in each of those decades.

When he "passed to glory" there was almost a Bowie wave of mourning and grief that struck the nation and spread across the world. It showed the way Bowie was enjoyed by so many people, he gave such a lot. I have never been a fan of The Eurovision Song Contest except when Abba was giving us something lasting with the song called "Waterloo". Where my enthusiasm lacked in Euro Vision it more than made up with Children in Need, I even had my own Pudsey Bear set up when I used to do School Assemblies.

If you can remember Children in Need then you can remember Sir Terry Wogan. I can remember when he

**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 26th May with Rev Romeo Pedro.

### **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

## ***All the Difference***

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't have time to pray.  
Problems just tumbled about me,  
and heavier came each task.  
'Why doesn't God help me?' I wondered.  
He answered, 'You didn't ask'.  
I wanted to see joy and beauty,  
but the day toiled on grey and bleak,  
I wondered why God didn't show me,  
He said 'But you didn't seek'.  
I tried to come into God's presence  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
'My child you didn't knock'.  
I woke up early this morning  
and paused before entering the day:  
I had so much to accomplish  
That I had to take time to pray.

signed off from Radio 2 Breakfast Show, now hosted by Chris Evans. It stopped the nation! He wrote out his script in full because he knew that it was to be an emotional experience and he would have to hold things together. What made Sir Terry Wogan? We did! His own personality and character and his audience or world congregation.

Now for my next trick. A few days ago Paul Daniels the Magician of Magicians said a fond farewell and goodbye for now. You couldn't fail not to be impressed by his magic skills and talents, Magicians held him in very high esteem. He cut his teeth and developed his act in the northern places where people had to be enticed out and it was hard to make them laugh. What is magic? It is the art of deception in a nice way and were we entertained? Yes we were, so thank you Paul Daniels.

I mentioned earlier, Sir George Martin known as the Fifth Beatle, with his musical gifting of musical arrangement, song, and the production of music being his forte. Even my father who is a bit of a Philistine when it came to music (and they are his words not mine) said to me one day. Do you know John "The Beatles are as popular as Jesus Christ". Talk about my father mixing the secular with the divine, which incidentally is very woven together is quite a profound thing to say. The Beatles lived to alter the course of developing popular music. Back then, I did agree with my father's view, today as I have come to faith I would dispute it quite strongly, but that doesn't really matter. Legacy has become a popular word particularly after large sporting events.

Jesus didn't solely come to be popular, in fact he made a lot of enemies, and he did not come to entertain either although I am sure he could hold people's attention bound by what he did and what he said. Cont'd over

The way he lived, the way he died, the way he rose again, his character, personality and the divine nature of God shone through him.

I have undoubtedly missed people who have also "passed to glory" including the voice of Lady Penelope of Thunderbirds fame, Gerry Andersons wife (by the way I am sure Lady Penelope was a Methodist). All these people leave a great gift to us in life, life in all its fullness, the difference is that Jesus is an eternal gift for which we should all be truly thankful to God.

Every blessing in Jesus

Rev John Marriott

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## *News & Dates*

### Looking ahead to April and 2016 ....

#### **School Visit from Namibia 4-7th May**

#### **BBQ at Astcote Wednesday 4th May 6pm**

A group of 8 children aged 11-12 years, and 3 teachers from Romeo's former school in Namibia will be visiting Northampton. A wide range of activities is being arranged for them and on their first evening they will be coming to Astcote for a BBQ. We will need the help of some of the congregation who we hope will join us and provide some salads, puddings etc.

#### Church Council Meeting: 7.30pm Monday 9th May

Final SHAPE session with Rev Romeo Pedro for those who attended the Lent Course will be on Tuesday 24th May 7pm Bring & Share meal and final thoughts/plans for Astcote and individuals.

Well Group : Thursday 26th May 12-2pm This ladies lunch group will be pleased to welcome Rev Romeo Pedro. If you would like to go for lunch please contact Alison Brierley on 830770, or come along about 1pm to hear Romeo speak.

Saturday 4th June Plant Sale & Afternoon Tea 2-4.30pm Plants, Cakes, Publicity and helpers on the day are needed. Please speak to Ann, 830907, if you can help in any way.

Messy Church Saturday 11th June 2-4.30pm at the Parish Hall: 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 join us and we will continue to do this (providing people are available) for the foreseeable future.

John & Jackie Bell have moved..... their new address is:

7 Mears Ashby Road, Wilby, Northants, NN8 2UQ

Tel: 01933 228829

Fortunately for us they we still be with us as members at Astcote.