

**Northampton Methodist Circuit Team Ministry**

Superintendent: Rev Romeo Pedro

Rev. Phil Snelson    Deacon Richard Beckett

Rev Francis M'ltiiri

Rev Brian Kennard    Rev Alan Sharp

**Contact point is Circuit Office: 01604 702 178**

**Wootton Trinity Church, High Street, Wootton, NN4 6LP**

~~~~~

*The Chapel and Ministers are available for Baptisms,  
Weddings and Funerals.*

~~~~~

**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

[ann.atkin51@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.atkin51@btinternet.com)

**ASTCOTE METHODIST  
CHURCH**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL**

*News & Notices—April 2019*

**7th April**

**9.30-10am Prayer for the Community**

10.30am Dawn Smith

**Saturday 13th April—Messy Church**

**2-3.30pm at Holy Cross, Pattishall**

**14th April—Palm Sunday**

10.30am Rev Romeo Pedro HC

**21st April—Easter Day Family Service**

9.30am Easter Breakfast

10.30am Dcn Richard Beckett

**28th April—Circuit Service—no service at Astcote**

10.30am Service at Park Avenue Methodist Church NN3 2HT

**5th May**

**9.30-10am Prayer for the Community**

10.30am Mrs Firita Pedro

**Eastcote Baptist Chapel 3pm**

**Service on 1st Sundays**

On Duty at 10.30am

April –Gulliford/Roz/  
Sue

May– Hysom/Boenke



Dearest Friends

One of the great privileges of the faith is that we get to participate with Jesus in what God is doing in the world. This is far more than just praying a personal prayer to receive God's life or 'doing evangelism' to 'get people saved'. It's watching to see what God is already doing, where God's life is already breaking out, and then responding to this by co-creating, co-caring and co-welcoming people. This is how we, and those whom God touches through us, really connect with and experience God's life.

The big challenge this month (as we celebrate the Risen Christ), then, is to discover where in your world resurrection is beginning - or continuing - to break out. But, then we also need to respond to these signs of resurrection. We need to ask how God wants us to participate, to notice, to communicate and to spread the life of God.

So often we feel that we have to make things happen, and that the initiative begins with us. The resurrection helps us to recognise that the initiative is always God's. God's life is always breaking out whether we see it or not. Our task is not to make anything happen, but to respond – to get on board with – what God is already doing.

This is a liberating and empowering thought, but also a challenging one.

We can choose to do our own thing, or nothing, but if we really want to encounter God and be involved in Gospel work, we'd better recognise and respond to God's thing!

The Gospel of Luke doesn't tell us why Cleopas and his unnamed friend were travelling to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), but once they had encountered the Risen Christ, they quickly changed their plans and rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples.

It was clear that the experience of the resurrection changed everything for them, and they could not go about their lives as before.

**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.

25th April—Caroline Gooch will speak about Age UK Northamptonshire

Contact Alison Brierley on 830770 or Ann Atkin on 830907 if you would like to join us.

**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— helpers needed, speak to John on 830907, if you are interested.

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



## Developing young people into responsible adults.

Lighthouse Trust (Northampton) was formed in September 1997 and was registered as a charity on 21st October 1998 with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (No. 1072069). Lighthouse Trust has a view to establish an ongoing support to children and young people in the community. The Trust has a Christian ethos, but is committed in serving children and young people regardless of creed, race or faith.

The Director of the Trust, Richard Kinning, has worked with children and young people in various capacities including clubs and schools for many years. Education support began with just nine visits in 1990 and the work has grown to around 300 visits a year.

The trust is overseen by a Director working in cooperation with the Trustees and they are involved in over thirty-five primary schools. We are active in community projects, as well as school and church support, in and around Northampton.

Thank you for supporting us with your Easter offering.

Two responses stand out in this resurrection encounter.

The first is the change in priorities. Whatever business had been important enough to take these two people to Emmaus quickly became less important in the light of Jesus' appearance. When faced with the resurrection priorities change. When we become resurrection people, our lives cannot help but be rooted in the life and mission of God.

The second response that these two disciples made was to rush back and share their experience with the others. God's life always draws us to connect with others and to share the life we have experienced. This may mean telling those around us about what we have experienced, or it may mean silently serving and loving them so that they experience God's life for themselves through us.

How does Jesus' resurrection change your priorities this month? And how can you share your experience of God's life with others?

The first believers understood the importance of community. They gathered in order to share their experiences of God's life with each other, but also to create a community in which others could see God's life at work. This is why it is so important for us to gather with other Christ-followers in churches and small groups. We cannot effectively share God's life alone. This month, dear friends, try to make some time to connect with other believers, even if it's only by email or a phone call.

Grace

*Romeo.*



## News & Dates

### What's happening during Lent?

**Lent Course at Astcote Chapel**— 'The Mystery of God' on the following Tuesdays at 7.30pm:

2nd April with Rev Phil Snelson

9th April with Rev Romeo Pedro

Everyone is invited

### **CIRCUIT SERVICE 28TH APRIL 10.30AM AT**

**Park Avenue Methodist Church,**

**Park Avenue North, NN3 2HT**

### **THANK YOU**

#### **Sat 16th March—Fair Trade Sale & Afternoon Tea**

The Karibuni charity who work with children and young people in Kenya had some beautiful craft items for sale and they sold £160 worth of goods.

£157 was raised for Church funds. Many thanks for your support and being part of an enjoyable afternoon.

### **FUTURE DATES**

**Saturday 1st June—Plant Sale**

**Friday 26th July 7.30pm—Sara Spade & The Noisy Boys**

**Tickets available after Easter**

## EASTER SERVICES

An

hour

at

the

Foot of the Cross

3pm

Good

Friday

19<sup>th</sup>

April

Led by Rev Phil Snelson

At the end of the service we will leave quietly

### **Easter Sunday Family Celebration**

**9.30am Easter Breakfast—Cereal & Bacon Butties—  
book a seat with Kate 830115**

**10.30am Family Service led by Dcn Richard Beckett**

**The Easter Offering will be for The Lighthouse Trust in Northampton who take the Christian Message into schools lwith Assemblies, Workshops, RE Lessons etc.**