

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

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

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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.

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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically as a pdf file please let me know via

ann.atkin51@btinternet.com

For items or suggestions for this newsletter please contact::

Ann Atkin, Church Secretary on 830907

ann.atkin51@btinternet.com

ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL

March 2020

1st March

9.30am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Rev Phil Snelson : HC

8th March

10.30am Mary Winchcombe

15th March—Family Service

10.30am Rev Phil Snelson

22nd March—Mothering Sunday

10.30am Linda Leathersich

29th March

10.30am Dcn Richard Beckett

5th April—Palm Sunday

9.30am Prayer for the Community

10.30am Rev Phil Snelson : HC

On Duty at 10.30am

March-Stretton/Bell

April-Gulliford/Roz

HC = Holy Communion

Dear Friends,

It is good to be writing to you in the context of my “new” (adjusted) role as a full-time minister with the Northampton Methodist Churches. I have completed my transition out of the full-time appointment at Emmanuel and will now only be an occasional visitor. I am looking forward to spending more time with you all!

I am particularly looking forward to Lent and our Bible studies at Roade, Park Avenue and St Andrews. We are using material from Churches Together in Britain & Ireland and it is based on the story of the Emmaus road and the disciples remarking how their *‘hearts burned within them’* as Jesus opened the Scriptures to them while they walked. We’re not asking you to literally walk, but it would be good for as many as possible to “walk together” through this series of studies during Lent. We’ve also planned with the Local Preachers & Worship Leaders to follow the same scripture passages in the services. This means we’ll all begin thinking about the scripture on Sunday and then to look further together in the study groups in the week. Meeting together is so important as we learn from each other, encourage one another and pray together – I do understand not everyone is able to be there in the week, but do please join us if you can.

The Bible is a book like no other, a most wonderful library of writings through which God speaks to us in such a special way... and there is always more to discover even if you’ve read a verse or passage many times before. Sometimes in a particular moment God speaks just the right a word into our hearts as we read or as the Spirit reminds us of his Word. I will always remember a time I was on a train to London, reading from Ephesians 4 verse 11-16. I use the NLT as my general reading translation and in this passage it talks about how God is at work through leaders

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.

26th March—Kate Duncan of St. Peter’s Brackley will speak about ‘Developing a Ministry’

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– if you would like to get involved please speak to John on 830907.

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

An Opening Meditation from the Bible Study Material
for Lent:

Unless the eye catch fire
The God will not be seen.

Unless the ear catch fire
The God will not be heard.

Unless the tongue catch fire
The God will not be named.

Unless the heart catch fire
The God will not be loved.

Unless the mind catch fire
The God will not be known.

William Blake

and ministries helping the church to grow 'in every way more and more like Christ' and that this will 'continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.' And I felt most surely that God was whispering to me: "That's my plan for you." Just read it again slowly. What an astonishing and incredible privilege that God will make us in every way like Jesus Christ, that we will measure up to Him!!! Not, of course, through our own efforts but by the glorious grace of God. My heart lifts in thanks and praise every time I think of it – you might even say it "burns" within me!

I wonder what experiences you have of God inspiring you through the Scriptures? Be encouraged and share God's encouragement to you with others. Pray and ask Jesus to open his word to you, and may your heart "burn" within as he does.

God's richest blessings in Christ,

Phil

Rev Phil Snelson



News & Dates

LENT COURSE

Setting our Hearts on Fire

The Lent Course will run across the Circuit at

Roade : Mondays 12.30-1pm

Park Avenue : Wednesdays 7.30pm

St Andrews : Thursdays 10.30am

For 5 weeks from 1st March led by our Ministers.

Preaching each Sunday will be linked to the Course.

Pick up a list of the dates and bible readings/
themes for each week at church



Looking ahead to Easter ...

Here are some dates for your diary:

Maundy Thursday 9th April 7pm The Lord's Supper in the Upper Room led by Rev Phil Snelson in our Upper Room

Good Friday 10th April 10-12.30pm Easter Eggsplosion—Easter Workshop for Primary/Junior School children— booking essential, contact John Atkin 830907 or john.atkin51@btinternet.com

Easter Day 12th April 9pm Easter Breakfast, followed by Easter Celebration Service at 10.30pm led by Pam Kirkland

Our Easter Offering this year will be both money and grocery donations for the Towcester Food Bank. Although Harvest is the traditional time for this, stocks can run low at the Food Bank in the middle of the year.

As a special offering during Lent we will try to fill a box with Easter Eggs/Chocolates until Sunday 22nd March when they can go to the Food Bank to be given out as treats—please bring your donations any Sunday.



MONTHLY FOOD BANK ALERT—Don't forget to leave a contribution at your local supermarket. Especially needed at the moment are: Squash, Cartons of Apple/Orange juice, Tinned Sponge Puddings and instant Coffee.

