

ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL

January 2021 Newsletter

Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown the Church Council decided that there will be no church services but the Chapel will be open for a time of private prayer and prayer for the community on

Sundays 10th, 24th and 31st January, 10-10.30am

~~~~~

Weekly services are available via the Northampton Methodist Website, together with podcasts and other information:

[Northampton Methodist Circuit – Website of the Northampton Methodist Circuit \(methodist-churches-northampton.org.uk\)](http://methodist-churches-northampton.org.uk)

If you need to speak to a Minister, for any reason, please contact our Pastoral Minister

Rev Phil Snelson on

07906 627650



## ***Welcome & Happy New Year!***

It is sad that we have once again had to suspend services but services are available via the Methodist Circuit website website and we continue to have a regular 30 minute Zoom meeting on Monday evenings at 7.30pm to keep up to date with each other, and plans for the future. Do let me know if you would like to join us.

**'Prayer for the Community'** Prayer requests can be placed in the Prayer Box on the wall outside the Chapel, or given to Kate on 830115 or [kate.stretton@btinternet.com](mailto:kate.stretton@btinternet.com)

Our **Christmas Day offering** for the Manna House Counselling Service raised £132. Thank you to all.

Stay Safe,  
Every blessing,

Ann

[ann.atkin51@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.atkin51@btinternet.com) : 830907

~~~~~

A New Year Prayer

Lord, Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever;

we commit this New Year to You.

in Your mercy please strengthen us for the days ahead,

direct our ways and provide for our needs;

that we might in turn be a blessing to others.

We entrust our bodies, souls and spirits to You.

Amen

Minister's letter from Rev Romeo Pedro:

Dear Friends

The 6th of January starts the Epiphany celebration and ushers in a season of great importance.

The next few weeks invite us to delve deeper into the mystery of Jesus, and to see how God's glory was made known through him. The focus of Epiphany (the word means a sudden insight or revelation) is on the visit of the magi to the little boy Jesus.

Matthew's Gospel (2:1-12) tells this story to show that Jesus is the promised Messiah who not only rescues God's people, but who draws all people to God.

The foreign sorcerers (magi), who are among the first to recognise and worship Jesus, would not have been permitted into the Temple, but they were welcomed into the house where Jesus lived, and they willingly gave their gifts and their worship to this new king. This is such a beautiful image of God's welcome for all people, irrespective of nationality or ethnicity.



In Isaiah 60: 1-6, the prophet speaks to the newly returned exiles of Israel. Although their world had

been devastated, and the work of rebuilding was overwhelming, the prophet reminds them that God's glory is with them, and that they are still called to be a light to the nations. During these times of uncertainty, God's promise of being present with us, is a great comfort. God is with us! Will you hold on to that promise?

God promises that the people will return home and know God's presence, but also that people from around the world will come to trade and to bring gifts to God's people because of God's glory revealed in them.

The mention of frankincense and gold resonates with the gifts of the magi, but the focus is on the peace and celebration that would result from the people's awareness of God's glory, not on the material wealth they would receive.

In the same way, we are called to rejoice at God's presence and glory with us and within us.

When we keep our hearts and minds connected with God, we discover peace and joy even when we are engaged in the tough work of healing and rebuilding, and others are drawn to the presence of God that they experience through us. What is the state of your heart? Is it home to peace? Or does it breed bitterness and discontent? How are you helping to spread peace and reconciliation during these challenging times?

How can you experience and reflect God's glory today? When our lives are filled with praise, we automatically experience more of God's presence. This is because we constantly remind ourselves to see where God's glory is being manifest in our world. Then, as we notice God's light shining around and within us, we automatically help others to see it too. Can you stop for a moment and notice the beauty around you and then begin to praise God for that?

This month fill every moment with God's praises.

My prayer for this month: I praise you, O God, and I celebrate your glory that shines in and through me. Amen.

Peace and Grace

Romeo.



Towcester Foodbank

The Foodbank continues to be much in demand with the lockdown current lockdown.

The items that are currently needed most are:

Sponge Puddings	Washing Powder etc.
Tinned Fruit	Tinned Spaghetti hoops
Tinned Potatoes	Jam
Long Life Cartons of Fruit Juice	
Coffee	Toothbrushes
Razors & shaving foam	Deodorant



Collection points in most supermarkets

Well Group News

We propose to start meeting again via Zoom on **Thursday 28 January, 1.30-2.30 pm**. The first meeting of the year will be a pot luck with each person able to contribute, if they wish, some positive aspect of what this time has brought them. It could also be a reading, poem, comment from a magazine or book, or something you have done / someone has done for you - changes which have been brought about by Covid. All done with a nice cup of tea, to see us through. Zoom details will follow.

The second meeting on February 25th, we hope to have a speaker to guide us through the session.

Any ladies who are not on the email list but would like to join us please send your email address to ann.atkin51@btinternet.com . It would be lovely to see you!

A Final Thought

In the light of the current lockdown and our hopes and fears, you may remember the bookmark that the Mullen family produced for the newsletter back in May. To encourage you, here are the words again:

The Holy Spirit gives us power, wisdom and peace.

Now more than ever, we are grateful for these.

Strength to help us through each and every day,

As we navigate our lives in this different way.

Wisdom and insight to guide us through,

Keeping us safe in all that we do.

Knowledge that all that we are doing is right,

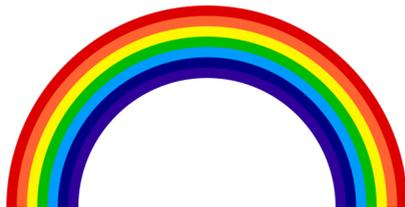
Helping us focus on times ahead that are bright.

Peace is represented by the beautiful dove

Bringing us a calm, quiet, emanating love.

As it once emerged from the burning flame

We know too, that we'll be together again.



Astcote Methodist Church

If you need to speak to a Minister, for any reason,
please contact our Pastoral Minister

Rev Phil Snelson on

07906 627650

Methodist Online Service—Sundays at 10.30am

Or at any time convenient for you

<https://methodist-churches-northampton.org.uk/worship-at-home/>

God Bless you and
keep you safe

For items or suggestions for this newsletter
please contact::

Ann Atkin, Church Secretary on 830907

ann.atkin51@btinternet.com