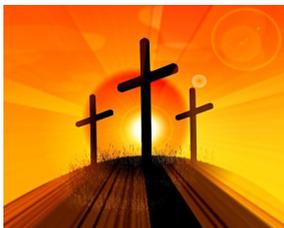


ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL

Welcome to our April 2021 Newsletter



Easter Day Service!

Sunday 4th April 10.30am

Led by Paul Wilson

~~~~~

### **Family Service**

**Sunday 18th April 10.30am**

Led by Pam Kirkland

~~~~~

Services will last approx. 30-35 Minutes

Please read Arrangements for Worship on page 7

It is necessary to book your seat in order to meet these requirements, ring 830907 or email ann.atkin@btinternet.com by 6pm on Saturday evening

Signs of HOPE!

So lovely to be able to invite you to an actual service at the Chapel.

As we are now having some Sunday services and are more free to meet others outside we will have a break from the weekly Monday evening Zoom sessions.

The link for the Northampton Methodist Circuit website is on the back page where you will find a weekly service, podcasts, and information about the churches in the Circuit. You can also read about our Ministers and other Circuit stewards and staff.

Stay Safe,
Easter blessings,

Ann

ann.atkin51@btinternet.com : 830907

Inside you will find

Page 3—Ministers Letter from Dcn Richard Beckett

Page 5—Easter Offering

Membership Course

Page 6- News about Prayer for the Community

Page 7– Well Group

- Arrangements for Worship

Page 8—link to Northampton Methodist Circuit

The rock band U2 released a song in 1987 called “I still haven’t found what I’m looking for”. Like many songs there is an abstract quality to it and you might not immediately define it as a ‘religious’ song but it clearly says something about searching for love and a spiritual journey:

“I have climbed highest mountains; I have run through the fields,
Only to be with you, only to be with you.
I have run, I have crawled,
I have scaled these city walls,
These city walls, only to be with you
But I still haven't found what I'm looking for”.

As I read the title line again now I can’t help recalling the scene at the tomb on Easter morning when the women arrived to prepare Jesus’ body for burial and encountered ‘two men in dazzling white clothes that stood beside them’. The women were terrified but the men said to them “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

It’s a strange question really because of course they weren’t looking for the living among the dead. They were looking for the dead among the dead! The women went to the tomb with the spices they had prepared to get the body ready for burial and when they found no body, they were perplexed.

Of course Jesus had told his followers (Including these women) that he would be crucified, and on the third day rise again. But as is often the way it is clear that his followers did not grasp the meaning of this and the angels had to remind the women of Jesus’ words. It is then, that the women not only remember but they understood. Perhaps at that point too, the women remembered and understood other instances where Jesus had talked about such things: “Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living” Jesus had said to the teachers of the law when discussing resurrection with them (Luke 20:38)

‘Remembering’, in this case is more than just recalling what was said by Jesus. It’s actually a profoundly significant moment of understanding: A ‘light bulb’ moment;

when the 'penny dropped' and a moment when so many things Jesus said fell into place.

So often we look for Jesus in the wrong place as the women did who went to the tomb. Or rather, we don't find Jesus where we expect to find him.

A true local newspaper story some while ago told of two, seven year old twins who went missing from their home. Around fifty relatives, friends, neighbours searched alongside the police for hours without success. Even a police helicopter joined in the search. Eventually after some hours the two children were found. They were snuggled up together on the seats of two chairs so that even their legs could not be seen, underneath a tablecloth draped over the edges of a dining room table in their own home!

During the season of Easter, where and how are you looking for Jesus?

Do you investigate as a historian might – and find jigsaw-piece-facts which don't seem to fit together?

Do you search as a scholar might – and study only the context and background?

Does tragedy in your own life so overwhelm that you struggle to see beyond Good Friday?

Do you search as a geographer might – and see only borders and boundaries?

Do you search for Jesus as the traveller might – needing to tread the very ground Jesus trod?

Do you spend so much time and energy searching, that you miss Jesus searching for you?

Or do you see with the suddenly opened eyes, hearts and minds of those women at the tomb who remembered and understood the promises of Jesus and rushed away to tell others what they knew in their own hearts?

Christ is Risen – He is risen indeed!

Easter Offering

Many thanks for the Easter Eggs that were donated to the **Towcester Foodbank**. In total 50+ were given—45 delivered to Eastcote and others that were left at shop collection points..



Marie

Curie



A reminder that our Easter Offering at the Service on Easter Sunday will be for **Marie Curie** in Northamptonshire.

In particular we would like to show support for the Rapid Response Nurses:

‘ Marie Curie Rapid Response Nurses provide palliative and end of life services in people's homes. They provide urgent hands-on-care and support not only to their clients but to their relatives as well.

In the whole of Northants we only have three Rapid Response Marie Curie Nurses. It is a big county for them to cover but they do it without complaining and always with a smile.’

Many thanks for your generosity,



Do you feel Astcote Chapel is ‘your’ Church?

If you would like to explore the possibility of becoming a member

There will be a Membership Course held on Zoom on May 12th, May 19th, May 26th & June 2nd – this will be led by Revd Romeo Pedro and will be from 7pm until 8.30pm.

To request the Zoom details, please contact Sarah,,
Northampton Circuit Administrator,
office@methodist-churches-northampton.org.uk

Prayer for the Community

For a few years now this short time of prayer has given us an opportunity to remember and bring before God those known to us who are going through hard or difficult times.

During the Lockdown Kate and I have kept this time of prayer when services haven't been happening. We now feel that we should invite others to this half an hour. As well as remembering those known to us, it can also be a time to ask for God's guidance for the life of our church in Astcote.

We needn't continue doing the same things! Returning from Lockdown gives us an opportunity to think and be guided afresh. So, for the time being, we will keep certain Sunday's (usually 2nd, 4th (and 5th)) set aside for prayer from **10-10.30am** at the Chapel. Just come with a mask, sign in at the door and take a socially-distanced seat. Prayer can be silent or spoken.

In April we will meet on Sundays 11th & 25th.

We hope you will join us and together we can find out what God has in store for Astcote Chapel.

Ann



Well Group

Thursday 29th April 1.30-2.30pm

Zoom talk with Kate Duncan from
St Peters Church, Brackley

If any ladies would like to join in who are not on the regular mailing list then please drop me an email:

ann.atkin51@btinternet.com

Arrangements for Worship

- 1) We must know in advance who is attending – contact Ann Atkin 830907 or ann.atkin51@btinternet.com by 6pm Saturday evening so that seating can be arranged.
- 2) Face coverings must be worn
- 3) Please respect social distancing
- 4) On arrival at front door leave name & telephone number for Track & Trace or scan the NHS Covid-19 QR Code.
- 5) Use hand sanitizer on arrival & departure.
- 6) A Steward will guide you to your seat.
- 7) No singing is permitted by the congregation.
- 8) One-way system in operation – leave by kitchen door.
(Please follow same route if toilets are used during the service – return using front door).
- 9) At end of service leave via kitchen door and move onto the grassed area if you wish to socialise.
- 10) If you feel unwell please stay at home.

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>

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