

# ASTCOTE METHODIST CHURCH

*SHARING GOD'S LOVE WITH ALL*

## Welcome to our May 2021 Newsletter

**Sunday 2nd May 10.30am**

Led by Deacon Richard Beckett

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**Sunday 16th May 10.30am**

**FAMILY SERVICE**

Led by Rev Phil Snelson

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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](mailto:ann.atkin@btinternet.com) by 6pm on Saturday evening



## ***Signs of HOPE continue!***

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

### **Thy Kingdom Come : 13th-23rd May**

This global 9 days of prayer is held between Ascension Day and Pentecost. Our Circuit will be holding 20 minutes prayer time each of these days at 7pm. A booklet accompanying this will soon be available, so you are free to join the Zoom prayer session or just keep a time of prayer individually.

More details can be found on: [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global)

### **Marie Curie : Easter Offering**

Many thanks for your support which raised £220.

### **Online Services**

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,

Every blessing

Ann

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

### ***Inside you will find .....***

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## Ministers Letter from Rev Romeo Pedro

Dear Friends

We will be celebrating Pentecost during this month, marking the shift in the Church Calendar from God's Story to Our Story. After the months of remembering and entering the grand narrative of God's saving work, we begin to explore the implications for us, and how we can become participants in the Reign of God.

There are so many themes in the Pentecost passage in Acts 2, but it is probably most helpful if we focus firstly on the miracle of the different languages. The passage makes it clear that the disciples were given a divine ability to proclaim God's gift of life to people who would naturally have been beyond their reach due to language differences.

Notice, that the languages the disciples spoke were human. At Pentecost, the purpose was to speak to people, and so the disciples were given human words to share.

Notice also that the gift of speaking in other languages was given so that the disciples could bring life to the women and men gathered in Jerusalem. It was not a gift for personal enjoyment (although the Bible does allow for that in other circumstances). So, friends, I think that it was part of the mission of the disciples, and it helped to demonstrate that God's Reign crosses boundaries and brings all people together into one, welcoming community.

The challenge for us as we read this story is that, like the first disciples, we are called to be part of God's welcoming, boundary crossing mission. We may not speak in other languages, but we do need to learn to step into the shoes of others, to learn to communicate with them in ways that they will understand. And, of course, the most universal language is that of love.

Secondly, it is significant that the ability to speak in other languages began with the disciples praising God. As we praise God, we open ourselves to see what is praiseworthy in our world, and in others. Then, we are better able to affirm and praise and express love to them through our

encouragement, kindness, and support. This month, spend time praising God, and then allow your praises to spill over into affirmation of the people around you. Remember to express this affirmation in a “language” they will understand.

And thirdly, the key moment of transition is the outpouring of God’s Spirit. In keeping with the biblical principle of “passing the mantle” from prophet to disciple, Pentecost is the moment in which Jesus “passes the mantle” on to us. We have learned from him what God’s mission is, and now we have received his Spirit to continue his work. So, Pentecost is a gift, but it is also a preparation, an empowering, for the work ahead. As we seek to follow Christ in this world, we will face many challenges that are beyond our ability to overcome. We will encounter many people whom we would not naturally be able to love. We will confront many aspects of ourselves that we would rather deny than heal. But we do not have to deal with these issues alone.

In conclusion, the gift of the Spirit empowers us to find creative solutions to seemingly unsolvable problems. The Spirit fills us with the love of Christ and enables us to reach out even to our enemies. And the Spirit reveals what needs to change in us and brings God’s healing and transforming grace into our lives.

Grace

Romeo.



## **Towcester Foodbank**

Some people who need the help of the Foodbank only have access to a kettle so need to be supplied with things such as

### **Cuppa Soups, Instant Noodles & Pasta**

which just need boiling water.



Other items currently required are:

Fruit juice : Jam : 500g Rice : Coffee

Twin Sponge Puddings : Tinned Carrots :

Washing Up Liquid : Washing Powder

Razors : Shaving Gel

Please leave your donations at the Supermarket. Thank You

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***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 12<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup> & June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 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](mailto:office@methodist-churches-northampton.org.uk)

## ***Prayer for the Community***

Returning from Lockdown gives us an opportunity to think and be guided afresh. We needn't continue doing the same things! As well as praying for the Community we can also pray for new ways forward for our Church. 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.

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

Ann & Kate



God, you have told me countless times to be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving. may I guard my heart and mind knowing that your peace surpasses all understanding. What is on my heart, you know and will do as you see fit. Amen

## ***Well Group***

Thursday 27th May 1.30-2.30pm

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](mailto: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](mailto: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