



Emsworth Methodist Church & Pastoral Centre



a serving and worshipping Christian church in the heart of Emsworth,
working closely with other churches and with the local community

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Monthly news sheet

January 2017

Message from the Manse

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
Wherever you may place me,
In all that I do
And in all that I may endure;
When there is work for me
And when there is none;
When I am troubled
And when I am at peace.
Your will be done
When I am valued
And when I am disregarded;
When I find fulfilment
And when it is lacking;
When I have all things,
And when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose.*

(The Covenant Prayer: Methodist Worship Book pp288-289)

The Covenant Service has been part of the life of Methodism since its very beginnings. Indeed, Wesley's original prayer contained phrases that are often used in marriage services. They speak of commitment, and a desire to grow into 'one-ness'. The words may not be easy to say and I'm sure many of us (and I include myself in this) find them immensely challenging.

Although many Methodist Churches hold their Covenant Service at the start of the New Year, the Covenant Prayer is not like a New Year's Resolution. When we give up chocolate or coffee – or anything else for that matter – our resolve may crack, and we might feel tempted to break our promise: 'a little bit of chocolate won't hurt'. Then, of course, we 'beat ourselves up' for our perceived weakness.

Neither is the Covenant Prayer a contract that we must adhere to out of fear or duty; a list of things we 'must' do. We do not have the strength to do all of this ourselves. How could we? Rather, it is an opportunity to grow in faith and explore how we might serve God in the changing seasons of our lives and according to the needs of the community around us. It allows us to stop, think, and hear the challenge of the gospel; a reminder that we are all on a journey, learning as we go.

With the arrival of a new year comes a sense of new beginnings. The past never leaves us – it is not right that it should – but we step into something hitherto unknown. No doubt there will be moments for some of us when we feel we have too much (or too little) to do; feel troubled, disregarded unfulfilled and lost. I hope and pray they will be few and that this year, for the majority of the time, we will have enough (but not too much!) appropriate work to do; feel valued, fulfilled, at peace and experience the joy of knowing God presence.

Our Covenant Service will take place on 15th January 2017 at 10am. All are welcome to attend.

Happy New Year!

Laura

Diana and David Harris would like to thank everyone for the many kind messages, love, prayers and offers of help after David's accident. We really appreciate your support, knowing that you've been thinking of us over Christmas. He is making steady progress.

Wishing you a very happy New Year from the News Sheet Team



The Next **Thursday Market** will be on January 19th
It will be a Grand Sale of Bric-a-Brac.

Yemen

A major appeal was launched on 13th December by the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) to help people facing hunger in Yemen. CAFOD, Christian Aid, Tearfund and other DEC members are responding to the crisis.

Twenty months of war have brought Yemen, already one of the poorest countries in the world, to breaking point. More than 7 million people in Yemen do not know where their next meal will come from and children are dying from malnutrition. CAFOD's Director, Chris Bain, said: "We see immense suffering in the faces of people in Yemen".

On Sundays 15th and 22nd January we will be having a retiring collection in support of this appeal, which we will send to Christian Aid.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the feast day of St Peter to the feast day of St Paul (18th - 25th January) each year.

In Emsworth this year, Christians Together in Emsworth are holding a prayer event on Saturday 21st January from 10-12 noon and then on Sunday evening, 22nd January a United Service of Holy Communion in the Methodist Church at 6.30pm.

Further details will be announced in the weekly notices.

December Circuit Meeting Report

Revd. David Muskett was congratulated on the recent publishing of his book "Jesus on Gardening" which is available to purchase from him at a cost of £7.99.

Deacon Laura Evans has been encouraged by the recent District Probationers Committee and continues her probation with a view to being Ordained at the 2017 Conference. Her Circuit Testimony Service is provisionally booked for Friday 2nd June 2017 at Emsworth.

Janet Baker informed the meeting that the Methodist Council is considering some big questions about ministry in the Methodist Church: Where do we station our dwindling number of ministers to make disciples of Jesus and to respond to his Gospel of love, with best effect? Should there be 'priority stationing' and what criteria should be used? How do we offer worship and learning to the greatest number of people with our dwindling number of preachers? How do we make more disciples for Christ? How do we ensure this is a priority for consideration in our churches and Circuit and what strategy can we think of to solve the problem? After some discussion, Andrew led the meeting in prayer.

The Circuit Safeguarding policy was reviewed and signed.
The annual Trustees report and Circuit Reserves policy was agreed.

The circuit has a manse that it currently does not need. This is now going to be leased to a Local Council and managed through the Red Cross for use by a Syrian Refugee family.

The new development in Bordon. Deacon Janet Heys was authorised to work the equivalent of one day a week in the developing town centre and residential areas of Bordon and Whitehill alongside the Anglican and United Reformed Churches.

The meeting agreed that Shirley Haynes from Trinity, Southsea, becomes fully accredited as a Local Preacher in the Methodist Church. A service of accreditation for Shirley will be arranged in the New Year.
It was noted that Geoff Paffett from Havant has also been recently fully accredited as a Local Preacher.

A short report was received on exploring mission and outreach within the Circuit's churches.

The next 'Away Day' for those who work with children and young people across the Circuit will be on Saturday 25th March at Fareham; a time for fellowship, learning and sharing good practice.

We agreed to join the 'Thy Kingdom Come' prayer initiative – the period between Ascension and Pentecost 2017 when churches of all traditions are encouraged to partner prayer events:

To join with the whole family of God the Father

To pray for the empowering of God the Holy Spirit

To pray that we may be effective witnesses to God the Son Jesus Christ

Geoff Eardley

A letter of thanks for our **SDAS Christmas donations** has been received and is displayed on the church noticeboard.



Prayer Prompts - January

You are invited to use the suggestions listed below in your prayer times. The monthly diary is also an aid for our prayers.

Our Church: for new initiatives in the Pastoral Centre; the Second Sunday Services and new people attending; all who came to worship over the Christmas period, all who found a welcome at the Christmas Day lunch. Remember all in hospital, or receiving care and treatment at home; elderly members who chose to spend Christmas on their own.

Emsworth and other local areas: The results of closure of last bank in the village, further loss of footfall, all retailers. Those who gave help to the homeless and lonely around our town this Christmas; those separated from their families, because of work for the Military, NHS, Nursing Homes, other essential services.

The Churches in Emsworth: The week of Prayer for Christian Unity throughout the UK; the ministry we exercise together in Emsworth; the work of the Pastoral Centre and for Mandy. For our friends at St James Church

The world: Churches subject to persecution in the Middle East; that the Leaders of the nations use language of love and respect for others; all who work for peace; all who risk their life to save refugees. May the New Year bring Hope and Peace to all people.

We have a small **Prayer Chain** working within the church. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of prayer please do contact Chris Walters on 01243 379254 or c.walters@homecall.co.uk.

Church Calendar continued:

Sunday	22	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Geoff Paffett
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth United Communion Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	23	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	24	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games
		3.00pm	Bible Discussion Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	25	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Anne & Judy: 'Alan Bennett's Talking Heads' (IH)
Thursday	26	10.00am	Cake Stall
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Ken Yalden: 'Artistic Knot Tyer' (IH)
Friday	27	11.30am	Bacon Butties
		2.00pm	Games Afternoon
Sunday	29	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev David Rice
		6.30pm	United Meditative Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
Monday	30		NO Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	31		NO Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Local History (IH)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2017

All events in Emsworth Methodist Church & Pastoral Centre unless stated otherwise

IH = International Hall, URC = United Reformed Church, Bath Road

Sunday	1	10.00am	All Age Worship led by Mrs Alison Rice Followed by coffee and Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	Evening Holy Communion at St James' Led by Rev John Pilkington
Monday	2		Pastoral Centre CLOSED. No Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	3	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: New Year Resolutions (IH)
Wednesday	4	6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	5		NO Thursday Market
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Howard Jacobs: 'Emsworth before Gas and subsequently
Friday	6	11.30am	Bacon Butties
		2.00pm	Games Afternoon
Sunday	8	10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill MCoubrey, Preacher Fran Jenkins
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Janet Baker
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship Led by Geoffrey Eardley, preacher Rev John Pilkington
Monday	9	10.30am	NO Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	10	10.30am	NO Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knitting for Charity and Word Games
Wednesday	11	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Mrs Faith Ponsonby: 'The Role of Mayor' (IH)
Thursday	12	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Peter & Jane Gregory: 'A Voyage in the South Atlantic' (IH)
Friday	13	11.30am	Bacon Butties
		2.00pm	Games Afternoon
Sunday	15	10.00am	Covenant Service, including Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell and Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington led by Rev Damon Draisey
Monday	16	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	17	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'My Favourite Cake' (IH)
Wednesday	18		Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (see page 3)
Thursday	19	10.00am	Thursday Market Grand Sale of Bric-a-Brac (IH)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Brian Stanley: 'The Work of The Samaritans' (IH)
Friday	20	11.30am	Bacon Butties
		2.00pm	Games Afternoon

Church calendar continued on inside back page

Items for the February news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack
or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 21 January**