



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

April 2017

Message from the Manse

There once was a man: the CEO of a major company. He was retiring and looking for someone of good character to replace him in his responsible job.

There were five people in line for this promotion, all of them capable, with good references and lots of experience. There was nothing to choose between them and on paper any one of them would fit the bill.

So the CEO set them a task. Giving them each a seed to plant he told them to go away for 6 weeks and that, at the end of that time, the person whose plant had grown the tallest would achieve this promotion.

So that's what they did.

Compost was liberally added, watering was frequent and plentiful. Enough sunlight given (but not too much). In each case everything possible was done to ensure that the plants grew well.

Four of them did.

One of them didn't so much as show itself above the soil.

The day finally came to present them to the CEO. While the first four proudly presented their healthy, growing plants for inspection, the fifth person shifted in his chair, avoiding eye contact and trying to hide his empty plant pot. It seemed he'd failed.

Eventually the inevitable moment came and he shuffled forward, expecting any moment to be laughed at and probably sent home minus any job whatsoever.

The CEO looked at that plant pot for a long time. Then, finally, went to the fifth person, put his hand on his shoulder, turned to face the others and said: 'This is your new CEO'.

Cries of astonishment and distress. 'How? Why? That plant didn't even grow! He can't even keep a flower alive, how is he going to manage with a whole company?'

'No,' said the CEO. 'That plant didn't grow. And neither should yours have done. All the seeds I gave you were dead. The rest of you have been out and replaced them. This person is the only one who had the courage to tell the truth. Even knowing the consequences.'

Do you ever find yourself looking at someone else and thinking 'Why am I not more like them? If I were like them then I could serve God in so many ways and do so many things.'

Now of course, in real life, none of us are given 'dead seeds'. Each and every one of us, no matter who we are, has gifts and graces. Those things are part of what makes us who we are. Perhaps our plants may be different shapes and sizes, but they all grow.

Having the courage and honesty to be ourselves isn't always easy. We may feel we have little to give. We may compare ourselves with others.

The challenge, then, is to live according to who we are, being honest with ourselves and with God about our strengths and limitations.

You might say we are challenged to be a true version of ourselves.

And we come before a God who knows us absolutely.

Laura

Congratulations to Geoffrey and Amy Senior
who celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary
on 20th April 2017

Good Friday
Christians Together in Emsworth
United Walk of Witness 'The Way of the Cross'

Our United Walk of Witness will take place through Emsworth on Good Friday, 14th April.

At each church there will be a short service including a hymn, reading, reflection and prayer.

- 9.30am St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church
10.00am Emsworth Baptist Church
10.30am Methodist Church, service led by Deacon Laura Evans
11.00am United Reformed Church
11.30am St James' Church
 Followed by a soup and bread lunch in the Parish Hall

Augmented United Choir Easter Offering

On Good Friday 14th April at 3.30pm in St James' Church, the augmented United Choir will sing Josef Rheinberger's Requiem in D minor. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Medical Foundation for the Victims of Torture.

Christian Aid Talk and Exhibition
Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories
Tuesday, 4th April, 2.30 – 4.30 pm

at Havant United Reformed Church Meeting Place, Havant PO9 1PP
(corner of Elm Lane and North Street).

William Bell, the Christian Aid Advocacy Officer for the Middle East, will talk on: 'Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories: the Christian Aid programme and Palestinian refugees'.

Rachel Nassif will talk about her experience as a volunteer in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

Plus 'Through Young Eyes', an exhibition of drawings by Palestinian teenagers who survived the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict.

Further information from Angus Geddes: angus@geddes59.freemove.co.uk
tel: 023 9248-6064

East Africa Famine Appeal

South Sudan is the first nation in six years to declare a famine, but the UN has issued a stark warning that other countries face extreme food shortages across East Africa.

All We Can and the World Church Relationships Team of the Methodist Church in Britain are calling for support for an urgent appeal to respond to immediate needs in South Sudan and to help avert famine in other countries on the verge of disaster.

Tragically, the declaration of famine in South Sudan throws the spotlight on a much wider disaster. In areas of East Africa, and in neighbouring Yemen, a lack of food is no longer a matter of discomfort but of survival. Malnutrition is widespread, in some countries water is scarce and the need for life-saving aid - food, water and sanitation - is critical. On 20 February 2017 it was announced that South Sudan had already reached tipping point with two counties being declared as officially affected by famine.

Droughts and unpredictable rainfall, protracted civil conflicts and entrenched economic crises, have led to widespread food insecurity across East Africa and people are already dying. Without urgent support, many other communities across the region face the threat of famine in 2017.

The Methodist Church in Britain is urging people to respond quickly, generously and collectively to this catastrophic situation by supporting the appeal being managed by All We Can.

There will be the opportunity to contribute to this appeal through a retiring collection on Sunday 26th March and Sunday 2nd April.

Knit for Lent

There is an ever-increasing number of knitted angels of all shapes, sizes and colours appearing from all corners of Emsworth and, indeed, beyond!

As you know, in partnership with our Anglican friends we are challenging ourselves to knit as many angels as we can during Lent. The patterns are simple and suitable for beginners. I know that several of the local nursing homes, and many folk from the Pastoral Centre are also 'in' on the knitting!

I'm delighted to be able to tell you that we have received permission from the Council to put these 'angels' out around Emsworth with labels attached to them giving details of our Easter Services and a brief explanation of the real meaning of Easter.

It was originally hoped that these labels would be handwritten. However there are so many (hooray!) that simply isn't practical. So if all angels could be brought either to the Pastoral Centre or the Parish Office by **Thursday 6th April** it would be very much appreciated. That morning, from 10am onwards, Julie and I will be making and attaching labels to all the angels ready for distribution. Extra pairs of hands would be very welcome so if you would like to come along and help, please do so!

We're hoping to keep this as much of a surprise for folk in the village as possible so that people will be intrigued. So further information about the distribution of the angels around the village will be available via announcement nearer the time.

As I've said, we already have far more angels certainly than I was expecting (how wonderful it is to be so pleasantly surprised!) but the more there are the more opportunities we will have to share something about what Easter means to us as Christians and to spread the Good News of hope and love.

It's all rather exciting, really, isn't it?!

There are still patterns available in the Pastoral Centre for those who are knitting at home. Or why not join us in the Pastoral Centre on 31st March at 2pm, or in the Parish Office on 5th April at 3pm for a light-hearted and relaxing time knitting and sharing together?

Laura

Knitting in the Pastoral Centre

As many will know, we have been knitting squares for some years at Activity Afternoons. Lots of lovely blankets have been donated to various organisations, including the Salvation Army and Beechwood House. We have also been knitting hats for The Mission for Seafarers. One of our knitters, Joan Hyams, has managed to make over 100 hats. Recently, Judy Emerson took a further 21 blankets to Beechwood House, a nursing home in Rowland's Castle. Our connection with Beechwood is through Alan who spent some time there and Fred, one of our visitors, who is now living there.

Sewing up the blankets is a challenge that Judy took on for a number of years, assisted by a few other kind volunteers. We had a large number of individual squares awaiting sewing up and decided to send these to a project that makes baby blankets for Malawi. We have now decided to focus on hats and scarves (a very wide and long 'square') and continue to send these to The Mission for Seafarers.

Thank you to all the knitters from Activity Afternoon and other friends who have knitted hats and squares. Please keep knitting hats and scarves (there is a pattern if you need one). If you have recently started knitting again and made an angel or two, hats and scarves are really easy in comparison!

Mandy

Felicity Gooderham daughter of Liam and Sarah Gooderham (née Shott)

Felicity is nearly two years old and is an absolutely adorable little girl, but a little girl who needs your help. She was born with three separate brain abnormalities - which doctors think may be the result of a genetic condition, but because it is such a rare occurrence, no-one is quite sure. As they say on all those medical dramas - tests are ongoing. And those tests are not fun.

Felicity suffers seizures on a daily basis, she has an unsafe swallow reflex so is fed through a tube, she has motor difficulties and serious visual impairment. She tries very hard to lift her head, but struggles as it is so heavy. This young lady has a lot of challenges ahead of her, and needs specialist equipment that just isn't provided by the NHS.

So on the 9th of April David Williamson is going to be taking on the Brighton Marathon in his wheelchair to help raise funds for some work that needs to be carried out on the family home - it's going to be a tough one but it's for such a very worthy cause, and for the family that have found themselves in the toughest of battles. Sarah would really appreciate it if you could help.

DAVID WILLIAMSON

David Williamson is a double amputee who has completed 3 Great South Runs, a marathon at Stoke Mandeville and #Willow24. In November 2016 he was the Personal Achievement award winner at the We Can Do It Awards, and in February 2017 was named HBSA Disabled Sportsperson of the year.

Pamela and Geoffrey will be available to collect donations/sponsorship on April 16th and 23rd for anyone who would like to help, or there is a just-giving page if anyone would prefer to donate this way. Ask Pamela for details.

Pamela Eardley

The Mayor's Wednesday Walks

The Mayor of Havant has organised a series of circular walks around the local area, commencing at 10.00am and returning for coffee at about 11.15am. Non-walkers are welcome to join the group for coffee.

You are invited to join a circular walk in Emsworth on Wednesday 12th April, to welcome in the Spring in Brook Meadow. Meet in Palmers Road (Pay and Display) car park off North Street, Emsworth, ending up at the Pastoral Centre for coffee.

Christian Aid Week 14th – 20th May

Once again, our annual house-to-house collection will soon be upon us. We rely, as always, on the good-will and generosity of our steadfast collectors, whose numbers have been slowly depleting.

If you would like to join us in this extremely worthwhile task, you would be most warmly welcomed. Please speak to Marian Hughes or any other member of the Working Party. Many thanks.

Marian

Havant Passion Play 2017 Flower Festival 9-11 June

Havant Passion Play will be holding a flower festival from 9th-11th June 2017 in Emsworth Methodist Church.

If you, or any organisation you belong to, would like to arrange or sponsor a floral display or be involved in any other way they would love to hear from you.

For further information please contact Mary Close: mary.close@live.com

Retreats

Retreats will take place at:

- The Greenhouse Christian Centre (formerly Green Pastures), 19-23 June and 22-24 Sep.
- Douai Abbey 21-23 April, 13-18 June
- Ladywell retreat house, 7-9 July
- HMS Resolute in Chichester harbour (men only), Man Overboard. 13-15 Oct

If you would like more information about any of these retreats please contact me on 01329 317846 or email revmalcolm@ntlworld.com

Malcolm (Rothwell)

The Accreditation Service for Shirley Haynes as a Local Preacher will take place on Sunday 2nd April 2017 at 3.00 pm at Trinity Methodist Church in Southsea. The preacher will be the Rev'd Janice Morgan, a former Minister at Emsworth and Trinity.

Prayer Prompts - April



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

Easter: ourselves and all Christians as we walk through Holy Week sharing the pain of the world, then the glory of the Resurrection and what this means for us today.

The world: all places where there is famine, especially north east Africa; the aid agencies and all who take aid, particularly in places of danger and war.

Our own Church: the Leadership Team, Stewards and new ways of working, our acceptance of change; thanksgiving for 'Second Sunday' services and all who lead; new initiatives and contacts in the Pastoral Centre; Pastoral Carers; all who 'make music' for our worship.

People in need: all known to us who struggle with illness or frailty of age; all who mourn the passing of loved ones, of lives radically changed – give strength we pray as all that is lost is given to God.

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.walters5@homecall.co.uk

John Buchanan

After moving to Emsworth from Nottinghamshire, Brenda and John soon found the Methodist Church here and became active members of both the church and the community. John was appointed to Church Council before being asked to be a Property Steward. He carried out this role willingly and efficiently. As the situation changed, a vacancy occurred for Senior Property Steward and John filled this demanding job and held office for a number of years. He became part of the team for Fire Alarm testing each Monday morning and was a conscientious member. It was soon apparent that John had a real love of music. He played the organ on numerous occasions to help out when the regular organists were away or unwell and until he could no longer fulfil this position he was our Assistant Organist.

John was a gentleman in every sense of the word. He played a big part in making the Buchanans' home a welcoming place for all, and I personally appreciated all he did and said during my period of extreme difficulty. John even managed to teach Alan and me how to play Mahjong, which was some achievement.

John, for all that you accomplished in the church, in the home and for all those comforting kind words you spoke, thank you and now rest in peace.

Judy Emerson

Church Calendar continued:

Sunday	16		Easter Sunday
		6.00am	Easter Sunrise Service with bonfire and breakfast on the foreshore at the end of Warblington Road
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Geoffrey Senior and Deacon Laura Evans No Evening service
Monday	17		Easter Monday Bank Holiday Pastoral Centre open 10.00am – 12noon No exercises
		12noon	Pastoral Centre closed for afternoon
Tuesday	18	10.30am	Standing exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'Easter Celebration' (IH)
Wednesday	19	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	20	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Jan Stillwell: 'Portsmouth Street Pastors' (IH)
Friday	21	10.30am	Bacon Butties
Sunday	23	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Janet Baker
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship Led by Deacon Laura Evans
Monday	24	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	25	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games
		3.00pm	Bible Discussion Group, all welcome (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	26	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		4.15pm	Pastoral Centre Helpers' annual Tea Party for volunteers
		7.30pm	Ladies Group: Sheila Stakim, Emsworth Chiropractor (IH)
Thursday	27	10.00am	Cake Stall
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Janet Baker: 'Making a Difference' (IH)
Friday	28	10.30am	Bacon Butties
Sunday	30		Church Anniversary
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans Followed by coffee and anniversary cake
		6.00pm	Christians Together in Emsworth service at St Thomas' Roman Catholic Church (note earlier time)

Bacon Butties: please note time change – serving will begin at 10.30am from the first week in April. No bacon butties on Good Friday.



*A very happy Easter to all
from the News Sheet Team*

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2017

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

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

Sunday	2	10.00am	All Age Worship led by John Davies Followed by coffee and Traidcraft stall
		3.00pm	Accreditation service for Shirley Haynes at Trinity, Southsea
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James Celebrant Rev Bill McCoubrey, Preacher David Muskett
Monday	3		No Chair-based Exercises
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal at St James
Tuesday	4		No Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'Easter Garden' (IH)
		2.30pm	Christian Aid Talk at Havant URC Meeting Place 'Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories' (see page 3)
Wednesday	5	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		12 noon	Christian Aid Lunch
		1.00pm	Lent Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell (IH)
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Friday	7	10.30am	Bacon Butties
		7.30pm	Compass Course (Wesley Room)
Sunday	9		Palm Sunday
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James Celebrant Rev Bill Stillwell, Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship Led by Geoffrey Eardley, preacher Rev John Pilkington
Monday	10		No Chair-based Exercises
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal at St James
Tuesday	11	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knitting for Charities (IH)
Wednesday	12	10.00am	Mayor's Wednesday Walk in Emsworth (see page 6)
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Vivien Watson: 'Easter Arrangements' (IH)
Thursday	13		Maundy Thursday
		7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and Communion at St James led by Rev Julie Price
Friday	14		Good Friday
			Pastoral Centre closed
		9.30am	Good Friday Walk of Witness starts at Catholic Church (see p3)
		10.30am	Short service led by Deacon Laura Evans (see page 3)
		3.30pm	Augmented United Choir Easter Offering at St James <i>Requiem in D minor</i> by Josef Rheinberger Retiring collection in aid of the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture (see page 3)

Church calendar continued on inside back page

Items for the May news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or
emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 22nd April**