



# 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**

**May 2017**

## **Message from the Manse**

By the time this newsletter is put into your hands we will be celebrating, or will already have celebrated, the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Methodist Church in this place.

As a relative newcomer, and someone who loves nothing more than a good rummage through archives, old photographs and general historical documents, preparation for the service has been a fascinating experience. I squint at pictures of the church as it once was and struggle to imagine what it must once have been like. I listen to stories, stories of adventure, change, challenge and fear, and marvel at the faith that has led this community to where it is today.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017 we mark the reaching of a milestone; acknowledging the journey that has already been undertaken by generations of Christians in this place and celebrating all that God has done in and through us.

I really hope that, in the coming weeks, 'Do you remember when...' will be a phrase that is used a lot in conversation!

In all our busy-ness sometimes it is important to pause, look back and see the path that is behind us and rejoice in the barriers that have been

broken down, the obstacles that have been overcome and to reflect on how and where we have known God walking alongside us. In doing this we learn the lessons that equip us for the future and enable us to continue on the journey.

This is not just true of our church life, but of our personal lives too.

So what will the next 140 years hold?

Who can tell?! To attempt to predict what will happen in the next 10 years, never mind the next 140, would be foolish. But as long as we go with God we can be sure that we will continue to find ourselves in places we had never imagined. At times, well outside our comfort zone.

But we travel together. We go with God.

The journey continues!

Happy 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

*Laura*

### **A Sacred Space**

It's a busy, noisy world, isn't it?!

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May, between 4.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m., Laura and I are offering a 'Sacred Space' at the church where you can find peace to enable you to reflect, pray and simply be with Christ.

There will be prayer stations, brief meditations, times of silence, Holy Communion, and a break for coffee.

This is all in the context of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. That's an initiative started by the Church of England in 2016 to encourage committed Christians across the world to pray that more and more people may come to know Christ – so we won't be alone in our prayers!

I hope you'll be able to join us – and the rest of the Christian world – in prayer that evening.

Yours in Christ

*Bill*

### **Thank you...**

Geoffrey and Amy wish to thank everyone for all the cards and good wishes they received on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. We are blessed to be part of such a caring church.

*Geoffrey and Amy Senior*

## **Message from Revd Andrew de Ville, Superintendent Minister**

The Circuit Meeting has made some important decisions recently and agreed to set up Circuit focussed groups to look at how to support local churches in outreach and evangelism. These are areas of our Church life that are vital for us to continue to develop and I am asking us all to prayerfully consider attending one of the Roadshows that are being offered around the Circuit.

Our Calling is to share the Good News with others and we do that already in so many different ways, but we do need to build on all that we are currently doing in order to fulfil our calling to invite others to share the journey of faith and become disciples of Christ.

The Circuit and the wider Methodist Church, of which we are all a part, are determined to help us do this, so let's work together as God's people and answer this call on our lives.

Every blessing

*Andrew*

### **'Defusing the e-word - Evangelism' - Circuit Roadshow Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 1-3pm**

'Methodists are good at outreach. We make lots of contacts with those outside the Christian faith, but we are poor at evangelism. We are not good at developing our missional outreach opportunities into evangelistic encounters.' (Stephen Skuce Director of Scholarship, Research and Innovation and presently Acting Principal of Cliff College, in 2015).

To help us become better at this, the Circuit has set up an Outreach and an Evangelism Team which has organised three Roadshows around the Circuit where we will be able to explore the e-word through presentations and conversation. These Roadshows will inform further ways in which the Circuit can support local churches in this crucial aspect of God's mission.

All are welcome. Bring your own sandwiches for lunch. Drinks will be provided.

Other roadshows will take place at Liphook Methodist Church (GU30 7AN) on Tuesday 20th June at 2pm and at Fareham Methodist Church (PO16 0NU) on Thursday 13th July at 7.30pm.

There will be a Circuit service on Sunday, 3rd September at Fareham at 4pm to commission our Circuit Outreach and Evangelism teams.

For further information see Janet Baker.

## Christian Aid

Many thanks to all those who supported the Lent Lunches this year: we raised £626.73, which is slightly more than last year. Thanks also to those who supported us by contributing to 'Count Your Blessings' which raised a further £161.80.

We are now preparing for **Christian Aid week which takes place between 14<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> May**. This is our biggest and most challenging fund raising event, especially as we now have to abide by the 'cold calling' rules. If anyone feels they could spare some time to help us during the week please speak to Marian Hughes.

*Gill Cooper*



Our Circuit Easter Offering Service 2017 will be held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm at Drayton. The theme will be 'Shine like Stars' and the preacher is Helen Cornick.

This service has been prepared by Methodist Women in Britain on behalf of the World Mission Fund, and enables the Methodist Church in Britain and Ireland to give to the work of the 65 Partner Churches Overseas.

*Judy Emerson*

## Tablecloth Rota

We have one slot to fill during October. If you have never had the chance to wash and iron our lovely Pastoral Centre tablecloths this is an ideal time to have a try, and if you really enjoy it you can join the 2018 rota!

Please can I remind all on the tablecloth rota to use the laundry cleanser. We have a few bottles in the office: if you need one please do ask.

Many thanks  
*Mandy*

## Anglican-Methodist Walk, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May

Please join us for a 5 mile ramble across glorious downland countryside. The walk starts from East Meon, one of Hampshire's prettiest chalk stream villages with two riverside pubs, both serving food. There are a couple of stiles and a long climb but the views are worth it.

Meet at the Workhouse Lane Car Park, East Meon (Grid Ref: 119/677222) at **12.45** with a picnic. Bring the family!

Ruth & Jamie Barr 01243 372939.

## **Laura's Testimony Service**

This will be at Emsworth Methodist Church on **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7pm**. Laura will give her testimony and the preacher will be Rev'd Gwyneth Owen, Deputy Chair of the Southampton District. Refreshments (with cake!) will be served afterwards.

## **Laura's Ordination Service**

Laura's ordination service will be at Darlington Street Methodist Church, Wolverhampton at 4pm on Conference Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> June. Laura will have tickets available when it is confirmed that she has passed all the required assessments (We consider this now to be almost a formality!).

We are trying to assess how many people would like to go and would like transport. It would also be useful to know if there is anyone willing to drive and offer transport.

The journey should take about 3½ hours including a short break. We are considering the feasibility of hiring a minibus or a coach, but need to know approximate numbers first. We would leave after morning service and would expect to be back in Emsworth by 10pm.

If you would like to go and need transport, please let Diana Harris know **by 7th May**.

## **Ordination Gift**

As a church, we have chosen to give Laura a Diaconal stole to mark her ordination. If you would like to make a contribution to this gift, please give it to either Chris Walters or Richard Baker over the next few weeks. Cheques payable to Emsworth Methodist Church, please. Any excess money collected will be given as a book token.

## **A Request from Laura**

As you're probably already aware the next couple of months are going to be a busy time for me in terms of preparation for my Ordination at the end of June.

These preparations mean that I will inevitably be out of Circuit rather more often than normal and this means that I will have to be absent from some of the Pastoral Centre activities I normally participate in.

Would you be able to help out with the 'Let's Do It' craft group either as a one-off or on a slightly more regular basis? We meet on a Wednesday: 10.30 - 11.30am. The activities are very simple - usually colouring and

some kind of collage or card making. All resources are available already and I'm perfectly happy to give you ideas if you need them (or for you to go ahead with your own if you like!) It's a very laid-back group and just needs someone friendly to support and help those involved. No artistic capabilities required! The Wednesdays when we particularly need someone to facilitate the sessions are: **3rd and 17th May**, and **14th, 21st and 28th June**.

Do you have a Food Hygiene Certificate? Would you be able to cook bacon on **16th or 23rd June**?

If you're able to help with any of these activities please contact Laura or Mandy for more information.

Thank you, as always, for your support at this exciting, challenging and affirming time.

*Laura*

## **Church Furniture moving for Sunday Worship**

The number of people willing and able to move furniture for Sunday worship is diminishing and we sometimes struggle to do this. Church Council recently agreed that from time to time it may be necessary for us to worship around tables in the Pastoral Centre format and that this will be perfectly acceptable. So please don't be disturbed if you arrive one Sunday and the chairs aren't in neat rows! We are just adapting and doing things a little differently!

## **Havant Passion Play Flower Festival Coming soon – for your diaries**

Havant Passion Play will be holding a Flower Festival in our church during the weekend of June 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. Provisional arrangements are as follows:



**Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> June:** an evening Service of Dedication

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> June** the church will be open for viewing the flowers from 9.30 until 5.00/5.30pm with refreshments served in IH.

During the evening there will be a concert in IH.

**Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> June** viewing from 12 noon until 5.00pm, followed by an evening service of 'songs of Praise' led by Rev Bill Stillwell.

## **Some points from the Circuit Meeting, 2nd March 2017**

The meeting was asked to hold Laura in their prayers as she moves into the final stages of her assessment for ordination in the summer.

The meeting unanimously agreed that as a Circuit we must prioritise the making of new members if we are to survive into the future, recognising that past efforts have not been very effective and we must try something different. To this end, it agreed to the setting up of a Circuit Evangelism Team and a Circuit Mission and Outreach Team. The posts of 3 employed Circuit Lay Workers would end on 31st August and the funds released would be ring-fenced for 'buying-in' support for evangelism and outreach across all local churches in the circuit. David Muskett and Claire Simpson acted out a drama on 'What's it all about' and 'Evangelism' to promote further discussion in groups. This conversation needs to continue within our churches and you will see elsewhere that it will be shared more widely around the Circuit over the next few months.

Three Circuit Ministers are coming to the end of their current appointment period and will be entering the stationing process to determine whether their appointment is extended or whether they move on in September 2018. They are David Muskett, Claire Simpson and Stephen Wright. Rev'd Claire Simpson will be on sabbatical for three months in 2018.

The meeting accepted the audited accounts and agreed the budget for 2017-18.

It was recommended from the Local Preachers' Meeting that George Wheeler be admitted as a Local Preacher, having completed all the training and assessments required. This was unanimously supported.

A Memorial to Conference was agreed concerning the complex and lengthy process for leasing a Circuit Manse to the Local Authority for the purpose of housing Syrian Refugees under the government's Syrian Vulnerable Person Resettlement (VPR) Programme, and asking for simplification and streamlining.

The three churches on Portsea Island are exploring the possibility of becoming one church, operating on three sites.

The Circuit is seeking to purchase a more suitable manse for Laura in Emsworth, and will then sell the Leigh Road manse.

*Geoffrey Eardley*

## **Thank You Geoffrey ...**

At the end of our Easter Morning service, Laura paid tribute to Geoffrey Eardley and his commitment to serving EMC in the role of Senior Steward, particularly over these last four years, as he steps down now for a well-earned break. But it hasn't just been the last four years. Geoffrey has served in this capacity for 7 of the last 11 years. That is real dedication. But we won't let him be idle! He has agreed to carry on with several tasks to support the Leadership Team.

We have given Geoffrey a Hillier Garden Gift Card as a token of our thanks, in the hope that he will have a little more time to spend in his garden. So, a big Thank You to Geoffrey, and to Pamela!

## **... and the Way Forward**

Over recent years, in this busy and complex church, additional tasks have fallen to the Senior Steward, creating an even bigger and more daunting role for a new person to take over. The Leadership Team reviewed this and came up with some proposals to enable a greater sharing of the workload; these have been accepted by Church Council and are now being developed and implemented. One of the key elements is the establishment of a Worship Group to take responsibility for planning ahead for special Sundays/events, e.g. Harvest and Christmas. We are in the process of approaching people to be part of this group, but if you haven't been approached yet, and would like to be involved, please have a word with Bill, Laura or me.

This church also relies upon good communication, and we are very grateful that Diana Harris has agreed to be our communications co-ordinator. Some of this she does already in her role with the Monthly News Sheet and with publicity posters, but she has agreed to take on other essential aspects of communication and the sharing of information.

And as for a new Senior Steward, I have agreed to become the 'Lead Steward'. This seems more appropriate for the new structure with the sharing out of some of the responsibilities. I ask you to be patient with me as I ease myself into this new role. Please pray for our Church Leadership Team and the new Worship Group as we explore the way forward for our church, not only for organisational purposes, but also in our worship and in our service in the community.

*Dot Warren, Lead Steward*

Dear friends,

I'm sorry I couldn't be there on Easter Sunday. I'd like to add my own two penn'orth.

In 1987 the Stillwell family landed at Emsworth church and were warmly held and strengthened by the whole fellowship here. There are many people I'd like to thank for that, but I want to express my personal gratitude especially to those who were at the front and heart of that welcome: Dot and Philip, Pamela and – yes! – Geoffrey.

The second thing to say is that I've been around long enough to be aware of some of the challenges the fellowship has had to face over the whole length of Geoffrey's tenure as steward. The wider church will not necessarily be aware of all of those past challenges, because they were dealt with sensitively by the team and especially by Geoffrey and Philip.

So – my very sincere thanks to Geoffrey for all that he's brought to our personal lives, and to the life of the whole church. And, of course, for all he'll continue to contribute, knowing that the role of Lead Steward is in safe hands, as we plan for the future!

Best wishes for Pentecost, for summer and all that lies ahead.

*Bill*

## **News from Church Council**

At its meeting in March, the Church Council expressed its thanks to Geoffrey Eardley on his stepping down as a Church Steward at the end of April, having served as Senior Steward from September 2013. Following her appointment at our General Church Meeting, Alison Vaughan joins Dot Warren and David Sawyer as our Church Stewards from 1<sup>st</sup> May. The Council was grateful to Dot for offering to become the *Lead Steward*, and for the willingness of a team of six to assist our Church Stewards with their responsibilities for Sunday worship, as *Sunday Stewards* (previously known as *Associate Stewards*).

Following their presentation at our GCM, the Church Council accepted the Church Leadership Team's proposals for sharing more widely the Church Stewards' responsibilities, particularly for planning our worship and co-ordinating communications, as outlined by Dot on page 8.

The Council warmly welcomed the achievements of *Second Sunday at the Centre* in the six months since the launching in September 2016 of this new mission initiative, which was to be trialled for one year, and agreed that it be continued for the foreseeable future.

It was noted that there is now only a small number of people willing and able to move furniture on Saturdays for Sunday morning worship, with no one available on some occasions, when we may have to accept the need to sit around tables. However, the Leadership Team recognises that this is not ideal, and is exploring the possibility of paying someone to move the furniture.

The meeting heard of some of the new initiatives in the Pastoral Centre, including the craft mornings, the popular magazine box and jigsaw, the very successful offering of bacon butties on Fridays, and the interludes of piano music, now on Saturday mornings. Mandy Mani, our Pastoral Centre Manager, is in contact with the doctors' surgery, with a view to reaching those in the community who might appreciate the friendship of the Pastoral Centre, and is producing the new weekly *What's On* leaflets on the tables in the PC. She has trained as a *Dementia Champion*, as part of Emsworth's initiative to become a dementia-friendly town, and will be sharing what she has learned with some of the Centre's volunteers. Through a number of our activities, links are also being formed with those who have recently moved into Lane End House. Although we have welcomed some new volunteers, it is getting increasingly difficult to maintain the coffee bar rota, and there is a need for more volunteers to enable us to continue this important part of our church's mission in the local community.

Church Council affirmed our Safeguarding Policy, as displayed on our notice boards. Pastoral Carers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Stewards and those who work with children are required to complete their Safeguarding training, which is due for renewal in May. Other office holders, and others who are interested, are "warmly invited" to attend one of the Safeguarding courses being held at Emsworth or elsewhere in the Circuit.

Approval was given to accept a quotation for the replacement of the church boiler, and we were advised of the plans of the Finance & Property Committee for the redecoration this year of the Wesley Room and the office.

As always, many other aspects of the life of our church feature in our discussions at Church Council. Do have a look at the minutes on the notice board.

*Alan Hickox*  
*Church Council Secretary*

## Prayer Prompts - May



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

**Laura:** approaching ordination; the Diaconal Convocation 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May celebrating 30 years since reopening for candidates; all of us as we consider what God is calling us to do and be.

**Christian Aid Week** 14-20May: collectors and organisers; the work of Christian Aid in places of poverty and despair, war torn countries, refugees; persecuted Christians in Syria, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, especially members of the Egyptian Coptic Church.

**EMC:** Church Stewards beginning new patterns of working & service; all who do the unseen jobs; Wesley Day 24<sup>th</sup> May; all known to us in need, the sick, bereaved, those who are depressed; Felicity Gooderham and her family.

**Local** Elections, all Councillors, shopkeepers, businesses; national elections, here and in Europe; for the working out of Brexit – that all Government decisions be made with compassion and integrity, and all conversations conducted with respect.

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](mailto:c.walters5@homecall.co.uk)

*Please note: now that Friday Bacon Butties are firmly established, they will no longer be included in the calendar!*

### *Church Calendar continued:*

Tuesday	23	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games
		3.00pm	Bible Discussion Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	24	10.00am	Police Surgery with local constabulary
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group: AGM and supper (IH)
Thursday	25	10.00am	Cake Stall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Malcolm Rothwell
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship Led by Rev John Mills
Monday	29		<b>Bank Holiday</b>
			Pastoral Centre open 10.00 – 12 noon (tbc)
			No exercises
Tuesday	30	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'My Favourite Bank Holiday Outing' (IH)
Wednesday	31	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2017

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

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

Monday	1		<b>May Bank Holiday</b> Pastoral Centre open 10 – 12 noon (tbc, subject to staffing) No exercises
Tuesday	2	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Wednesday	3	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	4	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Brendan Gibb-Gray: 'Crime and Criminals' (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	10.00am	All Age Worship led by Mrs Shirley Haynes Followed by coffee and Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	MWiB Circuit Easter Offering Service at Drayton, see page 4
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Led by Rev Bill McCoubrey
Monday	8	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	9	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knitting for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	10	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group: Music Group (IH)
Thursday	11	7.30pm	Wesley Guild: AGM (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>Christian Aid Week begins</b>
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev John Pilkington, Preacher Rev Peter Cole
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Deacon Laura Evans
		1.00pm	Circuit Roadshow 'Diffusing the e-word - Evangelism' see page 3
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship Led by Rev Bill Stillwell, preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
Monday	15	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	16	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Outing (IH)
Wednesday	17	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	18	7.30pm	Wesley Guild: Walk and Fish & Chip Supper (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington led by Rev John Pilkington (tbc)
Monday	22	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)

*Church calendar continued on inside back page*

Items for the June news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or  
emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 20 May**