



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

July 2017

Message from the Manse

You may well be reading this on June 25th itself: it's a very special day!

For a start, in the United States it's National Catfish Day, National Leon Day, and National Strawberry Parfait Day. How will they deal with all that excitement?

As for us – you, me, the people of our fellowship and community, but most of all for Laura – it's a genuinely special day with real excitement! It's the day of Laura's Ordination in Wolverhampton.

When you get married you become a different person. The vows you make before God, and the way that those vows are worked out in all the following years, change you. In God's power you become, little by little, more like the person he wants you to be. It's probably not what you thought you'd be, and all your expectations for the future will be confounded by the surprising, exasperating, life-giving pathways he leads you down if only you will let him.

Being ordained isn't so very different. You're offering yourself to God to equip you and grow you into the 'you' he wants you to be in his service.

You're effectively saying to God what Methodists say every year in the Covenant Service:

'I am no longer my own but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will.....
....I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.'

Ordained ministry is dispiriting and exhilarating; challenging and boring; humbling and life-enhancing. It's like every job you've ever done and like nothing you've ever done. And that's what you've committed yourself to in Ordination before God and the people.

At one point during the 'Reception into Full Connexion' on the morning of Ordination the President of the Methodist Conference stands, gestures in the direction of all the ordinands standing nearby, and asks the great assembly of church representatives in front of her/him: 'Are they worthy?' An ear-splitting shout comes back: 'They are worthy!' At that point you just want to shout back: 'Don't be so daft – of course I'm not!' But, as time goes by, you just have to accept the fact that, however unworthy you feel yourself to be, God will equip you and enable you to do and to be things in his service of which you would never have thought yourself capable.

You doubtless already know, and give thanks for, what Laura does and has done and is. You know that the Conference can call back 'She is worthy!' with a clear conscience. You will know, too, that she will thrive and grow with the help of your care and prayers. We give thanks that God has brought her to us and to this community, and look forward to working, witnessing and worshipping with her for a long time to come.

And – just in passing – has it occurred to you that *you* have been ordained, as well? Whatever God has called you to do, he has ordained you to do. Deacons and Ministers have particular roles to fulfil, but their ministry is just a part of all the ministry of God carried out by people who do the admin, visit the sick, keep the boiler working, proclaim the Gospel in their daily lives and generally do God's will wherever he calls them to be.

So, let's celebrate Laura's Ordination, her continuing ministry, and the ministry of our whole fellowship in Christ.

Now doesn't *that* knock National Catfish Day into a cocked hat!

God go with you in your own way of ministry.

Bill

Christian Aid Events

The Emsworth Churches, working together to help the poorest people of our world, raised £5727.16 during Christian Aid week. Once again we have been restricted by the 'Cold Calling' rules but we were able to offer alternative ways of donating.

Our next event is the Summer Sale which will take place on Saturday 8th July at 9.30am. The stalls will include books, toys, bric-a-brac, good quality clothes, gifts and cakes. If anyone feels able to support us by baking a cake we would be very grateful.

Donations can be left at International Hall on Friday 7th July between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

Many Thanks

Gill Cooper, Marian Hughes and Margaret Sawyer

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2017/8

Each new edition of the Methodist Prayer Handbook connects Christians from different times, places and walks of life. Classic prayers are interwoven with new contributions from Methodists across the districts and around the world. Arranged as a 31-day prayer cycle, the Handbook also includes a daily lectionary with a suggested hymn (from *Singing the Faith*) to accompany and guide you through the year.

Jesus the First and Last celebrates the Jesus of history, the Christ of faith and our cosmic Lord; the first word and the last word, which has not yet been spoken. We explore how the immensity of Jesus means that we need to experience him in many different ways and be open to the surprises he is yet to show us. We also explore the depth and diversity of personal Christian faith and experience, and the different perceptions and experiences of Christ found within and across the Churches of the world. The title is taken from the hymn *Jesus, the First and Last* by Charles Wesley, *Singing the Faith*, 329.

The Prayer Handbook is available in both standard and large print editions. If you would like to order a copy please sign the list that will be in the atrium on Sundays in July. Price £3.95. No money needed until handbooks are received.

Pamela Eardley

Afternoon tea at 40 Woodlands Avenue

Pamela and Geoffrey invite the church family to join them for afternoon tea on Saturday 22nd July from 3.00 p.m.

A Tribute to Ivy French

Ivy was born in Portsmouth in 1915 and lived all her life in the area, moving to Emsworth in the late 1960s with her husband Arthur.

In her teenage years music was her great joy and was most likely to be her career; unfortunately a hand injury made this impossible.

After Arthur's death, Edna Neighbour invited Ivy to come to Ladies Group; from there other friends introduced her to a House Group and the Wesley Guild.

Ivy had an enquiring mind, trying to unravel the deeper truths of life – not the soaps on TV for Ivy, but informative and factual programmes.

Ivy was an inspiration, using her time and gifts in so many ways – drawing, painting, French conversation and hours in her beloved garden. Ivy was good neighbour and friend to those she walked alongside on life's journey.

Margaret Mason

United Walk – Sunday 16th July

Please join us for a 6 mile Sussex stroll up the Trundle. There are no stiles and a steady climb but (hopefully) grand views of Chichester Harbour and the Solent.

Meet at the Car Park behind the Cricket Pavilion at East Lavant (Grid Ref: 197/860083) at **12.30** with a picnic. For those preferring a shorter walk, there is the option of returning to the starting point unescorted after our lunch stop, thus saving 2½ miles.

Ruth & Jamie Barr 01243 372939.

Ladies Group Summer Programme

Wednesday July 19th: Tea at Stansted House, 2.30 p.m. Anyone seeking a lift should contact Judy Emerson in good time so that she can make the necessary arrangements.

Wednesday August 2nd: Cream Tea in IH at 3 o'clock. You may bring a friend if you wish.

Wednesday August 23rd: Open House from 10.30 a.m. until 4.00 p.m. at 113, Havant Road, Emsworth. Drinks and light refreshments will be served. If you require something more substantial around lunch time then please bring your own. Come for a short time or longer if you would like.

Church Family Lunch: Sunday 2nd July

On Sunday 2nd July our All Age Worship service will be followed by a simple lunch and a time of fellowship together.

It would be brilliant to see as many folk there as possible so that we can enjoy one another's company. Between the service and lunch there will be activities available if you wish. Nothing serious, energetic or compulsory, just a bit of fun! The food should be ready to eat at about 12 Noon.

The food is sorted, but all offers of help to set up serving tables in the atrium after the service and put food on them would be gratefully received!

Look forward to seeing you there.

Laura

Holiday at Home

Just to let you know that the July Holiday at Home will not be going ahead. All is not lost, however! We are now planning it for the end of August.

Could you:

Give a talk on an interesting subject - no more than an hour, and less if you'd prefer!

Run a craft, baking or other activity session

Help with 'pampering' (e.g. paint fingernails)

Come along, be a friendly face and share fellowship with people

If you'd like to help – or have any other ideas about things we could do – please do come along to the meeting:

Friday 7th July at 1.15pm in the Pastoral Centre

Or get in touch with me if you would like to help but can't make the meeting!

Laura

Annual Carpet Cleaning

The annual cleaning of the Church carpet will take place on Monday 31st July. On that day the Pastoral Centre will operate in International Hall. On Tuesday 1st August the carpet in International Hall will be cleaned. The Activity Afternoon will be in the Wesley Room.

Circuit News

Havant Wesley Guild are having their annual Walk and Supper and would be very pleased if any friends from Emsworth would like to join them on Monday 10th July 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in International Hall Emsworth Methodist Church

Margaret and David Sawyer (For Havant Guild)

'Defusing the e-word - Evangelism'

The third Circuit Roadshow will take place at Fareham Methodist Church (PO16 0NU) on Thursday 13th July at 7.30pm. Do go along if you can.

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.

The accreditation service for George Wheeler has been arranged for Sunday 16th July at 3pm at Drayton United Church.

Havant Passion Play 2017

This year's Havant Passion Play Project will tell the story of the Parables from the Bible. Why not consider joining us in whatever capacity you feel you can: actor, back stage helper etc. You would not have to attend every rehearsal but only the ones you are involved in. We are a very friendly bunch and would welcome you and nurture you.

For further information, please contact Pauline Kaznowski on kaznowskipauline@gmail.com

Emsworth Show

As you probably already know the August Bank Holiday Monday (28th) will bring the Emsworth Show.

This year Christians Together in Emsworth will be having a small stall giving away bottles of water, together with information about local churches, to anyone who is thirsty / interested. It will be a brilliant opportunity for the churches to work together to get ourselves noticed and, hopefully, get the gospel message across in an unexpected way.

We're looking for volunteers to do 1 hour slots, giving out water, perhaps chatting to people and generally being friendly. It would be great if the Emsworth Methodists were well represented!

Can you help?

If so please contact: Laura: (023) 9247 9728

Pat Hales: 01243 379283

Prayer Prompts - July



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

Pray for **all involved in recent tragic events in London and Manchester:** those hurt by fire, bomb, knife and gun; all who are so badly traumatised; that all communities involved will find healing, reconciliation and love.

All who meet for **the Methodist Conference in Birmingham:** that deliberations and decisions will be guided by the Holy Spirit; our own **Circuit** and the invitation / stationing process re members of staff this summer. That all Churches be a witness to the hope we find in God, having love and respect for all, whatever faith or country of origin.

For all politicians, all parties who make up Government: that they may be guided by compassion for those in our country with the greatest needs, whilst working out what Brexit means for our country. Pray for the work of our local Councillors, in Emsworth and District.

All who are in need: people known to us, loved ones, friends, neighbours; all who grieve; refugees, places where there is war and famine, despair and hatred. All who act with violence, terrorists – all still children of 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 orc.walters5@homecall.co.uk

Congratulations to Stephen and Loz Gowling on the birth of their daughter, Lily Rose, on 13th June. Lily is a granddaughter for Linda and a great-granddaughter for Sylvia and Barrie Evans.

Church Calendar continued:

Saturday	22	3.00pm	Afternoon Tea at 40 Woodlands Avenue (see page 3)
Sunday	23	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Malcolm Rothwell United Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	24		NO Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	25		NO Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Strawberries and Cream (IH)
Wednesday	26	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	27	10.00am	Cake Stall
Sunday	30	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning worship led by Deacon Laura Evans Christians Together in Emsworth United Service at the Baptist Church
Monday	31		NO Chair-based Exercises Annual Church carpet cleaning – PC operates in IH (see page 5)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JULY 2017

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

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

Sunday	2		Special Celebration Service (see page 5)
		10.00am	All Age Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans Followed by coffee and Traidcraft stall and a simple celebration lunch
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Julie Price, Preacher Rev David Muskett
Monday	3	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	4	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Laura's Ordination (IH)
Wednesday	5	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Friday	7	1.15pm	'Holiday at Home' meeting (see page 5)
		4.30pm	Christian Aid Sale donations can be left in IH (see page 3)
Saturday	8	9.30am	Christian Aid Summer Sale (IH) (see page 3)
Sunday	9	10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill McCoubrey, Preacher Rev Peter Cole
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans, Preacher Rev John Pilkington
Monday	10	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		7.30pm	Havant Wesley Guild Annual Walk and Supper (IH) (see page 6)
Tuesday	11		NO Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knitting for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	12	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	13	7.30pm	Circuit Roadshow at Fareham (see page 6)
Sunday	16		Action for Children
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		12.30	United Methodist/Anglican Walk (see page 4)
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington Led by Rev John Pilkington
		3.00pm	Accreditation service for George Wheeler at Drayton (see p 6)
Monday	17		NO Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	18		NO Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games
Wednesday	19	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		2.30pm	Ladies Group: Tea at Stansted House (see page 4)

Church calendar continued on inside back page

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