



# 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**

**June 2017**

## Message from the Manse

One of the jobs on my 'to do list' for this weekend is to do some preparation for my Testimony Service in a couple of weeks' time. Just a list of important points. Something to stop me getting to the end of the service and thinking 'I forgot to say that, that and that!'

As a Probationer, I've spent much of the last 6 years telling parts of my story: first as a candidate for ministry, then as a student at The Queen's Foundation and now as a minister in circuit. From time to time I have been known to include snatches in sermons. But this will be the first time I've given a full testimony.

I wonder what you think of when you hear the word 'testimony'...

I don't know about you, but when I think of people giving testimony it conjures up an image of someone with a really exciting faith story, who has an absolute pinpoint-able moment when they first became a Christian. A very obvious move from 'before' to 'after'. A life full of real, profound, 'this changes everything' moments.

Maybe that is your experience. Maybe your faith story is full of moments like this.

Or maybe you hear the word 'testimony' and think 'Oh, no-one would want to hear about me. I'm not interesting enough'.

Maybe you're somewhere in the middle.

Whatever we may think, all our testimonies are of tremendous importance, wherever we are on our journey with God. Whatever is behind us, whatever we are currently living with and whatever is ahead. Anyone who's ever told a story (particularly a true story) to a small child, or got lost in a biography or film about someone's life will know that storytelling is a hugely powerful tool. The telling and sharing of our stories - not just the nice, comfortable bits but the parts we perhaps wish weren't there - not only deepens relationships and enables others to open up, it also dispels the myth that Christians 'have it all sorted'.

As a worldwide church we are currently in the season of both the Ascension and Pentecost. This is a time when we especially recognise God as an ever-present reality who travels in front of us as guide, behind us as protector, beside us as companion and within us to be shared with all those we meet.

*Laura*

## **East Solent and Downs Circuit 'Thy Kingdom Come'**

### **Circuit Prayer Event: Saturday 3rd June from 2pm at Portchester Methodist Church**



From 2pm onwards there will be an opportunity to take part in different prayer activities including: Prayer walking, Bread making (at 2pm), Craft activities, Prayer stations, Prayer trails, Prayer labyrinths.

At 4pm afternoon tea will be served.  
At 5pm there will be a time of worship together.

**Everyone is welcome!**

## **Ivy French**

You will be sorry to hear that Ivy French passed away on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May after a short illness. Ivy was our oldest member, and until recently she was living independently at home, with help from loving neighbours. She would have been 102 on June 18<sup>th</sup>!

Ivy's funeral service will be at The Oaks on Thursday 1st June at 1pm.

We give thanks for Ivy's life, and remember in our prayers her family and friends, and in particular her cousin Ann, and Ann's husband Trevor.

## **Holiday at Home**

While for many people the summer is a time for going away on holiday, or spending time with loved ones closer to home, there are many in our community for whom it is lonely and isolating.

A 'Holiday at Home' provides an opportunity for people to make new friends, enjoy one another's company and take part in activities they enjoy.

We hope to run a Holiday at Home from 10.30am – 3.30pm on **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July**, providing a range of fun and stimulating activities, as well as a simple lunch. However, the running of such an event will be very much dependent on whether we can get together enough volunteers.

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 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 on

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm in the Pastoral Centre**

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

*Laura*

## **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.

## **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. Cheques payable to Emsworth Methodist Church, please. Any excess money collected will be given as a book token.

## **Tickets for Ordination**

I'm sure by now everyone is aware that I am due to be Received into Full Connexion and Ordained on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at Darlington Street Wolverhampton at 4pm. If you don't already have a ticket and would like one then please do get in touch with me and I will make sure one is available for you.

Also, as I'm sure you'll understand, June is going to be a busy month for me in terms of Ordinands' Retreat, the day itself and attendance at Methodist Conference. Inevitably this means I will be out of Circuit 12<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June. During this time Bill will be the first point of contact, or the Circuit Office if Bill is unavailable.

*Laura*

## **A message from Sarah Gooderham**

I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated towards David Williamson doing the Brighton Marathon to raise funds for Felicity. It's amazing the kindness and generosity of the congregation: £675 was raised through donations from folk at Emsworth. We are so thankful.

We also had a fundraising event over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. We were overwhelmed by everyone's support. We have now put all this money together to make a Grand Total of £3,817.23.

## **'Read any good books recently?'**

We're hearing a lot at present about the First World War, which was at its height just a hundred years ago with the Battle of the Somme. Maybe you've heard and read more than enough already, but here's a book particularly worth reading. 'Daring All Things' is the autobiography of the Rev. George Kendall, recently published by the family. At its heart is a fascinating account of his experience as an army chaplain, including life in the trenches. Kendall was closely involved after the Armistice in the selection of the 'unknown soldier' to be buried in Westminster Abbey. Through his years as a Wesleyan minister at Windsor, he counted members of the Royal family among his circle of friends.

It is a remarkable story of a remarkable life. I have a copy which is available on loan to anyone who cares to ask for it.

*John Vickers*

## **'Defusing the e-word - Evangelism' - Circuit Roadshows**

Those of us who attended the Circuit Roadshow at Emsworth on May 14<sup>th</sup> found it affirming, inspiring and a positive experience. It really did defuse those potentially negative connotations and strong feelings that surround the word 'evangelism'.

We looked at the many ways in which we already share our faith as a church and individually, and explored how we could do this even more confidently if we had more resources. Financial resources are being made available in the Circuit; we were asked for practical ideas about how they can be used.

Other roadshows will take place at Liphook Methodist Church (GU30 7AN) on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm and at Fareham Methodist Church (PO16 0NU) on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm. Do go along if you can.

There will be a Circuit Service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Fareham at 4pm to commission our Circuit Outreach and Evangelism teams. For further information see Janet Baker.

*Diana Harris*

## **Safeguarding Training**

The Methodist Safeguarding Foundation training course 'Creating Safer Space' will be repeated at Emsworth on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 12.30pm – 4pm. Jean Pannell, our Circuit Safeguarding Officer, will deliver the training.

There are still places available and everyone is warmly invited, even if you don't hold a particular church office. It's useful for us all to refresh our safeguarding awareness, and the course is relevant to local issues.

Jean asks us to arrive in plenty of time to start at 12.30pm. Participants need to sign in beforehand. The training will take approximately 3 hours, so hopefully it will be finished before 4pm.

If you would like to come to the training, please let me know, or contact Jean directly by email [jpannell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jpannell@hotmail.co.uk) to book your place.

*Diana Harris*

## **Replacement of Church Boiler**

The boiler which provides the heating for the church, and all rooms on that side of the atrium, is getting quite old. Recently it has become increasingly difficult to arrange maintenance. At the recommendation of the Finance & Property Committee, the Church Council has agreed that the boiler should be replaced. This is booked to be done on Monday and Tuesday June 12/13<sup>th</sup>.

Disruption to our normal activities should be minimal, but we are asked not to go up the stairs next to the office, as it is in that upstairs area the works will take place. We might also meet the contractors carrying equipment back and forth between those rooms and the yard, so please take care.

*Keith Page*

## **Havant Passion Play Flower Festival Cancelled**

With much regret the Havant Passion Play organisers have decided to cancel the Flower Festival, which was due to have been held at Emsworth during the weekend of 9-11<sup>th</sup> June.

However, there will be a Celebration Songs of Praise Service at Emsworth Methodist Church led by Revd Bill Stillwell on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 pm. This service will incorporate some of the ideas from the Flower Festival, and everyone is invited.

## **Christians Together in Emsworth AGM & Ordinary Meeting 4 May 2017**

**Election of Officers for 2017/18:** Chair: Revd Harry Lanham; Vice-Chair: Peter Agius; Secretary: Sue Ingram; Treasurer: Sue Dudman.

**Review of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** There were mixed feelings about the new format. Some felt more people were involved if an event was held at each church on different days as before but others appreciated the new approach. It was decided to repeat the same format for 2018 and the Baptist Church agreed to host this event on 20/01/18. The Women's World Day of Prayer at the Pastoral Centre was well attended and appreciated. Many guests at the Pastoral Centre had joined in the service. The Chair will write to Janet Baker on our behalf and to the organisers in Havant and Hayling Island to see if a different format would be helpful/viable.

**Review of CTE Easter card – content, production, delivery:** The content and production were praised but the delivery was erratic in places.

**Review of Lent Groups:** There had been one small ecumenical group but all other church groups had stayed in their own pattern so it had not been possible to produce a poster to advertise them. All churches were asked to take back the possibility of more ecumenical sharing next Lent and to report back at the next meeting.

**Review of Holy Week and Easter Events:** The Service of Foot Washing at St James' was well received and numbers attending had increased. The Good Friday Walk of Witness was discussed. The Baptist Church had felt a need to respond to the request from young families to be part of Good Friday and had done so with a service for them in the hope they might join the walk afterwards. However, this proved difficult. It was agreed that it was important to include children and young families, and this could best be done by ending the walk at the Baptist Church in the hope that they might join the walk before the last stage. Everyone felt that the walk was a powerful witness and should continue; it was also a source of great meaning to those hearing the Passion story unfold at each different church. The Easter Sunrise Service was well attended.

**Christian Aid update:** Lent lunches had raised £636, up £16 on 2016. Unfortunately there are still some roads to be covered for the upcoming 2017 Christian Aid Week collection, despite requests for more volunteers.

**Arrangements for Emsworth Show:** A provisional pitch to accommodate a gazebo/tent has been booked whilst enquiries are made with the organisers to confirm whether giving out free bottles of water will be in order. It was agreed that a CTE presence at the show was important as a positive witness. Laura and Pat Hales had found some helpers but more would be welcome so please speak to Laura if you will be prepared to join her team on the day. All the churches were asked to produce 100 leaflets giving details of their activities, to be handed out at the show.

**Fifth Sunday evening services:** 30/7/17 – Baptist Church; 29/10/17 – URC; 29/4/18 – Anglican at St Thomas a Becket; 29/7/18 – Methodist, 30/9/18 – Roman Catholic.

### **News from around the Churches:**

**Methodist:** Laura will be ordained Deacon on June 25<sup>th</sup>. There was a well-received new weekly sheet on the tables at the Pastoral Centre with details of services and events.

**Anglican:** Together with the Methodist Church over 600 angels had been knitted and distributed secretly around Emsworth with an Easter message. There had been a 24 hour prayer vigil to underpin the work in connection with preparing the way for a new Rector, and a public meeting. The Parish is taking part in the Archbishop of Canterbury's outreach initiative 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

**Roman Catholic:** 'Business as usual'. Jackie Chung was well involved with Havant Passion Play.

**URC:** Graham Dadd is to become a stipendiary minister and awaits a church appointment. Their student Paul O'Connor has been appointed to a church in Christchurch. There will be a Strawberry Tea on 1<sup>st</sup> July to which all are invited.

**Baptist:** The church is also taking part in 'Thy Kingdom Come'. There are to be seven baptisms, the first since the new building was completed. The original building has been refurbished. An appointment has been made for a youth and family worker from Time for God to be employed for a year. Now that the major building work is complete their focus has moved to outreach and mission.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

*Sue Dudman*

## Prayer Prompts - June



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

**Ladies Group Anniversary:** for the work of this group in our church; for the work of the wider group, Methodist Women in Britain and the witness they give to so many.

**General Election:** pray for all politicians seeking election to Government; for all voters that we make our decisions wisely; for all politicians at Westminster and locally, to work with compassion and justice. Pray for the media that all reporting be done with integrity.

**'Thy Kingdom Come' Interdenominational Prayer Initiative between Ascension and Pentecost:** that with many other Christians we may pray to be filled with the Spirit of Jesus and witness to God's love so that others may want to follow Jesus, here in Emsworth.

Remember the **Methodist Conference** meeting in Birmingham from 24th June; all to be ordained Sunday 25th, remembering Laura and the Ordination Service in Wolverhampton.

**The wider world:** all places where there is war – Sudan, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan; refugees fleeing from terrorism, war or poverty, crossing the Mediterranean; all refugee children travelling on their own.

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

*Special Congratulations to John and Vivienne Vickers  
on the occasion of their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 21<sup>st</sup> June.*

*Church Calendar continued:*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Ladies Group Anniversary</b>
	10.00am	Ladies Group Anniversary led by Mrs Ceri Ellis
	4.00pm	Laura's Ordination Service in Wolverhampton (see page 4) No Evening Service
Monday	26	10.30am Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	27	10.00am Standing Exercises (IH) 2.00pm Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH) 3.00pm Bible Discussion Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	28	10.30am 'Let's Do It!'

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2017

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

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

Friday	2	7.00pm	Laura's Testimony Service
Saturday	3	2.00pm	Circuit Prayer Event at Portchester (see page 2)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>Pentecost</b>
		10.00am	All Age Worship led by Rev David Rice Followed by coffee and Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Brian Hammond, Preacher Rev Claire Simpson
Monday	5	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	6	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Musical Hour (IH)
Wednesday	7	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>Trinity Sunday</b>
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Geoffrey Senior, Preacher Rev Andy Wilson
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Mrs Janet Baker
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship of Celebration Songs of Praise led by Rev Bill Stillwell (see page 4)
Monday	12	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	13	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knitting for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	14	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Saturday	17	12.30pm	Creating Safer Space Training (see page 6)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Mrs Janet Baker and Rev Geoffrey Senior
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington Led by Rev Andy Wilson.
Monday	19	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	20	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'Poetry Please'
		2.00pm	Circuit Roadshow 'Defusing the e-word - Evangelism' At Liphook (see page 5)
Wednesday	21	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	22	10.00am	Cake Stall

*Church calendar continued on inside back page*

Items for the July news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or  
emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 17 June**