



# 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**

**August 2017**

## **Message from the Manse**

"Very few castaways can claim to have survived so long at sea as Mr. Patel, and none in the company of an adult Bengal tiger."

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

First of all, may I take this opportunity to say a very big 'thank you' to you all for your prayers, cards and kind words following my ordination at the beginning of last month and again during the recent house move. Life rarely stands still for long!

The quote at the top of the page is the final sentence of the book 'The Life of Pi' by Yann Martel. It's the story of a young Indian boy (Pi Patel) whose father, the owner of a zoo, makes the decision to move with his family to Canada. Unfortunately while on the journey they are shipwrecked and Pi finds himself adrift in the middle of the ocean in a small lifeboat with only a large Bengal tiger (the somewhat improbably named Richard Parker!) for company. After many adventures and an indeterminate period of time Pi and Richard Parker arrive in Mexico where they are taken into custody and questions are raised about Pi's account of himself and his experiences.

This is only a very vague précis of an interesting book (I recommend it to you!) and there's much I could say about it in this message. From reading the final line it might be possible to deduce some of what the story is about. At any rate, one might gather that 'Mr. Patel' had been shipwrecked and coped at sea for a long time despite the presence of a tiger. However, in order to discover the whole story it would be necessary to read the book from cover to cover many times. Even then I suspect most of us would miss bits!

The saying 'Never judge a book by its cover' is as applicable to people as it is to works of fiction. Our media-focused age makes it almost inevitable that every day we will read stories in the newspapers or online, or see images on the television, about people or places we know very little about. The challenge not to rapidly draw conclusions based solely on the snippets of information we've heard or seen is very real.

Perhaps to a lesser extent we may find the same challenge in our relationships with those who we see every day.

Reading one line – even the last line – of a novel may give us a taster of what the story is about; but it's only by sitting down, preferably with a cup of tea and a plate of biscuits, and taking the time to really engage with the whole book that we can hope to get a full picture. Similarly, just a brief glance at the gospels is enough to tell us how much Jesus valued open, honest sharing with those he came into contact with. Conversation without judgment. Love without strings.

May this church continue to be a place where people find welcome, a listening ear and a space where their stories are listened to without assumption or expectation. May we all take the time to sit and listen to one another and so deepen our relationships with each other and with the God who knows the whole story.

Every blessing,  
*Laura*

**Laura has a new telephone number:**

**01243 376786**



## Holiday at Home

The planning for the Holiday at Home is now well under way. The dates have been fixed for 30<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September, 10.30am – 3.30pm.

Many thanks to everyone who has already offered to help with activities on the days. We now have a really exciting and varied programme which I'm sure will appeal to many people.

There is a final planning meeting on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30pm that anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. We'd still welcome a few more volunteers to come along, chat to people and generally 'befriend'. For more information see the poster presentation on the notice board.

If you know anyone who might benefit from coming along to the Holiday at Home – or if you'd like to come yourself – please pick up a registration form from either Mandy or myself.

*Laura*

## Emsworth Show

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

For various reasons for the last couple of years Christians Together in Emsworth haven't been able to take an active part in the Show. However this year things will be different!

We will be having a small stall giving away bottles of water, together with information about local churches, to anyone who is thirsty / interested. There will also be simple prayer activities available for people to use. 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 and it would be an excellent opportunity to practice 'Defusing the 'E' Word'!

Can you help? If so please contact:

Laura: (01243) 376786

Pat Hales: (01243) 379283



If you come into the Pastoral Centre during the school summer holidays you may find that there has been an addition to the family.

'Meadow' (or 'Tahhoo' to give it its pedigree name!) belongs to St. James' Primary School. It is one of 160 such sheep that have been given to various Church schools in the area. Painted in such lovely bright colours by some of the children, Meadow can normally be found standing at the front door of the school welcoming children to lessons and activities and is a much-loved part of school life.

However, there was a concern that Meadow might get lonely during the school holidays as it wouldn't see many people and... well... sheep belong in a flock. So it was suggested that it should spend the summer here at the Pastoral Centre, and Mrs Biddlecombe, the teachers and children very kindly agreed to Meadow having this holiday.

Just as the children at the school have been undertaking sheep-related activities, investigating sheep facts and telling sheep jokes, so I hope Meadow will be a conversation-starter in the Pastoral Centre, where she will be the focal point of the prayer station and hopefully lead to further conversations about The Good Shepherd.

...and while we're on the subject of sheep facts, did you know that 'Tahhoo' was one of the words shepherds used in New Testament times to call their sheep? No? I didn't either!

*Laura*

## **Pastoral Centre Exciting Volunteer opportunity!**

Do you have or would you be happy to take a level 2 food hygiene certificate?

We are looking for a Ploughman's Lunch team leader for a Tuesday lunchtime – once every 6 weeks (starting 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017).

The leader

- prepares the Ploughman's Lunch with or without assistance (at present there is an assistant)
- clears up and loads the dishwasher
- arranges the cover in the Coffee Bar from 0930 – 1400 from a group of volunteers
- recruits extra volunteers to the team.

Please see Mandy if you are interested in this rôle. If you would like to see a Ploughman's in action (to know what it entails) before committing, please ask.

*Mandy*

### **'Lunch break'**

During August we have traditionally not offered Ploughman's and Sandwiches. This gives some of the teams a break.

We have decided that there will also be no Bacon Butties in August.

So there will be no lunches in August – but we still have our rolls and other lunch material!!

*Mandy*

### **Cake Stall**

Since I took over responsibility for the cake stall about 7 or 8 years ago there has been very little change in the price of our goods. However in view of the increasing price of ingredients we now feel that we must also increase the price of our cakes and savouries. We ask for your understanding as we feel that the time has come to review our costs and hope you will understand our dilemma. We know our customers appreciate these home-made goodies and return month by month to purchase them, so we have endeavoured to keep the increases as small as possible and trust that we can continue to look forward to your continued support. These price increases will take effect from the September cake stall to be held on 28<sup>th</sup>.

*Jean Dyke*

## Four go to Wolverhampton

We left Emsworth on Sunday 25 June, making good time north along the motorways. Don (the driver) and Gill, with Alison and Chris in the rear. After a quick coffee break to stretch legs in a lay-by, we reached the M40 and some time later found the Warwick Service Station, where we planned to have a snack. After two tours around the very busy car park, a disabled parking place next to the main door was found!

We tumbled out of the car, straightening our aching limbs, and a voice suddenly said "That's Christine Walters isn't it?" That made us all jump, especially Chris! Did she have a stalker in tow? But no, it was a mini bus of folk from the church in Winchester where she worked for a year, 19 years ago. They too were stopping for lunch on their way to an ordination service, but in Coventry! We sat in the entrance hall of the service station, whilst Gill and Alison produced sandwiches and coffee from a well known grocery shop. Every few minutes, someone came and said "Hello Chris" until Don said to her "Do you know everyone?"! As we were about to leave, a certain Geoffrey and Pamela arrived too!

The next part of the journey, took us to the north of Wolverhampton and the Premier Inn where Don had kindly booked rooms for us. After a quick stop to refresh, it was on to the centre of Wolverhampton to find the church. The sat-nav got us there, Gill spotting the tower of this old Victorian Church first. Getting Chris into the Church was not easy! Double yellow lines and traffic lights meant stopping near an entrance was difficult, but Don succeeded and Alison helped Chris up the steps where she then met her friend Dot Tesh.

Although nearly an hour to go before the service commenced, the church (*seating 1000 +*) was filling up fast. Friends and families of the five to be ordained filled the reserved seats at the front, so that they could join them at the communion rail later in the Service. Chris and Dot went to the front where Chris, (*having pulled some strings*) had two seats reserved! Again, Chris was inundated with people coming to greet her, mostly members of the Diaconal Order, who make every effort to come from points North, South, East and West to every Ordination Service. (*And Chris knew many others in the congregation. Does she know everyone in the Methodist Church?*) Meanwhile Don, Gill and Alison found seats and familiar Emsworth faces that had travelled to Wolverhampton in different ways to be there for Laura.

After singing led by a Music Group, a hush enveloped the congregation as the Warden of the Order led the five ordinands down the aisle, those officiating entering from the front. A past President, Revd Will Morrey led

the service of worship (*yes, he was at College with Chris!*) and because he is profoundly deaf, this added a poignancy to the worship as he moved to a pew in order to watch the preacher and the person using sign language during the sermon. The new Vice President of the Conference, Jill Baker, read a lesson as did the World Church Representative, Bishop Leidimo Edoni from the United Church of Papua New Guinea. The sermon was preached by the new President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Revd Dr Laurence Graham. (*This made Chris feel old, as she used to work with his father!*)

It was a very moving and inspiring service and when the time came for the congregation to be asked, are these people worthy to be ordained? The response was a resounding proclamation of **"They are worthy"**. With Laura first in line, we saw the President of the Conference and the Warden of the Order laying hands on her head as she knelt at the Communion Rail, then the same with each ordinand. The Vice President then handed each of them a Bible and the Warden gave each the silver cross of the Order to signify that they were now full members of the Order. Those ordained then turned to face the congregation and a burst of joyous applause erupted! (*Seen only by a few, the Warden had supplied a small bottle of water and a packet of tissues for each one where they sat!*).



As the service took place, Chris remembered John Yarien being ordained at the same time, in Coventry. When he was a teenager in Winchester, she had asked him to consider Local Preaching and to listen if God was calling him to be a Minister. Praise God he heard that call.

Then for us four, it was back to the Hotel for a meal whilst other Emsworth folk drove back home or caught a train to where they were staying. The journey home on Monday morning was relaxed and full of laughter! Gill feeding Don with sweets as if he was an animal at the zoo, and their lovely 'bickering' about things, had the two behind in stitches!

The four of us got to know each other more deeply as we shared in the expectancy of Laura's Ordination and our laughter and fellowship of the journey. So thank you Laura!

*Chris Walters*

## It's all about Teamwork

Emsworth Methodist Church and Pastoral Centre is a busy and complex place, which is great, but it poses challenges for co-ordination and leadership. In recent years a great deal has been carried by the Senior Steward but now, after a lot of careful thinking and planning, we are really into **Teamwork**, and it seems to be working well.

The **Church Leadership Team** has a co-ordinating role in ensuring that all aspects of our church life work well together. Laura acts as the link between the Leadership Team and the Pastoral Centre Management Group to ensure effective collaboration.

Perhaps the most significant new development is the formation of a **Worship Group**, co-ordinated by Margaret Sawyer. With the approval of the Church Leadership Team, they will plan ahead for special Sundays and occasions in the church year. They have already made plans for Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas and have produced a comprehensive list of dates up to September 2018 so that nothing slips through the net! Thank you, Margaret, and your team.

**Good communication** is vital for the smooth running of any organisation - within the church, the Circuit, and with St James' for our shared services. Diana Harris and Alan Hickox have taken responsibility for this, and will try to keep you all well-informed through the weekly notices, monthly News Sheet, email and the church noticeboards.

Our **premises** take a lot of co-ordinating as well! A big thank you to Pamela Eardley our Bookings Secretary and Chair of Finance and Property Committee for all she does in these roles.

One of the issues the Leadership Team has addressed over recent months is all the **furniture moving** needed to change the layout from Pastoral Centre to Sunday worship. We now have a young man, Jack, from the Baptist church, coming at midday each Saturday to work under the guidance of the Sunday duty steward to achieve this quite demanding physical task.

There are many people who play an important part in the life of the church by taking on a variety of Sunday duties. Many of you will have a copy of the duty rota each quarter and be well aware of this aspect of teamwork. I am very grateful to Geoffrey Eardley for continuing to produce this extensive rota on behalf of the Leadership Team, even though he has now stepped down from the team.

We are coming towards the end of the Connexional church year at the end of August, and the beginning of a new one with all its challenges and opportunities, so this seems a good time to say **thank you** to all of you, whatever role you play, big or small. One thing we can all do is pray!

**Keep up the good teamwork!**

*Dot*

### **Church Leadership Team**

Dot Warren, Lead Steward

David Sawyer, Alison Vaughan, Church Stewards

Diana Harris, Pastoral Secretary

Alan Hickox, Church Council Secretary

And of course Bill and Laura – where would we be without them!

### **Ladies Group**

The Ladies Group Anniversary (47 we think) at the end of June was led by Mrs Ceri Ellis. She is a former President of the Southampton District Women in Britain, preceding Judy into that office. Ceri's service followed the theme of friendship and love.

The readings, prayers, hymns and her talk spoke of the love we show to those we meet and of that special friendship we have with Jesus who gives us his unending love. Sylvia Evans, a member of the Ladies Group, played the organ and other members read the two lessons, welcomed worshippers, took collection and made the tea and coffee afterwards.

Ceri was presented with a beautiful arrangement of flowers made by Vivien Watson, who had also made a spectacular arrangement in church to celebrate Vivienne and John Vickers' Blue Sapphire (65 years) Wedding Anniversary. We were able to share their celebration with cake to accompany refreshments at the close of the service.

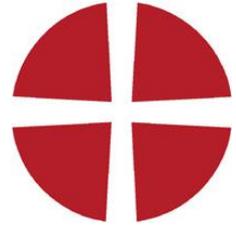
*Jean Dyke*

### **A date for your diaries...**

Our Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017. We hope to arrange a simple lunch for the church family after the morning service. Watch this space.

## More About Methodism

At some point in September we are planning to run another set of sessions similar to the Compass Course. We hope that this would be an opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith – particularly as it is expressed in Methodism – in a friendly, relaxed environment. Such a course would also be open to folk who come to the Pastoral Centre and indeed anyone else who is interested!



So, whether you are new to the fellowship, or have been around for a while but would like to find out more, please do let one of us know if you're interested so that we can find dates and times that will suit as many people as possible.

*Bill and Laura*

## Decoration of the Church Office and Wesley Room

At the beginning of September, (5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>), we will be embarking on the decoration of the Church Office and Wesley Room. During that time the office will operate in the Quiet Room. Preceding this, the office will need to be packed up.

There will obviously be some disruption during this time but we will try to keep this to a minimum. Some events that are normally in the Wesley Room will be moved to International Hall and access to the basement will be difficult.

*Pamela Eardley*

## Pat Cockram

We are sad to learn of the death of Pat Cockram on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, after a short illness in hospital. Pat and David were stalwarts of this church during the 1960s, 70s and early 80s. They helped to stem the decline and grow our church membership before moving to The Wirral. They were instrumental in Project 80 – our first building project - and crucially involved in the early days of the Pastoral Centre.

We give thanks for Pat's life and service in this community, and we remember David, their son Tim and all the family in our prayers. Pat's funeral will be on 11<sup>th</sup> August in Heswall.

## Prayer Prompts - August



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

**The Pastoral Centre:** Mandy the Manager, volunteers from all the churches, the need for new helpers for Coffee Bar, preparing light lunches; the Activity Afternoon, new ventures to get alongside folk; all who enter, the bereaved and lonely, the happy, those needing to talk, that our welcome shows the love of Christ. The 'Holiday at Home' in late August.

**The local community:** Emsworth Surgery and staff; shop owners, local businesses; the Emsworth Show this month; our neighbours, friends, all whom we know in need.

**The wider world:** those working with refugees, taking aid to the starving in Yemen and other places of war and fear; the Brexit talks this summer, all politicians; those on holiday, students making life changing decisions.

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

**A reminder** - 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.

### *Church Calendar continued:*

Thursday	24		NO cake stall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mr Geoff Paffett
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion led by Rev Andrew de Ville
Monday	28		<b>Bank Holiday</b> Pastoral Centre open 10-12noon Emsworth Show (see page 4)
Tuesday	29	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Summer Colours (IH)
Wednesday	30	10.00am	Holiday at Home (see p2)
Thursday	31	10.00am	Holiday at Home

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2017

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

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

Tuesday	1		Carpet Cleaning in International Hall No exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon : Beetle Drive (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	2	10.00am	Exercises (IH) <i>Note earlier time.</i>
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		3.00pm	Ladies Group: Cream Tea (IH)
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	3	10.00am	Exercises (IH) <i>Note earlier time</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	10.00am	All Age Worship led by Cdr Mark Barton Followed by coffee and Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill McCoubrey, Preacher Deacon Laura Evans
Monday	7	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	8	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knitting for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	9	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	10	10.30am	Exercises (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Andy Wilson, Preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Geoffrey Eardley, Preacher Rev Damon Draisey
Monday	14	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	15	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Flower Quiz (IH)
Wednesday	16	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	17	10.30am	Exercises (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Trevon Payne
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington led by Rev Andy Wilson
Monday	21	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	22	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games
Wednesday	23	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		2.30pm	Ladies Group: Open House at 113 Havant Road

*Church calendar continued on inside back page*

Items for the September news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to [dianaharris@btinternet.com](mailto:dianaharris@btinternet.com) by **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August**