



# 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**

**September 2017**

## Message from the Manse

Happy New Methodist Year!

I was very fortunate this year to be able to attend the Methodist Conference. As you probably know, all of the Methodist Churches in this country are linked together into a national body that is called 'the Connexion'. Each year representatives from across the country, both lay and ordained, discuss all that is going on in the life of the church over the past year, and all that the next year may bring.

Although Conference is the governing body of the Church, business is done in an atmosphere of praise and worship. To be in a Conference hall with over three hundred Methodists singing well-known (and less familiar) hymns is not something one forgets in a hurry!

This year the Conference spent a lot of time discussing the challenges and changes that face the contemporary Church and how we all might be encouraged to share the love of God through word and action. How might we open ourselves up to God and allow ourselves to be used as agents of God's Kingdom?

So we, along with every other Methodist Church in the country, are asked to start this new Methodist year with a time of prayer and fasting. Now, I know that many people reading this (and I include myself in this category) may read the word 'fasting' and immediately want to stop reading. Stick with me. It doesn't have to be about food.

We can fast from negative thoughts.

We can fast from technology.

We can fast from the things that get in the way of our relationship with God.

We can, as Jesus did, wander away for a while and find quiet spaces in which to pray.

And yes, if health permits, we can fast by missing a meal.

These sorts of spiritual disciplines are, by necessity, usually practised individually. However, there are various prayer events occurring at churches all over the Connexion, including here in this Circuit. Indeed, here at Emsworth we are organizing our very own on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September (there's more information about this on page 3 in this news sheet).

It would be great to see you there if you can make it; but if you can't then be encouraged to pray and reflect by yourself (or in groups!) on what God is already doing to build the Kingdom in Emsworth and how we all might join in.

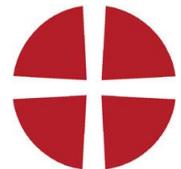
I wonder what this new year will bring!

Every blessing,

*Laura*

## **More About Methodism**

At some point soon 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*

## **Sacred Space**

As you may remember, back at the end of May we held a 'Sacred Space' prayer event in the church.

The next event will take place on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September in International Hall. The space will be open **2 – 4pm** and it is perfectly okay to come for as long or short a time as you wish. You don't need to stay for the whole time.

There are many different ways to pray. Not all of them involve sitting in silence. Not all of them involve saying words.

There will be prayer stations available and most will have a practical element – nothing artistic, energetic or scary – just an opportunity to pray in ways that perhaps you haven't done before! You will not be asked to pray out loud or do anything you do not wish to do.

There will also be tea, coffee and nibbles available.

It would be great to see you there.

*Laura*

### **'So What are you Waiting For?'**

The church monthly Bible Discussion Group will re-start after the summer break on Tuesday 26th September from 3-5pm in the Wesley Room.

'So What are you Waiting For?' is a 4-session preparation for Christmas. See Janet and Richard Baker for details. All are welcome.

### **You are invited to a Circuit Service 'What Future for Your Church?'**

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 4pm, at Fareham Methodist Church

Worship led by Rev Dr Malcolm Rothwell  
including the commissioning of the Circuit's  
Sharing Our Faith Together Group (S.O.F.T.)

Refreshments will be served during our time together.

## **United Anglican/Methodist Walk**



The next United Anglican/Methodist walk will be on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September. We shall be meeting at 12.30pm, with a packed lunch, in the car park next to the Red Lion in Chalton (PO8 0BG; 731160 on OS Explorer Map 120). To get to Chalton from Rowlands Castle, at the Castle Inn take Finchdean Road north to Finchdean, and continue on to Chalton.

The walk is just over 5½ miles, heading east along Huckswood Lane before turning south to Robin Wood, and stopping at St. Hubert's Chapel, Idsworth, before the final stretch along the top of Idsworth and Chalton Downs. The chapel, believed to have been built by Earl Godwin of Wessex, father of King Harold, has a rare mural dated at around 1330.

Much of the walk is easy and level going, with a couple of steepish ascents, but with many splendid views. There are lots of kissing gates, and one or two (wide!) squeeze stiles.

If you have not joined us before, you would be most welcome. For more information, have a word with Veronica or Alan Hickox.

### **Walk in memory of Archbishop Romero**

St Joseph's Catholic parish invites us to join them on the 9<sup>th</sup> September for all or part of a pilgrimage walk to St John's Cathedral. It will start from Ss Thomas' Emsworth (9.45am) to St Joseph's Havant (10.30am), St Thomas Bedhampton (11.15am) and on to Portsmouth. At each stop we will recall stories of Archbishop Romero's life, and pray, focusing on our own faith journeys. For information please see [www.rchavant.com](http://www.rchavant.com) or call Maureen on 01243 377411.

### **Dot's Jewellery – final fling!**

There will be one last opportunity to buy – I will have a stall at the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Pastoral Centre on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September. All proceeds to Macmillan. Any remaining stock will go to the Rowans Hospice charity shop.

Over the 10 years I've been making jewellery, I've sold over £17,000 worth, of which £13,500 has been given to charity.

Thank you for all your support.

*Dot*

# Pastoral Centre

## Magazines

Thanks to those who regularly bring in your magazines. We would value more magazines: current ones are especially welcomed by our visitors!

## Milk Bottle tops

Thank you to those who bring in their washed plastic milk bottle tops.

However, we cannot accept plastic tops of any other description. In the last few weeks there have been a number of odd plastic items included in the bags.

## Decoration of the Church Office and Wesley Room

A reminder that between September 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> the Church Office and Wesley Room will be redecorated. During that time the office will operate in the Quiet Room. We will try to keep disruption to a minimum.

## Help and Safety!

Each Monday morning at about 9:30 the Church & Pastoral Centre fire alarm system is tested. It is a simple task that takes about 15 minutes and includes the great pleasure of setting off the alarm under test conditions!

Ideally a pool of 5-6 testers is needed so that each person does it no more than once a month. We are down to three, so we need more volunteers to join the '3Ds' (David, David and Diana). If you'd like more information (or a demonstration!), please ask. Full training will be given. If you can spare 15 minutes or so once a month, and would enjoy helping to keep us all safe, please contact Diana or David Harris.

## Thank You

I am so grateful to all who have helped me since I was ill last December. Numerous lifts to hospital appointments; help when I had cataract operations, leaving me unable to drive. Lifts after my two car accidents, and when I was learning to drive with hand controls as my feet 'gave up' on me!

Nine months of relying on so many of you - and now I have four wheels again, though 'gently does it' as I get used to hand controls! Thank you for all your love and practical help.

*Chris Walters*



I have recently received a newsletter from Traidcraft reporting on their activity over this last year. Traidcraft plc, the trading arm, has had a difficult year. Brexit, and the decline in value of the pound, hasn't helped. Continued uncertainty about the economic outlook for the UK has further clouded the outlook. So the plc is having to make bold decisions about the future.

Traidcraft Exchange, the development arm, has had a good year. They have been working on being more effective in policy and campaigning and have a voice in the ongoing debate about what a post-Brexit Britain might look like. They also continue to deliver highly respected field programmes in Africa, India and Bangladesh in particular.

We are a Fairtrade Church and we continue to buy as much fairly traded stock as possible for use in the Church and Pastoral Centre – tea, coffee and snacks - as well as our regular monthly Traidcraft stall on a Sunday. Fairtrade is about changing people's lives, supporting families to succeed in business, and giving hope for the future. But we could all do more!



Thank you to those of you who support the stall regularly, but it would be good to see more of you having a look at what we have in the 'shop'.

### **New Catalogues!**

I hesitate to say 'Christmas', but it is coming... and the new catalogues are now available on the Traidcraft notice board by the door into the coffee bar. Please have a browse – lots of lovely Christmas cards and gift items, as well as the really good range of food and household products. I am happy to process orders for you, to save you paying postage costs. Can I suggest that we all challenge ourselves this autumn to do a little more to support people around the world by being more thoughtful and creative in our buying of fairly traded products? Thank you.

*Dot*



## Prayer Prompts - September

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

**New outreach initiatives at EMC:** 'Holiday at Home' (Aug 30<sup>th</sup>–Sept 1<sup>st</sup>), Second Sunday services: all who lead, new folk reached by these initiatives.

**Circuit Service** 3<sup>rd</sup> September: affirming the need for evangelism and those leading this in the Circuit.

**Where we live:** neighbours, friends, people we meet who are vulnerable. Emsworth Village: shops and businesses feeling lost business with the loss of Banks; decisions such as the future site of Emsworth Surgery, the effect on the Pastoral Centre.

**Wider world:** Sierra Leone, Kenya, Syria and Afghanistan, Yemen and other places where there is so much need. Refugees crossing the Mediterranean by boat.

**The work of MHA:** service on 17<sup>th</sup> September. **Those in need:** the lonely living on their own; those in hospital; the bereaved, coping with grief and readjustment of life; our families.

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)

### Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2017. There will be a simple lunch for the church family after the morning service. Please see the weekly notices for details and sign the list in the atrium before Sept 17<sup>th</sup> if you would like to join us for lunch.



#### *Church Calendar continued:*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev Trevor Payne
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion led by Rev Stephen Wright
Monday	25	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	26	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Biscuit Making (IH)
		3.00pm	Bible Discussion Group (Wesley Room), see page 3
Wednesday	27	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group:
			Pam Stone, 'Hatches, Matches and Dispatches' (IH)
Thursday	28	10.00am	Cake Stall
Friday	29	10.00am	Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2017

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

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

Friday	1	10.30am	Holiday at Home (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>	10.00am	All Age Worship led by Mrs Shirley Haynes Followed by coffee and Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill McCoubrey, Preacher Deacon Laura Evans
Monday	4	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	5		Decoration of Church Office/Wesley Room begins, see page 5
		10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Music! Music! Music! (IH)
Wednesday	6	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill Stillwell, Preacher Rev John Pilkington
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship Leader tbc, Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
Monday	11	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Sacred Space (IH) see page 3
Tuesday	12	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	13	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group: Brenda Harwood, 'A Nigerian Natter' (IH)
Thursday	14	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>MHA Sunday</b>
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Peter Cole and Deacon Laura Evans
		12.30pm	United Anglican/Methodist Walk see page 4
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington led by Rev Damon Draisey
Monday	18	10.30am	Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	19	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games
Wednesday	20	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	21	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)

*Church calendar continued on inside back page*

Items for the October news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 16 September**