



# 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**

**November 2017**



## Message from the Manse

*'It was a bright day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen'.*

*'1984': by George Orwell*

George Orwell's '1984' is a fascinating, if at times disconcerting, book. Perhaps you've read it. Even if you haven't, you may well have heard of it. The first line of the story immediately grabs the attention of the reader. Clocks, after all, do not usually strike thirteen. Yet the writer doesn't indicate that there's anything unusual going on – this is just a part of normal life. There's obviously something very strange going on...

As the story goes on we learn more about the context in which the story is set: a dictatorship that polices the every move, and indeed thought, of every person it controls. Winston, the main character in the story, attempts to hold on to his sense of self, experiencing a full range of emotions including joy, love, fear, despair and anger. As I read the story, even though I know the end, I can't help hoping he'll succeed.

Now, we may not live in a dystopian novel (thank goodness!) but for us, as for Winston, life can at times be uncertain and scary. There are days, maybe even weeks, when we cannot turn on the news or pick up a paper

without seeing evidence of hurricane, earthquake, fire or other disaster. As we approach Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day we recall those people who were, and still are, victims of war. Men, women and children from all nations, races, religions and walks of life whose lives will never be the same again as a result of conflict, and those who have lost their lives.

There are times when it can seem impossible to get our heads around all this; let alone know what to pray for.

One of the key issues in '1984' is the desire of the dictatorship to make everyone think and act the same: to get rid of any individuality. They do this partly out of need to stop people answering back or questioning the system. While Winston, although he takes every opportunity he can to quietly rebel against the dictatorship and be himself, his attempts to point to the truth are thwarted because he can't share his convictions more widely.

What then can we do?

We can't wipe out evil all by ourselves – much as we might wish we could.

But we can talk about and challenge injustices when we see them.

We can treat one another with love, compassion and acceptance.

We can offer all events and people to God: placing them in His hands.

We can remind ourselves and each-other that the people we see on the news are as much children of God as we are, and as in need of comfort, peace and love.

We can be ourselves as people of faith.

Every blessing

Laura

## Remembrance Day

On Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November just before 11am in the Pastoral Centre there will be a short pause for Remembrance and reflection led by Rev Geoffrey Senior. At 11am we will hold 2 minutes silence.

Remembrance Sunday services will take place at 10.00 am in the Methodist Church and in St James - please see posters for details.



## **Munchies at The (New) Manse!**



Back by popular demand! On the 4<sup>th</sup> November, 1 – 5pm I will be having an open house. There will be lots of tea, coffee, cake and other goodies, as well as the opportunity for a chat and a catch-up. I look forward to seeing any who can make it.

Please note that I have moved house since the last time I did this, so don't go to the house in Havant! If you need to know my new address in Westbourne please ask! Parking close to the house is limited so, if possible, it would be a good idea to share transport.

*Laura*

## **Café Church instead of All Age Worship Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November (first Sunday of the month)**

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November the worship will take the form of Café Church as on the Second Sunday. This will follow the pattern of the usual Second Sunday worship, gathering from 9.30am with an opportunity to have a welcome drink and refreshments. Refreshments are available during and after the service if required.

The entrance to church on this occasion is **through the doors to the church** (as for the Pastoral Centre during the week); the doors to the atrium will remain locked on the outside. We sit around tables; the worship is informal and inclusive and includes Bible teaching. The congregation is encouraged to follow the readings from the Bibles that are placed on the tables. We usually remain seated for the hymns. The worship begins by singing, 'Come now is the time to worship'.

In addition to the usual arrangements on a second Sunday the Traidcraft Stall will be available as for the first. Please support the stall.

We do hope that you will come along to the worship; we look forward to seeing a full church!

*David and Margaret, Janet and Richard*

## 2018 Diaries

The diaries are now in Church/Pastoral Centre; please do pick up your copy for a suggested donation of 50p.

The producers of the diary are keen to find more advertisers; if you know anyone who would be willing to take an advertising space please speak to Mandy.

## Pastoral Centre Tablecloth Rota

The Pastoral Centre's Tablecloths are washed and ironed by a dedicated team of volunteers.

The 2018 rota will be compiled soon: if you would like to join the team please let Mandy know. The current commitment is about 4 times a year; if we have more volunteers this will then reduce.

Thank you to all who wash and iron the tablecloths; they are very much appreciated by visitors to the centre.

### Sacred Space

The next 'Sacred Space' event will take place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 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. The theme for the afternoon will be 'Hope in Uncertain Times'.

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 won't be asked to pray out loud or do anything you do not wish to do.



## **Christians Together in Emsworth - Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Matters arising:** Revd Harry Lanham and Sue Dudman have given notice that they will step down from their positions as Chair and Treasurer respectively. Replacements will be needed with effect from May next year - should you be interested in taking on either position, please contact either Dot Warren or Sue Dudman for further information.

**Christian Aid:** John Pilkington reported that house to house collections amounted to £5784.00 this year, down from £6675.00 in 2016. More house to house collectors are needed - please contact Gill Cooper, Marian Hughes or Margaret Sawyer if you are able to help. Christmas Carols in The Square will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> December.

**Review of CTE presence at Emsworth Show:** It was agreed that this had been a very successful venture with volunteers distributing 1800 bottles of water. There was no conflict with other stall holders but we will contact the show organisers again if we decide to do the same next year. Also an extra sentence on the label could encourage sensible disposal of the bottle. Games for children might also be arranged.

**Christmas Card 2017:** All arrangements were made but more volunteers are needed for distribution. If you are able to help, please contact Dot Warren or Sue Dudman.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:** The main event will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Baptist Church in the morning and each church will be asked to lead a 'station'. Revd Harry Lanham will liaise with church leaders. The evening service will be at the Methodist Church on Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> and Dot Warren extended an invitation for all to attend. This year's theme from the churches in the Caribbean is 'That all may be free'.

**Lent Groups:** All churches were asked to report back at our January meeting with full details of any Lent Groups. Sharing between the churches would be very helpful and a poster could be produced.

**Dates for fifth Sundays:** 29/10/17 – URC; 29/4/18 - Anglican St Thomas a Becket; 29/7/18 – Methodist; 30/9/18 - Roman Catholic. There will be no fifth Sunday services in December.

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

**Anglican:** The Revd Andrew Sheard has been appointed and will be licensed toward the end of February. An invitation to join a course based on 'Just Listening' was extended to all – see page 8 of this News sheet.

**Roman Catholic:** Several members had been on a 'mini' pilgrimage to St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth in memory of Oscar Romero. The congregation is looking forward to their Bishop visiting in January.

**URC:** The Revd Graham Dadd has been appointed to the URC in Oxted with Marsh Green. The Mayor of Havant had attended the dedication of a worship table from Lovedean. The congregation has been very involved in collecting second hand goods for sale in South Africa to raise funds for the refurbishment of church buildings there. Revd Dr Jay Mdlalose (a member of Waterside URC) heads up the Sindisa Project in the Stanfordville Circuit of the Presbyterian Church of Africa.

**Methodist Church:** New ways of integrating the congregation and Pastoral Centre users are being explored.

**Baptist Church:** Brook Hall has been refurbished and is ready for renting. Now the building phase is over, there are plans for outreach, particularly to young people/families. A Kingdom Night is planned and also a Harvest Supper where members are asked to bring a guest in preparation for the Alpha Course in the New Year. Paid posts of caretaker and youth worker are being advertised.

Dates for our next meetings are 11<sup>th</sup> January and 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018.

*Sue Dudman*

## **Good News from the Anglican Parish**

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October an announcement was made at each of the services in St James' and St Thomas' about the appointment of their new Rector.

"The Bishop of Portsmouth has appointed the Revd Andrew Sheard as Rector of Warblington with Emsworth. Andrew is currently Team Rector of Uxbridge St Andrew, St Margaret and St Peter, in the Diocese of London. We look forward to welcoming him and his family in the New Year and to his licensing sometime in February 2018".

This is certainly good news for the parish after a very difficult period. Our thoughts and prayers are with our Anglican friends and we look forward to meeting Andrew in due course.

**Geoffrey Senior** wishes to thank all who send him cards and best wishes on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is good to have so many friends. Thank you again, and every blessing to you all.

*Geoffrey*

## Joan Mitchell

We have recently been sad to say farewell to Joan Mitchell, who died on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at the age of 96. Joan was born in 1921, a country girl who loved to spend time at her grandparents' farm in Hungerford, Berkshire, where she learned to ride and school horses. At Joan's funeral, her sister Marjorie spoke vividly about Joan's happy childhood, her unusual University education as a student of Divinity (she could read the Bible in both Hebrew and Greek), her long teaching career and her fascinating life with her husband Harold. Harold was also a teacher, with a passion for antiques: they spent many school holidays in France sourcing antique books, or travelling around the world.

Joan kept horses and dogs throughout her life: she particularly enjoyed feisty horses, and continued to ride until the age of 84! She had green fingers and created new gardens wherever she lived, including utterly transforming the corner of paving outside her room at Belmont Castle with a blazing display of begonias and roses.

At Joan's funeral the church was full with family and friends of all ages: she enjoyed a busy social life with her many friends and past pupils. She was extremely good company and told some wonderful stories; visiting her was a tonic for the visitor!

Joan was friendly, kind and compassionate, and remained interested in everything that was going on around her. An amazing lady – we will miss her.

### **Away Day a date for your diaries**

We're planning another Away Day for the church family, and have provisionally booked Nutbourne Bible School for **Saturday 17th February** from 10am-4pm.

The theme of the day has still to be finalised, but it will certainly be a valuable time of fellowship and sharing as we think about our faith. Do put the date in your diaries.

### **Christian Aid**

Many thanks to all who supported the Christian Aid Sale on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, which raised £278.93. To all those who baked, donated goods and spent their money we say a huge 'Thank you'.

Please watch out for our forthcoming events, including Carol Singing in the Square on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

*Margaret, Marian and Gill*

## Christmas Donations to Southern Domestic Abuse Service



During November we will be collecting luxury Christmas Hamper items and gifts for the families who need to spend Christmas in the local Refuge because of domestic abuse. A box to collect your gifts will be at the back of the church on Sundays, and in the Quiet Room throughout the week.

Ideas for gifts are: slippers, toiletries, purses, scarves and gloves, dressing gown, socks and diaries, toys and books for children. No need to wrap.

Ideas for the hampers: chocolates, biscuits, pickles, Christmas pudding, twiglets, sweets, mince pies, crackers, savoury snacks, crisps and non-alcoholic drinks.

The charity wants to show the families in their care that they are valued by giving them good quality gifts. **Please donate new items** as I am unable to offer used/second-hand items to SDAS.

Thank you very much in advance.

*Diana Harris*

## Pastoral Information Gathering

The pastoral system is one of the great blessings of Methodism. Pastoral carers are responsible for ensuring that when the folk in their care have a specific need (or a reason to celebrate!) this is referred to an appropriate person such as the minister(s).

Emsworth has excellent pastoral carers who carry out this role in a variety of ways, whether by visiting, phone calls or gathering groups to meet. However, as in many churches, the number of people who are willing and able to take on the role is reducing.

In the light of this we've put together a questionnaire in order to gather some information on how we might adjust our current system. It provides us with a valuable opportunity to ensure that everyone's needs are being met. Once you've received your questionnaire (probably from your pastoral carer) please do reflect prayerfully on it.

If you have any concerns or questions do not hesitate to get in touch with one of us, and please be reassured that these responses will not affect your pastoral care in the event of an emergency or if your situation changes.

We'd be really grateful to have your responses by 1<sup>st</sup> December.

*Bill and Laura*

## **Advent Antics!**

You will probably remember that during Lent this year we joined forces with our Anglican friends and took to knitting. Between us we managed to knit over 600 angels which were scattered around Emsworth over the Easter weekend and certainly got people talking about the true meaning of the festival.

So for Advent we've decided to do something a little different but hopefully with a similar effect. The plan is **to decorate pebbles** with words and pictures that relate to the Christmas season and put them out around the village, a few at a time, all through Advent. Now, many of you may already be saying to yourself 'I can't help with that, I'm no good at art' and getting ready to skip to the next article. Never fear! Julie and I have put together some really simple designs using special pens (no paint required!). When I say 'simple' I mean you don't even need to be able to draw a straight line. Honest!

If you'd like some more information, or want to join the fun, why not come along to one of our pebble-decorating sessions? These are:

### **At the Parish Office:**

Thursdays 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November: 10am – 12pm.

### **At the Pastoral Centre:**

Wednesdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November: 10am – 12pm (During the 'Let's Do It!' sessions).

If you can't make these dates, or would like to have a go at home, let me know and I will provide pebbles and pens. The more pebbles we have, the more we can spread something of the true meaning of Christmas.

*Laura*

## **Wintershall Nativity Play**

Jan and I are planning to go to the Wintershall Nativity Play for the 4.30 pm performance on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Anybody like to join us?

Tickets are £18 each for adults, £9 for a child. You can get more information from the Wintershall website at [www.wintershall-estate.com/nativity-play](http://www.wintershall-estate.com/nativity-play).

If a number of us are going we can either share transport, hire a minibus or even book a coach. We'll need to book early, so please let us know asap if you'd like to go.

*Bill*

## Table Talk

Do you fancy a natter to put the world to rights?

'Table Talk' is just the thing!

On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, from 10am for an hour or so, I'll be sitting at a table in the Pastoral Centre to see if you'd like to come and have a chat on something that's current or topical. It could be the problems of the Benefits system, the tensions involving North Korea, the cutbacks in local government, the difficulty of getting an appointment with your GP..... just about anything, really!

The Christian Faith has something to say about everything: our Faith is always relevant. Whether you're a Christian or not, it would be great to see you to explore together what Christianity says about how we can put the world to rights and how alternative responses compare.

We won't come to definite understandings very often I don't suppose, but I look forward to some lively conversation.

Come when you can between 10 and 11am – go when you need to!

*Bill*

## Just Listen: Training opportunity

We probably all need to learn to listen better! There will be times in all our lives when listening to someone will be the most wonderful gift we can give them. But listening isn't always easy. Sadly it is a comparatively rare gift in our busy world today. It takes focus and energy to concentrate properly and our own personalities often get in the way of listening well.

'Just Listen' is a course developed by the Acorn Christian Healing Foundation, to help individuals learn some skills and attitudes to enable good listening. We are running a shortened version of the course, and **I would like to invite you to come to one of the sessions below.** The sessions will be identical so only come to one of them!

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November from 10am -12.30pm in the Parish Office

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10am – 12.30pm in the Parish Office

The sessions should be fun and enlightening... and if you have never done anything like this before, possibly life-changing.

It would be helpful for me to know if you intend to come but if you just turn up on the day, that's okay too.

*Revd Julie Price 07909 267180*



## Prayer Prompts - November

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

In a world where there is so much darkness **give thanks to God** for: the beauty and colours of this autumn time; everything that makes us smile; the generosity of people to church and to the world in need.

**Remembrance:** All Saints Day, Remembrance Day and Sunday with all the churches in Emsworth. Let us light a candle in our heart for memories of loved ones who have died, for the vulnerable and lonely as winter approaches, and those who grieve that life is passing them by.

**Refugees and the displaced:** Rohingya Muslims fleeing Myanmar; Nigerians displaced by violence of Boko Haram; families displaced in Syria and Iraq; in Nepal and Bangladesh those uprooted by drought and flood; aid agencies such as Christian Aid and 'All We Can' - the Methodist Aid Agency.

**Domestic violence and sexual harassment:** local agencies helping those in need, for the chance to help with Christmas gifts during this month. For all women and men who have known abuse; children whose lives are scarred by memories of violence. For vulnerable families relying on food banks.

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)

### Church Calendar continued:

Tuesday	21	2.00pm 3.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH) Bible Study Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	22	10.30am 7.30pm	'Let's Do It!' Ladies Group. Helena Hines: 'A Christmas Watercolour Card' (IH)
Thursday	23	10.00am 7.30pm	Cake Stall Wesley Guild. Rev Jonathan Jeffery: 'Havant Passion Play' (IH)

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>		<b>Advent Sunday</b>
		10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Malcolm Rothwell United Evening Worship led by Rev David Muskett
Monday	27	10.00am 11.00am	'Table Talk' with Bill (see page 10) Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	28	10.30am 2.00pm	Standing Exercises Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	29	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	30	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. The Music Group: 'An Evening of Entertainment' (IH)



## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2017

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

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

Wednesday	1	10.30am	'Let's Do It!' (see Advent Antics, page 9)
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	2	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Ben Cross
			'British Alstroemeria and the UK Cut Flower Industry' (IH)
Saturday	4	1.00pm	Munchies at the New Manse (see page 3)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	10.00am	All Age Worship, Café Church led by Janet Baker (see p 3) followed by Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev John Pilkington, Preacher Rev David Muskett
Monday	6	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	7	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Wednesday	8	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group.
			Peter Gregory: 'The Best of the Chelsea Flower Show' (IH)
Thursday	9	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Sharon Holdstock: 'Sewerwise' (IH)
Saturday	11		<b>Remembrance Day</b>
		10.50am	A short pause for reflection followed by 2 minutes silence led by Rev Geoffrey Senior
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev David Rice, Preacher Rev John Pilkington
		10.00am	Remembrance Sunday Service led by Rev Peter Cole
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Margaret Sawyer, Preacher Rev Julie Price
Monday	13	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	14	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Card Making (IH)
		7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	15	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	16	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Ronnie Williamson 'Awareness' (IH)
Saturday	18	10.00am	'Just Listen' training (Parish Office) (see page 10)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington, led by Rev Damon Draisey
Monday	20	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	21	10.30am	Standing Exercises



*Church calendar continued on inside back page*

Items for the December news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 18 November**