



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

Deacon Laura Evans

tel: 01243 376786

e-mail: minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org

Revd Bill Stillwell

tel: 023 9248 0150

Church Office tel: 01243 373773
email: office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org
website: www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org
Registered Charity No 1127747

Monthly news sheet

October 2017

Message from the Manse



What's the first thing you think of when you hear the word 'Harvest'?

For me, even the mere mention of the word takes me back to primary school. Tins of baked beans piled high. Endless pasta. Great bulging bags of rice threatening to burst – and the mess they made when they did! All eventually gathered together to make a beautiful presentation much like the one in the picture above.

Like many of you, I suspect, my experience of gathering food centres less on 'ploughing the fields and scattering' than on a frantic rush around the shops trying to read a hastily written list! For us, this Harvest Festival is an opportunity to give thanks for the food we have and for the people, often from places throughout the world, whose hard work brings it to us. Next time you're in the supermarket or wherever you do your shopping, why not pause to look at some of the produce and think about the countries or areas it comes from?

We will, of course, be giving thanks to God for all God's gifts at our own Harvest Service on 1st October at 10am, and again at the special ecumenical Service in the Square on 8th October at 11.30am.

What is the harvest that we produce? Individually? As a church? As a community? Recently I've had the immense privilege of being part of two amazing, and very different, events. Both of them were mentioned as 'up and coming' in last month's news sheet.

The first was The Emsworth Show. As you probably know if you were anywhere local that day, the August Bank Holiday Monday was one of the hottest we've had for a long time. Many people, not expecting such weather, arrived at the show without a bottle of water. Never fear, however, a brilliant group of volunteers from Christians Together in Emsworth are here! A couple of months ago, Harry (the URC minister) suggested that we might renew our presence at the Show and presented us with an idea.

On that day, in 3 and a half hours, we gave away 1800 bottles of water. Each with a label 'Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes to, take the water of life as a gift'.

The second was the Holiday at Home which took place later that week – thanks to a small but fabulous group of volunteers and, naturally, the ever-present Mandy. With nail painting, hand massages, exercises, games, a beetle drive – not forgetting fish and chips, ice cream and a sandcastle competition – it was a memorable three days in which stories were enjoyed and new friendships formed. Not to mention lots of laughter shared.

In both these activities, and in the day-to-day life of the Pastoral Centre, there were conversations with people we wouldn't normally have met.

Who knows what seeds were sown? Who knows what the harvest will be?

God knows. And it's God's Harvest.

Every blessing
Laura



Munchies at The (New) Manse!

Back by popular demand! On the 4th 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!

Laura

SHARING OUR FAITH TOGETHER (S.O.F.T.)

East Solent and Downs Methodist Circuit Event
Saturday, 7th October 2017 at 09.30 – 13.30
Petersfield Methodist Church

This event is a follow-up from the Road Shows. Do come along with others from your church family to think about our church festivals and the opportunities we have to share our faith. Refreshments will be served during our time together including a light lunch.

Please contact Garry Bagshaw on 07329 845978 or hazelbagshaw@virginmedia.com if you are hoping to attend. (See also poster on church noticeboard.)

Pastoral Carers

The Pastoral Committee will meet on Monday 9th October at 10.00am in the Wesley Room. If you are unable to come to the meeting, please let Diana have an update on those in your group. Many thanks.

Diana Harris

Exercise Classes – change of time

Please note that from 1st October the Monday Chair-based Exercise classes will revert to 11am – 12 noon. Tuesday's Standing Exercises remain at 10.30am – 11.30am.

From the Recent Meeting of Church Council

Our last Church Council in September was a long and full meeting, but very positive and encouraging. As always, there was an item on the agenda 'Conversation on the Life of the Church'. Bill and Laura's input to this and the subsequent reports from the Leadership Team, Pastoral Centre Management Group and Churches Together in Emsworth, clearly demonstrated that we are a very busy and active Church and Pastoral Centre, and are fully committed to our life and witness in this community.

We heard about some past events – the recent Holiday at Home, led by Laura and Mandy, which ran over three days in late August. Whilst numbers were not high, the people who came really appreciated the time spent together and are asking for more. It was deemed to be a great success. Similarly, the Emsworth Show where representatives from the Emsworth churches were giving out free bottles of water which were much appreciated on an unusually hot day and gave rise to some interesting conversations. A second Sacred Space event, with prayer stations, took place in early September and more will be planned.

Bill and Laura shared their ideas and plans for a variety of events and ongoing activities, such as the possibility of 'Table Talk' – conversations around a table in the Pastoral Centre on various topics with a Christian perspective. 'Faith in Film' is again an idea as a starter for faith-related discussions following the viewing of a film. They are also planning a series of sessions, based on a revised version of the Compass Course, to explore our faith and how Methodism expresses that faith.

The restructuring of the way the Leadership team works is going well, and thanks were expressed to the new Worship Group for all the work they are doing in planning ahead for our special services and events throughout the church year. The practical issue of all the furniture moving that is required to convert our main space from Pastoral Centre format for worship on Sunday has been resolved. Since July, Jack, a young man from the Baptist Church, has been coming at midday each Saturday to carry out all this physical work under the guidance of the Sunday duty steward, and this is working very well.

If you would like to know more about any of these possible new initiatives, or indeed if you feel you might like to become involved and help, Bill and Laura would love to hear from you. Teamwork is the name of the game – working together to share our faith and to further God's work in this church and community.

Dot, Lead Steward

Christmas Donations to Southern Domestic Abuse Service

During November we will again be collecting luxury items and Christmas gifts for the families who have to spend Christmas in the local Refuge because of domestic abuse.

Ideas for gifts are: slippers, toiletries, purses, scarves and gloves, dressing gown, socks and diaries, toys and books for children.

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

A big box to collect your gifts will be in church throughout November – more details later. Thank you in advance.

Diana Harris

Christian Aid

We will be holding our Autumn Sale on Saturday 14th October at 9.30am. Once again we are asking for your help! If anyone feels able to support us by baking a cake we would be very grateful.

Donations of cakes, or other items for sale, can be left at International Hall on Friday 13th October **between 4.30 and 5.30pm**. (Please not before 4.30).

Gill Cooper

Wesley Guild

The new session of Guild starts on Thursday 5th October at 7.30pm in International Hall. The Guild is open to all and we would love to welcome you, either as a regular member or occasional visitor. If you've never been to a Guild meeting before why not come along and see what we do? Please pick up a programme; I'm sure you will find something of interest.

Gill Cooper

Music Group

We provide the music for All Age Worship on the first Sunday of the month and meet for practice after Morning Worship on the third and fourth Sundays. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us, have a chat with one of the members or come along to one of our practices.

Gill Cooper

Saturday Mornings in the Pastoral Centre

Saturday mornings in the Pastoral Centre are usually quite busy with a steady flow of regulars meeting up with their friends, and visitors perhaps on holiday or in Emsworth for some other reason. Each month, with the Farmers' Market, we see new faces in the Centre, sometimes families with children. There is often interest shown in what we are doing, because they realise we are not just another café, and this is a good opportunity to chat and offer our welcome booklet and other information. Peter Croft, our 'resident pianist' is with us on a very regular basis and his gentle renditions of well-known piano pieces, songs from the shows, and some lovely arrangements of worship songs, old and new, are always very much enjoyed and appreciated.

However, our band of very loyal and committed volunteers has somewhat diminished over the last couple of years and it would be good to add a few more names to the available team. If you have a couple of hours to spare on an occasional Saturday morning, I would love to hear from you. Don't worry if you haven't already had the pleasure of working in the coffee bar, I can make sure you will work with someone with experience! It would be good to welcome you to the team.

Dot

PACT (Petworth Area Churches Together) presents an Autumn Lecture

Friday 13th October at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Petworth, GU28 0AD.

Danny Kruger is Chief Executive of the West London Zone, a partnership of charities, working with children and young people. Danny was Chief Executive of **Only Connect** from 2005 – 2015, a Christian charity helping young offenders to find their way in society.

Danny lives in the shadow of the Grenfell Tower disaster on a Council Estate and thus has first-hand knowledge of conditions of that part of Kensington. His talk will include the empowerment of people.

Previously, Danny was Director of Studies at the Centre for Policy Studies, Chief Leader-Writer at *the Daily Telegraph*, and Special Adviser to David Cameron MP as Leader of the Opposition. His mother is Prue Leith CBE, the cookery writer and TV presenter.



Prayer Prompts - October

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

Harvest: give thanks for the harvest of food, all who gather it in; the harvest of generosity as we share what we have with those in need in the world; the abundance of God's love and the spiritual and practical gifts God has given us to share with the world.

Prisoner Sunday 8th October: the state of unrest, violence and use of drugs affecting inmates, refugees, the staff of prisons and detention centres. Prisoners of conscience, those imprisoned in lives needing to be set free. The threat of war - North Korea, Syria and other places no longer in the news.

Hurricanes and Typhoons: storm and floods wreck the lives of people in Bangladesh, India, other eastern countries, Caribbean Islands and Florida. Remember all who are homeless; those living in squalid conditions because of rain, including refugees from Myanmar.

Our Church Family: those in hospital, at home, the elderly and frail, name before God. The fellowship of the Ladies Group and Wesley Guild starting autumn programmes; the effect the mission of the Pastoral Centre has on people - offering company, a listening ear, the love of Christ in action.

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

Church Calendar continued:

Sunday	22	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Andrew Wilcock
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	23	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	24	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
		3.00pm	Bible Discussion Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	25	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Rev Bill Stillwell: 'Silence' (IH)
Thursday	26	10.00am	Cake Stall
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild.
			Rev David Rice: 'Alison and David Rice: Wedding in India' (IH)
Sunday	29	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth Service, Waterside URC
Monday	30	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	31	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Light Pastry (IH)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2017

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

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

Sunday	1	10.00am	Harvest Festival All Age Worship led by Rev Geoffrey Senior and Deacon Laura Evans Followed by coffee, Traidcraft stall and lunch
		6.30pm	United Choral Evensong at St James' led by Rev Julie Price, Preacher Deacon Laura Evans
Monday	2	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	3	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Sweet Making (IH)
Wednesday	4	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	5	7.30pm	Wesley Guild: Communion Service led by Rev Bill Stillwell (IH)
Sunday	8	10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev John Pilkington, Preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
		10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Deacon Laura Evans
		11.30am	Harvest Festival Ecumenical Service in the Square End of Emsworth British Food Fortnight
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Janet Baker, Preacher Rev John Pilkington
Monday	9	10.00am	Pastoral Committee Meeting, Wesley Room
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	10	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	11	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Tessa Daines: 'Old Country Customs and Folklore'(IH)
Thursday	12	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Cdr Mark Barton RN: 'Operation Weald 2015' (IH)
Friday	13	4.30pm	Christian Aid Sale donations can be left in IH, see page 5
Saturday	14	9.30am	Christian Aid Autumn Sale (IH) see page 5
Sunday	15	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Leslie Judd
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas' Warblington, led by Rev John Pilkington
Monday	16	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises
Tuesday	17	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'This is where I Lived' (IH)
Wednesday	18	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	19	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. David Coleman: 'Why is there a Cathedral in Chichester?' (IH)

Church calendar continued on inside back page

Items for the November news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack
or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 21 October**