



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

February 2018

Message from the Manse

Faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13: 13

Those of us who, like me, are still struggling with remembering to write '2018' may well share my general state of disbelief that we are already on the brink of the period of the church year that we call 'Lent'.

This year Ash Wednesday, which marks the beginning of Lent, falls on 14th February, which is also St. Valentine's Day. As I'm sure you know St Valentine is the Patron Saint of love (among other things*) and many celebrate his 'day' by sending cards to loved ones and in particular romantic partners.

I find this year's link between Lent and love a fascinating calendar coincidence. Albeit not quite as fascinating as the fact that Easter Sunday and 'April Fools' Day' will also be on the same day this year! During Lent we remember how Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness in order to focus more fully on God and prepare for his ministry of love and service. We remember how he was tempted and how, ultimately, Love triumphed over hate.

** Interestingly St. Valentine is also Patron Saint of young people, fainting, beekeepers and the plague. Make of that what you will!*

I wonder if you're in the habit of 'giving something up' for Lent, or using the time to perform a sort of 'Spiritual Spring Clean'. It's fair to say that we can do this at any time – just as we can eat pancakes all year round – but Lent can provide us with a more focused opportunity to pause and reflect on our own lives and Christian practices before entering into the new beginning that comes as Easter.

This year Lent begins on a date that, for many, is synonymous with love. But if we use this time to consider our relationship with God and one another then Lent and love can be inextricably bound – irrespective of a coincidence of dates. If we begin with love then we begin with God.

Perhaps as part of your own 'Spiritual Spring Clean' this Lent you might consider how you can show more love to yourself, to others and to God.

Every blessing
Laura

Emsworth Community Christmas

On Christmas Day Laura, Ruth Beechey and I were among 25 or so volunteer helpers at the Emsworth Community Christmas held at Hewitts (opposite Fat Olives) in South Street. On the previous day we had peeled and chopped vegetables, wrapped presents, laid tables and put up decorations – everything required to provide a special Christmas Day for our 75 guests.



At 11am our guests began to arrive, some driven by our volunteers. We immediately found everyone a seat and made sure they had tea or coffee, and we also offered tasty pastries and nibbles. A local choir soon arrived and led carol singing, and then it was time for lunch. And what a lunch! We all had as much turkey as we could eat, with a wonderful selection of vegetables and all the trimmings. This was

followed by a choice of sweets including Christmas pudding then tea or coffee. It was all cooked by a small team led by the head chef from one of our local pubs and was absolutely delicious!

Lunch was followed by entertainment – poems which made us laugh, and dancing by two very young and talented volunteers. A free raffle followed with lots of prizes, given out by Father Christmas.



At 3pm everything stopped whilst we listened to the Queen's Speech, then Christmas presents were distributed to all our guests so that everyone had something to open when they arrived home. All too soon it was time for our guests to leave, and we volunteers all helped clear up after a very enjoyable day.

This was the fourth year this lunch had been held and a good number of people had come to each one. So if you find you are going to be on your own next Christmas, do come and join us. There will be details in the Pastoral Centre on how to apply (it only takes one phone call) and transport can be arranged if required. Alternatively, have a word with Laura, Ruth or me. It is all completely free of charge and will be a day to remember!

Sue Dudman

Boxing Day

Many of those walking around Emsworth on Boxing Day were greeted with the welcome sight of coffee, and promises of a warm space to dry off and help themselves to a bite to eat.

On 26th December a few lovely volunteers from amongst the Pastoral Centre regulars as well as the Sunday congregation opened up International Hall for a two-hour 'Christmas Party'. This is something that we have been doing for a few years, however this year we added a twist – takeaway cups.

Standing outside International Hall with a tray of hot coffees it was interesting to see how difficult passers-by found it to believe that we were offering something for nothing – particularly if they had never been into the Pastoral Centre. However the pleasure on their faces when they realised the coffee really was free and given without agenda made it all worthwhile. Many of those given a takeaway coffee chose to come in to dry off. Inside there were decorations, crackers and all manner of Christmas food, a game of giant drafts in the corner and lots of welcoming and friendly faces.

Thank you to everyone who came along and 'pitched in' whether by moving tables and chairs, making tea and coffee, or sitting and chatting to those who would otherwise have sat in silence. Also, everyone who attended went away with a Christmas gift bag, so many thanks to everyone who helped put those together.

Laura

FareShare

If you come into the Pastoral Centre on a Friday, in addition to the aroma of bacon, you may find we have some other slightly different food items available!

Some months ago we were approached by FareShare; which is a national organisation committed to distributing food that would otherwise have been thrown away to charities who can use it for community projects.

We're pleased to be able to say that at the beginning of January a representative from FareShare came to meet with us, inspected the kitchen, and declared that we could receive small quantities of fruit, pastries and biscuits from the Tesco Express in Emsworth.

We have also arranged that if any of the available food is suitable for the Beacon Food Bank we will pass it on to them. However, due to the types of food available this is unlikely to happen often.

Obviously what we get is dependent on what is available – some weeks there may be nothing appropriate for us. However we hope that our involvement with this project will both help tackle food waste and provide a free treat for any who find themselves in need of one.

Laura and Mandy

Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 26th February to 11th March



® Fairtrade Fortnight aims to put the spotlight on trade, and this year the focus is on supporting the farmers and workers who grow our food. When trade is fair, it can make the world a better place. When trade is fair, it can open doors. With Fairtrade we have the power to change the world. Together let us be part of that.

I should have the new Spring catalogues available fairly soon. Please keep an eye on the Traidcraft noticeboard near the coffee bar, and support the stalls on the first Sunday of each month. And look out for the Fairtrade logo on products in the supermarkets, for a wider range of goods.

Thank you.

Dot

Lent 2018

Christian Aid Lent Lunches

On Wednesdays in Lent, starting on Ash Wednesday (14th February), the Christian Aid Working Party will be serving a simple lunch in the Pastoral Centre from 12 noon. These lunches are held to raise money for Christian Aid. Last year we raised over £600 and we look forward to your support this year. The Lent Lunches continue up to and including Wednesday 21st March.

Lent Holy Communion Services

A series of 6 weekly Holy Communion Services will be held at 1p.m. in International Hall, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 14th February, following on after Christian Aid Lent Lunches. Each short service will be led by a different celebrant – for further details please see the monthly calendar at the back of this News sheet. Everyone is welcome.

Count Your Blessings

During Lent we will again be running Count Your Blessings. While the money raised transforms lives, it also helps to concentrate our thoughts on the disadvantaged. If you would like to Count Your Blessings through Lent, pick up a leaflet, and return the tear-off slip and donation to Gill Cooper.

Augmented United Choir Easter Offering

We will be singing Karl Jenkins' *Requiem* on Good Friday 30th March at 3.30pm in St James' Church. Weekly practices will take place on Monday evenings during Lent, commencing on 19th February at 7.30pm in St James'. Music will be provided and there will be no auditions.



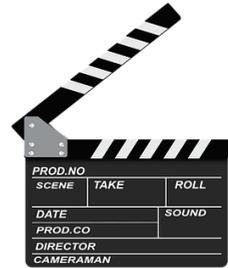
We hope you will join us – you will be most welcome. Please contact Sue Ingram on 01243 375063 or Sue Dudman on 01243 378600 if you need further details, or just come along on Monday evenings.

Wesley Guild: Pause for Thought

During Lent there will be **no meetings** of Wesley Guild.

Friday Faith in Film

After the success of our pre-Christmas initiative we will be showing another well-known film, this time starring Julie Andrews, in the Pastoral Centre on Friday 9th February. Unfortunately licensing laws prevent us from advertising the title of the film here, but please see the fliers and church posters - it's a great one for anyone who likes musicals!



The film will start at about 1pm, ending at about 3.45pm, and the Coffee Bar will remain open as normal.

Do come along for what will hopefully be a relaxed time of fellowship (and possibly singing!) Why not bring a friend or two?! The film is certified 'U' so accompanied children are welcome. Oh, and there will also be popcorn!

Christ on Your Street - 'Jesus of Nazareth'

A chance to explore who Jesus was – and is for us now – over six weeks through a thought-provoking film.

'Jesus of Nazareth' is a much-acclaimed retelling of the life, teaching, healing, death and resurrection of Jesus. It's either just the greatest story ever told, or it's the story that changes your life like it's changed the lives of a third of the world alive today!

You'll be welcome to come to a screening of the film starring Robert Powell over six weeks to reflect on what the story means to you. Each week we'll watch a one-hour section of the film and then there will be half an hour for us to share our thoughts on what we've seen. Each week follows after each other through the story, from birth to resurrection.

If you can make only some of the dates, we'd love to see you whenever you can make it. We'll be meeting:

Mondays

4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

International Hall

February 19th, 26th; March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

Christians Together in Emsworth – Meeting 11/1/18

Christian Aid Report – John Pilkington said this was his last report since he was handing over to Nell Jones from the Roman Catholic Church. £207 was collected during carol singing in the Square. Lent lunches would be served again in the Pastoral Centre each Wednesday from 14th February until 31st March. Thanks were expressed to John for his faithful service over many years.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – the week commenced on 20th January with 5 sessions in the Baptist Church, each session led by a different church. The final service would include Holy Communion will be at the Methodist Church on Sunday 28th January at 6.30pm. The theme this year comes from the Caribbean.

Review of Christmas Card – There was concern that not all the houses in Emsworth had been covered and that some of the timings on the card were wrong. In future all churches would be asked to proof read their own contribution and the distribution process would be checked. New Life Church had requested their arrangements be included and we were happy to do this. It was also agreed that the Leader be approached to join CTE.

Arrangements for the Easter Card – were all agreed.

Good Friday Arrangements – The route would be: Roman Catholic Church 9.30am, St James' 10am, URC 10.30am, Methodist 11am, Baptist 11.30am where refreshments will be provided. Arrangements for the services were set in motion and the gospel to be followed would be Mark. The cross bearers and stewards are also being organised.

Easter Sunday Arrangements for 6am Foreshore Service – were all agreed with the message to be delivered by Rev'd Andrew Sheard.

Lent Groups – The Baptist Church is running a weekly Alpha Course from 17th January at 7pm until Easter. The Anglican Church is running a Scripture Union course on the Bible from 6th February at 7.30pm weekly. The Methodist Church is running a weekly course based on the 1977 film Jesus of Nazareth from 19th February at 4pm in International Hall. There will also be a Lent Communion Service each week in International Hall at 1pm each Wednesday. The URC are considering running a York course.

Future Chair and Treasurer – The meeting was reminded that both posts fall vacant at the AGM in early May and all were asked to consider possible replacements.

Fifth Sunday Services – the dates agreed are 29/4/18 – Anglican at St Thomas a Becket; 29/7/18 – Methodist; 30/9/18 – Roman Catholic; 31/3/19 – URC; 30/6/19 – Baptist.

Any Other Business – Rev'd Harry Lanham had been asked by members of the Waterside Ecumenical Prayer Group, held monthly on the first Wednesday of each month at 6.15pm, whether CTE would like it to continue. Members present felt a note explaining the purpose of the group

should be sent to each church and that maybe the timing of the meetings should be looked at.

News from the Churches

Roman Catholics: No significant news.

Methodists: Table Talk of current 'life' issues with a Christian perspective had started successfully. Also, 'Faith in Film' had also started well.

Baptists: A post is being advertised for a Children and Youth Worker with interview in February.

Anglicans: The Rev'd Andrew Sheard takes up his post on 25th February. The meeting noted with sadness the recent and sudden death of Rev'd Canon Brian Hammond, a great ecumenist.

United Reformed Church: There had been a number of 'significant' deaths recently.

Date of next meeting: - AGM and Ordinary Meeting will be on Thursday, 3rd May.

Sue Dudman

General Church Meeting

At our General Church Meeting at 7.30pm on **Tuesday 6th March** we shall be electing representatives to the Church Council and appointing our Church Stewards.

We may elect up to 15 representatives to Church Council. We currently have 10, of whom 9 are eligible to be re-elected for a further year.

One of our three Church Stewards is standing down at the end of April, so it is essential that we find another person willing to serve the church in this way. It would, however, be enormously helpful if we were in a position to appoint two new stewards, and revert to having a team of four stewards.

Please give prayerful consideration as to whether you might be able to offer, or who might be appropriate persons, to serve either as a Church Steward, or as a representative to Church Council. Do have a word with any of the stewards if you would like further information about what is involved.

Nominations for Church Stewards and representatives to Church Council should be received in writing by Alan Hickox, Church Council Secretary, or by Rev'd Bill Stillwell, by Saturday 24th February.

Rev'd Canon Brian Hammond (from the Anglican Parish)

It was with sadness that we heard the news of Brian's sudden death recently. Brian was an avid supporter of the ecumenical life of the Churches of Emsworth, regularly to be seen in the music group playing for events in The Square and on the foreshore on Easter morning, as well as sharing in our united services.

There will be '**A service of Joyful Thanksgiving' on Friday 9th February at 12.30pm at St James'** to which all are welcome.

New Rector of Warblington with Emsworth

The Installation Service of the new Rector of Warblington with Emsworth, Rev'd Andrew Sheard, will be held on Sunday 25th February at 4pm at St James' Church. There will be NO evening service at the Methodist Church on that Sunday.

URC Christian Lending Library

From February, the Christian Lending Library will be held 4 times a year instead of monthly. It is held on the 1st Friday of the month from 10.00am, at Waterside. Meetings will be in February and March (leading up to Easter) and October and November (leading up to Christmas).

On the trail of the Ark of the Covenant

18th – 29th October 2018

led by Rev'd Mary Bowden

A pilgrimage to Ethiopia: a country whose landscape and history are full of beauty and mystery, with a Christian history reaching back to the very beginning of our faith. Travel through mountains and across lakes; visit ancient but still living churches hewn out of rock and richly painted; discover more about our world, the peoples who inhabit it and the faith which shapes our understanding of life.

Cost £2995 sharing, including all flights, travel, meals, guide and entrance fees.

Contact Mary for more information or see www.mccabe-travel.co.uk/pilgrimages/on-the-trail-of-the-ark-of-the-covenant.

Rev'd Mary Bowden, Rector, Haslemere and Grayswood
01428 658107 or 07921 315894; revmary@haslemereparish.org

**Away Day
Saturday 17th February**

Postponed

We have decided to postpone the Away Day which was to have been held at Nutbourne Bible School on Saturday 17th February. As you know, Laura would not be available to join us at that time.

We apologise if you have already put it into your diaries, but we're sure that you will understand. We hope to hold it later in the year, when Laura is fully fit again and able to lead us.

Church Leadership Team

**Annual Coach Holiday to St Ives, Cornwall, from Petersfield
30th June – 7th July 2018**

The annual coach holiday organised by Petersfield Church will this year be staying at Treloyhan Manor Hotel, St Ives, one of five in the Christian Guild Hotel group, from 30th June to 7th July. The price per person, which includes return coach travel from Petersfield, 7 nights DBB in en suite accommodation, and five full day coach excursions, is £675. There is NO single supplement. There are always Methodists from Alton and Basingstoke, but very few from this Circuit.

Bookings must be made direct with the hotel on 01736 796240 but information regarding the daily programme and coach pickup points may be had from the group leader, Gordon Churchill on 01730 260454.

A date for your diaries:

Our annual General Church Meeting will take place on Tuesday 6th March at 7.30pm.



Prayer Prompts - February

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

Church Action on Poverty Sunday 7th Feb. Remember the homeless in our cities and towns, for action and understanding; refugees crossing over to Greece, risking drowning, leaving all behind; those who find themselves stateless, not welcomed or cared for in Europe.

Peace in the Middle East: pray for the vulnerable Peace Process and all the countries involved; for peace and justice in many other places.

All who are living with illness, death and grief: that within the knowledge of God's great love for us, we may give people 'space' to share doubts, questions, the 'not knowing' parts of our faith; that these 'listening spaces' may be times of healing.

Fair Trade Fortnight: that we may look into our own shopping baskets and be challenged; for all Traidcraft businesses in Asia, Africa and South America; giving thanks for all that Philip and Dot Warren have taught us about justice and fair trading.

The start of Lent: our preparation for the 'inner journey' to Easter.

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:

Wednesday	21	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		12 noon	Christian Aid Lent Lunch, see page 5
		1.00pm	Lent Communion led by Rev Geoffrey Senior (IH) see page 5
Thursday	22	10.00am	Cake Stall
Sunday	25	10.00am	Morning worship led by Mrs Milly Aquilina-Gray
		4.00pm	Installation Service for the new Rector of Warblington with Emsworth, Rev Andrew Sheard (St James') – see page 9
		6.30pm	NO evening service
Monday	26	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		4.00pm	Christ on Your Street – 'Jesus of Nazareth' (IH) see page 6
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal (St James') see page 5
Tuesday	27	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
		3.00pm	Bible Study Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	28	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		12 noon	Christian Aid Lent Lunch, see page 5
		1.00pm	Lent Communion led by Rev Peter Cole (IH) see page 5
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Patricia Lee: 'Behind the Sunflowers' (IH)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2018

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

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

Thursday	1	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Doug Jones: 'South Downs National Park' (IH)
Sunday	4	10.00am	All Age Worship led by Neil Wingrove followed by Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev Julie Price, Preacher Rev Claire Simpson
Monday	5		NO exercises
Tuesday	6		NO exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Wednesday	7	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	8	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Ray Cobbett: 'Environmental Issues' (IH)
Friday	9	12.30pm	Service of Thankgiving for Rev Brian Hammond (St James')
		1.00pm	Faith in Film – showing a full-length feature film in IH See page 6, also fliers and posters for details
Sunday	11	10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev John Pilkington, Preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship Leader to be arranged, Preacher Rev John Pilkington
Monday	12	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	13	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity, Table Games & Pancakes (IH)
Wednesday	14		Ash Wednesday
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		12 noon	Christian Aid Lent Lunch, see page 5
		1.00pm	Lent Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell (IH) see page 5
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Anne Bartlett: 'Chinese Folding' (IH)
Thursday	15	7.30pm	NO Wesley Guild. 'Pause for Thought during Lent'
Sunday	18	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Geoffrey Senior,
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington led by Rev Damon Draisey
Monday	19	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		4.00pm	Christ on Your Street – 'Jesus of Nazareth' (IH) see page 6
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal (St James') see page 5
Tuesday	20	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Musical Afternoon (IH)

Church calendar continued on inside back page

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