



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

January 2018

Message from the Manse



and all the very best for 2018!

As always, the New Year begins with the celebration of The Epiphany: the visit of the Magi (or 'Wise Men') to the infant Jesus.

This event is often tagged onto the end of the familiar Christmas narrative and may be very familiar to many of you. That said, its importance is often overlooked. Understandably, our focus in Advent and at Christmas is the coming of the Messiah – God incarnate. Our thoughts rest on Mary

and Joseph, shepherds and angels. At times the coming of the Magi can feel almost like an after-thought.

Yet Matthew 2: 1-12 tells of the first manifestation of the infant Jesus to the gentiles. They saw and followed a light in the sky, and the end of their journey shows them kneeling before God incarnate – the light of the world. They were strangers from a distant land. They were not followers of Judaism. For all their riches they were, in their way, very unlikely people to be among the first to meet Jesus.

What about us? As we move into the New Year, we continue to celebrate that glorious new beginning, the moment when God breaks into the world in the shape of Jesus. Like the Magi we travel on a journey: carrying with us all our life experience: the good and the bad. Like the Magi we each bring our gifts: some of them may be very clear and obvious; others more hidden but just as visible to the God who knows us better than we know ourselves.

As I reflect on my own experiences during Advent this year I am left with the reminder that ours is a God of surprises. A God who chooses some of the most unlikely people imaginable to be part of his story: the young, unmarried woman; the simple carpenter; the shepherds – unclean and banned from entering the temple - find a welcome in the birth-place of God's Son; the Magi cast aside societal barriers of race and religion to present themselves to Jesus.

As we begin a New Year together, may we be always on the look-out for God in unexpected people and places; and be quick to see the gifts and graces of all whom we meet.

Every blessing
Laura



Eileen Cole

We were sad to say farewell recently to Eileen Cole, who died on 7th November after a short illness. Eileen came to Emsworth with her family in the 1960s and became a member of Emsworth Methodist Church. She was very supportive of the Anglican/Methodist initiatives, the Waterside Community and the Pastoral Centre, spending many hours serving in the coffee bar and talking to our visitors.

Eileen was a quiet, kind lady who was always more concerned for the welfare of others than in talking about herself. This quality was seen throughout many years as Pastoral Secretary and as a Pastoral Visitor. When visits were no longer possible this ministry continued through phone calls. She will be greatly missed.

Beryl Rees

Beryl came to Emsworth when she moved with her husband Bert to be near their daughter. Life has been a challenge for Beryl over the last few years following a series of strokes but she met these challenges as she had throughout her life, with fortitude. She was immensely grateful for the support of family and friends and for what she was still able to do, saying "I am very lucky, you know."

She had a dry sense of humour and there was always a twinkle in her eye. Beryl loved her craft work and whenever you visited there was a knitting project underway. Her family kept her up to date with technology and she delighted in showing visitors What's App videos of her great granddaughter Alexa. We give thanks that her struggle is now over.

Pamela Eardley

Christmas Vouchers

Thank you to all who have given £5 vouchers in this year's annual Christmas vouchers scheme organised by Churches Homeless Action. Your donations totalled £170. The scheme helps the homeless, vulnerable families and asylum seekers to receive a Christmas present in a year when they might not receive any other gifts.

The vouchers were presented to local charities working with the needy at a carol service on Dec 16th in St Mary's Church, Fratton.

Bible Discussion Group

During 2018 the Bible Discussion Group will meet on the following Tuesdays 3-5pm in the Wesley Room:

January 30th, February 27th, March 27th, April 24th, May 29th, June 26th.
The group then breaks for the summer holidays.

As Christians we are called to share our faith. We shall be studying the book of Jonah and what it has to teach us about partnering with God in his mission. As Bible Month 2018 (June) will focus on the book of Jonah, this will be good preparation! **All are welcome!**

Janet and Richard Baker

Christian Aid

The Working Party would like to thank all those who supported us on Friday 15th December when we sang carols in the Square to raise money for Christian Aid. It was a bitterly cold morning and not many people about but we raised £207.28, which was fantastic. We really appreciated the coffee break and the chance to sing a few carols in the Pastoral Centre which were well accepted.

Gill, Margaret and Marian

New Rector of Warblington with Emsworth

The Installation Service of the new Rector of Warblington with Emsworth, Reverend Andrew Sheard, will be held on Sunday 25th February 2018 at 4pm at St James' Church. More details to follow, but please note that there will not be an evening service at the Methodist Church on that Sunday.

Pause and Pray for Havant Borough

Each month there will be an hour for Christian churches across the Borough of Havant to come together and pray

**On the first Monday each month, from 6pm to 7pm
at St Thomas Church, Bedhampton
All are welcome!**

This initiative is organised by Portsdown Community Church with the support of Church Leaders in the Havant, Bedhampton and Waterlooville areas. Please see the poster on the church noticeboard or ask Diana for more details.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – 18th -25th January

This year's theme from the churches in the Caribbean is 'That all may be free'. The evening United service will be at the Methodist Church on Sunday January 28th, and will include Communion. An invitation has been extended to all local churches to join us.

Christians Together in Fareham - 3 Choirs Concert

Featuring three church choirs from Holy Trinity, Fareham, Fareham United Reformed Church and Fareham Methodist Church
On Sunday 14th January at 3:00pm at the United Reformed Church
Osborn Road South, Fareham, PO16 7DG

Free entry; retiring collection supporting local refugees & asylum seekers. See poster on the church noticeboard for further details, or contact minister@farehamurc.org.uk



Table Talk

Come and join us on the last Monday each month in the Pastoral Centre for an informal conversation with a Christian perspective on any topic over a cuppa! Our next natter will be on Monday 29th January at 10am. Come when you can - go when you want!

Have a look at the posters and flyers for more details.

Bill

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

Please ask Diana for details if you are interested in this holiday which includes 7 nights' accommodation with dinner, bed and breakfast, and 5 coach excursions.

Away Day
Nutbourne Bible School
Saturday 17th February, 10 am to 4 pm

Who do you think you are?

One of the best ways of helping us to get to know ourselves is by spending time with other people; finding out more about them and them finding out more about us. It can sometimes feel a bit like looking in a mirror when you suddenly think, 'I never knew that about her – that's just the kind of experience I had and I felt like I was the only one!'

In getting to know one another a bit better we can even see a small reflection of 'Christ in the stranger's face' when we meet someone in need, or someone who shows us an inspiring new way of looking at life and faith.

That's why we'll spend lots of time on our Away Day getting to know each other better (including the people we already think we know well!) and finding out how God speaks to us through the lives of one another.

There will be time for reflection and prayer, but there will also be plenty of time for informal conversation, laughter, smiles, reminiscences, hopes and dreams.

We hope you can join us!

Laura and Bill

Pastoral Centre Magazines

Pastoral Centre visitors are always complimenting us on our variety of magazines; please do keep dropping off your up-to-date magazines. Thank you to those who do so on a regular basis.

Mandy

Exercise Classes

Trudy is having a well-deserved break, so please note there will be NO classes on 1st, 8th and 9th of January.

Happy New Year from the News Sheet Team



Prayer Prompts - January

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

At the start of a New Year, let us put our hand in the hand of God and walk closely with him.

Those in need known to us: family, friends, neighbours; the sick and disabled in hospital and care home; those depressed during winter time; those facing change in life. For Laura, expecting surgery in the New Year. For the restructuring of pastoral care within our church family in order to meet needs more effectively.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25th Jan): every Church in Emsworth; the work we do together like the Pastoral Centre; the work we ought to do together; creative and caring outreach that will touch the lives of folk who do not know Jesus.

Peace in our world: remembering the Middle East, especially the Holy Land of Jesus, Syria and surrounding countries. Places where there is unrest and starvation in Africa, in South America. Northern Ireland and Ireland regarding future border plans because of Brexit.

Emsworth: plans afoot to regenerate the village centre; decisions regarding the site for a new Doctors' Surgery; local shops who struggle after the Christmas rush; for shops offering 'waste' food and Laura as she explores the use of this.

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	24	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. John Mani: 'A Little of India' (IH)
Thursday	25	10.00am	Cake Stall
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Rev Bill Stillwell: 'Desert Island Discs' (IH)
Sunday	28	10.00am	Morning worship led by Rev Dr Andrew Wood, Chair of Southampton District
		6.30pm	United Christians Together in Emsworth Holy Communion Service led by Rev Bill Stillwell and Deacon Laura Evans
Monday	29	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	30	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'Winter Colouring' (IH)
		3.00pm	Bible Study Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	31	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2018

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

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

Monday	1		New Year's Day Pastoral Centre closed. NO exercises
Tuesday	2	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	3	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	4	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Deacon Laura Evans: 'MHA and Other Stories' (IH)
Sunday	7	10.00am	All Age Worship led by Mrs Jean Hooper followed by Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev Bill McCoubrey, Preacher Rev John Mills
Monday	8		NO exercises
Tuesday	9		NO exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: New Year Quiz (IH)
Wednesday	10	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Ruth Beechey: Quiz Night (IH)
Thursday	11	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Veronica Hickox: 'Stewarding at Uppark' (IH)
Sunday	14	10.00am	Second Sunday at the Centre led by Rev Simon Coleman
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev Trevor Payne, Preacher Rev Julie Price
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Geoffrey Eardley, preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
Monday	15	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	16	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Dot's 'Pilgrimage' (IH)
Wednesday	17	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	18		Beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Andrew de Ville: 'The Life of G' (IH)
Sunday	21	10.00am	Annual Covenant Service Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell, including the rededication of Pastoral Carers
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington led by Rev John Pilkington
Monday	22	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	23	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)

Church calendar continued on inside back page

Items for the February news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 20 January**