



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

March 2018

Message from the Manse

You will be wondering how Laura is recovering from surgery: at the time of writing she is still on the road to recovery, needing time to get over her surgery, as she was told to expect by her Consultant. She very much hopes to be back with us in time for Easter. I am sure you have been remembering Laura as well as others in your thoughts and prayers.

BUT - What is prayer? How does the Prayer Chain work?

Prayer can mean different things to different people, but fundamentally it is a 'drawing close' in our heart and mind to God. I find it helpful to take a deep breath, allow my mind to be quiet and then in that inner still place, allow God to find me. It has taken many years to come to that point – learning to find the still place within, then learning I do not need to search for God, he finds me. Then it is that my heart can speak to God about many things, embrace the silence and listen for the 'small voice'. I live on my own, so you might think that is easier for me and I do appreciate that it can be. Yet I can find as many



excuses as anyone else to be busy with other things! I'm no saint and the learning how to pray will go on to the end of my life!

But I admit I find setting aside regular time to pray, difficult. On the other hand, I find myself 'praying' at almost any time. I try to listen to what I believe is the prompting of God the Holy Spirit when out of the blue someone's face or name comes to mind. I wonder why I have thought of them! I may not know their need, but God does and I offer them to God. The same can happen when I see people suffering on the TV or in a newspaper. And when we receive names of people or situations for the Prayer Chain, I write it down on paper and in my heart, and pray when I remember them, whether that is while loading the dishwasher, doing some ironing or when I have a quiet moment.

You and other people will describe your experience of prayer very differently. That's ok! We are individuals, different personalities. How good it would be if we shared with each other what we find helpful. I remember one of our deaconesses who when retired, bought a newspaper each day to help her pray. I remember a friend who strictly felt a quiet time before God at 6am every day was essential. I have to admit she had a radiant face after her meeting with God, but being an 'owl' rather than a 'lark', it was a way I found impossible. But I learnt from her the need to come to church on a Sunday morning with a heart ready to worship God.

On a recent Sunday evening, without an organist to play before the service, there was very little chatter but a meaningful quietness. I wondered what that was saying to us – about the loud chatter that so often marks our approach to morning service when the organ is playing? Going to Church is about a family gathering together, so we want to share news. Perhaps after the service is best if possible? Or at least keeping our voices soft, respecting others approaching worship with a heavy heart or shoulders weighed down with suffering, needing to be silent and gather their thoughts.



The Prayer Chain in this Church is in fact a very small group of people. We are not people who are 'good' at praying! When a name or situation is brought to our notice, we share it with each other, usually by email, and for at least a week but often longer, and in our different ways, bring these people before God. Sometimes we are told things which are confidential, other situations widely known. If anyone feels God might be asking of you this way of service, then please have a conversation with me. Or, if there is the name

of someone you feel it is right to suggest, please tell me.

My father always quoted the saying "More things are wrought by prayer than this world knows". Prayer is a mystery but it is part of the journey of faith we make when we have promised to follow Jesus. May God bless you and keep you in his love.

Chris

Good Friday Christians Together in Emsworth United Walk of Witness 'The Way of the Cross'

Our United Walk of Witness will take place through Emsworth on Good Friday, 30th March.

At each church there will be a short service including a hymn, reading, reflection and prayer.

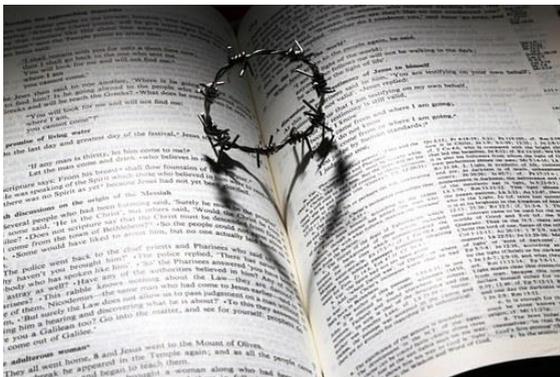
The route will be:

- 9.30am Roman Catholic Church
- 10.00am St James' Church
- 10.30am URC
- 11.00am Methodist Church
- 11.30am Baptist Church, after which refreshments will be provided.

This year the readings will be taken from Mark's gospel.

Augmented United Choir Easter Offering

The augmented United Choir will be singing Karl Jenkins' *Requiem* on Good Friday 30th March at 3.30pm in St James' Church. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the charity Freedom from Torture.



Women's World Day of Prayer Service – in Café style followed by refreshments

This World Wide Ecumenical Service for Men and Women will be held at **2pm on Friday 2nd March in the Pastoral Centre**, Emsworth Methodist Church.

The service has been prepared this year by Christian Women of Suriname and is entitled *All God's Creation is Very Good!*

All are welcome – men and women!

Margaret Sawyer



Fairtrade / Traidcraft News Fairtrade Fortnight 2018 26th February to 11th March

The new **Spring Catalogues** are available on the TC noticeboard next to the coffee bar.

Doubling our Money!

I recently sent a donation for £1,000 to Traidcraft Exchange, the development/charity side of Traidcraft. I subsequently had a phone call from them to say that they were just launching a new appeal, **Hidden Entrepreneur**, and that the government is matching all donations to this appeal until 11th April! So our donation is now worth £2,000, which is really good news. This money will go towards helping overseas partners with, for example, training in business skills, investment in new tools and equipment, guidance on reaching new markets and gaining fairer contracts and better working conditions. **If anyone would like to make a donation to this special appeal, I will have a collecting box at the next Traidcraft stall on Sunday 4th March** or you can hand donations directly to me at any time.

An Invitation to a Curry Supper

The Anglican Parish Fairtrade group is holding a **Fairtrade Curry Evening on Saturday 10th March at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall**. I will be involved with this event, manning the Traidcraft Stall. It would be good to see you there - come and enjoy a lovely supper!
Tickets £6 each – available from me.

Dot

Christ on Your Street - 'Jesus of Nazareth'

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

'Jesus of Nazareth' is a much-acclaimed retelling of the life, teaching, healing, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each week during Lent we are watching a one-hour section of the film and then there is half an hour for us to share our thoughts on what we've seen.

We'd love to see you whenever you can make it. We meet on Mondays, 4pm – 5.30pm in International Hall, on March 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.

United Walks

Once again, members of our Anglican and Methodist congregations will be gathering to enjoy walks together in the local countryside. This year, all United Walks will be held on the 3rd Sunday in the month as follows:

Sunday 18 March: A short, flat circular walk of about 3 miles to Prinsted. Meet in The Square, Emsworth at 2pm. The return trip will pass the Deck Café in Emsworth Yacht Harbour – a convenient tea stop for anyone wishing to find their own way home.

Future walks are planned for:

Sundays: 20 May, 15 July and 16 September.

These will be longer but sociable walks of about 5 or 6 miles. Typically, we meet somewhere within 30 minutes' drive from Emsworth at 12.30 pm with a picnic; we always stop for lunch. Come and try a walk with us! For further information, please contact Ruth or Jamie Barr on 01243 372939.

Church Flowers

Our church flowers are frequently offered in memory of someone, and it's been suggested that Vivien might include a card (or a note in the Notices) to indicate who that person is, as people often ask her. We would like to know how you feel about this. Please do have a word with Vivien or Diana Harris, particularly if you have any concerns.

Pastoral Committee

Pastoral Carers will meet with Bill on Monday 12th March at 10.00am in the Wesley Room. If you are unable to attend on this occasion, please could you give me an update on your group? Many thanks.

Diana



Prayer Prompts - March

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

Locally: **Women's World Day of Prayer** service in Pastoral Centre; our Anglican friends and **Andrew Sheard** their new Rector, unity and peace; **ecumenical relations** in Emsworth: new vision and impetus; the work and mission of the **Pastoral Centre**; the **Christian Aid** committee.

Lent: our journey with Jesus as we approach Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

People: **Laura**, as she continues her recovery from surgery; **Bill**, at this busy time of Lent and Easter; **Andrew** and **the Circuit** of which we are a part; all those holding **leadership** roles and responsibility in our Church, giving thanks for time and gifts given so freely by many; for Church members and friends, frail, ill, bereaved.

World: **refugees, immigrants**, all suffering from starvation and war; **children** traumatised by conflict in the Middle East, Africa, Bangladesh and Myanmar; **Aid Agencies** working with the poor as they face moral staffing difficulties.

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

"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."

Mother Teresa

Peter Horrocks

It was with a sense of shock and great sadness that we heard recently of the death of Peter Horrocks, after a relatively short but serious illness. Our hearts go out to Sarah, Georgina, Christopher and David, and also to Daphne and Michael, as we hold them all in our prayers.

Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for Brenda Buchanan

This will be on Monday 12th March at 1pm, followed by refreshments in International Hall. All are very welcome.

Church Calendar continued:

Sunday	18	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		2.00pm	United Anglican/Methodist Walk (see page 5)
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington led by Rev Andrew Sheard
Monday	19	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		4.00pm	'Christ on Your Street' – <i>Jesus of Nazareth</i> (IH) see page 5
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal (St James')
Tuesday	20	10.30am	Standing Exercises
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Easter Cards (IH)
		7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	21	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		12 noon	Christian Aid Lent Lunch
		1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion led by Rev Gordon Charlesworth (IH)
Thursday	22	10.00am	Cake Stall

Sunday	25		Palm Sunday
		10.00am	Morning worship led by Mrs Shirley Haynes
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	26	10.00am	'Table Talk' with Rev Bill Stillwell
		10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		4.00pm	Christ on Your Street – 'Jesus of Nazareth' (IH)
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal (St James')
Tuesday	27	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH) <i>Bible Discussion Group postponed until April 3rd</i>
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Alan Hickox: An Evening of Music (IH)
Wednesday	28	10.00am	Police Surgery
Thursday	29		Maundy Thursday
		7.30pm	Holy Communion at St James', including foot-washing
Friday	30		Good Friday
			Pastoral Centre closed
		9.30am	Good Friday Walk of Witness begins at Roman Catholic Church (see page 3)
		11.00am	Service at Methodist Church
		3.30pm	Augmented United Choir Easter Offering Karl Jenkins <i>Requiem</i> (St James') (see page 3)



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2018

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

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

Friday	2	2.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer Service
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 & Rev Andrew Sheard, Preacher Rev David Muskett
Monday	5	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		4.00pm	'Christ on Your Street' – <i>Jesus of Nazareth</i> film and discussion (IH) see page 5
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal (St James')
Tuesday	6	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Spring Colouring and Conversation (IH)
		7.30pm	General Church Meeting
Wednesday	7	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		12 noon	Christian Aid Lent Lunch
		1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion led by Rev John Pilkington (IH)
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Sunday	11		Mothering Sunday
		10.00am	Café Church led by Mrs Janet Baker
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev Bill Stillwell, Preacher Rev Julie Price
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer, Preacher Rev Andrew Sheard
Monday	12		Pastoral Centre closed for Brenda's Memorial Service
		10.00am	Pastoral Committee Meeting (Wesley Room)
		10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		1.00pm	Memorial and Thanksgiving Service for Brenda Buchanan followed by refreshments in IH
		4.00pm	'Christ on Your Street' – <i>Jesus of Nazareth</i> (IH) see page 5
		7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal (St James')
Tuesday	13	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity & Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	14	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		12 noon	Christian Aid Lent Lunch
		1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion led by Rev Trevor Payne (IH)
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Joy Wilson: 'A Look Behind the Label' (IH)

Church calendar continued on inside back page

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