



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

April 2018

Message from the Manse

I welcome this opportunity to share some thoughts with you for this Easter Newsletter. I'm sure you echo my hopes that Laura will be well enough to pick up this responsibility again soon.

As you know, unlike Christmas Day, the date of Easter changes each year depending on the phases of the moon. This year, Easter Day falls on April Fools day! Is this ironic, or entirely appropriate? Surely it is either hopelessly naive or just plain foolishness, to celebrate the possibility of hope and 'light in the darkness' at a time dominated by pessimism and disappointment? Surely, contrary to the popular song, things can only get worse?!

Against this, John Crum, the writer of my favourite Easter hymn, invites us to sing,

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain:
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

This hymn, and the floating date of Easter, remind us

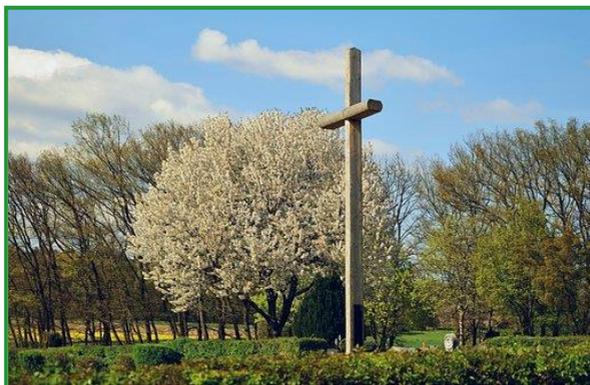


that many of our Easter themes have their roots in humanity's attempt to live with the risks and rhythms of a seasonal world. Long ago, at the spring equinox, the farmers of Canaan celebrated a Feast of Unleavened Bread to hallow the growth of seed for the wheat harvest. The Hebrew nomads' sacrifice of a lamb hallowed the birth of the year's livestock. Once the tribes of Israel finally settled they re-interpreted the two feasts together (as a celebration of their liberating migration from Egypt) in the Passover ritual. The Easter we know draws on these themes and others, including the North European Goddess Oestre in the seed which dies in the earth and brings new life.

These and many other deep layers of meaning lie beneath the surface of our Easter celebrations. Of course some of these themes and metaphors are less meaningful today. So we are each left with the interesting task of working out what Easter means for us, now. It is good to remember that the biblical Easter stories try to portray something of what dying and rising can mean to different people. In Mark we find women who respond with a shock that paralyses them. In Luke we find Jesus being met, and a new purpose found, as people journey together, break bread and form a new community. In John we find Peter discovering a new confidence through acceptance, despite his flaws. And in Paul we read of the daily experience of dying and rising to new life.

I continue to celebrate Easter because I believe these stories have good news for everyone. I can't tell you what that might be for you today. Indeed I sometimes struggle to work out what its meaning is for me, and whether it isn't all just 'foolishness'. But, even while I am struggling, I still hold to that faith that there IS good news to be found in these ancient stories and traditions, and that the struggle to find it and to bring it into the light, as the seed for a new hope, is worth it.

Peter Cole



Bible Discussion Group

Due to the usual (4th Tuesday in the month) date for the Bible Discussion Group for March falling in Holy Week, we will meet instead on Tuesday 3rd April, 3-5pm in the Wesley Room. The usual April meeting will still be on Tuesday 24th, 3-5pm in the Wesley Room.

We will continue to 'Walk on the wild side' with Jonah - this year's Book of Bible Month. Do come and join us. All are very welcome.

Janet Baker

Craft Sale

Thursday 12th April, 10.00 am – 4.00 pm, in International Hall, in aid of Chestnut Tree Children's Hospice and Emsworth Pastoral Centre

Please come and support these charities and buy handmade gifts including quilts, quilting books, bags, cushions, covered sketchbooks, bookmarks, cards and lots more.

Church Anniversary 6th May

You are all invited to stay for lunch after our Church Anniversary service. The Worship Group has asked the Wesley Guild to provide a simple lunch and we would love you to stay and spend time eating and chatting together.

We won't be asking for donations of food but there will be a plate available for monetary donations to cover the cost of food, with any surplus going to charity. Later in the month we will be asking you to sign up to give us an idea of numbers. Please remember to put the date in your diary.

The Wesley Guild

Launch of Portsmouth Methodist Church An invitation to all to come and celebrate

The service will take place at Trinity on Albert Road, Southsea, at 3pm on April 22nd. There will be refreshments to follow. For any more information please contact Rev'd John Mills. Details can also be found on the circuit calendar/diary.

Circuit S.O.F.T. Team. SAVE THE DATE!

June 2nd Portchester Methodist Church from 10.30 a.m.

Andy Frost from Share Jesus International is in the Circuit to encourage us in ways we can share our faith. It will be an inspiring day. All are welcome. More details to follow.

Janet & Richard Baker



You are invited to our special Helpers' Afternoon Tea
on Wednesday 18th April at 4.15pm
In the Pastoral Centre

This is our opportunity to say THANK YOU to all our valued volunteers. We look forward to seeing you.

Pastoral Centre Management Group

Cake Stall

2017 was another successful year averaging £71 each month. I am most grateful to all those who regularly bake and have helped to make this possible. The money raised goes to good causes connected with the Methodist Church. Fifty per cent is sent to Missionary work overseas and the remainder is divided between Home Missions for chaplaincy work in hospitals, colleges, factories, etc, and the remainder goes to Network for their current project.

The cake stall was started in 1999 to raise money towards the improvement work called "Project Connect" when we linked the church with International Hall. Even when this was completed those who had baked decided to keep the cake stall going and credit is due to all who have supported either by baking, coming along to buy or just giving encouragement.

But we continue to lose the small but loyal band of bakers and have come to the conclusion that we can no longer continue to run the stall. We have therefore decided that the cake stall on **Thursday 24th May** will be our final one, so if you have been involved in any way to help with the stall over the years, please accept our most grateful thanks.

Jean Dyke

.....and a big Thank You to Jean for all you've done to sustain this over many years.

Help with photocopying needed, please!

From May onwards we need a volunteer to photocopy and fold the monthly News Sheet. If you could spare a couple of hours once a month – it may not be every month – please speak to Diana. Thank you very much to Jean for doing this faithfully for more than a year.

Brenda Buchanan

At the Thanksgiving Service last week we learned from Mavis, her sister-in-law, much more about Brenda than we had known previously: her roots, her childhood and her teenage years which according to Mavis were real fun, courtship and marriage to John. Brenda had her own peculiar brand of Yorkshire humour which wasn't always understood by those residing in other parts of the country. She was referred to as a kind friend who always went the 'extra mile' to help others in need. This was certainly my experience a year or so ago.

Whenever Brenda's name is mentioned three things about her come to mind immediately: firstly her strong faith and her commitment to this church, and secondly her enthusiasm for knitting. You will all know about her beautifully knitted squares made into blankets for Care Home residents. The third thing is her devotion to John particularly during the last year or so of his life, and of course her overwhelming affection for Hamish, her beloved Westie. She loved all the family and was so looking forward to playing a 'Grandmother' role and having much more contact with her baby grandson. Of course this wasn't to be.

We will all have our own different thoughts and memories but I am sure there is one thing we will agree on - that she was a thoroughly nice person and friend.

Judy Emerson

Ladies Group

Our meetings this session have started well. Although many were ill just after Christmas a good number came to solve the puzzles that Ruth Beechey had for us; from the clues we had to guess which kind of confectionery they were. We came to the conclusion that perhaps we should eat more sweets and we may then do better!

For our next meeting John Mani came to talk about India. After a brief introduction from Mandy as to how she and John met, we were fascinated to hear John's account of the diversity of life and culture that exists throughout India. It was very interesting to hear from someone who could give us his personal, first-hand knowledge.

Our first meeting in February, led by Ann Bartlett, had many trying the art of Chinese folding whilst others looked at different examples of this intricate and intriguing needlework.

At the end of February we were pleased to welcome another of our own members, Patricia Lee, whose talk was entitled "Behind the Sunflowers". Perhaps not quite what we were expecting, as she led us through the troublesome life of the artist Vincent van Gogh.

As you will see we have had very varied and interesting meetings with yet more to come. If you would care to find out about our meetings please have a word with Judy Emerson.

Jean Dyke

Prayer for Wholeness and Healing

The Emsworth Ecumenical Prayer Group was started by the Waterside Community at the instigation of Canon Caiger.

The Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6.15pm and lasts for 35 to 40 minutes.

At the beginning, members of the Group suggest names of seriously ill people who have requested, or whom they think need, our prayers. Their names, along with their illness, are then entered upon a small card. After a brief meditation and prayer, the cards are distributed to group members, and each member prays for the person on his or her card over the coming month.

The Prayer Group has been a blessing to many over the years, and numbers have expressed their gratitude for the comfort and strength they have received from the knowledge that they were being prayed for.

Certainly the Group must continue in some form or other, but date and time are open to change.

Geoffrey Senior

*The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be on **Wednesday 2nd May**, at 6.15pm in Waterside URC Church Hall. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Group, but cannot make that date or time, please contact the Revd Harry Lanham with details of your name, a 'phone number and when you can manage, either by email harrylanham@hotmail.com or by leaving a message at 02392 426000*

Harry Lanham

Retreat: 22-24th June 2018, Ladywell Convent, Godalming, Surrey
Led by Gill Dascombe (former vice-president of the Methodist Conference). The theme for the weekend will be 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Cost is £160, fully catered. To book your place please contact Brian Sherrell on Brian-car@hotmail.co.uk or 01883 370945
This retreat is organised by the Methodist Retreat Group "Reflect".

**Emsworth Library with be closed April 3rd – 17th
while their systems are updated.**



Prayer Prompts - April

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

Easter: a sense of joy and hope for all Christians; that worship in all churches in Emsworth may proclaim the Risen Christ; for growth and new life in every congregation and every outreach venture.

Vocation Sunday 22nd: that all of us may listen to God's guidance and use the gifts he has given; all called to ordained ministry, service overseas, aid work through Charity Organisations.

Community: for a good sense of community in Emsworth; for all feeling the cold hand of austerity: for short-staffed NHS, Police and other essential services; those locally who find life difficult.

The world in which we live: peace amongst the nations; wisdom in dealing with the EU and Brexit talks; wisdom in relationships with Russia; real peace in Syria, Yemen, Sudan and other places.

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 Mrs Jean Hooper
		3.00pm	Launch of Portsmouth Methodist Church service at Trinity, Albert Road, Southsea (see page 3)
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion led by Rev Stephen Wright
Monday	23	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	24	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
		3.00pm	Bible discussion Group (Wesley Room)
Wednesday	25	10.00am	Police Surgery
		10.30am	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Veronica Hickox & Dot Warren: Pilgrimage (IH)
Thursday	26	10.00am	Cake Stall
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Dr Ed Derbyshire: Planning, Design and Construction of the New Emsworth Baptist Church (IH)
Sunday	29	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell followed by Traidcraft stall
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth at St Thomas, Warblington
Monday	30	10.00am	'Table Talk' with Rev Bill Stillwell
		10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR APRIL 2018

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

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

Sunday	1		Easter Sunday	
		6.00am	Easter Morning Sunrise Service on the Foreshore	
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Geoffrey Senior and Deacon Laura Evans followed by Traidcraft stall	
		6.30pm	No service	
Monday	2		Easter Monday Bank Holiday	
			Pastoral Centre open 10.00am – 12 noon only	
			No Exercises	
Tuesday	3	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)	
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Easter Celebration (IH)	
		3.00pm	Bible Discussion Group (Wesley Room) see page 3	
Wednesday	4	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'	
			No Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (see page 6)	
Thursday	5	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Wendy Chappell: The Works of Alan Bennett (IH)	
Sunday	8	10.00am	Café Church led by Deacon Laura Evans	
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev Andrew Sheard, Preacher Rev Alison Rice	
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Geoffrey Eardley, Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey	
Monday	9	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)	
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)	
Tuesday	10	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)	
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity & Table Games (IH)	
Wednesday	11	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'	
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Jan Stillwell: Portsmouth Street Pastors (IH)	
Thursday	12	10.00am	Craft Sale (IH) (see page 3)	
Sunday	15	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans	
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington led by Rev John Pilkington	
Monday	16		No Exercises	
Tuesday	17		No Exercises	
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: My Favourite Tea Towel (IH)	
Wednesday	18	10.30am	'Let's Do It!'	
		4.15pm	Pastoral Centre Helpers' Afternoon Tea (see page 4)	
Thursday	19	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Peter Gregory: 'Forgotten Foods...in Malaysia' (IH)	

Church calendar continued on inside back page

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