



# 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](mailto:minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)

**Revd Bill Stillwell**

tel: 023 9248 0150

Church Office tel: 01243 373773  
email: [office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)  
website: [www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org](http://www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org)  
Registered Charity No 1127747

**Monthly news sheet**

**May 2018**

## Message from the Manse

*'The sun, with all those planets revolving around it and dependent upon it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do'.*

*Galileo*

I'm writing this on what I'm reliably informed is the hottest April day since 1949.



For me, the sun has provided a welcome excuse to get outside and do something about the vegetable – pot – garden that I've been promising myself since I moved in last July! The inclement, inconsistent and at times just weird weather that we've experienced in the last couple of months has meant that most seedlings have had to start life indoors on pretty much any

windowsill not otherwise occupied. Thus the opportunity to finally get some of them out into pots in the big wide world has been more than welcome.

As someone who takes an almost childlike (okay, entirely childlike!) interest in watching things grow, the process of sowing seeds, rearing healthy plants and then finally eating their produce is fascinating. It never ceases to amaze me that it happens at all! How can so much power and potential be held within one tiny seed? How can it possibly produce tasty, nourishing food? Even when I've planted them I don't always believe they're going to actually grow, and check every day to see signs of life – often surprised when the first bit of green pokes out from underneath the compost. Every one is exciting and promises more excitement still to come.

At this point I have a confession to make. Last summer a very lovely friend gifted me a raspberry cane. It came with sound instructions which mainly consisted of 'don't forget to water it'. Guess what: I put it in a corner of the garden and completely forgot about it. I'm embarrassed to admit it, but it's true!



This morning I stumbled upon it by accident and at first couldn't even remember what it was. Yet, despite my neglect, among the dead wood of last year were the green shoots of this year's growth. The sun and the rain had done their work.

I discovered this quote from Galileo during a visit to a garden centre near Rutland. It was written across a notice board as 'Quote for the Week.' I imagine that hundreds of people had already walked passed it without a thought but it made me stop and think.

The sun is the largest object in the Solar System – 1 million Earths could fit inside it, it may be as much as 4.6 billion years old and parts of it can reach 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. Big numbers. Certainly too big for me to comprehend. Yet it plays a part in the life-cycle of pretty much every animal and plant on the planet. Yet its warmth and light draws even my little seedlings through the top of the soil. It even helped keep alive my neglected raspberry cane.

I think that's amazing. I don't understand how it works but I still think it's amazing. But what's even more amazing is this: our God, who has no end and no beginning, who is 'wider than the universe and beyond our wildest dreams' (StF 61), watches us grow with love, never forgets to feed us with his Spirit, and rejoices in the harvests of our lives – whatever they may be.

Now that's worth getting excited about!

**Laura**

## Church Anniversary 6<sup>th</sup> May

You are all invited to stay for lunch after our Church Anniversary service. The Wesley Guild will 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 Christian Aid. Please sign the list in the atrium if you would like to come.

*The Wesley Guild*

Helena Hines will be using IH for her exhibition as part of the Emsworth Arts Trail, and there will be opportunity for a 'private viewing' after the morning service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, before our Anniversary Lunch.

## Bible Discussion Group

The May Bible Discussion Group will be on Tuesday 22nd May at 3pm – 5pm in the Wesley Room.

It is the last for this Methodist year and so there will be Holy Communion as well as a discussion led by Revd Bill Stillwell and Deacon Laura Evans. Everyone is welcome.

## Traidcraft Donation

I have been able to send a further £100 to Traidcraft's Hidden Entrepreneur Appeal. This will have been doubled by the Government, which makes it even more effective. Thank you to those of you who made donations.



Please continue to support the Traidcraft Stall – custom has been rather slow of late so I would encourage you to think carefully about what else you might buy from the stall, or order from the catalogue.

The next Traidcraft Stall will be after the service on **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April**. There will be **no stall on May 6<sup>th</sup>**, which is Church Anniversary, with lunch, and with Helena Hines' exhibition in the hall as part of the Arts Trail.

*Dot*

## United Anglican/Methodist Walk

The next A/M Walk will take place on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May**. We meet at 12.30, with a packed lunch. Please see the Sunday notices for details of meeting place/parking. If you would like to know more, please ask Dot.

## Let's Do It

Anyone who comes into the Pastoral Centre on a Wednesday morning on a regular basis will be familiar with the sight of Laura, Janet Landymore and one or two other folk sitting in the corner of the Pastoral Centre colouring, cutting and sticking and generally having a great deal of fun!

Although 'Let's Do It' is certainly valued by those who come (especially visiting children!) numbers have been very low for some time and after giving the matter some thought – and consulting with regulars – we've decided to make some changes.

From 2<sup>nd</sup> May onwards 'Let's Do It' will move to **Wednesday afternoons 2pm – 3pm.**

But that isn't all...!

There have been many occasions when the folk who come to 'Let's Do It' have contributed to the wider life of the church, helping prepare a craft activity for a Sunday service, painting stones for placing out in the community, or putting together gift-bags advertising services or events for distribution in the Pastoral Centre.

So, we're going to try an experiment... From now on the first 'Let's Do It' of each month will intentionally focus on these sorts of activities. None of them are complicated and they don't require any special skills. However, the making and doing provides opportunities for relaxed and natural faith conversations that may otherwise be very difficult to 'engineer'; and what is produced may well sow seeds in the minds of those on the receiving end of these gifts.

**On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2pm – 3pm we will be cutting out items for use at the Church Anniversary service and also filling gift bags for distribution at the 'Faith in Film' event. Why not come along if you're free?**

## Saturday Coffee Bar

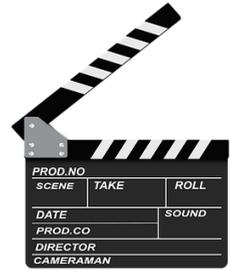
Those of you who so loyally work in the coffee bar on Saturday mornings will be aware that our numbers have reduced somewhat over the last couple of years. I am hoping that there are a few more people who might be free on an occasional Saturday who would be prepared to swell the ranks and do a session in the coffee bar? If you think you could help with this valuable service, please have a word with me. Many thanks.

*Dot*

## Faith in Film

Our third 'Faith in Film' event is planned for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm.

As always, licensing laws prevent us from advertising the title here, so look out for flyers and posters. For now we'll just say that if you like adventure stories, cats and dogs then this will be the film for you.



It's certified 'Universal' so accompanied children will be very welcome.

The film will start about 2pm, finishing about 3.30pm and the Coffee Bar will remain open throughout.

This will be a very relaxed time of fellowship with the aim of introducing Christian themes in a way that is friendly and non-threatening. There will be some film-related 'points to ponder' on each of the tables for people to engage with (or not) as they see fit.

Why not bring a friend (or two!)? Popcorn provided!

*Laura*

## To Church Council Members

Please note that a short meeting of Church Council is to be held after the morning service on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June** in International Hall.

The principal item on the agenda will be a proposal for the replacement of our photocopier. A paper outlining this proposal will be circulated in due course.

## Quiz Aid Held for Christian Aid Week

Get a team together or come along on your own to Bridgemaury Methodist Church, Gregson Ave, PO13 0PP on Friday 11th May at 6pm. There will be tea and cake, a raffle and lots of fun. Cost £3.  
For details, contact Jean on 02392 430657

## Augmented United Choir Easter Offering

Grateful thanks to all who sang or came to listen to Good Friday's choral offering. £330 was given to the charity Freedom from Torture.

*Sue Ingram*

## **Circuit S.O.F.T. Team**

June 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. For more details please see the poster on the noticeboard.

*Janet & Richard Baker*

## **Holiday at Home**

This is an advance notice to let you know that we're very much hoping to run a 'Holiday at Home' again this summer!

For many people the summer is a time for holidays or visits from or to loved ones; but there are many folk in our community who find this time lonely and isolating, and still more who relish opportunities to make new friends and spend time taking part in fun activities and sharing lunch together.

The dates chosen for Holiday at Home this year are:

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

However, we can only run such an event if we can get enough volunteers. Perhaps you:

- Could come along and chat to people
- Know of a local person or business who could give a short talk
- Could come along yourself and give a short talk (maybe about a hobby or favourite holiday destination)
- Could run a simple baking, art, craft or other workshop
- Could help with 'pampering' (e.g. paint fingernails etc). This was very popular last year!
- Could be 'another pair of hands' for those running activities - no-one will be expected to run a session alone!
- Can think of something else that could/should be on this list!

If so, or even if you just want some more information, please get in touch with Laura. If enough volunteers come forward there will be a planning meeting and this will be advertised in the church notices and elsewhere.

*Laura and Mandy*



## Prayer Prompts - May

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

**Church family:** those with health needs; the Church Anniversary; Laura, her ministry among us, all Deacons as they meet in Convocation; for Bill, the time and ministry he shares with us.

**'Thy Kingdom Come':** Ascension to Pentecost prayer for more people to know Jesus; plans for this amongst the churches in Emsworth.

**Christian Aid week** 13–19 May: the local committee; for generosity in house to house collection; all aid workers, the resources Christian Aid gives; the complex war in Syria, conflict in Armenia, world relationships with Russia, North Korea; all suffering from war, conflict, famine.

**Local life:** the local elections, wisdom and compassion in all decisions: planning for new houses; new surgery; the life of all businesses in Emsworth.

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](mailto:c.walters5@homecall.co.uk)

### Church Calendar continued:

Tuesday	22	10.30am 2.00pm 3.00pm	Standing Exercises (IH) Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH) Bible discussion Group and Holy Communion (Wesley Room) Led by Bill and Laura (see page 3)
Wednesday	23	10.00am 2.00pm 7.30pm	Police Surgery 'Let's Do It!' Ladies Group. AGM and Supper (IH)
Thursday	24	10.00am 7.30pm	Cake Stall Wesley Guild. Visit to Harbourside Gardens at Prinsted
Friday	25	2.00pm	Faith in Film: see posters and flyers for title! (see page 4)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	10.00am 6.30pm	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans United Evening Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	28		<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b> <b>Pastoral Centre open 10.00 – 12 noon</b> NO exercises
Tuesday	29	10.30am 2.00pm	Standing Exercises (IH) Activity Afternoon: 'Pensioners and Purple Hats!' (IH)
Wednesday	30	2.00pm	'Let's Do It!'

# CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MAY 2018

*All events in Emsworth Methodist Church & Pastoral Centre unless stated otherwise*  
 IH = International Hall, URC = United Reformed Church, Bath Road

Tuesday	1	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Wednesday	2	2.00pm	'Let's Do It!'
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC)
Thursday	3	7.30pm	Wesley Guild.
			Rev John Mills and Laura Evans: Sharing Our Faith Together (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>		<b>Church Anniversary</b>
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Andrew de Ville
			Followed by Anniversary Lunch (see page 3)
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James'
			led by Rev Andrew Sheard, Preacher Rev David Muskett
Monday	7		<b>May Bank Holiday</b>
			Pastoral Centre open 10.00 – 12 noon
			Arts Trail in IH
			NO Exercises
Tuesday	8	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity & Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	9	2.00pm	'Let's Do It!'
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. The Music Group Entertains (IH)
Thursday	10	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Rev Gordon Charlesworth: 'The Great Divide' (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>		<b>Start of Christian Aid Week</b>
		10.00am	Café Church led by Margaret Sawyer
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James'
			Led by Rev Bill Stillwell, Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship
			led by Deacon Laura Evans, preacher Rev John Pilkington
Monday	14	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	15	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Royal Memories (IH)
Wednesday	16	2.00pm	'Let's Do It!'
Thursday	17	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. AGM followed by fish and chip supper (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Trevor Payne
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington
			led by Rev Damon Draisey
Monday	21	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)



*Church calendar continued on inside back page*

Items for the June news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 19 May**