



# 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**

**June 2018**

## Message from the Manse

I'm writing this on Pentecost Sunday. By the time you read it Pentecost will be over...

During the Dark Ages, at a time when food was scarce, work difficult to find and families living from hand to mouth, the local cathedral was often the centre of the community. At a time when very few people could read, the engravings, stained glass windows and ornate decoration told the stories of Jesus in a way that made sense to every-day people.



Some cathedrals, however, were built specifically to express the meaning of Pentecost. The painted ceilings of these buildings contained small, cleverly concealed doors. During the worship at Pentecost some unfortunate people would climb up onto the roof of the cathedral and, at the appropriate moment, release a live dove through one of these doors – a living symbol of the Holy Spirit! Immediately after this the doors would

open again and buckets of rose petals would be thrown out, representing tongues of flame showering the congregation.

We can scarcely imagine the effect this sensory spectacle would have had on the difficult lives of these Christians more than a thousand years ago.

Despite there being no trapdoors in the roof of the church today (and no, no-one will be asked to climb up and pour petals in through the windows!) we too need to be reminded of the significance of the Holy Spirit. While Jesus was on earth he was bound by the constraints of time and space. He could only be in one place at a time; but after his ascension he sent the Holy Spirit to be the helper of all those who were left behind to carry on his work and give them courage for the days to come. That Holy Spirit, that 'still, small voice' gave, and gives, courage to do things that would have been thought impossible.

We celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter Sunday and 10 days after the ascension. This year it fell on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May. We may not follow the example of the medieval Christians and deploy live animals and cascades of rose petals, but if we celebrate Pentecost as something that happened once, a long time ago, then we lose something vital. Pentecost was never meant to be a one off event. Instead it's a celebration of the coming of the Spirit to Christians then, throughout the ages and into our lives and the life of our church today.

By the time you read this, Pentecost will still be happening. The Spirit will be speaking in your life and in the life of this church and community. Let's pray that we all listen to that voice.

**Laura**

## **Munchies at The Manse**

Back by popular demand! On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 12 – 4pm I will be having an open house. There will be plenty of tea, cake, snacks and company. Hope to see you there! If you need the address please let me know.

*Laura*



## **Let's Do It!**

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June the 'Let's Do It' folk will be making a banner to advertise the 'Holiday at Home'. Everyone is welcome to come along and help cut and stick.

## **Holiday at Home**

Plans for the Holiday at Home are now in full swing. There are even promises of fish and chips, a film, a cooking lesson and a visit from our resident artist (to name but a few!) However we are still in desperate need of volunteers to just come along and be 'around' to help out with things like washing up and above all to chat to and be alongside those who come.

The dates for the Holiday at Home are: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July and we are in particular need of help on the Thursday...

If you can help, please speak to one of us. Many thanks to those who have already offered!

*Laura and Mandy*

## **New Safeguarding Forms**

The Methodist Church has updated the confidential safeguarding forms which must be completed by all who are appointed as Officers or Representatives of the Church.

The Circuit wants us to update our records, so I may be asking you to sign the new Confidential Declaration (Form C) in the near future. This will be a useful exercise, as many of our records are outdated – people have changed roles or gained new ones, and the Circuit name has changed.

I will provide you with the new form. All completed forms are kept securely on church premises in a locked cabinet to which only 2 people have access.

If you would like more information, have a look at the Methodist Church website <http://www.methodist.org.uk/media/7242/form-c-officeholder-declaration-march-2018.pdf>, or ask Diana!

Thank you for your patience and help in achieving this.

*Diana Harris*

## **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. For more details please see the poster on the noticeboard or speak to Laura.

## **Christians Together in Emsworth – AGM & Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

**Election of Officers for 2018/19** - Andrew Sheard agreed to be Chair and Sue Ingram agreed to continue as Secretary. Sue Dudman had resigned as Treasurer after five years in the post and there were no nominations for a replacement therefore there is no current Treasurer. (If there is anyone in the Methodist Church who would be interested in joining the committee as Treasurer, please speak to Sue).

**Review of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** – There were many positive comments about the morning and the format was commended.

**Review of Easter Card** – This had been well received with smooth distribution.

**Review of Holy Week and Easter events** – It was noted that in keeping with the past three years the Maundy Thursday services/events were held separately. A good number of people had joined the Good Friday Walk of Witness but it was felt that the morning was rather long and the Holy Communion type service at the end was not expected and caused some difficulties. The Baptists were thanked for their provision of soup. The Easter Sunrise Service had gone well and thanks were expressed to all who had made it possible.

**Christian Aid Update** – Autumn sale 2017 raised £278.93, Lent lunches 2018 £264.56, Count your Blessings £46.40. Future dates: Summer sale 21<sup>st</sup> July, Autumn sale 20<sup>th</sup> October, Carols in the Square 14<sup>th</sup> December.

**Emsworth Show arrangements** – It was agreed that in view of the current anxiety about plastic waste, a repeat of the successful free water provision would not be good. It was agreed to provide a space for children to have free craft activities, a display of information from all our churches and some chairs for weary people.

**Publicity Officer** – Stuart Thompson from the RC Church offered to provide a website for CTE to tie in with our Facebook account. He would also produce posters if required.

**To consider the possibility of a house purchase for Syrian refugees** – James Mant, a reader in training from the Anglican Church, outlined the process involved if such a project were to go ahead as part of the government's initiative. Mike Nalder from the Anglican Church gave details from Hope in Action, an organisation with similar objectives. This is in the very early stages of thinking - any further news to be brought to future meetings.

**GDPR** – It was agreed that compliance with the new act which came into force during May would only apply to the CTE secretary who confirmed she already keeps any database secure.

**Dates for fifth Sunday Services** – 29/7/18 Methodist, 30/9/18 Roman Catholic, 31/3/19 URC, 30/6/19 Baptist.

**Any Other Business** – Sheila Lawrence (Baptist) asked for feedback to her for possible uses of the Victoria Cottage Hospital site. She explained

there was a small steering group trying to ensure the site remained as a facility for Emsworth people, specifically the elderly, particularly for community health provision, possible assisted living places. She would welcome ideas.

~ Stuart Thompson spoke of a Pilgrimage due to take place during National Refugee Week on 17<sup>th</sup> June from 2 – 5pm starting at the RC Church and including Warblington Church. Publicity was requested.

~ Revd Harry Lanham, Chair (URC) explained that for various reasons the future of the URC in Emsworth and Havant was being reviewed. He stressed that each place would have a URC presence, most likely as One Church on Two Sites. It would be hoped that Waterside could be promoted as a place for Retreats and Quiet Days. Ecumenically, this means that worship at Waterside could be developed with an emphasis on Peace-Making and Wholeness and Healing, and the establishment of a Julian Prayer Group and Taizé worship. Feedback and comments were requested.

### **News from around our churches**

**Baptist** – A 'Keswick style' Bible Course is being planned for Autumn 2019: Songs of Praise services continue, the next on 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Thy Kingdom Come initiative is being observed: A presentation by a theatre group about Corrie ten Boom is planned for 19<sup>th</sup> July.

**Anglican** – Thy Kingdom Come is being observed with the churches open throughout from 10<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> May: Damon Draisey has been appointed to his own parish in the Winchester diocese: Julie Price will be on sabbatical for three months from May – August: there is provision for a Pioneer Minister appointment for families and young people: Beating the Bounds of the Parish is planned for 14<sup>th</sup> July – all are welcome to join all or part of the 9 mile walk. **Roman Catholic** – The Bishop's visit which had been delayed had gone well: there had been a Parish Survey to facilitate a vision for the future. Andrew was thanked for allowing Warblington Church to be used for the service for the Blessed Margaret Pole.

**Methodist** – Laura was welcomed back after her enforced sick leave: Faith in Action films continue on some afternoons followed by discussions: Holiday at Home will be from 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July – transport was requested for those attending: 'Goodie Bags' including a Thy Kingdom Come leaflet and a few sweets would be available in the Pastoral Centre during the Ascension to Pentecost time.

**Date of next meeting** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

*Sue Dudman*

### **Church Council Members**

A short meeting of Church Council will be held after the morning service on **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June in IH** to discuss a proposal for the replacement of our photocopier.

## **Gill and Don's meal together with the church family**

To help celebrate Don and Gill's Diamond Wedding anniversary, which is earlier in June, they invite all their friends of the church family to join them for a lunch at the church on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm**.

To help with the catering arrangements a list will be available in the atrium on Sundays in June for you to sign your names and give a note of any dietary requirements.

It will be a relaxed time of enjoying a meal, talking and sharing together – No long speeches! And no gifts please.

*Gill and Don*

## **Data Protection – GDPR**

You're probably aware that the data protection law changed on May 25<sup>th</sup>!

Like all organisations, we need to make a few changes to the way we manage our data at Emsworth Methodist Church. You'll be pleased to hear that this is in hand: the Leadership Team is working with the Circuit to ensure we are compliant with the law, and in due course we will have the relevant policies in place.

Please be reassured that we are already taking good care of your personal data, but if you have any questions, do ask.

*Diana Harris*

## **Refugee Solidarity Prayer Walk**

Christians Together in Emsworth are marking 20 years of Refugee Week by organising a prayer walk on the afternoon of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June in order to raise awareness of the plight of refugees and migrants across the world. The walk will start at 2pm from St Thomas' Catholic Church, call at the Methodist Church, and then proceed to St Thomas à Becket at Warblington before returning to Waterside URC for refreshments, just over 4 miles in total.

There will be opportunities for prayer and reflection during the walk and at the churches, and stories of refugees will be shared.

If you wish to participate in this walk, please let Veronica Hickox know.



## Prayer Prompts - June

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

**Ladies Group:** celebrating their Anniversary; **Wesley Guild, Bible Study Group, Music Group,** for time and gifts shared. Those with special anniversaries and special birthdays. Remember the lonely, the frail, those finding it hard to cope with life. All pastoral carers in our church.

**World Refugee Week** 18-24. Those stranded in Refugee Camps; children knowing only this way of life; tensions in the middle east, on the continent of Africa, Venezuela and other places.

**Emsworth:** new housing estates, the witness of the Church on the estates; Community Centre, Museum, Library and other meeting places; Friends of Emsworth Hospital; the staff of the surgery.

**Methodist Conference:** all who will be ordained 29<sup>th</sup> June; for more to hear God's call to preach and lead in the church; for new members to join our church 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)

## Thanks for the messages of sympathy

Rosemary, Richard and Sue Baker have much appreciated the messages of sympathy for the unexpected death of Helen our daughter and sister. As some of you will know she has had complex health problems for some time. Thankfully she is now at peace. We shall miss her.

*Rosemary*

### Church Calendar continued:

Sunday	24	<b>Ladies Group Anniversary</b>	
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Alison Rice
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	25	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	26	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	27	2.00pm	'Let's Do It!'
Saturday	30	1.00pm	Don and Gill's celebration meal (see page 6)

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JUNE 2018

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

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

Saturday	2	10.30am	S.O.F.T. all-day workshop with Andy Frost at Portchester
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>Beginning of Bible Month</b>
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Janet Baker Followed by Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev John Pilkington, Preacher Rev David Muskett
Monday	4	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	5	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Special Quiz (IH)
Wednesday	6	2.00pm	'Let's Do It!' (see p 2)
		6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC)
Thursday	7		Pastoral Centre open 10am - 12 noon only (no sandwiches)
		2.00pm	Funeral of Margaret Hughes Followed by refreshments in IH
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10</b>	10.00am	Café Church led by Rev Simon Coleman
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev Bill McCoubrey, preacher Mrs Shirley Haynes
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Geoffrey Eardley preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
Monday	11	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	12	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity and Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	13	2.00pm	'Let's Do It!'
Saturday	16	12 Noon	Munchies at The Manse (see p 2)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell followed by a short Church Council meeting (IH) (see p 5)
		2.00pm	Refugee Solidarity Prayer Walk starts at the RC Church (see p 6)
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington led by Rev John Pilkington
Monday	18	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	19	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Summer Colouring with Strawberries and Cream (IH)
		2.00pm	'Let's Do It!'

*Church calendar continued on inside back page*

Items for the July news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 16 June**