



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

Revd Bill Stillwell

tel: 023 9248 0150

Church Office tel: 01243 373773
email: office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org
website: www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org
Registered Charity No 1127747

Monthly news sheet

August 2018

Message from the Manse

And so we enter the summer holiday season!

As many of you know I am a great lover of words, and especially their origins and histories. It may (or may not!) interest you to know that in June 2018 almost 900 new words and phrases were added to the Oxford English Dictionary, including 'binge-watch', and several words from A. A. Milne's 'A House at Pooh Corner' which celebrates its 90th birthday this year. The English language, both written and spoken, is constantly evolving and changing along with the world around us.



The word 'holiday' as we now know it has only been in use since the 1400s. It comes, as you may well know, from the Old English word for 'Holy Day'. In biblical times, and in the centuries that came after, a holy day was a time to rest from the day-to-day cycle of work and recreation to focus specifically on God. There are at least 8 holy days or periods mentioned in the Bible, and down the centuries the Christian church has introduced many others including Lent, Advent, Good Friday and Pentecost, as well as the more commonly known ones like Christmas Day and Easter Sunday.

For many of us these particular holy days (or festivals as we're probably more used to calling them) provide fabulous opportunities to relax and focus on God. They have, after all, been practised for centuries and when we celebrate them we join our prayers with folk from down the ages and across the world. I make no secret of the fact that the Christmas Carol Service never fails to move me deeply and is, for me, one of the highlights of the church year. Maybe you feel similarly about this or another service, ritual or practice that never fails to help you draw closer to God.

But what, you may be asking, does this have to do with the summer holidays and the month of August in particular?!

At a first glance August may appear to be the absolute opposite of a traditional festival period. In fact it has a reputation for being a quiet month in the life of the church. We don't celebrate any major holy days this month, although some other denominations do. However, I would say that for that very reason August (or if not August then whichever month or period has the least dates in the diary!) holds a vital role in our lives both as individuals and as a church. The prophet Elijah, sitting in the mouth of a cave waiting to hear God's voice, listened hard through wind and earthquake and fire, but it wasn't until the silence came that he finally heard the Lord speak (1 Kings 19: 11-13). Sometimes it's in quieter times, when the noise and busy-ness of everyday life stops for a moment, that our minds and hearts are able to focus all the more on God.

Holy days indeed.

I hope and pray that, however you spend your August, you will have time to rest and relax in the love of God.

Enjoy your holy days!

Laura



Emsworth Good Neighbours

Emsworth Good Neighbours is 21 this year! We are a group of volunteers, part of the Good Neighbours Network, but organised locally for Emsworth residents. We are able to take people for hospital and doctor appointments, shopping trips, or we can drop in for a chat to help lonely people.

However, we need more volunteers, particularly drivers, to keep this valuable service afloat. If you have some spare time during the week, we would love to hear from you. Mileage and parking expenses are reimbursed. We are a friendly group of people and those we help are very appreciative.

If you think this could be for you, please ring the Good Neighbours telephone number 01243 430999. We would be pleased to tell you more about our work. Thank you.

The Emsworth Show

Yes, it's that time of year again!

As you probably know, the August Bank Holiday Monday (27th) will bring the delights of the Emsworth Show!

Such was the success of last year's venture, Christians Together in Emsworth have once again decided to hold a stall at the Show. Only this year it's going to be even bigger!

This year there are plans for a craft tent, a space for parents and children to relax and be creative around the subject of 'Harvest'. Their creations, we hope, will be used at the Harvest Festival in the Square later this year. There will also be a prayer space, set up around my bright red campervan in order to catch the eye, and of course we shall be giving away water! Although this year it will be from compostable paper cups!

The plans have been made. The pitch is booked. Now all we need is you.

We're looking for volunteers to do 1 hour slots. Nothing complicated – just chatting to people, generally being friendly and perhaps giving out water. We really need 5 representatives from each church to make the rota work.

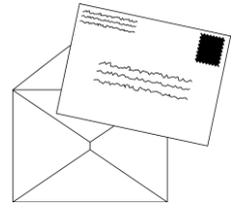
I am on annual leave for two weeks earlier in August but if you feel able to give up just an hour of the Bank Holiday to help us then please contact Laura on minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org

Laura

1000 letters:

Can you write to a young person at 3Generate?

This year 1000 young people and children will attend 3Generate - the youth assembly of the Methodist Church. 3Generate meets at the end of November in Southport.



Can you write a letter to those attending 3Generate? A letter to help them be courageous in their faith by sharing something of your own faith story.

Guidance for letter writers

The purpose of the letter is to help children and young people feel connected to the wider body of the Church; to feel part of the big Methodist family!

Who is the letter for?

- The letter you write will be displayed at 3Generate to be read by a number of children and young people.
- The children and young people at 3Generate will be in the age bracket of 8 - 23. If your letter is written particularly for younger children, or the older attendees, then please make a note of that when you post it to us. Otherwise, you can write a general letter aimed at all ages.

What to include:

- something of your faith story – you won't necessarily have space to include all of it, but you may think that there are parts that would be interesting for the children and young people to hear about.
- something about your experiences of being part of a church/faith community. Maybe you were part of a church when you were younger – could you share some of that story?
- things you have learned - again you won't be able to include everything, but are there key things you have learned about life and faith that would be helpful to share?
- encouragement for the younger generation to be courageous in their faith.
- Please make sure that the language you use and the stories you refer to are appropriate for the age group.

How to write it:

- A handwritten letter is more personal, so if it is possible for you, please do write by hand, but if you need to type it that's fine too!
- Please **don't** put your address, or any personal contact details, on the letter.
- Please **don't** put your surname on the letter; simply sign it with your first name.

How long should it be?

Ideally your letter should be one side of A4.

Where do I send it? Send your completed letter to:

3Generate 1000 Letters,
6th Floor, Methodist Church House,
25 Marylebone Road,
London,
NW1 5JR.

Beryl Rodd

Born in 1929, in Portsmouth, Beryl was the fifth child, with three older brothers and one older sister. She did very well at school - never letting her husband, Cyril, forget that in the year they took the 11 Plus he came 20th out of all the children in Portsmouth, but she was 19th.

The Methodist Church and music were common threads all through Beryl's life. Beryl met Cyril at the Wesley Guild when they were both aged 16 and they married nine years later, those being the days when probationer ministers weren't allowed to get married.

Once married she became a housewife and began the moves from place to place that were an inevitable part of life for a minister's wife. As well as caring for their three daughters, Rosemary, Judy and Susan, Beryl taught herself touch typing so she could work part-time as Cyril's secretary. She liked to remind Cyril that she was a working wife with her own income!

When Cyril retired they moved back to the sea, settling on Emsworth as the perfect combination of nearness to the sea, accessible shops and services, and a Methodist church. Once they had planted up the garden with fruit trees and raised vegetable beds, Beryl took up painting. She told us, "Everyone in Emsworth is either arty or boaty, and with my arthritis I can't be boaty so I'd better be arty."

In her last years, arthritis and heart disease gradually put the Portsdown Hill walks and the heavier gardening out of Beryl's reach, and Cyril's death was a blow she never really recovered from; but right up to a week before her own death she was still at church regularly and had a friendly smile for everyone she met.

Beryl lived to see her three grandchildren grow up and her three great-grandchildren born, and she quietly delighted in each one of them. We give thanks for her and for her life among us.

Christians Together in Emsworth – New Website

During recent months a new website has been designed for us by Stuart Thompson from the Catholic Church and this can be found at www.emsworthchristians.com

The website is very straightforward and easy to follow – initially it gives a few details about Christians Together and the events we organise, plus the times of the services held at each church with contact details. Finally, there is a link to each church's website and seeing all that is arranged on a regular basis certainly gives food for thought. Some of the churches have also included their history and this makes particularly interesting reading. I hope you will enjoy looking through this new site – if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Sue Dudman

Methodist Prayer Handbook 2018/9

Each new edition of the Methodist Prayer Handbook connects Christians from different times, places and walks of life. Classic prayers are interwoven with new contributions from Methodists across the districts and around the world. Arranged as a 31-day prayer cycle, the Handbook also includes a daily lectionary with a suggested hymn (from Singing the Faith) to accompany and guide you through the year.

This year's handbook is entitled A WORLD TRANSFORMED and offers simple prayers of intercession and thanksgiving as well as beautiful poetic reflections and aids to devotion, which help us call upon God's transforming love to be made active in the lives of children, women and men across the world.

In prayer we create space for God to speak to us and hear the deepest longings of our hearts. We are drawn closer into the loving purposes of God when we pray and that can only lead us to act for the transformation of God's world.

As you use this year's Prayer Handbook, you are praying for and with the whole worldwide Methodist family. We pray that you may know something of God's transforming love in your own life and that all our prayers would be caught up in God's purposes for the transformation of the whole world.

The Prayer Handbook is available in both standard and large print editions. If you would like to order a copy please sign the list that will be in the atrium on Sundays until 19th August. Price £3.95. No money needed until handbooks received.



Prayer Prompts - August

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

Methodist Homes Sunday 5th: the varied work of MHA - nursing care, residential help for the vulnerable, sheltered accommodation. Remember all who struggle with daily life, those with dementia, those who care for them, the lonely, people we know; the work of the Pastoral Centre with the elderly.

Ministers and Local Preachers: all who serve us and faithfully proclaim the Gospel; for ministers (presbyters & deacons) who are in the midst of moving to new appointments.

World Leaders: all who hold the responsibility that changes people's lives; the Brexit negotiations; all politicians – that they may humbly work for peace and justice, caring for the most vulnerable in society.

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

News from Portsmouth Churches Housing Association



The work started by the women of the Free Churches back in 1911 continues today and it has been a busy year for the Housing Association.

In the twelve months from 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 a total of 55 families and 9 single women were accommodated in the Association's three hostels. The average length of stay for families is between 6 and 12 months. Single women tend to stay for longer periods of time as the move-on options for them are very limited.

Due to the shortage of affordable accommodation for young families, the decision had been made to purchase a three bedroom property. This was completed at the end of March and a family with two children moved in at the beginning of April.

PCHA, Summer 2018

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2018

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

Wednesday	1		NO Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship
Sunday	5		Methodist Homes Sunday
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans Followed by Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev Barbara Hammond, Preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	6	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	7	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Outing
Sunday	12		
		10.00am	Café Church led by Mrs Janet Baker
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' led by Rev John Pilkington, Preacher Rev John Mills
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer, preacher Rev John Pilkington
Monday	13	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	14	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity and Table Games (IH)
Sunday	19		
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington Led by Rev Andrew Sheard, Preacher Rev John Harwood
Monday	20	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	21	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'Memory Box' (IH)
Sunday	26		
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Neil Wingrove
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev David Muskett
Monday	27		August Bank Holiday Pastoral Centre open 10.00 – 12 noon (tbc)
		10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	28	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)

Items for the September news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to dianaharris@btinternet.com by **Saturday 18 August**