



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

November 2018

Message from the Manse

I'm writing this a few days after returning from a retreat on the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, just off the Northumberland coast, a few miles south of the Scottish border. It's a tiny island, with only 180 permanent inhabitants. On one of the days I left our holiday cottage after breakfast, went down to the shoreline, walked around the whole coastline of the island and was back in time for lunch!



As you may know, Lindisfarne plays a pivotal part in the history of Christianity in Britain. In 635 the Northumbrian king, Oswald, summoned an Irish monk by the name of Aidan from the monastery of Iona, another island community off the south-west coast of what is now Scotland, to be bishop of his kingdom.

In return, Oswald granted Aidan and his fellow-monks the island of Lindisfarne on which to found their monastery.

Once settled on the island the monks went about their work as missionaries; walking the lanes of the kingdom and talking to the people they met – trying to interest them in Jesus. They visited and re-visited places, cultivating the seeds they'd sown and building new Christian communities.

Thus Christianity spread through the kingdom of Northumbria and beyond.

Being a tidal island, Lindisfarne is only accessible from the mainland at certain times of day and this, perhaps as much as its history, makes it a place of pilgrimage. The rhythm of life there is entirely different to anything I've ever experienced. Going 'off' the island would have required planning, tide-tables and a back-up plan for if we didn't make it back in time for the tide. The few shops there were opened, not at regular times of day, but as and when, according to the tide. Much better, then, to abandon plans to explore the wider area, find a bench up on the hills, a stone on the beach or a patch of grass in the nature reserve, pull out a book (or pen and paper) and enjoy the peace.



Peace.

What is peace? This month we commemorate one hundred years since the end of the First World War. We remember those who were and are affected by this and subsequent conflicts. We remember the men, women and children from all nations, races, religions and walks of life whose lives will never be the same again as a result of violence, and those who have lost their lives.

We pray for peace; but peace is more than just an absence of war.

To return to 635: it's said that the king, unwilling to allow Aidan to walk about like a peasant, gave him a horse. Aidan gave away the horse to a beggar, saying that he wanted to walk in order to be at the same level as the people he met.

Perhaps the first step to peace is to slow down. Stop occasionally. Get to know people as they really are - seeing all life, all experience, all people as equally valued and valid.

Laura

Sunday, 4th November 2018 - Café Church
(Please note first Sunday instead of 2nd Sunday this month)
Led by Margaret Sawyer
“More a Marathon than a Short Sprint!”

A friendly relaxed service around tables.
9.30 a.m. (for coffee and cake)
10 a.m. – 11 a.m. (Service)
Refreshments are also available after the service.

It is the custom at Café Church to use the door directly into the Church from the steps or slope, as for the Pastoral Centre during the week. It would be much appreciated if you could use this door rather than the Atrium door on this occasion.

Please do come and join in this informal time of Worship.

Traidcraft Update

Last month I reported the very sad news about the trading arm of Traidcraft coming to an end. But it isn't over yet! and we need to keep up our activity over the next few months to support Traidcraft as it winds down the business. They will have a huge amount of stock to clear! There are several ways you can help:

- Think about any items that you would like to **stock up** on while they are still available and let me know
- Support the monthly **Traidcraft stalls on Sunday 4th November and 2nd December**
- The Parish Fairtrade Group are planning a **Traidcraft Sale in our International Hall on Saturday 10th November from 10am**, and I will be joining with them for this occasion. There will be a wider range of food products, plus Advent Calendars, Christmas cards and some gift items
- Please put these dates in your diary and do what you can to support Traidcraft.
- I will be very happy to process individual orders for anyone – have a look at the catalogue and let me have your order.

Thank you, Dot

Faith in Film

Our next Faith in Film event will be taking place on Friday 30th November.



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 enjoy black-and-white films about Father Christmas this is definitely one for you!

The film will start about 1.30pm 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!

Mandy and Laura

Pastoral Centre Tablecloth Rota

The Pastoral Centre's Tablecloths are washed and ironed by a dedicated team of volunteers.

The 2019 rota will be compiled soon: if you would like to join the team please let Mandy know. The current commitment is about 4 times a year; if we have more volunteers this will then reduce.

If you wish to only do it a couple times a year why not join a friend and share the commitment.

Thank you to all who wash and iron our tablecloths. The tablecloths are very much appreciated by visitors to the centre.

Mandy

Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust

Thank you to all who donated to this cause following my recent cycle ride in September covering 54 miles and visiting 28 churches. I have received a total of £194 for the trust, for which they are very grateful.

Geoffrey





Prayer Prompts - November

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

In a world where there is so much darkness **Give thanks to God** for: the beauty and colours of this autumn; everything that makes us smile; for laughter and generosity; people who care for us.

Remembrance: All Saints Day, Remembrance Sunday: let us light a candle in our heart for memories of loved ones who have died, the vulnerable and lonely as winter approaches, those who grieve that life is passing them by.

Children growing up in a complex world: divisions in our own country, many highlighted by Brexit; children who are refugees, suffering traumatic distress after seeing horrors of war and separation from loved ones.

The life and future of Emsworth and surrounding villages: for struggling shops, health and police services, local politics; our neighbours; for all that is good, and the people who help us.

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

Bible Study

A reminder that the Bible Study Group will be meeting in The Wesley Room on Tuesday 20th November. The theme will be 'Remembrance' and we look forward to seeing you there.

Bill and Laura

Church Calendar continued:

Sunday	25	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Wendy Corney
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
Monday	26	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	27	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	28	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Barbara Sheppard: 'The Ravenna Mosaics' (IH)
Friday	30	2.00pm	Faith in Film (see page 4)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2018

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

Thursday	1	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'Desert Island Discs' Chris Walters interviews Laura Evans (IH)
Sunday	4	10.00am	Café Church led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer 'More a Marathon than a Short Sprint!' (see page 3) Followed by Traidcraft stall (see page 3)
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Andrew de Ville, Preacher to be confirmed
Monday	5	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	6	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Wednesday	7	6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC)

Sunday 11 Remembrance Sunday



		10.00am	Remembrance Service led by Rev Geoffrey Senior
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant tbc, Preacher Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer
Monday	12	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	13	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity and Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	14	7.30pm	Ladies Group. John Kinnard: 'The Birth of the Postage Stamp' (IH)
Thursday	15	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Julia Mitchell: 'The Hayling Billy' (IH)

Sunday	18	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Dr Andrew Wood Chair of Southampton District
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington, preacher to be confirmed
Monday	19	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	20	10.00am	Bible Study Discussion Group (Wesley Room)(see page 5)
		10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Cards for Christmas (IH)
Thursday	22	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting (IH)

Items for the December news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 17 November**