



# 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**

**October 2018**

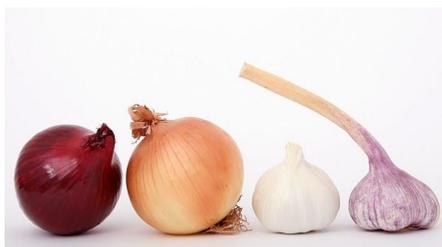
## Message from the Manse

I spent most of last Monday planting garlic cloves and onions.

As most of you know, my vegetable garden is a source of constant pleasure – not to mention confusion and hard work – as well as an enjoyable way of filling the freezer! I may not 'plough the fields and scatter' (StF 130) but for me there is something truly wonderful about watching plants grow and produce edible delights.

Just like everyone else who grows fruit and vegetables my harvest has inevitably been affected by the bizarre weather we've experienced in recent months. As an amateur grower of whatever I fancy this has been a mild inconvenience and a chance to experiment. Yet even as I pick the pods from the scorched remnants of my pea plants I remember the farmers and other producers whose harvests and indeed livelihoods have been badly affected by circumstances they could neither control nor foresee.

Yet at this season of harvest everything that has survived the hot spell seems to have come into its own. Plants that



I've been peering at for months, half expecting them to come to nothing, are suddenly producing at an almost alarming rate. Tomatoes are reddening, sweetcorn ripening and broad beans seem to go from 'hardly there' to 'fully ripe' within a day!

Fruit and vegetables are not the only harvest that behaves like that. Very often the harvests of our lives can feel the same. We watch, pray and work for a cause, group or hope that is close to our hearts, seeking to serve God. We seem to wait a long time – and then suddenly things begin to slot into place. Or perhaps we're sure that our lives are heading in a certain direction, and then something happens, circumstances change and we're pushed off course. The harvest still happens, but not in the way we expected. Or perhaps it doesn't come at all, and we have to find some other way.

So why, I hear you ask, did I begin by mentioning the planting of onions and garlic?

Once the harvest has been made – whether it be a harvest in our gardens or a harvest in our lives – space becomes available. We find ourselves with time. If our harvest was successful we may feel motivated to try something new. If it wasn't so good we may want to have another go. I'm now looking forward to lots of onion soup with chunks of garlic bread next autumn!

September and October are the months when we traditionally celebrate harvest; but the truth is harvest is a continual process. As we work for God, sowing seeds of faith, lovingly nurturing those around us, trying new things 'just to see what happens', may we rejoice in what works, learn from what doesn't and always be willing to be surprised!

**Laura**

There will be a special **Community Harvest Festival Service** in St. Peter's Square on Sunday 7th October 11.30am, to mark the end of Emsworth British Food Fortnight.

## **Church Flowers**

It is with much joy I can say the Flower Fund is now 'blooming', thanks to the generosity of the donations I have received. Sincere thanks to everyone.

*Vivien*



## **Traidcraft Update**

I have recently received some very sad and disturbing news from Traidcraft plc. I quote:

*Traidcraft plc's recent trading has been poor, and despite enormous efforts by staff, management, Fair Traders, and many fair trade shops over the last few years to reverse the company's performance we have not yet succeeded. Traidcraft plc's assets remain considerably greater than its liabilities, and while this remains the case the Board of Directors believe it is prudent to close our current loss-making trading operations, and to cease trading on 31st December 2018.*

*Traidcraft Exchange, our sister charity, continues to work with farmers, workers and artisans in Africa and South Asia to help them get a better deal from trade, and to lobby and campaign in the UK for better trade rules.*

This will mean that Traidcraft activity in the church as we have known it for very many years will be coming to an end. I will continue the usual stalls after services until the end of the year, and in the meantime if you wish to stock up on your favourite items just let me know! I think at this point it is a case of waiting to see what happens. Very sad news indeed!

*Dot*

## **Christian Aid**

We will be holding our Autumn Sale on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October at 10am when the winner of the Quiz will be announced. Once again we are asking for your help: if anyone feels able to support us by baking a cake we would be very grateful.

Donations of cakes can be left at International Hall on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October between 4.30 and 5.30pm.

*Gill Cooper*

## **Wesley Guild**

The new session of Guild starts on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in International Hall. The Guild is open to all and we would love to welcome you, either as a regular member or occasional visitor. If you've never been to a Guild meeting before why not come along and see what we do. Please pick up a programme; I'm sure you will find something of interest.

*Gill Cooper*

## Can you write to a young person at 3Generate?

You may remember a piece in August's News sheet about writing a letter to encourage young people and children in their Christian journey. For full details please ask Chris Walters, or see the August News sheet.

3Generate, the youth assembly of the Methodist Church, meets at the end of November. **Can you write a letter to those attending** to help them be courageous in their faith by sharing something of your own faith story?

### What to include:

- something of your faith story 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.
- 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 and the stories you use are appropriate for the age group.
- Please **don't put your address**, or any contact details, on the letter.
- Please **don't put your surname**; simply sign it with your first name.

### Send your completed letter to:

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

## Faith in Film



Our 'Faith in Film' events have proved so popular that they are now happening on the last Friday of every month. The next one will be on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm.

Our licensing agreement doesn't permit us to advertise the title of the film. However if you like lighthearted cartoons about pets this one is definitely for you! Look forward to seeing you there: popcorn provided!

*Mandy and Laura*

## Bible Study

A reminder that the Bible Study Group will be meeting in The Wesley Room on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 10am. The theme will be publicized nearer the time and we'd love to see you there.

*Bill and Laura*

## **Salient Points from the September Church Council Meeting**

The meeting began with remembering and giving thanks for the lives of Julian Mandiwall and David Bridge.

Bill began the **Conversation on the Life of the Church** with very positive feedback about the first session of the recently restarted **Bible Study Group**, when 14 people joined Laura and Bill. The themes of the study group will be linked with the themes for Café Church. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 10am in the Wesley Room.

We also heard that Laura and Bill have agreed a date in early November with Andrew Sheard and Julie Price from the Anglican parish, to have an initial discussion about our **shared worship and work together with the Anglicans**. This meeting will later be widened to include other key people from both churches, to help us find the best way forward for our shared life and witness.

The recent **Circuit Invitations Meeting** has resulted in some excellent news for us in Emsworth. Laura will continue in the circuit for a further 5 years from September 2019, with much the same emphasis on mission, outreach and evangelism, particularly related to the Pastoral Centre and our community. Bill is offering a further two years from September 2019, with a slight reduction in hours from 24 to 20. He will retain Emsworth and Bedhampton and will focus on pastoral care. It is really very reassuring to have this continuity for a few more years.

The **Church Leadership Team** report began with agreeing the previously circulated suggested amendments to the brief for the **Worship Group**. This clarification is mainly to establish that the Worship Group is not automatically responsible for the social and other events associated with special services.

The issue of **furniture moving on a Saturday** has cropped up again with the loss of Jack from the Baptist Church. However, we are really pleased that Ian Allen has agreed to help us on some Saturdays, enabling us to put together an in-house plan which will hopefully work well. And of course we are very grateful to those of you who are able to help with the resetting up again after Sunday services.

Related to furniture moving, the leadership team has been looking at evening services. Church Council gave its approval to the proposal that we hold our **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday evening services in IH** when we have had café church in the morning, to minimize the furniture moving on that day. This will be for a trial period starting on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October. With various

changes to the pattern of services in November and December, it will be January before we can try it again. We will then review the situation at the March Church Council.

Again, the point was made that we really do need to appoint one or two more **Stewards**. Currently we only have 2 Church stewards and 4 Sunday stewards. Please consider whether this might be a job for you.

Veronica gave us a very encouraging report from the **Pastoral Centre Management Group**. Holiday At Home, in the summer, went really well, as did the Art Class. We have two new Pastoral Assistants – James Mant from the Anglican church on a Monday morning, and Dorothy Wyborn from the Catholic church on a Tuesday morning.

And finally, for Church Council members to note – there has been a change of date for the next meeting which will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

*Dot Warren*

## **Fire Drill!**

Those who were in church on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept will remember that the fire alarm was sounded (deliberately!). This was to prepare ourselves for a full **fire evacuation practice**, which we plan to hold sometime during October or November. It is sensible, and a Health and Safety requirement, that we all know what to do if there's a real emergency.

In the meantime, please could everyone take time to read the Fire Action Notices which show clearly what to do if the fire alarm sounds. You will find these in various prominent places throughout the building.

- Leave the building by the nearest available fire exit.
- Assemble across the road in the Square.
- Do not take risks/or go to find personal belongings.

*David Harris*

## **Music Group**

We provide the music for Worship on the first Sunday of the month and meet for practice after Morning Worship on the third and fourth Sundays. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us, have a chat with one of the members or come along to one of our practices.

*Gill Cooper*



## Prayer Prompts - October

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

**Harvest time:** our worship, joy and thankfulness; the Ecumenical Community Harvest in the Square. Church Groups starting Autumn programmes: Bible Study, Wesley Guild, Ladies Group. The work of the Pastoral Centre.

**Local Government:** decision makers with ever tightening budgets; work that is cut and people affected: the disabled, the elderly, young people. The unemployed.

**The Police and Prison Service:** the work to keep us safe, the dangers faced. Family and friends who support them. All prisoners, overcrowding, the drug culture, those who are bullied and afraid.

**Wider world:** countries where there is famine; refugees fleeing violence; people who have no justice and no hope; those coping with natural disasters; all who suffer, those whose names are known only by God.

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)

## New Colour Printer

All printed publicity for the Church and Pastoral Centre will soon receive a vibrant makeover with the arrival of a new colour printer/photocopier on 1<sup>st</sup> November. There might be a slight hiatus while we become accustomed to the new machine, but we look forward to a brighter future!

### Church Calendar continued:

Wednesday	24	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Alan Entertains at the piano (IH)
Friday	26	2.00pm	Faith in Film (see page 4)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	29	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	30	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Photography – 'Getting up Close' (IH)

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2018

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

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

Monday	1	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	2	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'Cupcakes and Chatter' (IH)
Wednesday	3	6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC)
Thursday	4	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Communion Service led by Rev Bill Stillwell (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Miss Jean Hooper
		11.30am	Community Harvest Service in the Square to mark the end of Emsworth British Food Fortnight
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Andrew Sheard, Preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	8	10.00am	Pastoral Committee meeting (Wesley Room)
		10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	9	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity and Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	10	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Diana Roberts: the Art of Archiving (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	10.00am	Café Church led by Rev Simon Coleman
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Geoffrey Senior, Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship (in IH – see page 5) led by Deacon Chris Walters, Preacher Rev Andrew Sheard
Monday	15	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	16	10.00am	Bible Study Discussion Group (Wesley Room)(see page 4)
		10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Autumn Colouring and Conversation (IH)
Thursday	18	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Cdr Mark Barton: 'Eastney Methodism- 150 years of Marines and Temperance' (IH)
Friday	19	4.30pm	Cake donations for tomorrow's Christian Aid Sale can be left in IH
Saturday	20	10.00am	Christian Aid Autumn Sale (IH) (see page 3)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington, led by Rev John Pilkington
Monday	22	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	23	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)

Items for the November news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to [newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org) by **Sat 20 October**