



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

December 2018

Message from the Manse

Peace...

What is the first thing you think of when you hear that word?

'We're travelling 250 miles over the 3 days.'

'I'm cooking for 16 on Christmas Day. Roll on Boxing Day!'

'I always miss at Christmas.'

'I haven't done any Christmas shopping yet.'

'It's costing a fortune. Not looking forward to January debt.'

'It's the most stressful time of year.'

'I wish it was over!'

These are just a few comments I've overheard recently on buses, in the streets and in the supermarket.

Advent is traditionally a period of preparation, reflection and offering ourselves to God, building up to the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace. Yet, for many people it has become a time of stress and pressure.

Of course, most if not all of us experience some or all of these feelings at Christmas time. There are many reasons why the Advent and Christmas seasons can feel overwhelming at times. It's perfectly normal to feel concerned about the logistics of visiting a wide-spread family, worry about



catering quandaries, want to get people lovely presents or most importantly, as is the case for so many of us, to gaze at a chair and remember the Christmases when it wasn't empty.

Is it really a wonder that at this time of year many people long for a bit of peace and quiet? I'm sure for many people, perhaps for you, 'Christmas' wouldn't be the first thing you would think of when you hear the word 'peace'.

Only yesterday a very wise Local Preacher quoted to me 'Peace is not the absence of conflict. It is the presence of God within it.' Neither she nor I were sure who originally said it but I think it's extremely appropriate, not just in the context of Remembrance Sunday but also at this time of year.

So this year we'll be taking 'Peace on Earth' as our theme for Advent.

Not in an attempt to deny that, for many, Christmas is a complex, stressful time of year; but to draw attention to the presence of The Prince of Peace within it. To remind ourselves and those we serve that Jesus is not separate from the festivities but present within them and he brings a peace that is quite different from anything this world can give.

Whether you approach Christmas with excitement, trepidation, delight, sorrow or a mixture of them all; whether you're guest or host and however you give gifts - I wish you peace this Christmas and always.

Laura

Sharing Peace

Advent is a busy time for many of us and time to sit back, relax, and simply enjoy one another's company is precious.

You're invited to join an informal gathering for coffee, mince pies and other nibbles in International Hall from 5pm on Sunday 9th December.

Our Advent Carol Service will follow at 6.30pm.



Christian Aid Carols in the Square Friday 14th December

We will be singing Carols to raise much-needed funds for Christian Aid from 10am until 12 noon.

We are being filmed for 'A Taste of Emsworth', a film being made by John Tweddell about Emsworth's fishing heritage and community spirit. We, therefore, need lots of singers and instrumentalists. If you play an instrument and could accompany us for a couple of hours we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gill Cooper, Margaret Sawyer and Marian Hughes



The Pastoral Centre at Christmas

Pouring Out Peace - Special Christmas Tea

Tuesday 11th December 2pm

This is a ticketed event with donations on the day, Please see Mandy for a ticket.

Peace and Friendship - Carols and Mince Pies

Tuesday 18th December 2pm

Please join us for a wonderful time of singing together. No tickets needed, just come along on the day.

A 'Peace' of Cake - Special Christmas Cake Stall

Thursday 20th December from 10am

In keeping with our theme of Peace, why not join us for a 'Peace' of Cake or two. Please support Sandra and come and buy, or bake a cake. All proceeds to Action For Children.



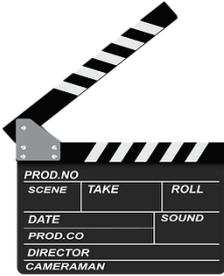
A Moment's Peace? Christmas Craft Morning

On **Saturday 15th December** we will be holding a 'Christmas Craft Morning' in the Pastoral Centre. It's an opportunity for creative-minded adults and children to exercise their talents and enjoy themselves.

This event has been intentionally planned for a 'Farmers Market Saturday' in the hope of drawing more people's attention to the work of the Pastoral Centre. Even if crafting isn't your thing we'd be really grateful for your prayers for this venture.

Laura and Sandra

Peace Yesterday, Today and Forever Faith in Film



Our Christmas Faith in Film event will be taking place on **Friday 21st December**.

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 this one provides a modern-day twist on one of Charles Dickens' most well-loved stories and is particularly suitable for families.

Speak to one of us if you want to know more!

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!

Laura and Mandy

Christmas Coffee Morning

All are welcome to a Christmas Coffee Morning from 10a.m. until 1p.m. at the home of David and Margaret on Saturday, 22nd December. Please ask for directions.

David and Margaret

Boxing Day
Wednesday 26th December
2.00pm – 4.30pm in the Pastoral Centre

A Place of Peace

Coffee, cake and company for anyone who wants it.
Ideal if you're on your own or out for a walk.

Portsmouth Open Church Project

The Open Church Project is running again this winter in Portsmouth. Seven church venues in turn will be providing a meal, bed and friendship for 12 homeless people on each night of the week during January and February. The project as a whole is run in conjunction with the Society of St James.

Eastney Methodist is the host church on Tuesday nights. We're looking for support again in two ways. Firstly, volunteers are needed for either of the three shifts (the evening cooking/hospitality shift, the overnight shift or the breakfast shift). If you are interested there is a training session at St Jude's Southsea on November 28th. Secondly, we need an amount of financial support. Any help from individuals or churches would be greatly received.

Emsworth Methodist Church will be offering a donation; if you would like to give some money, please give your donation to Dot or David Sawyer. Laura will ensure it is delivered!

If you'd like to know more please contact Revd John Mills.

Southern Domestic Abuse Service Christmas Donations

The Leadership Team has agreed to give a financial donation of £100 to SDAS this Christmas, instead of donating items of food and Christmas gifts. SDAS will be able to use the money wherever it is needed most.

If you feel you would like to give a personal donation of money, time or Christmas gifts, have a look at their website <https://southerndas.org/support-us> or **phone 023 9200 8329** where you will find details of how to support this wonderful organisation. For example, you can 'buy a brick' to support the building of a new Refuge:

'SDAS urgently needs to buy a refuge in the South East Hampshire area. Donations to 'Buy a Brick' will not only help us to build a home for victims of domestic abuse but will also help to rebuild the lives of the women and children who stay there.'

Thank you for all your past generosity.
Diana Harris



Christians Together in Emsworth Meeting 18th October

Matters Arising: John Kieran from the Roman Catholic Church was welcomed as Treasurer. The proposal to rotate venues for our meetings around the churches was discussed and agreed in principle. However our next meeting will be held at Waterside URC (which has a bigger room) and if this is workable we may well make it our regular venue.

Report of Emsworth Show: The event was considered to have been very worthwhile, particularly the children's craft work, some of which had appeared at the Harvest Celebration in The Square. In future years we will request a double pitch. There had been a good number of helpers from all the churches and our new Christians Together leaflet was distributed. Ideas re attracting more adults to the stall would be helpful for future years and it was suggested that decorated stones might be a possibility.

Report of the Harvest Service in The Square: It was agreed that it was an important presence in the community to be welcomed. The attendance from the two primary schools was appreciated.

Report of Refugee Solidarity Walk: This had been well organised and the attendance was good. Stories were shared and there had been collections for the Food Bank and tools for self-reliance.

Arrangements for our CTE Christmas Cards: are all in hand.

Plans for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: It was agreed to retain the same format as last year. A representative from each church would be asked to give a short presentation based on material from Churches Together in Great Britain and Ireland. A request has been made for the Baptist Church to offer their premises again. Publicity is being prepared.

Christian Aid Report: Christmas Carols in The Square will take place on Friday 14th December from 10am – 12 noon.

Events which might be shared more widely: It was requested that our website be used as often as possible and that some events of interest be shared more widely. Events organised by Christians Together should always be advertised and it was also suggested that the website should include another category giving details of events organised by individual churches with invitations to others in our five churches who might hold a

common interest e.g. the Refugee Solidarity Walk, the Service of Memories, the WW1 Memorial Service etc.

Review of Fifth Sunday Services: A note of appreciation had been received via the website re the service held recently at Ss Thomas. Opinions were expressed that celebrating the Mass or Holy Communion for these shared services might perhaps expose disunity rather than celebrating the unity shared by the churches. However it was acknowledged that all services in the Roman Catholic Church are celebrations of the Mass. The dates for the next fifth Sunday services were confirmed as 31st March 2019 at URC and 30th June 2019 at the Baptist Church – each service starting at 6.30pm.

Any other business: Peter Agius from the Roman Catholic Church announced his intention to step down from Christians Together but he would continue to be involved with the card distribution. Thanks were expressed for his great contribution over 22 years of service. Mike Nalder of the Anglican Church asked to update us on 'Hope in Action' (an organisation aiming to provide housing for Syrian refugees) at our next meeting and offered to arrange a speaker if we wish.

News from around the Churches:

URC: Revd Harry Lanham is on Sabbatical leave until early December. He sent minutes of a meeting regarding the Strategic Development Site at Southleigh Road which might include the possibility of a church with community facilities. An elder from Havant URC is leading on this at present. Pam McBirnie spoke of the ongoing discussion of 'One Church on 2 Sites' and stressed that Waterside URC is not closing. New signage is planned.

Baptist Church: A new ministerial assistant has been appointed, Heather Powning, particularly to help with the expanding youth work of the church. Brook Hall is being renovated. A speaker for the planned Keswick Style convention for 17th – 19th September 2019 is still being sought.

Methodist Church: All business as usual for both the Church and the Pastoral Centre.

Roman Catholic Church: Deacon Kim Catabama is now ordained.

Anglican Church: A new Pioneer Minister has been appointed, Revd Jo Northey, particularly to work with families and young people as a Fresh Expressions Minister. Discernment was being sought for the way forward for the church through prayer events and consultations.

Our next meeting will be held on January 10th 2019 at Waterside URC.

Sue Dudman



Traidcraft
Fighting poverty through trade

**Another Traidcraft
Update!**

First of all a big THANK YOU to those of you who supported the joint Parish and EMC Traidcraft Sale in IH recently. We had an excellent morning and sold over £350 worth of goods.

As for the future ...

I have previously written about Traidcraft's earlier decision to cease trading at the end of the year. However, the company has now launched a turnaround plan to downsize, restructure and transform the business to one that they hope will be sustainable. There will still be a major reduction in staff, the range of products will be greatly reduced, in particular the craft items, and they will focus instead on the core range of food products. We don't yet know how this will work in practice, so I think the best thing I can say at the moment is **watch this space! and please keep buying!** The next stall will be after the morning service on Sunday 2nd December.

Traidcraft Exchange, the development side of the company, is working with the producer groups to find alternative outlets for their products. To this end they have launched a Christmas Appeal to help them continue this work with so many vulnerable people around the world. For more information follow this link www.traidcraft.org.uk

Thank you.

Dot

A Message from Margaret Fielder

'Although I have been a member at Emsworth Church a relatively short time I have treasured the friendship and spiritual guidance shared with you especially with Bill, Laura, Jean and Diana. Again, thank you Laura for leading the Thanksgiving Service for my much loved husband Cyril. The time has come for me to have more care and at the end of November I am moving to the Methodist Rest Home in Norwich which will be nearer to my son. I will have fond memories of Emsworth Church. May God bless you and sustain you.'

Margaret

ADVENT

HAVANT PASSION PLAY

Part of the ethos of Havant Passion Play is that occasionally we meet together to worship. We try to meet in a different church each time, and the clergy are very supportive of what we are doing. The Services are not just for HPP members; everyone is very welcome to come and join us.

Our next Celebration Service is on Wednesday 5th December 2018 hosted by Father Mark at St Patricks Church, Hayling Island, PO11 0QU. The theme is Advent and the Service will begin at 7:30pm and end with tea and biscuits!

Joining in worship with our fellow Christians is a great way to start Advent. Do come and join us, if you can, you will be most welcome!

Jacky Chong, Chair of HPP Ltd.



PETERSFIELD NATIVITY FESTIVAL 2018

**Petersfield Methodist Church
Station Road, Petersfield
GU32 3EB**

Back for a second year - bigger and better! Come along to view our exhibition of nativity sets and stay to enjoy family friendly fun for all ages

- ❖ Free entry! All welcome!
- ❖ Seasonal refreshments (& lunches on Saturday)
- ❖ Nativity displays by individuals and community groups
- ❖ Hunt the Sheep trail with prizes
- ❖ Children's nativity dressing up zone for family photos
- ❖ Live music from our own Folk Band
- ❖ Quiz corner & festive jigsaws

Saturday 8 December 10am-4pm

Sunday 9 December 2pm-4pm



Prayer Prompts - December

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

Advent & Christmas: the worship services in all the churches and that the message of God in Christ, Love come in human form, may reach people in Emsworth. Outreach activities in Pastoral Centre - 'Christmas Tea', 'Carols & Mince pies', Boxing Day Open House, offering refreshments to passers-by.

Peace in Emsworth.

Those alone at Christmas: in our own Church family; those finding this time of year difficult, dark evenings, remembering family and friends of old.

The Homeless: sleeping on streets in cold weather; Portsmouth Churches Action for the homeless, our Eastney church involved. **Peace for individuals.**

The world: those affected by climate change, natural disasters – devastating fires in California, the after-effects of earthquake, tsunami and hurricane. Places of war – the Yemen, Syria, all refugees, families torn apart, children traumatised.

Peace on earth.

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

Church Calendar continued:

Friday	21	2.00pm	'Peace Yesterday, Today & Forever', Faith in Film (see page 5)
Saturday	22	10.00am	Christmas Coffee Morning at the Sawyers' (see page 5)
Sunday	23	10.00am	'Peace from God', Nativity Service for all the family led by Deacon Laura Evans including collection for Action for Children
		6.30pm	'Peace Amid Chaos' Christmas Music, Words and Silence A quiet evening service with Deacon Chris Walters
Monday	24		Christmas Eve 'Peace on the Table'
		9.00pm	Holy Communion Service led by Bill and Laura
Tuesday	25		Christmas Day
		10.00am	'Welcoming the Prince of Peace' Christmas Morning Service of Celebration for all ages Led by Deacon Laura Evans
Wednesday	26		Boxing Day
		2.00pm	'A Place of Peace', Coffee, Cake and Company for all (see page 5)
Sunday	30	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev Leslie Judd
		6.30pm	NO evening service



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2018

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

Sunday	2	Advent Sunday	
		10.00am	'Praying for Peace', Morning Worship A traditional service to mark the beginning of Advent led by Mr Geoff Paffett Followed by Traidcraft Stall (see page 9)
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	3	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	4	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon:
Wednesday	5	6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC)
Thursday	6	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'The Roman Villa at Warblington' Trevor Davies, Chichester and District Archaeology Society
Sunday	9	10.00am	'Peace for Ourselves', Café Church Carol Fest! led by Deacon Laura Evans
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill Stillwell, Preacher tbc
		5.00pm	'Sharing Peace' Coffee and mince pies before the Carol Service (see page 2)
		6.30pm	'Singing Songs of Peace', Advent Carol Service, led by Deacon Laura Evans, Preacher Rev Canon John Harwood
Monday	10	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	11	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	'Pouring Out Peace' Christmas Tea in the Pastoral Centre (see page 4)
Wednesday	12	7.30pm	Ladies Group: Christmas Supper
Friday	14	10.00am	Christian Aid Carols in the Square (see page 3)
Saturday	15	10.00am	'A Moment's Peace?' Christmas Craft Morning (see page 4)
Sunday	16	10.00am	'Peace for the World' Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	St James' Carol Service – all welcome
Monday	17	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	18	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Carols and Mince Pies in the Pastoral Centre (see page 4)
Thursday	20	10.00am	'A "Peace" of Cake', Christmas Cake Sale (see page 4)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Christmas Music with the Music Group Followed by a Bring and Share Supper (IH)

Items for the January news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newssheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 15 December**