



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

January 2019

Message from the Manse

*I am no longer my own but yours.
Your will, not mine, be done in all things,
Wherever you may place me,
In all that I do
And in all that I may endure;
When there is work for me
And when there is none;
When I am troubled
And when I am at peace.
Your will be done
When I am valued
And when I am disregarded;
When I find fulfilment
And when it is lacking;
When I have all things,
And when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you
choose.*



(The Covenant Prayer: Methodist Worship Book pp288-289)

There is something beautiful but also deeply challenging about these words. They form part of the annual Covenant Service, which has been part of the life of Methodism since its beginnings in the 1700s.

At this service we re-commit ourselves to our faith, and remember our deep connection to the God we serve. In fact some of these words have found their way into the marriage service, since they speak of commitment and 'oneness'. Whether you've said them once a year for as long as you can remember, or have never seen them before until today, I'm sure you'll agree that they don't make easy reading – many of them are immensely challenging and not at all easy to say or to live with.

Saying the Covenant Prayer isn't like making a New Year's Resolution - making a promise to limit coffee / chocolate / internet / whatever, only to give up and binge spectacularly on the third or fourth day. If you're reading this for the first time, and perhaps even if you're very familiar with it, you may feel that this is at best a list of standards we can't possibly live up to, and at worst setting ourselves up to fail and feel guilty as we would about a broken resolution; a list of things we 'must' do instead of an occasion for connecting with God.

But...

The difference with these promises is that we enter into them knowing perfectly well that we don't have the strength to keep them all by ourselves. How could we? What these words represent is an opportunity to stop, think, and hear the challenge of the gospel; a reminder that we are all on a journey. All of us are learning how we might serve God in the changing seasons of our lives and according to the needs of the community around us.

We don't know what lies ahead of us this year; but I hope and pray that the times when we feel troubled, disregarded or lost will be very few, and the times when we feel valued, at peace and fulfilled will be many.

Our Covenant Service will take place on Sunday 20th January at 10am. All are welcome! Happy New Year!

Laura



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Away Day

St. Peter's Place, Fishbourne, Saturday 23rd March, 10 am to 4 pm

And the disciples said to Jesus: 'Lord, teach us how to pray'

What is prayer? What are we doing when we pray? How should we pray? Do we find using objects such as pictures, candles, etc. helpful? 'Prayer' literally means just 'asking for things', but what else do we think it should involve? How easy do you find praying in silence without your thoughts wandering, and what can we do to help us keep focused? Where do you find it easiest to pray?

These are just some of the questions that may flutter through the minds of many of us from time to time. Even the disciples, who spent whole months at a time in the presence of Jesus, had questions about how to approach God in prayer.

On our Away Day we hope to explore these and other questions together; not because any of us profess to know all the answers, but because looking at these topics together and learning from one another can only bring us closer as a community and closer to God.

Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch.

We hope you can join us!

Laura and Bill

Laura Doing London

I'm delighted to be able to say that, after a gap of more than eleven years, I am now once again 'up and running'! So, on Sunday 28th April I will, once again be on the start line for the London Marathon!

This time I'm fundraising for Autism Hampshire, a charity that I have a lot of personal dealing with. The work that they do has such a positive impact. If you would like to sponsor me then my fundraising website is the best place to do it:



<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LauradoingLondon>

For those of you who prefer not to give in this way there will be a sponsorship form available very soon!

Salient Points from the Last Church Council Meeting

Finance and Property Matters

The main focus of our Church Council meeting towards the end of November was, as usual, on Finance and Property matters, but it was all dealt with very efficiently and comprehensively. It is encouraging and reassuring to know that all is currently well in both areas, and our thanks were expressed to the key people who keep this in good shape for us. Peter Gregory, our Treasurer, did however issue a very gentle reminder to us all about our own personal giving. Most of us give directly by Bank Standing Order and it is very easy just to let this roll on from year to year without review. Peter suggested that we might prayerfully consider making a very small increase each year, which would ensure that the overall giving is in line with, and covers, the inevitable increase in expenditure and in the Circuit Assessment, and that we remain in a healthy financial position.

We were also pleased, and very grateful, to learn of a **legacy** from the estate of Beryl Rodd, and of a **donation** from the family in memory of Betty Bruton and Barry Mann.

Three new outgoing **charitable donations** were confirmed from church funds:

£100 to the Southern Domestic Abuse Service

£100 to Portsmouth Open Church Project

£100 to Sarah Easton, Margaret Sawyer's niece, who is fundraising for the most vulnerable people affected by the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh, by running an amazing 12 marathons (see page 6).

The Life of the Church

We heard from Bill about the initial meeting he and Laura had with Andrew Sheard and Julie Price from the Parish, regarding our shared life and worship together with our Anglican friends. Subsequent meetings will include lay reps from each church as we look at all aspects of this.

Laura was excited to tell us about the forthcoming **baptism** of Alice (the first baptism for 12 years) on Sunday 24th March.

Bill's Study Leave

Bill shared with us that he will be on Study Leave for the three months of May, June and July next year.

Help for our Organist

As you are all aware, we are heavily reliant on Alan, our organist, for almost all our services. We are very grateful to our Music Group who play

regularly for the first Sunday morning service each month. However, the leadership team has been concerned for some time about the pressures on Alan, and has been looking into the options for a suitable electronic system which could provide the music and accompaniment for a service at the press of a button (well almost!) from time to time, as needed. Our explorations and experience so far have been very positive and encouraging. There is still a bit more work to be done before we are ready to bring a proposal and the costing to a Church Council meeting to enable us to proceed.

So, all in all, it was a very encouraging and reassuring meeting. Our thanks to you all for the work that goes on, often quietly behind the scenes, to make our church one that is very warm and welcoming in every way, and a joy to be involved in.

Dot, Lead Steward

Church Charitable Donations

At our next Church Council meeting at the end of March we will be looking at Subscriptions and Donations and making a decision about which organisations to support with our donations.

The current list is: All We Can (Methodist Relief and Development Fund), Bible Society, Fund for Human Need, Havant Passion Play, Leaders of Worship and Preachers Trust, Methodist Women in Britain (Circuit Project), MHA (Methodist Homes), Stonepillow (a local charity for Homeless and Vulnerable people), and Traidcraft Exchange.

At the last Church Council meeting in November we added three more recipients to this list – Southern Domestic Abuse Service, The Portsmouth Open Church Project and the Humanitarian Crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh (see Margaret's article on the following page).

If you would like to propose a new charity or organisation that you think would be appropriate for the church to support in this coming year, please let me have your suggestions prior to the meeting.

Thank you.

Dot, Lead Steward

Sarah's 'Race for Rights'



Sarah Easton (niece of Margaret and David Sawyer) has now completed eleven of the twelve marathons she plans to run in twelve months to support charities working in Myanmar, where Christians and Muslims are facing persecution because of their religious beliefs and ethnic background. She has already completed eleven marathons this year with a personal best time of 3:22.

The highlights include finishing first female on the Great Wall of China (after navigating over 20,000 steps), crossing the finish line minutes before twelve o'clock in the Midnight Sun Marathon in Norway and finishing first female in a time of 6:42 in the most challenging and technical run of the year in the mountains of Vietnam.

Sarah is meeting all the travel expenses herself, so all money raised will go to her Myanmar charities. She plans to run her final marathon in December in Singapore. Total raised at 25/11/18: £17,845.

The main organizations she is supporting are CSI and CPI (Centre for Social Integrity and Community Partners International). These are two excellent organizations working in remote areas of Myanmar and the refugee camps in Bangladesh. Any money raised will be going towards improving the health and well-being of vulnerable populations in conflict-affected, hard-to-reach and under-served communities. All marathon expenses are self-funded, and with both organizations having extremely low overhead costs all donors can be confident that their donation is reaching those who need it most.



Worship Consultation

The Circuit is exploring different ways of worship across our churches, finding out what people most appreciate, and other ways of worship which may be explored. Andrew de Ville, David Musckett and Claire Simpson are visiting each church for a Worship Consultation with all those who would like to take part in the conversation.

To this end, David will be at Emsworth on Monday 11th February at 2pm to hear your views. I hope that as many people as possible will be able to come to take part, and talk about how our future worship might evolve.

Bill

Faith in Film

Our next 'Faith in Film' event will be on **Friday 25th January.**

As always, licensing laws prevent our advertising the title here. However, if you like to watch films about pigs who have adventures in the company of 'unlikely' friends then this one is for you!

Speak to one of us if you'd like more information.
Why not bring a friend (or two!)? Popcorn provided!

Laura and Mandy

Easyfundraising

Do you shop online at all? Anything from groceries to holidays, or anything in between.

Please consider signing up to our EasyFundraising page.

It's so simple to get going all you have to do is:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/emsworthmethodist>
2. Sign up for free
3. Get shopping and start raising

No catches, no hidden charges and Emsworth Methodist Church will be really grateful for your donations. So far those supporting have raised nearly £160.

It would be fantastic if you could join me and really help make a difference! Feel free to ask me any questions.

Pamela

Modern Slavery The Church of England Clewer Initiative

Rev'd Edwina Fennemore (curate at St Alban's West Leigh) shared with Bill and other local clergy some of the aspects of her work as Diocesan Lead on modern slavery. In particular, she emphasised how prevalent it is, and the degree to which it's 'below the radar' for most of us. The Church of England is working in partnership with other organisations to eradicate it.

Please see the prayer and links below, and do get in touch with Bill or Edwina for further information.

Rev'd Edwina Fennemore
Liaison Lead against Modern Slavery, Diocese of Portsmouth

edwina.fennemore@portsmouth.anglican.org
www.portsmouth.anglican.org/modernslavery
<https://www.theclewerinitiative.org>

PRAY

Lord of the lost, we pray today for all those who are victims of human trafficking: people lured from their homes and families; people deceived while trying to find a better life; people who are desperate to trust anyone. Help us to be more vigilant and watchful; to be aware of those who may need our help, and those who do not know where help may lie.

Amen

REPORT

In an emergency call

999

Report non-emergency suspicious activity to your local police on

101

To ask for advice, call the Modern Slavery Helpline

08000 121 700

FIND OUT MORE: WWW.THECLEWERINITIATIVE.ORG



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Tuesday 15 January – 9am to 4pm

Havant, by St Faiths Church, West Street PO9 1PR

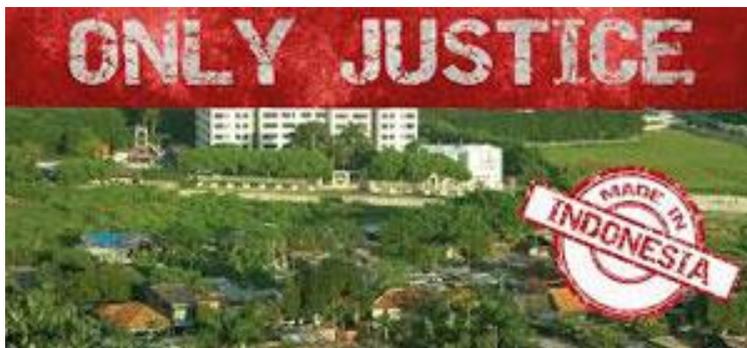
Or pick up some of our free leaflets

Or phone our free support line on 0808 808 00 00

Or visit www.macmillan.org.uk

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18 - 25 January 2019



Resources for 2019 have been prepared by Christians from Indonesia, the largest country in South East Asia, made up of more than 17,000 islands, 1,340 different ethnic groups and over 740 local languages, united by one national language Bahasa Indonesia.

The Christians of Indonesia found that the words of Deuteronomy, 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue...' (see Deut. 16:18-20) spoke powerfully to their situation.

Saturday 19th January 2019

Conference with presentations on 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue'

10.00 am Emsworth Baptist Church

Sunday 27th January 2019

Ecumenical Service for the Week of Prayer

6.30 pm Emsworth Methodist Church



Prayer Prompts - January

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

Emsworth Churches: Our commitment to Jesus Christ and his Church. The Covenant Service; the worship and ministry we share with other churches; the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The homeless & lonely: during these cold, wet and dark days, pray for the 'Open Church Project' Portsmouth and other agencies offering shelter, beds and friendship, nationwide.

Carers: families caring for loved ones at home; paramedics, nurses, doctors, ward staff in hospital, surgeons, consultants; all who help us. Remember those we know who are in need.

Refugees: all fleeing war, poverty, conditions we find overwhelming. Peace talks in Yemen. The state of politics in this country, all politicians; pray that decisions be made with compassion, for the good of all.

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

A date for your diaries:

A Circuit Mental Health Awareness Day Event, will take place on the 16th of March 2019. Further details to be announced.

Church Calendar continued:

Wednesday	23	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Veronica Hickox: 'Volunteering at Uppark'
Friday	25	2.00pm	Faith in Film (see page 7)
Sunday	27	10.00am	Morning worship led by Alison Judd, World President, World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth
			Ecumenical Service led by Rev Bill Stillwell to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (see page 10)
Monday	28	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	29	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Making Rocky Road (cake) (IH)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2019

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

Tuesday	1		Bank Holiday – Pastoral Centre closed No exercises
Wednesday	2	6.15pm	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC)
Thursday	3	10.00am	Standing exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'Wellbeing and Fire Safety in the Home' Perry Dodgson, Watch Manager Emsworth Fire Station
Sunday	6		Epiphany
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans Followed by Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion Service at St James' led by Rev Andrew Sheard, Preacher Rev David Muskett
Monday	7	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	8	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	9	7.30pm	Ladies Group A Craft Evening with Ann Bartlett
Sunday	13	10.00am	Café Church led by Margaret Sawyer
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Andrew Sheard, Preacher Rev Peter Cole
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Geoffrey Eardley, Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
Monday	14	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	15	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Thursday	17	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'An Evening with Andrew' Rev Andrew Sheard, St James' Church
Sunday	20		Annual Covenant Service
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington Led by Rev Julie Price
Monday	21	10.00am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	22	10.30am	Standing Exercises (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)

Items for the February news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 19 January**