



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

March 2019

Pondering Prayer

The plan for the Away Day

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

Even the disciples, who spent whole months at a time in the presence of Jesus, had questions about how to approach God in prayer. Jesus spoke to God as a friend and as his Father, but they were sometimes uncertain about what prayer really was.

At our Church Away Day we plan to explore together some of the fundamental questions around what it means to pray. How should we pray? What is prayer, anyway? What are we doing when we pray? Most of us, no matter what stage we are at on our faith journey, will have stopped to consider questions like this from time to time.

So during the Away Day we will be exploring these and other questions. None of us profess to know all the answers, but looking at these topics together and learning from one another can only bring us closer as a community and closer to God.

Why not join us? Have a look at the flyers for more details of the programme. The day will include periods of discussion, time for personal reflection, and the chance to go for a walk if you wish.

If you're not able to stay all day feel free to arrive/leave during lunchtime (12.30 – 1.45pm)

St. Peter's Place, Fishbourne, PO19 3XT
Saturday 23rd March
10 am to 4 pm

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

Please do let me know if you would like more information, require directions or need a lift. We really hope to enjoy this time with as many people as possible.

Laura



World Day of Prayer Service
Friday 1st March at 2.00 pm in the Pastoral Centre

Come - Everything is Ready!

Prepared by Christian Women of Slovenia
and followed by refreshments
All are welcome!

Mid-Week Holy Communion Services for Lent

Many of you will be aware that in previous years these have been held on a Wednesday following Christian Aid Lunches. However, since the CA lunches will not be taking place this year, we have decided to move the communion services to Tuesdays at 12.30pm, in International Hall. You can still have a lunch beforehand if you wish to, as ploughman's lunches are served in the Pastoral Centre on Tuesdays from 11.30am.

These services will take place on Tuesdays 12th, 19th, 26th March, 2nd and 9th April.

Bible Study



The next Bible Study will take place on Tuesday 19th March at 10am in the Wesley Room. As always, the Bible Study will relate to the theme of Café Church.

This is a very friendly and open group, giving everyone the opportunity to talk and discuss if they wish, or simply listen if they prefer.

If you've been thinking about it for a while why not come along and join us this month?

It would be great if you could join us.

Laura and Bill

Explore Easter

I'm delighted to be able to tell you of an exciting event which will (hopefully!) be happening in Emsworth on **Easter Saturday 20th April!**

Christians Together in Emsworth plan to hold an 'Explore Easter' event, to include 5 outdoor stations at various stages around the Mill Pond – each of them offering a reflection on one part of the last week of Jesus' life. The stations will be interactive, include activities that are suitable for children as well as adults, and provide opportunities for reflection and response.

There are also hopes of a donkey...!

Obviously this is a very exciting prospect and quite different from anything we've done in recent times, and we hope to share the Holy Week 'story' with as many people as possible in an unusual and attractive way.

However, we do need **your** help:

As in recent years with Easter Angels and Christmas Stones, Julie Price and I are hosting craft groups. This year's quest is to **make holding crosses** to give away on the final station at the event. This is nowhere near as complicated as it sounds! Julie and I will provide plastic material and wool – the sewing itself is very simple and uses a big needle (no squinting to thread it!) What we need is a number of people who are prepared to come along and give it a go!

Almost every Wednesday between 27th February and Holy Week there will be two sessions: one in the Pastoral Centre and another at the Parish Office. Please go along to whichever is most convenient for you!

	Pastoral Centre	Parish Office
27 th February:	11am	2.30pm
6 th March:	11am	2.30pm
13 th March:	2.30pm	No session
20 th March:	2.30pm	11am
27 th March:	No session	11am
3 rd April:	11am	2.30pm
10 th April:	11am	2.30pm

If you would like to have a go at home, let me know and I will provide plastic material and wool. The more crosses we have, the more we can spread something of the true meaning of Easter.

Laura

A Warm Invitation to Two Important Meetings in March!

All members of our church family are invited to our **General Church Meeting on Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm.**

This is our annual meeting to which everyone is invited to come along and hear about what is going on in this busy Church and Pastoral Centre, and have your say on matters that are dear to you.

As well as appointing our Church Stewards and electing representatives to the Church Council we shall be having a conversation on the life of our church and, in particular, **Worship**. What is worship? Come and join the conversation about our worship in this church, our shared worship with our Anglican friends, and our trial of evening services in IH.

For the last year, we have had only two Church Stewards. *We really need more help!* Please give prayerful consideration as to whether you are being called to serve our church in this way. Perhaps you might feel able to take on part of the role. Ask Dot or David S for more information.

Thursday 28th March: Church Council Meeting at 7.30pm

We are hoping to appoint a few new members to Church Council, so if you think this is something that might be for you, come along and give it a try! Everyone is invited to this meeting, but only Church Council members will be able to vote on the matters of business.

Church Council is the group of Managing Trustees who share the responsibility for our church. This includes the care of members, outreach, policy planning, financial commitments and the care of church property. As you will read in the Annual Reports, our church is a caring, busy and interesting community. Being a member of Church Council offers an insight, and the privilege of helping to make a difference. There are about 4 meetings per year.

Nominations for Church Stewards and representatives to Church Council should be received in writing by Alan Hickox, Church Council Secretary, or by Rev'd Bill Stillwell, by Saturday 9th March.

We look forward to seeing many of you at both these meetings.

Volunteering in Tanzania

I have the exciting opportunity to go to Mbeya, Tanzania in July 2019 with Bishop Luffa School to work alongside the Christian charity Grassroots Trust. We are working with the trust which aims to rekindle hope for Tanzanian children through education, nutrition, health care and a vibrant, loving local church life.



The Grassroots Trust aims to relieve poverty wherever they can and tell people about Jesus through word and deed. The project in Tanzania has been running since 1998 and has supported thousands of Tanzanian children through their education. Whilst in Tanzania we will be undertaking several tasks such as supporting their feeding programme, visiting local schools and orphanages and helping prepare water filters for the villagers. My school motto includes the phrase "everyone matters" and I see this trip as my opportunity to help take this message to the people I will meet in Tanzania.

In order to help me raise funds for the trip I am organising a Cream Tea event at Emsworth Methodist Church in International Hall on 30th March 2019. Scones, jam, cream and drinks will be served from 2:30 until 5:30pm. It would be lovely to have you join me on this afternoon. If you can't make the date but would like to contribute to my fundraising I have set up a JustGiving account at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/beth-hall-tanzania



United Anglican/Methodist walks

Once again members of our congregations will be gathering to enjoy walks together in the local countryside. In 2019 all our walks will again be on the third Sunday in the month as follows:

Sunday 17th March: Meet at Warblington Church at 2.00pm for a flat circular walk of about 2.5 miles.

Future walks are planned for **19th May, 21st July and 15th September.** These will be longer but sociable walks of about 5 or 6 miles. Typically, we meet somewhere within about 30 minutes' drive from Emsworth at 12.30pm with a picnic; we always stop for lunch.

Come and join us!

For further information please contact Pamela or Geoffrey E.

Havant Passion Play

Book your tickets for the one man show called 'Voices of Easter', written and performed by professional actor Kevin Walsh. Kevin takes on the roles of various characters who were at the crucifixion and gives his interpretation of the effect it had on them. It is a very convincing and at times thought-provoking account.

Performances are on Saturday 9th March at 4pm and 7:30pm at St Michael's Church Hall, Leigh Park. They last about an hour and a half.

Pre-booked tickets cost £7 for adults, £5 for children aged 10-16. Tickets sold on the door will be £10 each.

Contact jackychong@btinternet.com or phone 01243 371074 to book your seats. All proceeds to Havant Passion Play Limited.

Advance notice – Havant Music Festival

A little piece of the Havant Music Festival is coming to the Pastoral Centre on Monday 1st April! There will be a short free concert at lunch time, between 12.30 – 1pm.

Put the date in your diary and see posters nearer the time.

Faith in Film



Our next 'Faith in Film' event will take place on Friday 29th March at 1.30pm.

As always the terms of our licence don't allow us to advertise the title outside of the building. However, if you like black-and-white films about life in the South Wales Valleys you'll definitely enjoy this!

The usual 'Points to Ponder' will be available to help bring out the Christian themes in the film.

Speak to one of us if you'd like more information.

Why not bring a friend (or two!)? Popcorn provided!

Laura and Mandy

Pastoral Carers

Our next Pastoral Committee meeting has been arranged for **Thursday 25th April at 2pm** in the Wesley Room. If you can't be there, please give Diana H a brief update. Thank you.

Trudy's Exercise Classes

Trudy's exercise classes have proved so successful that they have expanded onto new days and times!

There will be a number of new sessions for both standing and seated exercises. See 'What's On' (the weekly leaflet to be found on the Pastoral Centre tables) to find out the details. Exercise classes will no longer be published in the monthly calendar.

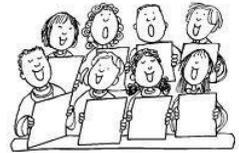
All are welcome. There is a small charge.

Wesley Guild Pause for thought during Lent

As in previous years, the Wesley Guild will take a break during Lent. The next meeting will be on 2nd May.

Augmented United Choir Easter Offering

We will be singing John Rutter's *Requiem* in the afternoon of Good Friday 19th April in St James' Church (time to be confirmed). Weekly practices will take place on Monday evenings during Lent, commencing on **Monday 11th March at 7.30pm in St James'**. Music will be provided and there will be no auditions.



We hope you will join us – you will be most welcome.

Red Nose Day Brunch

Friday 15th March brings 'Red Nose Day', a two-yearly national day of fundraising for work with vulnerable people in this country and abroad.

As always the Pastoral Centre is doing its bit to help.

That day, in addition to the usual bacon butties and vegetarian sausages we will be serving beans and toast – enabling you to have a larger brunch than usual!

All proceeds will go to Comic Relief.

So come along and eat a lot – it's all for a good cause!



Winifred Parry
24.06.1923 – 30.12.2018

Born in Cornwall into a Methodist family, her father was a Methodist Minister so the family moved around Cornwall, Devon, then East Anglia. She was proud to be a 'daughter of the Manse'.

Winifred was a country woman at heart, loving gardens, birds, flowers and trees, as well as the sea. In her second floor flat at Convent Court she loved being at the height of trees and watching the birds.

Winifred trained as an accountant and worked for the John Lewis Company most of her working life. She was the Accountant at *Knight and Lee*, Southsea, described as very efficient with high standards; she was perceived as fierce but fair with the staff. Winifred became President of the Work Council at the store and, apart from ably speaking on behalf of employees, she encouraged and enabled others to speak up too.

Winifred served the old Portsmouth Circuit as a Local Preacher and Circuit Treasurer. She eventually moved to Emsworth and became an active and well-loved member of EMC.

Winifred could seem formidable to some people; critical but without any malice or meanness, she cared deeply about others and what was happening in the world. Winifred faced set-backs in her health with courage and determination and, to the end, her mind was sharp, delighting in any chance for theological discussion about what was happening in the church and world. She talked about life and death, was ready for the end to come, thankful for a long life.

Her last illness was brief; she died peacefully, cared for tenderly by the staff at the Care Home in Portsmouth. Her family of nieces and nephews were very grateful for all that people in our church family had given her in love, prayer and support.

Daphne Cleeve and Chris Walters

Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship

The Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship, which has continued to meet since the Waterside Community closed its activities some years ago, held its last meeting on February 6th and will not be holding any further meetings.

John Vickers



Prayer Prompts - March

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

World Day of Prayer: For men as well as women, service in Pastoral Centre **Friday 1st March**. Let our prayers, at home, at work, at Church join in this world-wide band of prayer.

Church Action on Poverty, Sunday 3rd March. All people we know who struggle financially, not just in this country but overseas. Remember pictures of refugees etc. people who know real poverty.

Lent: as Lent begins, remember the ministry of Jesus, the challenges and blessings, as he walked towards Jerusalem. 'Who do **you** say that I am?'

Mothering Sunday, 31st March. Pray for families in the community of Emsworth, facing change. Give thanks for flowers displayed in the town, a reminder of spring, new beginnings as the earth warms and shoots develop through the soil.

We thank Gill Beckman for her contribution to Prayer Prompts, as she and Don prepare to move to Chislehurst.

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:

Wednesday	27	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Membership Evening. Joy Wilson: 'Product, Process and Tips' (IH)
Thursday	28	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting (IH) see page 5
Friday	29	1.30pm	Faith in Film (see page 8)
Saturday	30	2.30pm	Cream Tea for Tanzania (see page 6)
Sunday	31		Mothering Sunday
		10.00am	Morning worship led by Rev Andrew de Ville
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth
			United Evening Service at the United Reformed Church

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2019

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

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

Friday	1	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer Service (see page 3)
Sunday	3	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Jean Hooper Followed by Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion Service at St James' Celebrant Rev Andrew Sheard, preacher Rev Andrew de Ville
Tuesday	5	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Pancakes and Spring Colouring (IH)
Wednesday	6		Ash Wednesday
Sunday	10	10.00am	Café Church led by Rev Bill Stillwell and Deacon Laura Evans
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Andrew Sheard, preacher Mrs Fran Jenkins
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans, preacher Rev John Pilkington (IH)
Monday	11	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James (see page 9)
Tuesday	12	12.30pm	Lent Communion Service led by Rev Bill Stillwell (IH) see page 3
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
		7.30pm	General Church Meeting (see page 5)
Wednesday	13	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Rev Claire Simpson: Working with people at the 'edge of human predicament' (IH)
Friday	15		Red Nose Day – Comic Relief brunch (see page 9)
Sunday	17	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev David Rice
		2.00pm	United Anglican/Methodist Walk (see page 7)
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington led by Rev Andrew Sheard
Monday	18	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James (see page 9)
Tuesday	19	10.00am	Bible Study Discussion Group (Wesley Room) see page 3
		12.30pm	Lent Communion Service led by Rev Geoffrey Senior (IH) (see page 3)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'My Favourite Cup/Mug' (IH)
Saturday	23	10.00am	Away Day, 10am – 4pm, St Peter's Place, Fishbourne; see page 1
Sunday	24	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev David Muskett
Monday	25	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James (see page 9)
Tuesday	26	12.30pm	Lent Communion Service led by Rev Peter Cole (IH) see page 3
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)

Items for the April news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 23 March**