



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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Registered Charity No 1127747

Monthly news sheet

August 2019

Message from the Manse

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12: 28-31

Were you there?!

On the afternoon of Sunday 14th July we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Pastoral Centre.

As is usually the case with these things, it's very difficult to put an exact date on when the Pastoral Centre first began. One thing is for sure, it's totally impossible to look back over the history of the Pastoral Centre at Emsworth Methodist Church without feeling an intense sense of admiration for those involved in its early years and who have helped discern God's will throughout its long history.

The first whisperings of an idea in 1977, when the church opened its doors for tea and cake in celebration of the Queen's Silver Jubilee, grew into more regular opening from 1979 onward. A catalogue of building projects and redevelopments adapted the building to suit its changing purpose. Always the people were the priority – a warm welcome without expectations, a place where there was no pressure to move on even when tea cups were empty.

There's something to be said for taking a moment to pause and look back over our history. After all, it is only by knowing where we've come from that we can fully understand where we're going. The Celebration Service was attended by upwards of 70 people: regular visitors to the Pastoral Centre joined together with volunteers and people representing all the Christian denominations in Emsworth (and beyond!), showing how deeply woven its work is into the life of this community. Gerry, one of our regular visitors, read the Bible passage (above) reminding us of our calling to service and to community.

In the run up to the service a Post Box was put up in the Centre, giving everyone an opportunity to tell a story or offer a 'thank you' to be shared at the service. From these stories I gleaned twelve words / phrases, each of them encapsulating an aspect of Pastoral Centre life. These were:

Memories	Unsung heroes	Welcome	Food
Fun	Worship	Friendship	Cheerfulness
Mutual support	Life together	Lunch	
Special occasions			

Stories told, both in the Post Box and by Mandy, were sometimes funny, sometimes poignant, but always full of thankfulness for the good the Pastoral Centre has done and continues to do. It was only right that, during the service, all the volunteers - past and present - stood for applause.



It wouldn't be a Pastoral Centre occasion without cake, and many thanks to those who produced the fantastic edibles we enjoyed after the service. The 'Birthday Cake' (pictured) baked by Sandra was a sight to behold and a pleasure to eat.

Towards the end of the service a show of hands revealed the identities of the longest-serving volunteers (this position was tied!) and newest volunteer present, so they were given the honour of cutting the cake to yet more applause.

Many thanks to Geoffrey Eardley and John Harwood for the photographs.



For me, as for many, being involved in the Pastoral Centre continues to be a privilege. I will never forget walking through its doors for the very first time in April 2014. To quote one of our regular visitors 'It's a very special place.' Long may it continue to be so!

Laura

Happy Anniversary Pastoral Centre!

Bible Study



The next Bible Study will take place on Tuesday 20th August at 10am in the Wesley Room. Our theme for the morning will be 'sharing food together'. Who knows, there may even be cake!

If you've never been to Bible Study before then why not come along? There's plenty of friendly discussion, but no compulsion to join in if you don't want to. We don't pretend to have all the answers but we'll explore the questions and learn together.

Prayer Handbook

I shall shortly be ordering the new Prayer Handbook entitled *Responding to the Gospel*. Standard and large print versions are available priced £3.95 +pp or £3.50 if we order more than 10.

Please sign the list in the atrium by 18th August if you would like me to order on your behalf. If you would like to order anything else from the catalogue please let me know.

Pamela Eardley

Havant Passion Play

The cast of HPP Ltd. are now busy rehearsing for our new play "Behold the Man" (based on St Mark's Gospel) which will take place in Havant Park on 17th & 18th August. We need help in various ways on the day: stewards, Tea Tent, Information Tent and Prayer Tent.

Volunteers will be working in shifts:

Saturday 11am – 2.30pm, or 2pm – 5.30pm; Sunday 2pm – 5.30pm.

Anyone interested in helping in this way should contact me (as Site Manager) either by phone 023 9248 0150 or email bill.jan@ntlworld.com. Please indicate which role(s) you would like to take on. Thank you.

Jan Stillwell

Holiday at Home



Anyone walking past the doors of International Hall on 9th–11th July might have been forgiven for poking their head in to find out what was going on. Indeed, several people did and were immediately absorbed into the fun!

On the Tuesday our Holiday at Home began, as most of the best days do, with tea and cake in the Pastoral Centre, before being ushered into International Hall to burn off said refreshments in one of Trudy's famous seated exercise sessions. With music to sing along to and a variety of movements designed to get the joints moving and muscles working, one or two people who hadn't planned on joining up for the morning ended up doing so and staying for a Ploughman's Lunch. After lunch we had a Beetle Drive (always a favourite, although we do get rather competitive!!) and a quiz which stretched the grey cells somewhat, before the day ended as it began – with tea, cake and a chat.



On Wednesday there was much more food! After gathering with tea and cake we joined Sue in IH for a cooking session. Last year it was lasagne from packets and tins but this year we surpassed ourselves by making pizza, a delicious and luxurious lemon cheesecake-style pudding, and of course the famous ginger biscuits! There was much kneading of dough, chopping of spring onions and discussion over how

best to crush a quantity of ginger nuts without making too much mess. Somewhere in the middle of this Laura disappeared and returned with armfuls of fish and chips which we ate around the table. After lunch Laura took advantage of the willing labour and we set to creating the 'Happy 40th Birthday' paper plate banner which adorned the Pastoral Centre during the celebration service. As if that wasn't enough we finished the day with tea, and yes, more cake!



After morning tea and cake on Thursday we had a game of New-Age Kurling which we borrowed from Portsmouth and Havant Live at Home Scheme. If you've never had a go it's a fantastic game, something like bowls-on-wheels, and accessible to absolutely everyone. We did get rather competitive and rather enjoyed knocking one another's bowls off the target but, thankfully, no friendships were destroyed.

As with all good games we finished with a sandwich lunch followed by delicious chocolate éclairs. That afternoon we decorated the table cloth which adorned the main cake table at the Celebration Service, while Maureen painted some of our nails. The whole three days finished as it began – with tea, cake and conversation.

None of it would have been possible without a small but willing band of volunteers who planned activities, helped with the to-ing and fro-ing and generally got on with everything that needed doing – a very big ‘thank you’ to them.

It was a fantastic event and one that we’ll remember for a long time. So much so that we’re thinking of doing something similar on a regular basis – just one day every so often. If you can think of an activity we might enjoy, or if you have a skill you’d be willing to share, please let Laura or Mandy know.

Emsworth Eco Day on 29th June

Most of us are aware from recent TV programmes - as well as the evidence of our own eyes – that plastic waste has a huge negative impact on our environment. As Christians we are called to be good stewards of creation, remembering that God made it and loves it. When plastic was first produced this exciting new material was said to last forever! Now we are beginning to see the consequences of its durability.

An ecumenical group with an interest in environmental issues scratched our heads about how to build awareness, not just of the effects of throw-away culture, but of some practical solutions to decrease our dependence on plastic. Then one day, over coffee in the Parish Office, the first Emsworth Eco Day was born!

The day’s events were split between three main venues. At EMC we showed a recent film about the damage plastic and pollution is doing in our seas. We extended the opening hours of the Pastoral Centre to host a small ‘mini-market’ – thanks to the volunteers who made that possible. The Traidcraft Stall was there, and other stalls in International Hall sold everything from homemade natural soaps to pasta!

St James’ Parish Hall was given over to workshops which included bag-making, ‘make do and mend’ and ‘plastic free cooking’ (complete with a meal to take home).

The grounds of the Baptist Church came alive with a ‘Plant and Produce Swap Shop’, children’s activities and stalls. The whole day ended with a

show including a young soloist, a dance recital, and a Q&A session with the waste management team at Havant Borough Council.

Added to all this there were litter picks. Oh, and a giant fish taking pride of place (sorry) in the centre of the square provided a fabulous talking point. In fact people are still talking about the fun they had, the things they learned and the new products they discovered. 'Will you do it again?' is a question we've been asked more than once. All I can say is 'Watch this space!'

Another August brings another Emsworth Show!

In past years Christians Together in Emsworth has had a recognized presence at the Show, and it's always fascinating how many people who wouldn't dream of coming into church will come up for a chat about life and faith (perhaps it's the free sweets?!). I've had some intriguing conversations with very interesting people, and not just with adults but around the colouring table, where children – who are always happy to say what they think – voice opinions on topics ranging from the environment to football to Jesus' favourite colour. Your guess is as good as mine!

This year, however, we're doing something a bit different: Christians Together in Emsworth is organizing a 'Youth Tug o' War Competition'! We are inviting teams of six young people aged 11-16 to participate: there will be a prize for the winners and another for the best-dressed team! If you know of any young people who would like to be involved but can't make up a full team, do let one of us know.

An activity like this will probably raise a few eyebrows (hopefully in a good way!) and will certainly raise the profile of Christians Together – perhaps prompting questions about what it means to be part of the family of the church. We already have several teams signed up, hopefully enough for nail-biting heats and semi-finals to take place throughout the day.

In addition to this, there will be a stall as usual. At the time of writing the plans for this are still in their infancy but it's likely that we will be giving away fruit, not just to weary 'tuggers' but to everyone. There'll be more information nearer the time, and a sign-up sheet for volunteers.

If you're not able to be at the Show, or even if you are, please can I ask you to hold it and particularly Christians Together in your prayers.

Laura (on behalf of Jo and Heather)



Prayer Prompts - August

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

All taking holidays at this time of year: for travel safety; students taking time to explore the world; for Bethany and all the people she has met in Tanzania; for those holidaying on the water and in Emsworth.

We may feel a sense of helplessness in the **political chaos** in our country and the world. We pray for peace, justice and love for all to prevail; for a sense of hope and trust, in God, in each other.

All who need our love and prayers: friends and family; the sick and vulnerable. For Ministerial families moving to new appointments. For all facing change in life.

Pastoral Centre: giving thanks for the celebration of 40 years. For our church and community; for new ways of mission. For all who cross the threshold this day needing a welcome and company.

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

Faith in Film

Our next film will be on Friday 30th August at 1.30pm in The Pastoral Centre.



As you probably know the terms of our licence don't permit us to advertise the title of the film outside the building, and our next film may be a little unfamiliar (to most adults, at least!). So much so that I'm at a loss as to how to describe it to you, except to say that it is a cartoon in honour of the

school summer holiday and is particularly suitable for children. Speak to one of us if you'd like more information, or keep an eye out for the posters.

As always there will be 'Points to Ponder' available during the film to bring out the Christian themes in a way that is, hopefully, accessible to all.

Laura and Mandy

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST 2019

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

Tuesday	2	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Sunday	4	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Miss Jean Hooper Followed by Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion Service at St James' Preacher Rev Andrew de Ville
Tuesday	6	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'The Mary Rose – A Volunteer's Perspective' (IH)
Sunday	11	10.00am	Café Church led by Margaret Sawyer
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Preacher Cdr Mark Barton
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
Tuesday	13	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	14	10.00am	'Dementia Friendly Emsworth' awareness session
Saturday	17	12 noon	Havant Passion Play (see page 3)
		3.00pm	Havant Passion Play (see page 3)
Sunday	18	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		3.00pm	Havant Passion Play (see page 3)
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington
Tuesday	20	10.00am	Bible Study Discussion Group (Wesley Room) see page 3
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Elvis in Emsworth (IH)
Sunday	25	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evening Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	26		August Bank Holiday Pastoral Centre open 10 – 12 Noon (tbc) Emsworth Show (see page 6)
Tuesday	27	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	28	2.00pm	'Dementia Friendly Emsworth' awareness session
Friday	30	1.30pm	Faith in Film (see page 7)

Welcome back to Bill, who rejoins us in August after his study leave.

Items for the September news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newssheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 17 August**