



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

September 2019

Message from the Manse

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Psalms 23: 4

I'm writing this the day after arriving home from a three day walking pilgrimage in Derbyshire.

The 'Peak Park Pilgrimage' covers almost 40 miles of countryside, meandering from village to village and from church to church. The terrain covers everything from concrete to sheep tracks to rocky and uneven stones, and there were one or two occasions where my friend and I found ourselves in the middle of nowhere and wondered whether we were still on the path at all!

Every village reached represented a completed stage of the journey and the achievement that, even if we had been a bit lost at times, we had somehow managed to end up in the right place. The local shops were a



Eyam Church

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haven for essential supplies (mainly chocolate!) but it was the churches that will always stand out in my memory.

Tiny village chapels - very often without such luxuries as toilets, kitchens and cushions - but each containing, somewhere in full view of the door, a green box. Opening the box revealed an ink stamp (to be applied to the guide books as proof you'd been there) and a quote from Scripture as a reminder of the pilgrimage that we all walk together. As we journeyed the once empty pages became filled with Scripture, and also reminders of the many communities that are continuing to show the love of God to those they serve.

We don't have to look very far into Scripture to see where the precedent for pilgrimage comes from. Abram (Abraham) followed the call of God to an unknown destination, leaving all that he knew behind. Moses, reluctant at first but empowered by the Spirit, led the Israelites to the Promised Land. Ruth devoted her life to service and care, becoming an ancestor of Jesus. Paul, originally a persecutor of the early Christians, travelled thousands of miles in his quest to spread the Good News. I could go on. I expect you can add your own examples.

At the beginning of the new Methodist year it's good for us to remember that journeying from place to place, sharing the story of Jesus with others, is a vital part of our history. John Wesley is estimated to have travelled around 300,000 miles on horseback throughout his lifetime – presumably not all on the same horse! He carried what he needed with him, and spent much of his ministry dependent on the kindness of others. His outdoor preaching took him entirely out of his comfort zone and he did it solely

because he believed in the importance of sharing the message with those who society deemed to be of little importance.

Each and every one of us is on our own pilgrimage whether we're led far afield or called to minister to those nearby. As we travel into a new year let's try to carry only what we need, remember our dependence on one another, and above all hold tightly to Jesus.

Every blessing,

Laura

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will be held on 29th September, and we're delighted to welcome Revd Geoffrey Scarlett to lead the service.

Afterwards, lunch will be provided by the Ladies Group. There will be an opportunity to give a donation of money to help cover the cost; any extra money will be given to All We Can.

We will need an idea of numbers for catering, so please sign the form in the atrium during the coming weeks if you'd like to join us for lunch.



Behold the Man!

I'm writing this having just returned from the post-celebration party for 'Behold the Man!' These, then, are my immediate, undigested, thoughts after a day which involved – amongst other things – our car breaking down, drying out a rain-soaked set and capturing gazebos which had broken free from their moorings in high winds. And it was all immensely worthwhile!

Altogether, we had approaching 1,000 people in the audiences for the play across three performances. This is astounding, given the fact that weather forecasts had seemed pretty ominous. As happened in 2015 and 2017, the rain abated just at the right time and the sun shone for each presentation.

The play itself told some of the parables of Jesus as well as some of his miracles of healing and stilling the storm. It ended, of course, with the crucifixion and resurrection.

It's impossible to gauge the effectiveness of these plays. They don't necessarily get people into church on a Sunday, although there have been instances of that happening. The real test is whether people have met with their Lord in a new and inspiring way. The truth of that can be verified only by Christ and the individual: no-one else can make that judgement. I can only say that I've had conversations with people attending who have wanted to know more about Christ or seen and heard new perspectives on their faith. We can never tell how these seeds will grow in people's souls, but we who have been involved in HPP's 'Behold the Man!' can be certain that we've had the privilege of being a few of God's sowers.

I've also seen the bonding of people who already share a faith in Christ, caring nothing for denomination or church culture but united in celebrating – and sharing with the wider world – the same Gospel. It makes me long for the day when we can lay aside all the trappings of 'being church' and simply be 'followers of Christ'. As members of cast and crew have expressed it publicly, 'we've become a family'.

My very sincere thanks go to all those of you who've supported this whole enterprise in action, word or prayer. Here's to the next time!

Bill

A Few Thoughts from the Senior Steward

Our **Leadership Team** meeting at the end of July was devoted entirely to a time of sharing. We each shared our concerns and hopes for the life and work of our church. As you are all well aware, we have lost many wonderful people over the last few years, mostly through death, but also with some moving away, and it is proving more and more difficult to find people to do the necessary 'jobs'. It is very easy in that sort of situation to become disheartened, but we actually found the session very helpful. It was good to give thanks for all that is positive in our life together, to share our personal concerns and to come up with some different ways of thinking and possibilities for approaching the future. We considered our pattern of services, and acknowledged the difficulty for the Circuit in filling the Plan, and also our dependence on Alan, our organist.

Evening Services. Quite independently, Sue Ingram (who has led and conducted the United Choir over most of its long life) has shared with us her concerns about the long-term viability of the choir. She has proposed that we continue to sing at the two United Services on the second Sunday of each month – St James' in the morning and EMC in the evening – but that we do not sing at the fourth Sunday evening service at EMC. This proposal fits in very well with the thoughts we had in the Leadership Team meeting about using a different approach for evening services, perhaps with other forms of music or even without music at all. It could sometimes be a quiet, reflective service, perhaps a Local Arrangement to ease the pressure on the Plan. We would like to try this over the next few months and see where it leads us.

Reprint of the Emsworth Banner Booklets. Some good news. I have been having a couple of lessons recently on our lovely new printer/photocopier and have discovered that we can make very good copies of the Banner Booklets, stocks of which ran out a long time ago. Interest in the banners is often shown by people in the Pastoral Centre during the week, so it is good to be able to have copies available again. These are on the window sill to the left of the Sanctuary. Please help yourself if you would like one – suggested donation £1 to be put in the Jar of Change on the coffee bar during the week, or you can pass it to me on a Sunday.

Thanks everyone, for all your ongoing support and commitment.

Dot

Bible Study



The next Bible Study will take place on Tuesday 17th September at 10am in the Wesley Room. As The Methodist Church has declared the year 2019/2020 to be 'The Year of Testimony', this month we'll be looking at the theme of 'telling our story.'

If you've been thinking about coming along but have never quite got round to it, why not come along? We're a friendly, chatty group and enjoy learning together. There's no pressure to join in the conversation if you don't want to.

Bill and Laura

Faith in Film



Our next film will be on Friday 27th September at 1.30pm in The Pastoral Centre.

By now you will be aware that our licence does not permit us to advertise the title of the film outside the building. However I can tell you that if you like long words beginning with the letter 's', singing nannies and bottomless bags this is the film for you!

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 everyone.

Laura and Mandy

Anglican/Methodist walk

Following on from the very well attended July walk it has been decided that future walks will take place on Saturdays not Sundays. The next united walk will take place on **Saturday 7th September** which is a change from the previously published date.

We will meet at Sheepwash Lane, East Lavant, at 12.30 with a picnic lunch. The walk will take us up Chalk-pit Lane returning along The Lavant Valley, a distance of approximately 5 miles. There will be the option to add a 1 mile loop to The Trundle or an extended picnic break! Further details from Pamela and Geoffrey Eardley or Jamie and Ruth Barr.



The Future of the Sunday Traidcraft Stall

We are a Fairtrade Church and have been committed to Fairtrade for nearly 40 years now, and have held regular monthly Traidcraft stalls throughout that time. However, the number of people buying goods from the stall, or ordering through me, has dropped considerably.

So far this year, the average amount taken on a Sunday stall has been £25. This just isn't viable. It is difficult to offer a reasonable range, and I have problems with the dates on food items because of this low turnover.

I am really beginning to think the end is in sight for the Sunday stall, which will be very sad, but all good things come to an end at some point.

Mandy will continue to source as many fairly traded items as possible for use in the Pastoral Centre and Church, and we will continue to promote Fairtrade, so our Fairtrade Church status will not be affected. I also know that some of you are careful when shopping to look for the Fairtrade logo, to ensure you are doing what you can for the producers.

I will continue with the Sunday stall during the Autumn and will be happy to process orders for Christmas cards and other items when the new catalogues are available.

This is still 'work in progress' and I will continue to think about positive ways of taking Fairtrade forward in the Church. If you have any thoughts about this yourself, I would be really pleased to hear about them.
Thank you.

Dot



Everyone has questions

Everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith and it runs all around the globe.

We will be hosting an Alpha Course on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm – 9.30pm, starting on 1st October in the Pastoral Centre. Supper will be provided. There is no charge.

For further details please see the publicity in the Pastoral Centre, email wwe.pariah.office@btinternet.com or contact Pauline Nelson on 01243 373465.

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING



MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

We are having our World's Biggest Coffee Morning
on **Thursday 26th September, 10am – 12noon.**

This year we would make a special plea for bakers as one of our star bakers, Sandra, is not able to bake for us. Please get your baking hats on! We are looking for items that can be sold to eat in and to take away - small or large items, the more the merrier. If you would like ideas, Mandy has a number of Macmillan recipe suggestions.

Please include your name and the ingredients used with your creation!!

Mandy



Beans on Toast!

On Fridays, from September onwards, we will be offering **beans on toast** for brunch in addition to our popular Bacon Butties and veggie sausages.

Mandy says, 'That's if the toaster arrives in time!'

Circuit Service Sunday 1st September

On Sunday September 1st we shall gather for a Circuit Service at Drayton United Church at 3.30pm to mark the beginning of the Methodist Year. The theme for our service will be 'What's the story?' as we recognise that during this connexional year under the leadership of Rev Dr Barbara Glasson (President) and Prof Clive Marsh (Vice President) we are being encouraged to share our stories of faith with others. Our service will also include the presentation of '25 years' certificate to Jean Hooper for her ministry as a Local Preacher. Do come along to share in worship and fellowship and be encouraged at the start of the year! Refreshments will be served during the afternoon.

Saturday Coffee Bar Volunteers

It would be really helpful to add a few more names to the list of volunteers for the coffee bar on Saturday mornings. If you feel you could help, even on an occasional basis, please have a word with me.

If you are not familiar with working in the coffee bar, please don't worry as I will ensure you are on duty with an experienced person!

I look forward to hearing from you! Thank you.

Dot



Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride: Saturday 14th September

Over 400 churches and chapels in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight will be open for this annual fund raising event and ours is one of them. (The Historic Churches Trust operates on a county by county basis throughout the country...so other counties are available!).

If anyone would like to join in to discover the beautiful churches and chapels nearby, either by cycling, walking, jogging, using the bus, a car or a horse (!) then I have further information and sponsor forms for you. And I am planning to support it again this year, so any sponsors and/or donations will be welcome.

Geoffrey Eardley



Prayer Prompts - September

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

Thanksgiving for: all who attended the Service to celebrate 40th Anniversary of the Pastoral Centre; all who have been able to holiday this summer; those who came to 'Holiday at Home'; the many who do the 'unseen' jobs in our church life.

Pray for: new people to join us in worship and service; those we know who are sick, lonely, in hospital; Church Leadership Team, Worship Planning Group, Laura and Bill.

Pray for the world: those who govern the nations; for compassion and respect in language used to relate to each other; healing for the deep divisions amongst people; for God's grace to help us build bridges. All living in war zones, those who have become refugees, traumatised children.

Pray for Emsworth: businesses, shops, community activities, for the Doctors, Nurses and Admin staff at the surgery; people in new housing developments; Christians Together in Emsworth.

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

September – November Preaching Plan

Copies of the new Preaching Plan will be on the table in the atrium on Sundays. Please take a copy.

Church Carpet Cleaning

Please note that the Church carpet will be cleaned on Monday 2nd September: the Pastoral Centre will be in IH that day. On Tuesday 3rd Sept the IH carpet will be cleaned; Activity Afternoon will be held in the Wesley Room.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

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

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

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---------|--|
| Sunday | 1 | 10.00am | Morning Worship led by Mrs Christine Hargrave Followed by Traidcraft Stall |
| | | 3.30pm | Circuit Service at Drayton (see page 10) |
| | | 6.30pm | United Holy Communion Service at St James' Preacher to be confirmed |
| Monday | 2 | | Church carpet cleaning: Pastoral Centre will be in IH |
| Tuesday | 3 | | IH carpet cleaning –IH closed |
| | | 2.00pm | Activity Afternoon: 'Laura's Marathon' (Wesley Room) |
| Saturday | 7 | 12.30pm | Anglican/Methodist Walk (see page 6) |
| Sunday | 8 | 10.00am | Café Church led by Deacon Laura Evans |
| | | 10.00am | United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill Stillwell |
| | | 6.30pm | United Evening Worship, leader to be confirmed |
| Tuesday | 10 | 2.00pm | Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH) |
| Wednesday | 11 | 7.30pm | Ladies Group: 'Growing Old Well': Reflections from the Poetry Group (IH) |
| Saturday | 14 | | Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride' (see page 10) |
| Sunday | 15 | 10.00am | Holy Communion led by Rev Andrew de Ville |
| | | 6.30pm | United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington |
| Tuesday | 17 | 10.00am | Bible Study Discussion Group (Wesley Room) see page 6 |
| | | 2.00pm | Activity Afternoon: Autumn Colours (IH) |
| Sunday | 22 | 10.00am | Morning Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell |
| | | 6.30pm | United Evening Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell |
| Tuesday | 24 | 2.00pm | Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH) |
| Wednesday | 25 | 7.30pm | Ladies Group. Join us for 'A Visit to Iceland' with Alan and Veronica Hickox |
| Thursday | 26 | 10.00am | Macmillan Coffee Morning (see page 9) |
| Friday | 27 | 1.30pm | Faith in Film (see page 6) |
| Sunday | 29 | | Harvest Festival |
| | | 10.00am | Morning Worship led by Rev Geoffrey Scarlett Followed by Church Family Lunch (see page 3) |
| | | 6.30pm | United Christians Together in Emsworth Evening Service at St James' |



Items for the October news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newssheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 22 September**