



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

November 2019

Message from the Manse

In the past couple of weeks several people have asked for a copy of the story I told at church on Sunday 6th September, so I've decided to include it here this month. Please note that I didn't write this story! It's an ancient folk tale and I have adapted this version from a number of sources.

Stone Soup

One day, a traveller passed through a village. Times were hard, and people were not particularly warm or hospitable to strangers, or, indeed, to each other for that matter. There was little response to the traveller's hearty greeting, and his cheery attitude caused more irritation than anything else.

Unfazed by the lukewarm reception, he sat down in a corner of the village square and got busy with a large iron pot, whistling a merry tune as he did so. He proceeded to light a fire, fill the pot with water and, while waiting for the water to boil, made a big to-do about taking a knife, a soup ladle, and a polished stone, whistling all the while. All this activity attracted the attention of passers-by.

"What are you cooking?" asked a curious onlooker.

"Stone soup," came the cheerful reply.

"Stone soup! I've never heard of such a thing."

"Stick around and have some when it's done."

A crowd was starting to gather around the traveller, curious about the so-called stone soup. He continued to whistle away as he dropped the stone into the huge pot of water.

Finally, the water started to boil. The traveller took his ladle and sipped the soup.

"How does it taste?" asked a voice from the crowd.

"Pretty good," said the traveller, "but it would taste even better if it had a couple of potatoes," he added wistfully.

"I have some potatoes," volunteered an elderly lady. She came forward and handed them to the traveller. He peeled and chopped them expertly and added them to the soup. Then he took another sip.

He called it the best stone soup ever, but conceded that it would taste even better if it had carrots in it.

"I think I've got carrots somewhere," said a man who was watching the whole thing. He ran home and quickly came back with a handful, which he handed over.

The traveller continued to stir his concoction. Every time he would taste the soup, he would smack his lips and declare it the best ever, but would add that it would taste better if only it had this ingredient or that. Cries of "I have some onions," "salt," "pepper," etc, rang through the crowd.

People offered all kinds of stuff from their garden or pantry in the hope that the soup would taste better.

In the meantime, the waiting crowd sat down together, exchanging pleasantries and even playing music. Everyone agreed that it was the most fun they've had in a long time. Pretty soon the traveller took another sip of the soup and declared it done. He ladled generous servings of it into bowls and handed them around.

Everyone thanked him for the marvellous stone soup and asked him for the secret. The traveller revealed to them that it was not the stone that made the soup taste good, but all the other ingredients that everyone contributed. He added that in life, as in the case of the soup, if everyone

pitched in a little something, a wondrous thing will come out of it. The villagers thanked the traveller again for his words of wisdom.

So the traveller, satisfied, went on his merry way, determined more than ever to share the secret of his stone soup to anyone who cared to listen.



Think about the communities you're involved in. The community where you live. The church community. Any other places where you spend a lot of time. What do you add to the 'stone soup'?

There will be something, even if you can't see it yourself.

Every Blessing

Laura

A Retreat Invitation

Join us on Saturday 23 November
at Stubbington Methodist Church 10.30 –
15.30

Speaker: Rev. Malcolm Rothwell

Tea and coffee from 10am
Please bring your own lunch

A contribution towards refreshments will
be appreciated

RSVP TO: tracy_cooper7@aim.com

by 16 November

(30 places available)

Bible Study



The next Bible Study will be on Tuesday 19th November at 10am in the Wesley Room. As always, we will take our theme from Café Church, so this time we will be looking at 'Saints, Signs and Symbols'.

This is a very friendly and relaxed group and we love to have new people. Please don't feel that you need to know the Bible back to front in order to come – we're not that kind of group! We simply enjoy learning together and being in one another's company.

Bill and Laura



Faith in Film

The next film will be on Friday 29th November at 1.30pm in The Pastoral Centre.

As you know, our licence doesn't permit us to advertise the title of the film outside of the building.

However, as this is likely to be a busy Friday we've decided to break with tradition and show one very short film and its (equally short) sequel instead of one longer one. It's difficult to describe the first film without giving it away. Let's just say that if you like hand-drawn cartoons about snow-related adventures (not to mention beautiful music) you'll enjoy this!

There will be the usual 'Points to Ponder' available for anyone who wishes to think about the Christian themes in the film.

Mandy and Laura

Ride and Stride

Thank you to all who donated and sponsored us on the recent cycle ride around local churches. Having cycled 15 miles and visited 11 churches, we have collected and sent off £172.60 to Hampshire and the Islands Historic Churches Trust, to which some Gift Aid will be added.

Geoffrey and Pamela.

Away Day

Light. Darkness.

We need only switch on the television, glance at a newspaper or look online to see that there is darkness in the world. Finding the Light can feel like a difficult task.

Our Away Day will be split into two sessions. During the morning we will explore the theme '**Finding God in Darkness**' looking at questions like: what fears and concerns do we carry - about world situations, local problems or ourselves? How can we be blessed by them?

The afternoon session will focus on '**Dreaming of Light**', looking into the future, as well as asking ourselves where we see light in the here and now.

None of us professes to know all the answers, but looking at these topics together and learning from one another can only bring us closer together as a community and closer to God.

There will be plenty of time for personal reflection, and we will share Holy Communion together during the day.

Wednesday 20th November

10am – 3pm

St John's Church, Rowlands Castle

Tea and coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. Have a look at a leaflet for more information about the programme, and please do contact Laura if you need a lift.

We will also be taking the theme 'Light of the World' for our Advent and Christmas services this year.

Would you like some company for Sunday Lunch?

If so, join us in International Hall on **November 3rd or December 1st** when Geoffrey and Pamela assisted by Laura and Dot will be offering lunch. Numbers will be restricted to 20 on each occasion. If this is popular further dates will be offered in the New Year.

Tickets at £10 per person for a 2-course lunch followed by tea or coffee will be available during October and November.

Profits after expenses will be donated to Christian Aid.

MHA Comes to Emsworth!

MHA is an award-winning registered charity which was started in 1943 to provide care, accommodation and support for older people throughout Britain. It is one of the largest charities in the UK and our mission is to improve the quality of life for older people. We currently provide a range of high-quality services to more than 18,200 older people:

- 4,935 older people live in 90 MHA care homes – residential, nursing and specialist dementia care
- 2,690 older people live independently in 72 MHA retirement living communities with flexible support and personalised care
- 10,580 older people are supported through 61 Live at Home schemes in the community



The MHA Live at Home schemes were set up to reduce loneliness and isolation in older people who still live independently in their own homes. We organise fundraising and recruit volunteers to enable us to provide subsidised services such as: coffee mornings and lunch clubs, a range of group activities such as exercise classes, singing for fun and wellbeing, new age kurling, art and craft and

other social groups. We take members on outings and excursions or on longer stay holidays, offer a befriending service and provide signposting to other organisations and government bodies when members need help with health, financial or other issues. All members receive regular newsletters with updates about forthcoming outings and the groups and activities we are providing in their area.

MHA uses music therapy across its services and has seen great results in people's wellbeing as well as physical health.

We have just launched our new 'Singing for the Mind' group for people living with dementia and their carers at St James Church Parish Hall, Emsworth, which runs every 2nd Friday of the month at 10:30 – 12:00, costing £2 per person including tea and coffee. No singing ability is necessary, and participants are guaranteed to feel uplifted at the end of the session.

You can see more about MHA and what we do at www.mha.org.uk

Mandie O'Hara



Report from the meeting on 3rd October 2019

Matters Arising – There was no further news re ways of welcoming new residents. It was noted that venues of each church in the CTE leaflet might be incorporated in the next print run.

Follow-up and report of the Emsworth Show - It was agreed that it had been a very good and worthwhile event at the new New Life Church venue. CTE had a good-sized pitch with a gazebo under which there were activities for children, also leaflets offering further information. 400 pieces of donated fruit had been distributed and a tug of war was organised in the main arena. Deacon Laura Evans, Revd Jo Northey (Anglican Pioneer Minister) and Heather Powney (Baptist Church) were thanked for their hard work. Further help was provided by members of all our five churches. Revd Andrew Sheard had met the New Life Church leaders at a new fraternal gathering and would suggest they might like to join CTE.

CTE Christmas Cards - Arrangements were put in hand for all aspects of the Christmas Cards and this year we will order 6000.

Plans for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – This will be held during the week 18th – 25th January 2020 and will follow the same format as previous years. The material has been prepared by the Maltese Churches. The morning, which will be no longer than 2 hours, will be hosted by the Baptist Church on Saturday 18th January and the service at the end of the week will be hosted by the Methodist Church on January 26th.

Christian Aid Report – Nell Jones reported that £3076 was collected during Christian Aid Week 12th – 18th May 2019, the amount being less than in previous years. The summer sale collected £249 and carol singing £375. There will be no Lent Lunches in 2020 but instead a coffee morning will be held in the Pastoral Centre. Carol Singing will take place on 13th December and Heather Powney agreed to find musicians to accompany the singing. Thanks were extended to Nell and the committee.

Publicity Update – A comprehensive report from Stuart Thompson was circulated. Numbers of visitors to our website in recent months ranged from 25 in July to 83 in April when there was increased interest in our Easter events. Photographs of the Horticultural Show and the recent Southern Harbours Keswick event would be appreciated. Can you help? If so, please see Dot or Sue D.

Dates for fifth Sunday shared services – No service in December, 26/1/20 – Methodist Church, 29/3/20 – St Thomas à Becket, 31/5/20 – Baptist Church.

News from around the Churches

Baptist Church – The recent Southern Harbours Keswick (SHK) event had been very well attended and successful. A one-day SHK event is planned for 22 February 2020 and a three-day event for 17-19 September 2020. Messy Church has restarted on a monthly basis and a Christianity Explored course starts in January 2020. A new service aimed at young families '@ 4pm' starts in January. The church celebrates its 175th anniversary in July.

Catholic Church – A new priest, Father John Thomas, has recently been ordained and welcomed at a service in Emsworth.

Methodist Church – Harvest Hymns and Fruit Surprise afternoon had been well received by those present, many of whom were users of the Pastoral Centre. The present Superintendent Minister Revd Andrew de Ville is to succeed Revd Andrew Wood as Chair of Southampton Circuit on 1/3/20. The new Superintendent Minister will be Revd David Muskett. There is to be a different style of worship on 4th Sunday evenings – quiet and contemplative, with different styles of music. A recent Taizé service had been held. Feedback would be very welcome – please contact Dot or Sue D.

URC – The Rainbows group and the Brownies are back meeting on the premises. There is a new heating system and piano. For the future, a moderator to cover Havant, Emsworth and Hayling Island may be considered but in the meantime there is an interregnum. A lay preacher from Gosport, Frank Mulholland, has oversight.

Anglican – St Thomas à Becket, Warblington, is commemorating the 850th anniversary of the death of St Thomas à Becket with the hope of raising the profile of the church and its special part in the community. There will be events throughout the year, concerts and speakers, all of which will be published. An Alpha Course has just started with 25 or so participants, some recruited from the recent house to house leaflet drop. Judith Dean is resigning as Parish Secretary and a new administrator will be appointed.

Dates of next meetings – 16/1/20 and 7/5/20 with AGM.

Sue D.

Breathing Space Retreats

With God in Silence. A silent retreat with individual guidance.

Have you ever thought of going on a silent retreat? It is a wonderful opportunity to press the pause button in the hustle and bustle of daily life, to take time out and create a space for reflection.

Above all else it affords the opportunity to get in touch with God.

'Be still and know that I am God', writes the Psalmist.

Elijah finds God in the 'still small voice'.

We don't need to be afraid of silence.

God delights in our presence, so what is there to be afraid of?

There is a gentle way into silence, with conversation during the first meal, a briefing and the chance to meet fellow retreatants.

Then we go into silence – except for the 3 or 4 times during the retreat when each retreatant meets up with the member of the team who is accompanying them.

The team member is there to listen, to help make sense of what might emerge in the silence, and to offer resources to assist retreatants in their spiritual journey e.g. scripture passages, poems, pictures, meditations.

The whole retreat is surrounded by love, care and prayer in lovely peaceful surroundings, concluding with a shared Communion celebration.

These are the dates for the next 4 individually guided retreats:

Friday - Sunday 29 Nov – 1 Dec 2019

Friday - Sunday 21 -23 Feb 2020

Friday – Sunday 29 – 31 May 2020

Friday - Sunday 9 – 11 Oct 2020

More information from:

The Greenhouse Christian Centre

Website: www.the-greenhouse.org

17, Burton Road, Poole, Dorset, BH13 6DT (Tel: 01202 764776)

and: www.guidedsilentretreats.com

Pastoral Centre

More Help Needed! For Saturday Coffee Bar Duties

We are now relying on a small group of very dedicated volunteers to keep the Saturday coffee bar rota going, so we really could do with a few more people to lighten the load! There have been a couple of Saturdays recently when I thought we might not be able to open the Pastoral Centre, which would have been a real sadness.

One or two more keyholders who could take responsibility for opening up etc would be great, but we also need others to work with them. Don't worry if you haven't had the joy of this experience before – help will be offered!

If you would be interested in finding out a bit more, please have a word with me. Many thanks.

Dot

Diaries

By the time you read this we hope to have our 2020 diaries. They are a limited addition this year so please get them quickly before they all go. Unlike many diaries they have the special VE Bank Holiday. When they are gone that is it!!

If we want them to continue next year, there needs to be more advertising. If you know anyone who would take out an advert, please do let Mandy know.

Tablecloth Rota

The Pastoral Centre's Tablecloths are washed and ironed by a dedicated team of volunteers. The 2020 rota will be compiled soon: if you would like to join the team please let Mandy know. The current commitment is about 4 times a year, but if we have more volunteers this will then reduce.

Thank you to all who wash and iron the tablecloths, they are very much appreciated by visitors to the centre.

Mandy



Prayer Prompts - November

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

Please pray for:

Remembrance: All Saints Day, Remembrance Sunday – remembering loved ones who have died; all who have given their life for peace in the world; others who grieve for the passing years; those who are lonely in the dark evenings.

Our country: for reconciliation between families, friends and political parties - anywhere 'Brexit' has divided people. For respect as we listen to people with different opinions to us. For peace and justice at all levels of community.

Our Church and Circuit: pray for Andrew de Ville as he prepares to be Chair of the Southampton District; for the Connexional Stationing Committee making important decisions. All the staff of our Circuit.

3Generate – the Children and Youth Assembly, meeting November 22-24th, a meeting of 1000+ young Methodists, lively, committed, faith filled - pray that this generation will willingly share the stories of their faith.

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

Remembrance Day, Monday 11th November

There will be a short Act of Remembrance in the Pastoral Centre, starting at about 10.50am and including 2 minutes' silence at 11.00am
led by Reverend Geoffrey Senior



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 2019

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

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

Sunday	3	10.00am	Café Church led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer Followed by Traidcraft Stall Sunday Lunch (see page 5)
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill McCoubrey, preacher Deacon Laura Evans
Tuesday	5	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course
Thursday	7	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'Action for Children' A Representative from Action for Children (IH)

Sunday	10		Remembrance Sunday
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Wendy Corney, including the Act of Remembrance at 11.00am
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Bill Stillwell, preacher Rev Andrew Sheard
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship, led by Rev Geoffrey Senior Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey



Monday	11		Remembrance Day
		10.50am	Act of Remembrance and 2 minutes' silence at 11.00am led by Rev Geoffrey Senior
Tuesday	12	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course
Wednesday	13	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Angela Loader: 'Drawing What We See' (IH)

Sunday	17	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington
Tuesday	19	10.00am	Bible Study Discussion Group (Wesley Room) see page 4
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Making Christmas Cards (IH)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course
Thursday	21	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Rev Bill Stillwell: 'Mental Health and Spirituality' (IH)

Sunday	24	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Geoffrey Paffett
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
Tuesday	26	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course
Wednesday	27	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Stephen Hatch: 'Moths and Butterflies' (IH)
Friday	29	1.30pm	Faith in Film (see page 4)

Items for the December news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 16 November**