



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

October 2019

Message from the Manse

What's your story?

Storytelling is, and has always been, a major part of our culture. Anyone who has ever stayed up until the early hours with a book they 'just can't put down', or read (or told) a particularly gripping story to a small child, can attest to that. I remember listening to my Nan – who had a real knack for storytelling – talk about her own childhood in such a way that I could imagine the actions and behaviours of people I'd never met but felt I knew even if they died decades before I was born. Many of us will know of a friend or relative with a special gift for weaving a tale; someone able to bring a story to life. Maybe you are one of those people yourself!

Most of the best stories are at least based on reality. You may remember that last year the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain challenged the adult members throughout the Connexion to share stories of how God had touched their lives and how they had seen God at work in the world. By the time 3Generate – the young people's yearly national Conference – met in Southport last November more than 1200 letters had been received.

That is, of course, a phenomenal achievement in its own right. So much wisdom and encouragement shared. However, such was the success of the project that the young people of 3Generate suggested to the Methodist Conference that the year 2019 – 2020 be declared 'A Year of Testimony'. The national church accepted the challenge and the President and Vice President of the Conference have taken the theme 'What's your story?' for this year.

Testimony. For many of us even the word 'testimony' is uncomfortable. Perhaps we imagine that in order to have a testimony a person must have had a massive life-change or even a 'lightning bolt moment' of new-found faith akin to that experienced by Paul on the road to Damascus. We might imagine that a testimony of God working in and through the lives of ordinary people isn't worth listening to.

That isn't true!

Our stories are the most powerful tools we have when it comes to sharing our faith. The telling and sharing of our stories - not just the nice, comfortable bits but the parts we perhaps wish weren't there - not only deepens relationships and enables others to open up, it also dispels the myth that Christians 'have it all sorted', instead drawing attention to why we need God in our lives! Not to mention it's very difficult to argue with another person's lived experience.

Of course, a short account of a time when you felt particularly close to God, or particularly grateful to God, is as much a testimony as a twenty-minute life story. In fact, I'd be tempted to suggest the shorter a testimony is, the more likely people are to listen!

As I said, some people have a real talent for storytelling and keeping alive memories of others; but all of us have the ability to share our own stories and in doing so keep alive the story of God.

And all of us have a story worth telling.

Every Blessing

Laura

Christian Aid

We will be holding our Autumn Sale on Saturday 26th October at 10am. Once again we are asking for your help; if anyone feels able to support us by baking a cake we would be very grateful. Donations of cakes can be left at International Hall on Friday 25th October between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

Gill Cooper



Harvest Hymns and Fruit Surprise!

Tuesday 1st October at 2pm

Come and sing some familiar songs, think about what Harvest means for us today and enjoy food together.

Music Group

On Sunday 6th October we have given Alan, our pianist, the morning off and will be using Hymnal Plus to provide music for the hymns. Some of you will have heard Hymnal Plus already but for some of you this will be the first time. This is also very new to the Music Group but we're hoping to demonstrate some of the different instruments and styles available.

The Music Group provides music for Worship on the first Sunday of the month and meets for practice after Morning Worship on the third and fourth Sundays. If you enjoy singing and would like to join us, have a chat with one of the members or come along to one of our practices.

Gill Cooper

Wesley Guild

The new session of Guild starts on Thursday 3rd October at 7.30pm in International Hall. The Guild is open to all and we would love to welcome you, either as a regular member or occasional visitor. If you've never been to a Guild meeting before why not come along and see what we do. Please pick up a programme; I'm sure you will find something of interest.

Gill Cooper

Bible Study



The next Bible Study will take place on Tuesday 15th October at 10am in the Wesley Room. We will be following on from last month's theme which was 'telling our story.'

We're a very relaxed and chatty group and love to see new people. You don't have to know the Bible back to front in order to come – in fact you don't even have to join in the conversation if you don't want to. We simply enjoy learning together and being in one another's company.

Bill and Laura

Faith in Film



Our next film will be on Friday 18th October at 1.30pm in The Pastoral Centre. **Please note that this is not the last Friday of the month on this occasion.**

I'm sure by now you'll be aware that the terms of our license do not allow us to advertise the title of the film outside of the building. However, I will say that if you

like cartoons with hidden messages this film is for you. Although don't forget your tissues!

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

We're always on the look-out for good, accessible films we can show in the Pastoral Centre. As we're pleased to welcome a wide range of people on a Friday afternoon the films we show need to be classified as 'Universal' (some 'PG' films are acceptable depending on why they are classified 'PG!') and preferably less than 2 hours in length – certainly no longer than 135 minutes. Our licence doesn't cover all production companies but most of the major ones are included. If you have any ideas please speak to Mandy or Laura – we'd be delighted to hear them!

Mandy and Laura

New Traidcraft Catalogues

The new Autumn/Winter catalogues are now available for viewing, on the Traidcraft notice board. I also have spare copies if you would like one to take away. I am very happy to process orders for Christmas cards, or anything else you might like to order.

Dot

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.



NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

Creator God

For our world of beauty and plenty, we praise you-
For the earth, the seas, the plants, the animals and all the wonders of the universe.

We stand before you in awe and wonder in all that you have created.

Thank you for your generosity - a world for all to share.

Create in us a desire to come together as One World, for Now is the Time to Act.

Redeemer God

Have mercy on us for our over-consumption of the world's resources,
For our lack of responsibility in devastating the habitats of your creatures,
For our thoughtlessness in filling the world with our rubbish,
For the pursuit of economic growth which leaves our brothers and sisters in poverty.

Forgive us our selfishness that has led to this climate crisis, and bring us together as One World, for Now is the Time to Act.

Sustainer God

Be generous in your gifts of wisdom, understanding and courage to help us see:

the interconnectedness of climate, nature and our lifestyles,
our responsibility to secure a future for our children
and the urgency to act now.

Inspire us to change personally, in our local communities, as nations and at a global level for we are One World, climate changes everything and Now is the Time to Act.

Amen

With thanks to Maureen Thompson

Dementia Friends information sessions

We hope to continue these sessions as we know how much those who attended benefited. We have one more session booked for Wednesday 16th October at 10.00am. For more details, please ask Mandy.



Prayer Prompts - October

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:

Reconciliation and respect amongst people divided by present political events; for love to triumph over mistrust; for all people to pray and work for peace and justice in our world.

The community of Emsworth: worshippers at other churches; shops, businesses; the lonely, those coping with poverty; all places that welcome people: Pastoral Centre, Community Centres, choirs, clubs.

Those known to us who are bereaved, frail and vulnerable; those with the energy of youth to celebrate; all young people who are neighbours or family; for a sense of hope in God.

Refugees fleeing war; those trying to cross the English Channel or the Mediterranean; stories that are obliterated by media because of 'home' stories.

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

The End Game - A Pastoral Resource Day

Resourcing us all to support those approaching the end of their life
Saturday 12th October 10am - 3pm at Fareham Methodist Church

If you've ever felt unsure what to say, how to offer comfort or what to pray for those who are dying - this day is for you!

A chance to discuss the big questions... An opportunity to discover new resources... A time to exchange good ideas... A day to learn positive ways to provide support...

Open to pastoral visitors, ministers, local preachers, house group leaders, lay workers and all who are interested in developing their skills...

No charge - lunch and refreshments included. To reserve your place, fill in a booking form or email Louise Wright via: wrightlouisemrs@gmail.com
Further details from Laura.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2019

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

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

Tuesday	1	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Harvest Celebration (see page 3)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course – see previous publicity, banner and posters
Thursday	3	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Communion Service led by Rev Peter Cole (IH)
Sunday	6	10.00am	Morning Worship with the Music Group (see page 3) led by Deacon Laura Evans Followed by Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	United Harvest Evensong at St James' Preacher Deacon Laura Evans
Tuesday	8	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course
Wednesday	9	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Revd Claire Simpson: 'Working with people at the edge of human predicament' (IH)
Saturday	12	10.00am	The End Game – Pastoral Resource Day at Fareham (see page 7)
Sunday	13	10.00am	Café Church led by Deacon Laura Evans
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Leader/Preacher to be confirmed
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship, led by Margaret Sawyer
Tuesday	15	10.00am	Bible Study Discussion Group (Wesley Room) see page 4
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Name that Tune – 'The Shows' (IH)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course
Wednesday	16	10.00am	Dementia Friends Information Session (see page 6)
Thursday	17	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Beth Hall: 'Tanzania – Where a little goes a long way' (IH)
Friday	18	1.30pm	Faith in Film (see page 4)
Sunday	20		One World Week
		10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas, Warblington
Tuesday	22	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
		7.30pm	Alpha Course
Wednesday	23	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Revd John Mills: 'The Open Church Project' (IH)
Friday	25	4.30pm	Christian Aid donations can be left in IH (see page 2)
Saturday	26	10.00am	Christian Aid Sale (IH)
Sunday	27	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Alison Rice
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev John Mills
Tuesday	29	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: My Favourite Card (IH)

Items for the November news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newssheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 19 October**