



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

January 2020

Message from the Manse

*"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light
that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

And he replied:

*'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That
shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"*

Minnie Louise Haskins

It was 1939 and King George VI faced the challenge of giving his Christmas radio broadcast to an Empire facing the uncertainties of war. George VI was reluctantly thrust into the spotlight following the abdication of his elder brother; he wasn't brought up to rule and lived with a life-long stammer. During this challenging Christmas speech he quoted an obscure poem his wife had found in an unknown book a few days earlier.

Minnie Haskins, then aged 64, wasn't near a radio at the time of the broadcast. It wasn't until a few hours later that she heard a summary of what had been said and realized the King had used her words. Overnight a poem written by a woman few people had heard of, and published 27

years earlier in a book that received little or no acclaim, became one of the most quoted works of the 20th Century.

You'll know by now that we explored the image of Jesus as 'Light of the World' for our Advent and Christmas services, and this theme extends into Epiphany as we celebrate Magi who travelled to Jesus from a distant land. They were strangers, yet they saw, identified and followed a light in the sky. A light that guided them on the journey of a lifetime: a journey that ended with them kneeling at the feet of God incarnate – the light of the world.

At Christmas 1939 an unlikely King quoted an unlikely poet who spoke of an unlikely God. A God who came to those whom society deemed less than worthy: the unmarried woman, the simple carpenter, the unclean shepherds, the foreign Magi. Each with so much to lose, each gaining more from his coming than they could possibly imagine. Inviting them to put their hands into his and be guided.

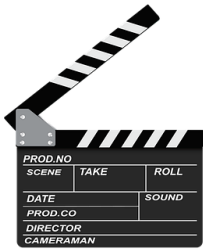
As we enter this New Year, may the God who is full of surprises bless us too in ways that are beyond our expectations, hopes and dreams, and may he use us in unimaginable ways.

We put our hand in his and trust in him.

Happy New Year!

Laura





Faith in Film

Our next film will be on Friday 31st January.

As always licensing laws prevent us from advertising the title here, so look out for flyers and posters. For now we'll just say that this one provides a modern but still recognisable twist on one of the best-loved fairytales of all time.

Speak to one of us if you want to know more!

The film will start about 1.30pm and the Coffee Bar will remain open throughout.

This will be a very relaxed time of fellowship with the aim of introducing Christian themes in a way that is friendly and non-threatening. There will be some film-related 'points to ponder' on each of the tables for people to engage with (or not) as they see fit.

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

Monthly Tuesday Bible Study



For some time, Laura and I have been leading the monthly Bible Study. Unfortunately, that's no longer possible because of diary commitments which have snowballed recently. Particularly, we have the discipline of attending regular Circuit Staff and

Leadership Team meetings which have now been moved to Tuesday mornings.

We've been unable to find someone else able to head up Bible Studies on days and times that would be viable so, regrettably, those regular meetings will have to cease. We're very grateful to those who have enabled, and contributed to, the meetings. They've been valuable to many people in providing thought-provoking and encouraging conversation, and they've been a welcome source of fellowship and sharing.

On the brighter side: you'll find, elsewhere in this newsletter, news of new ventures in the New Year. These will include 'What Matters?' which will give opportunities to explore what the Bible has to tell us about what's going on in the world around us right now – so we can still study the Bible, but in a fresh new way!

Bill and Laura

Christian Aid Carols

Thank you to those who supported the Christian Aid Carol singing which raised £185.40, just over £12 more than last year.

It was a very cold morning and there didn't seem to be many people about, but we all enjoyed a good sing with the help of Hymnal Plus. We appreciated the coffee served in the Pastoral Centre and were able to sing a few carols indoors.

Please watch out for some new fund-raising events in the new year.

Margaret Sawyer, Marian Hughes and Gill Cooper

Sunday Lunch

Following two successful Sunday Lunches that were held in November and December we have decided to hold two more in the New Year. The next Lunch will take place on **26th January** with a further Lunch in March (date to be confirmed). Tickets will be available in the New Year.

Proceeds from the last two Lunches together with donations and the sale of Geoffrey's crumbles have resulted in a donation of £281 being given to Christian Aid. Any profits from the next two Lunches will be donated to Rowans Hospice.

Pamela

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18th – 26th

There will be a Christians Together Prayer and Sharing morning held at Emsworth Baptist Church on Saturday 18th January, 10am - 11.30am. The material this year focuses on the theme of 'Unusual Kindness' and the morning will include a time of gathering, a short talk on the life of St Paul, some prayer stations, and closing prayer. Tea and coffee will be served throughout the morning.

The service to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held here at Emsworth Methodist Church on Sunday 26th January at 6.30pm.

Volunteers are needed in the Pastoral Centre

The beginning of the year is a good time to start something new. When asked about New Year's resolutions Billy Graham said it was a good time to stop and look at our lives. Referring to "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing" (Isaiah 43:18-19). Graham said this encouraged him to focus on what God wanted him to do.

If you are looking for a new volunteering opportunity perhaps you would like to join the volunteers at the Pastoral Centre.

Emsworth Pastoral Centre is a joint venture supported by all the churches in Emsworth, to provide a comfortable environment to relax, meet friends and enjoy food and drink at reasonable prices.

The Centre is open six days a week, (10am – 4pm Monday to Friday and 10am – 12noon on Saturday) and the Coffee Bar is staffed entirely by volunteers from the local churches and community.

Volunteers serve together with another person and work for 2-hour slots (10am -12noon, 12noon – 2pm and 2pm-4pm). Each day is different however! Serving drinks, washing up and being a friendly face for visitors are the main tasks.

If you think you might be interested in volunteering, either regularly or from time to time, please get in touch with Mandy at the Pastoral Centre or speak to Veronica Hickox in church. If you are new to the area volunteering could provide the opportunity to make new friends. Or perhaps you might consider volunteering with a friend or neighbour to cover a shift together once a month?

However you choose to volunteer, you will be making a very valuable contribution to the community in Emsworth by enabling the Pastoral Centre "to offer welcome, friendship and refreshment to everyone, without prejudice or expectation".

Mandy Mani

Pastoral Centre Manager 01243 373773

(Adapted from an article published in 'Running Free')

Home Instead

We are having a drop in memory café twice a month, starting in January. We will have a couple of tables in the Pastoral Centre twice a month (1st and 3rd of the month) on Tuesday mornings running between 10.30am and 11.30am (you may care to stay on and join us for lunch?).

Dates are;

10.30 – 11.30am Tuesday 21st Jan

10.30 – 11.30am Tuesday 4th and 18th Feb

10.30 – 11.30am Tuesday 3rd and 17th March.

What is on offer?

Social and Support. The lovely professional team at Home Instead are offering a warm listening ear, lots of advice and practical tips if required but above all a bit of company for all, with free refreshments. Anyone is welcome and specifically those who are in any way affected by the challenges of memory loss; either living with or in a support role.

Home Instead have 3 very experienced Dementia Champions who will take it in turns to be there to give you help, ideas and strategies if required, armed with info and book recommendations. Please feel welcome to come and chat to us.

Home Instead Team

Dementia Friends Wednesday 22nd January

**A free information session
open to anyone in Emsworth**

Quite a number of people have attended these sessions and found them very informative so please do join us if you have not been before.

No booking needed, just arrive at 10am and the session should be completed by around 11am.

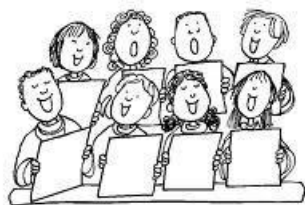
Mandy

United Choir

In 1974, the Methodist Church Council and Anglican PCC agreed on the path of closer co-operation between our two churches; this special relationship of course still exists today. As part of that journey, the United Choir was formed to sing at all the joint services. We have sung at the two evening services in the Methodist Church ever since then, and in the second Sunday morning service in St James with the St James Choir.

The choir has singers from both churches and in the past has had members from the Catholic and Baptist and United Reformed Churches. We really don't think of ourselves in denominational terms – we are just the United Choir.

We have had many an adventure along the way and have filled many an ecumenical gap. We have sung for the Catholic mass for the Blessed Margaret Pole in Warblington, in the United Reformed Church, and in many of the fifth Sunday United Services wherever they have been.



We have sung for the Wesley Guilds in Havant and Hayling Island, and two broadcast occasions, one a live broadcast from the Emsworth shore, and the other a Songs of Praise from St James. We have sung for many charity events in Emsworth, most notably Betty Bruton's concerts, but also further afield, raising much money for good causes. Advent and Garden occasions brought our congregations together informally.

Perhaps the most notable occasion for us was the rededication of the Methodist Church in May 1982 after the reordering to become the Pastoral Centre during the week, when the Hon George Thomas, the then Speaker of the House of Commons was present.

We have had music written for us by Alan Jackson, Hugh Benzie and Dot Warren. Win Field included us in her Christmas and Easter productions. The Good Friday presentations started in 1992 following Win Field's visions for various united groups to explore the Easter/Lent themes through music, art and poetry. The United Choir has invited singers from all our churches and the community since then and hopefully this will continue.

The time has now come after 45 years for the United Choir to retire gracefully – numbers are too low to sustain our standards. We hope to

continue singing with St James Choir on second Sunday mornings. Our last evening as the United Choir will be on January 26th at the Methodist Church for the United Service at the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Sue Ingram

And we would like to say a very big THANK YOU to Sue for all her commitment and energy over all these years, in leading us so well.

Dot

Petersfield Methodist Church Coach Holiday to Derbyshire

Willersley Castle, a magnificent 18th century Grade II* listed castle is set in 60 acres on a hillside overlooking Cromford, in the heart of the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site. This will be our base from Saturday 18th to Saturday 25th July 2020.

The hotel has a 15-metre heated indoor swimming pool. All rooms in the hotel and The Mews are ensuite with tea/coffee facilities & TV. The price is £749 per person for seven nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast, with no single supplement, and includes return travel from Petersfield Methodist Church and five full day excursions. National Trust members will receive a discount of £25. Other pickup points are Liss, Alton, Basingstoke, Newbury Wharf and Stratford upon Avon.

The programme will include Hardwick Hall, Biddulph Grange, Kelham Island Museum Sheffield, Buxton, and the National Memorial Arboretum and Chesterfield. There will also be evening talks and entertainment, and a free day giving time to visit the mill, take a barge ride on the Cromford Canal, or join your Leader for a guided local walk.

Bookings must be made directly with the hotel on 01629 582270 stating your preferred pickup point. For more details about the holiday please call Gordon Churchill on 01730 260454. He has been leading these annual coach holidays since 2006 and would love to see you! Please consider booking.

Brand New for 2020!

Sending Ripples

- What?** An informal time of worship.
Discover and share more about God, like a ripple in a pond, with free-and-easy worship. If you don't take to formal things, or want to try something different during the week, this could be for you!
- When?** The Second Wednesday of the month, 10.00 – 10.45am
Starting on 12th February
- Where?** In the Wesley Room.

What Matters?

- What?** A Discussion Group.
Do you want to 'put the world to rights'? Why not start here, with an open conversation about anything and everything.
- When?** The third Wednesday of the month, 10.00 – 11.00am.
Starting on 15th January
- Where?** In the Wesley Room.

Emsworth AllSorts

- What?** A 'Holiday at Home' style day of activities suitable for older adults. Something different every time, including games, talks, crafts and cooking. £5 per person. Includes a hot lunch.
- When?** The last Wednesday of the month, 10.30 – 3.00pm
Starting 29th January
- Where?** in International Hall.

Please put this event in your diaries.....

God in Love Unites Us

In response to the *Marriage and Relationships* Report, the Leadership Team has arranged a Conversation in our church on **Sunday 2nd February 2020 between 11.30 – 1.30**, including a short lunch break (please bring your own packed lunch).

It's our opportunity to share our thoughts and respond to Synod's request for our input.

Andrew, Laura and Bill will be there to steer the discussion. If you have any questions or observations, please feel free to contact Andrew.

It will be important to have looked at the Report before attending the Conversation in order to facilitate a fruitful sharing of thoughts: copies are available in the atrium.

Everyone is warmly encouraged to take part in this significant discussion.

Andrew de Ville

A date for your diaries:

Circuit Farewell and Welcome Service on Sunday 1st March
at 3.30pm at Petersfield Methodist Church.

Please join us to say 'farewell' to Revd Andrew de Ville and 'welcome' to Revd David Muskett. Further details in the February News sheet.



Prayer Prompts - January

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

As this New Year begins, we pray for peace and justice in our world, commitment to help our planet flourish, not die. For all involved in politics, all in leadership, who have power over others that they may have compassion. For friends/family struggling with life, and our own struggles. Bless our church family, our work and witness for you, may we bring glory to Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

PASTORAL CENTRE: the urgent need to find more volunteers; for decisions which may need to be made about opening hours.

THOSE WHO ARE ILL: silently name them before God.

NEW YEAR, NEW JOURNEYS: thanksgiving for the 1,500 young people of Methodism who attended 3Generate conference in November, the encouragement they give to the Church. Pray for all asking what it means to be a Christian; that we will faithfully follow Christ, committing ourselves again at our **Covenant Service**.

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:

Sunday	26	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Andrew de Ville This will be Andrew's last service here. Sunday Lunch (see page 4)
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth service to mark the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Led by Rev Peter Cole, preacher Rev John Harwood
Tuesday	28	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	29	10.00am	Emsworth Allsorts A day of activities including lunch (see page 9)
Friday	31	1.30pm	Faith in Film (see page 3)

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2020

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

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

Wednesday	1		New Year's Day
			Pastoral Centre Closed
Thursday	2	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Games Evening followed by a Bring and Share supper (IH)
Sunday	5	10.00am	Annual Covenant Service led by Rev Bill Stillwell Including Holy Communion
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James led by Rev Claire Simpson
Tuesday	7	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive (IH)
Wednesday	8	7.30pm	Ladies Group. Pat Hales and Gretta Pescod: 'Our Indian Family' (IH)
Sunday	12	10.00am	Café Church led by Deacon Laura Evans
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James Celebrant Rev Julie Price, preacher Rev Andrew de Ville
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev Geoffrey Senior Preacher Rev Bill McCoubrey
Tuesday	14	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	15	10.00am	What Matters? A discussion group (Wesley Room) see page 9
Thursday	16	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. James Mant: 'My Life in Sailing' (IH)
Saturday	18		Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
		10.00am	Prayer and Sharing Morning at the Baptist Church (see page 4)
Sunday	19	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas à Beckett, Warblington
Tuesday	21	10.30am	Home Instead (see page 6)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Quiz (IH)
Wednesday	22	10.00am	Dementia Friends Session (IH) (see page 6)
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Deacon Laura: 'It's a Marathon - not a Sprint' (IH)

Church Calendar continued on inside back page.

Items for the February news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 18 January**