



# 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

**Deacon Laura Evans**

tel: 01243 376786

e-mail: [minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)

**Revd Bill Stillwell**

tel: 023 9248 0150

Church Office tel: 01243 373773

email: [office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)

website: [www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org](http://www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org)

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**Monthly news sheet**

**February 2020**

## Message from the Manse

*In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'*

Mark 1: 9-11 (NRSV)

I'm writing this while sitting in the window of the Pastoral Centre, listening to the strong winds and watching the leaves swirl around the Square. To tell the truth I'm putting off leaving. Outside doesn't look very inviting and I've rarely been so grateful for a cup of hot coffee and a warm place to sit. From the conversation going on around me I think it's fair to say that other Pastoral Centre users feel the same.

By the time you read this it will be February, or near enough, historically the coldest month of the year. I say 'historically' but I've recently discovered that in the distant past neither January nor February existed as calendar months. The 304-day Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and didn't mark the changing seasons and was little practical help to anyone. It wasn't until 700BC that the King of Rome, Numa Pompilius,

decided it would be a good idea for the calendar to match the time taken for all four seasons to pass – instead of apparently skipping winter altogether (although I have some sympathy there!). Thus, January and February were created and, after much juggling, 31 days were allocated to January and 28 / 29 to February.

Why? Who knows?!

It's no secret that many of the months, including January, were named after Roman gods. Not February! Instead it apparently gets its name from the Roman festival of purification, Februa, during which people were ritually washed and cleansed. It must have been a very important festival to give its name to a whole calendar month.

Which brings us to a different kind of washing, on the banks of the river Jordan - the baptism of Jesus by John. Jesus is moving from one phase of his life to another, about to embark on public ministry. We know very little about his life up until the age of 30, but now the people who surround him will hear those words 'You are my Son, the beloved...' and nothing will be the same again.

I don't know why the early Romans had a calendar that didn't fit with the pattern of the year, or why the 'new' months created in 700BC corresponded to what we in this country think of as wintertime. What I do know is that baptism, and the associated celebration of God's love in our lives, is an important step in the faith-life of Christians.

What if, during the month of February we each took time to think about the moments of spring, summer, autumn and winter in lives, and the steps we have taken in faith throughout the years? Taking time to focus on giving thanks, asking for forgiveness, and offering to God those things that are too big to deal with alone.

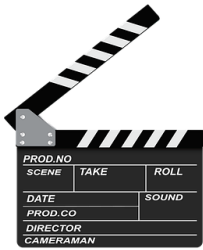
Maybe then February will truly live up to its name for us.

I suppose I'd better brave that wind!

Every blessing,



**Laura**



## Faith in Film

As usual there will be a film showing in the Pastoral Centre on the last Friday of the month. This month that's Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 1.30pm.

You're probably aware by now that our licence does not permit us to advertise the title of the film here, so look out for flyers and posters. For those who

can't wait, let's just say that this is a cartoon about an epic adventure – particularly suitable for young children.

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

As always, the Coffee Bar will remain open throughout the film and there 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!)? There's popcorn!

## Home Instead

We are having a drop in memory café twice a month in the Pastoral Centre (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month) on Tuesday mornings, between 10.30am and 11.30am (you may care to stay on and join us for lunch?).

Dates are:

10.30 – 11.30am Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Feb

10.30 – 11.30am Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

What is on offer?

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

Home Instead have three 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*

## Church Flowers

I would like to say a big thank you to Margaret, Dot, Janet, Veronica and to everyone who has generously donated to the Flower Fund.

It is very rewarding to know it brings much pleasure to all members and visitors to the Pastoral Centre.

Thank you all very much.

*Vivien*



## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

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*

## **What Matters?**

What does matter?

Every month we bring an item of local or national news, together with some thoughts about how the Bible might speak into the situation. This is a very laid-back session so whether you like to talk or prefer to listen (or a bit of both!) you'd be more than welcome. It's a chance to put the world to rights.

We'll be meeting in The Wesley Room at 10am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Sending Ripples**

If you've ever dropped a stone into a pond and seen the ripples it creates, you'll know that simple actions can travel far beyond us and out into the world. Sending Ripples is a new time of worship intended to provide an informal time to connect with God and one another.

Our first gathering will be in the Wesley Room at 10am on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Emsworth AllSorts**

At time of writing we haven't even had the first day of Emsworth AllSorts, but that hasn't stopped us planning the next one!

It takes place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, between 10.30am – 3pm in International Hall. We will be enjoying a cooking lesson with Sue, followed by a fish and chip lunch (with pudding!), rounded off with a craft session – nothing too active after lunch!

There is a suggested donation of £5 to cover the cost of lunch, but no need to book. Just turn up on the day.

# Quiet Days at the House of Bethany

1 Nelson Road, Southsea, Hampshire PO5 2AR

**A Quiet Day is time spent with God -  
time for Prayer, Reflection, Relaxing**

A typical timetable:

10.00 am	Arrivals and Coffee
10.30 am	1st Address; followed by time for reflection
12.00	Midday Worship or Prayers
12.30 pm	Lunch - (bring your own sandwiches; soup and hot drinks provided)
.. . . pm	2nd Address; followed by time for reflection
3.15-ish	Closing Worship
3.45 / 4.00 pm	Tea, and Depart

## **Conductors for 2020**

- 18<sup>th</sup> January - Ven Peter Sutton
  - 8<sup>th</sup> February - Rev Neil and Debs Smart
  - 14<sup>th</sup> March - Rev Debs Wignall
  - 25<sup>th</sup> April - Rev Giles Harris-Evans
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> May - Rev Elizabeth Moxley
  - 13<sup>th</sup> June - Sister Joanna Elizabeth SSB
  - 18<sup>th</sup> July - Sister Mary Paul SSB
  - [August - No Quiet Day]
  - 8<sup>th</sup> September - Mrs Jenny Stemp
  - 10<sup>th</sup> October - Mother Mary Joy SSB
  - 14<sup>th</sup> November - Rev Russell Lawson
  - 12<sup>th</sup> December - Canon Hilary Spurgeon
- Cost £6.00

## **QUIET AFTERNOONS 2020**

- Mondays 1.30pm - 4.30pm*
- 10<sup>th</sup> February - Rev Brian Pickett
  - 8<sup>th</sup> April - Revd Trevor & Lynne Cooper
  - 17<sup>th</sup> June - Mrs Margaret Doust
  - 12<sup>th</sup> October - Mrs Jane Bosonnet
  - 14<sup>th</sup> December - Rev Liz Pickett

Please ring to let the Sisters know if you wish to attend:  
Tel: 023 92 833498 or e-mail: [ssb@sistersofbethany.org.uk](mailto:ssb@sistersofbethany.org.uk)



## Prayer Prompts - February

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

*Give to me each day, Lord, a thankful heart for the beauty of the planet, the people around me and my 'daily bread'. Help me, God, to daily receive from you the life of your Spirit and the humility of Jesus, that I might spread kindness, respect and love in this community and world so beautifully diverse. Amen.*

### **PRAY** as prompted for:

All who mourn loved ones; those who are ill or unable to physically cope with life. Politicians, world leaders, all who make decisions regarding the care of our planet. The Library, shops and business in Emsworth, Doctors and Nurses at the Surgery. Conversations regarding marriage, partners and personal relationships.

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](mailto:c.walters5@homecall.co.uk)

## **Circuit Farewell and Welcome Service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Gift for Andrew de Ville**

At the Circuit Service at Petersfield on 1<sup>st</sup> March we shall be saying farewell to Andrew as he takes up his new role as District Chair. A gift will be given in recognition of his time with us in of the Circuit. There will be an opportunity for everyone to contribute to this at our services on the three Sundays in February.

### *Church Calendar continued:*

Wednesday	26	10.30am	Emsworth AllSorts: a day of activities including lunch (IH) (see p 5)
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. 'Tanzania – where a little goes a long way' Bethany Hall (IH)
Friday	28	1.30pm	Faith in Film (see page 3)

## CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2020

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

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

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Wendy Corney
		11.30	'God in Love Unites Us': Church Family conversation (see p 4)
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James A Taizé service for Candlemas; preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
Tuesday	4	10.30am	Home Instead Memory Café
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Decoupage for Beginners (IH)
Thursday	6	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'Desert Island Discs' Chris Walters interviews Dot Warren (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	10.00am	Café Church led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James Celebrant Rev Bill Stillwell, preacher tbc
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
Tuesday	11	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
Wednesday	12	10.00am	Sending Ripples (Wesley Room) (see page 5)
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Members' Beetle Drive (IH)
Friday	14		<b>Pastoral Centre Closed</b>
		1.30pm	Thanksgiving Service for Margaret Mason
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev David Rice
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas à Beckett, Warblington
Tuesday	18	10.30am	Home Instead Memory Café
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'My Favourite Shoe' (IH)
Wednesday	19	10.00am	What Matters? A discussion group (Wesley Room) (see page 5)
Thursday	20	7.30pm	Wesley Guild: 'Personalities in Havant's Forgotten Cemeteries'. Gillian Peskett (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mr Andrew Wilcock
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
Tuesday	25	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)

*Church Calendar continued on inside back page.*

Items for the March news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to [newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org) by **Sat 18 February**