



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

Revd Bill Stillwell

tel: 023 9248 0150

Church Office tel: 01243 373773
email: office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org
website: www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org
Registered Charity No 1127747

Monthly news sheet

April 2020

Message from the Manse

Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

John 4: 28-30

There's no denying that these are anxious times. We pray, watch and wait for things to return to normal. All the while, hopefully, learning more about ourselves and our relationships with one another and with God.

Self-isolation and distancing are so important at the moment, but it's not surprising that they may make some of us feel alone, cut-off without the familiar comforts of family and friends, church and Pastoral Centre.

The woman at the well knew a few things about self-isolation. She also knew the sound of the footsteps of Jesus. She knew his voice, the sound of his drinking from a vessel of water in the heat of the day. She knew a lot of things, that woman. She comes to the well at the heat of the day because she's afraid of being mocked by the other women for having been used as a pawn in the marriage market far too many times. On top of all that she is a Samaritan – a religious, social and political outsider. She is a

woman. She is unnamed. She doesn't want to be seen so she hides in broad daylight. She doesn't want to be known. She is taking the blame for things that are beyond her own control.

She is isolated, but Jesus still finds her. Jesus reveals his identity to her despite, or even perhaps because, she feels so alone. Thus begins a total transformation from outsider to witness, from beginner in faith to apostle of Jesus – sent to testify on his behalf.

There's more to it than that, though. Yes, she throws down her jar and runs off to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah, but she also tells people that this Messiah knew everything there was to know about her and still chose her company. She's free. She can be more fully herself because of this encounter with Jesus.

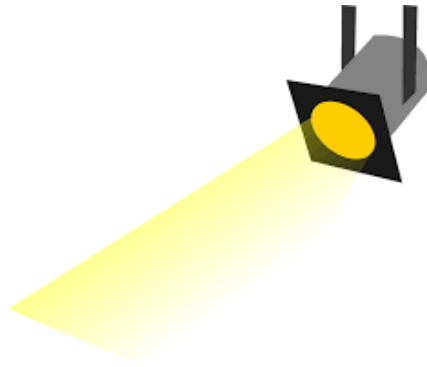
We don't know what the next few weeks will bring, but we do know that Jesus meets us in the joys and sorrows, stresses and strains of ordinary (and extraordinary) life. My prayer is that we will all find ways to use this time to learn more about ourselves, our own relationship with God and what it means to follow Him.

Love and blessings,

Laura

A Prayer by Revd Dr Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

We are not people of fear
We are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety
We are people who protect our neighbour's safety.
We are not people of greed
We are people of generosity.
We are your people of God
Giving and loving,
Wherever we are
Whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
Wherever you call us.



Spotlight on... Laura

Sometimes it's amazing that we can have known someone for years and yet suddenly one day discover something about them that we would never have guessed. This 'Spotlight on...' article is intended to fill in some of the gaps and will hopefully provide some great conversation starters. We hope it will be a regular feature.

1.) What job do / did you do?

I started volunteering for Lightship 2000 – a floating Christian Centre in Cardiff Bay - when I was ten. Moving from generally getting in the way to being Deputy Galley Manager. That's where I learned to cook bacon! After a year as an administrator (not my forte!) I became a care assistant at an MHA home, and later an Activities Co-Ordinator and Chaplain. These days some might say I'm back to getting in the way, only this time in the Pastoral Centre and around Emsworth!

2.) What are your hobbies?

I love to grow vegetables, go for long walks, read novels and history books, and write stories, non-fiction and meditations.

3.) Tell us one surprising thing about you.

I collect copies of 'The Guinness Book of Records' and have every edition produced since 1965, and most of the earlier ones, too!

4.) What is your favourite food?

Did someone say 'food'?! As long as it doesn't contain red meat or mushrooms I'm in. Bonus points if it's topped with cheese.

5.) How would you spend an unexpected £1000?

There would be books. Lots of books. Or possibly I'd start a model railway.

6.) What is your favourite verse in the bible?

Zephaniah 3: 17.

7.) What is your ambition?

To walk from Lands End to John O'Groats

8.) Please tell us a bit about your family (including pets)

My parents live in Cardiff along with my auntie, uncle and cousins.

Honourable mentions to my best friend Steph, her daughter Abby, and the many aunts and uncles (some related, some not) I grew up surrounded by in a close church community.

No pets at the moment. Watch this space!

9.) What is your favourite TV programme?

Masterchef. Anything history-based or about travel.

10.) Who do you most admire?

A lady called Peggy. Peggy was a Sister in the National Children's Home.

Wise, kind and honest, she never had her own children but received dozens of Mothering Sunday Cards from 'her boys and girls' around the world. A true Christian woman in every sense of the world and a real role-model to me.

11.) What one item would you rescue from your home?

Frosty, a very flat snowman toy I've have since I was a few days old.

We've been on many an adventure together!

12.) What are your favourite books?

The Lord of the Rings, Oliver Twist and the 'Miss Peregrine' series.

13.) What is the best advice you've been given?

Never be afraid to ask a silly question. Others will have the same question but not the courage to ask.

14.) What is the best thing about attending (this church)?

People ask 'How are you?' and then wait for an answer. There is a real sense of community.

15.) What is your favourite hymn?

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (although this changes weekly!)

Christian Aid – 40p for 40 days

Many thanks to those of you who've been supporting Christian Aid during Lent. The jars were due to be returned on Easter Sunday but, as this is now not possible, please hold onto them until such time as it is safe for us to collect them.

Once it is safe for the Working Party members to get together to count the money we will let you know.

Gill Cooper, Marian Hughes and Margaret Sawyer

Augmented United Choir Easter Offering

With regret, our Easter Offering of Haydn's Little Organ Mass in St James' Church on Good Friday afternoon has been cancelled.



The Lady on a Bicycle – Memories of Margaret Mason 16/12/1935 – 8/1/2020

Margaret was born to a Methodist family in Guiseley, West Yorkshire, where she grew up and married Gerry, an engineer with Marconi. Following a company relocation in the early 1960s they lived at first in Leigh Park then moved again twice before finally buying their house in Ernest Close. By this time they were established members of Emsworth Methodist Church where Margaret belonged for well in excess of fifty years. Margaret and Gerry had three children - John, Michael and Helen - and they were a very close family.

When Margaret reached her late fifties she felt the call to become a Local Preacher. She especially enjoyed taking All Age Worship services and encouraging young people, also anyone interested in becoming a Worship Leader or Local Preacher. She always spoke to anyone new at our services and encouraged them to return. Christian Unity was a keen interest and Margaret had friends in all the local churches as well as many friends and neighbours in the local community.

Working in the Pastoral Centre coffee bar was very much enjoyed and Margaret was proactive with visitors, providing a supportive listening ear when needed. She was very sociable and a really good cook, offering generous hospitality, especially to new people or anyone in trouble. She also loved to be entertained and always accepted an invitation.

Outside church Margaret liked to be out in the open air and frequently could be seen out walking or riding her bicycle. Her great passion was her immaculate garden where she worked very hard, also finding time to relax and enjoy all she had achieved. Margaret derived great pleasure from going out for a day on a bus, also she frequently went away on short coach holidays. She had a very enquiring mind and loved to explore new ideas, new places, new books and also her faith, never being afraid to ask questions or to offer her forthright opinion.

Margaret was an inspiring member of our Church Family and will be sadly missed by us all.

Written by friends of Margaret

A letter from Andrew and Helen de Ville

To Our Friends throughout the East Solent and Downs Circuit,

We would like to thank you all for the card, flowers and very generous cheque you gave us at the Circuit Service of Celebration.

The card which so many of you had signed is a real blessing and we can only imagine the amount of work that went in to gathering it together! To have something like this to take with us will always remind us of the generous and kind folk in this Circuit.

We have really enjoyed sharing with you all – and will continue to watch the life of the Circuit with real interest and only from along the coast!! We know there will be opportunities to worship and meet up again over the coming years through the District and we are already looking forward to that!

May God richly bless you all and the ministry you share in.

With our love,
Andrew and Helen

A thank you letter to the Circuit from Pam Stone

Dear Friends

It was really good to meet up with so many of you at the farewell service and I am sorry if I never got to speak to you but there were so many people and so much to catch up on. Thank you for my cards, the lovely flowers and the very generous cheque which I will put to good use when I move.

Thank you is a very inadequate word for the kindness and support you have given me over the years, and I truly felt appreciated on Sunday at Petersfield.

I value your friendship and it has been a delight to lead worship in many of our circuit churches and to share with you at various meetings and celebrations. We have laughed together and we have sometimes cried together. All I have shared with you has been a privilege and a blessing.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God bless.
Pam

Everything Has Its Time

- 1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
- 2 A time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;
- 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
- 5 A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
- 6 A time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to throw away;
- 7 A time to tear, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
- 8 A time to love, and a time to hate;
A time for war, and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)



Keeping Our Church Family Informed

We've decided to create a newsletter once every 2-3 weeks to help us all feel a little less isolated.

Laura or Bill will write a 'Thought for the Fortnight' (anyone got a snappier title?); it will also include transcripts of our audio-services, prayers, news, especially good news, and some 'fun stuff'. Contributions would be most welcome.

The newsletter will come via email to those for whom we have an email address.

We'll post printed copies to those who need them.

It will be available on the church website:

<http://emsworthmethodistchurch.org>

If you would like to write a poem, draw a cartoon, tell a joke, create a puzzle, or contribute in any other way to our new publication, do get in touch by email:

newssheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org or

notices@emsworthmethodistchurch.org

or phone Laura on 01243 376786

The first edition will be in time for Easter.

Keep in touch and let us know how you are getting on in these perplexing, challenging times.

Emsworth Methodist: The Wordsearch!

How many words can you find?

B P C L T E N W K K S S L C R Y O S B X B H B E B
 U K M T V R P J C N P H D U A F T U O P N A K K P
 M F Z D S K C A X V P I H S W O L L E F C V M R U
 G T M L N N S U S S Q A H B J O O R K O F B W R C
 Y A C R R X L E B T B L W S M V P A N I M F R G L
 M T M V I J P N E A O L N K R S P B T N R W Y D E
 I R S Z S X C W S F J R U S E O U D A D H V W B N
 L I N T H N F C W X F W A G J T W I I P Y V Z L W
 L E O E I C A S T K X O W L T I P Y I Z J G J H W
 P S O N M R T M E P X G C I C O H V B O Y I E E K
 O B N N O G L J H H Y Y E U G E W U J S Y E C C L
 N B R N E G T D M G C S U B G U N V J C O X R W S
 D N E I X T R X C C U R O J B B N T O W O J S G E
 S P T X A R O P Q O J O U H I N J J R N C E B G P
 D C F U L L P N S Z M Z L H H K V I O E H L R J I
 N Y A Z E E P D H C F P G P C Y E W I C A F C Z N
 E C Y L H T U C G G I M A F K A Y T I N U M M O C
 I H T X E A S S Q R W S F N M H K W E V G K A X P
 R R I Y M Q F S S A O K W B Y E D E M T Y K T D T
 F Y V I O C F E I E O U L R Z N C W S B T U N G Z
 Y M I F M X R Y C Z N J P N A V J J W C M B A E T
 D X T Y X V N V V P E T O S W F G H O B N V W H K
 B J C J I U I T N U J C I M G E W M R P N M G V D
 D O A C B S W N H J C H W W W M V K T M W J I J X
 U O E I P K K Z C L P T I P G Y Q S H K H T E D V

ACTIVITYAFTERNOONS
 CHURCHES
 COMPANY
 FELLOWSHIP
 MILLPOND
 SANDWICHES
 TEA

BACONBUTTIES
 COFFEE
 CTIE
 FRIENDS
 PASTORALCENTRE
 SERVICE
 WITNESS

CAKE
 COMMUNITY
 EMSWORTH
 GROUPS
 PLOUGHMANS
 SUPPORT
 WORSHIP

Coronavirus: doing things differently

In order to comply with government guidelines we've had to close the Pastoral Centre for the time being.

However:

If you need help or wish to chat to someone please call the church on **(01243) 373773 Monday-Friday 10am - 4pm** and we will try to put you in touch with someone who can offer support.

If you wish to receive an audio recording of a short service, please email **minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org**

If you wish to receive our newsletter containing inspirational words, prayers and a few puzzles(!) please call **(01243) 373773** or email **office@emsworthmethodistchurch.org**

Remember: Emsworth Alliance is a brilliant onestop shop for all support and information. Their details are: 07563 831810 or <http://emsworthalliance.co.uk>

At this difficult time we are mindful of this promise from the Bible: ***"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*** 2 Timothy 1:7.



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& Pastoral Centre





Prayer Prompts - April

You are invited to use the suggestions listed below in your prayer times.

In these days when many of us are anxious because of Coronavirus, here is a prayer from the Methodist Church website:

God of all hope, we call on you today.

We pray for those who are living in fear:

Fear of illness, fear for loved ones, fear of others reactions to them.

May your Spirit give us a sense of calmness and peace.

We pray for your Church in this time of uncertainty.

For those people who are worried about attending worship.

For those needing to make decisions in order to care for others.

For those who will feel more isolated by not being able to attend.

Grant us your wisdom.

Holy God, we remember that you have promised that

Nothing will separate us from your love, demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ.

Help us turn our eyes, hearts and minds to you. Amen

Let us daily use this prayer, remembering family, neighbours and friends. As we approach Easter, let us realise Jesus shares our suffering, and that we pray in the strength and love of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

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