



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

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Monthly news sheet

March 2020

Message from the Manse

'Now it passes on and I begin to lose it,' the Rat said presently. 'O Mole! the beauty of it! The merry bubble and joy, the thin, clear, happy call of the distant piping! Such music I never dreamed of, and the call in it is stronger even than the music is sweet! Row on, Mole, row! For the music and the call must be for us.'
The Mole, greatly wondering, obeyed. 'I hear nothing myself,' he said, 'but the wind playing in the reeds and rushes and osiers.'
The Rat never answered, if indeed he heard. Rapt, transported, trembling, he was possessed in all his senses by this new divine thing that caught up his helpless soul and swung and dandled it, a powerless but happy infant in a strong sustaining grasp.

From chapter 7 of 'The Wind in the Willows' by Kenneth Grahame

If you know the story of 'The Wind in the Willows' then you will probably know the context of this quote. The Rat and the Mole, worried about the young son of their friend the Otter, leave their home on the riverbank late one night to go in search for him. As they float along in the half-light the Rat begins to hear more clearly the music of the river and its call towards the lost child. Eventually, the baby otter is found, quite safe, asleep in the presence of 'Pan' the ancient Greek god of the wild. Afterwards, the Rat

and the Mole don't recall the events of the night, only remembering that something wonderful happened.

In this story one of these animals simply hears the sounds of nature, beautiful though they are, while the other is enraptured by beautiful and powerful music that speaks to his soul. At 'Sending Ripples' in February we talked about the Friedrich Nietzsche quote: 'and those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music.'

It would be easy for the Mole to 'pooh-pooh' his friend's enthusiasm. Music? What music? Don't be so silly. It would also be easy for the Rat to keep quiet, not mentioning what he hears for fear of ridicule. In the end, because of the understanding they share and the strength of their relationship both of them find themselves in what they consider to be a holy place, and eventually the Mole hears music too.

Both 'The Wind in the Willows' and Nietzsche remind us that God speaks to each of us in different ways. We may not always understand one another's behaviour or reactions. Our calling as a Christian community isn't to all see things in the same way (how boring would that be?!) but to affirm and uphold one another, even and perhaps especially when we struggle to see each other's point of view.

If you've never read the Wind in the Willows as an adult (or have never read it at all) then I recommend picking up a copy this Lent.

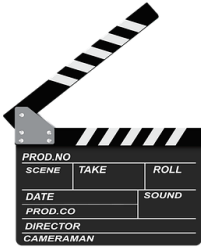
Every blessing,

Laura

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

We have a Circuit Service to say farewell to Andrew de Ville as our Superintendent and to Pam Stone who is retiring at the end of March from her role as a Lay Pastoral Assistant. It is also a service of Welcome for David Muskett as our new Superintendent and we'll say 'hello' to Celia Withers, recently appointed as Local Lay Pastor for Bridgemary, Gosport and Lee-on-the-Solent.

Faith in Film



This month's film will be shown in the Pastoral Centre on Friday 27th March at 1.30pm.

It will come as no surprise by now that we cannot advertise the title of the film here. However, think large soft fruit, singing insects and tall American buildings. Still not sure? Speak to Mandy or Laura!

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, and sometimes other treats as well!

World Day of Prayer (A women-led, global, ecumenical movement)

Friday 6th March at 2 p.m.
Emsworth Methodist Church in the Pastoral Centre
Followed by refreshments.
All welcome!

Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk Prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe

During the Worship we will be encouraged to reflect on the difficulties and unrest that has plagued their country over many years. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

The day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 countries. It would be good if you could support this ecumenical global event.

*Margaret Sawyer
(Methodist Representative WDP)*

The Quiet Garden at Fishbourne

Jesus said,
'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest'
Mark 6:31

You are welcome to come and join us at St. Peter's Place (Fishbourne Church Hall, two miles west of Chichester) PO19 3XT, for a morning of rest, quiet and spiritual reflection between 10am and 12.15pm on any or all of these 4th Tuesdays in 2020.

The theme this year is ATTUNING TO LIFE:

- Mar 24** Elaine Waddington, Spiritual Accompanier:
'When the Roses Speak'
- Apr 28** The Revd. Canon David Parker: 'Sailing through Life'
- May 26** Revd. Dr Alison Green, Chichester University Chaplain
- Jun 23** Sue Loveday, Musician and Teacher: 'The Word Became Flesh and Stepped into our Shoes'
- Jul 28** Sue Riddell, Spiritual Accompanier & Storyteller:
'Live the Journey'
- Aug 25** Sue Hyland, Teacher & Musician
- Sept 22** Revd. Canon Dr. Daniel Inman, Chancellor at Chichester Cathedral
- Oct 27** The Revd. Sarah Manouch: 'Steps, some up and some down'
- Nov. 24** Max Millett, Spiritual Director and Retreat Leader: 'What the Trees Say'

The morning is in three parts: a time of gathering to hear reflections on the theme from the leader; a time of freedom to reflect, to explore books, art materials, finger labyrinths, walks in the beautiful water meadows, beside a stream and beyond, as far as Chichester Harbour; and a time of coming together again to reflect and complete before returning to our busy lives. Tea and coffee are available throughout – please bring your own mug.

If you would like further information, please contact Jane at 01243-776223 or Sue on 01243-784983.

The Quiet Garden at Fishbourne is affiliated to: The Quiet Garden Trust: www.quietgarden.org. Registered Charity 1038528; created by the Reverend Philip Roderick in 1992. It is one of over 300 Quiet Gardens worldwide.

Lent Communion

There will be a series of six Lent Communion this year, at 1pm on Tuesdays, starting on 3rd March. These will be held in International Hall and offer the chance for folk to share in a Ploughman's Lunch in the Pastoral Centre beforehand if they would like to.

Bill Stillwell will lead the first and last ones, and John Harwood has offered to lead one too. During the middle of Lent, Peter Cole will develop a theme over three consecutive Tuesdays. In these three linked communion Peter hopes to enable people to re-connect the physical and the spiritual whilst drawing out the Lent themes of repentance, presence and resurrection. Each service will focus on one of our senses: Touch, Hearing and Taste. Peter will gently explore these in a variety of ways, including a simple communion liturgy written for the series.

Christian Aid – 40p for 40 days

In previous years, during Lent, many of us have been involved with 'Count your Blessings', a chance for us to consider how much we have, compared to many people around the world who have very little. This year we are having our own version where you will be invited to put your donation in a jar. The suggested amount is 40p a day for 40 days, but obviously you give as little or as much as you are able.

Prepared jars can be collected from members of the Working Party or we can give you a label to stick on your own jar.

Thank you for your support.

Gill Cooper, Margaret Sawyer or Marian Hughes

Augmented United Choir Easter Offering

Although the United Choir will no longer be singing at services we will be coming together again for our Easter Offering. We will be singing Haydn's Missa Brevis St Joannis de Deo [Little Organ Mass] on Good Friday 10th April at 3.30pm in St James' Church and weekly practices will take place on Monday evenings during Lent commencing 2nd March at 7.30pm in the church. Music will be provided and there will be no auditions.

We hope you will join us – you will be most welcome. Please just come along to our practices or, if you have any queries, please speak to me.

Sue D

What's on Wednesdays?

Sending Ripples: a new time of worship intended to provide an informal time to connect with God and one another.

In the Wesley Room, Wednesday 11th March at 10am.

What Matters? We bring an item of local or national news, together with some thoughts about how the Bible might speak into the situation. A chance to put the word to rights.

In the Wesley Room, Wednesday 18th March at 10am.

Emsworth AllSorts: A whole day of activities suitable for anyone who likes to have fun. This month Helena is coming to do some art with us – don't be perturbed, she assures me even I can do it! This will be followed by a hot lunch, pudding and another activity. There is a suggested donation of £5 to cover the cost of lunch, but no need to book. Just turn up on the day.

In International Hall, Wednesday 25th March at 10.30am until 3pm.

Explore Easter

On Saturday 4th April from 10am - 1pm, come and discover the Easter story in a fun and exciting way. Join us on a journey as we "Explore Easter" following a trail of activities along the route from Emsworth's village square to its picturesque Mill Pond.

Each station will be packed with fun craft and prayer activities for both children and adults alike, offering an opportunity to reflect upon a part of the last week of Jesus' life.

If you would like to volunteer to help at the event, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in your church or email heather@emsbaptist.org.uk for more details, or speak to Laura.

Good Friday Walk of Witness

This will take place during the morning of 10th April. It will last about an hour, starting in EMC at 10.15am where Laura will hold a brief service. We will walk to Waterside URC to join with others. There will be two more short services, one on the beach in the harbour and the final one in The Square. At approximately 11.30 coffee and hot cross buns will be served in the Pastoral Centre. See Sunday notices for further details.

Sue D

A Message from Bill

Dear friends

You look through the News Sheet and what do you see? The church in action! Everywhere you look you see ways in which our fellowship meets the calling of the Methodist Church to worship, learn and care, serve and evangelize.

The problem is that it all costs money. Over the last couple of years, as one example, the gap between our weekly donations and what has to be paid to Methodism's governing bodies ('The Assessment') has widened.

We're hugely grateful to the many people who contribute faithfully to the financial demands of our church, and who serve us and our community with immense care, so I'm uncomfortable about having to ask you a question.

The question is: to enable that work and fellowship to continue and to grow, are you able to reflect on your weekly giving to see if you can help even further to meet the needs of both our worshipping fellowship and those we serve?

If a number of people found themselves able to increase their giving just a little, it will add up to a lot. Thank you for all you have done and are doing, and for anything more you're able to give.

Bill

General Church Meeting

All members of our church family are invited to our annual **General Church Meeting** on **Tuesday 10th March** at **7.30pm**.

As well as appointing our Church Stewards and electing representatives to the Church Council, we shall be having a conversation on the life of our church, particularly our *Patterns of Worship*.

For the last two years we have had only two Church Stewards, Dot Warren and David Sawyer. It would be enormously helpful if another Church Steward could be appointed; Dot has now served as a Steward for five years, and as Senior Steward for three. Please give prayerful consideration as to whether you are being called to serve our church in this way, and do make every effort to join us for this important meeting in the life of our church.

Nominations for Church Stewards and representatives to Church Council should be received in writing by Alan Hickox, Church Council Secretary, or by Deacon Laura Evans, by Saturday 29th February.



Report from the meeting on 16th January 2020

Review of recent activities – Although not strictly part of the brief for CTE, the switching-on of Christmas lights in The Square had been well supported by CTE and it was felt there was a good Christian input.

Review of Christmas card distribution – This had gone smoothly but some of the deliverers are unable to continue so new deliverers are required for the Easter cards. If you can help, please speak to Sue D who has a list of the roads now requiring cover.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – At the time of our CTE meeting the arrangements were all in hand for the service at the Baptist Church on 18th January. The service for the end of the week to be held at the Methodist Church in the evening – this would also be the last service for the United Choir after 45 years. Our Choir also reported that a prayer gathering for ordained and other church leaders, 18 in all, had been held recently and was much appreciated.

Arrangements for Easter cards - are well in hand.

Arrangements for Easter – Good Friday – Correspondence had been received giving two points of view for the Walk of Witness and each was considered. A small working party will be convened to finalise the details. However, it was agreed that the walk would follow much the same route as 2019 but ending in The Square. Each church to walk to the starting point from their own church, ideally with suitable banners, meeting at 10.30am at the URC. Coffee and hot cross buns will be provided by the Methodist Church.

Saturday 4th April – Laura, Heather (Baptist Church) and Jo (Anglican Church) are planning another event along the millpond wall from 10am – 1pm. Details are still to be finalised.

Easter Sunday foreshore service 6am – Laura will provide food and give the talk. Music, amplification and service sheets will be provided by the Anglican Church and Revd Andrew Sheard will lead. A better amplification system may be explored.

Website report – It was noted that there was more traffic around church festivals but, in general, the amount of interest was encouraging. We were reminded to keep Stuart informed of suitable events and to remember the CTE Facebook page.

Christian Aid – There was no report, but it was understood that in lieu of Lent Lunches this year people will be encouraged to donate a suggested amount of 40p per day.

Confirmation of fifth Sunday services – 29/3/20 at St Thomas à Becket, Warblington, with The Cross of Christ service of readings and anthems. 31/5/20 at the Baptist Church; 30/8/20 at New Life Church prior to the Emsworth Show (our Chair will speak to the New Life Church about this); 29/11/20 at St Thomas a Becket, Warblington, for an Advent Carol Service as part of *Becket 850*.

Any Other Business – Fairtrade Fortnight 24th February – 8th March. Flyers were distributed by Maureen (Catholic Church) to the representatives from the other churches.

A refugee Syrian family is to be housed in Emsworth through the Community sponsorship scheme and will need much support, particularly for the first six months.

A one-day Southern Harbours Event is to be held at the Baptist Church on 28/3/20.

The Good News cards will be at the URC on 6th March from 10am – 1pm.

News from around the Churches

Anglican Church – A year of commemorating the 850th anniversary of Thomas à Becket's death is planned, including a pilgrimage to Canterbury. Details will be circulated widely. Free drinks and mince pies to visitors before Christmas were much appreciated. There is the possibility of Breakfast Church worship on at least 2 Sundays per month in future at St James'.

Baptist Church – Christianity Explored and Youth Alpha each happening.

Catholic Church – The Church is still keen to host a non-eucharistic service, but this must be deferred until after building works are completed.

Methodist Church – Andrew de Ville has been appointed as Chair of the Southampton District.

Sending Ripples – a new informal time of worship second Wednesdays 10 – 10.45am: What Matters Discussion Group about everything and anything third Wednesdays 10 – 11am: Emsworth Allsorts 'Holiday at Home' day of activities for older adults, last Wednesdays of the month 10.30am – 3pm in International Hall.

URC – The church is still without a minister and future appointments are likely to be shared with Havant and Hayling Island.

Our AGM and next meeting are on 7th May 2020.

Sue D

Delving into Dementia

Resourcing us all to support those living with dementia

**Saturday 7th March 2020 10am - 3pm
at Emsworth Methodist Church**

If you want to learn more about Dementia Friendly initiatives - this day is for you!

Home Instead Havant will join us to share information and lead discussions

There will be:

- a time to exchange good ideas
- an opportunity to ask questions
- a chance to explore best practice and ways to provide support.

Open to pastoral carers, 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 and confirm dietary requirements, please email Louise Wright via: wrightlouisemrs@gmail.com or speak to Laura.



**Fairtrade fortnight
24th February- 8th March**

There will be local events to celebrate Fair Trade Fortnight:

First, a social evening on **29th February** with Havant URC – supper, storytelling and singing. Tickets £5 from the Church or Sue James 02392 250267.

Secondly, the Mayor's coffee morning **6th March** from 10.30-12noon at the Civic Centre. As well as the Mayor and councillors, Alan Mak MP is coming along. We really need a good turn out to show solidarity for poor farmers and to support the Mayor's charities.

More details on <http://www.campaign.exchange/campaigns/fairtrade-fortnight/>



Prayer Prompts - March

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

Saint John Henry Newman's evening prayer:

May the Lord support us all day long,
till the shades lengthen and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over, and our work is done.
Then in his mercy may he give us safe lodging,
and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

Pray for: anyone you know who is struggling with life; those who mourn; all who need a friend to 'walk' beside them.

Refugees; an area where there is war; the worldwide Church; Christians persecuted.

Emsworth: The Pastoral Centre; Community Choirs, places where friendship is offered and found. Our Church: Café Church on 2nd Sundays, the Music Group, all who make music for us; Stewards, Leadership Team, Bill and Laura.

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 22		Mothering Sunday	
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Shirley Haynes
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell
Monday	23	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James (see page 5)
Tuesday	24	10.30am	Drop-In Memory Café
		1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion with Rev Peter Cole (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Table Games (IH)
Wednesday	25	10.30am	Emsworth AllSorts: a day of activities including lunch (IH) (p. 6)
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Tangmere – Past and Present: David Hughes (IH)
Friday	27	1.30pm	Faith in Film (see page 3)
Sunday 29			
		10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell
			Sunday Lunch (see weekly Notices)
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth
			United Evening Worship
			at St Thomas à Beckett, Warblington
Monday	30	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James
Tuesday	31	1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion with Rev Canon John Harwood (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon. Making our Easter Garden (IH)



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2020

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

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

Sunday	1	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans
		3.30pm	Circuit Service at Petersfield (see page 2)
		6.30pm	Holy Communion at St James led by Rev Andrew Sheard
Monday	2	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James (see page 5)
Tuesday	3	1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion with Rev Bill Stillwell (IH) (see page 5)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: My Life in Emsworth (IH)
Thursday	5	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. An Evening with The Music Group (IH)
Friday	6	2.00pm	World Day of Prayer Service (see page 3)
Saturday	7	10.00am	'Delving into Dementia' Resource Day (see page 10)
Sunday	8	10.00am	Café Church led by Deacon Laura Evans
		10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James
			Celebrant Rev Andrew Sheard, preacher Rev Bill Stillwell
		6.30pm	United Evening Worship led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer
			Preacher Rev Canon John Harwood
Monday	9	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James (see page 5)
Tuesday	10	10.30	Drop-in Memory Café
		1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion with Rev Peter Cole (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charity (IH)
		7.30pm	General Church Meeting (see page 7)
Wednesday	11	10.00am	Sending Ripples (Wesley Room) (see page 6)
		7.30pm	Ladies Group. Emsworth Ukulele Group Entertains (IH)
Sunday	15	10.00am	Holy Communion led by Rev Geoffrey Scarlett
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas à Beckett, Warblington
Monday	16	7.30pm	Augmented United Choir rehearsal in St James (see page 5)
Tuesday	17	10.30am	Home Instead Memory Café
		1.00pm	Lent Holy Communion with Rev Peter Cole (IH)
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Spring Colouring (IH)
Wednesday	18	10.00am	Dementia Friends Information Session (IH)
		10.00am	What Matters? A discussion group (Wesley Room) (see page 6)
Thursday	19	7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Deacon Laura Evans: 'All the Es' (IH)

Church Calendar continued on inside back page.

Items for the April news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to newssheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Sat 21 March**