



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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Newsletter

10th October 2020

Thought for the Fortnight from Stephen Wright

Hello everyone

Some of you might know that in the summer I was privileged to have a sabbatical. It was a real blessing, although as you might expect, given the pandemic, I was not able to do everything I planned.

Sabbaticals are meant to involve study, the development of the spiritual life and rest/recreation. At least Covid-19 did not impinge on my studies. I had the task of researching what it means to read the gospels as ancient biography. It probably sounds as exciting as eating cardboard, but in reality all sorts of interesting things flow from looking at the gospels in this way. I hope some of them will flow into my talks and sermons over the coming days.

Other aspects of my sabbatical did not go so well. For example, I planned to play some golf. Unfortunately, I quickly hurt my back and spent most of my sabbatical with severe sciatic pain!!!! It has at last improved.

Spiritually, I planned to visit some Christian heritage sites at Whitby, York and Canterbury. Alas, this was not possible. However, Louise and I did link

up with an Anglican church and enjoyed their zoom services and later, their Covid secure worship. Sitting in the pew is a strange experience for most ministers and was even stranger this time around. We became used to services without, or at least with fewer, songs. It did make me think how noisy our services can sometimes be; full of things we want to say to and about God.

The world we live in is equally noisy. The road by our house is seldom quiet; I wake in the middle of the night and there is still traffic zooming by.

Perhaps one lesson we can learn from these strange times is the importance of being still in the presence of the Lord. So often it is in the quiet that we find God and his healing, helping presence. May it be so for you.

Stephen



Sunday Worship

11 Oct 10.00am: Morning Worship led by Dot Warren: 'Pilgrimage'

18 October 10.00am: Holy Communion led by Rev Stephen Wright

25 October 10.00am: Morning Worship led by Rev Bill Stillwell

1 November 10.00am: Morning Worship, leader tba

8 November 10.30am: Remembrance Sunday Service, led by

Margaret Sawyer, with 2 minutes' silence at 11.00am

Memories of Hazel

This tribute has been put together following Hazel's Cremation Service and includes contributions from a number of her friends from church.

Hazel was born at home on a Sunday evening in early 1927 to the sound of the Westbourne church bells, and spent much of her life living in this area. Her childhood was spent in Bishops Waltham. Towards the end of the war she was called up into the Land Army where she assisted the local farmers with lambing, because she had small hands. She was also a volunteer in the National Hospital Reserve, in Winchester, where she met a soldier. They married and moved to Scotland, but sadly James died sixteen months later. Hazel came back to Woodmancote to live with her parents and brother and sister. She met Charles Allen and they were married in 1955, then along came their two sons, followed by five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She was very family orientated and very caring.

Hazel worshipped for a while at Emsworth Baptist Church where she was involved in the Sunday School, Youth Club and Boys Brigade. She was a member at the Methodist Church since the early 70s, running a Bible Class, and being a steward, including Senior Steward. She was always very welcoming to people who were new to the church. She was an early member of the Young Wives' Group, now our Ladies' Group, and continued to meet with them until everything came to a halt earlier this year. In the early days, she did some preaching and led the Ladies' Group Anniversary service several times. She played an active role in the wider Methodist Women's work, attending Circuit and District events.

She was a great flower arranger and loved decorating the church for Harvest Festival services. Also, she was the leader of one of the Pastoral Centre Tuesday lunch teams for many years, at a time when we were producing hot meals, and she was an excellent cook.

Hazel knew her Bible from cover to cover and was a great supporter of the British and Foreign Bible Society over many years. She was our church representative, at one time organising fund-raising events including sponsored walks and bike rides.

A number of people have commented on her lovely, friendly manner and her spontaneous welcoming smile. A warm, compassionate lady, who was always a joy to visit. She kept herself abreast of contemporary issues and would discuss them with enthusiasm. She was competent and committed, and always positive, even when faced with challenges and difficulties.

Emily Hall, who kept in telephone contact with a little group of church people during lockdown, said *it was so lovely to speak with Hazel, and I have very fond memories of my time spent at Emsworth with her.*

She was always very loyal and dedicated to her Lord, and the church fellowship has lost a very dear friend.

Thank you, Hazel – Rest in Peace.



Dear Friends,

We have thanked Bill and Laura many times for the great audio services they gave us when we were unable to gather in the Church building. I would thank them both again for the gentle and relevant way they gave us something to unite us and think about at that time.

BUT have we ever thanked Keith for the technical enabling and all he did at that time in particular? To him and indeed others who took part by reading, and to Chris for sharing prayers on one occasion, thank you.

We are indebted to those who 'do' the AV system. They work quietly (hopefully) in their corner during services and meetings, and are often only noticed when things are not perfect.

Thank you to them and to those who have stepped forward to learn how to work the system under Keith's guidance.

Thank you.

Alison

Prisons Week 11-17 October

The following extract is from *The Methodist News*.

Prisoners know all about lockdown in ways which are far starker than the 'stay at home' experience people have lived during the viral pandemic. However, beyond the walls of prison people of all ages have had to learn how to navigate uncertainty and many people feel fearful, bewildered and out of control. In past months there was a loss of freedom to be with loved ones, even when at the point of death. For some people there has been overwhelming pain and sadness. Some people have felt lonely and isolated whilst others have longed for space away from other people. All of this is experienced within the walls of prisons 365 days a year.

This Prisons Week as we pray for all those connected with the criminal justice system in any way, including all prison staff and families of prisoners as well as prisoners themselves, let us not talk of social distancing but rather of physical distancing. Let us pray for social connection and restored relationship and an openness to the generous love of God who longs to draw close to every individual person, treasured and known by name.

We pray that amid both places of brokenness and beauty there might be a discovery of inner freedom and peace which is rooted in the love, hope and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ and present through the power of the Holy Spirit, never locked down.

Rt Revd Rachel Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester, Church of England Bishop for Women's Prisons

"There are many things we take for granted and it is only when we lose it, we realise the value it had. Due to Covid-19 a lot of people are now experiencing the loss of work and, at the same time, the loss of liberty. These two factors are bad enough but combined they risk diminishing the self worth of the individuals concerned. A lot of people can now relate to where I have been. In the same way I can now relate to their fears and insecurity."

Former prisoner, March 2020

The Prisons Week Prayer

Lord, you offer freedom to all people. We pray for those in prison. Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist. Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, prison staff and all who care. Heal those who have been wounded by the actions of others, especially the victims of crime. Help us to forgive one another, to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in his strength and in his Spirit, now and every day. Amen.

Memories of Romany

Roger Ducker's memories of Romany (in the Methodist Recorder, 11th September) sparked treasured memories of my own. In the early years of the War, when natural history was foremost among my interests, I would forgo everything else to avoid missing one of his 'Children's Hour' broadcasts. When I learned that he would be visiting Wolverhampton to speak at the Darlington Street Central Hall, I arranged to take the train from Birmingham (the first train journey I had ever taken unaccompanied!) to make sure I didn't miss the opportunity.

I still have vivid memories of the occasion, even though I can recall only one thing from his talk and it was not about wild life. Describing a group of elderly villagers chatting round the open fire in their local pub, he added 'And they never hit the bars once.'

On the morning his death was announced on the 8 o'clock news, I carried the copy of the book he had autographed for me as a source of comfort on my way to school. This puzzled my fellow sixth-former on the top deck of the bus, Kenneth Tynan, but meant a great deal to me, and still does.

John Vickers

Biographical note

The Reverend George Bramwell Evens (1884–1943) was, under the pseudonym Romany, a British radio broadcaster and writer on the countryside and natural history. He was also a Minister of the Methodist Church.

Evens' mother was Romani, born in a *vardo* (gypsy wagon). His father was a Salvation Army Lieutenant, George Evens.

He is most famous for his *Out with Romany* radio programmes which commenced in 1933 on the BBC's Children's Hour, describing travels in his own *vardo* (purchased in 1921, at Brough Hill Fair, for £75), with Comma the horse, his English Cocker Spaniel, Raq, and his young friends Muriel and Doris. Although the programmes were all pre-scripted and performed entirely in the studio, the impression given was of Romany and his friends going for a walk in the countryside and spontaneously discussing the plants and animals they came across. The programmes were influential to a generation of listeners, including our own J.V.

Holiday Mayhem



To many of us, holidays seem like a distant dream, but hopefully we have some happy holiday memories to look back on.

However, sometimes holidays don't go according to plan. Chris has shared with us these extraordinary complaints made by Thomas Cook customers!!

"They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband."

"We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."

"We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."

"No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."

"Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."

"I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."

"I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."

"The brochure stated: No hairdressers at the resort. We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."

"The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guidebook during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."

"It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."

"We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."

"My fiancé and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you all responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."



Prayer Prompts

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

Dear Lord, when anger or resentment churn inside me, when circumstances thwart me and my hopes are dashed, when it's hard to see the good in anything and I am fearful, help me to have faith in your plan. Let me trust that you, who sees past, present and future as one, have a purpose. May I offer myself to you and celebrate your glory. Amen.

Cat Jenkins, Trinity Methodist Church, Douglas, Isle of Man (Prayer Handbook)

Prompts for prayer:

Our Church community, remembering faces and names, holding them before God. All who have been able to return to our church building to share worship, and those who are not able to do so; all who are finding this difficult for various reasons and all who feel isolated at this time.

The Pastoral Centre, Mandy and volunteers. Visitors returning. Decisions that must be made.

The worldwide Church, a dispersed community of people serving and loving. All who are persecuted for their faith.

Those who are **bereaved** and **all who mourn** the passing of loved ones. People we know who are battling with **ill health**, that strength may return.

Thank God that he loves me, that Jesus has promised to be with us to the end of time.

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

Please send contributions for the next fortnightly newsletter to notices@emsworthmethodistchurch.org or newssheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org
by Saturday 17th October

Good news is especially welcome!