



# 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**

**13 February 2021**

## Thought for the Fortnight from Bill

Back in the 1990s there was a vogue for offices to operate a 'hot-desking' policy. That meant that no one could call their desk their own. Instead, anyone in the office could use any desk. When you'd finished using it, you had to clear the desktop of all your personal belongings, including your mug and your pencil pot.

One thing in particular struck me about all this. Even if someone came into work for just a couple of hours, they would take all sorts of personal things out of their bag and put them on the desk in front of them. They'd include a photo of their partner or their dog, or maybe some small piece of art their daughter had created. Only then did they get their files out to do their actual work. It was as if they were saying, 'I may work for an organisation that wants me to be faceless, but there's no way you're going to stop me being who I am. And these quirky things represent the real me.'

Are you sometimes described as 'quirky' or 'eccentric'? If not, maybe it's simply because you'd feel silly if some people knew about the things you do to express the 'real you' which would just seem odd to other people. They may be like the child's piece of artwork on your desk: something profoundly meaningful to you, but just a bit of quirkiness or eccentricity to

anyone else. But, really, we're all 'quirky' or 'eccentric', in the sense of being away from the centre of whatever 'normality' is, because no-one is 'normal'. Each one of us is unique.

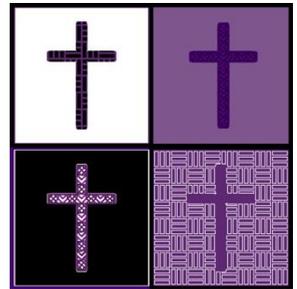
Jesus treated each person he met as unique. He knew – and knows – each one inside and out. We each have our own way of dealing with life's events, including the peculiar ones that we face right now. I hope it all confirms to us in our daily lives what we know in our heart of hearts: the need to respect the unique way in which each person deals with life's events. God in Christ expressed love to every individual just the way they were. When we're stressed it can take us just a bit more effort to follow him!

## **Bill**

### **An idea for Lent from Action for Children**

**Count Your Blessings** offers an activity for every day in Lent, which begins on Wednesday 17 February.

You can download a poster from [actionforchildren.org.uk/countyourblessings](http://actionforchildren.org.uk/countyourblessings), or posters can be obtained by post from our local fundraiser, Lily Haig. Lily can be contacted on 07817 058 310.



The activities range from ideas for prayer to contacting someone who might be lonely, as well as donations and thinking about what we can be grateful for.

*Jane Gregory (Action for Children contact)*

**The Church Office phone number and email address are not in use at the moment.** If you need to contact anyone urgently for pastoral or safeguarding reasons, please use the ministers' contact details shown on the front page of this newsletter.

**Havant Borough Council** have notified us that **free parking for vaccinations** is available at: Palmer's Road, Emsworth, for the Baptist Church; Hayling Island Health Centre Car park; and Milton Road, Waterlooville.

## Sunday Worship

Our church will remain closed for worship while we are being advised to stay at home. We plan to continue combining with other congregations from time to time; it is good to feel part of the wider church community in these difficult times. Our thanks go to those who are facilitating worship through their technical expertise.

**Sunday 14 February** at 10.00am Morning Worship via Zoom led by Mr Andrew Wilcock.

**Sunday 21 February** at 10.00am Morning Worship via Zoom led by Revd Stephen Wright.

**Sunday 28 February** at 10.00am Morning Worship via Zoom led by Revd Bill Stillwell.

**Sunday 7 March** at 10.00am Morning Worship via Zoom led by Revd Bill Stillwell.

**Sunday 14 March** at 10.00am **Mothering Sunday** Worship via Zoom led by Mr Trevor Durston from Chippenham.

**Sunday 21 March** at 10.00am Morning Worship via Zoom led by Revd Stephen Wright.

**Sunday 28 March** at 10.00am **Palm Sunday** Worship via Zoom led by Revd David Rice; we hope to join with Haslemere Methodist Church.

If you would like to receive audio recordings of services, please ask Keith or Dot. If you would like to join in by telephone, please ask Peter (for details see newsletter dated 16 January).

From a longer piece entitled *Thought for the Day*, contributed by Ruth B.

Treasure every day that you have.

And treasure it more, if you have shared it with someone special enough to share your time.

And remember – Time waits for no one.

Yesterday is history...

Tomorrow is mystery...

Today is a gift – that is why it is called The Present.

**Fairtrade Fortnight      22 February to 7 March 2021**

## **Choose the World You Want**

This year's Fairtrade Fortnight is about Fairtrade, the Climate and You. You can help create the world you want when you choose products with the Fairtrade Mark and when you make positive adjustments to the way you live, to help protect our planet. The Mark guarantees that the producers are paid a fair price, receive money for their community and that a range of standards are met, including sustainable farming methods.

The aim of the Fortnight is to highlight the growing challenges facing farmers and workers in communities around the world. The climate emergency has already caused floods and heatwaves which have destroyed harvests. Plants like coffee and grapes are getting harder to grow as the temperature rises and many are affected by crop diseases.

Fairtrade is about social, economic and environmental justice. Producers need fair prices and an income which is enough to cover their basic human rights, like a nutritious diet, children's education and healthcare. With Fairtrade help they will be better able to meet their everyday needs and deal with the challenges caused by the climate emergency.

As well as the impact of the changing climate, COVID-19 has also had a huge impact. People who grow and make products for the UK have been particularly hard hit. Millions of farmers growing coffee, tea, cocoa and bananas for the UK have seen their incomes fall and are struggling to feed their families and send their children to school. Covid-19 has shown us how inter-dependent we are globally, and the climate emergency is doing the same. We have to work together. A real challenge for us all.

For more information, some interesting stories to read, and ways in which you can help, please see the Fairtrade website at [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)



# Snowdrops

A few Sundays ago, in my little message, I showed you a picture of a clump of snowdrops that have appeared in my garden, and puzzled over what variety they are, as they are clearly different from the swathes of snowdrops that you see elsewhere. None of you had any suggestions, and even Peter Gregory couldn't throw any light on this little puzzle, although he did only see the photo and not the actual plant! This led me to do my own research and I thought you might like to share what I found.



The scientific name for snowdrops is *Galanthus*, a genus of bulbous perennial herbaceous plants in the family Amaryllidaceae. Avid collectors of snowdrops are known as *Galanthophiles*. Snowdrops are not native to the UK, although exactly when they were introduced is unclear. It is thought they may have been grown as an ornamental garden plant as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but they were not recorded in the wild until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The snowdrop's native range is mainland Europe. The most prolific form, *Galanthus Nivalis*, has naturalised widely in woodlands, parks and gardens. I am wondering if mine might be *Galanthus Elwesii*, the Giant Snowdrop? This variety certainly appears to have wider leaves like mine, but I understand there are hundreds of varieties, because snowdrops hybridise easily.



Coincidentally, there was a lovely article in my February *Landscape* magazine, all about the wonderful carpets of snowdrops at Walsingham, along the pilgrims' route to the ancient shrine of Our Lady. Walking through the Gatehouse to the Priory ruins you come across areas planted up with different varieties of snowdrops, in patches demarcated by logs and identified with a

handwritten label, designed to showcase the range of forms the snowdrop can take. The tradition at Walsingham is that their snowdrops may even go back to Roman times.

The snowdrop has evolved to symbolise a variety of qualities. The white symbolises innocence and purity, and because it flowers so early, during the winter, well before the beginning of spring, it also symbolises hope. Some Christians dedicate snowdrops to the Virgin Mary, calling them Candlemas Bells, scattering them on the altar at Candlemas, which is on 2 February. Enjoy the snowdrops, and the other signs of Spring! **Dot**

# Christian Aid Lent and Easter Appeal



**Will you support our Lent and Easter Appeal? Your donations will help families facing poverty and injustice around the world.**

## Shika's story

In a village on the coast of Bangladesh, cyclones are now more frequent, making it more challenging for families like Shikha's to earn a living. Through training and start-up funding to become a crab farmer, Shikha started earning more than before.

This Easter, [you can help others do the same](#). and even if a cyclone damages a crab farm, your support could help her rebuild, restock, and bounce back.

You may have seen the recent Christian Aid advert on TV; funds are needed more than ever during this pandemic, and we are asking for your help. Some of us may have lost income, but if you find you have been in a position to save money you may consider making a donation to Christian Aid.

In previous years during Lent we've been involved with 'Count your Blessings' and last year we collected 40p a day for 40 days. Due to the difficulties of collecting money in our churches, we would ask you to make your donation direct to Christian Aid. You can either visit the website at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/lent-easter-appeal> or donate by phone on **020 7523 2269**.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Gill Cooper, Margaret Sawyer and Marian Hughes*

## A Little Something for Lent

Revd Stephen Wright is planning to provide 'A little something for Lent' – a chance for conversation and a short devotional time, plus perhaps a related piece of music. It's subtitled 'Disciples on the Way', as each week the devotional will look at one follower of Jesus and their flaws and how they might have overcome them.



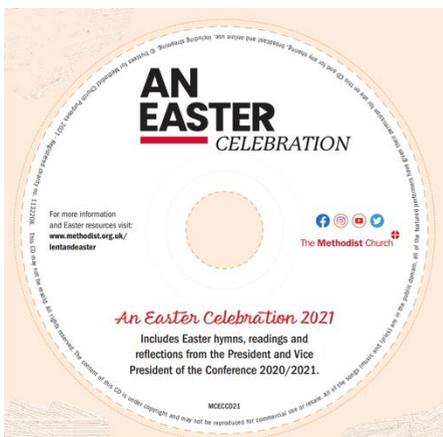
This Lent get-together will provide a chance for people to 'meet' online mid-week, as human interaction has become more limited in lockdown and we are missing our usual contacts.

The time for these meetings will be **12.30pm on Wednesdays**, when we have traditionally held our Lent midweek communion services.

More details will follow soon.

## Easter Celebration CD from Methodist Publishing

Following the success of The Methodist Church's Christmas Service CD, Methodist Publishing are producing an Easter Celebration CD.



The service can be used as part of worship, or to give to those who are unable to access online worship. It includes Easter hymns, readings and a reflection from the President of the Conference. Free copies can be ordered via Methodist Publishing; please visit [www.methodistpublishing.org.uk](http://www.methodistpublishing.org.uk) and search for 'Easter CD'. Pre-orders are being taken now, and the publication date is 8 March 2021. (P&P applies.)



## Prayer Prompts

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

Lord God, we take your hand to walk into the unknown future with you. Sometimes we feel content, loved, strong and sure of foot as we journey with you. Other times, we feel frightened and unsure: overwhelmed by grief, isolation, loneliness; fear of Covid, climate change – and all the pressing issues of the day. Dear God, please give us peace, strength and love for whatever tomorrow brings and what we ask for ourselves, we ask for all people. *Amen.*

### Prompts for prayer:

**NHS staff** we know or remember from news reports. Everyone who has inspired us.

**People helping us:** shopkeepers, deliverers, those organising vaccinations.

**All who mourn** the passing of loved ones.

**All feeling isolated, depressed, sad,** as a result of lockdown.

**Members of our Church family:** hold before God one or two names/faces, each day.

**'Zoom' services of worship:** all who lead them; those unable to join in; those who find 'Zooming' difficult. **Circuit Services**, and others, live streamed or recorded on 'YouTube'.

**The world:** areas where Covid is rampant amongst poverty and hunger; where there is no clean water for drinking or washing hands.

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)

Please send contributions for the next fortnightly newsletter to [notices@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:notices@emsworthmethodistchurch.org) or [newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org) by **Saturday 20 February**

**Good news is especially welcome!**