



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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Registered Charity No 1127747

Newsletter

24 April 2021

Thought for the Fortnight from Chris Walters

A lot has happened since our last News Sheet. We are now able to be out and about, carefully, with distance between us. Shops are open, though some still find it hard just going out of their home. Many people are grieving about losing loved ones during the pandemic and we remember too the Royal Family as they mourn the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Being 'royal' does not mean they are protected from grief and sorrow or difficulties within family life, any more than we are. The Queen's duty to our country is unwavering, as is her faith in God, so let us hold in prayer the Queen and all who mourn, that God's strength and peace will sustain them.

We're now in the lunar month of Ramadan, during which Muslims (the healthy and able) fast between dawn and sunset. It's a practice which helps them empathise with those who might have less than them, and it's also seen as a time of giving for charity or helping others. It is a reminder for all of us to reflect on things for which we are grateful, things we perhaps take for granted. It is important, too, that we understand people of other faiths, their customs and their way of living.

The customs of Ramadan are very close to what we find in the book of Isaiah. (E.g.: read Isaiah 58: 6 – 12). Fasting seems to have gone out of fashion with most Christians, though it can be found amongst some evangelical Christians as a way of praying, a sacrifice to draw them closer to God.

That then poses some questions:

What is our experience of drawing close to God? Would we be prepared to go without food in order to 'bring a sacrifice of praise' to God?

Or can we see fasting as Isaiah puts it: *'to lose the chains of injustice, to set the prisoner free, to share your food with the hungry and provide the poor wanderer with shelter'* and so on.

Ponder on these questions if you can and, at the same time, listen to what God might be saying.

God bless you in the days ahead.

Chris

Audio Loop

During the recent lockdown we have taken the opportunity to invite an engineer along to inspect and test the audio loop in the church for those who use hearing aids. He has worked in a large number of churches, and was able to spend a couple of hours with me.

He tested the equipment and found that it was basically in good condition, although there were two intermittent faults which he repaired. He also showed me some appropriate settings, which he adjusted.

Before he left, he thoroughly tested the reception through the loop, and was of the opinion that it is in good condition. This, of course, was in an empty room, and the effects might be slightly different when the room is occupied. However, I now know some adjustments that can be made.

I would be interested to hear from any users about how they find it when we return to church. Please speak to me, or one of the other AV operators. If needed, he is willing to revisit.

Keith Page

Sad news

We were very sorry to hear recently of the death of Andrew, Margaret Heathcote's husband. Margaret is the Circuit Finance Officer, and some of you will have met her as she is based in the Circuit Office in IH.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Margaret and her daughters.

Sunday Worship

Our church will remain closed for worship until the next stage of Lockdown easing in late May. We plan to continue combining with other congregations from time to time. Our thanks go to those who are facilitating worship through their technical expertise.

Sunday 25 April at 10.00am

Worship via Zoom led by Revd Claire Simpson. We will be joined by the Petersfield congregation

Sunday 2 May at **10.30am** - *note later time*

Worship via Zoom led by Revd Stephen Wright. We will be linking with the Petersfield congregation

Sunday 9 May at 10.00am

Worship via Zoom led by Mrs Barbara Noakes

Sunday 16 May at 10.00am

Worship via Zoom led by Revd Stephen Wright

Sunday 23 May at 10.00am. **Pentecost and Church Anniversary**

Worship in church led by Revd Bill Stillwell

Our first service back in the church again. A triple celebration!

Sunday 30 May at 10.00am

Worship in church led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer

If you would like to join in by telephone, please ask Peter or email newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org

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.

Those of you who were able to join us will remember our service in March when Trevor Durston led a very moving and informative time of worship, based on the work of The Leprosy Mission in Mozambique. We heard some wonderful stories, and towards the end we were encouraged to support their current appeal.

I have very recently had this letter from Chris Stratta, the Regional Manager at TLM, which confirms how generous you all were to this appeal – thank you so much.

Trevor has offered to come and lead a service for us next year, and we are hoping that we may be able to arrange it for our Church Anniversary Weekend.

Dot

Here is the text of the letter:

To our faithful friends at Emsworth Methodist Church,

I was so pleased that Trevor Durston could join you on Zoom for your Leprosy Sunday service in March. Thank you so much for your wonderful gifts totalling £609 that will help the incredible team of Leprosy Changemakers in rural Mozambique build Hubs of Hope. And, thanks to the UK Government, your donation has been **doubled to £1,218** and will go twice as far for people affected by leprosy!

A Hub of Hope provides a safe place where health camps can take place, training can be given to diagnose and treat leprosy and where people will learn how to prevent disability. These important areas in the community are also where farmers learn how to protect their crops from extreme weather, raising living standards now and for the future. Most importantly, they are a place where everyone is welcomed, unconditionally.

You are helping Leprosy Changemakers like Zaina end leprosy for good in Mozambique. Can you imagine what it will feel like when that day arrives? The tears of joy and songs of praise will be incredible! Thanks to your support, that wonderful day is closer than ever! Thank you for showing such love and kindness.

Yours in Christ,
Chris Stratta, Regional Manager – London and the South.

Reflect Methodist Spirituality

ALDERSGATE

22nd or 24th May 2021 9.30am-12.15pm via Zoom*

A Warmed Heart

"About a quarter before nine I felt my heart strangely warmed"
These are some of the most well-known words in the Methodist Church. John Wesley's famous experience at a meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, is regarded as key to his ministry and to the development of the British Methodist Church.

What did it mean to John Wesley? What significance might it have for us? We shall spend the morning in guided reflection and quiet exploring the faith development of John Wesley and the role of a warmed heart for both him and today's disciples.

Programme for the morning

9.30am	Welcome & Introduction Opening Prayers
10.00am	Session 1: Going through the motions
11.00am	Session 2: Living through the depths
12 noon	Conclusion Closing Prayer
12.15pm	Finish

To be led by Rev Judith Jessop, a Methodist pioneer presbyter from Sheffield.

If you would like to attend* please e-mail Gill Dascombe chair@reflectretreats.co.uk stating which date you would like to attend, or if you are flexible.

*This is the first of two Quiet mornings exploring Wesley's spiritual journey. Part 2 will be held in the early autumn, dates to be advised.

There is no charge for this event, but donations (£5 suggested) may be made to

Reflect:Lloyds Bank,
Sort code 30 96 18, Account no 02833113, ref Quiet Day



Prayer Prompts

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

Listening God, it is hard not to know what will happen next: whether we are going to grieve or rejoice; what good news might look like; what bad news might imply. Help us not to rush ahead but to live with unknowing, to dwell in your uncomfortable presence and yet know that we are loved. Amen

Let us pray for:

our neighbours and friends, particularly those who live alone: all who cope with depression as a result of the pandemic and others who have found isolation affecting their mental health. For all NHS staff as they struggle with the back load of health work, and those who are a face behind the list of statistics.

Give thanks for:

longer daylight hours and the promise of warmer days; all volunteers who have helped us, family, friends, the ways God's love has been shown to us, by others. The success of the vaccinations.

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 newsheet@emsworthmethodistchurch.org

by Saturday 1 May

Good news is especially welcome!