



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

8 May 2021

Thought for the Fortnight from Bill

This Newsletter is being published on 8 May. Do you know how special that date is?

In America it's 'National Have a Coke Day' (other soft drinks are available). It's also 'Drinking Water Week', so you even have a further choice. On the other hand, you could spend the time celebrating 'No Socks Day'. How you do that is a mystery to me; having cold feet is nothing to celebrate, in my view.

More meaningful to me personally is the fact that 8 May 1970 was the date on which the Beatles issued their album 'Let it Be'. Can that really be 51 years ago?!

The event which will be commemorated on 8 May which surely unites more people than all of those put together is VE Day; the 75th anniversary of the official end of the Second World War in Europe. It's a day which isn't just remembered in Britain. Countries across Europe have their own ways of remembering the day and giving thanks. In 2020 the city of Berlin had

their own memorial for the first time, to give thanks for the ending of Nazi rule.

In our own individual lives we have our own 'memorial days' – days on which we have special memories of the past, perhaps most especially times when we've moved from periods of great pain and difficulty into times of new hope.

The only danger in this is that we can be lulled into a false sense of security. We may have the feeling that, having survived great challenges unscathed, life in the future will be a bed of roses. That may well apply even in our current situation; as if there will be one day when Victory over Coronavirus is declared and we'll all live in peace forever more.

We know, really, things don't happen like that. There are rarely days and specific moments when the world suddenly changes and everything becomes perfect. Wars have continued to rage long before and ever since 1945. Pandemics of various kinds have attacked the human race throughout history. We rightly thank God when past challenges have ended. We rightly pick days, times and places where we focus our thanksgiving to him. We can do so much more, though, than just being thankful for the end of pain in years gone by. Even in the midst of those challenges we can be thankful for so much, even while we feel distressed or afraid. Look around you: victories are being won day by day, moment by moment. Victories of small acts of love and kindness, of hope overcoming despair, of solutions being found to difficult situations, of God's world still turning in all its power, beauty and majesty.

Celebrate the day you can taste freedom by taking your socks off, by all means. Don't let's forget to celebrate, though, that we can put them on and take them off any day of our lives. Let's continue to celebrate all that God gives us in all things – including the strength, hope and love we receive even in the midst of adversity.

Bill

Reflect Quiet Mornings

Two Reflect quiet mornings are to take place for Aldersgate on 22 and 24 May 2021, from 9.30am–12.15pm, via Zoom.

This is the first part of two quiet morning events exploring Wesley's spiritual journey. Part two will be held in the early autumn.

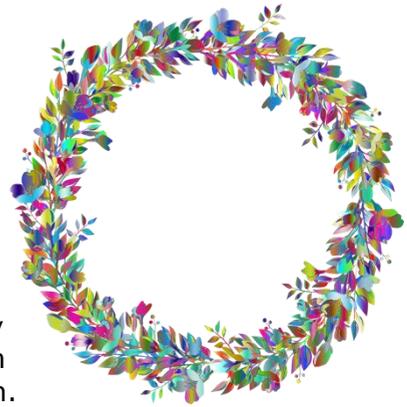
You can find out more information [here](http://www.reflectretreats.co.uk).(www.reflectretreats.co.uk)

Ladies Group Anniversary

If all goes well the Ladies Anniversary Service will take place on **Sunday 27 June at 10.00am, here in the Methodist Church.**

I have invited Miss Jean Hooper, a local preacher from Portchester Methodist Church to lead our worship on this day. In the past we have distributed envelopes on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday in order to make a donation to the Methodist Church Fund for World Mission.

Our gifts have been dedicated at a special Easter Offering Service usually held in May.



COVID19 restrictions have changed the usual arrangement to the following – an envelope collection for the World Mission Fund will be made at the Ladies Anniversary Service on 27 June. Our collection along with others from the circuit will be dedicated at an Easter Offering Service to be arranged.

In the meantime, you may like to view a video recording of an Easter Offering Service on YouTube; Alan has kindly sent the link to everyone, whether they are members of the Ladies Group or not.

Judy

Our Plans for Re-opening the Pastoral Centre

If all goes according to the government's roadmap, **we are expecting to re-open the Pastoral Centre on Tuesday 25 May.**

We are planning for Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays with morning sessions from 10.00am – 12.00pm.

We hope these limited opening times can be gradually expanded in due course.

We look forward to seeing you all again before too long!

Dot, Veronica and Jill

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 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.

Christian Aid Week 9–15 May

There will be no Christian Aid House-to-House Collection in Emsworth this year – but the needs are greater than ever. The world's poorest are having to deal with the coronavirus as well as all their other problems with shortage of food and poor sanitation.

If you feel able to donate at this time, please either make your donation online using the following link:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

or you can telephone **020 7523 2069** to donate by phone.

Thank you for your continued support.

Marian Hughes, Margaret Sawyer and Gill Cooper



From the Methodist News

Bullying, Culture and Positive Relationships

The Methodist Church is presenting three webinars via Zoom looking at different aspects of anti-bullying action. They are designed for all

leaders within the Methodist Church and any other members and officers who are interested in how we can continue our journey of making churches and church work safer for everyone. Please click on the links below to register for either or both of the two remaining webinars.

13 May [Reconciling Communities: Living Well with Difference](#)

17 Jun [Addressing Bullying through Justice, Dignity and Solidarity](#)



Prayer Prompts

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

Gracious God, you understand suffering, because you are my crucified Lord. Draw me closer to you for I need your companionship, help and strength at this time.

Jesus, when you appeared to your disciples after the Resurrection, they were often slow to recognise you. I too, am slow to recognise your presence in my daily life.

Holy Spirit, please heighten my awareness of how to recognise you in the kindness of others, in the beauty of flowers and bird song. Lord, in your mercy, hear my prayer.

Let us pray for:

All care workers in the community. Staff in nursing and care homes. All hospital staff, including cleaners and porters. Paramedics, midwives, therapists, staff in GP surgeries, and pharmacists.

Farmers and deliverers of food to shops. Those who collect our rubbish and recycling.

Volunteers: cooking meals, shopping, all who support neighbours.

Give thanks:

That God loves me and that Jesus, through his Spirit, is with me today and every day.

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 15 May

Good news is especially welcome!