



# 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**

**4 July 2021**

## Thought for the Fortnight from Bill

Dear friends

Do you remember The Byrds? No, that's not a misspelling; they were a folk rock group in the 1960s. Theirs is probably the most popular of the many recordings of the song, written by Pete Seeger *Turn! Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)*. If you're of a certain age you may also remember other versions by the likes of The Seekers and Judy Collins. For my money, Judy Collins' haunting version wins by a country mile.

The way the song came about strikes me as pretty odd for a couple of reasons. For a start, the essence of the lyrics comes from the book of Ecclesiastes. Most of that book seems to have been written by a miserable old bloke completely out of sorts with the world and with God. The second curious thing, for me, is the fact that, as legend has it, Pete Seeger wrote it out of a fit of pique and anger with his publishers.

What did we end up with after all that history of tension and depression? A peaceful, gentle song which says, 'Everything has its time and place: God is there in all things, whether they seem to us to be good or bad'.

This came home to me most poignantly when I led a funeral service where the first eight verses of Ecclesiastes chapter three were read, beginning:  
*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:*

*A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

*A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.*

It's tough to accept the truth of that while we're going through testing times but, when we walk into the future with trust in God, we may see that he can use all the times of an ordinary human life for 'every purpose under heaven'. Everything in creation, time and eternity is in his hands. He is there in birth and death, weeping and laughter, mourning and dancing. To everything there is a season.

May God grant to us all the peace of knowing that one day, in this world or the next, his purposes will be fulfilled, come what may.

So – God walks with you through all your days.

## **Bill**

### **Christians Together in Emsworth – Meeting 17 June 2021 by Zoom**

Our meeting was held in order to discuss our regular presence at the Emsworth Show, which will be held this year in the grounds of the New Life Church on August Bank Holiday Monday 30 August from 10.30am–5pm. If you are planning to visit the show it would be very much

appreciated if you could think about sparing an hour or two to help on the CTiE stand in the company of others from all our local churches. Should you be prepared to help in this way, please talk to me or Dot. Thank you.

*Sue D*



**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.

## Sunday Worship

Covid restrictions are still in place: **if you would like to attend worship in person**, please contact Dot by the Friday before each Sunday to book your seat in church.

Services will be live streamed on Zoom and a recording will be available on YouTube.

**Sunday 4 July** at 10.00am  
Worship led by Geoffrey Eardley

**Sunday 11 July** at 10.00am  
Worship led by Revd Bill Stillwell

**Sunday 18 July** at 10.00am  
Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen Wright

**Sunday 25 July** at 10.00am  
Worship led by Cdr Mark Barton

**Sunday 1 August** at 10.00am  
Worship led by Revd Bill Stillwell

**Sunday 8 August** at 10.00am  
Worship led by Deacon Laura Evans

If you have any questions about how to join in worship via Zoom or YouTube please ask Peter, or email [Newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:Newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)

## A Date for Your Diaries

The **General Church Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 10 August at 7.30pm and will include a Worship Consultation.



## Action for Children Webinar

Action for Children invites you to an online webinar, '**Childhood during coronavirus: protecting children from the effects of poverty**', on **Wednesday 7 July at 2.00pm**. Staff at Action for Children will talk about the impact of the lockdown on families, drawing on research in the charity's report, 'End Childhood Crisis', and their campaigning work.

Many families have been unable to afford basic essentials, such as food, nappies, cleaning products, gas or electricity. In March 2020, Action for Children launched an Emergency Fund that has since supported over 10,000 children through this incredibly tough time.



The webinar will also explain what Action for Children are asking the Government to do and how you can add your voice. [To sign up, click here.](#)

## New email address for our Newsletter

As you know, our Newsletter will now be published monthly. There will be no weekly notices, at least for the moment, which will enable us to cut down on paper and distribution by hand.

We have a new email address –

[Newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:Newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)

Please send your all your contributions to this new address from now on.

As a reminder, please send items for the next Newsletter by **Saturday 24 July**, for publication on Sunday 1 August.

Our thanks to Pamela for setting up this new email address.



*Diana and Jane*

## Help for 11 July

We have a little problem on Sunday July 11<sup>th</sup>. We need someone to do one of the following tasks, as we only have two people available for the three jobs. If we cannot find an extra person, we will not be able to stream the service on Zoom.

- Operate the Hymnal Plus

or • Operate the Zoom system as host

or • Operate the AV system (the visuals will be ready prepared). This would probably be the easiest to pick up. It only involves pressing one button to change the pictures, and controlling the volume on one microphone.

We would not like to disappoint those who join our service by Zoom, so if you think you can help on this occasion, please speak to **Gill Cooper** or **Keith Page**. Thank you.

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## Expressing Our Thanks to Laura and Bill

As you are all aware, Laura and Bill will both be leaving us in August at the end of this Methodist year, and we would like to express our thanks to them and to give them each a gift.

Laura is due to lead our service on **Sunday 8 August**, so this will be the ideal opportunity to express our thanks to her. We will also have our deferred **special collection for MHA** that morning, and Laura will include some stories about their work.

### **An Invitation from Pamela and Geoffrey**

*Pamela and Geoffrey are pleased to invite all the church family to their garden for tea, cake and fellowship, also on **Sunday 8 August from 2.00pm**. Having been restricted due to COVID last year, they hope this will be an opportunity to celebrate together once again. It is also our opportunity to express our thanks to Bill, and a chance to chat informally with Jan, Stephen and Louise, and Laura if she is not too tired after leading Morning Worship.*



And here, from Peter, is all the information you need to know regarding making your various donations.

## Farewell Gifts for Laura and Bill

If you wish to contribute to the gifts, please do so in one of the following ways:

- 1) Place cash in an envelope, and state the purpose, ie Gift for either Laura or Bill, or for both. Place the envelope in the collection plate as you come into church for *any Sunday service from now on*.
- 2) Transfer money directly to our bank account using the reference <Your Surname> then Gift L (Laura), Gift B (Bill), or Gift BL (for both Bill and Laura). Peter will assume that you want it split evenly unless you send him an email stating otherwise. The name of the account is: Emsworth Methodist Church & Pastoral Centre  
Sort code: 20-69-34  
Account number: 10698334

### **These payments can be made at any time from now on.**

If you are unable to do either of these, please speak to Dot and she will arrange to collect your donation from you.

### **Making a Donation to MHA on Sunday 8 August**

Again, place your cash into an envelope, stating that it is a donation to MHA and place it in the collection plate as you come into church on that morning. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please state this on the envelope and print your name or church GA number. You can also pay by bank transfer, account details as above, using the reference <Your Surname> then MHA. Please make separate transfers for MHA and the gifts for Laura/Bill, as Peter will be claiming Gift Aid on the MHA donation.

**Please DO NOT make any payments by cheque** unless you have no other option. The bank is now charging £1.30 for processing each cheque we give them, so a significant part of your gift would go to Barclays Bank. If you have any questions, please speak to either of us. Thank you.

**Dot Warren      Peter Gregory**

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## **New Police Community Support Officer for Emsworth**

Just to let you all know that we have a new PCSO in Emsworth, **Josh Scrivens**. I have met him several times – he is certainly out and about making himself known to local people. He is very friendly and helpful, and keen to provide support where needed. He has already held one ‘beat surgery’ in the Pastoral Centre, and people were very pleased to see him and chat with him as he circulated around the tables. He also had a table on which he displayed lots of helpful leaflets and information. His next session in the Pastoral Centre is planned for **Thursday 15 July**, and he will be there for the two hours, from 10am–12 noon. Do pop in and meet him, and of course have a tea or coffee at the same time! **Dot**

## Christian Aid

We will be holding our Summer Sale on **Saturday 31 July** between 10.00am and 12.30pm in the church. We will be serving tea and coffee as well as selling good quality goods and cakes. Once again we are asking for your help; if anyone feels able to support us by baking a cake we would be very grateful.

Donations of cakes can be left in the church on Friday 30 July between 4.30 and 5.30pm.



**Gill Cooper**

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## Justice-Seeking Church

The Methodist Church is to commit to a two-year project looking at how the Church speaks out on social issues and challenges injustices. The project will be led by Rachel Lampard and aims to make the Church more effective in speaking and acting for justice and transformation.

Rachel said: 'I am excited to be part of this project listening to Methodists and those beyond our church, including those who are sometimes unheard; discerning the values upon which our commitment to justice can be based; and acting to help Methodists use these resources to speak and act on issues of justice. I hope and pray that this



will be a project which engages people from around the Connexion and leaves us all with a deeper passion for God's justice in the world.'

More information can be found at <https://www.methodist.org.uk/about-us/news/latest-news/all-news/methodist-church-to-start-major-new-project-on-being-a-justice-seeking-church/>



## Prayer Prompts

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

A prayer from West Africa: **OUR CHURCHES ARE LIKE BIG FAMILIES**

*Lord, we thank you that our churches are like big families.*

*Lord, let your Spirit of reconciliation blow over all the earth.*

*Let Christians live your love.*

*Lord, we praise you in Europe's cathedrals, in America's offerings,*

*And in our African songs of praise.*

*Lord, we thank you that we have brothers and sisters in all the world.*

*Be with them that make peace. Amen*

*from **An African Prayer Book** edited by Desmond Tutu*

**Let us allow God to bring to mind those who need our prayers:**

family, friends, neighbours, the communities in which we live;

all who mourn; those finding changes to life difficult;

those whose names we forget, but faces we remember.

**Pray for:** those coping with the breakdown of family life;

people waiting for delayed surgery, coping with pain;

those suffering from the ongoing effects of Covid 19;

children / young people suffering with mental health problems.

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 monthly newsletter to

[Newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:Newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)

**by Saturday 24 July**

**Good news is especially welcome!**