



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

3 October 2021

Message from the Manse

I wonder if you remember platform shoes? For men, that is!!!!



I guess you have to be of a certain age to do so. When I was a teenager, they were the height of fashion. I had a black and white pair, which I loved; I still have them. Over the years, I have often shown them off at school assemblies. Despite trying to persuade them not to laugh, the youngsters couldn't help themselves. In fact, I often had a hard job getting them to sober up.

The truth seems to be, that although platforms are still ok for women, they are unlikely to make a comeback for blokes. I could be wrong, I just find it difficult to think of my own children swooning at the thought of owning a pair. My platforms have long outlived their usefulness.

Of course, this is not just true of a peculiar type of shoe or other eccentric fashion items. All manner of things, have their moment, only to fade away. David Bowie even sang about fame in these terms; we could be heroes, he said, even if it was just for one day. It's how many imagine Christian faith today. It had its moment in the sun, now it ebbs away at the periphery of things. There is obviously some truth in this. But I will say, that something else I picked up in my teens was a faith in Jesus

Christ and it has proved a great deal more durable than my platform shoes. Indeed, not only has it helped me greatly as a person, it has helped me cope with some pretty challenging circumstances too.

So, I have a hunch that faith will endure. After all, there have been hard times before, but just when folks were about to write the obituary of the church, it came to life. At the end of the day, we are resurrection people, we live in hope. In a world where change and challenge are a constant, it can help provide the rich resources we need to thrive and endure.

Stephen



I hope some of you were able to visit Stuart Thompson and Robina Richter on the Emsworth Arts Trail, who were giving their profits to Christian Aid's water project in Kenya.

The money will help a community build an earth dam, providing a regular and reliable source of water in affected areas of Kenya. Robina is the Christian Aid organiser in Westbourne, organising Christian Aid week and other fund raising events.

The Emsworth Working Party will be holding our **Autumn Sale** on **Saturday 30th October** between 10 and 12.30 in International Hall. 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 IH on Friday 29th October between 4.30pm and 5.30pm.

Gill Cooper

A request from Jane

Please could I make a request regarding next month's Newsletter (the November issue?)

I will be away on holiday at the beginning of November, so I would be very grateful if you could send your contributions for the Newsletter by **Wednesday 27 October**, rather than by the 30th. Many thanks.

Jane

Action for Children

The latest research from Action for Children and the Child Poverty Action Group reveals the importance of the £20 uplift to Universal Credit for families after years of social security cuts.

The past decade has seen large cuts to social security. In March 2020, in the wake of the pandemic, the Government introduced a key policy to raise the Universal Credit standard allowance and Working Tax Credit maximum amount by £20 per week.

Working with the Child Poverty Action Group, Action for Children carried out research to assess the importance of this £20 increase. We particularly wanted to know to what extent the measure mitigates the damage caused by social security losses over the past decade for a typical working family.

Around 3.4 million children are living in households that claim Universal Credit, according to the latest statistics from the Department for Work and Pensions. The benefit is due to be cut in a month's time, on 6 October 2021.

You can find out more by visiting the Action for Children website: www.actionforchildren.org.uk

Jane Gregory

Pastoral Carers

There will be a Pastoral Committee meeting on **Thursday 7 October** at 2.00pm in International Hall. This will be our first opportunity to meet together since the start of the pandemic, and to share our pastoral work with Stephen. If you're unable to come to the meeting, please could you let me have an update?

I'm looking forward to it, and I hope to see you there.

Diana



Sunday Worship

There is no longer any need to book a seat for worship in church

Sunday 3 October at 10.00am

Worship led by Mrs Alison Rice

Sunday 10 October at 10.00am

Worship led by Revd Stephen Wright

Sunday 17 October at 10.00am

Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen Wright

Sunday 24 October at 10.00am

Worship led by Andrew Wilcock

Sunday 31 October at 10.00am

Worship led by Geoffrey Eardley; preacher Revd Geoffrey Senior

Sunday 7 November at 10.00am

Worship led by Revd Stephen Wright

Sunday 14 November at 10.00am **Remembrance Sunday**

Worship including an Act of Remembrance

led by Mrs Margaret Sawyer

Sunday 21 November at 10.00am

Holy Communion led by Revd Stephen Wright

Sunday 28 November at 10.00am

Morning Worship led by Mrs Milly Aquilina-Gray

If you have any questions about how to join in worship via Zoom or YouTube please ask Peter, or email

newsletter@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 minister's contact details shown on the front page of this Newsletter.

Appointment of Pastoral Centre Manager

I wish to thank Gill Cooper, Veronica Hickox, Jill Mandiwall, James Mant and Margaret Sawyer for their support with the recruitment and selection of the new Pastoral Centre Manager.

I am pleased to be able to report that Adrian Baldwin has been offered the post as the new Pastoral Centre Manager and has accepted. We have received all the required references and now only have to wait for the DBS Enhanced Disclosure. The District Lay Employment Adviser has approved the Written Statement of Terms and Conditions of Employment for the new Pastoral Centre Manager. Many of you will know Adrian as he carries out the cleaning of the church.

David Sawyer

Buying Postage Stamps to Support Mission Work in Sudan

The Anglican parish has, for some years, been offering this opportunity and raising money for the **Church Association for Sudan and South Sudan** (CASSS). This year they are hoping to encourage members of all the Emsworth churches to participate and help raise even more money.

You can buy your postage stamps at the normal Post Office price and give to mission work in Sudan at no extra cost!

Stamps are valid all year round.

Most will be the previous years' Christmas stamps, and cost:

First Class	85p
Second Class	66p

Bryan Wilson, from St James', is the coordinator, and I have agreed with him to be the link person for EMC. I will coordinate the requests, and order through him, and then let you have the stamps when they are available in early November. I will need to have your order by **Thursday 7th October** so that I can get the information to Bryan before his deadline. This is a very easy and practical way of buying your Christmas stamps, with the added bonus of helping people in Sudan at the same time. I do hope that, as a church, we will be able to give this valuable work our support.

Dot Warren



Prayer Prompts

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

God of breeze and sunshine, bless us;
God of wind and rain, refresh us;
God of gale and hail, invigorate us;
God of cyclone and snow, renew us;
God of creation, grant new birth to all your earth,
in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Graham Thompson,

Plymouth & Exeter District Chair, from Prayer Handbook.

Prayer suggestions:

Ourselves: that each day we will do all we can to care for God's Creation, knowing that small ways of helping (like avoiding plastic in our shopping) count.

For our grandchildren, their children and generations beyond, that they will learn from our mistakes and live joyfully, praising God for the beauty of the earth, and take responsibility that all people have sufficient to eat.

Remember:

All who are coping with Covid 19, patients, NHS staff; that we may care for each other and do all we can to stop it spreading.

Countries coping without vaccinations; places where there is no rain to produce food; other places where there have been floods and fire; that there will be an equal sharing for all.

Those losing homes and villages because of the volcano eruption in the Canaries.

Lonely people who say they have no friends. May we offer friendship to all whom we meet.

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 November newsletter to
newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org

by Wednesday 27 October