



# 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

**Revd Stephen Wright** tel: 023 9226 7381  
e-mail: [minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:minister@emsworthmethodistchurch.org)  
Church Office tel: 01243 373773  
website: [www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org](http://www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org)  
Registered Charity No 1127747

**Newsletter**

**December 2021**

## Message from the Manse

The story of Jesus's birth is brilliantly told. It will be rehearsed and retold in churches and schools across the land this month. And the dramatic events make it highly suitable for the latter. However, look a little closer and it touches on some very adult themes. There is an underside to the first Christmas, that we don't always appreciate.

For one thing, Jesus enters the world as one of those ruled by Caesar Augustus; the great Roman empire was extraordinary, but it was upheld by brute force and violence. This was something Caesar's appointee in Judah, Herod, knew a great deal about. From what we can make out, his slaughter of the innocents was not untypical. The magi who encountered him were respectable enough, but this cannot be said of the shepherds, who had an extremely dodgy reputation, akin perhaps to our second-hand car dealers. And of course, to top it all, the circumstances surrounding Jesus's birth itself meant that there was bound to be gossip about who was his father.



All in all, then, the Nativity bears ample testimony to a world that we know; a world touched by human frailty, not to mention downright darkness. But what might be its significance? Well, might it be that grim as the world can be, and dark its residents' behaviour, God does not turn away, but remains ready to engage with us and do us good. At the first Christmas, inhospitable as it must have seemed, God in Christ still came, and this we should understand, is not a one-off. For all our habit of messing up, God would still reach out to us and bless us. May we know the joy of his mercy and grace this Christmas.

**Stephen**

---

## **Christmas Services at Emsworth Methodist Church**

- 19 December 10.00am** Carol Service – Songs of Praise led by Dot Warren
- 24 December 9.00pm** Christmas Eve Communion led by Revd Stephen Wright via Zoom
- 25 December 10.00am** Christmas Morning Worship led by Revd Stephen Wright
- 26 December 11.00am** No service at Emsworth; join via Zoom with Petersfield Methodist Church (**NB: 11.00am**) led by Revd Stephen Wright
- 16 January 2022 10.00am** Annual Covenant Service led by Revd Stephen Wright



## Other services in December

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

**Sunday 5 December**

**Service of Holy Communion  
led by Revd Stephen Wright**

**Sunday 12 December**

**Morning Worship  
led by Miss Jean Hooper**

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)

## General Church Meeting

The General Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 March 2022.



## Carol Singing for Christian Aid

Carol Singing for Christian Aid will take place in The Square on Thursday 16 December.

*Please see page 8*



# A Little Bit of Advent: Jesus and Nativity

with  
Emsworth Methodist Church

Join Rev Stephen on Zoom for:

- A chat & catch up with a cuppa (bring your own!)
- A short devotion with an Advent theme using images from art
- A time of friendship & fellowship

Log in at 2pm on  
Wednesdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> December

## Action for Children

During our Christmas morning service there will be a special collection for Action for Children.

### Facts and figures

Action for Children supported **604,885** children, young people and their families in 2020–21. That's **64% more** than the previous year, thanks to new and expanded digital services.

Action for Children's mental health services reached more than **98,000** children, young people and parents. That's **up 291%** from the previous year.

**361,043** parents and carers accessed expert advice and information through the **Parent Talk** website.

And **Methodist supporters** of Action for Children raised **£330,000**, despite lockdown stopping or curtailing many of their activities.

If you would like to donate to Action for Children this Christmas, please use the envelopes provided in church on Christmas morning. Please place cash in the envelope, adding your church giving number, and place it in the offering plate. Or you can transfer money to the EMC account, sort code 20-69-34, account number 10698334, with your name and AFC as the reference.

Thank you.

***Jane Gregory***



## Meet Adrian Baldwin – our new Pastoral Centre Manager

Some people may already know or recognise me as I've been doing the cleaning since Tracey's departure.



I came to know the church through Christine Walters, for whom I've been working for four years. I've enjoyed working with and getting to know the people at Emsworth Methodist Church and Pastoral Centre, so when an opportunity arose to take on the role of Pastoral Centre Manager I jumped at the chance, and I'm really looking forward to getting to know more of you.

My employment background (aside from cleaning the Pastoral Centre) is largely office-based. I was a professional fundraiser for some 20 years and have worked with a range of charities supporting people with learning disabilities, people with mental health difficulties and the homeless. In addition to my current duties at the Pastoral Centre, I work for a Chichester-based boat decking company – where I produce their marketing literature and videos, as well as updating their website and social media sites.

In my spare time I like to relax by making music and travelling (with a particular fondness for Asia) – although Covid19 has, sadly, limited the opportunity for travel for the time being.

**Adrian**

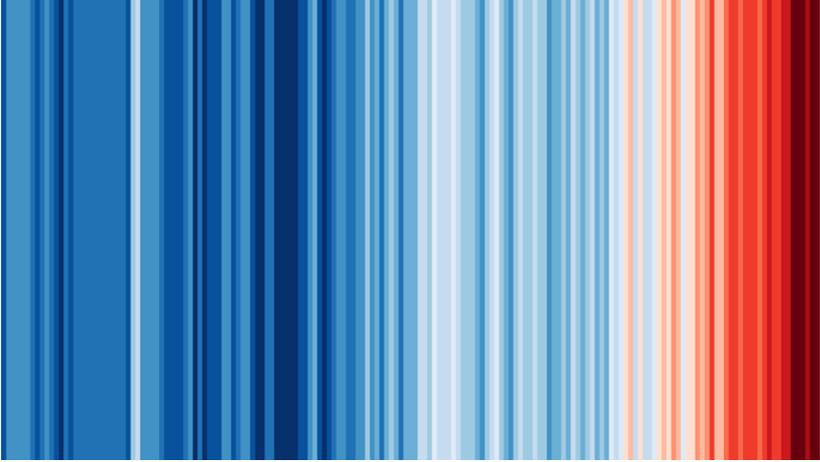
T

## Fund for Human Need

The special collection for the Fund for Human Need raised £862.50. Thank you all for your very generous donations, which will help in the vital work of supporting the most needy people in our country.



# Climate Stripes



Designed by Ed Hawkins for the University of Reading  
using data from the UK Met Office

Warming stripes for the globe from 1850–2020

## Verses from **A Hymn for the Planet**

(Based on '*How great Thou art*')

Forgive, O Lord, our selfish exploitation  
of earth's resources, treated as our own.  
Help us to end our reckless self-destruction  
and teach us all respect for nature's home.

*We bow in shame, creator God to you,  
How we have failed! How we have failed!*

*We bow in shame, creator God to you,  
How we have failed! How we have failed!*

Creation waits in eager expectation  
To see restored the beauty you once made.  
Help us to work to bring its liberation  
And see your glory once again displayed.

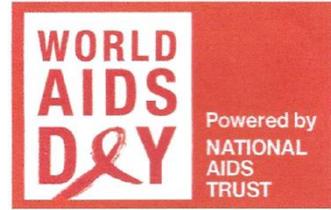
*Then we shall sing, our Saviour God to you,  
How great you are! How great you are!*

*Then we shall sing, our Saviour God to you,  
How great you are! How great you are!*

2019 Jeremy D. Davies (see Romans 8:19)  
Submitted by Alan and Veronica

## What is World AIDS Day?

World AIDS Day takes place on 1 December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.



## Why is World AIDS Day important?

Over 105,200 people are living with HIV in the UK. Globally, there are an estimated 38 million people who have the virus. Despite the virus only being identified in 1984, more than 35 million people have died of HIV or AIDS-related illnesses, making it one of the most destructive pandemics in history.

Today, scientific advances have been made in HIV treatment, there are laws to protect people living with HIV, and we understand so much more about the condition. Despite this, each year in the UK over 4,139 people are diagnosed with HIV, people do not know the facts about how to protect themselves and others, and stigma and discrimination remain a reality for many people living with the condition.

World AIDS Day is important because it reminds the public and government that HIV has not gone away – there is still a vital need to raise money, increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education.

*From The Methodist News*

---

## Christian Aid

Thank you to all who supported our Autumn Sale, we had a good morning and raised a magnificent £273.

As you know it has been a difficult time for Christian Aid, but over £5 million was raised nationally during Christian Aid week last year. The Working Party is looking at ways they can manage Christian Aid week next year and for other ways to raise much needed funds. If you have any ideas, please speak to one of us.

We will be **Carol Singing in The Square** on **Thursday 16 December** from **10am to noon** and hope some of you will be able to come along and 'swell the chorus'. We are also looking for people to collect money during the morning.

Thank you for your continued support.

***Gill Cooper, Margaret Sawyer and Marian Hughes***

## Methodist Youth President Elected for 2022/2023

Following the election held at this year's 3Generate, the Methodist Children and Youth Assembly, it has been announced that the Youth President for 2022/2023 will be James Carver from Nottingham. James will become the new Youth President at a service to be held in the autumn next year.

James, who is 22, attends Clifton Methodist Church in the Nottingham and Derby District. He is currently studying for a Masters in Criminology at Nottingham Trent University. James has previously been a Youth Rep with the Methodist Church, tackling issues of social justice and advocating for Methodist children and young people at the British Youth Council.

James said: 'I want to raise awareness of mental health issues and other conditions such as ADHD and autism that the Church needs to increase awareness of if it is to become truly inclusive.'

James is open about his own ADHD diagnosis, he is also partially deaf. 'It is so important that people talk about these issues. Without exposure to disabilities, people don't understand the conditions, their impact on daily life, and how to interact with those who live with them. It's better to be out in the open than to hide these things.



'I was involved with my Student Union in college as an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer and I want to bring some of that experience to the Youth President position. With young people's mental health having suffered so badly during Covid, I also want to give people some fun. I think young people need to enjoy themselves at Church.'

The Methodist Youth President is a salaried position working full-time for one year to serve the children and young people of the Methodist Church in Britain. The role involves meeting and representing the young Methodist people to ensure that their voices are heard and helping them be involved in every aspect of Church life.

## A message from Gill and Don Beckman



Dear friends

As Advent is here once more, we are remembering all our friends at EMC and we would like to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful time this Christmas. We pray that 2022 will be a successful year for us all.

We love to hear all the news from EMC and the marvellous things that are planned for the future – we do miss you so much. We pray for the church and wonder what God has in hand for us all.

Church life here is very low key compared to Emsworth, and it is only when you move away that you realise what a wonderful community you leave behind. Keep it up and bless you all, especially at this Christmas time.

Thank you all and love to everyone for the past and for the future.

*Gill and Don*

---

## Barrie Evans

We were sad to report recently that Barrie Evans had passed away. Our thoughts and sympathy are with Sylvia and family at this sad time.

Barrie's funeral will take place in church on **Friday, 17 December** at **10.00am**, and will be followed by a private family cremation at The Oaks at 11.30am.

It is hoped to provide refreshments afterwards in International Hall.

---

## A message from Dot

**Free to a Good Home...** (or perhaps I should say, Garden.)

Can you make use of a rotary composter? It has been used, but I've cleaned it up and it is in 'nearly new' condition. It is a Squeeze Master 160L. Or perhaps you know someone else who might like it?

**Dot**

## Sermons and Scissors

*From the Methodist News*

*The Revd Darren Middleton explains why he is training to be a hairdresser*

In July this year, whilst on Sabbatical, I decided to train in hairdressing and barbering at GHQ Training Academy, Plymouth. It struck me that, as we emerged from lockdown, next to seeing family and friends, hair was high on the agenda – people wanted hair salvation!

As a Presbyterian in the Methodist Church I am challenged by our missional drive to be new people in new places. If we are to make a difference within our communities and be the presence of God's love in Jesus, then we need to get out from behind our church walls. As a former Chaplain in the British Army (Commando Trained), I know the power of presence within a specific community.

There is no surprise to my four congregations that I am engaging a new challenge, having also been a West End dancer. Hairdressing is the perfect tool to engage the wider community. The salon is a place where people come from all backgrounds and places to have some personal time that is solely for themselves. A space is given to each client to be themselves and talk, or not! Part of the service that a hairdresser gives is to listen. The salon experience is a holistic one – pampering for the hair, nurturing for the soul.



*Darren Middleton styles the hair of a member of his congregation*

I didn't realise just how compatible sermons and scissors are but in fact, they are synonymous. Especially if one considers a sermon something that is lived in the community and not just spoken from a pulpit.

My hope (vision) is to give this experience to people who need it but can't afford it; those who cannot go to a salon for whatever reason – the homeless and the outsider, the refugee, those suffering with

mental illness and those who just need to be loved and given space to be... In commercial salons this service is not possible due to the need to make profit. My vision is, once qualified, to have a salon that is not profit-driven, but people focused; having the ability and resources to give people that bespoke experience to grow in confidence, well-being and joy. God is calling me to provide a different kind of service – one that engages hair and heart.



## Prayer Prompts

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

### ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

Light a candle in a darkened place,  
in its flame see hope on every face,  
Christ our Saviour will be born,  
heralding a brand new dawn,  
so let it burn.

**Claire Stainsby, StF 174**

Jesus, be born in my heart and mind every day, and may my face shine with your love for all people. Amen

**Suggestion:** particularly for those who live on their own, *each day during Advent, light a candle* (in a safe & quiet place) *and perhaps pray the above prayer and/or remember those we know in need.*

**Pray for:** those who find wintertime dark and oppressive; parents stressed by the cost of Christmas; that all may understand the real meaning of Christmas. Those who are homeless on our streets; people we know in Care Homes; all who mourn the loss of loved ones.

**Remember:** all who are hungry, homeless, in refugee camps; refugees trying to cross the Channel; people hit by climate warming, with floods, fire, famine, or where the rains have failed.

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 January newsletter to**  
[newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org) or  
[jane@janegregory.co.uk](mailto:jane@janegregory.co.uk)

**by Saturday 18 December**