



# 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**

**February 2022**

## Message from the Manse

Yesterday (to be exact 18 January) I saw a TV advert for Christmas 2022!! To be fair, it did concern a monthly savings scheme, which would allow someone to have some money to spend in December, but I was still rather shocked. It certainly makes me feel completely at ease about advertising something that is happening in March.

Last Autumn, our Church Council established a review group to look at our worship, and eventually agreed to two main changes which will take effect from March. The first concerns the re-establishment of Café Church on the first Sunday of a month. The format is not expected to be quite as before, but we hope it will be a more relaxed, informal service – something different from a normal Methodist service. A small team will be working with me on this; more updates will follow in due course, and we hope that you will be willing to share with us in this exciting new form of worship.

The other matter concerns our ecumenical services with St James. In the end, with St James' agreement, we decided that the second Sunday of the month united morning service had reached the end of its life. Of course, our links with St James are very important and we wanted some way of affirming this. Consequently, from March we plan to hold an evening service on the second Sunday evening of the month, to which our Anglican friends are invited. It is again designed to be something different from our

usual way of doing things. We are calling it a reflective service, as the aim will be to make it a quiet, prayerful, meditative event. At the same time, on the other Sundays when we have no evening service, I know we will be very welcome at St James on a first Sunday evening or St Thomas à Becket, Warblington, on a third Sunday evening.

Change can be challenging, so your prayers as well as your support, would be greatly appreciated.

*Stephen*



*A conversation*

## **Church Services in February**

**6 February 2022 10.00am** Morning worship  
led by Mrs Milly Aquilina-Gray

**13 February 2022 10.00am** Morning worship  
led by Mrs Wendy Corney

**20 February 2022 10.00am** Service of Holy Communion  
led by Revd Stephen Wright

**27 February 2022 10.00am** 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)

## Christian Aid Carol Singing

On 16 December 2021 we sang carols in The Square and raised a magnificent £284.79, which is £100 up on 2019. During the morning we enjoyed a welcome cup of coffee in a very festive Pastoral Centre, then sang a couple of carols with the visitors to the Pastoral Centre joining in. Some of us went back to the Centre to enjoy delicious turkey sandwiches, making it a most enjoyable morning.

Thank you to all who supported us.

*Gill Cooper*



## Ladies Group

The themes for the Ladies Group meetings in February are:

### Wednesday 9 February

*Come Dancing!* with Gill and Judy

### Wednesday 23 February

*The Road to Easter* with Revd Bill Stillwell



Meetings are held at **7.00pm** in International Hall.

# General Church Meeting

Our annual General Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 March at 7.30pm. As it is only some six months since our deferred 2021 GCM, this will be a short meeting, to be followed by the March Church Council, previously scheduled for 22 March. Those attending the GCM who are not Church Council members will be most welcome at the meeting of the Council following the GCM. A Zoom link will be circulated in due course for those wishing to join us online.

At our GCM we shall be appointing Church Stewards, and electing Representatives to Church Council, for the year to 30 April 2023. For some time now, we have had only two Church Stewards, Dot Warren and David Sawyer. Dot will be stepping down this year at the end of April, having served as a steward for seven years. We express our thanks to Dot for the enormous contribution she has made to the life of our church, and especially for having agreed to serve for an additional year during the pandemic. Although David is in his sixth year as a steward, (and indeed only had a short break from a previous term as a steward), we are most grateful for his willingness to continue for a further year.

Please give prayerful consideration as to whether you are being called to serve as a Church Steward, and do make every effort to join us for this important meeting in the life of our church.

Nominations for Church Stewards and Representatives to Church Council should be received in writing by Alan Hickox, Church Council Secretary, or by Revd Stephen Wright, by Sunday 27 February.



## Environment and Climate Change

*It is the task of God's people to listen to the prophetic voices in our midst and to change direction, to take action, to do something.*

The Revd Sonia Hicks, President of the Methodist Conference, 2021–22

**Acknowledging the climate crisis, at the 2021 Methodist Conference an aspirational target of becoming a net zero emissions Church by 2030 was agreed.**

For more information, go to <https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-work/our-work-in-britain/environment-and-climate-change>



## Action for Children

The total raised in the Christmas collection for Action for Children was £731.25. On behalf of Action for Children, thank you to all who contributed so generously.

*Jane Gregory*



# Lent

The Christian Aid Working party are asking you to join us in collecting **40p for 40 days** during Lent. You may recall we introduced this in 2020; sadly our plans were interrupted, although many of you continued to collect, for which we were very grateful. We've suggested 40p per day, but would be grateful for any amount, as Christian Aid are in desperate need of our help. This is what they are saying:



***People are starving in Afghanistan, with more than 8 million on the brink of famine.***

*Drought, the war in Afghanistan and the Covid-19 pandemic are causing a catastrophic rise in hunger. Children are dying today, and a million more under the age of five are at risk of dying over the next three months. We need to act now to save lives.*

We will be holding a Lent Lunch in the Church on Saturday 19 March from 12.00–2.00pm and a Coffee Morning on Saturday 16 April from 10.00am to noon, when people can return their '40p for 40 days' money. We would love you to join us if you are able.

*Gill Cooper, Margaret Sawyer and Marian Hughes*

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## An Update on Food Donations

A big 'Thank you' to those of you who have already started making donations of food again. I have made two deliveries already to the New Life Church 'Love your Neighbour Campaign', and each time I was very warmly welcomed. They are so pleased and grateful to have our support for their work. It is a huge operation and they are all volunteers. There are so many families in our local community who are really struggling, who are benefiting from this wonderful service. If you haven't donated before, perhaps you could consider this, if you are able. It is a wonderful way of giving thanks for all God's gifts to us all.

Keep the donations coming! Many thanks.

*Dot*

**A reminder of the food items requested:** Teabags, instant coffee, drinking chocolate, fruit juice and squash. Tinned meat, fish, vegetables, soup, fruit and milk puddings. Cereals (including porridge), pasta, rice, sauces, biscuits, jams and spreads. Basic toiletries and loo rolls.

## Racial Justice Sunday

Sunday 13 February

The Methodist Church has celebrated Racial Justice Sunday (RJS) since 1989, on the second Sunday in September. Since September 1995 RJS has become an ecumenical event celebrated in Britain and Ireland. RJS moved to the second Sunday in February, with effect from 2017. This Sunday is an opportunity for all Christians to join together in:

- **Reflecting** on the importance of racial justice
- **Thanksgiving** for human diversity
- **Prayer** for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice
- **Action** that truly makes a difference
- **Fundraising** for national and local racial justice initiatives

For more on Racial Justice Sunday, see the CTBI website at <https://ctbi.org.uk>



## Fun and Friendship



You may be aware that over many years we have operated an Activities Group, most recently on Tuesday afternoons in International Hall, which has attracted lots of ladies (and one or two men) from our local community. In recent years this has been run by Laura and Mandy. Obviously it all came to a halt during the pandemic, but now that we have Adrian in post, we are hoping to get it started again.

We had our first get together on Thursday 27 January, with 14 very enthusiastic participants! Sessions will now take place regularly every week on **Thursday mornings from 10.30am in the Hall**. We will have the usual Knit and Natter, and games sessions, and a variety of other activities. It will all be very informal and friendly, so if you happen to be free on a Thursday morning, do come along and join us for a time of relaxing fun!

*Dot*

## **Methodist Women in Britain**

This year Methodist Women in Britain plan to celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year with a garden party at Epworth Old Rectory in June. More details of this and many other initiatives can be found in the MWIB Newsletter, which was recently circulated by Alan.

Our MWIB representative is Judy Emerson.



**Methodist Women  
in Britain** 2011-2021

for women, for justice, for Christ

### **MWIB Easter Offering**

Each year, the Methodist Church holds an Easter Offering dedication service. This tradition dates back to 1883, when women in Manchester collected £32 for missionary work overseas from 'Christmas pennies' at family gatherings on Christmas Day. In March 1884, the London Districts distributed Easter envelopes and collecting bags asking for a penny a head, and collected around £100. In 1900, Women's Work raised £1,655 for the work of overseas missions.

Since then, each successive Methodist women's movement has encouraged donations in support of God's mission. Recently, Methodist Women in Britain (supported by the Global Relationships team) have produced an annual service of dedication, often used widely around the Connexion as a circuit service.

All the money raised through the Easter Offering goes to the World Mission Fund of the Methodist Church in Britain for work in our Partner Churches around the world. Since Methodist Women in Britain began in 2011, over £3 million has been raised for the World Mission Fund.

# Methodist Women in Britain Connexional Residential Weekend (Swanwick)

## Surviving by Hope

Friday 22nd – Sunday 24th April 2022

**The Hayes Conference Centre  
Swanwick, Derbyshire DE55 1AU  
Keynote Speaker: Jill Baker**



We are pleased to tell you that we have opened bookings for the Methodist Women in Britain Connexional Residential Weekend (known previously as Swanwick) 22–24 April 2022.

This year there is the option to meet in person or to connect online through Zoom.

Go to the [website](#) for more details and to download the booking form.

We hope to see you there!  
Thanks

**Irene Hayes**  
Communications Coordinator  
[communications.mwib@gmail.com](mailto:communications.mwib@gmail.com)

\*\*\*Please note this is the new email address for the Communications Coordinator of Methodist Women in Britain\*\*\*

# Christians Together in Emsworth – Meeting 11 January 2022

**Welcome letter to new build houses** – Our Chair, Revd Andrew Sheard, was keen that all residents in the various new local developments should receive a letter of welcome from CTiE and a copy of our leaflet in an envelope.

**Website Report** – We were advised by Stuart Thompson (RC) that our website is being well used and the number of visitors during 2021/22 was almost double the number during 2020/21.

**Christmas 2021** – Once again 6,000 cards were delivered and were well received. Also we were advised that there had been some amazing window decorations as part of the Advent Calendar.

## Planning for Easter

**1) Cards** – Paul Chapman (Anglican) to discuss size and design with printers; hopefully to have image of bonfire inside and Christian image on the front.

**2) Children's activities** – Revd Jo Northey (Anglican) discussed the proposal to ask children to decorate an egg. This is under consideration.

**3) Walk of Witness** – This will be mainly an outside event due to Covid, starting at the URC, processing to the foreshore and finishing in The Square. Methodist Church to provide refreshments.

**4) 6am Sunrise Service** – this will go ahead on Easter Sunday.

**5) Cross in The Square** – this is still under discussion.

**Pastoral Centre** – Dot told the Committee that the Centre is now open from 10am – noon Mondays and Wednesdays and 10am – 1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It is hoped soon to open on Friday mornings as well from 10am – noon, and eventually to extend all five mornings to 1pm.

**Future Meetings** – Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 7.30pm at Ss Thomas' RC Church – Ordinary and Annual General Meetings.  
Thursday 15 September at 7.30pm at Baptist Church.

*Sue D*



*Haslemere Methodist Church*  
*Celebrates 50 years on the present site*  
*at Lion Green, Haslemere, GU27 1LD*

You are invited to join us for a special service to celebrate this Jubilee Year on

*Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm*

The Preacher will be

*Revd. Andrew de Ville*

*Chair of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church*

The service will be followed by

*Afternoon Tea*

*Please do come and join in our celebration*



## Prayer Prompts

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

God of all grace, you do not need us to agree with one another, but you do call us to love one another, just as you love us. We know your love to be generous and gracious. You created us to be a part of your diverse creation, richer for being a gift, not a threat to one another. So give us courage every day, not just to worship you, but to follow where your love leads. Amen

*From: Prayer Handbook, by Helen Cameron, Northampton District Chair*

**Let us hold before God:** Those who mourn and cope with grief, as they miss loved ones. People estranged from family because of disagreement. The Family of our Church: may each one feel welcome, knowing they have gifts to share, in the love of God. For our worship services: those able to attend, others sharing via Zoom, and all who worship with us via YouTube. May the love and glory of God be seen.

**In our world we pray for:** all attempts to stop earth warming and for the steps we can make to care for God's creation. We remember the people of Ukraine and the fear of war; give to all who make decisions, wisdom, compassion and respect. Pray for refugees everywhere and places where there is war and also famine.



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

**by Saturday 26 February 2022**