



# 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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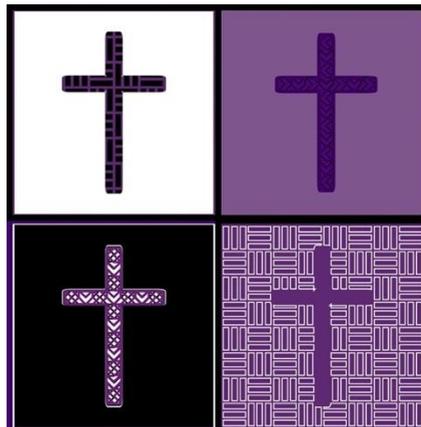
**Newsletter**

**March 2022**

## *Message from the Manse*

### **The Mathematics of Lent**

Ash Wednesday, on 2 March, marks the beginning of Lent, a season when Christians begin to look toward Easter and which is invariably associated with giving up stuff. The usual candidates are chocolates and cake, but a quick glance online reveals that it can almost be anything. Here are 10 that I found recommended: gossip, social media, swearing, alcohol, complaining, online shopping, clutter, fast food, single use plastic and (the obvious one) hot showers!! I'm sure you can think of other possibilities. However, Lent has never just been about ceasing from certain activities – it also comes with an emphasis on what might be done, or done with fresh vigour. Again, online sources provide some interesting examples: pray (or pray for a specific person or with a particular end in view), take regular physical exercise, read a Christian book, follow the events of Jesus' passion in one of the gospels, get to grips with one of the great issues of



the day, be a better, more considerate neighbour and friend. Again, I'm sure you get the idea.

If Lenten subtracting and addition is your kind of thing, it is good to know that there is a rationale and a reason behind it all. It presumes (correctly, I think) that we are creatures of habit, that a one-off activity or attitude easily becomes ingrained behaviour, for our benefit or for our harm. Lent is a kind of reset, whereby we seek to install best practice, which in the end becomes our default setting. In other words, the aim is not just to change for Lent, but for keeps. If Lent challenges are for you, I pray you may know God's aid as you add or take away.

## *Stephen*

### **Mothering Sunday 2022**

**27 March**



Many people will be familiar with the origins of Mothering Sunday: and perhaps like me, you feel annoyed when people call it Mother's Day instead.

I found some more interesting information about the history of the day. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century, people used to return to their 'mother church' on the fourth Sunday in Lent; this was either the church where a person was christened, or their local parish church or cathedral. A person doing so was said to have 'gone a-mothering', although whether this term preceded the observance of Mothering Sunday is unclear.

In later times it became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers or family members. It was often the only time that families could gather together, as servants were not given free days on other occasions.

Children would pick wild flowers on the way to place in the church or to give to their mothers. This religious tradition eventually evolved into the secular tradition of giving gifts to mothers. I'll always remember my shock at the size and expense of gifts in shops for Mother's Day in Australia!

Another tradition that has rather lost sight of its origins is that of making **Simmel cakes**. A Simmel cake is a type of fruit cake that contains plenty of marzipan and is eaten at Easter, although it used to be specifically associated with Mothering Sunday. When people were fasting during Lent, Mothering Sunday, appearing in the middle of the fast, offered a respite from 40 days of religious austerity.



But if you go to buy one in Heidi's today, they will insist that Simmel cakes are just for Easter! *Jane*

*Photo by James Petts*

*Information from 'Journeys of a Lifetime'*

## **Monetary Donations to the New Life Church Food Bank**

Several people have asked me recently about making monetary donations to the New Life Church *Love Your Neighbour* food bank. Here is the link to the appropriate page on their website. They will be very grateful.

Thank you.

*Dot*

[New Life Christian Church \(newlifechurch.me\)](http://newlifechurch.me)

## **Christian Aid**

The Working Party have decided to hold a House-to-House collection during Christian Aid week but know we have lost some of our collectors, so have decided to try some other fundraising events.

You are invited to a simple lunch of bread, cheese and soup on Saturday 19 March from 12.00–2.00pm in the Church, and a Coffee and Cake morning on 16 April from 10.00am to noon, when people can return their '40p for 40 days' money.

If anyone feels able to bake a cake for 16 April, we would be very grateful.

*Gill Cooper, Margaret Sawyer and Marian Hughes*

## Sunday Services

As you will have read in Stephen's message in last month's Newsletter, we have plans for increasing the opportunities for worship from the beginning of March. We are very pleased that Café Church, albeit in a slightly different format from previously, will recommence on the first Sunday morning of each month. Then on the second Sunday evening of each month, we plan to hold a service which will be quiet and reflective in nature.

We are also very pleased that Stephen has been having some positive conversations with Revd Andrew Sheard about our shared life and worship together with our Anglican friends. They have recently restarted their monthly evening services, at St James' on first Sundays, and St Thomas à Becket, Warblington, on third Sundays. We are warmly invited to join with them for these services. In the same way, we are inviting our Anglican friends to join us for our monthly evening services. We do hope that these opportunities will help to bring us back together again.

Thank you to Stephen and those of you who have been working quietly behind the scenes to make all of this possible. *Dot*

### Church Services in March

**6 March 10.00am**

**Café Church**

led by Revd Stephen Wright

**6.30pm**

**Holy Communion at St James'**

*to which we are all invited*

**13 March 10.00am**

**Morning worship**

led by Revd Dr John Illesley

**using the Circuit Digital Service**

**6.30pm**

**Reflective Evening Service**

led by Revd Stephen Wright

**20 March 10.00am**

**Service of Holy Communion**

led by Revd Stephen Wright

**6.30pm**

**Evensong at St Thomas à Becket**

*to which we are all invited*

**27 March 10.00am**

**Morning Worship**

led by Celia Withers

## Ladies Group

The themes for the Ladies Group meetings in March are:

### Wednesday 9 March

*The Road to the Isles* with Jane Gregory



### Wednesday 23 March

*Close Encounters – before and during Covid* with David Harris

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



## Church Anniversary

There will be a special service on Sunday 22 May at 10.00am, led by Trevor Durston.

Now retired, Trevor was CEO of The Leprosy Mission International from September 1993 to October 2006, and was for many years a Mission Partner for the Methodist Church Overseas Division, working in Nepal.

He lives in Chippenham.

# LGBT+ History Month

To mark LGBT+ History Month (February 2022), the Revd Jill Marsh, Inclusive Church Implementation Officer, has shared this prayer:

God of all love, justice and truth  
We praise you that we are each  
wonderfully made.  
We confess to you that people from the  
LGBT+ community have often been  
treated with disrespect, prejudice and  
even hatred,  
Sometimes especially by the Church,  
And for that we are truly sorry.



May we approach each other recognising that we are all your children.  
Where we do not understand, give us open and inquiring minds.  
When we disagree, give us kindness and open ears.  
As we are all different, help us to celebrate all that is good in one another.  
By your Holy Spirit, help us to see all that unites us.  
In the name of Jesus we pray,  
Amen

From *The Methodist News*

## An Easter Celebration 2022 A new CD from Methodist Publishing

This year's Easter CD is available to [pre-order from Methodist Publishing](#). This year's theme is **Resurrection Faith: A Place to Belong**. We discover how Methodist churches are creating new places for people to belong and we share Easter hymns, readings and reflections from the President and Vice President of the Methodist Conference.

Publication date is 23 March. Please click on the link above and enter your email address, and you'll receive an email once the item is in stock.

## In Memory of Betty Butler (Elizabeth Anne) 30 August 1931 – 8 January 2022

Betty was a loyal member of Emsworth Methodist Church for well over twenty years; we have very much missed seeing Betty at morning worship, due to both the pandemic and her declining health. Two words that stand out for me in the lovely tribute made by the family at her funeral on 1 February were “Kindness” and “Grace”. For many years Betty worked in the coffee bar on Tuesday afternoons, where she used some of her many practical skills.

Donations, in her memory, if desired, can be made to Oxfam directly at: <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/donate/>  
Or by cheque, made payable to Oxfam and sent c/o W. Wraight & Son.

*Margaret Sawyer*

## Walking with Micah

From *The Methodist News*

What does a just world look like? What should the Methodist Church’s priorities be in speaking and acting for justice? The Walking with Micah project has launched local Justice Conversations to run between February and June 2022 to hear what matters in Methodist communities.

What are Justice Conversations? Well, the conversations can take many forms – intergenerational, during worship, over Zoom or in person – and anyone involved in the life of Methodist churches is invited to take part. At the heart of each Conversation is a commitment to listen to people’s experience of injustice, to ask where God’s justice is, and to collect feedback for the Walking with Micah project to find out what matters to Methodists. You can see a recording of a training webinar explaining more about the Conversations, and read and find FAQs [here](#).



To find out more about Walking with Micah and watch a short film from the project’s leader, Rachel Lampard, click [here](#).

## fun and friendship

With certainly a lot of fun, and some very friendly chatter, the first few sessions of this group have gone really well, and have been much appreciated by those attending.

Here is our programme for March. All sessions are on Thursdays from 10.30am in the Hall.

3<sup>rd</sup>      **Knit and Natter**  
            or just natter, or play a game

10<sup>th</sup>     **Memories**  
            bring along something that means a lot to you and  
            reminds you of your childhood

17<sup>th</sup>     **Table Games**

24<sup>th</sup>     **Easter Card Making**

31<sup>st</sup>     **Beetle Drive**



If you happen to have any spare left-over wool, preferably DK or Aran, even very small amounts, we would be very grateful to receive it – thank you.



And if you are free on a Thursday morning and would like to have a bit of fun in good company, please come along and join us!      *Dot*

## Emsworth Men's Shed

A small band of volunteers has now finished converting the old pigeon loft on the Community Centre site into a bright and spacious well-equipped workshop, and the group has joined the national Men's Shed Association.

Men's Sheds ('Sheds') are places to pursue practical interests at leisure, to practise skills and enjoy making and mending. The difference between garden sheds, where the activity is often solitary in nature, and Men's Sheds couldn't be more different, as Sheds are about social interaction and friendship building, sharing skills and knowledge, and of course a lot of laughter (and coffee!) The Emsworth Shed also welcomes any ladies who would like to develop or share practical woodworking or other skills.

The Emsworth Shed members are always happy to receive any surplus tools or workshop equipment, and will undertake shed or garage clearances. They are also happy to look at projects for local community groups.

If you would like to know more, just pop in; they are currently open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10.00 to 13.00, or contact shed member and secretary Linda Hunt on [menshedeca@gmail.com](mailto:menshedeca@gmail.com)



*Garden Shed Meonstoke by Peter Facey*

## A date for your diary

**Sunday 13 March**    **Special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service**  
at Haslemere Methodist Church  
**4.00pm**  
Preacher: **Revd Andrew de Ville**



# Five W ords for Lent:

Studies F rom L uke  
with  
Emsworth M ethodist C hurch

Join Rev Stephen on Zoom for:

- A chat & catch up with a cuppa (bring your own!)
- A short reflection with a Lent theme
- A time of friendship & fellowship

Log in on Wednesdays at 2pm  
16<sup>th</sup> March – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022

The Zoom link will be provided separately

## **A prayer for peace in Ukraine**

Holy and Gracious God

We pray for the people of Ukraine and the people of Russia; for their countries and their leaders.

We pray for all those who are afraid; that your everlasting arms hold them in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death; that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war; that they will remember that you direct your people to turn our swords into ploughshares and seek for peace.

We pray for leaders on the world stage; that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ.

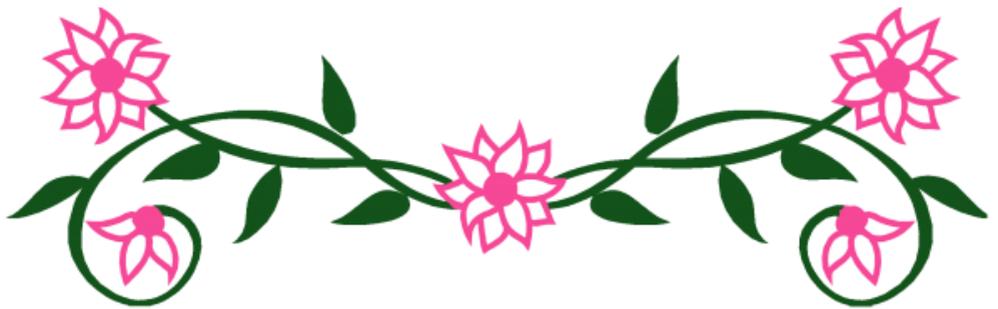
Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for Ukraine.

And we ask this in the name of your blessed Son.

Lord have mercy.

**Amen**

*Prayer by Barbara Easton, Vice-President of the Methodist Conference*





## Prayer Prompts

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

Eternal and loving God, your days and your love are without end. You are always with me, ahead of me, guiding, calling me to follow Jesus. I depend on you and remember your goodness to me and to those who have gone before. At this time with war in Europe and other parts of the world, especially the Middle East, I feel anxious about what will happen next; and Lord God, I am weary about coping with the pandemic. Help me to keep close to you during this time of Lent: in prayer, in quiet times of listening to you and thinking about you, in reading the stories when Jesus was tested and called on you for strength. Help me God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to lean on you. *Amen*

**Let us remember in prayer:** the people of Ukraine and their close neighbours in Europe; the United Nations and Leaders and Governments. That the love of God unites us in respect and kindness for each other in our diversity. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

**Remember people known to us,** the bereaved and grieving; those who are sick, in hospital or home; the whole family of our church; all who face changes in life; those who care for others. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

**Pray for** the NHS, local doctors, nurses, therapists, all who run the new surgery buildings. Our own families and friends. All who are still disturbed with Covid and the letting go of rules and regulations; all affected by 'Long Covid', struggling with daily life. ***Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.***

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

**by Saturday 26 March 2022**