



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 number 1127747

Newsletter

October 2025

Community

We all like to feel that we are part of a community. Probably the deepest longing of the human heart is to have significant relationships in which to feel safe and secure, trusted and accountable, honest and open – and above all in which to love and be loved.

These are relationships in which no one is superior or arrogant, but in which each party has a humble attitude of service to the others. This enables all members to derive life-giving freedom from and give life-giving freedom to each other. In true community each person can use their gifts and talents to the full – they can be fully human. It is the kind of unity to which the Church aspires, and not surprisingly, because it is the kind of unity we find in God as Trinity.

It is natural for human beings to yearn for community because we were created in the image of God who is by nature community. The problem is that our selfishness and pride cause the breakdown of relationships both with God and one another.

The solution to the problem is Jesus's cross – the ideal symbol for the healing of relationships both vertically with God and horizontally with one another.

Humanly speaking there are two things to do:

1. accept that Jesus's death and resurrection have made the healing of relationships possible;
2. lose no opportunity for the building of relationships in community, so that the way God is in heaven can be reflected amongst his people on earth.

Church is a key place in which to do both of those, and local churches provide places for community in congregations and small groups. As Methodists we are a 'connexional' church. This means that although the local church is the place where ministry and mission and the building of personal relationships in community takes place, we are also connected with other local churches – especially in the Circuit.

The community of congregations was well expressed in the Circuit celebrations on 14 September. People from various congregations were able to meet and talk and get to know one another better over food, and celebrate our community and unity as we face the realities of our diverse locations together – all symbolised by sharing together in communion.

David Muskett



Bulrushes at Alreside Meadow

Church Services in October

5 October 10.00am

Café Church

led by Revd David Muskett

12 October 10.00am

Morning Worship

using the Circuit Digital Service

6.30pm

Holy Communion at St James

to which we are invited

19 October 10.00am

Service of Holy Communion

led by Revd David Muskett

6.30pm

Evensong at St Thomas à Becket

to which we are invited

26 October 10.00am

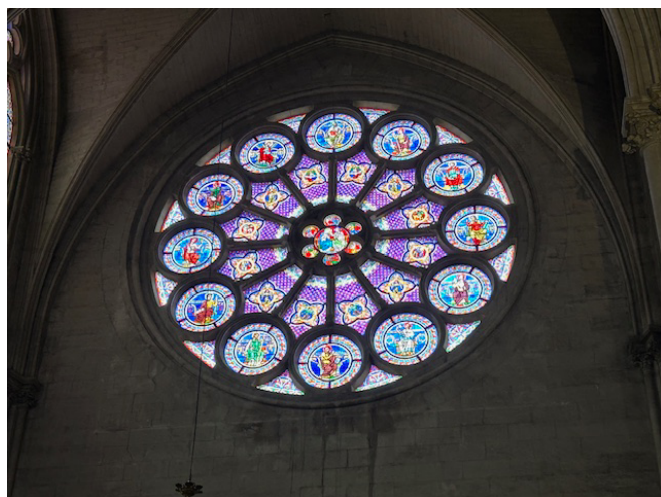
Morning Worship

led by Revd Andrew Sheard

6.30pm

Reflective Evening Service

led by Revd David Muskett



Special Days in October

12

Homelessness Sunday

Homelessness Sunday is organised by the ecumenical charity Housing Justice. It takes place on the Sunday before World Homeless Day, which is on 10 October. The event encourages churches to consider what they can do to help alleviate homelessness.

12–18

Prisons Week

Prisoners' Sunday marks the first day of ecumenical Prisons Week, a week of prayer which raises awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system.

The theme this year is *'Jesus looked at him and loved him' (Mark 10:21), and he looks at you and loves you too.*



19

Freedom Sunday

Freedom Sunday is an opportunity for the church family to deepen their understanding of God's heart for justice, discover the realities of modern slavery, and join the fight to end it.

20–27

One World Week

One World Week seeks to raise awareness and understanding of the injustices which cause poverty and conflict across the planet and in our local communities, and threaten the future of our children.

27

Bible Sunday

Of the more than 7,000 documented languages in the world today, over half do not have written Christian scriptures. This means that 209 million people do not, or cannot, possess any part of the Bible in their own language.

Although usually observed on the last Sunday in October, Bible Sunday may be marked on any (or every!) Sunday.



Thursday 2 October is **National Poetry Day**. Here's one of the Editor's favourite poems.

Old Furniture

I know not how it may be with others
Who sit amid relics of householdry
That date from the days of their mothers' mothers,
But well I know how it is with me
Continually.

I see the hands of the generations
That owned each shiny familiar thing
In play on its knobs and indentations,
And with its ancient fashioning
Still dallying:

Hands behind hands, growing paler and paler,
As in a mirror a candle-flame
Shows images of itself, each frailer
As it recedes, though the eye may frame
Its shape the same.

On the clock's dull dial a foggy finger,
Moving to set the minutes right
With tentative touches that lift and linger
In the wont of a moth on a summer night,
Creeps to my sight.

On this old viol, too, fingers are dancing –
As whilom – just over the strings by the nut,
The tip of a bow receding, advancing
In airy quivers, as if it would cut
The plaintive gut.

And I see a face by that box for tinder,
Glowing forth in fits from the dark,
And fading again, as the linden cinder
Kindles to red at the flinty spark,
Or goes out stark.

Well, well. It is best to be up and doing,
The world has no use for one today
Who eyes things thus – no aim pursuing!
He should not continue in this stay,
But sink away.

Thomas Hardy, 1840–1928



Image by clairegelas from Pixabay

fun and friendship

Thursday mornings at 10.30am in International Hall

2 October

Knit and Natter

9 October

Hoy Bingo!

16 October

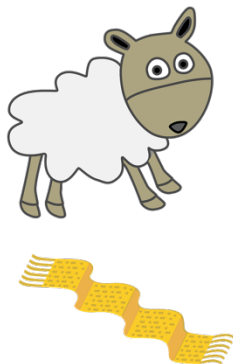
Quiz

23 October

Arty Crafty

30 October

Table Games



Wednesday Group

2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm in International Hall. All are welcome

8 October

**An evening of dance
with Gill Cooper
and Judy Emerson**

22 October

**Gardeners to the landed gentry
with Dot Warren**



Image by Steve Crowhurst from Pixabay

Christian Aid

Thank you to everyone who supported the Home Produce Sale; we had some wonderful fruit and vegetables and delicious jams and preserves, and made the magnificent sum of £428.92.

The Men's Shed joined us, selling insect homes and bird boxes, and donated 50% of their takings to Christian Aid. Our next event is a Coffee and Cake sale on Saturday 1 November from 10.00am until noon. Please come and join us for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Money raised during Christian Aid week 2025 has helped women in Guatemala access tools and training so that they can build rainwater collection systems, cultivate native seeds and grow nutritious crops that are more resilient to extreme weather.

Thank you for your support.

Gill, Margaret and Marian



Harvest Offerings

Many of you will remember that we had a lovely Sunday recently to celebrate and give thanks for Harvest, with an inspiring service followed by a delicious lunch. A good number of gifts were brought forward during the service for the One Church Foodbank, and people were very generous with their donations afterwards to cover the cost of lunch. After deduction for food costs, the sum of £130.00 was forwarded to the Foodbank.

Thank you very much everyone – it is all so much appreciated. The need for the Foodbank is as great as ever, and there is always a high demand for food items, but toiletries are also very much needed basics.

So – please keep them coming!

Thank you! *Dot*





3–5 October at the NEC Birmingham

3Generate is an event for children and young people aged 4–18, and includes various activities, workshops, and worship sessions designed to help young people explore their faith, develop leadership skills, and make a positive impact in their communities.

The focus for 2025 is 'Journey of a Lifetime'.

3Generate is open to 8–17 year-olds (those in school year 13) and, in an exciting recent development, now welcomes 4–7 year-olds and accompanying significant adults into their own 3Generate space on the Saturday.

If you know any young people (or parents of younger children) who may be interested in attending 3Generate, please ask them to go to:

<https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQ2LTEwNQ/t>

For more information, go to <https://www.methodist.org.uk/for-churches/ministries/children-youth-family-ministry/3generate/>, or email 3Generate@methodistchurch.org.uk



Adapted from The Methodist News

Disability Awareness Sunday

Theme: 'Made in God's image'

Many churches across the UK will have celebrated Disability Awareness Sunday on 28 September, but it can be celebrated on any Sunday. This year's theme reminds us that every person, disabled or not, reflects the image of God.

The charity **Through the Roof** provides free resources and worship materials to help churches raise awareness, promote inclusion, and celebrate the contributions of disabled people within the church community.



This year's resource was written by award-winning Christian author Emily Owen (pictured), who lost her hearing overnight aged 21. For more on Emily, see <https://www.emily-owen.com> For more information about Through the Roof, see <https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>



Thirty-eight senior faith leaders from the five major faith groups represented in the UK – including representatives of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches – have written to the Prime Minister and Chancellor, urging them to ‘act now to secure the futures of millions of children.’

You can read more and find the full text of the letter here:

https://jpit.uk/child-poverty-faith-leaders-call-for-decisive-action?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15151275_Methodist%20News%2004%2F09%2F2025&dm_i=BVI,90QSR,EDCTOC,11OQE3,1

Revising the Methodist Worship Book

The Methodist Conference, meeting in Telford, has voted to revise the Church’s authorised liturgies. This decision sets in motion a major project to equip the Church with new and revised liturgical resources, available in a wide variety of formats, including digital and printed versions.

The first stage of the process is to consider the style and language to be used in the resources, in order to enable the Church’s worship to be as inclusive as possible, in line with the Conference’s commitments in its strategy for Justice, Dignity and Solidarity.

All resources are expected to be made available online in formats appropriate to their use, for example PowerPoint presentations, Word documents and ready-to-print PDFs. Rather than produce a single book containing everything, it is intended that booklet versions be produced that contain liturgies regularly used in local churches or where it may be convenient for ministers and others engaged in pastoral ministry to be able to carry copies.

It was agreed that details should be brought to the Conference in 2026 seeking to set out principles along with an outline of the plan of work and revision. Should the 2026 Conference adopt the report, the expectation is that the first new liturgies to be commended for experimental use will be brought to the Conference of 2028, and formally authorised in 2030.

Adapted from The Methodist News

All Are Welcome

The Methodist Church has responded to the rise in anti-migrant protests.

The Revd Jonathan Hustler, Secretary of the Methodist Conference gave this statement:

'In a church that sees diversity as gift rather than challenge, a generous response to those of other faiths and a desire to engage in dialogue are signs not of weakness but of strength. The antipathy to other religions that is apparent in some parts of Britain today is perhaps an instinctive, perhaps even an understandable, reaction to difference, particularly in the wake of global conflicts which have in part been informed by religious extremism, but it is based on a narrow view of God's purposes. The Christian faith that the Methodist Church has taught me is based on a much broader interpretation of those purposes, one which is open to receiving and learning from those other faiths whilst at the same time holding fast to the unique significance of God's saving acts in Christ. That is what we are promoting through our evangelism and growth strategy.'

The Methodist Church is offering webinars for people in places affected by anti-asylum protests. The aim is to share experiences, concerns and wisdom with others and pray together for justice for people seeking refuge and for peace in our communities. If you are interested, please email [**justice@methodistchurch.org.uk**](mailto:justice@methodistchurch.org.uk) for further details.

As people of faith, we carry within us the knowledge that hope, and resurrection and transformation are possible even in the bleakest of times. May we discern the ways to act which make that hope a reality for others.

Deacon Kerry Scarlett, Vice-President of the Methodist Church



Prayer Points

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

1. "If I ascend to heaven you are there; if I make my bed in the depths you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea..." (Psalm 139:8-9)
Think of places where you spend time. Change the words of these verses to include the places you spend your days.
2. Choose a letter of the alphabet. Think of something you are grateful for that begins with that letter. Take some time to express your thanksgiving to God. Perhaps tomorrow choose a different letter.
3. What was the first news story you came across today? Pray for the people involved asking God to help them and give them what they need.
4. As you go around your local area, what do you see? Places? Shops? Houses? People? Make a note, do a drawing, take a photo and take a few moments to pray for them.

We have a small **Prayer Chain** working within the church. If you, or anyone you know, is in need of prayer, please do contact Judy Emerson on 02392 474656, or email ajemerson113@gmail.com

Please send contributions for the **November** Newsletter to jane@janegregory.co.uk or newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Saturday 25 October** – or earlier if you can!

