



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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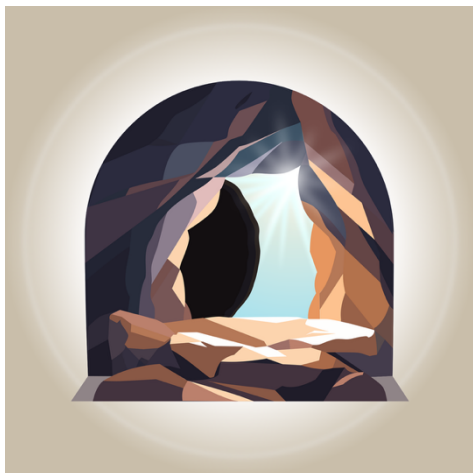
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Newsletter

April 2026

I'm reminded of a contrast. At Easter we remember and celebrate Jesus's resurrection. Not long before that, we read that Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. It sounds similar. But there's a significant difference.

At Lazarus's tomb Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'



Compare and contrast with what John tells us about Jesus.

Jesus's exit from the tomb was unnoticed and not recorded; Lazarus was called from the tomb in front of many witnesses.

But whereas Lazarus had come out bound in strips of linen and his face wrapped in a cloth, so that Jesus had to instruct them to unbind him and let him go, Jesus had left the grave clothes lying on the stone shelf in the tomb where he had been laid.

A man who had not died but been placed unconscious in the tomb and eventually come round would not have troubled to leave the grave clothes behind.

And then there's afterwards. There is no record of anything Lazarus ever said. There are many words of Jesus recorded, but just one of them is significant for Easter. On Easter morning, just after the discovery of his grave clothes left folded in the tomb, Jesus speaks to Mary Magdalene. As she mistakes his identity he simply says, 'Mary.'

No doubt you've heard people use your name in many different ways.

Was there some reproach in his tone that she didn't recognise him?

Was it a soft tone of endearment?

Was he slightly cross that she hadn't understood enough to realise this was what would happen?

Was he just attracting her attention in the way he often had when he wanted to tell her something?

Was it in a tone that pointed out who he was – a kind of 'hey, it's me' sort of Mary?

You may be able to think of many more possibilities.

Now just stop for a moment and listen. Hear Jesus use your name...

Is he commanding like when he spoke to Lazarus calling him from the tomb? Is he gentle, slightly reproachful, attracting your attention, or reassuring you that he is here, right alongside you?

Whatever it is, know that Mary was not allowed to hold on to him because he was ascending in order that he could be with us, calling us by name also so that his new life could live in us, grow in us and flow through us.

Happy Easter.

David Muskett

Image on p1 by locrpg

Image this page by dandelion tea

Both from Pixabay



Church Services in April

5 April	10.00am	Service of Holy Communion for Easter Day led by Revd John Illsley
12 April	10.00am	Café Church Note: Second Sunday led by Margaret Sawyer
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at St James to which we are invited
19 April	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd David Muskett
	6.30pm	Evensong at St Thomas à Becket to which we are invited
26 April	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Trish Chiwera
	6.30pm	Reflective Evening Service led by Revd David Muskett



Services and events for Holy Week and Easter

2 April – Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion at St James

The word Maundy originates from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means 'commandment.' This day is named after Jesus's 'new commandment' to his disciples at the Last Supper to 'love one another as I have loved you'. These words are found in John 13: 35–5, shortly after Jesus has washed the disciples' feet.



Image by Inspirationalstocks from Pixabay. Image on previous page by Irene Grassi, CC BY-SA 2.0, from Wikimedia Commons

3 April – Good Friday

10.30am CTiE Walk of Witness starting from the former United Reformed Church, Waterside, and ending in The Square. Refreshments at Emsworth Methodist Church

2.00pm Readings and meditations at the foot of the Cross at St James Church

3.30pm Recital of sacred music including Karl Jenkins' *Requiem* at St James Church

5 April – Easter Sunday

6.00am Easter Sunrise service on the foreshore at Nore Barn Woods

10.00am Easter Holy Communion at Emsworth Methodist Church

fun and friendship

Thursday mornings at 10.30am in International Hall

2 April

Knit and Natter

9 April

Beetle

16 April

Quiz

23 April

Arty Crafty

30 April

Table Games



Wednesday Group

2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm in International Hall

8 April

**An introduction to myself
with Lizzie Davidson**

22 April

**Members' Evening
Songs of Praise**

Image: Easter by LadyMarisa from Pixabay

Reflections and insights for Holy Week from the Methodist Church

There's still time to join the President and Vice-President of the Methodist Conference via video as they embark on a **Journey with Jesus** throughout Lent and Holy Week. Please go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SyXgo4fA51w&list=PLoWWaJT3-P4jO-WOOhm_Fy34Ru10aG1bw&index=4



Revd Richard Andrew and Matthew Forsyth. Photo: The Methodist Church of Great Britain

Following the visit of **Sam Holofaki** to lead our service on 8 March, we are happy to update some of the information given in last month's Newsletter.

Sam is a local preacher and is also training to become a Methodist minister, while working full-time as a petty officer in the Royal Navy. We wish him and his family all the very best, and hope to see them again at our church in the future.

Do you know?

An item in our (very) occasional series of mystery objects. Do you know what it is, and where it can be found?

Answer on page 10



From The Methodist News

Eclipse 2026: A Methodist Day of Outreach

On Wednesday 12 August, between 6.00pm and 8.00pm the UK will experience its most total solar eclipse since 1999.

During this amazing spectacle, churches across the Connexion are invited to host community viewing events, during which they can meet new people, have a shared experience of awe and wonder, and engage in gentle, authentic faith-sharing. Resources to support churches in planning and hosting viewing events will become available in the coming months.

From The Methodist News

'As Christians, we do not recognise any divine licence to kill, destroy, displace or occupy. We proclaim the God-given human dignity and rights of all people, equally and without discrimination. We reject the brutal logic of war and domination. We seek the gift of peace.'



The **World Methodist Council** has joined the Anglican Communion, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Communion of Reformed Churches in releasing an ecumenical statement on the widening conflict.

It concludes with the following prayer:

We pray for the people of the Middle East who have suffered too much violence for too long, and too often as the result of interventions by external actors. We invite all churches and Christians of the world, and all people of faith and good will, to join in praying for peace in the Middle East, and everywhere in our world where there is conflict and strife.

God, bring an end to violence and injustice.
Inspire leaders to work towards the well-being of all people.
May your love and compassion prevail, uniting nations in a common pursuit of peace.
Let your kingdom of peace reign on Earth as in heaven.

To read the full statement, go to:

https://oikoumene.org/resources/documents/joint-ecumenical-statement-on-the-widening-conflict-in-the-middle-east?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15403699_Methodist%20News12%2F03%2F2026&dm_i=BVI,965KJ,EDCTOC,12FRGO,1,0,0,0

Gift Aid and Giving review

Thank you to everyone who has reviewed their giving and/or updated their Gift Aid declaration. Please remember that if there are no adjustments to be made to your giving, we would still be grateful to have the updated Gift Aid declaration signed and dated. Any questions, do please ask.

Many thanks

Catherine

Thanks to Dot for contributing...

... some good news! on recycling

For a long time now, those of us who live on the Hampshire side of the border have been quite envious of our friends living over in West Sussex, because they are able to put so much more in their recycling bins than we are! But – Havant Borough Council is beginning to catch up. They have now installed **Plastics Recycling Bins** in five locations across the Borough, the nearest to us being

- Hollybank Recreation Car Park, Southleigh Road, North Emsworth
- Havant Leisure Centre, Civic Road, Havant

Items for recycling should be **clean, dry and loose**. This helps reduce contamination and ensures materials can be effectively sorted and recycled. We can take plastic bags and clean flexible wrappers/plastic film to recycling bins in most supermarkets. *Empty* blister packs (eg medication) can be taken to Boots, Havant, for recycling.

What you can recycle

You can put the following items in the recycling bins:

- Plastic pots (e.g yoghurt pots, non-black plant pots)
- Plastic tubs (e.g. margarine and ice cream tubs, biscuit tubs)
- Plastic trays (e.g. meat trays, fruit and veg punnets)

But please note, this only applies to the community bins, and not our own domestic recycling bins!

What they don't take

The following items **cannot** be put into the recycling bins:

- Black plastics
- Plastic films
- Plastic wrappers
- Carrier bags
- Polystyrene
- Household waste and litter

Refreshments after Good Friday Walk of Witness



We will be serving drinks and hot cross buns after the walk, in Emsworth Methodist Church and Pastoral Centre.

Image by alisonyo from Pixabay

Church Anniversary 10 May

We shall be marking the 149th Anniversary of Emsworth Methodist Church on Sunday 10 May, when Revd Bill Stillwell will lead our service. This will be followed by a salad lunch. To help with catering, a sign-up sheet will be available beforehand, and there will be the opportunity to make a donation on the day to cover costs, with any surplus being given to *All We Can*, the Methodist Church's relief and development charity.

Veronica Hickox



*Revd Bill Stillwell
Image from Havant
Passion Play*

Answer to Mystery Item (see page 7):

The photo shows a 'mortuary chest', one of six found in Winchester Cathedral. It contains the bones of King Cnut, his wife Emma and their son Harthacnut – allegedly.

The Blues Programme at Action for Children



The Blues Programme is an internationally acclaimed wellbeing programme for young people aged 13–19. It has been tried and tested over the world and is proven to make a positive difference. An Early Intervention Level 4 plus programme delivered over six weeks, it teaches emotional resilience, and reduces low mood and anxious thoughts. Crucially, it gets teenagers talking.

How it works:

Blues involves a one-hour group session at school each week, plus home tasks. Students learn how to challenge negative thoughts, and talk about different coping strategies.

Regular group work builds rapport and confidence. The home tasks are a chance to practice the new skills. It's simple, and it works.

Supporting mental health and wellbeing is a big part of what we do. We help young people talk about how they're feeling, and make sure they don't feel alone.

Programmes are run by trained Action for Children Blues specialists. Here's what's involved:

- Eligible school, colleges, or sixth forms sign up.
- Students aged 13–19 fill out the Blues survey.
- The survey identifies students who will benefit from the programme.
- The six-week group programme begins (one hour per week).
- After the programme, every young person is given a mental health first aid kit and signposting.

Young people who participate say:

I think it's really good because it's very non-judgemental and it's really fun because you get to relax and talk about anything.

The Blues is something I look forward to because it's like a pause during the stressful school day for me to reflect on how I'm feeling and how I can help myself.

For more information, go to

<https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-work-and-impact/children-and-families/mental-health-and-wellbeing/blues-programme/>

Prayer Pointers

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

Take a pack of cards.

Spread out the four Kings and pray: I want you to be King of my life.

King of Diamonds – of all I own and treasure

King of Spades – of all my hard work

King of Clubs – of all my social life and relationships

King of Hearts – of all my affections – King of me.

Looking at any or all of the Aces, pray 'forgive me for thinking I'm Ace and making myself Number 1'.

Looking at any or all of the Jacks, pray 'forgive me for my complacency in thinking "I'm all right Jack" and for my readiness to give up – Jacking it all in – too quickly.'

Taking a number from 1–10, think of something you have of that number and give thanks.

Pray, 'may I be content to be a member of the pack, playing my part, taking my place in the suit, being among the others.'



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 **May** Newsletter to jane@janegregory.co.uk or newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Saturday 25 April** – or earlier if you can!