



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 2026

Lent and Easter 2026

Charlie Brown was standing with a deck chair on a large boat when Lucy walked up. 'Some people go through life with the deck chairs facing forward, gazing out where they are going,' Lucy said philosophically. 'Others go through life with their deck chair facing backwards, looking at where they've been.' She then paused and pondered her profound words. Looking directly into Charlie Brown's sunglasses she asked him, 'Charlie Brown, which way is your deck chair facing?' Charlie Brown responded simply, 'I really don't know – I've never been able to get my deck chair unfolded!'

Lent is a time when we tend to look back in repentance for the times when we have messed up in some way. But it's not just about looking back. The Spiritual Disciplines which we may adopt during Lent help us work on our relationship with God for the future. There's a short video on Spiritual Disciplines each week in Lent on the Circuit's Digital Church YouTube channel.



It is said that the past isn't what it used to be and the future isn't getting any better. But maybe the past should be what it always was, and the future should be better. They say that the only lesson anyone ever learned from history is that no one ever learned anything from history. Lent is an opportunity to put that right.

Our Lenten disciplines can help us look at our own histories with a view to living differently and more as citizens of God's Kingdom in our homes, workplaces and communities.

Which brings us to Easter (which comes on 5 April this year, so more on that in next month's Newsletter). If any festival is relentlessly forward looking, it must be Easter. Easter points to the promise of God's new life available now for all. Because Jesus rose from the dead, the life of the Kingdom he came to bring breaks into our lives and doesn't have to wait for its final fulfilment with the New Creation. Our Lenten disciplines and our commitment to God-given vision for our communities enable us to take part in that new life in our communities.

The Spiritual Disciplines are for Life, not just for Lent.

It's time to get the deck chair unfolded and face forwards.

David Muskett

Image on page 1 by stevebidmead from Pixabay



Christian Aid

Thank you for your support for the Coffee, Cake and Table sale at the end of January. Once again we had some lovely items for sale, and the cake and coffee was very popular. We raised a magnificent £262.00.

Our next effort will be on Saturday 9 May, which is the start of Christian Aid week. More details will be available nearer the time.

Gill, Margaret and Marian

Church Services in March

1 March	10.00am	Café Church led by Revd David Muskett including General Church Meeting
8 March	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Samuela Halofaki (<i>see p4</i>)
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at St James to which we are invited
15 March	10.00am	Service of Holy Communion led by Revd David Muskett
	6.30pm	Evensong at St Thomas à Becket to which we are invited
22 March	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Matthew Patis
	6.30pm	Reflective Evening Service led by Revd David Muskett
29 March	10.00am	Palm Sunday Worship led by Fran Jenkins
	6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth Service led by Revd David Muskett (<i>see page 4</i>)



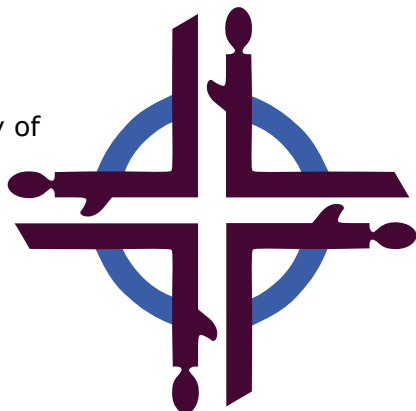
Special Days in March

6 – World Day of Prayer Friday

Originally known as the Women's World Day of Prayer, the World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian initiative celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

The theme for 2026 is 'I will give you rest' (Matthew 11:28–30).

The country focus is **Nigeria**.



15 – Mothering Sunday

See page 5

29 – Palm Sunday

On 29 March at 6.30pm we will be holding a **Fifth Sunday Reflective Service**, to which we will inviting members of the other churches who are part of Christians Together in Emsworth. Please come and join us; there will be refreshments after the service.



Palm Sunday in Jerusalem
by Frank1075 from Wikimedia Commons
Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0

Samuela Halofaki, who will be leading our worship on 8 March, is a logistics specialist serving in the Royal Navy and a leader within the Fijian Methodist community in the UK.

Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday, celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent in the UK and parts of Europe, has its roots in a 16th-century tradition where people returned to their 'mother church' – the main cathedral or parish church in their area – for a special service.

This practice, known as 'going a-mothering', evolved into a day when domestic servants and apprentices were given a rare day off to visit their families and home churches; often the church where they had been baptised.

In America, Australia and elsewhere it is known as 'Mother's Day', and younger people in the UK tend to use this name too – indeed it can be difficult to find a card that reads 'Mothering Sunday' instead of 'Mother's Day'. The focus has changed from church services to celebrations such as 'Mother's Day Lunches' in pubs and restaurants, but many people still remember the day by sending cards and buying flowers for their mothers.



From The Methodist News

Christian witness for peace and justice will be strengthened thanks to a newly announced partnership between the Iona Community and the Joint Public Issues Team (JPIT) of the Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches.

In a public declaration of intent, the two groups say:

'The Iona Community and the Joint Public Issues Team act as resourcing partners in our work and witness for peace and justice. We are committed to walking together and supporting each other, recognising that each partner brings particular strengths and resources to this task. While we will not always speak together, through this partnership we seek to create opportunities to collaborate, share expertise, build community and deepen relationships between those involved in this work, so that both partners can have greater reach, resolve, effectiveness and impact.'

fun and friendship

Thursday mornings at 10.30am in International Hall



**5 March
Knit and Natter**

**12 March
Making Easter Cards**

**19 March
More Family History Stories**

**26 March
Easter Quiz**

Wednesday Group

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

**11 March Whatever happened
to Mary?
with Nigel Bloodworth**

**25 March London City Safari
with Sally Botright
Blue Badge tourist guide**



Images by emmagrau and Memed Nurrohmadi from Pixabay

We have received this from Sue Ingram:

Lent Choir for Good Friday

Come and join the Lent Choir in preparation for Good Friday afternoon, when we will be singing Karl Jenkins' *Requiem*. There will be four rehearsals starting on Monday 9 March at 7.30pm in St James' Church.

All singers welcome – no audition!



From The Methodist News

Reflect Quiet Morning (via Zoom)

A morning of Quiet Reflection preparing for Holy Week is being organised by Reflect and led by the Revd Joy Adams. You can join on Zoom on either Friday 27 March or Saturday 28 March 2026.

9.30am - Welcome, Prayer and Introduction

10.00am – Session 1: '...he loved them to the end'

11.00am – Session 2: '...crucified with Christ'

12 noon – Conclusion (to include practical suggestions) and Closing Prayer
To end by 12.15pm

The event will be led by Joy Adams – Methodist presbyter.

If you would like to attend, please email Lynne Tonge on 2tonges317@gmail.com stating which date you would like to book.

There is no charge for this event, but donations (suggestion £12.00) may be made by bank transfer to support the work of REFLECT.
Bank Details: Lloyds Bank, Sort code 30 96 18, Account no. 02833113
Please quote 'Quiet Day' as a reference for your payment.

Prayer Pointers

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

1. Use your hands as a reminder of different people to pray for:

- Thumb: your family
- Index finger: those who teach
- Middle finger: all in positions of leadership
- Ring finger: those in need
- Little finger: yourself.

2. "The trees of the field shall clap their hands." (Isaiah 55:12)

Imagine that the trees are clapping their hands. Could you join in? What are you applauding? What makes you rejoice?

3. Find a map of the world, or a particular country. Where are the places of darkness, despair and death? Pray for those places asking God to bring the light of hope and life. Mark those places with a highlighter pen as you pray.



*Image of trees in a field by denisehenz
from Pixabay*

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 **April** Newsletter to jane@janegregory.co.uk or newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Saturday 28 March** – or earlier if you can!