



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

Minister: Revd David Muskett

Tel: 01730 233436

Email: david.muskett@esanddcircuit.org.uk

Church Office: tel: 01243 373773

Website: www.emsworthmethodistchurch.org

Registered charity number 1127747

Newsletter

June 2026

The June Newsletter should be available by the end of May. This year, 31 May is/was Trinity Sunday. No doubt there are local preachers, lay ministers and curates up and down the country who found they were on the plan or rota for Trinity Sunday because ministers and vicars were avoiding it. That sort of thing just prolongs this idea that the Trinity is a difficult subject.

I think it depends on what you think Trinity Sunday is there for.

Traditionally it seems to be treated as a doctrine subject – it's about what we're supposed to believe:

There is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts or passions; of infinite power, wisdom and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (as the Anglican 39 Articles of Religion put it).

But that's not what the Trinity is all about. It is not a clever piece of theological, linguistic and arithmetical gymnastics to make $1=3$ and $3=1$.



The Trinity is not a matter for the head – if we keep it there it is not difficult, it's impossible. So God in Holy Trinity should not be pondered and thought over as a solution to a problem.

So, what is it all about, then?

God in Trinity is an expression of experience. It is the way we experience and feel about a relationship with God. That's why the Trinity matters so much – it's an expression that sums up the ways in which we know God through the self-revelation of God.

Power and creativity, mercy and help, the guiding, comforting, challenging, prompting, nurturing, eternal, life-giving and sustaining God who is over all and in all, beyond our reach and yet as near as breathing: almighty Father, saving Son and life-giving Spirit. Holy, holy, holy Amen.

David Muskett

Image on page 1 by Jetta55 from Pixabay

Anna Café Church

Anna Café Church will be starting on **10 June at 1.00pm** in the Pastoral Centre, and then every 2nd Wednesday after that.

Anna Café Church is a church service for those who may find it difficult to attend church on a Sunday morning. Anna Café Church has been set up by our Anna Chaplains who provide pastoral care for those who are advanced in years. We have a short service of the Word which has familiar hymns and prayers, offers an individual blessing for those who would like it and provides a chance for people to meet others and chat together with a cup of tea and some cake. The service is designed in a way that is easily accessible to all, including those with dementia, those who have faith and those who may want to find out more. We would love anyone who would like to, to join us for this service and time together.

Lizzie Davidson – Curate, Parish of Warblington with Emsworth



Church Services in June

7 June	10.00am	Café Church led by Revd David Muskett
14 June	10.00am	Morning Worship for Methodist Homes Sunday led by Dot Warren <i>see page 4</i>
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at St James to which we are invited
21 June	10.00am	Service of Holy Communion led by Revd David Muskett
	6.30pm	Evensong at St Thomas à Becket to which we are invited
28 June	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Revd Ashley Lovett
	6.30pm	Reflective Evening Service led by Revd David Muskett

Ashley Lovett is a Baptist minister and Free Church Chaplain, and is Manager of Chaplaincy Services at the University of Portsmouth. He has written several articles based on his research into Baptists and the Lord's Supper.

Special days in June

- **14 – Methodist Homes Sunday**
- **15–21 – Refugee Week**
- **25–1 July – Methodist Conference in Telford**

Methodist Homes Sunday, usually held on the second Sunday in June, is an opportunity for:

- Celebration of the work of MHA and the value of older people
- Awareness of future needs and ways to respond
- Fundraising to make a difference to the quality of life for older people
- Volunteers to work together
- Recognition of the Church in action for older people

MHA is Methodism's housing and care charity for older people. Methodist Homes Sunday offers an annual opportunity for church members to donate in support of the work.



There will be an opportunity for you to make a donation to the work of MHA via the church bank account; details will be provided in one of the regular church emails. There will also be envelopes available on the day for cash donations. Thank you.



The week around 20 June (World Refugee Day) is **Refugee Week**. Information can be found at www.refugeeweek.org.uk.

The theme for this year is **Courage**.

The week concludes with **Sanctuary Sunday** – for more information, see <https://churchofsanctuary.org/sanctuary-church-sunday/> Sanctuary Sunday aims to promote the Church of Sanctuary programme, building cultures of welcome, hospitality and safety in our churches.



fun and friendship

Thursday mornings at 10.30am in International Hall

4 June Knit and Natter

11 June Quiz

18 June Beetle

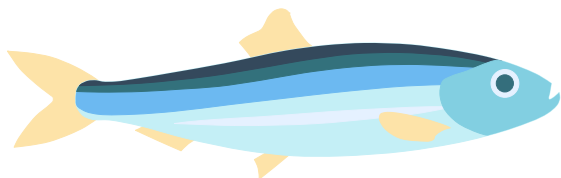
25 June Table Games



Wednesday Group

As last year's summer activities were enjoyed by all, we have decided to repeat them starting on Wednesday 10 June at 1.00pm with **Fish and Chips** in IH.

This will be followed on Wednesday 8 July by a cream tea at Stansted Garden Centre, and finally a game of Carpet Bowls at Westbourne in August.



Images by Mabelamber and MostafaElTurkey36 from Pixabay

Supporting the Foodbank

As most of you will be aware, we have been supporting the One Church Foodbank for a number of years now, with donations of food and toiletries. I know that some of you give monetary donations direct, and others make donations of food etc via collecting points in supermarkets. However, if you don't already give, perhaps you would like to consider doing so by putting something in the collecting box which is on the table as you come in to church on a Sunday. Any dry foods (tins, packets etc), toiletries and cleaning materials are always very welcome. The need for assistance of this sort is ongoing and as great as ever, and every little helps.

Thank you.

Dot



A Date for your Diary

In 2027 Emsworth Methodist Church will celebrate its 150th Anniversary. Revd Rachel Bending, Chair of the Southampton District of the Methodist Church, has accepted an invitation to lead a service of celebration at 3.00pm on Sunday 25 April 2027, when it is hoped friends from around the Circuit and from other churches in Emsworth will be able to join us. The service will be followed by tea. More details will be available in due course, but now is the time to note the date.



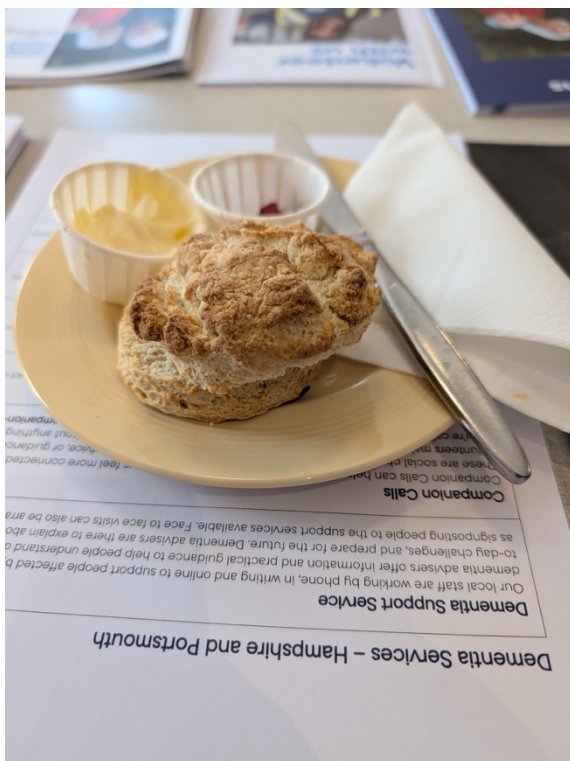
Alzheimer's Society Cream Tea

A huge thank you to Adrian and his team for raising such an amazing amount at the Cream Tea. The scone making team must have been very busy as the scones were coming out of the kitchen at great speed. Thank you too to Dot with her great Bible bags!

It was wonderful to attend the event and see so many familiar faces along with many new ones. Seeing The Pastoral Centre buzzing with activity was lovely. It certainly attracted lots of attention in the Square with the outside decoration and brought in new visitors.

A quick reminder that Alzheimer's Society can support anyone with concerns about all types of dementia before or after diagnosis. If you have any concerns about yourself, a friend or family member, please call the Alzheimer's Society Dementia support line on 0333 150 3456, or visit [alzheimers.org.uk](https://www.alzheimers.org.uk). Information about local services is up on the noticeboard.

If you're wondering what else you can do to make a difference, why not join up to Join Dementia Research? Any UK resident over 18 can sign up, with or without dementia. There are lots of different research projects to join; see <https://www.joindementiaresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>



Thank you for supporting Alzheimer's Society.

Mandy Mani

Mandy Mani is a Dementia Adviser

Adapted from The Methodist News

Bible Month 2026: Explore Philippians Together

Many churches choose June to mark Bible Month.

This year, Bible Month invites churches and small groups to dive into one of the most joyful and encouraging letters in the New Testament: Philippians. Written by Paul from prison, this short epistle overflows with warmth, hope, and practical wisdom for living a Christ-shaped life.

Across four weeks, we are invited to discover:

Joy that endures – Paul’s call to rejoice, even in hardship, rooted in confidence in God’s goodness.

Christ-like humility – the famous ‘Christ hymn’ in chapter 2, showing Jesus’s self-giving love as our model.

Pressing on in faith – discipleship as a lifelong journey of growth and perseverance.

Grace and peace – learning contentment and generosity in every circumstance.

A **Bible Month Journalling Kit** is now available to help individuals and small groups explore Scripture with imagination and intention.



Did you know?

The Prims

Recently *The Methodist News* carried a feature on Engelsea Brook Chapel on the Cheshire/Staffordshire border, which houses the **Museum of Primitive Methodism**.



Engelsea Brook Chapel and Museum by Alexander P Kapp (Creative Commons)

Primitive Methodism (also known as 'The Prims') was a major movement in English and Welsh Methodism from about 1810 until the Methodist Union in 1932. *Primitive* meant 'simple', or 'relating to an original stage'; the Primitive Methodists saw themselves as practising a purer form of Christianity, closer to that of the earliest Methodists.

The three groups that came together in 1932 were: Wesleyan, Primitive and United Methodists.

Wesleyan Methodists were considered the direct followers of John Wesley; during the 19th century they tended to be more formal and middle-class.

Primitive Methodists (also known as 'Ranters') wanted to return to the passionate evangelical spirit of early Methodism. They were known for outdoor 'camp meetings,' had working-class leaders, and supported social justice and the trade union movement. Women were among the travelling preachers in the movement.

United Methodists were created in 1907 by merging the Methodist New Connexion, the Bible Christians, and the United Methodist Free Churches. These groups had previously broken away from the Wesleyan body over issues of local control and governance.

There were 87 Primitive Methodist Chapels in the Portsmouth District, seating 11,595 people. (Statistical Returns, 1940) Many Primitive chapels were brick-built, but there were also examples of tin tabernacles, some of which survive today.

Many Primitive Methodist Chapels were associated with brass bands, which fitted well with the focus on evangelism. They also promoted temperance and 'guarding youth from evil'.

Recently a local preacher and senior circuit steward in the Cheshire South Circuit, Geoff Dickinson, marked his 75th birthday by biking from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for Englesea Brook Chapel.

Websites

The Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum website houses a wealth of information about the history of Primitive Methodism, including the first camp meeting at Mow Cop in 1807. See

<https://engleseabrook.org.uk/history/>

My Primitive Methodists (see <https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk>)

is a community archive where you can browse through photos, stories, memories and research. It features sentimental paintings of sick people young and old, and a range of documents; one contains the alarming intelligence that on Sunday 26 May 1816, 'Two Sermons will be preached at the New Chapel, Talk o' th' Hill, for the benefit of the Sunday School'.



The Chapel next to our church in Emsworth

Our chapel in the Square in Emsworth (now the home of Cross Kitchen) wasn't built as a Methodist chapel, but as a chapel of ease for the church of St Thomas à Becket, Warblington. (A chapel of ease is a church building other than the parish church, built within the bounds of a parish for the those who live too far away from the parish church to be able to travel to it conveniently.) The building in the Square was commissioned as St Peter's Chapel, and was designed by John Painter and John Sueter in the Italianate style. It was built in red brick with stone dressings at a cost of £1,400, and was completed in 1790.

Jane Gregory

Prayer Pointers

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

Prayer suggestions for different points during the day. Not necessarily all of them for every day!

Morning:

New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought
Restored to life, and power and thought.
(John Keble, 1792–1866. From *Singing the Faith* N°137)

Creator God, whose Word, at dawn of time gave light and life; receive my praise.

Jesus Christ, companion of the way, listening, healing; forgive my self-centredness.

Holy Spirit, giver of energy and love, source of grace and courage; fill me today. Amen.

Midday:

As the sun reaches its highest point, I look up.

Painted ceiling or endless sky, boxed in by life or free to roam, you are with me, Jesus of Nazareth.

I take this moment to greet you.

I take this moment to pray for the people around me, for the situations in my thoughts, for the concerns of your world.

I take this moment to centre myself again on you, Jesus.

Jesus, be the centre, be my source, be my light, Jesus.

Jesus, be the centre, be my hope, be my song, Jesus.

Be the fire in my heart,

Be the wind in these sails;

Be the reason that I live,

Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, be my vision, be my path, be my guide, Jesus.*

(*Michael Frye, *Singing the Faith* N° 447)

Evening:

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest;
the lights of evening round us shine;
we hymn the Father,
Son and Holy Spirit divine.
(Greek, 3rd century, translated by John Keble, 1792–1866.
From *Singing the Faith* N°143)

Gracious God, sometimes hidden, you have not abandoned me today. I worship you.

Incarnate Jesus, sometimes unrecognised, you have walked with me today. I worship you.

Energising Spirit, sometimes spurned, you have empowered me today. I worship you.

Stay with me, for the day is now nearly over. **Amen.**



Image by TerriAnneAllen 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 **July** Newsletter to jane@janegregory.co.uk or newsletter@emsworthmethodistchurch.org by **Saturday 27 June** – or earlier if you can!