



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

July 2026

Interruptions

Do you ever get interrupted? You start something and have to stop before you finish in order to do something else; not quite finish something before having to go to an appointment; start something and then remember something else more urgent?

And what are the things that get interrupted? No doubt they are all things that have to be done; often things that are important as well as urgent, but the first becomes more urgent while the second gets done.

In Mark chapter 5 we read about Jesus getting interrupted. He's been interrupted by Jairus asking him to go to his sick daughter but on the way, he gets interrupted by a woman seeking his help. Rather than continue on his way knowing she has been healed simply by touching him, he stops to find out



who touched him and speak to her. By the time he's finished speaking to her, the little girl has died.

Was he right to stop?

Sometimes it is hard to judge whether it is right to be interrupted. Obviously we often don't have a choice, but sometimes we can decide we won't respond to the phone, the text, the doorbell – or whatever – while we're in the middle of something (perhaps a family meal, or an important or difficult piece of work).

As it turned out, Jesus went on to raise the little girl from the dead, so it seems it was right to stop and ensure the healing and the affirmation of the faith of the woman who had stopped him.

So much for what happened. But that's only a very small part of what it's all about. Mark puts the two together because they have more in common than healing: 12 years, both female, Jesus was interrupted to give them his attention – and the fact that in healing them Jesus broke through a religious taboo.

A woman suffering from bleeding for so long and someone who had died were considered ritually unclean and a good Jew should not have contact with them. Jesus demonstrates that the law of mercy and grace trumps the law of ritual every time.

Perhaps that's also a rule of thumb for interruptions: if it is in the pursuit of mercy and grace rather than ritual, it's OK to be interrupted.

David Muskett

Image on page 1: Mary Baker G. Eddy, Science and Health (3rd. ed.), v. 1, 1881, frontispiece. From Wikimedia Commons, public domain.



Church Services in July

5 July	10.00am	Café Church led by Revd David Muskett
12 July	10.00am	Morning Worship Led by Geoffrey Eardley
	6.30pm	Holy Communion at St James to which we are invited
19 July	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 July	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Wendy Corney
	6.30pm	Reflective Evening Service



*An arrangement with sea holly
at the flower festival at
Chichester Cathedral*

Special days in July

- **12 – Action for Children Sunday**
- **12 – Sea Sunday**
- **19 July – Rural Missions Sunday**

• Although Action for Children Sunday is shown as 12 July in the Methodist Church Calendar, churches are free to hold it on any Sunday, and at Emsworth, we usually celebrate Action for Children on one of the Sundays in December.

• The theme for Sea Sunday 2026 is **Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarers**, inspired by *Matthew 25*. This theme celebrates the local church as a place of welcome, refuge and hope – a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea. It invites congregations to reflect on how they can stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality, generosity and justice.



• **Rural Missions Sunday** is an annual ecumenical initiative supported by The Methodist Church and the Arthur Rank Centre. It celebrates small rural churches and gives thanks for rural communities across the UK.

• Newly established in January this year, the **Rural Missioners' Guild** exists to encourage, pray for, and connect those who serve Christ in the countryside. An ecumenical network of prayer and fellowship, the Guild is open to all involved in rural mission – lay or ordained, from any denomination or background.



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.

Christian Aid Week

Thank you for your support during this year's Christian Aid week. The Coffee, Cake and Table sale raised £365, and £175 was raised through donations and envelopes from the Emsworth Churches.

Kathy Childress, from Christian Aid, gave us a most interesting and informative talk about the work of Christian Aid at the Christians Together in Emsworth service at the Baptist Church, and we raised a further £60 from envelope donations.

The total for this year is £600 plus £80 in Gift Aid, which is an amazing result.

Gill, Marian and Margaret

Emma (Amy) Senior (1931 – 2026)

Amy was already known to the congregation at Emsworth, as she had made several visits to stay with her friend Mary Bray. Sometimes Geoffrey would come too, and preach on the Sunday. And so, when the time for retirement came in 1994, they were persuaded to make Emsworth their retirement home. Of course, the word 'retirement' is used loosely!! Amy very quickly became involved in church life. She enthusiastically joined the Ladies' Group where she was their President for a number of years, and the Wesley Guild. Amy willingly gave interesting talks about their life and work overseas.

She also quickly became a member of the Pastoral Centre volunteers, regularly staffing the coffee bar on a Monday afternoon with Eileen Cole, and bustling around keeping all the stores stocked up. Over quite a number of years she was involved with the 'Thursday Market', held weekly raising money for Overseas Mission. She was affectionately known by some customers as the 'marmalade lady' as she regularly made marmalade for one of the stalls, after Geoffrey had removed old labels

and washed the jars. She always had a welcoming smile and seemed to have endless energy. She was a deeply caring person, always interested in people. On several occasions, she exercised her nursing skills, both for minor injuries and in caring for her friends as they approached the end of their lives. Her life of service was of course deeply rooted in her very strong Christian faith.

Amy was an active member of the Waterside Community, and a part of the banner making team.

At the time she moved to Emsworth there were quite a few supernumerary ministers in the Portsmouth Circuit, and Amy regularly hosted afternoon tea for them and their spouses.



A very skilled knitter often executing intricate patterns in her younger years, she was still knitting hats for premature babies the week before she died. Even as she became more frail, she still loved reading and took a great delight in poetry, which she would often read at the afternoon poetry activity sessions in her last retirement homes.

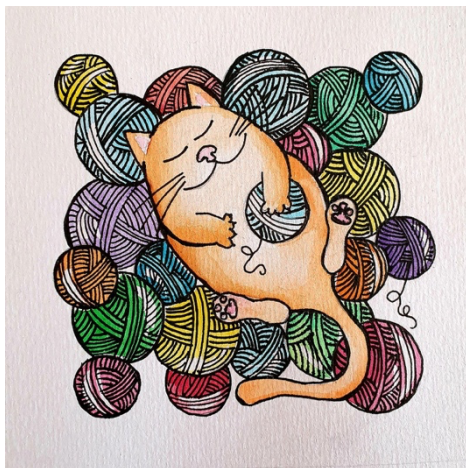
What a privilege to have known her and to experience her smile, her graciousness, her gentle care and her hospitality. Amy died peacefully in her sleep on 7 June 2026 aged 94. May she now rest in peace and rise in glory.

Pamela and Geoffrey Eardley

fun and friendship

Thursday mornings at 10.30am in International Hall

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 2 July | Arty Crafty |
| 9 July | Quiz |
| 16 July | Hoy Bingo |
| 23 July | Knit and Natter |
| 30 July | Table Games |



Wednesday Group

8 July Cream Tea at Stansted Garden Centre



Image by Holger Detje from Pixabay

Advance notice:

A reminder that there will be a game of Carpet Bowls at Westbourne on 12 August at 2.00pm.

Cream Tea Fundraiser *for Action for Children*

Emsworth Pastoral Centre
19 High Street, Emsworth, PO10 7AQ
Tuesday 21st July - 10am to 2pm



Enjoy fruit or plain scones served with strawberry jam, clotted cream and a beverage of your choice.



Did you know over 4 million children live in poverty across the UK?
That's why we're raising money for Action for Children.

They provide vital support like emergency grants for heating, food, and mental health services to kids who need it most.

Every cream tea sold will help support the most vulnerable children in our communities.

Did you know?

PSAs

What do the letters PSA stand for? Most people would probably think of prostate specific antigen; but for those well versed in Methodist History, they also stand for **Pleasant Sunday Afternoon**.

When I received the information for the Newsletter about next year's Church Anniversary – an afternoon service led by the Chair of the District, followed by tea – I immediately thought, 'Oh, it's a PSA'.

It seems that the PSA was introduced as a way of reaching those who had attended Sunday School as children, but had then stopped going to church; it was particularly aimed at men, and could be likened to a Sunday School for adults. The PSA movement was not aligned with a particular denomination, having been founded by John Blackham, a linen draper from West Bromwich, who was a deacon at the Ebenezer Congregational Church. There was a focus on music and performance and meeting together, and one can well understand the attraction in the days before television and before shops opened on Sundays. Some churches also offered a PMA (Pleasant Monday Afternoon!) for women – perhaps not so different from the Women's Fellowship that my mother used to attend, which she referred to as 'my class'.

In D H Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, the mention of PSAs in connection with Paul's mother, Mrs Morel, refers to the **Women's Cooperative Guild**. The meetings provided an outlet for her intellectual drive, and allowed her to debate social issues, connect with her community, and secure an office job for her son William so that he did not have to work down the pit like his father.

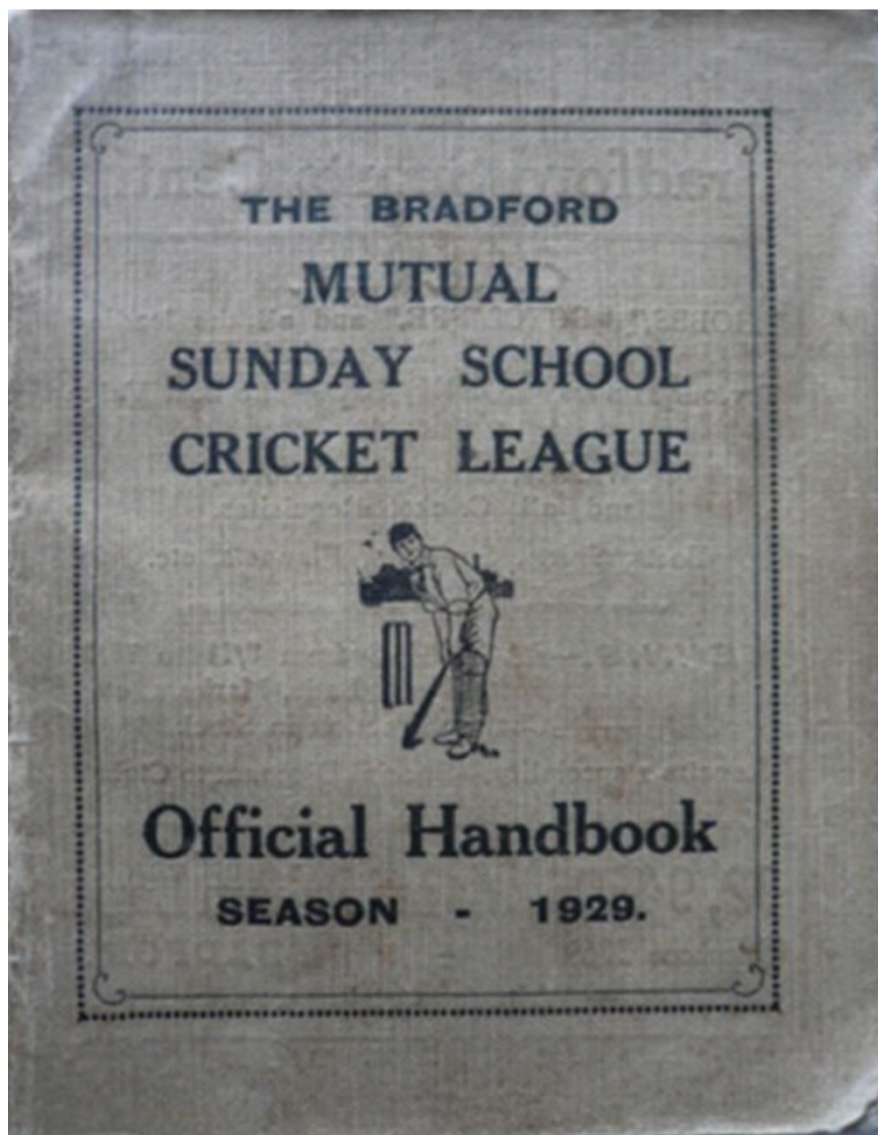
Local groups engaged in many activities in addition to church services. On the website

<https://www.myprimitivemethodists.org.uk/content/subjects-2/social-events/psa>

you'll find links to: Cricket and Primitive Methodism (see photo on page 10; Tennis and Primitive Methodism; and a Primitive Methodist Carnival Float!

Perhaps some of our members have memories of PSAs too?

Jane Gregory



Handbook of the Bradford Sunday Schools cricket league for the 1929 season
provided by John Anderson

Climate Stripes

Readers may remember that some time ago, we included this image in the Newsletter. In the light of recent weather events, it seems appropriate to include it again.

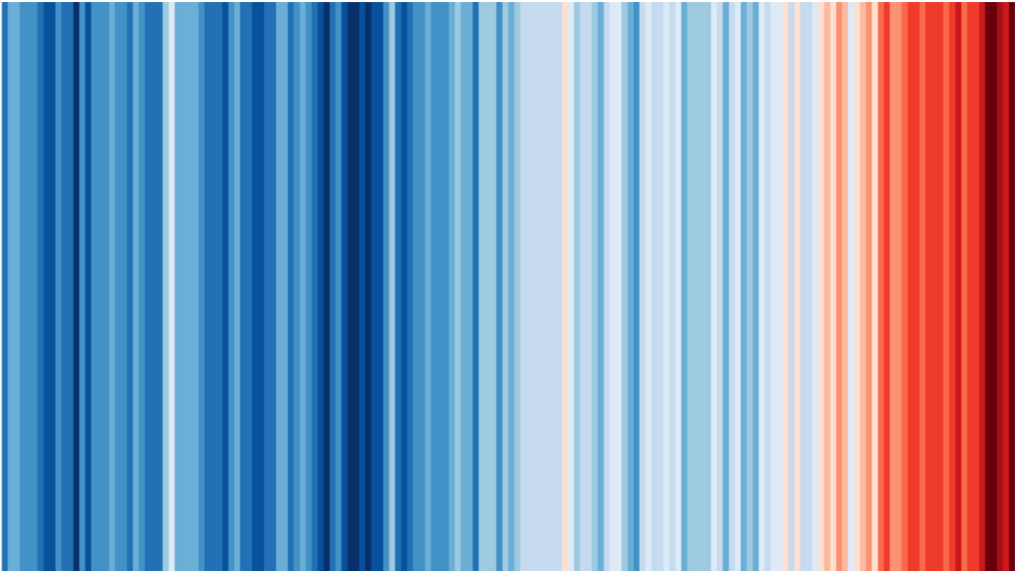
What are the stripes?

The stripes are a series of vertical coloured bars, showing the progressive heating of our planet in a single, striking image.

The climate stripes were created by **Professor Ed Hawkins** at the **University of Reading** in 2018. They show clearly and vividly how global average temperatures have risen over nearly two centuries.

How do they work?

Each stripe represents the average temperature for a single year, relative to the average temperature over the period from 1961 to 2010. Shades of blue indicate cooler-than-average years, while red shows years that were hotter than average. The stark band of deep red stripes on the right-hand side of the graphic shows the rapid heating of our planet in recent decades.



The Late Shows – Arts and Community in Newcastle

A Methodist art hub in Newcastle has welcomed hundreds of culture lovers to collaborate and reflect on the exhaustion of daily life and the need to rest and restore. Shieldfield Art Works (SAW) is a project of the Methodist Church in Newcastle upon Tyne and uses art to explore what it is to be human, encouraging participation in unique and unexpected ways. SAW's 'Many Hands' exhibition was part of The Late Shows, an award-winning free culture crawl through Newcastle and Gateshead, held once a year on a Friday and Saturday night. During The Late Shows art studios, performance venues, galleries, museums and historical buildings open into the evening. The shows take place at 70 venues across the area, attracting thousands of people from all ages and backgrounds.

The 'Many Hands' exhibition at SAW is part gallery installation and part interactive experience. Around 300 origami bricks were folded by volunteers and staff before the doors opened. The paper used to make the bricks has images of community members' hands printed on it. In a darkened room, the bricks were arranged into semi-circular walls evoking a sheepfold and echoing the acts of gathering and connection. 'Sheepfolds are structures of safety and community. The bricks, made to counter oppression rather than being made under it, represent care and connection countering the pressures of contemporary society,' says Lydia Oak, director of SAW.



Those who attended the exhibition were keen to express their support: *I enjoyed the biblical story of Pharaoh and found the idea of overwork interesting, because I feel like our culture nowadays does try to have you striving for living to work rather than working to live. There's a lot going on, having a young family and with working and lots of different things, it's very easy for it all just to add up and build up and feel like a big weight. Resting means those things don't necessarily go away, but it lessens the pressure.*

'Many Hands' is part of a wider, public-facing programme called 'Creating Fallow' that considers Sabbath, rest and labour and will run through next year. A final exhibition at SAW will share all the findings of the year's work.

Adapted from The Methodist News

How we lost the World Cup in 1966

The connection to Methodism of one of the World Cup's most intriguing episodes is little-known – six decades on from the strange series of events.

It is a case almost stranger than fiction, involving a brazen thief, a ransom note, a police sting and a heroic Collie dog named Pickles.

The story began in January 1966, when the Jules Rimet Trophy was taken to England – the host nation for that year's World Cup. A month later, the Stanley Gibbons stamp company were allowed to put the cup on display as part of their Stampex exhibition at Methodist Central Hall library, on the condition that the trophy be kept under constant guard.

Although guards kept watch around the clock, with additional guards standing beside the display cabinet while the exhibition was open, the thief found a hole in the defences. The Central Hall was used for Methodist services on Sundays, and the trophy was not so heavily guarded. Just after midday on Sunday 20 March, the guards noticed that the prized trophy had been stolen from the library.

The day after the heist, Football Association chairman Joe Mears received an anonymous phone call saying a parcel would be delivered to him at Chelsea Football Club the next day. When it arrived, inside was the lining from the top of the trophy along with a ransom demand for £150,000.



Accompanied by police, Mears went to meet the thief in Battersea Park, where a pursuit ensued. The culprit was arrested. At the station, he was recognised as petty thief Edward Betchley, who said he had been paid to act as a go-between for the real robber.

Seemingly at a dead end, the police could not find the location of the stolen trophy. But a week after the theft, which had caused headlines around the globe, Collie-cross Pickles, walking with his owner David Corbett, began sniffing at a package under the hedge of Mr Corbett's house in the Beulah Hill area of London. To the astonishment of Mr Corbett, it contained the missing World Cup. He promptly handed it to the

police, who retained it as evidence until 18 April. They returned it to the FA before the opening of the 1966 tournament in July, with England subsequently claiming victory.

After his historic find, Pickles was treated like a celebrity – he was presented with a medal, appeared on Blue Peter, was invited to shop openings and received a year's supply of dog food. There is now a blue plaque in London marking the spot he made his discovery.

Shockingly, it was stolen once again in 1983, with thieves forcing the wooden back of the cabinet open with a crowbar and making off with it. Sadly, this time there was no Pickles the dog to sniff it out. The Jules Rimet Trophy has never been seen again.

Image on previous page: replica of the Jules Rimet trophy on display at the National Football Museum, Preston. From Wikimedia Commons

Methodist Youth President 2027–2028

Do you know a young person who might be interested in applying to be the next Youth President?

This varied and challenging role offers the opportunity to represent and speak on behalf of young people within the Methodist Church. There will be opportunities to travel, attend and plan events, develop new creative ideas, and meet and talk with children and young people.

The person elected will speak at the Methodist Conference and other appropriate committees, and have the opportunity to influence decision-making. It will be a busy, exciting and rewarding year.

This is a 13-month full-time vacancy. Elections will take place at 3Generate in October 2026, with the role starting in August 2027. The closing date for applications is 21 August 2026. For more information, please see

https://methodist.current-vacancies.com/Jobs/Advert/4220065?cid=1885&t=Youth-President-----&utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15531315_Methodist%20News%2025%2F06%2F2026.&dm_i=BVI,98W1F,EDCTOC,12TIQG,1,0,0,0

From the Methodist News

Navigating Influencer Culture

A joint online workshop from The Well and the Girls' Brigade

Thursday 9 July 2026, 6.30pm to 8pm

Working together, Girls' Brigade England and Wales and the Methodist Church, are offering a webinar to explore, discuss and understand how to talk to our young people about the joys and challenges they face in our rapidly evolving digital age.

Led by the Girls' Brigade Youth President, Eloise Dale, and assisted by the Girls' Brigade Youth Ambassadors, Mollie Maliqi and Olivia Hurley, this webinar will explore how to stay safe online, the possibility of a social media ban (and young people's opinions on the subject) and the effects social media has on young people's mental health.

In recent times, the Girls' Brigade has received widespread praise for proactively addressing online harms through gender-specific safeguarding. The organisation recognises online safety as a core priority and runs educational programmes that empower girls to navigate the digital world safely, critically, and with confidence.

Tickets are free, but please book at

https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NDQ2LTEyNg/t?utm_source=Methodist%20Church%20House&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=15522633_Methodist%20News%2018%2F06%2F2026.&dm_i=BVI,98PC9,EDCTOC,12SLL5,1,0,0,0

The event will be held on Zoom, and a joining link will be sent on the day.



Prayer Prompts

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

- 'He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor' (Luke 4:18). How might Jesus be inviting you to be good news to people around you today?
- 'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.' (Philippians 4:6)
Breathe in for three counts and out for three counts. Repeat a few times.
As you breathe in say: 'When I am worried ...' As you breathe out say: 'I will trust you.'
- Take thin strips of paper and write on each one something for which you are thankful. Fix them together in loops to make a paper (prayer) chain. Over time, you can add to the chain as you thank God.

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