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# Emsworth Methodist church



## and PASTORAL CENTRE

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Registered Charity No 1127747

*a serving and worshipping Christian church in the heart of Emsworth,  
working closely with other churches and with the local community*

Minister The Reverend Janice Morgan tel: 023 9273 1858

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**MONTHLY NEWS SHEET**

**December 2011 & January 2012**

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### *Message from the Manse*

*“Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14)*

The next two months will take us through Advent, into the celebrations of Christmas, and follow on with our New Year resolutions and Covenant services. Christmas can be a mixed blessing. For some it will be an exciting time of presents, fun, family and happy reminiscences. A time of plenty and probably over indulgences of every kind! For others it will be a time of loneliness, sad reflections and frugal pickings. For such as these it may prove to be a time of painful struggle without much light. But this is where we have the chance to shine as Christ's Light, to care and share in the true spirit of Christ-mass.

Immanuel is an exclamation, ‘God with us!’ used in worship to affirm God's presence and protection. When we remember this we realise we have no need to seek help from any other source, including ourselves, because God,

our true helper, is with us. Psalm 46:11 tells us, “the Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” This is a proclamation of God’s cosmic sovereignty – a powerful protective presence and worthy of trust in the worst circumstances. If we know this, not only can we overcome our own circumstances but gain the strength and joy to help others overcome theirs as well.

Like the ‘young woman...with child...who shall bear a son’ the pain of birth is replaced with the joy of new life. The joy of our new birth is contained in the trust we place in God. The strength to overcome is contained in His Spirit within. She shall name Him Immanuel, a name that holds the promise of God living within us; no longer remote and far away, but so very close that we can feel His breath within. If the light of Christ is within us then darkness must not be entertained. When things don’t go as we expect, when jealousy threatens to cloud our sight, if selfishness prevents generosity or circumstances tempt us to despair, we should remember. Immanuel, God with us, a Light that shines in the darkness, hope born out of the pain of love, in life and death.

To one and all, have a very joyful season of peace and goodwill in the love and light of our Lord Jesus Christ. With every Christmas blessing,

*Janice*

### *A Candle’s but a little thing*



*A candle’s but a little thing--- It starts with just a bit of string--- Yet dipped and dipped with patient hand--- It gathers wax upon the stand--- Until, complete and snowy white--- it gives at last a lovely light.*



*Life seems so like that bit of string--- Each deed we do, a simple thing--- Yet day by day if on life’s strand--- We work with patient heart and hand--- It gathers joy, makes dark days bright--- And gives at last a lovely light.*

*Author Unknown*



*A candle's flame is easy snuffed--- by careless breath that's strongly puffed--- Yet time and time with every gale--- it splutters and flickers but does not fail--- it draws upon the wax pure white--- then shines once more a lovely light.*



*Life seems so like that fragile flame--- when troubles come that hurt and maim--- Yet over and over if prayers be said--- a different path we'll start to tread--- the love of God will make us right--- and soon we'll shine a brighter light.*



*Remember then the Advent Hope--- and cling on to that candle rope--- in all life's simple things do good--- lets live with love just as we should--- with patient hand and caring sight--- let's pray, and shine Christ's joyful light.*

*Janíce Morgan 2010*

## **Pastoral Centre Christmas Opening**

The Pastoral Centre opening hours over the Christmas and New Year period will be as follows:

Saturday 24th December	10.00am – 12 noon
Monday 26th December	Closed
Tuesday 27th December	Closed
Wednesday 28th December	10.00am – 12 noon
Thursday 29th December	10.00am – 12 noon
Friday 30th December	10.00am – 12 noon
Saturday 31st December	10.00am – 12 noon
Monday 2nd January	Closed
Tuesday 3rd January	Resume normal opening hours

## Church Christmas Cards

There will be a board available to display Christmas Cards if you wish to send a card to the Church family and make a donation to charity, the preferred charity being NCH - Action for Children. However, you may wish to send individual cards. It is a matter of choice!

## United Choir

The United Choir Advent Evening will be held on Monday December 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm in the Methodist Church.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone for this evening of music, friendship and refreshments.

*Isabel Benzie*

## Christian Aid

**Carols in the Square** on Thursday 15th December at 10.00am. If you enjoy singing and could spare a little time to join with Christian Aid to help shoppers and passers-by to feel the Christian spirit, please come and support us; your help would be much appreciated.

Time to spare over the Christmas holidays? Then please look out for the **Christian Aid Quiz** based on the "Messiah". Copies will be available shortly at £1 each. A bit of fun with a serious side to pass an odd hour or two.

All the money raised from these two activities goes to Christian Aid.

*Jean Dyke*

# CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2011

*(All events in Emsworth Methodist Church & Pastoral Centre  
unless stated otherwise)*

IH = International Hall, URC = United Reformed Church, Bath Road

Thursday	1	10.00am	Thursday Market (IH)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'Alaska': Jill and Julian Mandiwall. (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev David Bridge
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Preacher Rev Janice Morgan, Celebrant Rev Simon Sayers
Monday	5	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	6	12 noon	Pastoral Centre Christmas Lunch
		2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Tea and Chat (IH)
		7.30pm	Bible Study (Quiet Room) see page 11
Wednesday	7	10.00 am	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	8	11.00am	Midweek Service led by Clifford Dyke (Quiet Room)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'Hong Kong Adventure' with Geoffrey and Amy Senior (IH)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Preacher Rev Geoffrey Senior, Celebrant Rev Ben Sargent
		10.00am	Children's Service, Favourite Carols and Christmas Stories led by Jean and Clifford Dyke.
		6.30pm	Carol Service at St James'
Monday	12	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
		7.00pm	United Choir Advent Evening (PC)
Tuesday	13	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'Knit for Charities' (IH)
Wednesday	14	7.30pm	Ladies' Group. Christmas Party
Thursday	15	10.00am	Thursday Market (IH)
		10.00am	Christian Aid Carol-singing in the Square
		2.00pm	Carol-singing in the Pastoral Centre
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Christmas Music – Betty Bruton and Friends
Saturday	17	10.00am	Traidcraft Stall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18</b>	10.00am	All Age Worship led by Rev Peter Cole Followed by coffee and Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	Carol Service led by the Stewards
Monday	19	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	20	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Favourite Christmas CD (IH)

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 9.00pm Holy Communion led by Rev Janice Morgan
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> 10.00am Morning Worship led by Dr John Vickers and Margaret Sawyer 6.30pm No service

## **Christmas in the Pastoral Centre 2011**



**December 6th 12 noon  
Christmas Lunch  
tickets priced £5 available  
from Melinda or Pamela**

**December 15th 2pm  
Carol Singing afternoon  
favourite carols, some entertainment,  
mince pies**



# CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 2012

(All events in Emsworth Methodist Church & Pastoral Centre  
unless stated otherwise)

IH = International Hall, URC = United Reformed Church, Bath Road

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1</b>	10.00am	Morning worship led by Mr John Dowdell
		6.30pm	United Holy Communion at St James' Preacher Rev Janice Morgan, Celebrant tba
Tuesday	3	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Beetle Drive and Cake (IH)
Wednesday	4	10.00am	Ecumenical Prayer Fellowship (URC Hall)
Thursday	5	10.00am	Thursday Market (IH)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Social Evening
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8</b>	10.00am	United Holy Communion at St James' Celebrant Rev Janice Morgan, Preacher tba.
		10.00am	Children's Service, led by Catherine Hall
		6.30pm	United Evening Service led by Margaret Sawyer, Preacher tba
Monday	9	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	10	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: Knit for Charities (IH)
Wednesday	11	7.30pm	Ladies' Group. Social Games Evening
Thursday	12	11.00am	Midweek Service led by Rev Janice Morgan (Quiet Room)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. Desert Island Music: Rev Janice Morgan
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>15</b>	10.00am	Annual Covenant Service led by Rev Janice Morgan
		6.30pm	United Evensong at St Thomas', Warblington
Monday	16	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	17	2.00pm	Activity Afternoon: 'My First Day at Work' (IH)
		7.30pm	Bible Study (Quiet Room)
Thursday	19	10.00am	Thursday Market (IH)
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild. 'Queen Victoria's Navy': Michael Forrest (IH)
Saturday	21	10.00am	Traidcraft Stall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>22</b>	10.00am	All Age Worship to be arranged Followed by coffee and Traidcraft Stall
		6.30pm	United Evening Service led by Rev Janice Morgan
Monday	23	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Wednesday	25	7.30pm	Ladies Group. <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> : Judy Emerson
Thursday	26	10.00am	Cake Stall
		7.30pm	Wesley Guild: 'Veterinary work in East Africa': David Bee (IH)

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>29</b>	10.00am	Morning Worship led by Rev Dr Cyril Rodd
		6.30pm	Christians Together in Emsworth at St James'
Monday	30	11.00am	Chair-based Exercises (IH)
Tuesday	31	7.30pm	Bible Study (Quiet Room)

## **A Date for your Diary**

On 12<sup>th</sup> January at 7:30 pm, at the Wesley Guild meeting, our Minister The Revd Janice Morgan has agreed to be interviewed about her life, work and interests by Geoff Eardley, and also to play some of her favourite music. A sort of 'Desert Island Music', but not to be confused with any other programme!

The evening promises to be very interesting and enjoyable so The Guild is making this an open evening and we invite all the Church family to come and join us.

*Don Beckman*

And looking forward to Spring:

### **Plant Sale Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2012**

I wish to remind everyone that next year the Plant Sale will take place on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

*David Sawyer*

**May we take this opportunity to wish all our readers  
joy and peace at Christmas  
and good health in the New Year**

*The Editorial Team*

But don't forget....!

<p>Items for the February news-sheet should be in the folder in the post rack or emailed to <a href="mailto:dianaharris@btinternet.com">dianaharris@btinternet.com</a> by Saturday 21 January</p>
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## **Methodist Women in Britain [Women's Network]**

It is unbelievable that the two years as Southampton District President have passed. I remember very clearly, sandwiched between two very gloomy October days in 2009, was this wonderfully sunny but slightly cool day in Emsworth - my Celebration Day, and I was waiting nervously in anticipation of being commissioned as the District President. It was a joy for both Amy Senior, who was my main speaker, and myself to see a packed church for this event. Your warmth, friendship and support meant a great deal to me personally. My thanks go particularly to everyone in this church who worked so hard to make my special day such a happy and successful one and to all those who have supported me during my time in office and shown a real interest in Women's Network.

On hand-over day in Salisbury last month I felt I was standing between two chapters in the life of Women's Network. On the one hand the closure of Women's Network as we know it and on the other the birth of a new movement, Methodist Women in Britain. As you will be aware there have been plans in place for Women's Network to merge with the British Unit of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women giving rise to the new name – Methodist Women in Britain. The plans came to fruition on July 1<sup>st</sup> last, just prior to the start of the Methodist Conference in Southport.

I feel wonderfully privileged to have been given this opportunity to serve God and his Church in the role of District President, an opportunity I shall cherish for the rest of my life. As I handed over the District Bible to Mrs. Liz Chick of the Salisbury Circuit, I felt proud to be among the list of dedicated ladies who have held this position since 1987, two from our own circuit, Pat Jackson and Gillian Patton.

One of my most pleasurable duties has been to visit ladies groups around the District and join in activities within their own churches. I have enjoyed listening to stories, exchanging news about mutual acquaintances and hearing on some occasions very personal testimonies.

I regard the last two years as a learning situation. I have learned a great deal more about Women's Work and Women's Network and their place within the history of the Methodist Church. I have also learned that we should never

underestimate the value of ladies' groups within our churches for this is where the real fellowship and caring goes on week by week. Call yourselves what you will, these groups have been and still are the foundation on which we can build for our future. The highlights of our year are our District and Area Days, when as a much larger group we share in worship and study and experience fellowship together. These are inspirational times when we meet to give thanks and to acknowledge God's guiding hand in all we attempt in His name.

On my travels I have been surprised to find that some ladies, even within our own denomination, do not have a clear cut idea about the purpose of Women's Network in the church. We seem to have gained a reputation for holding frequent coffee mornings, joining together to knit or to indulge in scones and jam at our afternoon gatherings. Of course we do all these things and I believe it is right that we should meet together in this way but we also need to remain aware that we have committed ourselves to make a difference to the lives of people in our own locality, in communities around us and to engage more efficiently and effectively with women in other parts of the world. One of the ways we can do this is to raise money for a named charity and last year the Southampton District donated generously to the charity 'Wells for India'. This year 2011-2012 we will be supporting the Fistula Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and working in partnership with Hamlin Fistula UK.

Take time out to visit the display board available at the back of the church on each 'All Age Worship' Sunday to find out more about MWiB, the campaigns we are involved in and the partnerships we share at home and abroad.

On my bedside table I have a postcard. The words on the card read:

Methodist Women in Britain

Bringing women together

to know Christ and to make him known.

Encouraging, equipping and enabling them

to serve God in the church, the community and the world.

Connecting women in Britain with Christian women worldwide.

These words are my daily reminder of a personal commitment to MWiB

*Judy Emerson*

## **Methodist Women in Britain [MWiB]**

### **Dates and venues for your diary**

Next Area Planning Meeting: Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012, 10 o'clock for 10-30 am at Portchester Methodist Church.

Eastern Area Day: Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup> 2012, at Portchester Methodist Church, 10 o'clock for 10-30am start; finish at 3pm.

Please let me know if you would like to come to either of these meetings.  
[Note change of venue]

*Judy Emerson*

### **Worship Leaders Course**

Members of the Circuit Staff are considering organizing a Worship Leaders course in the New Year. If you are interested in attending this course please contact Pam Stone on 023 92 679 868.

### **Bible Study Group**

By Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December the Bible Study Group will have completed their study of the Parables. We shall break for Christmas and meet again on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January and commence studying Ephesians. The Bible Study Group meets fortnightly on Tuesday evenings at 7-30pm in the Quiet Room and we would welcome new members.

### **Sunday Duty Rota**

As Senior Stewards we would like to thank everyone for their support in undertaking the various duties needed to make Sunday Worship possible.

However, extra support is always appreciated. If you wish to carry out any of the following duties: giving out of hymn books and notices, welcoming people, reading or leading intercessions, please let us know and we can add your name to the rotas. We like to say a special thank you to all those who set out the church on Saturday lunchtimes.

*David and Margaret Sawyer*

## **Janet Baker**

**Richard and Janet Baker** are among the newcomers to Emsworth we have been delighted to welcome in recent weeks. Janet recently completed her training back in her circuit in Essex and has now become a fully accredited local preacher. She will be serving on the new circuit plan. We warmly congratulate her on this and wish her every blessing in her future service.

### **The Renaissance Choir Christmas Concert**

**This year we are holding an afternoon concert at  
St James' Church, on Sunday 4th December at 2.30pm.**

The programme includes seasonal music by Rutter, Poulenc, Lauridsen and many Christmas favourites. There will also be readings and a chance for audience participation. We would love to see (and hear) you there.

Tickets are £5 on the door and proceeds will go towards Macmillan Cancer Support and St James' Church.

*Diana Harris*

### **The Church Calendar has moved!**

The double issue Church Calendar for December and January can be found on the centre pages for you to pull out and keep for your convenience.

Unfortunately some details of the January Preaching Plan are unavailable at this stage.

Do let us know what you think about this double issue of the news sheet – we would be interested in your feedback.

*The Editorial Team*

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