

**THE STORY OF
EMMANUEL
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
THE GROVE, WEST WICKHAM
1885 - 2004**



FOREWORD

Storytelling has always been at the heart of faith sharing, particularly the faith tradition in which Emmanuel proudly stands. From the epic stories told and retold by our ancestors who lived before Christ, stories about great characters like Abraham, Moses and the prophets, and great events, like creation and the flood, through to 'the greatest story ever told' about Jesus ('the master story-teller'), our faith has been shaped not so much by a dull historical approach but by bringing it alive through tales of love, courage and hope and of people who have done incredible things for God often in the face of adversity.

Of course, the story of Jesus did not end with tales of his life and death; the gospel story continues to be written in the experiences of his followers who seek to follow his way, truth and resurrection life. Emmanuel is part of this amazing story. As I read the story of the life of this congregation thus far, rather than feeling disconcerted that I was already confined to being a part of history, I felt immensely honoured to be part of the story of a group of people who have sought to live out their faith in a particular community in often difficult and changing circumstances but who remain true and faithful to all that they have inherited in faith and who seek to pass it on to others.

Those of us who are privileged to be around to celebrate 75 years of Emmanuel's life and witness in The Grove do so in a spirit of commitment to ensure that the story will continue to be written for many more generations to come.

We are immensely grateful to Sue Macmillan for all her time and effort in writing this history and particularly for her skill in bringing our story alive.

Russell Furley-Smith

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sources for this history have in the main come from Minute Books, the Church's monthly magazines, Newspaper cuttings and from memories of the Church family.

My grateful thanks go to the Rev. George Hewitt for giving his permission to reproduce and revise his original text.

I would like to thank all those who have answered my endless questions, clarified and explained details not clear to me and given details of their own personal memories. My thanks also go to those who have proof-read and corrected this work.

The origin of most of the photographs cannot be identified, but where it is known, the source has been acknowledged.

Efforts have been made to ensure that all the information is correct but I apologise for any errors that I may have made. This is an on going history, and the next edition, possibly in 2029, should have any errors corrected!

As I have researched and written this work, I have gained a new appreciation and respect for the number of people who over the years have contributed to the life and witness of Emmanuel.

Sue Macmillan
2004

INTRODUCTION

On October 3rd 2004, Emmanuel Church will celebrate its 75th Anniversary on its present site in The Grove, West Wickham with a Thanksgiving Communion Service in the morning and a United Churches' Service in the evening. Throughout 2004 other events are also taking place to mark this significant date, including an Open Day on Saturday 2nd October.

Writing in the *Bromley Record* of September 1929 just a month before the new Emmanuel Congregational Church was opened, the Rev. O. G. Whitfield, Minister of Bromley at that time, said,

“We can know no greater joy than to be able to say in years to come, when Emmanuel is well established and doing the great work it is destined to do, that by the Grace of God, we were enabled to begin it.”

As part of the 75th Anniversary, it was decided to continue **The Story of Emmanuel**, first penned by Revd. George Hewitt in 1964. The following was written by George in March 1969 explaining how he first came to write the book.

“When we were celebrating 75 years of Congregational worship and witness in West Wickham in the Autumn of 1963, I thought it might be of some value to outline the early struggles of our Non-Conformist forefathers in this area. The original story of Emmanuel was published in July 1964 .

At the approach of Emmanuel's 40th Anniversary, and at the request of a number of friends, I have added further material here and there and brought the story up-to-date

The story of Emmanuel recounted here is surely a justification of the faith and vision of those early members of the Bromley Church who penned the opening pages of this story by their zeal for the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

THE STORY OF EMMANUEL

CHAPTER ONE

THE EARLY DAYS

The story began on 21st September 1885 at the Bromley Congregational Church. It was a Harvest Festival Service. Founded in 1788 the Church was well established, strong and wealthy, and on that day there was a large congregation present.

In the course of his sermon, the Minister, Rev. R. H. Lovell, spoke of his concern for the neighbouring village of West Wickham, an “out-of-the-way village, where many of the people were living in spiritual darkness.”

He pointed out that no Free Church witness was being made in the village, which had a rural population of nearly 1,000 people, most of whom were agricultural workers employed by the landowners.



Rev. R. H. Lovell

“Would that we could send an Evangelist into this village,” said Rev. Lovell, “but even to send a colporteur to distribute or sell Bible tracts would cost some £40 a year.”

It was a cry from the heart and it did not go unheeded. In the congregation that day there was a visitor, a lady whose name was never known, who was so moved by the Minister’s appeal, that she sent £40 to his vestry after the service with the simple message: “Please send a colporteur to West Wickham.”

And so it was that a colporteur from the Spurgeon’s Society

came to West Wickham village. He was a Mr. William Hardiman, and he took up residence at 3 Helvetia Cottages, Kent Road. He was sent to serve not only West Wickham, but also the villages of Hayes and Keston.

The 1891 Census reveals that Mr. Hardiman was 33 years old, born in Salisbury, Wiltshire and was married, although there is no mention of a wife or anyone else living at the cottage with him. His occupation is listed as Colporteur (Books).

Christian witness in the Free Church tradition began in that little cottage in Kent Road, where the colporteur held meetings for prayer and worship.

Mr. Hardiman was a zealous man and in one year he made over 10,000 visits and sold 2,500 Bibles, books, text cards, and Christian periodicals. The following year he almost doubled his sales, in addition to the free literature that he distributed.

Services of worship for adults and children continued in that little cottage and very slowly the number of worshippers grew. At that time, non-conformists were regarded with some suspicion by the members of St. John’s, the Parish Church of West Wickham. Indeed, the records show that the landowners of West Wickham, fervent defenders of the Established Church, made it difficult for their tenants or employees to worship at these Cottage Services.

Such a situation has never prevented, and did not then prevent, the people from worshipping in their own way. Attendances at the Cottage Services continued to increase, until the day came when a wealthy and devoted worker at Bromley Church decided that West Wickham should have a Congregational Church of its own. He was Mr. Edward Ford Duncanson.

The first problem to be faced was the difficulty of finding a suitable piece of ground that might be purchased. In this matter there was strong opposition from the Church of England folk in the village. The cry went up, “No Dissenters’ Chapel shall be built in West Wickham”, and so strong was the influence of the Established

Church that no landowner would sell land for this purpose.

However, a lady in sympathy with the Free Church cause, offered to sell the area at the end of her garden as a possible building site, and immediately Mr. Duncanson bought it freehold for £90.



He then opened a Building Fund and the friends in Bromley Church responded at once. Sums totalling £120 were donated immediately. Further gifts were received and on the 21st September 1887, Mr. Duncanson laid the foundation stone of the Mission Church in North Road.

This was a great day. The builder, Mr. W. Grubb of Bromley, had his scaffolding poles gaily decorated for the occasion.

Mr. E. F. Duncanson

A formal address was delivered by the Rev. R. H. Lovell and later placed in a bottle in a cavity under the stone. Mr. Duncanson was presented with a silver trowel by the Bromley Minister on behalf of that Church, and purses containing gifts were placed on the stone. The offertory at the stone-laying ceremony was £50.

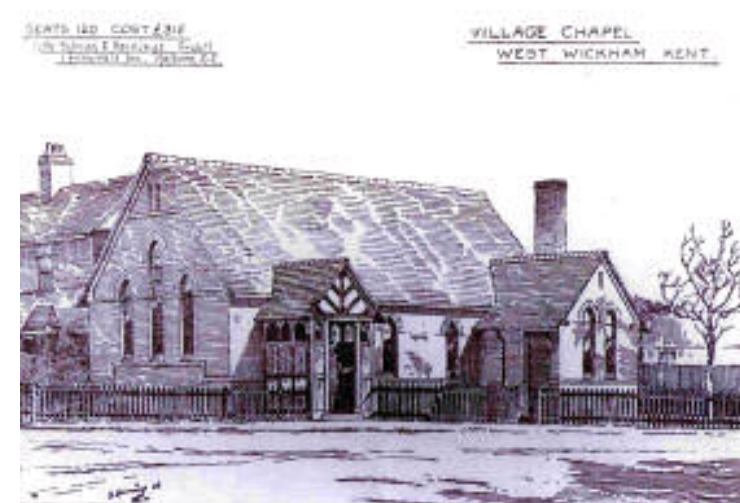
On 5th January 1888, the new building, known as “The Chapel” by the people of the village, was opened by no less a personage than the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, “the Prince of Preachers.” His text on this occasion was “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11 v. 28). A choice of text perhaps aimed at the wealthy landowners!

The little Church, built to seat 150, was crowded to the doors. The Service was followed by tea and then an evening meeting. Mr. Duncanson took the Chair at this meeting and tributes were paid to

his work in making possible the erection of the Mission Church. One of the speeches referred to the new building as “a real Gospel light which, though small, might produce the greatest results.”

Within two months of its opening, congregations in the little Chapel were between 60 and 70 people. The main Service was in the evening. In the morning there was a Prayer Meeting, with a Sunday School in the afternoon led by the colporteur. There was also a Thursday Evening Service.

By the end of May the whole cost of the building and furnishings had been met. Sunday by Sunday, members of the Bromley Church took active parts in conducting the Services. Many spoke of the three mile walk over the fields to West Wickham to join the enthusiastic village congregation as the ideal preparation for worship.



1887 Architect's drawing of the Mission Church

The first list of Church Members in West Wickham, published

in 1889 when the Church was inaugurated, shows 17 names on the Roll. In 1892, Mr. Hardiman left West Wickham. The new colporteur was a Mr. Hewitt. He, along with his wife and a Mr. Humerton (the Superintendent appointed by Bromley Church), carried on the work “with much enthusiasm and success.”

In 1895, a Mothers’ Meeting was formed by Mrs. Hewitt. This and the meetings for Prayer and Bible Study and the Band of Hope flourished as the years went by.

Details of the 1898 accounts for the Mission were published in the Bromley Congregational Church Manual.

| Receipts | £ | s | d |
|----------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| From Home Mission Account | 53 | 6 | 4 |
| Weekly Offerings | 5 | 13 | 11 |
| Mutual Improvement Soc. & Band of Hope | 1 | 12 | 8 |
| Sunday School Excursion | 5 | 3 | 6 |
| Children’s Missionary Box | 0 | 13 | 7 |
| Collected by Miss Short for Library | 1 | 9 | 6 |
| Mr. Duncanson: Donation | 25 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 92 | 19 | 6 |

| Payments | £ | s | d |
|----------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Mr. Bothwell, Evangelist | 60 | 0 | 0 |
| Caretaker | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Gas Account | 3 | 10 | 6 |
| West Kent Sunday School Union | 0 | 10 | 0 |
| Library Fund | 3 | 0 | 10 |
| Sunday School Excursion | 7 | 14 | 10 |
| Requisites and Stationery | 0 | 19 | 8 |
| Mutual Improvement Soc. & Band of Hope | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| Maternal Society | 0 | 17 | 1 |
| Sunday School & Band of Hope Tea | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Sick Cases | 1 | 11 | 6 |
| Coal & Coke | 0 | 18 | 0 |
| London Missionary Society | 0 | 13 | 7 |
| Sundries | 0 | 16 | 6 |
| Balance from 1897 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Cash in hand | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 92 | 19 | 6 |

The next great milestone was in 1899, when the Rev. Ebenezer Evans forced by ill-health to retire from a Congregational Church in Huddersfield came to West Wickham and took charge of the

Mission Church.

In the following year he wrote, “When one considers the smallness of the village population, and the strong antagonistic influence of the dominant Church, the wonder is that so large a proportion of the poor people attend our Services.” Mr. Evans was paid £6 a month!

The 1901 Census records his age as 59 and that he lived in West Wickham with his wife, Mary Ellen and unmarried daughter, Frances, at ‘Wentworth’ in Grosvenor Road.

The opposition from the Established Church continued to be felt. “Some of the people dare not enter the Mission Church,” wrote Mr. Evans in 1904; yet there were signs that “the Chapel” was winning its place in the community and gaining the respect of the local clergy and Anglican residents. The Church Membership increased as Ebenezer Evans continued his ministry. He resigned through ill health in 1908 and died in 1911, deeply mourned by those whom he had served so faithfully.

In 1910, a new Superintendent was appointed from the Bromley Church, a Sister Mary Gibson of Oakley Villas, West Wickham. After two years’ service, Sister Mary moved on to another Mission in Manchester and Mrs. Ellery (also a member of Bromley Church and recently returned from missionary service in the Congo) was appointed.

By 1923 the little Mission Church itself was reaching out by forming Cottage Prayer Meetings in Addington village. Open Air Services were also held in West Wickham on Saturday and Sunday evenings and also in other villages.

The Women’s Meeting - the only one of its kind in the village - flourished. In its Missionary giving, the little Church supported a leper boy in India, and sent money to a school in the Congo.

Relationships with the Church of England were improving. In April 1925, Mrs. Ellery was invited to represent the Free Church at

a function concerned with the Institution and Induction of the new Rector - though it is not clear if she was invited to the actual Service.

Another example of the willingness to co-operate was the Band of Hope under Miss McAndrew which both Anglican and Congregational children attended.

The first marriage at the Mission Church took place on 3rd April 1926 and was the first wedding in West Wickham outside the Parish Church. The Mission was beautifully decorated for the occasion with palms, flowers and plants loaned by Mrs. G. Mellin of Wickham Hall. The bride was Kathleen B. Santer, a former Sunday School scholar and teacher, and the bridegroom was Ernest Brown, a London City Missioner. The Service was conducted by Rev. R.O. Whitfield and the organist was Mr. W. H. Sharland, both from Bromley Church.

CHAPTER TWO

THE NEXT STEP

On 23rd March 1925, the Bromley Church received a letter from two concerned West Wickham residents, Mr. Francis E. Crabb of *Oakhurst*, Beckenham Road, and Mr. W. J. Campbell of *Ellerslie*, Grosvenor Road.

West Wickham was expanding into a London suburb and they felt that the Village Church could not meet the needs of the new people flooding into the area. Their request was that the Bromley Church might consider building a modern, larger Church on a more central site.

This letter led to the first of many meetings at Bromley and the search for a suitable site upon which a new Church might be built. After two-and-a-half years the site on which Emmanuel now stands was purchased. The vendor of the land was Mr. G. E. Spencer, well known in the area as a house builder.

The land on the Wickham House Estate, comprising of four plots and a triangular piece in front, cost £430. An initial deposit of £48 was paid and the Deacons of Bromley loaned the rest, interest-free, until the remainder could be raised. A large notice-board was erected with the words "Site for Congregational Church".

On the 14th March 1928, the Rev. Dr. Sidney Berry, General Secretary of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, presided at a special meeting at Bromley to inaugurate a new Church in West Wickham. It was reported that £8,000 would be needed and by the 2nd March, gifts and promises amounted to £3,340.

On 15th May 1928, there was a Public Meeting in West Wickham Lecture Hall to enlist the support of new residents and soon afterwards, building commenced.

The Lecture Hall built in 1878 had been frequently used by the Mission Church for meetings. By 1929 it was in need of repair. The idea was suggested that Emmanuel might be used while it was being rebuilt. Unfortunately, although the original plans for Emmanuel had included the building of a hall, rising costs had meant that the idea was dropped. A new Lecture Hall was eventually built on its original site in 1934.



Sunday, 9th June 1929, was an important day for the members of the Mission Church, for the **Rev. Charles J. Barry**, the Minister of a Congregational Church in Newport, Monmouthshire, came to conduct the evening service at West Wickham.

The Church was crowded to the doors and as a result of this visit, Mr. Barry was invited to become the first Minister of the new Church we now know as Emmanuel. Mr. Barry accepted the invitation. It was he

who suggested that the Church be named **Emmanuel**.

In August 1972, Rev. George Hewitt wrote these words in the church magazine before taking up a pastorate in Newport, Wales:

“It was from the very church where my Induction will take place, that the first Minister of Emmanuel, Rev. Charles Barry, was called to begin the work in West Wickham in 1929. He suggested the name Emmanuel, probably I suspect, because a neighbouring Church to Victoria Road in Newport was called Emmanuel, and this Church is part of the Church to which I am going.”

On 10th July 1929, some 60 members of The Women’s League of Bromley Church visited Emmanuel. They gathered in the church to sing the hymn *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow* and afterwards offered to pay the cost of the new pulpit. The Bromley Church choir donated the cost of the Reading Desk, and the tapestry for the Oak Reredos (ornamental screen) in the Chancel was presented by Mr. B. I. Hellyer. A Communion Table and Chairs were given by Miss Bumstead in memory of her parents. In the early days the Communion Plate belonging to Bromley Church was used, but in September 1930, a full set of Sheffield Communion Plate was presented by an anonymous donor for use at Emmanuel.

A Caretaker was appointed, and he commenced his duties in September on a weekly salary of £1 5s. 0d.

Also in September 1929, canvassers from the Bromley Church covered West Wickham inviting residents to the Opening Ceremony of the Church. On 3rd October 1929, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir J. E. Kynaston Studd, opened the new Church. The Service of Dedication was conducted by Rev. Whitfield, supported by the Rector of West Wickham and representatives of the Free Churches. The Church was crowded and large numbers were unable to gain admission. Friends from Bromley, arriving by char-a-banc, paid two shillings each for the return journey.

So began a new chapter in the history of Congregational witness in this area.

The following Sunday, Mr. Barry conducted the first Services, and at the organ was Mr. Francis Crabb who, along with Mr. W. J. Campbell, had written the historic letter to Bromley Church.

On the 6th November 1929, Rev. C. J. Barry was inducted as Emmanuel’s first Minister, and there began a ministry that was to lay the foundations of the Church Family at Emmanuel of which we are a part today.

In the early days Emmanuel was overseen by Bromley but in order to assist Rev. Barry in his duties, an Advisory Council was set up at Emmanuel. Mr. E. V. Mitchelmore was appointed Honorary Secretary and Mr. F. E. Crabb continued as Treasurer, having been appointed to the post by the Bromley Committee.

The first Church Meeting with an attendance of about eighty members took place in May 1930. At the meeting Rev. Barry explained something of the constitution and method of government of a Congregational Church. The principal business of the meeting was to consider the draft rules of the Church.



1929 Emmanuel Congregational Church

Worshippers from every tradition came to the new Church. As this was the only Free Church in the area, there were people from all

the Church traditions of worship including Anglicans.

It was quite impossible to produce an Order of Worship to satisfy everyone. Yet such was the personality of Charles Barry that the new Church was soon firmly established. He was a friend to all, and had an office at the Church where men and women from all walks of life came to receive spiritual guidance and friendly counsel.

Before very long the name Emmanuel came to stand for something spiritually vital in the area. Not least in importance was the warm friendship that developed between Rev. Barry and the Rector of the Church on the Hill, Rev. Sir Henry Denny. The Rector read the lesson at Rev. Barry's Induction and on one occasion, these two stood together at the Railway Station entrance early in the morning to invite businessmen to worship in either Church on Sundays. They also joined forces in writing an Open Letter to the Residents of West Wickham, encouraging them to worship at either Church. They had come a long way from the bitterness and opposition to Free Churchmanship of 1885!

On Palm Sunday 1930 came the Church Enrolment Service when, with solemn ceremony, 138 Founder Members of the Church made profession of Faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and pledged themselves to be a Family at Emmanuel. The Roll of Membership they signed has been preserved as a permanent reminder of that great day.

One of the Founder Members who, because of illness, was unable to be present at the Enrolment Service was the Rev. Joseph Wardle. He had played a full part in the early struggles of Non-conformity in West Wickham and had on many occasions conducted the Cottage Prayer Meetings.

It was with sadness that in March this year, Emmanuel's last surviving Founder Member, Miss Dorothy Flint died aged 97. She had joined the new Church with her mother from its opening and remained a faithful member throughout her life.

Emmanuel was intended to serve all the Free Church people of

West Wickham and it is interesting to note that records suggest that one third of the Founder Members were of Methodist persuasion.

So Emmanuel was born - a worthy successor of the little North Road Mission Church of 1888. The last service held there was in September 1929 taken by Preacher Victor Thomas of Palmer's Green. The Congregation was large and the singing joyous;

“Though we must change our place,
Our Souls will never cease Praising His Name.”

The building still stands in North Road. Following its closure as a Church, it became known as North Road Hall. It was still used by some of the Church organisations for social events until 1933 when it was put up for sale at £500.

The building has changed hands several times since then. Between 1937 and 1953, it was owned by *Grammer and Co Printers*. It then became a food-packaging factory for breadcrumbs known as *Krispy Krums*. In the 1970s it was sold on to a wholesaler *Valley Sundries* and then in 1989 the building was converted into four modern apartments and renamed Chapel Court. The Memorial Stone can still be seen.

In 1929, Rev. Barry immediately began both a Children's Church and a Young People's Fellowship at Emmanuel.

He inaugurated a Children's lending library with approximately 400 books, which he obtained by appealing to the congregation to donate at least two each. He added that they must be suitable for lending to those aged between eight and sixteen but at the same time, not too old fashioned!

Outings for the children also became a regular feature and the first one took place in June 1930 when three motor coaches with a party of 94 passengers left the Church at 8.00 a.m. bound for Littlehampton. Most of the day was spent playing on the beach, bathing and having donkey rides. The tired and happy youngsters returned home at 9.00 p.m.

Social organizations and groups, including the Young Women's Arts and Crafts Guild, the Women's Working and Social Party, with Mrs. Barry as President and the Women's Sewing Group were also quickly established.

A Young Men's Club began on 21st January 1930, its aims being four-fold: social, intellectual, spiritual and recreational. Little is mentioned of the first three objectives but the group quickly embraced the recreational aims of the club. They formed their own cricket club, acquired a full-sized billiards table, were loaned a bagatelle board and booked a grass court for the tennis season.

A Literary and Musical Society held its first meeting on 16th October 1929 with a performance by the world famous violinist Melsa. Concerts, recitals and lectures, some with lantern illustrations, provided a variety of entertainment to suit all tastes.

A local newspaper reported that the Society's twice monthly programme of events suggested that those responsible for the new Church had go-ahead ideas. It also added that the lack of evening entertainment in West Wickham would be found to be less conspicuous during the coming Winter months! Membership was not restricted to members of the Church.

Within a very short time, the various rooms in the Church were fully occupied nearly every evening of the week.

A small group of worshippers, unable to accept the Order of Worship at Emmanuel, left the Church soon after the Opening. They felt that the services were too modern in tone, preferring the older style of worship.

We believe it was from this group that the West Wickham (now West Wickham and Shirley) Baptist Church was founded in 1935. They were first constituted as an Evangelical Free Church, and known as the West Wickham Gospel Mission.

With the formation in 1932 of the Methodist Church in West Wickham, a large number of those who had originally found their

spiritual home at Emmanuel but had a Methodist background, transferred their membership to the new Church.

Other individuals also moved away unable to feel comfortable with the style of worship including Mrs. Ellery, who had so faithfully served the Mission Church and had been a member of Bromley Church for 40 years. She transferred her membership to the Baptist Tabernacle at West Croydon in 1930.

In April 1930, Emmanuel became fully licensed, for a fee of three pounds, for the solemnization of marriages. Twenty signatures of householders were necessary to support the application to transfer the registration of marriages from the Mission Church to the new Church.

The first wedding took place just a month later on 31st May when Miss Mildred Alice Hawdon of Southcroft Avenue, West Wickham married Mr. Robin Galloway of Catford. To mark this special occasion, Rev. Barry presented the couple with a copy of Moffatt's translation of the New Testament.



31st May 1930 Emmanuel's first wedding

E.H.Cooper

Rev. C. J. Barry left Emmanuel and moved to North Street Church, Brighton, in October 1935.

CHAPTER THREE

INDEPENDENCE AND EXTENSION



The Church continued to flourish under the ministry of the **Rev. William Griffith-Jones**, following his Induction on the 11th March 1936. His previous and first pastorate was at Freemantle Church, Southampton where he had served for eleven years.

Of historic interest was the special Service at Emmanuel on 1st November 1936, when the Mailu New Testament, translated by Rev. W. J. V. Saville, was dedicated. Mailu is one of the many native

languages found in Papua New Guinea. Mr. Saville, after retirement from 34 years in the Missionary service, served as a Deacon at Emmanuel and in 1945 he became its first Life Deacon. He died on 7th February 1948.

Another important event was the dedication of the new organ on 1st March 1937, when Reginald Goss-Custard, FRCO, gave a recital. This new organ replaced the smaller hand-blown reed organ that had previously served to lead the congregation at worship.

The Church Minutes of October 1930 records a motion to appoint a boy to blow the reed organ at one shilling a week. Mrs. Pat Jeffery, as a young girl living in The Grove at that time, confirms that one of her brothers, Clifford Wright did do this job, but cannot recall any payment ever being made to him!

The year 1937 was an important one in the story of Emmanuel. Up until this time, the Church was under the authority of the Bromley Congregational Church and its Church Council Executive Body was made up of equal representation from both Bromley and Emmanuel Churches.

In February 1937, the Trust Deed of Emmanuel Church was passed over to the London Congregational Union and Emmanuel embarked upon its independent life. Now a Diaconate could be appointed and this was done at the Church Meeting on the 29th April 1937.

Five Deacons were appointed to serve along with the Emmanuel representatives on the old Church Council. From thirteen nominations the following were elected: the Rev. W. J. V. Saville, Mr. I. H. Maddocks, Mr. F. Lang, Mr. T. Beesley and Mr. S. G. Bills. Deacons from the old Church Council were Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Garlett, Mr. A. Brickell, Mr. S. Wright, Mr. E. Peckham, Mr. W. K. Hill, Mr. L. Harrington (Deacons' Secretary), Mr. F. Bodger (Church Treasurer) and Mr. W. Ware (Church Secretary).

The first Deacons' Meeting was held on the 19th May 1937. (It was not until July 1938, that all outstanding financial liabilities to the Bromley Church were discharged.)

The war years were difficult due to the fact that many people had been evacuated from the London area. Owing to blackout regulations, the evening service was held for a time at 3.30 p.m. and on occasions there were as few as 15 children in the Children's Church.

In September 1939, the first air raid sirens, originating from the former fire station in Glebe Way, were heard in West Wickham. They were sounded on a Sunday morning whilst church services were in progress. Mrs. Connie Winter remembers that the service at Emmanuel was about half way through when it was interrupted. The service was immediately stopped, and without panic, the congregation returned home.

All parents were later advised by letter that in the event of an air

raid the Church, though willing to assist as far as was possible, could not accept responsibility for the safety of the children.

The following is an extract from *The Bulletin*, Emmanuel's monthly newsletter, issue number 63 dated August 1944.

“July has been a month of severe strain for us as a Church and district. It has also been a time of fine courage and Christian devotion. On the 12th, our church suffered considerable damage through blast from a nearby bomb. All the windows were smashed, doors and fittings were destroyed, and the outside tiled roof shuffled into complete disorder. The organ cannot be used until an expert examines it. Some ceilings in the rooms partly fell.”

The repairs were completed in early 1946 by R. Mansell Ltd. of Station Road, West Wickham at a cost of £210 15s 4d. The same firm was also responsible for making good and re-surfacing the driveway at the front of the Church charging £115 for the work. Mr. Mansell and his wife were both Church Members at Emmanuel.

Many homes in The Grove and surrounding roads were also destroyed or damaged during this time. At least one known death was recorded.

After the war years, records show that there were some 350 children in the Church of Youth (as the Children's Church was re-named) but the work was seriously hindered by lack of accommodation and so in November 1947, a Building Fund Appeal was launched.

The accommodation at that time consisted of the Church, the Church Parlour (now the Hewitt room), the Deacons' Vestry (now the Lang Room), the Choir Vestry (later made into the Kitchen Extension and at present used again by the Choir on Sundays), and the Minister's Vestry.

There were two main entrances into the Church: one through the Old Vestibule door facing the High Street and one directly into the

church from the back. This door can be seen in the Wedding photograph. Two smaller doors were also positioned at the rear of the Church on either side of the main one. The door that now leads out of the Church to the Hardiman Room, is one of the original doors, the other being bricked up when the extension was built.

The children's departments were organised in the following way.

At 10 a.m. the Senior Department (begun in 1937 for children over 13 years) met in the Church Parlour, and for discussion groups used the Church and one of the Vestries.

The Emmanuel Youth Fellowship (started in 1943 for those over 16 years of age) also met at 10 a.m. in one of the vestries. At that time, the morning service began at 11.00 a.m. It was not until 1982 that the Sunday morning service began at 10.30 a.m.

The other departments of the Church of Youth met in the afternoon. The Beginners' department met in a vestry and the Primary department overfilled the Church Parlour. The Juniors met in the Church from 2.30 to 3.15 p.m.

At 3.30 p.m. the Intermediate Department took over the Church from the Juniors. There was a long waiting list of children, and no room to receive them. (For some years before 1947 the Intermediates and Juniors met as one Department in the Church, and there were 200 children in that Department alone in 1946.)

So successful was the Building Fund Appeal that on Saturday 15th December 1951, phase one - the Large Hall (now the Richmond Hall) and the smaller Griffith-Jones Hall - were opened. The Opening Ceremony, carried out by Lady Alexander, was followed by a Service of Dedication, under the chairmanship of Sir Frank Alexander.

The two new halls were a memorial to those who gave their lives in the Second World War.

A large marble wall memorial can also be seen in the Halls vestibule. It was brought from North Road when the Mission Church closed. It bears the inscription *Lest We Forget* and is in recognition of six members of the congregation who died in the First World War 1914 – 1918.

Remarkable changes were also happening to Church relations in West Wickham. On Whit-Sunday evening, 5th June 1949, a United Service under the title *The One Spirit* was broadcast on the Home Service Programme of the BBC from Emmanuel. The Service was conducted by the Vicar of St. Francis' Church, the Scriptures were read by the Baptist Minister, Addresses were given by Emmanuel's Minister, the Rector of West Wickham (St. John's Church), and the Methodist Minister. Prayers were led by the Vicar of St. Mary's Church. Representatives of all the Churches were present at this act of worship. What a long way to have come in understanding and co-operation between the various branches of the Church since 1885.

The Rev. W. Griffith-Jones, known affectionately as Griff, served the Church until January 1952 when he became Moderator of the Province of Wales and Monmouthshire.

At his farewell, special mention was made of the work that he had done in supporting and encouraging others during the war years. One of the many tributes came from the Rector, the Rev. J. F. Hough representing the West Wickham Council of Christian Churches. He said,

“Fifty years ago the Rector and the Congregational Minister probably would not have been on speaking terms. For God's sake, and I mean that reverently, may those times never return.”

Whilst at Emmanuel he had served as Chairman of the London Congregational Union and in 1958-9 he was elected Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.



On 22nd May 1952, the **Rev. James Todd** was inducted as Minister of Emmanuel and it was soon evident that the second phase of the building plans of 1947 needed to be carried through.

Again the Building Extension Committee set to work. In May 1956 saw the opening of an extension to the Church itself, a new vestibule, porch and cloakroom, some alteration to the kitchen and a new front entrance to the Church from The Grove.

Rev. Griffith-Jones returned to preach at the Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication on the completion of the Church Extension.

CHAPTER FOUR

FAMILY CHURCH

The Church continued to flourish. It was reported in May 1957 that the capacity of Emmanuel Church was around 300, and that the average attendance was about 250 at each morning and evening Services. The adult membership roll at that time contained just over 400 names.

On the 7th January 1962, Emmanuel adopted the Family Church principle of all age worship, with children sharing with the other members of the Church Family in morning service. This change brought the call for still more accommodation.

The Rev. James Todd left Emmanuel in 1962 after a fruitful ministry of ten years, to the pastorate at Christ Church Leatherhead.

At the large gathering to say goodbye to him and his family, a warm tribute was made by the Matron, Miss E. M. Price-Williams, of the Cheyne Hospital for Children in Woodland Way. She spoke of his care and friendship for the sick children in his role as their Free Church Chaplain. He had played a large part in fund raising and had been instrumental in bringing the Hospital to the attention of the Variety Club of Great Britain.

The site in Woodland Way was originally the Children's Heart Hospital, but in 1957 Cheyne Hospital was transferred there from Sevenoaks. It is now called the Cheyne Centre. Members of the Centre still regularly attend Church each Sunday morning.



On the 3rd January 1963, the **Rev. George Hewitt** was inducted as Minister of Emmanuel.

He was well known for the Youth and Children's work that he had done at his previous Ministry in New Malden. It had resulted in the building of a new church hall to accommodate the growing number of youngsters attending his Church. He represented the Boys' Brigade on the Congregational Youth Board and was for some time the Chairman of the

Youth Committee of the London Congregational Union.

One event that always attracted large numbers was the annual Church Missionary Supper. Those that attended were transported by costume, drama and food to exotic places in the world such as Hong Kong, the South Sea Islands, India and Papua.

The number of Missionaries throughout the world was decreasing, and in the 1960s, the Congregational Council for World Mission (formerly the London Missionary Society) had less than 200 in the field. It was Rev. George Hewitt's hope that a young person from Emmanuel would one day become a Missionary.

In the autumn of 1963, Emmanuel celebrated 75 years of Congregational witness in West Wickham by holding an Exhibition to show Emmanuel's contribution to the life of the area. It was an inspiring occasion, when both Church and outside organisations who met on the premises, filled the Large Hall with interesting exhibits, and also showed the growth of Emmanuel in an area that had grown from a village into a large London suburb.

Then, on 5th January 1964, came the great occasion when two new halls were formally opened, one of which had a stage, with a large storage area beneath. These halls also had an entrance from The Grove.

The guest of honour who opened the halls on that occasion was Mrs. W. A. Hoskins, a member of Emmanuel who was also a member of the little Mission Church in the early days of Congregational witness in West Wickham.

She recalled how as a young woman she had taken an active part at the Mission Church by playing a small harmonium at the mid-week Service and the piano or pedal organ at the Sunday Services.

Her husband, Mr. W. A. Hoskins lived as a boy in Helvetia Cottage in Kent Road, possibly in the very house where the first colporteur, Mr. Hardiman had lived and conducted the Cottage Prayer Meetings in 1886.

It is right and fitting that the two new halls should bear the names of two pioneers of Congregationalism in West Wickham, Mr. Hardiman, and the Rev. C. J. Barry.

The architect of Emmanuel had carried out his design with the intention of merging the exterior of the church with the local suburban dwellings.

An Illuminated Cross was placed high on the church gable, facing and visible from the High Street. This Cross was the gift of Mr. H. Thomas Castle in memory of his wife. It was dedicated on

Sunday 4th October 1964, and switched on for the first time by Mr. Castle during the Service.

In that Service too, Emmanuel was seen to be growing as section after section was added to the beautiful model of the Church built by Mr. J. Colvin. This year, Mr. Roy Hardy and Mr. Jeff Chandler have painstakingly cleaned and repaired the model including reinstalling new electric lighting.

The Building Extension Fund, launched in 1947, was finally closed at the end of 1969 when the debt was settled.



1964 The Church with the Illuminated Cross on the Gable

With the opening of the new halls, it became possible to allocate the rooms for use by the Junior Church (renamed in 1963) on Sundays. The Intermediate Department took over the new Hardiman and Barry rooms. The Junior Department occupied the Large Hall. The Primary Department went into the Griffith-Jones Hall and the Beginners' Department was then able to use the Church Parlour. The Crèche was established in the Lang Room (previously known as the Deacons' Vestry. Mr. Lang was Church Treasurer in the late

1930s.)

The Emmanuel Youth Fellowship, which had been meeting at 10.00 a.m. was transferred to the evening service, after which they met for a further hour of fellowship at 8.00 p.m. The Senior Department of Junior Church (known as the Seekers) shared in the evening service for part of the time prior to proceeding to the Hardiman Room for their own teaching session. On the fourth Sunday of each month, the Seekers remained for the whole evening service and took part in the worship.

A pleasing development over the years had been the closer integration of Junior Church and the Uniformed Organisations. This was most clearly expressed in the Annual Promotion Service, which took place on a Parade Sunday in October each year.

Both the Guides and the Scouts have been an integral part of the youth of Emmanuel since its early days. The 2nd West Wickham Guides were formed in November 1929 with Miss Eileen Edmonds in charge as Captain. They were officially registered in December. The Guide Flag, presented to the Company by members of the Edmonds family, was dedicated in early 1930.

A Brownie pack was formed in September 1930 and registered in 1931, although the records at Guide headquarters show that it was not attached to the Church. In 1946 the pack was disbanded and re-registered in 1949 with Mrs. Winnie Jones as Brown Owl.

The Scouts and Wolf Cubs were established in 1930 with Mr. H. W. Sindall as Scoutmaster and Mr. George Edmonds as Cubmaster. Now the 5th West Wickham troop, they were originally known as the 2nd.

Troop funds were raised by cutting logs from the Woods near Copse Avenue and selling them at ten shillings per cartload. The handcart was kindly lent to them by Mr. Ken Nottle, a local business man who was very much involved in the Scouting movement. Within a year, they had raised enough money to purchase their own cart and some tents. Their first camp took place in the summer of

1931 in the grounds of Chartwell, home of the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill.

An entry in the 1934 *Messenger* reads:

“We extend a cordial welcome to Mr. H.T. Castle who has kindly consented to fill the post of Cub master temporarily.”

Tom Castle in fact served as Cub master for twenty years until 1954!

In April 1930, ten Scouts, armed with spades, forks and a wheelbarrow, joined the Rev. Barry in tidying up the triangular piece of land in front of the Church. Later that year, posts connected by black iron chains were erected around the perimeter of the land.

Changes to the structure of the Diaconate were also made. The Junior Church Superintendent was to be an ex-officio member of the Diaconate, as was the Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. On 26th July 1965, it was agreed that Deacons who had completed their term of appointment should not be eligible for re-election for a period of one year. This rule still applies to the Elders of today.

On 28th November 1967, the Church Meeting approved the appointment of three Life Deacons in recognition of outstanding service to Emmanuel and to the wider fellowship of the church. They were Mrs. Daisy Garlett, Mr. Sidney Bills, and Mr. W. Keith Hill. On Sunday 7th January 1968, these new appointments were formally acknowledged by the presentation of Bibles to the new Life Deacons. The only other Life Deacon of Emmanuel was Rev. W. I. V. Saville - as recorded in an earlier chapter.

Within the original structure of the Church, the Chancel has seen the most changes over the years.

Originally it was backed with a high oak reredos surmounted by a small oak Cross, and decorated with tapestry panels. Unfortunately these tapestries faded very quickly, and they were removed in 1939.

Then in 1957, the locations of the pulpit and lectern were interchanged, and the chancel floor extended into the church to make more room for the choir stalls. It was extended again in the 1990s by Mr. Perry Richards.



Interior between 1939 and 1956

On Sunday 27th February 1966, a new Baptismal Font was dedicated in the Chancel in memory of Mr. W. O. R. Gregory. Then a little later, the entire oak reredos and the small Cross were removed, and on 5th June a much larger Cross, backed with velvet curtains, was erected and dedicated in memory of Mrs. Marie Gritton and Mr. Michael Gritton.

Changes were also taking place in the Church Organisations during the late fifties and sixties.

The Men's Group, formed to meet quarterly in April 1960, changed its name to The Men's Fellowship, and began monthly meetings in October 1966.

The 59 Club, which held its first meeting on 5th April 1959, and was the successor of The Over Twenty's Club, closed down in March 1968. Also prominent in the fifties and sixties were the WOTS (Well Over Twenties) social group, providing entertainment within the church family.

The Keys, a fellowship originally for those over 20 years of age, was formed in October 1966. The members met in each other's homes and the name of the group was derived from their practice of meeting on the 21st of each month. The Keys is still active today.

The Emmanuel Players, the church drama group, was formed in 1965, the constitution being formally approved by the Church on 29th June. Their debut performance with a cast of 17 was a presentation of the Passion play *Mirage* by T. C. Thomas. The prologue and epilogue were written and spoken by Rev. George Hewitt, using the occasion as a preparation for Easter. Their productions were to a very high standard and always well attended. The final curtain came down in 1995.

The Ladies' Sewing and Social Party changed its name in 1969 to The Women's Fellowship, and with a slightly changed programme of activities began a new chapter in its long history. The Ladies' Sewing and Social Party was one of the first organisations to be formed at Emmanuel. During the early years of the Church's life, when funds were low, the Church Treasurer leant heavily upon this group for financial help, and the ladies responded magnificently. In the early days, in addition to their sewing activities for sales of work etc., they also had talks and musical afternoons.

The Young Wives' Club begun in 1949, changed its name to The Emmanuel Guild in May 1959. In 1970, it celebrated its 21st birthday with a party, attended by 150 past and present members and their husbands. Mrs. Kathleen Griffith-Jones, widow of Rev. William Griffith-Jones, came especially from Bournemouth to the party. Her husband was Minister at the time that the Club was formed.

The Emmanuel Guild and the Women's Fellowship decided to unite and reform as one organisation and commencing in 1975, it became the Emmanuel Fellowship. In June 1981 it took its current name of Emmanuel Women's Fellowship.

Over the years, a number of Young Wives' Clubs have also been established as well as Mother and Toddler groups

The Badminton Club which continues to this day, was formed early in 1952 following the opening of the Large Hall.

The Church's first magazine was *The Emmanuel Church Messenger* - a printed magazine with advertisements and with *The Home Messenger* as an insert.

The first edition appeared in January 1934. It was priced at two pence. The front cover bore a striking drawing of the church by Mr. Sam Wright (a member of the Church Council).

In June 1939 *The Bulletin* was born. This was initially in a single sheet (four page) printed format. It was issued free, with a request for donations. It was suggested, "that one penny in the vestibule box would cover the cost!" In January 1967 it was given a new format and a new cover, very similar in style to *Emmanuel Life*. The picture of Emmanuel on the front cover was based on a photograph taken by Mr. Frank Pitt.

The first edition of *Emmanuel Life* as we know it today was published in January 1978.



The Advertiser

Following the writing of **The Story of Emmanuel** in 1964, Rev. George Hewitt was invited to meet Miss Christina Duncanson, who was present when her father laid the foundation stone of the Mission Church in 1887.

He obtained permission to try to remove the Foundation stone from the old Mission and bring it to Emmanuel. Unfortunately the stone itself could not be removed without disrupting the working of

the factory which then operated in the building. He did the next best thing, and by removing several bricks from the wall, he was able to locate and remove the bottle (a *Mellin's* baby food bottle) from beneath the stone and recover the contents placed there in 1887.

The bottle contained: a copy of *The Daily News* (dated 21st September 1887 and priced one penny); a copy of *The Christian World* (dated 15th September 1887 and priced at one penny); a copy of *The Nonconformist and Independent Journal* (dated 15th September 1887 and priced at four pence), and the original notes of the address delivered by Rev. R. H. Lovell at the stone-laying ceremony.

The newspapers are yellowed and aged but still make interesting reading. Unfortunately the Address notes had been badly affected by damp but George was able to reconstruct them. The fragments are now safely enclosed in glass.

From its inception Emmanuel has always been ready to engage in whatever community service was open to it, but none was so exciting as the work that began following a recommendation to the Church Meeting of 2nd April 1968.

Under the Will of Miss Olive Rutter, a member of Emmanuel, the Church had received a bequest allowing a Memorial Fund to be set up. Then came the generous offer from Miss Marianne Wohlwill to allow the use of her home at 2 The Grove, aptly named *Restawyl* for the use of sick folk who were in need of short term nursing care, and to make available her professional skill for this purpose. The church gladly accepted this wonderful offer of service, and offered the necessary financial help from the Memorial Fund to make this community service possible.

In its first year, 22 people received first class nursing care from Marianne and her team of helpers. In 1978, after ten years of dedicated service to others, Marianne's own health deteriorated and the refuge was closed. Marianne died in March 1992.

CHAPTER 5

UNITY AND MISSION

As West Wickham grew, so did the number of churches in the area.

St. John the Baptist (The Church on the Hill) is the oldest church in West Wickham. A church on that site is mentioned in *The Domesday Book*. In June 1990, St. John's celebrated its 500th Anniversary.

Free Church worship began in Kent Road in 1886, and was later moved to the newly built Mission Chapel in North Road. In these early days there was very little, if any, co-operation between these two Christian fellowships.

Then in 1929, Emmanuel was built and friendly relations began to develop between Anglicans and Congregationalists largely due to the friendship of the Rector of West Wickham, Sir Herbert L. L. Denny, and the Minister of Emmanuel, Rev. Charles J. Barry.

Mention of the beginnings of the West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church and the West Wickham Methodist Church has already been made. From 1932 to 1960 the Baptists worshipped in their church in Surrey Road and on 5th March 1960, their new church was opened in Shirley. The first Methodist Church in Hawes Lane was opened in 1935 and the present church, built next to it, was opened on 15th October 1960.

The Roman Catholics moved from Justin Hall to a temporary church in Braemar Gardens in May 1938. The present St. Mark's Church was opened on 15th May 1963.

On 10th October 1936, the new Parish Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Ravenswood Avenue was consecrated. St. Mary of Nazareth Church in The Avenue, was opened as a dual-purpose church and hall on 8th December 1934. The present church was consecrated on 8th December 1954.

Coney Hill Road Baptist Church began when a dual-purpose hall was erected by The London Baptist Association in 1938 and opened for worship on 15th October in that year. The Church Fellowship was formally constituted in 1940.

One of the starting points for the closer working of the existing churches in West Wickham was the beginning of a local auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in February 1939. The first President was Rev. W. J. V. Saville, a Deacon at Emmanuel, and Miss Grace Webb who was appointed as Collector.

The West Wickham Council of Christian Churches was formed on 23rd May 1939, with Rev. W. Griffith-Jones, the Minister of Emmanuel, as its first Chairman.

One of the first activities of the newly formed Council was the setting up of a series of discussion groups on the theme *The Outline of a United Church*. There were four groups with eight or ten people in each group. From this time the churches began to work more closely together, though the Roman Catholics were not yet involved in these relationships.

Then came a new surge forward, when on 12th October 1967, *The People Next Door* (PND) project, sponsored by The British Council of Churches, was launched in West Wickham. There were fifteen house groups, involving about one hundred and seventy people from St. Francis, St. John's, the Methodist Church, and Emmanuel. This was an exciting project, and all those who took part were very enthusiastic about the prospect of a closer integration of the work of the churches in the area.

Arising out of the PND study groups, it was recommended that church congregations should have the opportunity of sharing in each other's worship, and that the churches should be closed in turn to make this possible. It was also decided to seek permission for a United Communion Service in which all who had shared in PND might join. These recommendations were carried into effect. The congregation of St. Francis Church shared in the evening worship at Emmanuel on 19th May 1968, and Emmanuel closed on the evening

of 27th October 1968, so that its congregation might share in Evening at St. Francis. The other churches made similar arrangements.

Then on 23rd May 1968, came the great day when, in St. Francis Church, for the first time in West Wickham, Anglican and Free Church worshippers knelt together at the Lord's Table. It was, for everyone, a solemn occasion and a time of heartfelt thanksgiving to God.

These were the mainstream events that led up to *Mission '69*. This united Mission began with an invitation from Father L. Callan, priest of St. Mark's, to share in a united visitation of the area. In order to discuss the implications of such an invitation a meeting of clergy and ministers was arranged at St. John's Rectory on 24th May 1968. Before their discussions began, they knelt together before God in prayer; the Roman Catholic priest, two Anglican clergymen, the Methodist Minister and Rev. George Hewitt of Emmanuel.

Every house in West Wickham was visited and 6,000 families were invited to share in the worship and activities of the six participating churches during a special week of Mission held between 16th and 23rd March.

During that week, Emmanuel held an exhibition telling of its work and witness. Men, women and young people in the area were invited to sample some of Emmanuel's weekday activities including the Youth Fellowship Club, the Women's Guild, the Women's Fellowship, and the Men's Fellowship.

At the end of the Mission week, a United Service was held in a huge marquee in Blake's Recreation Ground.

George Hewitt wrote at that time,

"As we look back over the years to the beginnings of Congregational witness in that little cottage in Kent Road in 1886, we give thanks to Almighty God for the ways in which He has led us, and for the growing co-operation between the Churches in West Wickham. We are humbly grateful for the part we at Emmanuel have been able to play

in furthering these inter-church relationships, and pray that we all of us may be led ever onward as we seek that visible unity which we believe to be our Lord's Will for His Church."

One outcome of *Mission '69* was the setting up of the West Wickham House Church Groups, comprising of members of all denominations meeting regularly. One group still meets to this day.

Up until 1971, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, held twice a month, followed the normal one hour Service. The few minutes that lapsed between the two, allowed members of the congregation to make their 'escape' if they so wished! After that date it became an integral part of that Service.

Having been absent for over twenty years, the Church Directory was re-introduced followed immediately by a list of revisions needing to be made! Some things never change, do they?

In May 1972, George Hewitt was the last Minister to be inducted as the Chairman of Bromley District of the London Congregational Union. The new Bromley District of the URC became part of a much larger Southern Province.

In August 1972, Rev. George Hewitt left Emmanuel to take up the post of Minister of Newport Congregational Church in Monmouthshire.

CHAPTER 6

MAKING HISTORY

At a Special Church Meeting on 5th October 1971, the members of Emmanuel unanimously agreed to endorse the recommendation made at Assembly to support the Scheme of Union between the Congregational Church in England and Wales (until 1966 known as the Congregational Union of England and Wales,) and the

Presbyterian Church of England.



Between 1945 and 1951 discussions had been taking place between the two Church denominations, resulting in the formation of a Covenant. In 1963 further talks began which led to the Scheme of Union.

The **United Reformed Church** was formed on 5th October 1972 – the first union between two denominations in England since the Reformation.

The Inauguration of the URC took place in Central Hall, Westminster beginning at 10.00 a.m. The representatives from Emmanuel were Mr. Jim Pyle, Secretary and Mr. Anthony Main, Assistant Secretary. Below is a copy of their report which appeared in the November issue of *The Bulletin*.

The opening worship was conducted by the Rev. C.J. Buckingham, the President of the Congregational Church in England and Wales. This was followed by the Uniting Declarations of both Churches and, after these had been passed by the appropriate majorities, the Rev. Arthur Macarthur, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church, seconded by Mrs. Gwen Hall, the Chairman of the Council of the CCEW, moved,

'This United Assembly declares that one United Church under the name of the United Reformed Church in England and Wales, and upon the basis, terms, conditions and provisions, and with the membership and ministry, structure and councils defined and declared in the Scheme, is hereby formed, and that this United Assembly is the first General Assembly of the United Reformed Church.'

At 10.55 a.m. this resolution was duly passed, and a prayer of thanksgiving and constitution was offered by the Rt. Rev. A.G. MacLeod, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of England.

The appointment of the Rev. John Huxtable as Moderator of the First General Assembly was then made, after which he addressed the Assembly. He spoke of the almost insuperable hurdles that had been surmounted during the nine years of joint conversations, but emphasised that in those conversations there had never been active denominational differences. He welcomed visitors from other churches and acknowledged the great number of greetings received from all over the world.

In his greetings, the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the occasion as one of the most moving experiences of his life. He saw the act of union as part of a mighty movement. The wind of God was now blowing everywhere within Christendom, and this act of faith, of courage and of obedience was a message of faith, courage and obedience to other Christians.

The Prime Minister, who had hoped to be present, sent a message of goodwill, and then the President of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, an American lawyer, addressed the Assembly.

After certain business matters had taken place, the General Secretaries, the Provincial Moderators and the other full-time officers of the church were inducted to their offices. Then, following the reading of a loyal address to HM the Queen, the Assembly closed with the dedication of the ministers and members of the United Reformed Church, and the singing of the hymn *Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go*.

As we made our way out of the Large Hall and in a great

crowd converged upon the staircase landing, we had the pleasant surprise of meeting with the Rev. George Hewitt and the Rev. Allan Butler, so we joined forces for lunch before the afternoon's Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey.

We got into the Abbey at 3.15 p.m. and were fortunate enough to get seats immediately at the side of the pulpit, and in a line with the first step of the Chancel (and within range of the TV cameras!).

Beginning with a fanfare of trumpets and closing with the ringing of the Abbey bells, the Service was a most impressive occasion. Many of you will have seen it on television, and after the sermon by the Rt. Rev. John Huxtable, in which he spoke of the hope that this union would be but the beginning of a larger coming together of the Christian communities in this country, perhaps the most moving part of the service was the act of dedication and commitment when the whole congregation stood together and said:

'God of our fathers, God of our own time, God of the hidden future, we accept anew the gift of life from Thee; we pledge ourselves to one another in Thy service; we commit ourselves to seek unity with all Christian people; and in all this we rely solely on Thy grace. Confirm and strengthen in us this resolve, for the sake of Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.'

Following this the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council each said on behalf of the churches they represented:

'I give thanks with you for this union and share your resolve to seek that wider unity which is Christ's will.'

We all echoed the Moderator's reply:

'May God enable us all to find and do His will.'

On the first Sunday as a United Reformed Church, the Service at Emmanuel was conducted by Rev. A. B. Jamieson, a former Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of England. The Ordination and Induction of nineteen Elders took place on 13th December by the Rev. Allan Butler of Hayes Church, the Interim Moderator.

CHAPTER SEVEN

FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

In 1973 **Rev. Derek Richmond**, Minister of Caterham Church accepted the call to become Emmanuel's next Minister.



His Induction was scheduled for May, but plans were put on hold following a heart attack. His subsequent recuperation and convalescence meant that the Interim period was extended.

The Induction Service took place later that year on Saturday 3rd November 1973.

His wife Mavis was no stranger to Emmanuel as she had been the guest speaker at the Emmanuel Guild on two occasions in 1964. Derek and Mavis began a long and enriching ministry at Emmanuel which lasted twenty years.

During the Interregnum period, a four-day Flower Festival took

place in September 1973 and was a huge success. Mrs. Bettie Turner, who sadly died in March this year, was the planner and prime mover in organizing the Festival, and the Organ Fund was the beneficiary of over £300. The theme was *The Church in Action* and the exhibits illustrated the different activities of the church organizations and of those who used the premises. Some 750 visitors admired over 40 arrangements in the Church.

Many "firsts" took place over the next few years.

In March 1974, Emmanuel hosted the Southern Province United Reformed Church Spring Synod. Some 320 delegates from Churches in Kent, Sussex, Surrey and South East London participated. Although it was the Spring Synod, it will be remembered for the atrocious weather and heavy snow that persisted all day. The event was hosted again at Emmanuel, eleven years later in 1985. No weather report was recorded!

Changes in the Sunday Services included having the welcome and notices read out at the beginning of the service, and the offertory taken towards the end. Both had previously taken place in the middle of the Service.

Focus on Faith began its fortnightly meetings of study and discussion on Faith, the Bible and Christian living.

Two new Committees, composed of Elders and Church Members, were formed in 1977 - the Community Service Committee (known as Community Support since 1999) and the Youth and Children's Committee. The existing Mission Committee was also re-constituted. These three Committees are still making a valuable contribution today, each with a specific purpose of work and witness.

In 1975, the West Wickham Council of Christian Churches organised a Good Friday combined Act of Witness in *The Swan* car park. For the duration of Holy Week each Church prominently displayed a large wooden cross as a reminder of the significance of Good Friday.

The open-air witness has become an established annual event. Members of the Churches meet at St. Mark's for a brief time of preparation, then process together up the High Street to *The Swan*, and after the witness, move to St. Francis' for a united service. Emmanuel continues the tradition of displaying a large cross filled with daffodils and greenery for all to see on Easter Day.

What a joy it was to see the Church filled to capacity on the evening of 13th February 1977 when Emmanuel welcomed over 200 members from other Churches in West Wickham. This was the inaugural Sunday of a new scheme introduced by the Council of Churches whereby, every quarter, one Church would invite the other Churches to a Service.

Although locally much had been achieved ecumenically, it was in 1982 that Rev. Derek Richmond wrote of his disappointment at the failure of the General Synod of the Church of England to approve, by a sufficient majority, the Covenant for Unity which so many people, both nationally and locally, so dearly hoped would be adopted. Derek commended the local Council of Churches for the part they were playing in sharing, planning and working together and he echoed the words of the General Secretary of the URC who had spoken of the Free Church Ministers and people and the Anglican clergy and people all over the country, who were worshipping and living together in unity.

1979 was a year of celebrations. In July, Derek and Mavis had their Silver Wedding Anniversary and a party was held for them in the large hall.

In October, Emmanuel celebrated its Golden Jubilee. Events lasted five days beginning on the 3rd October with a Reception and a Service of Thanksgiving. The guests included the Rev. George Hewitt, Mrs. Kathleen Griffith-Jones, Mr. Hastings Barry, son of the Rev. Charles Barry and the Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Fred David.

Other events to mark the anniversary included an *Evening of Nostalgia* by the Emmanuel Players, a Re-union Party, and concerts

of music and entertainment by the Choir, the Junior Church and the Youth Club. An exhibition showing the history and development of Emmanuel over 50 years had as its centerpiece the large detailed model of the Church.

To commemorate the Jubilee, it was decided to redesign the extension (completed in 1956) at the back of the church, and convert it into a more comfortable seating area with its own kitchen and entrance, with the means of opening it up when the church needed to accommodate a larger congregation. As in the past, a fund was launched – the estimated amount required being £12,500.

Named the James Todd room, it was declared open and dedicated on 23rd November 1980.

The original extension was built during Rev. James Todd's ministry and Mrs. Eileen Todd travelled from Bristol to be there for the opening.



2004 James Todd Room

K. Macmillan

Another connection with past Ministers was the appointment of Mrs. Rosalind Goodfellow as Moderator of the General Assembly for 1982/3. Rosalind grew up at Emmanuel, daughter of the late Rev. William Griffith-Jones. Not only was she the first lay Moderator of the URC but also the first woman to hold this post. Emmanuel was fortunate to have a visit from her during her year of office.

In September 1981, the URC was joined by the Re-formed Association of Churches of Christ, showing again its commitment to unity with the whole Church.

For one week in March 1985, *The Bible Come to Life Exhibition* came to West Wickham and was held at St. Francis Church. Many members of Emmanuel helped in various ways and the exhibition was very well attended. The Exhibition was repeated in April 1994.

Emmanuel Church has long had an association with visiting Presbyterian Ministers from the United States. The first was the Rev. Dr. William Hudnut from New York who preached at Emmanuel in 1962.

In the summer of 1985, Derek and Mavis arranged a Ministerial exchange with Rev. Paul and Leila Corcoran of Gwynedd Square Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania. The friendships established then, continue to this day. Paul and Leila made several return trips staying either at the Manse or with members of the church family. Sadly Leila died in December 2002 but Paul still regularly sends his *Letter from America* through the *Emmanuel Life* magazine.

Revs' Ramble Round West Wickham was the press headline that reported the sponsored walk by the Clergy of West Wickham, including Rev. Derek Richmond, that took place in May 1986 to raise money for Christian Aid.

And on 20th September 1987, Derek led members of Emmanuel, dressed in Victorian costume, on a walk from Widmore Road URC Bromley to Emmanuel to commemorate the centenary of Free

Church witness coming to West Wickham. He was accompanied by Rev. Donald Schofield of Widmore Road URC. The walk was followed by a Service at Emmanuel Church.

In the following January, the local library displayed an exhibition of old photographs to mark the centenary, showing the intertwined history and development of church and village. Emmanuel then staged an open day to show the local community all facets of church life at work and play.

The practice of lighting the Peace Candle during each Service was established in 1989. The story of how it came about is both poignant and uplifting.

In 1986, a group of American Christians went on a visit to the churches of Russia. After a service in a Russian Orthodox church, an old woman pushed a three-rouble note into the hand of an American minister, gave him a Russian hug, and asked him to use the money to buy a candle, and light it at every service in his church as a symbol of Peace. The note represented a lot of money for the old woman. The minister, from the first Presbyterian Church, York, Pennsylvania, readily agreed. That autumn, the church bought many candles to send to other churches, asking that they be lit as a sign of Peace. And so the candles began their journeys.

Church Member Mrs. Marjorie Robertson was instrumental in bringing the Peace Candle to Emmanuel. It was sent from Cars Lane Congregational Church, Birmingham, England where Marjorie's sister Dorothy attended. The Zerbst Church in Germany, known through the URC Bromley District, was the first to receive a candle from Emmanuel.

Two candles were taken out to South Africa in 1997 by Mrs. Ann Hardy, a member of Emmanuel. One went to East London and the other was presented to the meeting of the World Council of Churches in Johannesburg. It was her privilege to see that candle lit at that great event.

1990 was another occasion for community outreach, when *Tell*

West Wickham took place with all the churches participating. A packed programme of services and events were staged over two weeks, including the performance of a Mystery Play on the Green in front of the Church. A quilted banner displaying the eight churches hangs in the Church.

Church family and friends joined together for a celebration and farewell to Rev. Derek and Mrs. Mavis Richmond on the 24th and 25th July 1993. Following his 65th birthday earlier in the year, Derek was retiring, having served Emmanuel as its Minister for twenty years. That year was also the fortieth anniversary of his Ordination.

On Saturday 24th, (also their Wedding Anniversary) expressions of love, thanks and best wishes were extended to Derek and Mavis. With a tea party before and a buffet supper after, a concert was held with church organisations participating. Gifts were presented to them, including the new nameplate which was to be put above the entrance to the large hall – *The Richmond Hall*.

Derek conducted his last Service as Minister of Emmanuel on Sunday evening to a packed congregation including the Moderator of Southern Province, the Rev. David Helyar and friends from other churches.

They moved to Edenbridge and joined the church at Marsh Green. In March 1997 Derek became its Associate Minister.

Mavis' health had been poor for some time and on 29th August 1998 sadly she died. On 3rd October, over 400 friends (an indication of the affection in which she was held), attended a Thanksgiving Service at Emmanuel to celebrate her life.

On August 2nd 2002 Derek married Elizabeth Isaac, a close friend for many years of both Mavis and Derek.

In July 2003, Derek celebrated 50 years as an ordained Minister.

CHAPTER EIGHT

YOUTH AND CHILDREN

Emmanuel, having declared its need for a new Pastor, and made a profile (description) of the church, began its Interregnum. The Interim Moderator was Rev. Norman Healey from Hayes Free Church. Emmanuel provided two services a month from its own membership.



S. Macmillan

On 3rd July 1994, the **Rev. Russell Furley-Smith** was invited to lead both Sunday Services and meet the Church Family. Following a special Church Meeting, it was resolved to call him to be the next Minister of Emmanuel, which he accepted.

Russell was inducted as Emmanuel's sixth Minister on 12th November 1994. He was ordained in 1989 and his first pastorate was at Billericay URC.

The early months at Emmanuel were filled with personal sadness for him. On 7th January 1995, Joanne his wife, having coped with illness for some time, died aged just 27. They had been married since 1990.

It was with great joy to all when Russell married Rev. Nicola Lowen, Minister of Stainbeck URC in Leeds in September 1996. Russell and Nicola had first met ten years earlier when they were both training for the ministry. A second reception to celebrate their marriage was arranged for 19th October at Emmanuel with both Bride and Groom wearing their wedding outfits again!

Nicola became the Interim Minister at Oxted URC in February

1997. Since 1999 she has served as Minister at Wallington. In April 1998, their first son Cameron was born, followed in December 2000 by Ross.

Emmanuel has long been regarded as a friendly welcoming church and it has always had a fine reputation for its work with the younger members of the church family. This is due to the many people who over the years have been prepared to give their time in leading, teaching and nurturing.

A growing awareness of the rights of children led to the Charter for Children in 1990. The United Nations designated 1994 as the International Year of the Family and Mrs. Rosemary Johnston, a member of Emmanuel until that year, helped lead the prayers of thanksgiving at St. Martin in the Fields.

Rosemary became the first National Children's Advocate of the URC in 1995 – a position she still holds. Emmanuel is committed to, and implements "Good Practice" guidelines. This scheme was set up in 2000 to ensure the safety and well-being of all children who come onto the premises.

As the years have gone by, the Children and Youth Departments have changed.

The Crèche which once occupied the Lang Room on a Sunday morning, now meets in the Hardiman Room and are known as Glow Worms – part of the Emmanuel Lights, the new name given to the Junior Church in September 2000.

From previously meeting in separate halls, the Emmanuel Lights now meet together in the Richmond Hall for worship and prayer. They divide into groups during the morning for activities appropriate to their ages, and come together at the end for a final worship song and blessing.

The under fives are known as Sparklers. Between ages five and seven, they are called Stars. The top group, up to eleven years old, are the Comets. They are involved in all aspects of Church life

participating in, and leading worship.

The Seekers, a group of thirteen to fifteen year olds, who met on a Sunday evening ceased in 1992. The older members went up to the Emmanuel Youth Fellowship and the younger members spent an extra year in the Senior Department, who met on a Sunday morning.

In May 1997 the name HYPER was adopted by the Senior department. Happy Young People of Emmanuel Rejoicing. The group has thrived under a committed and enthusiastic team, lead by Mrs. Pippa Dowsett. The Youth Fellowship had closed in 1995 and HYPER caters for all those over eleven years of age.

It was on a visit to Yardley Hastings, the National Youth Resource Centre in 1995, that the young people first heard about the *Mighty Mite Scheme*.

Millions of children die of severe dehydration. By raising money to buy a simple sugar and salt solution, taken orally, lives were being saved. The idea was introduced to Emmanuel and thanks to the generosity of the Church family, nearly £5,000 will have been collected by the end of 2004. What an achievement!

Several residential visits have been made to Yardley Hastings, the last one being in 2000. In 1997, FURY (Fellowship of United Reformed Youth) celebrated its 25th Anniversary, and Emmanuel's young people were represented at the celebrations. The Centre closed in December 2003.

Early Sunday morning breakfasts, some shared with the whole Church family, concerts, Harvest supper entertainment, quizzes, outings, Traidcraft, Summer clubs, fundraising and leading Worship are just part of what makes HYPER special.

Since 2001 HYPER have occupied "The Store", the one time storage room under the stage. They raised most of the funds themselves and organized the work involved in transforming it. An anonymous donation of £1000 was also given towards the refurbishment.

From January to April this year, a weekly Youth Alpha Course was successfully held with upwards of thirty young people taking part.



2004 The HYPER Store

K. Macmillan

Over the years, there have been a number of Clubs available to the young people including The Monday Youth Club, which closed in 1989 and the '86 Club, once held on Saturday nights. The current Youth Club has been meeting on a Sunday evening since October 1996 and is open to everyone age 13+ who is an existing member of the Church, the Badminton group or the Scouts or Guides.

In spite of difficulties encountered in attracting leaders, both the Scout Group and the Guides are still active and flourishing at Emmanuel. In March 1992, a Beaver Colony was started by Mrs. Dee Brabham and in June 1993, a Rainbow Guide Unit was started by Mrs. Barbara Pace. This was followed in 1996 by a second unit.

In an age when many churches no longer have any children attending, Emmanuel is still privileged to have significant numbers of children and young people associated with it.

CHAPTER NINE

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Music has always had a prominent place in worship at Emmanuel. From the beginning, the church has been privileged to have a dedicated choir and gifted organists.

The current organ, installed in 1937 by Henry Willis & Son, has had three substantial overhauls – in 1954, 1973 and 2000. These have been costly undertakings and each time an organ fund appeal has been set up to achieve the necessary funding.

In 1929, the first choir to sing at Emmanuel was provided by Bromley Congregational Church but following appeals for singers – contraltos and tenors being especially welcome – Emmanuel soon had its own choir under the leadership of Choirmaster, Mr. F. Boxall. Miss Dorothy Flint was an original Choir member.

In 1959, Church Meeting agreed to the robing of the choir, and new robes and hats were worn for the first time at the Induction of Mr. Sydney Bills as Chairman of the London Congregational Union at Paddington Chapel on 4th January 1960. The hats were abandoned in 1979. In December 2003, the Choir wore new robes paid for by an anonymous donor. The Choir is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music.

Currently, Emmanuel uses *Rejoice and Sing*, new to the URC in 1992, and *Mission Praise*, published in 1999, and bought from a legacy in memory of Mavis Richmond. Prior to those hymnals, *Congregational Praise* (1950) and *New Church Praise* (1975) were used. The first hymn book used was the *Congregational Hymnary*.

Through the years, there have also been youth and children's choirs and talented bands to enhance music in worship.

Over the years visiting choirs and musicians have also performed at Emmanuel. These have included: The Ohio State Youth Choir 1981, the Trinity United Church Choir from Ontario

1989, the Band and Choir from Lambuth College, Jackson, Tennessee 1991, the Dimond School Choir, Anchorage, Alaska 1993, the Genevan Choir 1998 and the Marshall High School Choir, Kentucky 2000.

A regular favourite and much nearer to home, is the South London Fellowship Band of the Salvation Army which now visits annually.

Concerts have always been popular and well attended. In-house concerts are held regularly, many performances given as fund raising or charity events.

Financial giving, both locally and overseas has been an important part of the ethos of Emmanuel, responding generously to disasters and appeals. In the community, Emmanuel supports many good causes including St. Christopher's Hospice, Demelza House and the Beacon Centre.

Through personal contacts within the Church family, friendship, prayers and financial support has been offered in different parts of the world. These have included the Mission Chapel, New Amsterdam, Guyana lead by Rev. Patrick Munroe; Philip and Kathy Chandler working for Christian Outreach, Ngara, Tanzania; and more recently Kevin and Kristina Sissons of Outreach International in Romania and Agnes Chambers working in Zambia. It has been a privilege to welcome these friends to Emmanuel.

Individual members regularly donate money through Gift Day, Mission and Bible Society boxes, Christian Aid and Commitment for Life envelopes, and Leprosy Mission phials.

Many Church members became involved in Jubilee 2000, a campaign to persuade Governments to cancel third world debt. By attending rallies, writing letters, wearing chain lapels and sending boxes of chains to the Director of the IMF, politicians were made aware of the feelings of the population.

In March 1997, the Renewal Fund was launched to raise money

for the substantial building repair work that needed to be done at Emmanuel. By the end of the first year the amount of £40,000 had been reached.

This had been achieved thanks to the many donations and events that were held, including an Auction of Talents, a Barn Dance and a Concert. Everyone got involved. The Quilting group sewed. The Catering Committee cooked. The Guides cleaned and the Scouts tied knots! And much, much more.

Known briefly as the Wednesday Explorers, and better known now as *Quest*, this informal discussion group with an open agenda was established in November 1998.

In May 1998, Church Meeting agreed to a reduction in the number of serving Elders and from January 1999, the Church Family were re-organised into eight new enlarged pastoral districts. To help the Elders, Pastoral Visitors were appointed, later re-named Pastoral Assistants. Pastoral care of the children and young people is provided by the Junior Church Leader and Youth Leaders.

CHAPTER TEN

THE NEW MILLENNIUM

On the eve of the new Millennium, congregations, friends and neighbours lit candles and repeated the Resolution below.

**“Let there be respect for the earth,
Peace for its people,
Love in our lives,
Delight in the good,
Forgiveness for past wrongs
And from now on a new start”**

Signs appeared on the outside of churches, stickers in the windows of cars, a reminder to all that the Millennium was the

2000th anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Emmanuel held a millennium celebration on Saturday 12th February 2000. It began with a party for the children, followed by a hot buffet meal for the adults and young people. Dress was formal and the event was recorded by a professional photographer as the group of 127 posed together in the Church.

The evening continued with an hilarious pantomime of Cinderella and for those with stamina, dancing continued into the small hours. It was a splendid evening.

In the Millennium year, it was agreed by Churches Together in West Wickham, to come together for joint evening services at the end of each month. A practice that continues today.

Also under their leadership, a Millennium Flower Festival was held at Emmanuel in July with all eight churches participating. The floral displays were accompanied by some of the best-known words from the life of Jesus. £930 was raised for *Water Aid*.

Known as Children's Link, this unity, fellowship and friendship extends to the children and young people of the churches too, as events such as games at Sparrow's Den, Swimming and Holiday Clubs are arranged to bring them together.

The union of the URC and the Congregational Union of Scotland took place in April 2000. It had taken many years of prayer and negotiation to reach yet one more step towards church unity.

In September, the 200 houses nearest to Emmanuel received a personal visit from members of the church family and a copy of *Emmanuel Life*. It was an opportunity to tell people about their neighbourhood Church and to welcome them to join its fellowship. The practice of informing them, by leaflet, of Emmanuel's Services and events, continues and has been extended to 400 homes.

The URC had for some time been short of full-time stipendiary

ministers. In early 2000 discussions began with a view to Emmanuel forming a group with Elmers End Free Church, Beckenham URC and Hayes Free Church. The joint-pastorate of Elmers End and Beckenham had been without a minister for two years. It was proposed that Elmers End would be linked with Emmanuel and Beckenham with Hayes.

Church Meeting voted in favour of the joint pastorate and on Saturday 27th January 2001, Russell was inducted as Minister of Elmers End Free Church.

URC Ministers are entitled to a sabbatical every ten years. This is a period away from normal duties to reflect, to study and to recharge the batteries. During May, June and July 2001, Russell and Nicola took a three months Sabbatical to study the Book of Revelation and subsequently write a guide to it. Part of their research took them, with their sons, to Greece and Turkey.

Visiting Ministers who took the Sunday Services during this time included Rev. Derek Richmond.

The cliché that it's a small world has never been truer. Over the years, members of Emmanuel have moved away through retirement, work or family commitments, some just twenty miles away, others to the far side of the globe. Many keep in touch through family and friends, sending their best wishes to Emmanuel and wishing to be remembered.

www.godwithus.org.uk

Since 2002 it has had its very own web site, providing a window into the life of Emmanuel that can be viewed by anyone around the world with access to a computer.

This year congregations in the URC are debating a 'Vision Statement' for the future of the Church over the next ten years. Emmanuel's own vision is to continue to be a welcoming and caring Church in the community, actively seeking to attract more people

into the Christian Faith.

To this end, the Emmanuel Church family are discussing how its building might be made more inviting. It is envisaged that a building fund will be launched and some refurbishment or rebuilding will take place in the next few years.

As the Church family celebrates 75 years of Emmanuel's life and witness in West Wickham, it gives thanks to God for all those who have made it possible and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, look to the future and the next period of Emmanuel's history.

Minister

| | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rev. Charles James Barry M.A | 6 th November 1929 |
| Rev. William Griffith-Jones | 11 th March 1936 |
| Rev. James Moody Todd M.A | 22 nd May 1952 |
| Rev. George Hewitt | 3 rd January 1963 |
| Rev. Derek N. Richmond | 3 rd November 1973 |
| Rev. Russell James Furley-Smith M.A BD | 12 th November 1994 |

Induction

The Manse

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 'Matching Tye' 20 Woodland Way. | Rev. Barry |
| 116 Woodland Way. | Rev. Griffith-Jones |
| 2 Wickham Court Road. | Rev. Todd |
| 26 Stambourne Way. | Rev. Hewitt |
| | Rev. Richmond |
| | Rev. Furley-Smith |

Members of Emmanuel ordained into the Ministry

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Rev. Ronald C. Christopher | 1940 |
| Rev. Harold J. Rowse | 1951 |
| Rev. Derek M. Wales | 1967 |
| Rev. Philip Woods | 1984 |
| Rev. David Hilborn | 1989 |

Nationally Accredited Lay Preacher

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Mr. Eric Bland | 1999 |
|----------------|------|

Church Secretary

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Mr. E. V. Mitchelmore | 1929 |
| Mr. W. H. Ware | 1934 |
| Mr. Tom Beesley | pro tem 1940 |
| Mr. L. Harrington | 1941 |
| Mr. Reg E. Palmer | 1949 |
| Mr. Sidney G. Bills | pro tem 1958 |
| Mr. John S. Blackwood | 1958 |
| Mr. Jim N. Pyle | 1969 |
| Mr. Anthony D. Main | pro tem 1973 |
| Mr. Percy Acres | 1974 |
| Mr. Jack Mortimer | 1990 |
| Mrs. Beryl Clinton | 1994 |
| Mrs. Dawn Ogden/Neighbour | 2000 |

Church Treasurer

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Mr. Francis E. Crabb | 1929 |
| Mr. Frank Bodger | 1934 |
| Mr. F.F. Lang | 1939 |
| Mr. Owen P. Griffin | 1941 |
| Mr. A. E. W. Rumbold | 1951 |
| Mr. H. Tom Castle | 1961 |
| Mr. Harold E. Grief | 1968 |
| Mr. Frank Grocock | 1985 |
| Mr. Dick. Kemp | 1991 |
| Mr. Bill Winter | 1994 |
| Mr. John Mott | 1996 |

Organist/Choirmaster

| | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Francis Crabb & Mr. Frank Boxall | 1929 |
| Mrs. Daisy Garlett | 1935 |
| Mr. E. S. Hanchett | 1950 |
| Mr. Frank Brickell & Mr. F. Lockly | pro tem |
| Mr. Bob Rowse | 1953) |
| Mrs. Hilary Bodger Choirmistress | 1959) Post split |
| Mr. Denis A. Hall | 1969 |
| Mr. Ronald Byers | 1976 – 1986 |
| Mr. Harold Sheppard, Dr. David Dibbs) | pro tem |
| Mr. Kenneth Hotten, Mr. Bob Ogden) | |
| Mr. Ian Verran | 1991 |

Editor Church Magazine (booklet format)

| | | |
|------------------------------------|------|---------------|
| Mr. Sidney Bills | 1967 | Bulletin |
| Mr. Leslie Reynolds | 1970 | Bulletin |
| Mr. & Mrs. Ian Scott) | 1975 | Bulletin |
|) | 1978 | Emmanuel Life |
| Miss Marjorie Moyce | 1981 | Emmanuel Life |
| (assisted by Mrs. Doris Warburton) | | |
| Dr. Jack Mortimer | 1986 | Emmanuel Life |
| Mr. Alan Wilkinson | 1990 | Emmanuel Life |
| Mrs. Janet Thomas | 1995 | Emmanuel Life |
| Mr. Charles Sebestyen | 2000 | Emmanuel Life |

Cradle Roll Secretary

| | |
|--------------------------|------|
| Mrs. Kathleen Read | 1935 |
| Mrs. Marjorie Griffin | 1945 |
| Mrs. Winifred Rowe | 1949 |
| Mrs. Ann Edwards | 1957 |
| Mrs. Margaret Townend | 1960 |
| Mrs. Audrey Bull | 1961 |
| Mrs. Marion Reynolds | 1965 |
| Miss Kitty Hopper | 1975 |
| Mrs. Nita Garrett | 1980 |
| Mrs. Barbara Pace | 1989 |
| Mrs. Janet Hotten | 1995 |
| Mrs. Janet Kulenicz | 1998 |
| Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson | 2000 |

Children's Church

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------|---------------|
| | 1929 | |
| Rev. Charles J. Barry | 1929 | President |
| Rev. William Griffith-Jones) | 1936 | Leader |
| Mr. H. Tom Castle) | 1936 | Deputy Leader |
| Rev. W. Griffith-Jones | 1937 | President |
| Mr. H. Tom Castle | 1937 | Leader |
| Mr. Harold Rowse | 1938 | Leader |

Church of Youth

| | | |
|----------------------|------|----------------|
| Mr. John Read | 1940 | Superintendent |
| Vacancy | 1948 | |
| Mr. Wilfred Marshall | 1952 | Superintendent |

Junior Church

| | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Mr. W. H. E. Hyde | 1966 | Superintendent |
| Mr. Alistair K. Black | 1969 | Superintendent |
| Miss Marjorie Moyce) | 1972 | Superintendent |
|) | 1974 | renamed Leader |
| Miss Dawn Holdaway | 1978 | Leader |
| Mrs. Rosemary Johnston | 1983 | Leader |
| Mrs. Sue Macmillan | 1995 | Leader |
| Mrs. Pat Best | 1998 | Leader |

The Building

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1929 | Church Minister's Vestry Deacons' Vestry Parlour Choir Vestry Kitchen Vestibule Corridor & Toilets Entrance at the rear Entrance at the front | Renamed Lang Room Hewitt Room | 1952 1995 |
| 1951 | Large Hall Griffith-Jones Hall Main Door Entrance | Richmond Hall Halls Entrance | 1993 2002 |
| 1956 | Extension to Church New Vestibule Porch and Entrance | | |
| 1964 | Hardiman Room Barry Room/Stage Storage Room under Stage New Grove Entrance | | |
| 1980 | James Todd Room | from Church Extension | |
| 2001 | HYPER Store | from Storage Room | |