

# Emmanuel Life

Emmanuel

God With Us



## March 2023

**EMMANUEL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH**  
**THE GROVE, WEST WICKHAM, KENT, BR4 9JS**

**[www.godwithus.org.uk](http://www.godwithus.org.uk)**  
**0208 777 1007**

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

Gathered family worship (in-person) and also broadcast on Zoom. See opposite page for details.



### MINISTER

**Revd David Pickering**

**Church: 0208 777 0626 (Manse)**

**e-mail: [minister@godwithus.org.uk](mailto:minister@godwithus.org.uk)**

Vestry phone with answer machine 020 8777 1150 is checked at least weekly – the best number to call David is the manse phone.

Monday is the Minister's day off, please only contact in an emergency on a Monday.

***The shared ministry of Emmanuel United Reformed Church, West Wickham and Elmers End Free Church, Elmers End.***

\*\*\*More contact details can be found on page 35\*\*\*



## March 2023 Services

5 <sup>th</sup> (see below)	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b> led by David Pickering and Pat Best
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Janet Godden
12 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship, including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
19 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Gathered/broadcast worship led by Marion Moore
26 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Passion Sunday</b> Gathered/broadcast worship with Infant Baptism led by Revd David Pickering
<i>April 2023</i>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering

**5<sup>th</sup> March:** David Pickering will be with Messy Church for the whole morning Janet Godden is a Lay Preacher from St John's URC Orpington

# Minister's Letter

## What would you say to God?

Dear Friends,

A few years ago Stephen Fry ignited a debate following a rant about God. Asked by Irish chat show host Gay Byrne, "suppose it's all true, and you walk up to the pearly gates, and are confronted by God, what will Stephen Fry say to him, her, or it?"

An impassioned Fry responded "I'd say bone cancer in children? What's that about?" and continued accusingly "How dare you? How dare you create a world to which there is such misery that is not our fault. It's not right, it's utterly, utterly evil. And his view on God opened up... "Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world that is so full of injustice and pain? That's what I would say."

Fry is not the first to express anger or shake his fists in God's direction. You can find similar thoughts in the Bible including in the book of Job and the Psalms. From Psalm 44,

*Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way, yet you have broken us in the haunt of jackals, and covered us with deep darkness.*

The role of God in life's events still divides views about God. Following the Hillsborough Stadium tragedy, some asked questions about the nature of God, others packed into Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral for a service and found comfort with God.

I've been shocked by the devastation of the earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria. I didn't see many people shaking their fist at God for what the insurance business classifies as an 'Act of God', but I did see people of all faiths give thanks to God for rescues attempted and lives saved, and faith communities actively promoting fund-raising to aid the rescue, relief and then restoration work. I personally have feeling that amidst such a tragedy God may be found hurting amidst the rubble and tears.

I personally don't believe in the cruel god whom Fry describes, but rather in the God reflected through the life of Jesus; who associated more with the powerless than the powerful.

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On his last day Jesus stood in the dock, surrounded by accusers, and was condemned by Pilate. Some unlikely voices subsequently spoke of his innocence including a centurion at the scene and a thief on an adjacent cross. Today God still stands in the dock, with voices like Fry condemning. An alternative voice was that of Russell Brand who responded to Fry saying “you need to embrace God to be free.”

In the hymn ‘Beauty for brokenness’, hymn writer Graham Kendrick penned  
*God of the poor, friend of the weak, give us compassion we pray,  
melt our cold hearts, let tears fall like rain.  
Come change our love from a spark to a flame.*

As we journey through Lent via the Cross to Easter, I ask you to reflect, what might you say to God at those pearly gates?  
Travel well, travel in God’s grace and love

*Davit*

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

(Philippians Chapter 4 verses 6-7)



## Secretary's Notes

### MATTHEW, MISSION & ME



Join David by zoom or on the phone as he explores Matthew's gospel. **Starting on 1<sup>st</sup> March, weekly, through Lent to 5<sup>th</sup> April on Wednesday evenings at 7pm.** Details are on page 27.

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



A service prepared by Christian women in Taiwan will be held at **Coney Hill Baptist Church on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 10.30am to mark WORLD DAY OF PRAYER.**



Everyone is welcome.

### MESSY CHURCH



Meeting on **5<sup>th</sup> March, 10am – 12 noon** with the theme '**Through the Roof**'.

Everyone is welcome for a pre-service cuppa and see what Messy Church is up to!

### VISITING WORSHIP LEADERS



We welcome **Janet Godden** leading our **11o'clock service on March 5<sup>th</sup>**. Janet is a Lay Preacher from St John's, Orpington.



Our own **Marion Moore** will lead the **Mothering Sunday** service on **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Rosemary*



# News of the Church Family and Community

As March nears, so the days lengthen, the weather warms, Spring bulbs are blooming, and the world fills with the promise of new life. But the winter may not yet be done. As with the season, so with life. Please remember in your prayers, friends traversing the joys and heartaches of life.

## Remembering people receiving health care and caring for their loved ones

Please remember the following people who have had or are having or recovering from some medical investigations or procedures:

- Freda Banks
- Peter and Pam Grafham
- John Mackintosh
- Maggie MacNamara
- Will Patterson

and those who are caring for loved ones, including elderly parents.

## A Prayer for Healing

*Healing Lord, as four friends carried a sick person to Jesus,  
so, I carry to Jesus in my prayer...*

*(please add a name, or hold a picture, of someone in your thoughts).*

*May your healing hand surround and support them,  
in Jesus' name, Amen.*

## Congratulations to Heather Moore



On behalf of Emmanuel, huge congratulations to our own Heather Moore on being elected as Moderator of URC Youth Assembly 2023-2024. Her calling as Moderator is both an honour and a recognition of Heather's commitment to live out her Christian faith in service to the Church. Heather will be a blessing to the URC, as she has been to Emmanuel. Emmanuel should be rightly proud of Heather's calling, none more so than her parents, Ian and Marion. May Heather know God's rich blessing as she begins the journey of preparing for the role to which she's been called.

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## Congratulations to Alan Kienlen



Hats off to Alan Kienlen who was presented with a Certificate of Loyal and Devoted Service at our AGM on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2023, in recognition of his first ten years as a lay preacher, during which time he has led over 300 services!

Alan led his first service as a Lay Preacher at Emmanuel back on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

Alan's calling has led him Sunday by Sunday to serve URCs around South London, which is why he is a rare spot at Emmanuel on a Sunday morning, but we do look forward to welcoming him back again in May when he is next due to lead our worship.

## Bereavement

As reported in the February edition of Emmanuel Life, we were sad to hear of the death of long-term member Kathleen Hutson, who died peacefully on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Subsequently her funeral was held in the West Chapel at Croydon Crematorium on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, which was attended by family and friends, including from Emmanuel. The flowers from her funeral have been present in our church for the last two weeks, a wonderful floral reminder of her time amongst us at Emmanuel. An 'In Memory' of Kathleen by Terry and Ruth Gibbs is published in this edition of Emmanuel Life. Please remember Kathleen's daughters, Brenda and Sheila, and their families at this time.

## Service of Thanksgiving

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Paul Thomas is to be held at Emmanuel at 12 noon on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March, to which all friends of Paul, Janet and their family are warmly invited. Paul died last October in Exeter, where he and Janet had moved earlier in the year, and where a family funeral was held. It is fitting to hold this service at Emmanuel, being the place where Paul and Janet met and married, and which was their spiritual home for over 60 years.

Please remember Janet, their daughters Judy, Karen and Sue and their families on this thankful but poignant occasion.

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## **A Prayer for Comfort**

*Shepherding, welcoming God,  
for treasured memories of loved ones, thank you.  
May your peace, touch grieving hearts,  
May your light, dispel death's darkness  
May your new life, bring hope. Amen.*

If you know of someone who would appreciate the prayerful support of the church, or has a special anniversary or birthday, or any special news, please let me or an elder know.

A small, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the page.

*Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God*

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)

# *Emmanuel Fellowship*

Dear Friends,

February is a short month, made shorter at the Fellowship due to half-term break. However, we still managed to fit it in a fascinating search for the Yeti, an unexpected look at the Making of a British Monarch, in readiness for King Charles III coronation in May, and (by the time you read this, we will have) launched into song on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Just think what you've missed!

March holds some interesting meetings.

- David Pickering** will take us on a journey of discovery, based on his recent trip with Jan: '**Sailing, Seabirds and Saints**' – a voyage into the Atlantic on a traditional tall ship.
- 7th**
- 14th** **Colin Jones** will explore the outdoors: '**Around the World in 80 Gardens**'.
- 21st** **It's World Poetry Day meets International Day of Forests:** Poetry, Prose, and music to soothe.
- 28th** Our last meeting of the term, will be led by **Bryn Thomas: 'Looking Towards Easter'**.

We always start out meetings with short devotions, which brings God into the heart of our Fellowship, and our last meeting before Easter focusses on faith.

We hope you enjoyed the service at Emmanuel, led by members of the Fellowship Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Our theme 'Women of Influence', paid homage to influential females: the women who supported Christ in his ministry through their own resources; hymn writers; the environmental activist, Greta Thunberg, and our main focus, Dame Cicely Saunders, the founder of St. Christopher's Hospice.

As it is Mothering Sunday this month, we thought you might like to read the poem that we shared at our service, as it felt very moving to us. It was suggested, that for some of you the word mother may not bring feelings of warmth and happiness, or peace. If that is the case, please, read the poem anyway, and replace 'mother' with the name of someone else, a person who cared for you in a loving, nurturing way.

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Here is the poem. It's by an unknown author: we thank you, whoever you are.

My Mother kept a garden,  
a garden of the heart,  
She planted all the good things  
That gave my life its start.  
She turned me to the sunshine  
and encouraged me to dream,  
fostering and nurturing  
the seeds of self-esteem...  
And when the winds and rain came,  
she protected me enough –  
But not too much because she knew  
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.  
Her constant good example  
always taught me right from wrong –  
Markers for my pathway  
that will last a lifetime long.  
I am my mother's garden.  
I am her legacy –  
And I hope today she feels the love  
reflected back from me.

Every blessing,

*Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee*

# Ramblings: Nature Notes from God's Creation



As 2023 opened our local Spring Park Woods were alive with the sound of the chain saw. An act of desecration? No! Rather, this was planned work based on an ancient form of woodland management, known as coppicing. This takes advantage of the capacity of certain trees that are cut to their stump, to generate new shoots. In times gone by coppicing generated the production of wood for a variety of purposes including faggots for fencing, fuel for charcoal to aid smelting ores and bark for tanning leather. Typically, different areas of

a wood were coppiced in successive years, ensuring a supply of coppiced products year in, year out.

Ecologically speaking, this had the effect of creating glades on rotation in the wood. With the consequent loss of tree cover in the glade, spring and summer flowers were able to grow and bloom, creating a diverse habitat, and providing floral nectar, including for a wider variety of butterflies to enjoy. Pictured above is a previously coppiced stump with shoots in Spring Park.

Pictured right is an adjacent area newly cleared, from which fresh shoots will emerge this season. I'll be interested to see what flowers may bloom in the glade this Spring and Summer, and what butterflies I may spot.



This ancient approach to managing woodland finds a parallel in some Biblical imagery. In John's Gospel, we may read from Chapter 15 verses 1 & 2 some words of Jesus:

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.*

Jesus goes on to affirm:

*I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.*

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In other words, we as individuals and as a community called the church, may bloom with new growth by remaining rooted in Christ. Meanwhile, should you visit a freshly created woodland glade this year, may your heart chime:

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander,*

*And hear the birds song sweetly in the trees...*

*Then sings my soul, my saviour God to thee, how great thou art, how great thou art.*

*David Pickering*



# Youth Assembly 2023

Youth Assembly 2023 has come and gone, and it was great to gather again as URC Youth. The theme was love is, as this is the theme for children and youth work this year, and this was woven throughout the five worship sessions, workshops and small group time.

We also conducted a lot of business this year, discussing warm spaces, Israel-Palestine, substance misuse, gender and sexual identity discrimination and much more! You can read all about this in the round up, which is on the URC website, or hopefully a physical copy will have been delivered to Emmanuel.

This was my third Youth Assembly, and my first on Youth Exec, so it was very different going in having done a lot of preparation. Specifically, I was heavily involved in some changes we made to business, including making it more prayer led and aiming to remove the hostility and much of the technical words, choosing instead to try to present business in as accessible and inviting way as possible. Relying on a small pool of verbal feedback, my initial impression is that it was a success, with more to be done, which is excellent, as, despite all the fun we have, we are at Youth Assembly to conduct business.

And now some news: I'm the new mod elect! This is something I've been thinking and praying about running for since I was first prompted to think about back in June. It's a really exciting opportunity to take on a leadership role in URC Youth. This means for 2023 I'll be serving under the wonderful Philippa who I am so excited to work with, and then for 2024 I will be the Moderator, concluding with Youth Assembly 2025! It seems really far away right now but I'm sure these two years in post will fly by.



L-R: Jo Harris (Wales) Outgoing Moderator, Philippa Osei (Thames North) Moderator, Heather Moore (Southern) Moderator Elect

This does also mean that at the time of writing we are looking for a new Southern Synod Youth Rep, so if you feel you or someone you know is being called to the role, please let me know.

It's been a joy to serve on Youth Exec this past year, especially as we have grown as a team into great friends not just 'co-workers'! It has also taught me so much about the URC and I've had some great opportunities to meet people from

across the country. But most importantly it's been an amazing chance to serve fellow young people, despite the geographic challenge I set myself by living away from the synod! I've grown so much in my faith throughout this, for which I am very grateful. Seeing how the past year has gone makes me so much more excited for the two to come.

It would be wonderful if you could keep myself and Philippa, and the whole of the new Youth Exec, in your prayers for the next year, as we build on the success of this year's Youth Assembly, and aim to lead URC Youth over the next year.  
In Christ,

*Heather*

If you want to contact me on the mod elect email, it is:  
**[urcyamodelect@urc.org.uk](mailto:urcyamodelect@urc.org.uk)**

# Welcome to Frances and Sara



On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023 it was a joy to ordain Frances Thornton (left) and Sara Stocker (right) as Elders, to present them with their certificates of ordination, and to welcome them in their new role. Together with their respective families, Frances and Sara have each belonged to Emmanuel for many years. Whilst they are each well known to many of us, I have invited them to write an introduction to themselves as they set out on their new calling and role. David

## **Frances introduces herself:**

I started coming to Emmanuel with my husband Stephen and my two young children in 1999 when we moved from Bromley. I joined the group who helped bring our wheelchair worshippers from Cheyne Park to Emmanuel for services. I have also been on the rotas to help with communion preparation and flower arranging. Outside of church I worked as an accountant since I left university. My most recent jobs were in the NHS. I have now retired and I am very happy about that! I already know many of you at Emmanuel and I hope that as an elder I can become even more involved in Church life. There have been many changes over the last twenty or so years but the central themes of worship, supporting each other and serving the wider community are, I believe, always worth striving for.

## **Sara introduces herself:**

Thank you for accepting me as one of your Elders, I look forward to beginning my new role. I joined Emmanuel 32 years ago when we moved to West Wickham! We have three children who were all Christened at Emmanuel. I am the daughter of Peter and Gill Childs. For a number of years, I was a HYPER Leader working with the teenagers with an excellent team of Leaders. We had many interesting discussions and social occasions such as pizza and film nights. It was good to see these young people change from young teens who had just started secondary school, in to confident young adults, confident in their beliefs and ready to begin their adult lives in work or by going to university. I grew up going to a very large United Reformed Church in Northwood, and proudly saw both my parents become Elders: It was a momentous day when the first woman elder walked down the aisle to serve communion! Outside Emmanuel I was an infant teacher and for the last 16 years I owned a Pre-School, but I have just retired. I have always found the people to be the heart of Emmanuel, they reflect God's love and care for all. I now hope to become more involved at Church and if there is any support I can give you, please ask.



# In Memory of Kathleen Hutson



We've many fond memories of Kathleen after she became a great friend of my parents, and we remember how she cared for my father after my mother died in the summer of 2002. They shared a love of going to tea dances together, adventuring on a few holidays and day trips including one visit to the filming of the Antiques Roadshow.

Following the death of my father in 2006 Kathleen continued to be an important part of our lives, often visiting for Sunday

lunch. She loved puzzles, crosswords and quiz programs and enjoyed many games of Uno and Rummykub with our children.

Unfortunately, as Kathleen's health deteriorated, she was unable to attend church regularly, but she greatly enjoyed and appreciated attending lunches at Emmanuel when she could.

We are grateful to have known someone so kind, thoughtful and quietly witty as Kathleen and treasure the time we had together.

*Terry and Ruth Gibbs*

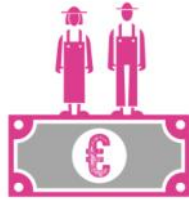
# Commitment for Life

Life-giving Faith | Defiant Hope | Generous Love



Commitment for Life supports The Fairtrade Foundation who work in partnership with 1.9 million farmers and workers globally to address the root causes of poverty. The good news is that more UK retailers are committed to Fairtrade. Look out for fairly traded products in the supermarket especially in Fairtrade Fortnight 27<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March.

**ON AVERAGE  
EACH FAIRTRADE  
PRODUCER  
ORGANISATION  
RECEIVED  
MORE THAN  
£90,000  
IN FAIRTRADE PREMIUM**



**17% OF FARMERS AND  
41% OF WORKERS  
IN FAIRTRADE  
ARE WOMEN**



**£169 MILLION  
IN FAIRTRADE  
PREMIUM  
PAID TO  
FARMERS  
AND WORKERS  
IN 2020**



**MORE THAN  
1.9 MILLION  
FARMERS AND WORKERS  
IN FAIRTRADE CERTIFIED  
PRODUCER ORGANISATIONS**





# FOOD BANK DONATIONS...PLEASE

## When I was hungry, you gave me food...

As usual, please don't feel under any obligation to give in any way, but this is simply a little guidance for any of you who would like to give at the moment. We are short of the following items, and ask you to consider these in your donations:

- Jam
- Sugar
- Rice Pudding
- Milk
- Baby Wipes
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Cleaning products (bleach, washing up liquid, multi purpose cleaners)
- Carrier bags (branded or unbranded—as long as it can hold a fair amount of items)

Items can be left in the church vestry or at Sainsbury's on the high street (not on Station Road), even if they are not bought in-store. Also note that there are two donation boxes but only one is for the Salvation Army. You are also welcome to donate to our JustGiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy>

Please note our donations delivery times; Tuesday evenings 7-8pm, and Saturday mornings 9-10am.

The Vine is located in Salcot Crescent New Addington CR0 0JJ. We are down a narrow driveway between houses 11 and 13, next to Tharreo House school.

**MANY THANKS** once again for all your help - we really couldn't manage without our public donations!

*Flora*

## Warm Spaces

Emmanuel has opened as a Warm Space every Friday from 10am to 5pm with refreshments offering all day tea/coffee and biscuits, cheese rolls in the morning, a homemade soup lunch and cake in the afternoon. These are all available free of charge, with any donations received given to The Vine, New Addington Food Bank. To date we have raised £1,213.80.

Warm Spaces has attracted people from Emmanuel, those using our premises and many people who 'drop-in' off the high street, such that since opening we've welcomed over 140 different people.

We initially planned to run the venture until the end of March. Its popularity has led us to continue the venture into the summer, with a new name, with one possibility being:

### Warm Welcome Fridays @ Emmanuel



We'd welcome any feedback or thoughts on this suggestion and will give more information in the April edition of Emmanuel Life. Meanwhile to advise:

- As a Service of Thanksgiving is being held for Paul Thomas on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March (see News of the Church Family), Warm Spaces will offer teas/coffees as usual and a cold buffet option for lunch that day.
- Warm Spaces will not open on Good Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, as this is a Holy Day
- We'll reopen on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April with the revised times of 10am to 4pm and a new name.
- Warm Spaces has developed a partnership with our local Community Police to offer periodic 'Community Contact Sessions, see below.

### Community Police Contact Sessions

The Community Police team in West Wickham are arranging regular pop-in Community Contact Sessions at a number of locations around our neighbourhood, for anyone who'd like to meet the local officers, or discuss a matter.

Emmanuel's Warm Spaces has volunteered as one of the venues, with forthcoming Contact Sessions arranged as follows:

- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 11-12 noon
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> April 11-12 noon
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2-3 pm

Anyone is welcome to pop in and you don't need to make an appointment. You are also welcome to enjoy a cuppa and stay on for a light bite at lunch as well.

Pat Best, Ed Prekopp and David Pickering, Warm Spaces organisers.

*David Pickering*

## *Monthly Prayer*

*Almighty God, what have we done to the world you created? We lament your damaged creation, we confess our inaction, we confess our actions that have contributed to the destruction of your world. Forgive us, O God, instruct us and teach us the way to go. Amen.*

*Jesus, as you fasted in the desert, you resisted the temptations of consumption, power and glory, you chose servanthood, humility and compassion. Help us to choose a fast that leans towards justice, help us resist the pull of the world around us, help us to see the world with compassion, help us to seek justice and to see the oppressed go free. Amen.*

## *Personal Thanks & Announcements*

### **Table Tennis Anyone???**

The table tennis group has not met since the start of COVID. Several players' circumstances have changed and they feel unable to play anymore.

Ron Tong and I feel unable to continue running the group. If anybody feels a wish to start it up again, please contact Ron or me.

*Kenneth Hotten*

## Eco Church Bronze award

As reported at Church Meeting in January, our work over the last 2 years has seen us qualify for Bronze Award of the Eco Church scheme. And after completing the online application process this has now been awarded to the church.

Some of the highlights from the last two years have been:

- Creating the quiet garden
- “Season of creation” services
- Changing to LED light bulbs in the Vestry, Barry, Hardiman and Lang Rooms
- Doing simple draught-proofing and secondary glazing in the Vestry, Lang and Hewitt Rooms
- Looking at what brands and products we buy in terms of toilet paper, soap and washing-up liquid

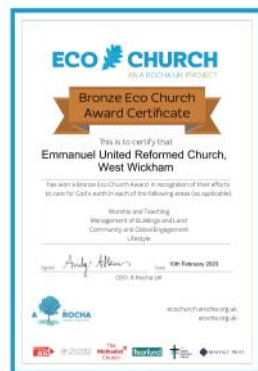
As well as “doing” stuff, some of it very obvious, other aspects somewhat behind the scenes, we’ve also spent time engaging with people, spreading the word, enthusing more action. One such example was one of the autumn 2022 meetings of the Emmanuel Fellowship, when the topic for the afternoon was Eco Church. Ian M gave a three part presentation: an introduction to the Eco Church programme; an update of what Emmanuel had done so far; and thirdly, a challenge to everyone. The challenge consisted of three simple suggestions for our own personal response – turn off the TV, leaky letterboxes, meat-free Monday.

As part of Sunday morning worship on 26<sup>th</sup> February, David made the presentation of the Bronze Award certificate to a group representing the many hands involved.



What’s next you ask? Silver?

Well yes, but this needs more people involved. So if you’re interested in helping push on towards the Silver level award, please speak to Ian M, Janet P, Sue T or any Elder – there’s plenty of ways to get involved.



It was a joy to receive the Eco-Church Bronze Award this morning which David presented our green team of Amelie, Maggie and Pat representing Messy Church, Carole and Tilly representing Guiding, Sue representing Emmanuel Fellowship and Janet representing Emmanuel’s Premises and Gardens Habitat Group. Particular thanks and congratulations to our Eco-Church leader, Ian Moore, who was running the Audio Visual system during the presentation.

## Launching the Eco Church Network Bromley

Did you know there are now 20 churches across Bromley who are signed up to the Eco Church scheme? Many are starting out, or working away to get to Bronze, but some have been on the journey a while now, have reached Silver already, and are going for Gold!

Now there is a new initiative, called **Eco Church Network Bromley**. The idea is to help people join up – from working away in their own church on their own programme, to feeling the support and encouragements of others around them. We want to build a community of Eco Church activists, sharing knowledge and practical advice, and as a network being able to shout louder in the community too.

Eco Church Network Bromley is launching in March 2023 and is starting with monthly meetings. You're invited to come to a different church each month, have a nose around their premises and projects, maybe get some ideas for your own "Premises" or "Land" items. And then also hear a speaker who will pick up a different theme, maybe Community Engagement or Lifestyle or Preaching and Worship.

For more information, see the next page with details of the first three meetings, or email Ian Moore at [ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com](mailto:ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com).

*Editor's note: this new network and series of meetings is open to anybody at Emmanuel or any other church whether registered as an Eco Church or not. Please help spread the work – and speak to Ian M for more details.*

# Eco Church Network Bromley

Launching a new series of meetings, helping eco-churches across Bromley get together, share knowledge and ideas, and hear inspiring talks. Travelling to different churches to see what different congregations are each doing on their patch.

Our first three meetings: (all starting at 7.30pm)

Wednesday 29th March      Christchurch URC, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH  
“Going for Gold” - Revd Nadene Snyman

Wednesday 3rd May              St Paul's Church, Beckenham, BR3 1RB  
“What we learnt from hosting a green hustings” - Paul Kunert

Wednesday 31st May          Emmanuel URC, West Wickham, BR4 9JS  
“How it all started” - Revd David Pickering

Open to all churches and other faith groups in Bromley.

You don't have to be registered with Eco Church to come, you could be just starting to think about it.



For further details, please contact Ian Moore at  
[ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com](mailto:ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com)



## Eco Hints Round 2: March 2023

Food leftovers... could be the perfect addition to some homemade soup or a casserole. If that won't work, there's always Bromley Council's food compost caddy.

Better still: cook less in the first place? Buy less, anyhow?

The waste food statistics?

Every year 913 tonnes of food sold to households, retailers, restaurants and other food services goes to waste! When that food is put into landfill, it produces methane, a greenhouse gas that contributes a huge amount to global warming. In fact, **global food waste** is the third biggest producer of greenhouse gasses. Only the countries of China and the USA produce more.

If we are realistic, it is much healthier for our bodies, and our pockets, to buy only what we need.

Can you reduce your food waste further?

Happy munching and target setting.

*Sue T*



## **Maundy Thursday**

Maundy Thursday, which is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April this year, is the day during Holy Week when the Church traditionally remembers Jesus meeting with his friends, the disciples, in an Upper Room, to celebrate Passover. It is this same meal that we celebrate as his last supper.

A joint service, with Holy Communion, has been arranged for members and friends of local URCs, including Emmanuel URC, West Wickham, Elmers End Free Church, Hayes Free Church and Bromley URC, Widmore Road.

This is being held at Emmanuel at 7pm on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April. The service will be conducted by Revd David Pickering, with the sermon preached by Revd Dr Elaine Colechin, minister of Bromley URC.

In addition, Elaine, and Revd Alison Smith, minister of Hayes Free Church, have arranged two online acts of worship:

### **A Tenebrae Service**

This is a stark rite that is characterised by the gradual extinguishing of candles between eight brief readings from the gospels, which describe the gathering gloom and the casting of shadows that darken the hours between the Last Supper and the Passion of Christ. This will be led by the Revd Alison Smith and the Revd Dr Elaine Colechin and will be available at <https://www.youtube.com/@greenwichandbromleyURC>.

### **A Silent Communion**

For those who would like to sit at the Lord's table in the comfort of their own home.

This will be presided over by the Revd Alison Smith and will be available at <https://www.youtube.com/@greenwichandbromleyURC>.

These have been put together as alternatives to our in-person Service of Holy Communion. However, the Tenebrae Service will complement the Communion service and so can be used as a time of reflection between Maundy Thursday evening and Easter Sunday morning.

The same site also includes a set of reflections for Lent.

## **Matthew, Mission and Me – a Joint Pastorate Lent Course**

As trailed in the previous edition of our magazine, I'm offering a weekly course through Lent, entitled 'Matthew, Mission and Me', exploring the Gospel of Matthew for the communities of Emmanuel and Elmers End Free Church. This will be held on Zoom, with each session starting at 7pm on successive Wednesdays and lasting for c. 30 minutes, with some time for fellowship. Whilst anyone is welcome to come to every evening, each session is stand alone, so if you can only make some of them, don't be deterred. No prior experience or reading is needed, but it would be handy to have a Bible to hand. The programme, Wednesday by Wednesday, is:

- 1<sup>st</sup> March The promise revealed
- 8<sup>th</sup> March Galilean days
- 15<sup>th</sup> March Ups and downs of ministry and service
- 22<sup>nd</sup> March Suffering servants
- 29<sup>th</sup> March Into the city – Jerusalem
- 5<sup>th</sup> April Christ's Passion

You are welcome to join anytime from 6:50pm for fellowship ahead of our 7pm start, and to bring your own tea/coffee/hot chocolate.

*David*

To join in the Matthew, Mission and Me Zoom sessions: contact David for the zoom link

# WARM SPACES

*West Wickham*



## A PLACE TO GRAB A DRINK, SOME SOUP & RELAX

From 31 October, the following places will be open every week, 9am-5pm, for you to drop in at any time (unless otherwise specified).



**Monday:** West Wickham & Shirley Baptist Church, Wickham Road, CR0 8EH

**Tuesday:** Coney Hall Baptist Church, Coney Hill Road, BR4 9BU (to 3:30pm)

**Wednesday:** St Francis Church, Ravenswood Avenue, BR4 0PW



**Thursday:** West Wickham Methodist Church, 2 Linden Leas, BR4 0SE (from 11am)

**Friday:** Emmanuel United Reformed Church, The Grove, BR4 9JS (from 10am)



churches  
together  
In West Wickham

*Kaleidoscope Domestic Abuse  
Support Group West Wickham*

*Free confidential support and  
advice on all types of Domestic  
Abuse*



*Last Saturday of the month  
1-3pm*

*The Emmanuel Church, The Grove,  
West Wickham, br49js*

*Contact Maxine on 07399718153  
for further details*

# Coffee Mornings



## FRIDAY COFFEE

\*Where—The Hewitt Room

When—**11am to 12 noon** every Friday morning

## Sunday Coffee

No coffee service on the first Sunday of the month, however, Messy Church would be pleased to welcome you at 10am for a cuppa.

On the other three Sundays in the month we will be looking forward to welcoming you in the Hewitt Room, after the service for coffee, biscuits and fellowship.

We can remain at tables or spill into the vestibule, the sanctuary or outside, so there will be plenty of space.

*Janet Pickering and Pat Best*

## EMMANUEL ART GROUP

The Emmanuel Art Group usually meets on Thursday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm at Emmanuel URC Church, The Grove, West Wickham, BR4 9JS.

A friendly group, new members always welcome.

Please contact us before coming so that we can discuss what you would like to do and how we can help you.

- Sheila 02086882707 or
- John 07708194093 [john.band3@gmail.com](mailto:john.band3@gmail.com)

## Community Baby & Toddler Group



**Where:** Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham

**When:** Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, term time

**Fee:** £3.00 per family

**Contact:** Ann Glover

**Email:** [youtooann@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:youtooann@yahoo.co.uk)

**Mobile:** 07946511391

We meet each week in the Richmond Hall, which is a large safe place. Mums, dads, grandparents and carers have a chance to catch up while watching their children play, build friendships and develop alongside their peers. There are many toys and resources allowing the children to play freely, as well as structured activities, story time and songs with actions.

Come along to our friendly inclusive group and try us out.





## Church Diary for March

Wednesday	1st	7.00pm	Matthew, Mission and Me – a Joint Pastorate Lent Course (online) (details on page 27)
Thursday	2nd	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Friday	3rd	10.00am— 5.00pm	Warm Spaces in West Wickham, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 20)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b> led by David Pickering and Pat Best
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Janet Godden</b>
Tuesday	7th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Wednesday	8th	7.00pm	Matthew, Mission and Me – a Joint Pastorate Lent Course (online) (details on page 27)
Friday	10th	10.00am— 5.00pm	Warm Spaces in West Wickham, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 20)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship, including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering</b>
Tuesday	14th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Wednesday	15th	7.00pm	Matthew, Mission and Me – a Joint Pastorate Lent Course (online) (details on page 27)
Friday	17th	10.00am— 5.00pm	Warm Spaces in West Wickham, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 20)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Mothering Sunday Gathered/broadcast worship led by Marion Moore</b>

Continued on next page





## *Church Diary for March continued*

Tuesday	21st	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Wednesday	22nd	7.00pm	Matthew, Mission and Me – a Joint Pastorate Lent Course (online) (details on page 27)
Friday	24th	10.00am— 5.00pm	Warm Spaces in West Wickham, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 20)
Saturday	25th	<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b><i>Passion Sunday</i></b> <b>Gathered/broadcast worship</b> <b>with Infant Baptism</b>
Tuesday	28th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Wednesday	29th	7.00pm	Matthew, Mission and Me – a Joint Pastorate Lent Course (online) (details on page 27)
Friday	31st	7.30pm	Eco Church Network Bromley (details on page 24)

## *Church Diary for the start of April*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b><i>Palm Sunday</i></b> <b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship</b> <b>led by Revd David Pickering</b>

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- Facts and photo on page 18 courtesy of Commitment for Life Pat Best
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# Notices

BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION  
STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS,  
ACTIVITIES

**5th March**  
**@ 10 am in the Richmond Hall**

[www.godwithus.org.uk](http://www.godwithus.org.uk)  
[www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

For more details, please contact:  
Pat on 07714 808 498 or  
[patbest@btinternet.com](mailto:patbest@btinternet.com)

## **Matthew, Mission & Me**

Held on Wednesdays starting  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** at  
7:00pm

Details on page 27

## **ELDERS' MEETING**

Will be held on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March** at 7:30pm

## **World Day of Prayer**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March @ 10.30am  
Coney Hill Baptist Church

Details on page 6

## **Emmanuel Fellowship**

Tuesdays at 2.15pm  
in the Richmond Hall  
Everyone welcome

Details on page 10

## **Baby & Toddler Group**

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Details on page 31

## **Emmanuel Art Group**

**Thursdays**  
**1:00pm to 4:00pm**

Details on page 30

## **Warm Spaces in WW**

Fridays 10:00am to 5:00pm

This incorporates Drop-In Coffee mornings and a series of events

Details on page 20 and 28

# *Emmanuel Church Contacts*



# Sponge Kitchens

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Hayes 020 8462 1352

Downham 020 86978843

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- Platters for any occasion
- Sandwich bar

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Our staff will always try to make you welcome and answer any questions you may have.

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