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# Emmanuel Life

Emmanuel

God With Us



# April 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 31\*\*\*



# April 2023 Services

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Palm Sunday</b>	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday</b> (see below)	7.00pm	Gathered worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering; Preacher Revd Dr Elaine Colechin
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Good Friday</b>	11.00am	Churches Together Service at St Francis Church Activities for children in St Francis Hall
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Easter Day</b>	10.30am	Singing of Easter hymns and songs in the garden together with the decoration of the cross to herald the resurrection
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering With guest preacher, Pfarrer Martin Henninger
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> (see below)	10.30am	Gathered broadcast led by Revd David Pickering
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering followed by the Church Meeting
<b>May 2023</b>		
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship

**6<sup>th</sup> April:** Revd Dr Elaine Colechin is the Minister of Bromley URC and St Mark's United Church, Greenwich

**23<sup>rd</sup> April:** We regret this service will not be broadcast on Zoom

# *Minister's Letter*

## **something happened...**

Dear Friends,

Something happened. I won't pretend that I understand what happened or can explain what happened, but something did happen.

The week before was filled with the human joy and heartache that are all too familiar in our world in our times. There was a procession, almost a state entrance, though untypically the would-be king dressed down, not up. No stretched limo equivalent but a donkey, and despite or perhaps because of that he got a right royal welcome. Cheers and waving palm branches, a national parade. Did too much expectation rest on his shoulders? Some doubted the atmosphere would last, others started plotting, so it wouldn't.

A week of twists and turns. An upset in the market sent city traders panicking, authorities took a dim view, a whispering campaign. Time for one last highlight, a celebratory meal, a remembrance of past liberation, and yet as bread was dipped so the atmosphere turned. Jesus spoke, Judas fled, hearts sank. As night passed relationships unravelled, betrayal and bruising, denials and desertions, conniving and cruelty. Then the one who entered in glory was led out to die, the sun set on another false messiah.

Then something happened, something very different from anything that had happened before.

Jesus was one in a long line of so-called messianic figures whose lives came to an abrupt end. End of life, end of story, save for a handful of disillusioned souls.

But something different happened.

Within days, news of something previously unknown, was being spread. Within weeks this Jesus was being spoken of as the Messiah, within a handful of years he was being declared to unbelievers as the Lord.

There have been many explanations down the years, the evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all give a perspective that in one way or another tell of something very different happening. They relate stories of an empty tomb, of

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meeting Jesus again, appearances which were both physical and almost ghostly in nature, which then stopped. But the influence remained, was reinforced and spread.

Over the years there have been many perspectives on what exactly happened. Some view the stories as pointing to a deep truth about God, others as literally describing events. Some have sought to rationalise what happened, others have dismissed the stories as fairy tale fantasy.

For me, I am content to know that something happened, a something that I can't explain, that I can't hope to ever understand, a something that may be utterly irrational to the world but which I can best describe as a deep and holy mystery.

I remember as a teenager being irritatingly told by an adult, 'I wish I was a teenager again when I knew everything'. A rueful, and doubtless deserved dig. But as the years pass, the more I learn, the more I realise there is to learn. The more insights and knowledge I gain, the more the gaps I become aware of. I don't suppose that I'm alone in such thinking.

Astronomers searching the skies are discovering more and more about the universe, yet as they peel back mysteries, they find yet more to be discovered or understood. One answer begs more questions. At the bounds of knowledge, they discover they can't always define what they observe with scientific formula or measure phenomena with empirical certainty but have to resort to using poetic and other descriptive language to convey an impression of that which has been observed or detected. Thus, phenomena which are seemingly inexplicable based on conventional physics, are instead colourfully and variously described in terms such as black holes, super nova and white dwarves. The names relating to systems of seeming order and chaos that appear related in an elegance of a design, yet beyond human comprehension. This feels almost God talk.

If such an unscientifically verifiable approach is good enough for contemporary astro-physicists gazing at the heavens, then I am content to look around the world and know that at some point nearly 2000 years ago, something happened that changed lives and communities and continues to do so today. Further that it is quite reasonable, indeed helpful, to describe the appearance of Jesus in the Easter garden and after in terms such resurrection, new life, miracle and wonder.

Like aspects of what happens in the celestial heavens, the resurrection cannot be measured or explained in Newtonian physics, nor Einsteinian and Darwinian theories, but that doesn't mean that it wasn't a real phenomenon. For something happened, which was witnessed by many that brought peace to turmoil, comfort to

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grief, hope to heartache, dedication to discipleship and mission to multitudes. And in the Easter happening there is an elegance of design for creation, a true purpose for living, and a real hope beyond life. And that is God talk.

So this Easter, I hope to continue exploring its meaning, but more importantly to simply celebrate, mindful of even more that I don't know, but feeling ever more convinced and fired up that something truly life-changing happened, is still happening.

For the Lord has risen - Easter greetings

David

*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**



I trust you have been enjoying these sessions, the last one being on zoom on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm** entitled 'Christ's Passion'.



## **MESSY CHURCH**

Meeting on **2<sup>nd</sup> April, 10am – 12 noon** with the theme 'Holy Week'

Everyone is welcome for a pre-service cuppa.

## **EASTER SERVICES**

Look out for the many opportunities to celebrate the risen Christ at Easter.....



- **Maundy Thursday (6<sup>th</sup>) 7pm** at Emmanuel with communion
- **Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup>)** at St Francis 11am
- **Saturday (8<sup>th</sup>) - *Easter Egg Hunt*** at Emmanuel - **10.30am**
- **Sunday (9<sup>th</sup>) EASTER DAY** – singing on the green & decorating the cross with flowers – **10.30am** – led by Marion; followed by **11am service** in the sanctuary led by David, with communion



## **CHURCH MEETING – APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**

Please note **change of date** for April Church Meeting from 23<sup>rd</sup> to **30<sup>th</sup> April** to enable the meeting to be also on Zoom.



Rosemary



A view from the Spring Synod Together Meeting, Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March.

I travelled to Brighton by train with Heather Moore, a good opportunity to catch up on family, news and views. Once at the Bighthelm Centre we saw familiar faces and prepared for the day's business.

We began with worship led by adults and children from West Thamesmead Community Church, with uplifting songs, accompanied by ribbon wands, and with each reading a verse from the Psalms all about God's goodness to us. The microphone was passed to each, young and older, who led us in prayer, and we then sang I Will Sing of the Goodness of God.

During the morning we heard more about this vibrant church, how 6 years ago there was no church building, community space or congregation, just 2 ministers Revds Sally and Andrew Willett who had been placed in West Thamesmead to 'start a church'.

They were offered the use of a school hall on Sunday afternoons, prayed while walking round the area introducing themselves as the new community ministers, gave out leaflets, and invited people to chat over coffee. The school caretaker suggested they stood outside the school when it was used as a polling station and people came to them showing an interest. A Bible college student who was also a beautician offered a 'pamper session' and they held a barbecue afterwards.

So they used their resources, and the opportunities that God gave them and the church started, each year welcoming more and more.

A Nativity in the streets using people's houses with local councillors invited to be wise men (!), and a man on his balcony as Herod, games and tea with the (cardboard cut out) Queen, a multicultural Harvest and Messy Church all brought in more.

West Thamesmead's mission is 'Blessing, Belonging, Believing'.

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You may remember Maurice and Juliana Omorojie who led worship at Emmanuel a while ago. They felt they belonged to West Thamesmead straight away, made new friends and were blessed with love, joy and peace. Maurice is now training for the ministry.

It was so encouraging to hear how this church has grown from just being out in the community.

We watched a video made by the Church Life Review Group (which included Revd Phil Wall, now in Milton Keynes) advocating that we look at our resources, what is working well and what is not. We were later reminded that the Southern Synod has 80 lay preachers and we should use them.

When Heather came forward to give her report on Youth Assembly she was warmly congratulated on being chosen as the Moderator Elect of Youth Assembly. She is looking forward to working with her friend Philippa Osei, the present Moderator. Heather spoke about fun, fellowship and lively worship at Youth Assembly as well as a lot of serious discussion.

Another video was about legacies of slavery, how racism can be insidious but very noticeable to the recipient, and that besides being careful of our own behaviour churches should advocate justice.

You may also remember Revd Jacob Bali who has visited Emmanuel twice. He spoke of his Special Category Ministry in London SE1 where he has a 'ministry of presence' among young people in the Waterloo area, in King's where people are about to lose loved ones and at Tower Bridge where he offers good news. At the Southwark Playhouse he was involved with actors from the local community who performed a Nativity and found church, the Bible and God 'still relevant'.

So again no church building, using the resources he has in the community. Very inspiring.

In our closing worship we were reminded how one person plants and another reaps; we are all part of God's mission.

After a walk on the beach and the pier, Heather and I returned home. I felt most positive about the day, having been among people faith-filled, all committed and hard working.

*Pat Best*



# News of the Church Family and Community

April is one of my favourite months when the rising of the sun on the horizon, the gradual warming of the earth and the additional hour of daylight in the evenings lifts the soul after the colder, darker winter days. The Lenten snowdrops are giving way to Easter's daffodils, and there is the promise of a new season of butterflies to emerge.

But some in life may still experience wintery-like days. Please remember in your prayers, friends traversing the heartaches as well as the joys 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
- 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.*

## **Baptism**

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March it was a joy to welcome Flora Kumi with her daughter, Nya, along with many of their family and friends to witness and celebrate Nya's baptism. We learnt a new song in the Ghanaian language of Twi, 'Da n'ase, da n'ase, Da Onyame ase. Ewfiase O ye n'a doe doosooo', which means, 'Give thanks to our God, for his kindness and grace does endure for ever'. After singing this worship song Nya was baptised in the name of the 'Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit'. The congregation then sang the Blessing from the Book of Numbers:

The Lord bless you and keep you:  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,

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and be gracious unto you:  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,  
and give you peace.

## Giving thanks

There is much to give thanks for at Emmanuel, including some wonderful ventures that are making a big difference in our community:

- **Emmanuel Fellowship** whose weekly inspiring and interesting speakers is attracting a growing number of people,
- **Messy Church** which is sharing the Gospel in creative and fun ways for a new generation of people and pastorally supporting families,
- Emmanuel's **Guiding Groups** who provide a fun and safe place week by week for girls to meet and engage in a wide variety of activities,
- **Warm Spaces** – reshaping as '**Warm Welcome Fridays @ Emmanuel**' for the summer months, which provides a space for people to meet and bide a while over a cuppa or lite bite, and should they choose, read a one-book gospel.

Please remember, with thanks, each venture and pray for growth and support of each group.

## Remembering a sister church

Please remember the fellowship of West Wickham Methodist Church who have taken the difficult to decision to move towards closing their building in January 2024. They are seeking a new home for their church within another fellowship. Many of the organisations and groups based at their church are also seeking a new home.

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.



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

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)

# Ramblings: Nature Notes from God's Creation—A sign of Easter

One still, chill, winter's day, I wandered through Spring Park Woods. Autumn's debris lay thick on the ground, brown and browning, mulching into the lych of the woodland's humus-rich floor. The odd nut case; split, robbed, abandoned. A once sturdy trunk enveloped by fungal growth. An in-between time, a liminal moment in the cycle of life; as past seasons decayed imperceptibly into history. No apparent green shoot, no reassuring sign of hope, rather a drawn-out farewell.

Sometimes human life can feel like that. And yet, and yet, just as the darkness of night gives way to the first shafts of dawn's probing rays, so new life will emerge from the musty floor. An age-old cycle, a natural cycle, and a cycle which humans have learnt to engage with, harness, and exploit.



Dropping down through the skeletal woods, I emerged into the Addington Bottom plain, where, a gang of volunteer hedge layers were labouring under the guiding eyes of a Commons Ranger. Hedge laying is an ancient country craft, undertaken for a variety of purposes including creating a stock-proof barrier, habitat for a diversity of species, flood control, protection of crops and simply to please the eye.

The traditional technique involves cutting a stem near its base, leaving a section of bark and sapwood, ensuring that growth continues, then laying it down at an angle. The craft stimulates new growth from the cut stem, known as the pleacher, and the stool. Additional strength is gained by placing upright stakes at intervals, and the use of other stakes laid horizontally and bound with brush cut from the pleachers. Occasional stronger stems are left uncut, to develop as 'standards', giving height. Hymn writer, Sydney Carter, expressed something of the same in his Easter hymn of new life, Lord of the dance:

*They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never, die;*



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*I'll live in you if you live in me;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.*

I wonder what signs of Easter you've seen? What sign of Easter you may be?

*David Pickering*

## Diary of a Mod Elect

Friends,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the beginning of March, and thank you for your many congratulations. When talking about the role, many of you had the same question; what will you actually do? At the time I could only offer the job description, but now I've properly got going, I'll be writing about my experiences to try and answer that question!



First up was a post-youth assembly gathering with Thames North with some of the participants from our two synods. We discussed some more specific feedback from youth assembly, general reflections especially from first-timers, and synod youth events going forward, and closed with worship and pizza. Next was Synod Together, which has been brilliantly summarised by Pat, but overall was a very informative and engaging meeting.

The weekend after that, I was off to Sheffield for Children and Youth Work Committee. I wasn't sure what to expect from this meeting, but I had a great time, and met some wonderful people. We discussed a wide range of topics, from training to available resources, motions to take to General Assembly, and even touched on Advent! My main takeaway was how wide the scope of the committee is.

Lastly, there is the first Youth Executive meeting of the year. I'll cover this another time as I'm on the train there as I write this, but on the agenda is starting Youth Assembly planning, and starting to take action on motions, especially those that we'll be taking to General Assembly.

Safe to say, its been a busy month! Again thank you so much for your congratulations and well wishes, I feel much more settled in the role now that I've actually started, and there's lots to look forward to!

*Heather*

# *Emmanuel Fellowship*

Dear Friends,

Didn't we have a fun time in March? With David Pickering, we discovered joys and trials of sailing the high seas, encountering how the Christian faith was carried to the ends of the earth; Colin Jones brought the gardens of the world to us; and we relaxed in forests and woods with poetry and music, led by Sue Thomas. In the final meeting of our Spring term, Bryn Thomas focused our thoughts on the Easter story, through the medium of religious paintings.

April has but two Fellowship meetings, following our Easter break.

<b>18th</b>	<b>Ian Bevan:</b> 'The London Coliseum - The House that Stoll built'. A welcome return from Ian, whose fascinating talks are always full of interest and intrigue.
<b>25th</b>	<b>Liz Powderham:</b> 'Project Linus'. We will be introduced to 'Project Linus', a charity that provides new, handmade, quilts and blankets (lovingly made by UK volunteer knitters and quilters) to children who are sick, disadvantaged or distressed. There may even be an opportunity to join the creative team, if you are that way inclined.

If you are interested in hearing any of our Speakers, do come to their talk: you will be most welcome.

Every blessing,

*Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee*

# As part of our mission to care for the wonder of God’s creation, the URC is promoting:

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## ‘The Big One’ – Climate protest, from 21 April

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Christian Climate Action, Extinction Rebellion and other climate groups are inviting all who care about our planet to be part of a protest in Parliament Square, Westminster, to call on the UK government to take more action on its environmental commitments. They aim to harness people power by building relationships of inclusion and cooperation.

They say: “Gathering at the Houses of Parliament day after day in large numbers means we can leave the locks, glue and paint behind and instead demonstrate faith in a critical mass of people to create a moment that’s impossible to ignore.

The invitation is to all people, all movements, all organisations to come together and stay for as long as you can.”

Nonviolent direct action is a form of protest or activism that involves the use of peaceful, nonviolent tactics to bring about social, political, or economic change. Christian Climate Action are holding a ‘No Faith In Fossil Fuels Service’ at St Johns Church Waterloo, they are gathering at 11am, for the service to start at noon. After the service, they will walk together towards Parliament, via Shell headquarters, to join [The Big One protest](#).

If you are reading this online you may click [No Faith In Fossil Fuels Service – Christian Climate Action](#) to find out more information, or search online for ‘Christian Climate Action – the Big One’.

*David*

# Services for Holy Week and Easter

## 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.

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## Good Friday

Churches Together in West Wickham are holding a Good Friday Service at 11am at St Francis whilst at the same time a range of children's activities are being offered in St Francis Church Hall.

## Holy Saturday

On Holy Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, an Easter Egg hunt and make an Easter Garden activity are being held at Emmanuel from 10:30am. See separate poster on page 24.

## Easter Day



Our service on Easter Day Celebration Service is at 11am and will be preceded from 10:30am with the singing of Easter hymns and songs in the garden together with the decoration of the cross to herald the resurrection. The service will include Holy Communion and an anthem from our Singing Group.

## URC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – revised arrangements for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023

There will be an **'Open Church House'** event at 86 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9RT, which will take place on April 15<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12 noon. This will include dozens of activities and crafts related to the jubilee including: a Living Library, our Mersey Synod with LICC/LYCIG, Free-to-Believe, GEAR, the URC History Society and Westminster College Cambridge, a Prayer Labyrinth, an Enquirers' Conference, Greenbelt, a cafe, Christian Aid, Roots for Churches, Single Friendly Church, The Trussell Trust, an exhibition from the archives, Church Related Community Workers offering activities around Café Church, community work and engagement, many staff teams offering conversations and discussion activities, Fresh Expressions plant-based activities and reflections, badge-making and craft activities, a puppet show, an exhibition of Reform magazine's 50 years, the URC Bookshop and more.

This is followed by:

Between Church House and Methodist Central Hall there is a **Walk to Westminster** with self-guided tours for all ages packed with buildings of interest

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to the Church and things to find for younger walkers.

Leading to:

At Methodist Central Hall Westminster, London, from 2.30pm, where the Uniting Assembly of the URC took place in October 1972, a **service** will take place to **give thanks and to celebrate** the five decades of the United Reformed Church.

For more details, including tickets, please see the URC website.

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

On the Sunday after Easter, our 10:30am service will be led by David, and we hope to have a guest preacher, Pfarrer Martin Henninger of the Evangelical Church of the Palatinate, with whom a church partnership developed with the Congregational Union of England and Wales in the post-war period and which continues today with the United Reformed Church.

Martin is visiting the UK to attend the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Reformed Church, which was scheduled for last October, but had to be postponed due to a train strike preventing people from travelling to London from across our nations. Martin is an old friend of David and Jan and will be staying with them.

*David*

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# Personal Thanks & Announcements



## Mighty Mites

The February collection of Mighty Mites raised the excellent sum of £82. This was particularly good as we don't use so many coins now.

The total for the year is now £241.

Many thanks,

*Gill Childs*

# B

ig shout out to Hannah, Cat and Mark from Goodgym who came along on a couple of occasions to help us out with loft insulation.

The Lang Room and Ministers Vestry now have a nice snug blanket of 250mm loft insulation, helping to keep the heat in and our heating bills down.



*Ian M*



# 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*

# *Gift of Grace*



## *Taxi Scheme*

The Gift of Grace facilitation group originally declined the request for a taxi service, however, at the last Church meeting and AGM on 29<sup>th</sup> January this decision was reversed.

The Elders have looked carefully at all the names in the Church Directory and we are now in a position to offer to pay for a taxi for members of our congregation who are unable to get to Emmanuel without relying on a lift from someone. This scheme is to provide an option should a lift not be available and starts with immediate effect.

Everyone on 'the list' will have, or will shortly have, received a letter giving them full details as to how the scheme works.

Because we have no way of knowing how this is going to work out we are initially offering this as a pilot scheme which will run for three months, and will then be reviewed by the Elders. Hopefully it will prove to be successful and we will be able to continue to run it, but as we are still testing the water we will, for now, only be able to fund journeys to and from Sunday Church and Tuesday Fellowship.

*Janet Pickering*

## Hymn books, bibles and more

The Premises Habitat Group (Janet P, Sue B, Ian S, Ian M & David) have recently been looking at various places around the church and gradually doing some decluttering.

In the James Todd room, we have a large stack of hymn books (both Rejoice & Sing and Mission Praise) and bibles (Good News Version). With our current typical size of congregation, we no longer need c.200 of each hymnbook. Obviously we will be keeping enough in case the AV system breaks down one morning (oops, we obviously tempted fate on that one) but even allowing for that, there are lots left over.

And it occurred to us that perhaps people might like a copy for home if they don't already have one? If so, please take one from the tables in the James Todd room during April, or if you're not going to be in church please talk to your Elder who will make arrangements for you.

Also, it's been a long time since the library was used, and we don't see any real likelihood of that coming back. Rather than just cart off all the books to a second-hand book shop, we thought we'd first offer them out to the fellowship. There's far too many to list here, so we will put them on tables in the James Todd room during April, and you're welcome to browse and take away anything that attracts you.

## Eco Hints Round 3: April 2023

Loft insulation. Yes, boring old loft insulation.

It's actually one of the most effective solutions for improving the energy efficiency of a home - the Energy Saving Trust advises that about a quarter of a house's heat is lost through uninsulated loft space. And I was shocked to discover recently that around 8 million of Great Britain's 25 million homes still don't have any loft insulation. Wow.

We've just done it in the loft voids above the Lang Room and Ministers Vestry which has taken us from no insulation to a layer 250mm (10 inches) thick. It's pretty straightforward as a DIY job, no special tools or knowledge, just time and care.

We chose to use a product called Thermafleece Supasoft, which is made from recycled drinks bottles. This is entirely safe and easy to handle. Most DIY stores only sell rolls made of glass mineral wool, which is much cheaper to buy, but is notorious for being awkward to handle (face mask, gloves, long sleeves etc).

Perhaps you think you already have loft insulation? Well, back when retrofitting loft insulation was last in fashion (probably around the 1970s & 80s!), it was common to put in about 100-120mm (4-5 inches) filling the space between rafters. But that still leaves a huge gap to current standards – which are 250-270mm (10-11 inches). It's a bit like the difference between a summer weight duvet and a winter weight one. So let's change the question slightly - do you have *enough* insulation?

If this inspires you, and you want more information, here's a link to Energy Saving Trust guide to loft insulation: <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/roof-and-loft-insulation/>

So maybe take a look in your loft space and see where you stand? And don't forget to look at the loft hatch itself – is that insulated or just plain board?

*PS – we slightly over-ordered how much loft insulation we needed for the Lang/Vestry, so if you would like to buy some of the excess - maybe half a roll or enough just to do that loft hatch? - please have a word with Ian Moore.*

*Ian M*

# Good Friday

at St Francis Church Hall, Ravenswood Avenue  
11 am till 12noon Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April

Crafts

Games



children under 7 must be accompanied  
A Churches Together Children's Link event



## Easter Egg Hunt

at Emmanuel Church  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
10.30 am



Come and make the Easter Garden  
and  
hunt for eggs

For more details contact Pat Best 07714 808498 [patbest@btinternet.com](mailto:patbest@btinternet.com)



Sports classes for walkers to 7 years



**Fri & Sat weekly classes**  
9.30am - Midday

Teeny Athletes - Walkers to 2 years

Didee Athletes - 2 - 3.5 years

Little Athletes - 3.5 to 5 years

Mini Athletes - 5 to 7 years

To book go to [www.miniathletics.com](http://www.miniathletics.com)

Free  
tasters  
for April

**Location:** Richmond Sports Hall, Emmanuel Church  
**Contact details:** Lara Doherty on [ldoherty@miniathletics.com](mailto:ldoherty@miniathletics.com)

*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*

## Warm Welcome at Emmanuel

will continue into the summer with a 'lite bite' lunch

Fridays (except Good Friday)  
10am till 4pm  
All welcome

# 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 April

<b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	6th	7.00pm	Gathered worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering; Preacher Revd Dr Elaine Colechin
<b>Good Friday</b>	7th	11.00am	Churches Together Service at St Francis Church Activities for children in St Francis
Saturday	8th	10.30am	Easter Egg Hunt (details on page 24)
<b>Easter Day</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Singing of Easter hymns and songs in the garden together with the decoration of the cross to herald the resurrection
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship, including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering</b>
Friday	14th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 27)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering with guest preacher, Pfarrer Martin Henninger</b>
Tuesday	18th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)
Friday	21st	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 27)
Saturday	22nd		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered broadcast led by Revd David Pickering</b>
Tuesday	25th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)
Friday	28th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 27)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering followed by the Church Meeting</b>

## Church Diary for the start of May

Tuesday	2nd	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas</b>

# Notices

BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION  
STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS,  
ACTIVITIES

**5th April**  
**@ 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)

## Easter Services

- **Maundy Thursday (6<sup>th</sup>)** 7pm at Emmanuel with communion
- **Good Friday (7<sup>th</sup>)** at St Francis 11am
- **Saturday (8<sup>th</sup>)** - *Easter Egg Hunt* at Emmanuel - **10.30am**
- **Sunday (9<sup>th</sup>)** **EASTER DAY** – singing on the green & decorating the cross with flowers

Details on page 7

## Emmanuel Fellowship

(Some) Tuesdays at 2.15pm  
in the Richmond Hall  
Everyone welcome

Details on page 14

## Easter Egg Hunt

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April @ 10.30am

Details on page 24

## Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Details on page 28

## Church Meeting

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
Shortly after church service

## Emmanuel Art Group

Thursdays  
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Details on page 28

## Warm Welcome

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

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

Details on page 27

# *Emmanuel Church Contacts*



# Sponge Kitchens

Established 1938

Beckenham 020 8650 0062

Hayes 020 8462 1352

Downham 020 86978843

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- Selections of Fresh bread
- Cakes and patisseries
- Platters for any occasion
- Sandwich bar

Kelsey Park round the corner from our Park Langley branch is perfect for walks with the family, why not come for a coffee and a cake or some light lunch in the newly refurbished store. All our branches would love for you to come in for breakfast, lunch or even a quick snack.

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

Check out the website for more details on bespoke cakes and all of our other ranges.

Beckenham Downham Hayes  
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