

# Emmanuel Life



## May 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\*\*\*



## *May 2023 Services*

<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Alan Kienlen
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered broadcast led by Mrs Marion Moore
<b>28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday</b> (see below)	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
	6.00pm	Churches Together in West Wickham service at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church

### *June 2023*

<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas

**28<sup>th</sup> May:** Wickham Road, Croydon, CR0 8EH  
 The evening service will be followed by the Churches Together  
 in West Wickham AGM.

# *Minister's Letter*

Dear Friends,

I wonder how Pentecost, the coming of God's Holy Spirit, as described in Acts was experienced?

A few years ago, Jan and I went to a concert by the Icelandic band 'Sigur Rós'. We first came across them some years back when we went to Iceland for a special holiday to mark our silver wedding anniversary. Ahead of going a friend lent us an Icelandic jumper and a CD by Sigur Rós entitled *Ágætis Byrjun*, a name which I can neither pronounce nor know what it means. The jumper looked useful, the CD by a band we'd never heard of – well intriguing!

On arrival in Iceland we picked up the hire car that we had booked and before long checked out the radio. In the areas which did have reception the stations majored, unsurprisingly, in Icelandic, of which we couldn't speak a word. So we tried out the CD, thinking we should at least give it a go, so we could report back suitably appreciatively to our friend.

Sigur Rós may be an acquired taste, but we acquired it rapidly, their music seemed to be drawn from the landscapes that we drove through, walked over and simply sat back and looked at day by day. Before long we each had favourite tracks and no day out was complete without listening to their music. So, when back home, we returned the jumper and CD with thanks, and bought our own copy, and then another album and then, having seen the Sigur Rós concert advertised, bought tickets.

Now this is supposed to be a minister's letter rather than a concert review, so please bear with me, for I found that the live music was an experience that touched deeply. The music may be described as elemental and ethereal, drawing on the drama of a landscape still shaped by ice and fire; you may remember the 2010 eruption of the Eyjafjallajökull volcano which disrupted air traffic over Europe.

Icelandic folklore is rich in stories of fairies, hidden people that inhabit the sub-terrain. Astonishingly to us, a significant proportion of Icelandic people believe that elves exist! Whilst I did not join that number, I can understand how such thinking developed simply because the landscape seems to enrich innate spirituality, as similarly experienced in other Atlantic fringes described as 'thin places'.

*Continued on next page*

For me the Sigur Rós concert was less to be listened to and more to be experienced. The music touches soul, and though I didn't understand one single word of what was being sung, it spoke to me.

It was during the concert that I found myself wondering whether the experience was something akin to the coming of God's Holy Spirit at Pentecost as described in the New Testament book Acts of the Apostles (see Acts 2. 1-13). The author Luke describes the coming of the Holy Spirit using elemental language of rushing wind and dancing flames, how people from far and wide had come together and whilst they all spoke different languages, God's spirit communicated to them all without them needing to understand their many mother tongues. And in the concert, I also experienced something which I can only describe as elemental and ethereal, which spoke beyond language and left a lasting impression.

I still listen to Sigur Rós, their music evokes memories of a special holiday, but it now brings for me an additional resonance, a reminder that God spoke through an experience with fire and wind and who may still be experienced in elemental ways that defy understanding and which resonate deep within soul.

Perhaps you too have had a sense of God's Spirit, in music which has moved, or when standing in an elemental place such as a mountain top with rushing wind, or resting in a valley beside a babbling brook, or sitting in the silence of a church sanctuary. And through such an experience found scripture come alive and know deep within of God.

As the trees break into leaf and spring unfurls in this Easter season, may you sense the hope and new life of Christ in your life.

God bless,

David

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

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)



# *News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community*

As the days lengthen into May, we can but hope that the weather will warm after a somewhat chilly April. I've noticed that the new season's butterflies seem later in appearing than last year, and I don't blame them! I trust that nature will catch up. Meanwhile, may we also remember in our thoughts and prayers our friends in this time twixt the chill of winter and warmth of summer, as they experience the joys and delights, worries, afflictions and heartaches that may be encountered through life.

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

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

- Marjorie George
- 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.*

## **Bereavements**

Former member and lay preacher, Eric Bland, died peacefully on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March in a care home in Maidstone. Eric had moved to the Maidstone area with his wife, Phyll, some 18 years ago, but appreciated keeping in touch with friends at Emmanuel. Eric's funeral is to be held at 11:30am on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May at Kent and Sussex Crematorium, Benhall Mill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5JJ. Refreshments are being served after the service and anyone who would like to attend is asked to let Eric's daughter, Jeanette know. Please remember Jeanette and her family and Eric's son, Colin, and his family at this time.

An 'In Memory' of Eric is also published in this edition of Emmanuel Life on page 15, and funeral details on page 16.

*Continued on next page*

Glenda MacIntyre, Stuart's MacIntyre's Mum, died on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April. Her funeral is to be held at 11:15am on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May at Bluebell Cemetery, Knockholt and will be conducted by Revd Wendy Swan of St John's URC, Orpington, where Glenda was a faithful member. Please remember Stuart and his family and friends, including Eleanor, Caroline and Nicky at this time.

### **The URC's 'postponed' Jubilee Weekend.**

After a delay of 6 months due to the train strikes, the URC celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee over the weekend of 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> April with an 'Open House' at 'Church House', followed by a pilgrimage walk to Westminster Central Hall, the location of the Uniting Assembly on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1972, where the anniversary was celebrated in an uplifting service. This may be viewed on Youtube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34bymAfzws0> It is 2 ½ hours long, and whilst it didn't feel like it on the day, you might want to pour a brew before you view!

The opening includes the Call to Worship co-led by our own Heather Moore as Moderator Elect of URC Youth, and the eagle-eyed may spot Revd Bryn Thomas in the colourfully-clothed Jubilee Choir. Also present from Emmanuel was proud Mum, Marion who acted as a steward, Sue Thomas together with Jan and myself.



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Ahead of the opening of the service, a welcome was given to some of the ecumenical guests, including a group of 12 who'd travelled from the Protestant Evangelical Church in the Pfalz to join our anniversary weekend.

The following morning, Emmanuel was blessed as we welcomed Pfarrer Martin Henninger from the Church in the Pfalz, to Emmanuel to share with me in the leadership of the service including preaching the sermon. It was a particular joy that Lilo Sutton read the Gospel for the day, as she was born and grew up just a few miles (in Germany that should read a few more kilometres!) away from where Martin lives.

## **Congratulations**

There have been celebrations in the Chamberlain household following the award to Gill of a Masters in Leadership and Management in Education, and through a Level 7 apprenticeship, Gill has also been awarded Chartered Management Status and has become a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management.

Congratulations also to Niamh who celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> on 5<sup>th</sup> April!

Sounds like a cork-popping time all round at the Chamberlain's!

## **Remembering a sister church – West Wickham Methodist Church**

Last month I reported on the brave and heartfelt decision by West Wickham Methodist Church to move towards closing in January 2024. Naturally the fellowship have been thinking and praying about their future, and have made some enquiries with several local churches, including Emmanuel. Consequently, Emmanuel has issued an open invitation to the Methodist fellowship to join us in worship one Sunday to experience our worship and fellowship. They have accepted our invitation and their visit will take place on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, which this year is Pentecost Sunday marking the birth of the world-wide Church.

We plan to give them a personal and warm welcome on that Sunday as they come, see and experience our worship and fellowship. Please remember our friends from West Wickham Methodist Church in prayer, that they may sense God's hand guiding their next steps as they seek a new spiritual home or homes.

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.

David



# Church Directory update

As you may already know, we have just started the process of producing a new church directory. We last did this two years ago, in the midst of Covid, so it was light touch and relied a lot on verbal updates. We haven't done a totally thorough update with all the GDPR compliance stuff since 2019. So now's the time!

The good news is that at least 90% of this should be very easy. Elders are distributing pre-filled forms with the information already held, and if it's all still correct, all you have to do is tick the permissions and sign it off. However, we know that even if they haven't moved house, people do change their mobile phone numbers and email addresses from time to time, so it's also an opportunity to correct things. So if anything printed on the pre-filled form needs changing, just mark it up on the form please.

We are aiming to collate all the forms and any new information by end May, so when you receive your form from your Elder, could you please try and return it to them within a week or so? That will give us plenty of time to make any required changes, double check where we can't read the handwriting, chase the missing ones, etc etc. Only then will we be able to go forward with printing a new directory.

If you've got any questions, do please get in touch with Ian Moore on 07701 032014.

*Ian M*

On behalf of the Elders

*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

### West Wickham Village Day

As part of Churches Together in West Wickham on **1<sup>st</sup> May** at **10am – 4pm** in Blake Park. Please come and support the Messy Church stall.  
Details on page 25.



### MESSY CHURCH

Meeting on **7<sup>th</sup> May, 10am – 12 noon**  
Everyone is welcome for a pre-service cuppa.



### Christian Aid Week

Starts **14th May**. Details on page 27.

### West Wickham Methodist Church

Our service will include the congregation of West Wickham Methodist church on **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May**  
Details on page 8.

I'm sure we will all make them feel very welcome!!!



churches  
together  
in West Wickham

### Churches Together in West Wickham

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 6pm**

Churches Together in West Wickham service at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church.

This will be followed by an AGM.  
Details on page 2.



### Church Directory Update

We all should have received a consent form from our elders, if you have not, please speak to your elder. Please fill it in and return to your elder as soon as possible so accurate updates can be made.

Details on page 9.

*Flora*

# *Emmanuel Fellowship*

Dear Friends,

Have you appreciated the blessings of Easter? I hope you all enjoyed the Spring sunshine we have seen in recent days. We mustn't grumble about the rain and winds, which water our gardens and green spaces and freshen the air. Let's look for daily blessings, for ourselves and each other.

We were very fortunate to meet Stuart Robinson on April 18th, when he stepped into Ian Bevan's shoes, as Ian was unable to be with us. Stuart gave a lively talk about London, which approached our Capital from a new angle. It was informative, quirky and humorous in good measure.

Do keep 'Project Linus' in mind, if you have time and energy to sew or knit, as they do wonderful work to relieve the distress of children in troubled circumstances. They give lovingly handmade blankets to children in need of love, encouragement and caring.

May is here, and a significant time in our nations of the UK, as we crown our new King and Queen: Charles and Camilla. May they be strengthened by God to live up to the example of our late Queen Elizabeth in service and commitment, and find support, respect and love from the peoples of the UK and Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, at the Fellowship, on **May 2nd John Hickman** will be with us, to talk about '**William and Eliza Stanley and their lives in South Norwood**'. John is very knowledgeable about the area, so I'm sure we will have a really interesting afternoon. We will celebrate our new Monarchs on the **9th**, with a **Tea Party for the Coronation** of King Charles III, and Queen Camilla. The Committee will serve afternoon tea, so bring an appetite with you, and feel free to dress-up for the occasion.

**Sue Henning** returns on the **16th** with a talk about **Romania**. Sue is well-travelled and will have many exciting tales to tell of her experiences. If you haven't been to this country of contrasts, 'grab your passport' and expect to be amazed.

**May 23rd is Half Term at the Fellowship, so there will be no meeting.**

The **30th** sees the return of **Camilla Baker**, from Owletts National Trust property. Her talk '**Architecture and Personalities**' will focus on **Herbert Baker and Edwin Lutyens**. Camilla is the great granddaughter of Sir Herbert Baker, so we can expect some personal insights from a passionate Speaker.

Every blessing,

# Nature Ramblings — In Our Wild Isles



I was wowed by the recent David Attenborough wildlife series, Wild Isles, which was both a celebration of the amazing nature to be found around the British Isles and, more soberingly, a reminder of the increasingly perilous state of nature.

The Granddaddy of conservation took us to some remote and spectacular places thanks to a significant BBC budget, but there is some amazing wildlife on our doorstep.

On Holy Saturday, twixt Good Friday and Easter Day, I went for a wander in the woods between Hutchinson's Bank and Chapel Bank, along the side of Featherbed Lane, Addington.

I was delighted to see some of the Spring woodland blooms that I'd anticipated seeing, including wood anemone, primroses, violets and the beginning of a haze of bluebells. Then I stumbled over a more unusual spot, a patch of toothwort.

So named, as it has the appearance of a stack of teeth, it is also known as a corpse flower, which may relate to its fleshy colour, or from ghoulish stories that it is found growing above buried bodies!



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The tag is not wholly without foundation, for this wonder of the plant world is a saprophyte, a plant that lives parasitically on another plant.

In this one local spot the two big messages of 'Wild Isles' come together. First, that nature is astonishing and beautiful, and second that human lifestyle, like the toothwort, is increasingly parasitic on the natural world.

So, enjoy wandering and wondering amidst God's gift of creation this Spring, whether in wood, park or garden, and may we be moved to tread more gently on our amazing wild isles.

*David Pickering*

# Coronation Garden

We, the Brownies and Rainbows, have made one plot a 'Coronation Garden' which we have planted with red, white and 'blue' flowers. The second plot is a 'herb and strawberry garden' which we hope can support the Friday 'Warm Spaces' kitchen during the Summer once the plants start to grow.



We had 15 Brownies and Rainbows volunteer to help plant the garden today. They had a wonderful time designing the gardens and taking part in a range of activities to complement the planting e.g. mini bug houses; design your dream garden; mini-beast masks and planting their own sunflower seeds to take home and grow in their own gardens.



*Carole Douglas*



# **Eric Bland –In Memory**

Eric, who has recently died, aged 92, came to Emmanuel with Phyl, his wife and their family in 1966 from Tunbridge Wells.

They both immediately became involved in the life of the church, which was always close to their hearts, and where they made many friends.

Eric became an Elder, and Assistant Secretary and minute taker for the Elders' Meetings, whilst Phyl played an active role in Junior Church and Women's Fellowship

In the 1990s he took a Lay Preaching course, and, on successful completion of the course, he took services at Emmanuel and in the Bromley District and beyond. He also led Bible study sessions.

Eric joined many of the groups meeting at Emmanuel – the Art Group, Table Tennis Group, and Men's Fellowship.

Jeanette, his daughter, says that he was a very capable artist, and, when Phyl wanted drawings for Junior Church, Eric would provide the necessary artwork.

Not content with a life centred on Emmanuel, Jeanette recalls that Eric led the Shirley Crusaders on Sunday afternoons, between attendance at Emmanuel on Sunday morning and Sunday evening.

The annual Cheyne Fete, which some will remember, and which always seemed to clash with the FA Cup Final, was another event where Eric became involved.

There were a number of un-noticed practical tasks which Eric carried out on behalf of the church – does anybody remember seeing him inflating the tyres of the wheelchairs? Somebody had to do it !

When Eric and Phyl moved to Maidstone in 2009 they were a great loss to Emmanuel, though in the early days, whilst in good health, they returned quite frequently.

Sadly, Phyl died in 2015, and Eric was supported by his daughter Jeanette as much as possible until the end of his life.

There are many good memories of Eric and the Bland family – the Defibrillator at the church is given by them in memory of Phyl and the family – but above all we remember Eric as a man with a strong Christian faith preached and practised at Emmanuel and in the wider community.

Rest in peace – Eric.

*Ian and Jennifer Scott*

# *Personal Thanks & Announcements*

On Sunday 16th April Pfarrer Martin Henninger of the Evangelische Kirche der Pfalz preached the sermon. I was delighted to meet him and to learn that his church is about ten miles from the town where I was born and brought up. This brought back many happy childhood memories, and in turn reminded me of the wonderful fifty years here as part of the Emmanuel family. Thank you David for including me in the service, it was a truly uplifting occasion which I will always cherish.

*Lilo Sutton*



Eric Bland's Funeral is arranged for Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11.30am at the Kent & Sussex Crematorium, Benhall Mill Road, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5JJ.

The service will be followed by refreshments.

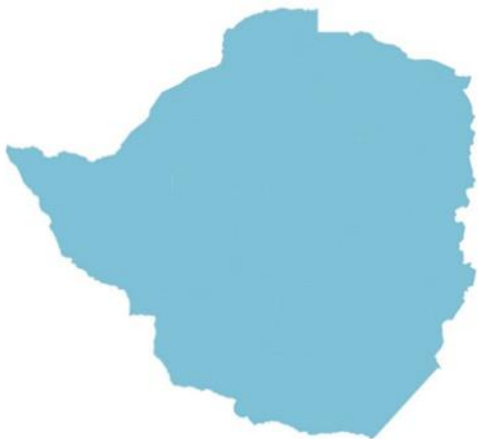
If you wish for further details, inclusive of the link to join remotely, please contact Jeanette Hopkins, email [jeanette@jstcworld](mailto:jeanette@jstcworld), tel 0208 642 7652. Or contact Janet Knott or Nicky MacIntyre, or Sue or Bryn Thomas, who will pass on to Jeanette your wish to attend.

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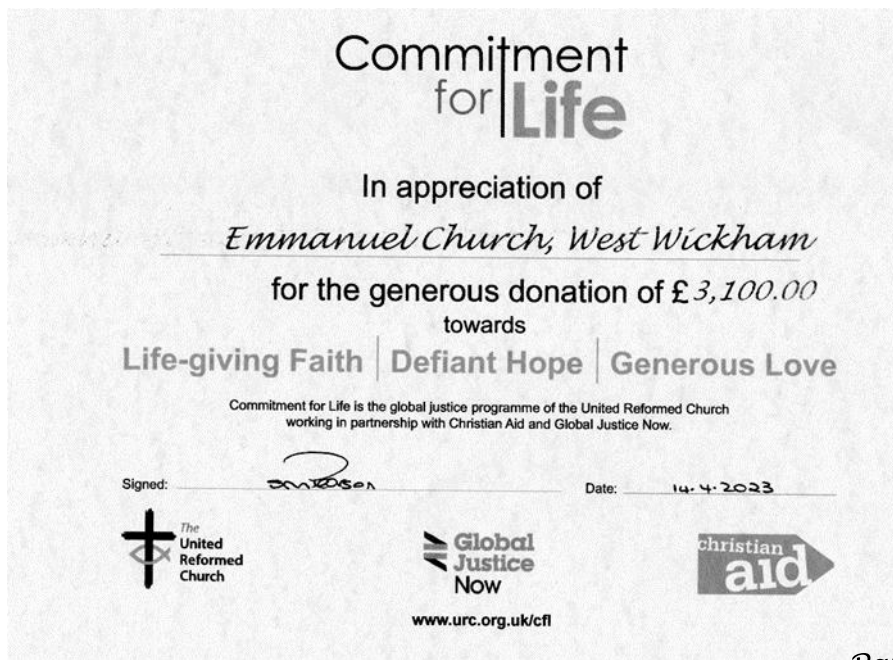


# Commitment for Life



Supporting  
Zimbabwe

We have received an acknowledgement and certificate from Commitment for Life for Emmanuel's contribution of £3,100 to projects in Zimbabwe. Suzanne Pearson writes "Your continued generosity towards our support for Christian Aid and Global Justice Now is much appreciated...and make an enormous and practical difference to our partner communities."



Pat Best

# FROM WARM SPACE TO WARM WELCOME

Beginning on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November, Emmanuel's Warm Space opened every Friday up to the end of March offering a warm welcome coupled with all day tea, coffee and biscuits and, at lunchtime, a homemade soup and roll. As the months turned, we gradually expanded the menu, offering some occasional lunchtime specials, cheese rolls, afternoon cake and most recently hot cross buns and crumpets.



With the costs being underwritten by the Gift of Grace, and in keeping with Friday Coffee mornings which Warm Spaces incorporated, it was decided that any donations should go to support another charity. The Vine Foodbank, New Addington was chosen, for the charity felt in keeping with the Warm Spaces venture. It is humbling to report that the first 5 months led to an amazing £2000 being donated. The next page includes a thank you letter received from our friends at The Vine.

As Spring lethargically changes into summer, we are delighted to continue under our new name for the new season:

## **Warm Welcome Fridays @ Emmanuel**

which will open 10am to 4pm. Whilst the soup ladle has been hung up for the new season, we will continue to offer a lite bite lunch as well

as a variety of other provisions throughout the day.

If you haven't popped in yet, be assured that a warm welcome awaits.

We've been truly blessed as we've flung Emmanuel's front doors wide open:

- ◆ blessed by over 150 different people visiting us, with many becoming valued regulars, and
- ◆ blessed by our team of wonderful volunteers, who serve so faithfully, and make the day truly fun.

Bless you, thank you,

*Pat and David*



The Salvation Army  
New Addington  
Community Church

Major Emma Spencer

Mob 07800646165

[emma.spencer@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:emma.spencer@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Emmanuel United Reformed Church

18<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear friends,

This letter comes to express our sincere thanks for the very generous donation of £2000 which you have sent our way to support the work of The Vine foodbank.

We understand that this donation is the sum of voluntary donations you received during your 'Warm Space' sessions. We had heard so much about this new ministry and the significant impact it was having on the local community. What is incredible is that our last electricity bill for The Vine was in the region of £2000. As you can imagine it hit us hard this year. We have an expensive heating system and this year with the cold spells we had to have the heating on for extended periods. As you can imagine having a warm building to work out of is key as there is much sorting and organising of the food donations throughout the week and we must look after our volunteers!

Thank you for your faithfulness in opening up your church as a warm space but also in blessing us with funds to keep our space warm!

Thank you for your continued support of the Salvation Army and The Vine in New Addington.

Every blessing

Emma Spencer  
Major  
Leader – The Salvation Army New Addington



Thank you  
for your support

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Every poppy counts





# Thank you

Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.

Without your efforts, we couldn't do the work we do.

To Emmanuel Church

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised

£54.90p

To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit [rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal](http://rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal)



## Eco Hints Round 4: May 2023

The government have created a website to help households save energy. Here are some of the suggestions:

- Turn radiator valves down to between 2.5 and 3 in rooms you aren't using, or are using less. This could save you up to £70 a year. Turning radiators off is less energy efficient, as the boiler has to work a lot harder to increase the temperature from scratch.
- However, if you have a pre-existing health condition, or are over 65, it is important to stay warm and comfortable, so a minimum temperature of 18°C is recommended indoors.
- Turning your appliances off at the socket could also save you £70 a year. Almost all electrical appliances drain power continually unless unplugged.
- Washing clothes at a lower temperature could save you £40 a year. Try changing from a 40°C to a 30°C wash, which should still clean your clothes effectively.
- Use your tumble drier less, as it probably uses more power than any other appliance in your home. An airer is more bother, but it could save you £70 a year, and keep you warm with the exercise involved.
- Close all your curtains and blinds at night to keep warm air inside, especially if you have radiators underneath your windows.

Hopefully, there is something new here for you to try. If not, you can find out more on the government website at:

<https://helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk/>

*Sue T*

# No Mow May



No Mow May is an annual campaign run by Plantlife calling all garden owners and green space managers not to mow during May, allowing grass, and crucially wildflowers to grow. The UK has lost over 90% of its wildflower meadows since the 1970s, so allowing even a small patch to revert to such a meadow can make a real difference especially for pollinators and other insects which all form a critical part of the biodiversity around us.

At Emmanuel, we'll be doing this for the second year – leaving unmown strips around the quiet garden and the main green, while keeping other areas cut and tidy. Already this year we've seen self-seeded cornflower proliferating with some lovely blue-cum-purple flowers. Who knows what else will be growing in the coming months?

Encouragingly, Bromley Council is also trialling something similar, called “Nature Friendly Verges”, where designated sites will only receive one annual cut. The two nearest to us are Addington Road (West Wickham) and Pickhurst Lane/Pickhurst Mead. Maybe if you're wandering past, take a look and see what difference it is making.

Meanwhile, if you fancy doing your own garden or open space the same way, here's a couple of tips:

- 1) Signposting your patch with 'No Mow May' can spread the word and foster support, should your patch look a little straggly
- 2) Repeating 'No Mow May' in the same patch in successive years may increase the number of flowers that appear, especially if you allow seeds to set by extending the no mow period through to July.

Want to know more? There's a website for that of course as follows:

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>

*Ian Moore*



# 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
- Juice (cordial)
- Milk
- Rice (uncooked)
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Tomatoes
- 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*



# West Wickham Village Day



Bank holiday  
**Monday 1st May**  
10am to 4pm **Blake Park**

stalls  
displays  
dog shows  
family fun  
inflatables  
street food  
music



An event for all the community  
From the Friends of Blake Park

 [@BlakeParkFriends](#) [@WestWickhamDay](#)



churches  
together  
in West Wickham tent

Come and say hello at the

# Musical Fundraiser 2023

West End Stars

Featuring performers from the West End

**Laura Pick - Wicked**

**Jordan Lee Davies - Book of Mormon, Les Misérables**

**Nicholas Mclean - Wicked**

A night of entertainment and music to raise money for Christian Aid and their DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

## Date and Location

**12 MAY 2023**

St Francis Church | West Wickham BR4 0PW

Doors open at 7:00pm

Show starts at 7:45pm

Ticket price: £15.00

## Evening includes

Musical concert, bar and raffle, including a chance to win 2 tickets to a West End show



For Ticket Bookings go to:

<https://stjohnswww.churchsuite.com/events/msb17ymc>

St John's  
West Wickham

St. Francis  
West Wickham  
Church



# Christian Aid Week – 2023

This year Christian Aid Week runs from the 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May. As a church, along with thousands of other churches across the country, we are undertaking our own fundraising to ensure that the vital work of Christian Aid can continue. Emmanuel is organising two ways, in which together we can raise funds.

## **e-envelopes**

Following the success of last year's e-envelope scheme, a new one has been set up for 2023, enabling people to click and give, and for Christian Aid to collect any Gift Aid due. The e-envelope may be accessed by clicking here:

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/emmanuel-church>

or by using this QR code



In addition the church email circular will email around a link to our e-envelope giving page at the start of Christian Aid Week.

The e-envelope invited us to set a target, so we have the ambitious target of £1000. Emmanuel Life will report on whether we reach our target.

## **Donations at Church.**

Alternatively, you may send a cheque to our Treasurer, Ian Scott, or leave a donation in an envelope marked Christian Aid in a plate in church on any Sunday in May.

By giving through the e-envelope scheme or by making a donation via church, you will enable us to total up all donations from Emmanuel.

If you have any questions about Christian Aid or Christian Aid Week please contact Jim Lord.

# 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.

Meetings: Starting at 7:30pm

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> 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)



churches  
together  
in West Wickham

Service for **Pentecost**  
6pm on Sunday 28 May  
at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church

All welcome  
The AGM will follow the service

# SAVE THE DATE EMMANUEL'S ANNUAL FAIR



**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2023**

Everyone is warmly invited to come along to Emmanuel's Fair, which will be held outside on the Green after the church service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, or in the church halls if it rains.

There will be live music, a bouncy castle, raffles, games, stalls and refreshments.

As you may already be aware, this year the fair will be raising funds for **Soarta**. The Soarta Community Association is based in Moldova and a team of volunteers have supported many thousands of Ukrainian refugees arriving in Moldova.

If anyone would like to host a stall, or indeed help in any other way then please get in touch with Jim Lord. He would be delighted to hear from you.



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)

**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  
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 May

Tuesday	2nd	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	5th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 18 & 32)
<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>
Tuesday	9th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Wednesday	10th	7.30pm	Eco Church Network Bromley at St. Paul's Church, Beckenham (details on page 28)
Friday	12th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 18 & 32)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Alan Kienlen</b>
	<b>14th to 20th</b>		<b>Christian Aid Week</b>
Tuesday	16th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	19th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 18 & 32)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered broadcast led by Mrs Marion Moore</b>
Wednesday	24th	<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
Friday	26th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 18 & 32)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering</b>
		<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Churches Together in West Wickham service at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church</b>
Tuesday	30th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Wednesday	31st	7.30pm	Eco Church Network Bromley at Emmanuel Church, West Wickham (details on page 28)

## Church Diary for the start of June

Friday	2nd	2.15pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship</b>

# *Emmanuel Church Contacts*



# Sponge Kitchens

Established 1938

Beckenham 020 8650 0062

Hayes 020 8462 1352

Downham 020 86978843

## Your Local Master Bakers

- What we have to offer:
- 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                      <http://spongekitchens.co.uk>  
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Beckenham                      Downham                      Hayes  
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