

# Emmanuel Life

Emmanuel  
God With Us 

**June 2023**

THANK YOU  
**GOD**  
FOR BLESSING ME  
MUCH MORE  
THAN I DESERVE

**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\*\*\*



## *June 2023 Services*

<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered broadcast led by Mrs Marion Moore
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b> (see below)	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Joyce Brissett
<i>July 2023</i>		
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Church Parade, Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering

**25<sup>th</sup> June:** Joyce Brissett is a Lay Preacher from St Paul's URC Croydon.

# Minister's Letter

## Darwin, science and religion...

Dear Friends,

Returning to Bromley after 40 plus years away has brought me back to the delights of the Kentish countryside. I've waxed lyrically before about butterflies at Hutchinson's Bank, admittedly over the border in Surrey, but Kent has some wonderful sites, too.

I'm excited to see the developing Wilder Blean project, recipient of a lottery grant, which now numbers bison, ponies, pigs and cattle as the movers and shakers in its restoration of a more natural habitat. Closer to home, is Down House where Darwin lived and developed his theory of evolution and Downe Bank, which he described in the conclusion of his science-shifting tome:

*It is interesting to contemplate an entangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent on each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by the laws acting around us.*

Contemporary ecologist, David Wilkinson, wrote on Darwin and Downe Bank, that Darwin would recognise the scene today as the one he knew and was inspired by, his only surprise being the appearance of ring necked parakeets! It is fitting that this influential piece of the natural world became the first reserve acquired by the Kent Wildlife Trust in 1962. If you haven't been, it is worth a visit, not least at this time of the year, when butterflies are flitting and the bank blooms with orchids.

It is 164 years since the English naturalist Charles Darwin simultaneously revolutionised biology and sent shock waves through Christianity. Following a lifetime of scientific exploration Darwin published the 'Origin of Species' in 1859, in which he demonstrated that all life has evolved over time and that a process called natural selection, sometimes nick-named 'survival of the fittest', was key.

Within a few years Darwin's theories were widely accepted by the scientific community, but their apparent challenge to the then widely held literal Christian

*Continued on next page*

belief that the world was created in six days, caused a furore. For whilst Darwin's work proved foundational for biology, it appeared to remove key foundations of Christianity. Not all clerics were opposed to Darwin's thinking, with some more liberal Christians viewing natural selection as a key element of God's design, but some fought tooth and nail to discredit Darwin. Notable amongst the opposition was The Bishop of Oxford, Samuel Wilberforce, who in a famous debate asked the opposing speaker, Thomas Huxley, whether he was descended from monkeys on his grandfather's side or his grandmother's. Huxley replied that he would rather be descended from an ape than from a cultivated man who used his gifts of culture and eloquence in the service of prejudice and falsehood.

The debate appeared polarised between science or religion.

At that time Christianity was still reeling from earlier scientific work, tagged the 'discovery of time' in which geological investigations showed that the world was billions of years old, rather than the few thousand years calculated from Biblical chronology. With Darwin's work challenging a literal understanding of the creation story, then another, literally held belief, Christianity found itself on an apologetic back foot. Some wondered which other Christian tenets would be questioned, so undermining belief and faith. Science seemed to be ascending over Christianity.

So how is Darwin's contribution to science viewed by Christians today? And how do science and religion view one another? The answer depends on who you ask.

I find it astounding and sad that 'creationism', the literal understanding of the creation story, is alive and well, adhered to by significant numbers of Christians, not least in the US and taught as an accepted theory in many schools. I find it astounding because Darwin's scientific theories are almost universally accepted by the scientific community and to fly in the face of clear science seems foolish. I find it sad because it speaks of a form of Christianity which has stopped thinking, questioning and exploring, and thus seems to distance itself from the world.

Darwin's legacy is immense, and whilst he is remembered for his contribution to science, some credit him with helping Christianity along the path of 'thinking again' and becoming more critical, not least in reading and understanding the Bible. Whilst once much of the Bible was considered to be literally true, now many regard the Bible as a sacred collection of writings, some historical and some poetic, some reasoned thinking and some religious insights, some telling of actual events and some stories pointing to deep truths. Together these give insights into the relationship between God and humanity over thousands of years.

*Continued on next page*

Instead of viewing the creation stories as a 'manual of planet making' they can be understood as setting out belief in a Creator God who values all of creation and who has given humanity both privilege in being made in God's image and responsibility in caring for this gift of beauty. Such Biblical insights offer new and exciting opportunities to reflect on our understanding of God and enable Christians to speak prophetically where the earth is regarded as a resource to exploit rather than God's creation to cherish. Indeed Darwin's observation from Downe Bank that species are interconnected applies to humans too, for we distance ourselves from nature at our peril.

For me, Christianity has much to be grateful to Darwin. Not only did his good scientific exploration and analysis give new and pertinent understandings to the world, he also demonstrated the value and importance of considered research and critical thinking.

Just as good science has much to offer Christianity and the world, so the reverse is also true, for considered Christianity has much to offer science and the world. For example, whilst science continues to make advances in many areas from embryology to genetic modification, Christianity can offer a vital ethical framework to aid consideration of how scientific research should be applied to life. Just now, Christianity may provide some insights and guidance into the development and application of artificial intelligence.

Science and religion can be viewed as opposites, one concerned with spiritual matters, one with material matters, but for me that is an unhelpful dichotomy. For I find that science can inform Christian thinking and, likewise, that Christianity can inform science, together benefitting the world.

So, I celebrate and give thanks for the discoveries of Darwin's life and think that just as his theories remain foundational and are vital to science, so critical Christian thinking remains foundational and so is vital to the world – including you and me.

May God bless you in your explorations and questioning in life, faith and the natural world.

And as the June days open, may your heart be warmed by summer's sun and soul be lifted by the flutter of butterflies.

*David*

*Continued on next page*

PS Kent Wildlife Trust advise that Downe Bank is at Hang Grove Hill, Downe. To reach it, park in Downe village then take the public footpath on the right-hand side of Cudham Road, just past Christmas Tree Farm, for 1/2 mile. Exit opposite Hang Grove track. Follow it downhill. Be aware that there are grazing animals at the reserve, where the walking trails include steep slopes which are uneven and slippery when wet. The site isn't wheelchair accessible, and there is no parking at the site.

PPS do let me know if you visit Downe Bank, and if you go, how you found it.

*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)



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

US novelist John Steinbeck wrote, "What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." And so in life, for faith, hope and love may give sweetness to the most wintry times of life.

Please remember those in our church family, whether experiencing life's equivalent of June's joys or January's drear, that each may have a sense of God with us.

## **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:

- Peter and Pam Grafham
- 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.*

## **Bereavement**

We remember Jess Wright, her partner Sam and their daughter Eskarina, following the death of Jess's grandfather, Eskarina's great grandfather, on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April. His funeral is taking place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

### **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.*

*Continued on next page*



## **Congratulations!**

'Passing Out' Congratulations to Katie Lord (daughter of Jim and Julie) who is progressing well in her new career in the police. On the 12th May she took part in the formal 'Passing Out' parade at Hendon. She met the Commissioner and was part of the Colour Party for the parade. It was a very proud day for Mum and Dad. Katie will not be properly confirmed as a police constable until October 2024, but this occasion marks the successful conclusion of her basic training.



'Golden' Congratulations to Heather Moore on being presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. Whilst Heather completed her award in 2020, this was the first opportunity for her to attend this celebration event. The Presentation took place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May in Buckingham Palace gardens and was hosted by the Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Edward) who succeeded his father as Patron of the D of E scheme. Marion went as Heather's one allowed guest, together with a couple of thousand other award winners and their guests. Those who belonged to and completed their award through Scouts, Guides or as Cadets were encouraged to wear their uniforms.

They were able to walk around the gardens, enjoy tea and cake, listen to music played by a couple of military bands and hear various speakers including Jill Scott, one of England's Lionesses.

'Platinum' Congratulations to Alan and Monica Duncan who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in March. A truly amazing achievement. Alan and Monica belonged to Beckenham URC, which sadly closed last summer, and have joined us from time to time in our Sunday services.

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 David or an elder know.

David

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

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)



## Secretary's Notes



### **MESSY CHURCH – 4<sup>th</sup> June**

Come & enjoy fun and activities for young people & those young at heart (& breakfast!) 10am to 12noon with the theme this month of 'Blinded into Seeing'.



### **'Visiting' Worship Leaders**

This month we welcome:

**4<sup>th</sup>** – Bryn Thomas

**18<sup>th</sup>** – Marion Moore

**25<sup>th</sup>** – Joyce Brissett (St Paul's URC Croydon)

**WARM  
SPACES**

*West Wickham*

### **Warm Welcome**

'Warm Spaces' morphed into 'Warm Welcome' with the coming of the summer months. Still the best welcome on Fridays from 10am to 4pm in the Hewitt Room with hot & cold drinks, filled rolls, books, magazines and conversation.



### **Parade & Summer Fair – July 2nd**

Advance notice – please put this in your diary and come to support our young people and help raise money for SOARTA – charity supporting Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

*Rosemary*

# *Emmanuel Fellowship*

Dear Friends,

Didn't we have a lovely time at our Coronation Celebration? Thank you to everyone for making it a special occasion.

We also enjoyed visits from John Hickman and Sue Henning, whose talks enlightened us about William and Eliza Stanley, and Romania, respectively. After our sunny, half-term break, we welcomed Camilla Baker, with more tales of intriguing personalities and the architecture they created.

June brings more variety:

- **6<sup>th</sup>**: Anne Horner-Tree will tell us about the amazing **Bromley Homeless Starter Pack scheme**, that provides gift packs such as kitchen essentials, when homeless people or victims of domestic violence move into their own accommodation. We can help by bringing mugs, tea towels and washing up liquid to donate to the charity. Mugs don't need to be new, but must be washed, of good quality, not stained or chipped.
- **13<sup>th</sup>**: Nicole Fishman will bring us news of **free health and wellbeing services in Bromley**.
- **20<sup>th</sup>**: **Anna Astin** will take us '**From "Motorina" to Racing Driver**', telling us '**How women learned to love the car**'. So men, take note!
- **27<sup>th</sup>**: **Helen Keller Day**, we shall discover more about this amazing woman, who overcame many obstacles caused by the childhood illness that left her deaf and blind. There will be a short AGM before the talk, as we hear from the Fellowship Committee, and give you the opportunity to ask questions and contribute ideas.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Every blessing,

*Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee*

# A VISION FOR OUR CHURCH

“Pay attention to where you are going because without meaning you might get nowhere.”

So wrote A.A. Milne, in 'Winnie The Pooh.' Wise words for a young generation, and an older one too!

And thus, over the last couple of years, as we've emerged from lockdown life through the Covid Pandemic, the Elders have been exploring a Vision for our Church. We've been helped on our way by some people...

- The benefactor who left us the legacy we've named 'The Gift of Grace' which has allowed us to dream much bigger.
- Those who've found their way to Emmanuel have encouraged us, from the new life that they've experienced.
- A Trust Fund who have faith in our plans for mission and wish to make a contribution.

Someone remarked to me recently, it is as if God is telling us that he has plans for our church – for it feels as if God is knocking loudly on our door.

Consequently, the Elders have been asking...

- Where would we like to be in 3-5 years time?
- How might we wish those in the wider community to view us?
- How may we best portray to the wider world who we are, the values and beliefs that we hold, and the activities that we offer?

I have a list of responses from the Elders. But as part of the next stage, the Elders have agreed that Emmanuel holds a one-off consultation, to which members and friends of our church are warmly invited, so that together we seek God's calling for the next chapter in our church life. In fact two opportunities to contribute have been arranged a week apart and at different times, hoping that one or other occasion may work for as many as possible within our fellowship. These vision sessions are being held at Emmanuel on:

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 2 - 3:30 pm

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 7 - 8:30 pm

I hope that one of these may work for you so that we as a whole Church may be guided by God to pay attention to where we are going because without meaning we might get nowhere.

*David Pickering*

# Nature Ramblings — In Our Wild Isles

The 2023 butterfly season has had a slow start, with my fluttery friends reticent to emerge into the Spring, and who can blame them, for it has been decidedly cool and damp. And thus my list for the year is much thinner come the end of April than this time last year. To report, and in order,

February – a few Red Admirals on one sunny day,

March – not a flutter

April – Peacock, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell, Small White, Comma, Speckled Wood, Holly Blue, and my favourite butterfly of all, the Orange Tip.



I hope that late April's taster of sunnier days may continue to warm the earth as summer nears. For now, I tell of another wonder of nature, the Bee Fly.

Bee Flies are as their name implies, flies that look and buzz like bees. They're equipped with a distinctive straight, narwhal-like proboscis. (see photo of a stationary bee fly on earth). This enables them to drink nectar from deep within flowers (see photo of bee fly hovering and feeding over a bloom).

They can be seen in the Spring, feeding in gardens and parks, and in abundance at Hutchinson's Bank and neighbouring Chapel Bank, off Featherbed Lane, where they love feeding on the nectar of the primroses, which carpet Chapel Bank in season. The ones I spotted are dark-edged bee-flies, the largest and commonest species, with a dark edge to their wing.

The larvae of the bee fly have a parasitic lifestyle, feeding on ground-nesting solitary bees. The female bee fly lays her eggs, then ensures their wellbeing by coating them in sand and soil for protection and camouflage, a covering which also makes it easier for her to flick and roll them towards bee holes. On emerging the larvae have a ready meal waiting for them!



Flies don't get the best press in the world, typically being associated with dirt and typically classed as a pest. But I'd like to root for the bee fly, with its characteristics that speak of agility, ingenuity, transformation, and whose beauty is a wonder to behold. Gifts and attributes to be inspired by in life and faith.

Enjoy wandering, whether in reading, dreaming or walking in wood, park or garden, and may you be moved by the wonder of God's gift of creation.

*David Pickering*

# *Personal Thanks & Announcements*



## **Mighty Mites**

It's time for the next collection of Mighty Mites. I will be collecting the money on Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup>.

Many thanks for all your contributions.

*Gill Childs*

### **Photo credits:**

- \* Photo on the front cover courtesy of Ashkan Forouzani on unsplash
- \* Photos on page 9 courtesy of Marion Moore
- \* Photos on page 10 courtesy of unsplash
- \* Photos on pages 13 courtesy of DAP
- \* Photos on page 15 courtesy of unsplash

## Eco Hints Round 5: June 2023

This month, some thoughts about the weekly grocery shop. Some things we can all do every week of the year to make a difference.

A long-standing motto used by environmentalists is the following:

**Reduce**  
**Reuse**  
**Recycle**

Some have extended this in recent years to:

**Refuse**  
**Reduce**  
**Reuse**  
**Repair**  
**Recycle**

(By the way, that's "refuse" as decline, not the more American pronunciation that means waste!)

From this it's clear that recycling alone is at the bottom of the list of solutions. Good yes, but even better to start higher up the hierarchy. So, think about weekly grocery shopping, we can all:

- *refuse* to use plastic bags when offered
- only buy items that used *reduced* packaging, or try those recipes that use up food scraps to *reduce* the total amount you buy
- *re-use* a cotton tote bag or a rucksack to carry it home, or go to a shop or online service that allows you to *refill* your containers (soap, shampoo, etc but also dry goods such as pasta and nuts, cereals etc)
- if your bag starts to split, *repair* it rather than chuck it out
- and if you do get any of that supermarket plastic, take it back for *recycling*.

By the way, supermarket plastic wrapper recycling is now widespread. Look for the logo highlighted in the photo on all sorts of items— pre-packed potatoes and other fruit & veg, bread wrappers, crisp packets, even chocolate wrappers. Put it aside in your tote, and then take it back to the shop next week!!



Some time in this series we'll do a round-up of all the other things you can put back for recycling rather than chucking out (especially the ones you might not know about – like wine bottle corks, running shoes, bike inner tubes), but for this month, please start to think particularly about regular grocery shopping, and the simple steps we can all take to:

**Refuse**  
**Reduce**  
**Reuse.**

*Ian Moore*

## WHAT IS KIERAN UP TO? NEWS AND A REQUEST

Dear Emmanuel church family,

Hello! Greetings from Fulham, I hope you are all doing well. I thought I'd provide an update on what I'm doing this year, as I'm aware I've not fully explained it to many people. Sorry for not doing this much earlier in the year.

I am now working as an Associate for LDN Holidays. LDN Holidays is an organisation that provides activity holidays with a chance to explore the Christian faith. Our aim is to give secondary school children a fantastic holiday where they can hear the gospel explained clearly, and to then follow up year-round by supporting Christian meetings in schools across London. Working in schools is a unique opportunity to reach schoolchildren who church youth groups would struggle to reach. It also enables us to be able to support Christian teenagers who are finding it very costly to live for Jesus at school.

As an associate, I might go into a school meeting to lead a Bible study or give a talk up to once a week, although this term it's been more like once every two weeks. During the rest of the week, there's plenty of admin jobs to keep me busy. Some are specifically to do with preparing for our holidays (camps), such as checking all our activity briefs and risk assessments are up to date. Other jobs are year-round, like updating the website with new photos, preparing the prayer diary or dealing with our pile of shredding. On camp, my role is quite similar to the rest of our volunteer leaders: looking after a dorm group of 5-9 kids with 1-2 other dorm leaders, running activities, giving talks and leading Bible studies. Days on camp are long and tiring but nearly always great fun! If you want to see more, check out the website: [www.ldnholidays.org](http://www.ldnholidays.org)

One day a week, I also get to attend the Cornhill Bible training course run by a group called the Proclamation Trust. This has been a great chance to get some deeper theological training, to get practice at how to write and give talks, and to make friends with many other students on this course.

Now I have a big request to make. To help support the work of LDN Holidays and enable them to continue to employ associates in future years, I aim to raise £5,000 this year. I've made a good start in raising this amount, but I still have more than £3,000 to raise. I would be immensely grateful any gift any of you could make towards this total. Next year I will also have to raise a similar sum of money, so if you would prefer to give regularly throughout next year, that would also be massively appreciated. Even just £10 a month would add up to make a real difference.

*Continued on next page*



The easiest way to give is by bank transfer to The Titus Trust (parent charity of LDN)

Sort Code: 55-70-13

Account number: 71621318

Please use this reference **LDNASSKM** so it's easy for the treasurer to identify. If you are a UK taxpayer, then it would also be much appreciated if you could fill out this gift aid form [Support – The Titus Trust](#)

I'm aware that this concept of support raising is probably unfamiliar to many of you. If you want to get in touch with me to discuss this further, either about why I'm doing this or alternative ways to give, I'd be delighted to answer your questions. You can reach me by email at [kieran19287@gmail.com](mailto:kieran19287@gmail.com), phone me on 07922622668, or write to me at Flat 1, 324-326 Lillie Road, Fulham, SW6 7PP. If you'd like to hear from me more regularly about my work with LDN, I send out a roughly monthly prayer letter, and would be delighted to send it to you by email or in the post. In fact, partnering with me in prayer would be even more valuable than partnering with me financially. Just let me know and I'll add you to the list.

Thank you so much for whatever support you can give me. In Christ,

*Kieran*

# Diary of a Mod Elect

Friends,

It's been a couple of months, and while I may not have been travelling so much, the mod elect side of my life has been just as busy.



First off, when I last wrote, I was on my way to our first youth exec meeting, which was a lovely and incredibly productive meeting. We started off with youth assembly planning, brainstorming workshop ideas and people to ask, looking through this year's feedback, and workshopping some initial design ideas to be sent to our very talented designer (I've been looking at the designs recently and they're great!). We also set up most of our taskgroups for the year. These are groups of a few of us to look at specific things, for example following through on motions, making youth assembly more environmentally friendly, or the one I lead, looking at ways to improve youth assembly business. Along side our busy agenda, we had time to just hang out, and get to know the new people on exec, and take lots of pictures of the alpacas that the site has!

The next big thing was the Jubilee service weekend. Members of youth exec were invited to come and serve as stewards. We met up for the whole weekend, staying together in London to help with the travel, and as we found last September, that having time outside of our agendas to just hang out makes us a much better team. We went to the open church house before the service, which was a great opportunity to talk to people involved in a wide variety of activities across the URC. The service was lovely as well. There was a photo in last month's Emmanuel Life of myself and Philippa at the lectern as we had the privilege of reading the call to worship.

After that, I stuck around in London for a couple of days to head back to church house for the youth mods induction. Ideally this would happen earlier in the year, but we are all busy people! This was a day of myself, Philippa, Sam Richards (head of Children and Youth Work) and Lorraine Webb (CYW Programme Officer) sitting down and talking about our aims for the year, with youth exec, youth assembly and URC youth as a whole. It was very productive, and another great chance to meet people in church house and start to forge and strengthen connections with other committees which I hope will outlive my term on youth exec.

My last trip was to a prayer gathering for people involved in youth work run by Youth With A Mission, to which the URC had been invited. It was great to meet

*Continued on next page*

so many people involved in so many different initiatives, even if I found the whole event somewhat overwhelming.

Between the trips, the largest bit of work was being consulted on papers for General Assembly. I don't know how much I can say as the Book of Reports isn't out yet, but what I will say is that its very encouraging that people want to work with the youth on different pieces of work, especially those that don't solely work with the youth.

Looking forwards, Southern Synod is running a youth residential with Thames North over the May half term, so I am looking forwards to hearing how that goes. Beyond that, we're very much in the lead up to General Assembly! I do hope these updates are interesting and make it even just a bit clearer what I do, and what the youth exec do.

*Heather*



Soarta is the overseas charity that we have chosen to support at our Summer Fair on Sunday 2 July. 'Soarta' means 'fate' or 'luck' in Romanian - one of the primary languages spoken in Moldova along with Russian – reflecting the turbulent history of the country that gained its independence in 1991.

In spite of being one of the poorest countries in Europe, Moldova has welcomed many refugees from Ukraine. The charity is based in Soroca, literally on the border with Ukraine and we have made contact with its founder Asea Railean.

In January she wrote

*Now in Soarta association we have registered 217 refugees and 98 hosting families which need support for heating their houses, food, hygienic materials and medicines.*

*Usually, we analyse each case separately and we (coordinator committee from 5 persons) select more vulnerable cases, and decisions are according to the priorities and needs – but last months it is more difficult, and difficult for us to cover all the needs and expenses, as all refugees need support for heating houses, and coal and wood are very expenses. Like an example we still have not paid an amount of 5400 euro for coal for 25 families of refugees. The problem was for us that we could not refuse these families to stay without heating and we bought coal – but we did not pay yet. We hope to find possibilities to cover this expense.*

*All the funds which we receive we try to agree with donors for what exactly to spend their financial support. (We sent our Christmas Day collection.)*

Then on Friday 9 February

*Just for your information:*

*Quite an alarming situation in Moldova:*

*two Russian Kalibr missiles, launched from the Black Sea, entered the airspace of the Republic of Moldova. At 10:33, the missiles entered Romania's airspace, after which they returned to Ukraine. Both rockets entered the Republic of Moldova through **Cosauti Soroca (the city where I am living)** and flew over them very close to the ground. We hope that the situation will become calm, and that Moldova will not become a second Ukraine.*

*Also today, the Government of the Republic of Moldova resigned. We do not know if the resignation of the government has anything in common with the critical and rather alarming situation.*

*With wishes of peace,  
Asea*

*Continued on next page*

And in May

*Now we have a smaller number of refugees – around 300 persons, but the problem is that remained in Moldova the persons who need more care and assistances: elderly people who need not only food, hygienic materials, but also a lot of medicines; invalids, persons who need home care, hospice; children with autism and down etc.*

*It was not more flights of Russian aircraft over our district. We really hope that we Moldavian people will not be again in situation as in 1992, since now we have Russian army on our territory.*

*In May, 21, 2023 the general assembly will be held in Moldova, at which it will be requested to leave the alliance within Russia and the people will request accession to NATO. This is why now the threats from Russia are very frequent and quite large.*

*Thanks again for your great support from your church.*

*And of course, your support is very needed and helpful.*

*God bless all of us.*

*Best wishes, Asea*

As you can see the situation is very frightening and Asea and her helpers are doing a wonderful job.

Please support the Summer Fair in whatever way you can. Come and enjoy a fun time, spend your money or give a donation.

Thank you,

*Pat Best*

# 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 between 1200 and 1400 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, or in the church halls if it rains.

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

We look forward to seeing you all there.

The fair will be raising funds for **SOARTA**. Please see the article about the charity in this edition of Emmanuel Life by Pat Best.

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



# Not the National Anthem

After the service on 7th May, a couple of people asked about the unfamiliar third verse of *God save the King* - could they have a copy? As usual, turn for your information to *Emmanuel Life!*

Instead of singing it after the Blessing as the National Anthem, we would sing it within our worship, aware that it is a hymn and a prayer. So...

On the *Classic FM* website I found a verse, apparently part of the National Anthem in the past, with 'defend/extend' rhymes and a first line about a 'foe'. So I rewrote it to be in tune with my worship theme of service, Christian values and the Risen Christ. Here is our extra verse:

*From every hidden foe,  
from evil's cruel blow,  
God save the King.  
Love, hope and peace extend,  
goodness and faith defend,  
justice and service ever tend:  
God save the King.*

Please don't treat this as part of our National Anthem: it's *not* – maybe you could call it 'a local variant'! I hope you find it more in tune with both our faith and King Charles III's view of monarchy. Perhaps it's a bit more acceptable than the verse of the National Anthem which used to run: *Confound their politics, Frustrate their knavish tricks!*

*Bryn*

PS A note for church historians and musicians: in the Coronation service the King promised to uphold the Protestant succession to the throne – i.e. if the Prince of Wales became a Catholic he would not be allowed to become King. Soon after Charles signed this, the choir sang in Latin a Gloria from a Mass by William Byrd, for most of his life a devout Catholic.



# 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
- Nappies (larger sizes please. I'm aware it's a big ask as these are more expensive)
- 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*



# Notices

BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION  
STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS,  
ACTIVITIES

**4th June**  
**@ 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)

## **Emmanuel Fellowship**

**Tuesdays at 2.15pm**  
in the Richmond Hall  
Everyone welcome

Details on page 11

## **Baby & Toddler Group**

**Wednesdays at 9:30am**

Details on page 29

## **Emmanuel Art Group**

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

Details on page 29

## **Warm Welcome**

**Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm**

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

Details on page 28



## **Annual Church Fair**

**Sunday 2nd July**

Details on page 22

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 June

Friday	2nd	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas</b>
Tuesday	<b>6th</b>	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	9th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering</b>
Tuesday	13th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	16th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered broadcast led by Mrs Marion Moore</b>
Tuesday	20th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	23rd	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
Saturday	24th	<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Joyce Brissett</b>
Tuesday	<b>27th</b>	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	30th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)

## Church Diary for the start of July

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Church Parade, Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering</b>
<b>Followed by the Annual Church Fair</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>  
 106 Wickham Road 473 Bromley Road 38 Station Approach  
Beckenham                      Downham                      Hayes  
 Kent, BR3 6QH                      Kent, BR1 4PQ                      Kent, BR2 7EJ

ESTABLISHED  
1879

## J & R KILLICK LTD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

ESTABLISHED  
1879



IN OUR CAPACITY AS  
FUNERAL DIRECTORS,  
THE KILLICK FAMILY HAVE  
PROVIDED THE LOCAL COMMUNITY,  
FOR OVER **140** YEARS,  
WITH A PERSONAL  
AND EFFICIENT SERVICE.



PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST

24 HOUR

EMERGENCY SERVICE

CLASSIC OR MODERN  
FUNERAL FLEETS

ADVICE ON PRE ARRANGED  
FUNERAL PLANS GIVEN



PLEASE ASK FOR INFORMATION BROCHURE  
 TELEPHONE MICHAEL OR PETER KILLICK ON 020 8777 4502  
[www.jrkillick.co.uk](http://www.jrkillick.co.uk) (FULL FEE LIST SHOWN)

