



## 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\*\*\*



## *July 2023 Services*

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00am	<b>Messy Church</b>
	11.00am	Church Parade, Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering  Followed by the Annual Church Fair
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> (see below)	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Jonathan Dolling
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering  Followed by the Church meeting
<b>30<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
<i>August 2023</i>		
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering

**16th July:** Jonathan Dolling will be familiar to many of us, as he has previously led worship at Emmanuel

**6th August:** There is no Messy Church in August

# Minister's Letter

## Retreating to a quiet corner

Dear Friends,

The summer months of July and August can be a quieter time. Some experience a pause from their usual roles and responsibilities. Schools and universities break up for the summer holidays, and at our church, the Pre-School, Brownies and those who work in the education sector each take a well-deserved break. For others, summer may give space to slow down, perhaps enjoy a break or holiday, or to simply retreat, whether for an hour, a day or a week or two, to a quiet corner, seeking the peace of God.

One of my favourite one-liners from the gospels tells of Jesus retreating. Related by Mark, the evangelist describes a hectic and demanding 24 hours in the life of Jesus. Mark first tells of Jesus going to the synagogue and teaching, then of going to the home of Peter in Capernaum where his mother-in-law is poorly. Jesus heals her. Soon word gets out, and by evening it was as if the whole town was braying at their door, making demands, 'heal me', 'cure me'. Naturally, Jesus responded with compassionate care.

I cannot believe other than when the last person had eventually left, and Jesus was able to retire to bed, he did so physically and mentally pooped. Then Mark tells what Jesus did next, in one of my favourite one-liners:

*In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35).*

Jesus wanted time out. I imagine that he knew the new day would bring fresh crowds, fresh demands, fresh expectations. Ahead of this, the humanity of his nature needed to connect with the divine. He sought to immerse himself in the presence of God, the true ground of his being.

This May, Jan and I were blessed by having a fortnight on the Hebridean Isle of Mull. It was a retreat from our usual life and role, time together, time to wander, watching wildlife and time to wonder, drinking in the beauty of God's gift of creation. Our days included a boat trip to the Treshnish Isles; you can read about a birding encounter with some monk-like creatures in this month's nature ramblings piece.

*Continued on next page*

We also had a day on Iona, a holy isle, which George MacLeod, founder of the modern-day Iona Community, described as a 'thin place where only tissue paper separates the material from the spiritual'. First we walked to St Columba's Bay at the southern end of the isle, where Columba is reputed to have landed to establish the early monastic community. Along the way we were serenaded by the call of the cuckoo and the rasp of the elusive corncrake.

On reaching the Bay it was good to pause, taking time to eat our sandwiches and drink in the vista. I found myself trying to picture Columba and his fellow monks landing; then wondered at the faith which moved them in their discipleship in life. Columba became the first Abbot of the monastic community, doubtless a demanding role. Like Jesus, he would take time out to retreat in prayer with God.



*St Columba's Bay, Iona, with behind it, Cuan Cholaim Chille, Gaelic meaning the Sea of St Columba.*

It was on such a holy isle that a dear friend of ours, Karen Gardiner, wrote a reflection on an experience of being touched by God, I've reproduced it below. I hope that through the summer months we'll experience some more sunshine, and that you, and each person within our fellowship, whatever their situation, may find some time, whether a week, a day, or an hour to do their own retreat. Perhaps a quiet place, whether in a garden or local park, and experience the wonder of nature and the deep peace of God.

Travel well, travel gently, travel with refreshing pauses through the journey of life,

David

# REFLECTION FROM HOLY ISLE

Sacred spaces, quiet places,  
smiling faces, tear traces,  
birdsong which the soul embraces,  
Circled in the grace of God.

Contemplation, expectation,  
fascination, hesitation.  
Beach communion, celebration  
circled in the peace of God.

Spirits broken, friendship token,  
Words of kindness gently spoken.  
Long diminished faith awoken,  
Threefold from the heart of God.

(Typical Celtic knot... no beginning, no end!!!)

*by Karen Gardiner, used with kind permission.*

*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



### **COVID PROTOCOLS**

As a reminder, we ask if you have cold-like symptoms that you avoid coming to church to protect yourselves and others.

### **MESSY CHURCH, PARADE & SUMMER FAIR – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY**



Messy Church in July has the theme of:

**COMPASSION**, joining **Parade** and the **SUMMER FAIR** in aid of **SOARTA**.

Come and have fun whilst raising funds for this very worthy cause.

*N.B. Messy Church will take a break in August*



### **VISITING WORSHIP LEADER**

We welcome Jonathan Dolling to our morning service on 16<sup>th</sup> July. Jonathan led worship at Emmanuel a few years ago - a welcome return.

### **CHURCH MEETING**



Our next church meeting is after morning worship on **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**.

Please stay if you can, having grabbed yourself a drink!

*Rosemary*



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

"If I had my way, I'd remove January from the calendar altogether and have an extra July instead", so wrote Roald Dahl! It is a tempting thought to have a dose of summer sunshine in the midst of winter. Just so for life, for we may experience more summery times when all seems well with our world, and wintery moments too, when gloom surrounds, coldness and darkness are experienced.

So through this July, please remember those travelling through the more testing seasons in life, that they may sense the light of Christ and warmth of the love of God.

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

Please remember those who are poorly or have had or are having or recovering from some medical investigations, procedures or treatment, including Marjorie George, 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.*

## **Remembering people on the move**

Please remember Nicky MacIntyre as she prepares to move home, coming closer to Emmanuel. May the journey be trauma-free and Nicky's landing a joy.

## **Bereavement**

Please remember Peter Grafham, together with his daughter Caroline and son Andrew and their families following the death of Peter's wife Pamela on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June. Pam died peacefully in hospital surrounded by her family and prayer. Pamela's funeral is being held at 2:30pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July at Emmanuel, and will be followed by a reception at Langley Park Golf Club.

### **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*



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

### **Pam Grafham – In Memory**



My memory of Pam is of a smiling face and always a cheerful way of speaking to me. I first met Pam in the Junior Department of Junior Church when we were two of fourteen group leaders. I recollect she enjoyed craft work very much and was much better at it than me!

I know that Pam loved her family, she and Peter have a daughter, Caroline, and son, Andrew. Pam and Peter had a particular role in helping Andrew and his now late wife, Gill, caring for their daughter Charlotte when she was young. Pam loved being Nanny and in recent years becoming Great Nanny.

I've missed Pam and Peter at Emmanuel Fellowship lately and I am sad not to be able to see her there again.

*Janet Knott*

### **News from Revd Phil Wall**

Many of you will have fond memories of Phil when he came to Emmanuel for his placement during training for the ministry. He easily engaged with all ages and was an enthusiastic, kindly, intelligent person we easily warmed to, so much that a coachload went to his ordination and induction at the church in Pontypridd.

"Grace and peace to you all from Milton Keynes (or Wolverton, to be more precise!). I was delighted that Pat got back in touch with me after seeing my face on a URC video clip recently. It's great to keep in touch with my Emmanuel friends and hear some of the general news. As for me, last November, after 8+ years in the valleys, I packed my bags and headed back to England, ending up in Milton Keynes where I'm currently the Christian chaplain of...well, essentially a young offenders' institute. It's a little different to pastorate ministry (more improvised weapons, less cake!) but is just as rewarding. And, lest you think I've scarpered from the URC, you'll still see me popping up in various places I'm afraid! Anyway, please do receive my love and best wishes and hope to see some of you at a church shindig in the future. God bless, Phil".

*Pat Best*

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

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)

## South London Synod Area Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and the next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September

John Campbell published a wonderful hymn collection called *Songs to Shake Us Up* in 2016, some of which he presented to our Synod Area a few years ago. From his previous church in Tottenham (before that he was Principal of Northern College, Manchester) he has now crossed the Thames to share ministry at Crossway, Elephant & Castle (where Sue was Church Secretary, and Bryn Interim Minister for a couple of years).

As 'one of us' now, he was invited to provide the Opening Devotions. He got us going with an *Alleluia* not unlike the *Halle-halle-halle-* we sang at Emmanuel recently (following its use at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service in April). Then we sang a great new hymn that he had written for our main speaker, Rev Fiona Thomas, and her churches. It reminded me of another meaningful hymn *Let us build a house where love can dwell*. You can read it, or hum along to the tune *St Columba (Put peace into each other's hands)*, printed in after this article.

Fiona Thomas had been Training Officer for Thames North Synod and then Secretary for Education and Learning at Church House. Now Interim Minister at three churches in Lewisham, she is encouraging them to examine their church life under SOAR\* headings: Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations and Resources/Results. (This is similar to the approach adopted by Jo Patterson for us last year.) Fiona had observed that in churches there was a natural sharing of friendliness, but that often people did not know each other well: for example, not being aware of simple things like their job, or children, or interests etc.

So we found someone we did not already know in the Synod Area and Fiona got us engaged in paired conversations, with simple hints on how to extend the dialogue, like: *Tell me more! Who else was involved? What were you thinking? How did it feel?* We asked each other three questions: *What gave us encouragement during the Covid days? What did our church let go of? What did our church learn to do that we have taken forward since?* It just felt good to realise that we got to know a fellow URC person better, in a relaxed and unembarrassed way. We were able to enter into a deeper level of conversation about things that really mattered to us.

As usual at Synod Area meetings, we had received reports by email in advance and had been encouraged to follow up any queries with the committee convenor concerned, thus reducing to a minimum the time spent on business matters. There were a few items for which we were asked to approve the committees' recommendations.

*Continued on next page*

The next South London Synod Area meeting will be in the evening:

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm at East Croydon URC** – with pizza provided(!)

The excellent speaker will be the Revd Fiona Bennett, Moderator of General Assembly 2022-23. There is an interesting article about her and her colleague the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Revd Sally Foster-Fulton, in the July/August edition of *Reform*.

**Meetings are open: do come along** – parking at the church for people with mobility needs (otherwise limited, or use Fairfield parking). Or the 119 bus makes it easy. The church is in Addiscombe Grove, scarcely 100 yards from East Croydon station, trams and buses.

\*SOAR™ was created by Jackie Stevens and Gina Hinrichs (2009)

*Sue & Bryn Thomas*

The new hymn we sang at the June South London Synod Area meeting:

**Great God, please help our church to be**

a gathering, warm and open,  
where all are welcome, none refused,  
and truth is kindly spoken.

Dear Jesus, help our church to be  
a pilgrimage of learning,  
where we, disciples, learn from You,  
Your truth and love discerning.

Brave Spirit, help our church to be  
an ark upon life's ocean,  
a rescue raft for drowning souls,  
safe island of devotion.

Great God, please help our church to be  
a stronghold of true kindness,  
a fortress standing strong for truth,  
a beacon tower of gladness.

Dear Jesus, help our church to be  
a tree that's always fruiting,  
a lively growing, fruit-rich tree,  
with You its only rooting.

Brave Spirit, help our church to be  
a home of help and healing,  
where all who're injured in life's fight,  
revive at love's revealing.

With You, our threefold friend and help,  
our church may yet surprise us,  
with growth and life and joy and hope,  
as Your love resupplies us.

***by John M Campbell Tune: St Columba***



churches  
together  
in West Wickham

It's always good to share with our friends from the local churches. A few of us went to the Prayer with a Difference morning at St Mary's and had an opportunity to try different ways. I found looking at art particularly helpful. We have been invited to join their outing to the National Gallery to explore St Francis of Assisi's life. This is on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, by train. Please contact Revd Richard Ford if you wish to go.  
8289 2432 [richard.ford73@ntlworld.com](mailto:richard.ford73@ntlworld.com)

On 28<sup>th</sup> May there was a joint Pentecost service at West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church followed by a very short meeting in which Revd Jon Hills updated us. He will continue as Chairman, and Deacon Laura MacBean as Vice Chairman. Hope Church are now members of CTWW.

The Village Day at Blake Park was an enjoyable event, especially for Colin, Nicky and myself who hosted a joint Messy Church with St Mary's.

On Pentecost Sunday, Emmanuel welcomed friends from Hawes Lane Methodist Church, and afterwards celebrated with bubbly and a Pentecost cake made by our Guide leader Jo McGee.

You will remember a few years ago Emmanuel supported Hope Health Action (originally Haiti Hospital Appeal) as our overseas charity which was founded by Carwyn Hill from Coney Hill Baptist Church. Carwyn has received the MBE in the King's Birthday Honours in recognition of his services to international healthcare, food aid and education.

*Pat Best*

# *Emmanuel Fellowship*

Dear Friends,

We are very sad to learn of the death of Pam Grafham, a dear member of our Fellowship. Our thoughts and prayers are with Peter and his family.

Here we are in July, the last month of the summer term at the Fellowship. As we head towards our summer break, there's still plenty left to spark our interest. But first, let's have a recap of June:

Anne Horner-Tree introduced us to the amazing **Bromley Homeless Starter Pack scheme**. We felt drawn to her and the brilliant job she does providing gift packs of essential items for homeless people setting up a home from scratch. So, we've decided to help, and will be collecting items weekly at the Fellowship, which will then be delivered to Anne. She is very enthusiastic about recycling and reusing goods, so have a clear-out at home, and bring along your clean, laundered, washed, good quality linen, crockery, cutlery and cooking vessels to give a blessing to a friend you may never meet. For a full list of the items we can donate, see: <https://bromleystarterpacks.weebly.com/>

In June, we also heard about free health and wellbeing services in Bromley, the joys of being a woman driver from the early days of motoring to more recent times and alongside our AGM, we celebrated the life of Helen Keller.

So, what is happening in July?

**4th:** We can bring along a special item that starts with **the letter 'j'**, and share what it means to us. Could it be a **jug** from the Mediterranean that brings back memories of a wonderful holiday; maybe it's a **person or a pet** whose name starts with 'j' – with a photo of them, perhaps; tales of a trip to the **jungle**, or a special recipe for **'jumbles'**? The possibilities are endless, so be inventive and we'll share a smile and some nostalgia.

**11th:** Sees the return of Mark Sedgewick, who gave us a magic afternoon of entertainment last November, singing the legends of Swing. I'm sure we're in for another treat this time.

**18th:** Our last meeting of the term brings **Gilly Halcrow**, who has given us a variety memorable talks in the past. This time she will be telling us about **'Shopping Through the Ages in Britain'**. It might inspire you to venture out on those cooler days of summer, to add your own bits of shopping to British history!

*Continued on next page*

After all the excitement, the workers at the Fellowship will have a well-earned break. Thanks you to all those who plan and serve, or lend a hand when needed. And, thanks to each and every one of you, for supporting us, for your gratitude, for the welcome you give to new members and to our guest speakers and entertainers. You are such a wonderful group, and such lovely people.

Every blessing,

*Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee*

**Photo credits:**

- \* Photo on the front cover courtesy of wisconsinpictures on unsplash
- \* Photo on page 5 courtesy of DAP
- \* Photos on page 7 courtesy of unsplash
- \* Photos on page 9 courtesy of the Grafham family
- \* Photos on page 18 courtesy of DAP
- \* Photos on page 21 courtesy of Jo McGee
- \* Photo on page 22 courtesy of DAP
- \* Photos on page 29 courtesy of unsplash



# Synod Prayer Days

Deployment Missions Outreach  
 Concerns Future  
 Congregations Buildings Age profiles  
 Evangelism Decline

**We talk a lot together,  
 in Councils, Synod Area  
 and Synod meetings**

*But do we listen?*

*Do we spend time listening  
 to God?*

**This is an opportunity to listen to  
 God together as Synod (Area)!**

EKSA / WKESSA	Sat 8 July	Cade Road Ashford
S&SSA	Sat 22 July	Crawley URC
SLSA	Sat 29 July	Crossways URC, Elephant & Castle
CSUA	Sat 9 Sep	Emmanuel United Church, Eastbourne

All days start at 10am for 10:30 finishing at 4pm





# Synod Prayer Days Agenda

10:00 Arrivals

10:30 Opening Worship + Intro

10:45 General Prayers for Synod and Synod Area

11:15 Prayer Sessions

Individual Prayers

Lectio Divina

Prayer Walks

Centring Prayer

Labyrinth

Craft & Writing

1:1 prayers

Group prayer activity at 11:30

Lectio Divina or Listening Prayer

12:30 Lunch

13:15 Gathering Worship

13:30 Prayer Sessions

Same as in the morning

Group prayer activity at 13:45

15:15 Plenary session to bring  
what we heard together

16:00 Close



**These days are an opportunity to  
listen to God together!**

# Nature ramblings - Off to Mull

This month (and perhaps the next one or two) nature ramblings is going off to Mull. For as I wrote in my letter, Jan and I enjoyed a fortnight there in mid-May, including a boat trip to the Treshnish Isles, a string of isles including the largest, Lunga, which is a national nature reserve. Set in the Atlantic off the west seaboard of Mull, Lunga is home to pupping seals in the Autumn, and can feel bleak and storm swept through the winter months. But as Spring breaks in April, flowers emerge in the hues of bluebell and primrose and a variety of seabirds return from deep in the Atlantic, to nest, rear and fledge their young in the summer days, before Autumn gales return.



Lunga hosts the reptilian shag, the gull-like dainty kittiwakes with inky-black tips to their wings and four members of the auk family. Razorbills (600-700 individuals), guillemots (around 8000-10000 individuals), black guillemots (around 50 individuals), and to everyone's delight, puffins (about 2600 individuals). Together they form quite a squawking colony!

*Pictured from our visit is the comical looking puffin.*

Puffins are an oceanic bird, which spend around 8 months of the year at sea.

Their stubby wings are designed for underwater propulsion allowing them to readily catch fish, including sand eels, in their bill. By contrast, on land they can appear a little ungainly, and when flying out to sea, decidedly frantic.

Puffins live in community, but what can first appear as neighbourly chats can erupt into territorial disputes. A characteristic not confined to the bird world!

They have a link in name with St Columba, who along with 12 monks, established the monastic community on Iona, a short puffin flight from Lunga. For their scientific name is *Fratercula arctica*, which means 'little friar', or 'little brother of the north', a reference to their plumage which is said to resemble a monk's attire.

Both puffin and monk wandered the oceans, one with prayer and one with poise, one with a heart moved, one moving heart.



*David Pickering*

# Personal Thanks & Announcements

## Christian Aid

**M**any thanks to everyone who donated to Christian Aid, in church or via the e-envelope online this year. The total raised at Emmanuel was £1,174.50 (including Gift Aid). A tremendous effort which I am sure will be put to good use.

*Jim Lord*

John Rutter  
Birthday Madrigals

George Shearing  
Songs & Sonnets

Works by Bennet,  
Gibbons, Morley & Ramsey

Allegri  
Singers

Conductor  
Stephen Anthony Brown

Summer Songs  
& Madrigals

7.45pm Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
St Mark's Church, Westmoreland Road, Bromley BR2 0TB

Tickets: [allegrisingers.org.uk](http://allegrisingers.org.uk) Adults £15, u18s £5

Registered Charity 287271

## Eco Hints Round 6: July 2023

### SAVING WATER

We can't deny that Global warming is affecting our UK weather and causing hotter, drier summers.

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) warns that our use of water must decrease if we are to save wildlife habitats. Yes! 70% of our tap water comes from freshwater sources in nature \*.

Here are some tips from South East Water to save water and start making a difference:

1. Have shorter showers: aim for 4 minutes
2. Use water butts instead of sprinklers or a hosepipe
3. Turn off the tap while brushing teeth or shaving
4. Collect water from the hot tap while it's warming up – use on the garden or to wash the car
5. Fill your dishwasher before switching it on
6. Use unfinished drinks, ice cubes and leftover water from drink bottles to water plants
7. Turn off taps properly and fix leaks as soon as they occur
8. Report leaks in the streets as soon as possible

There are some free items available from South East Water to help you save water. You can find out more on their website:

<https://www.southeastwater.co.uk/help/save-water/how-to-save-water>

The WWF website also has suggestions to save water, and to help wildlife:

\*<https://www.wwf.org.uk/what-can-i-do/top-ten-water-saving-tips>

*Sue Thomas*

## 2ND WW GUIDES & RANGERS



The time has finally arrived for our Rangers Francesca & Sophie to set off on their international Guiding adventures! Later this month Fran will depart for the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, closely followed by Sophie who is off on her 2 week inter-railing challenge around Europe taking in 7 different countries.

We would like to thank everybody within the church who have been so supportive in their fundraising efforts, helping them achieve the full amounts which was no mean feat!

These trips are going to make lifetime memories and I'm sure once they are home they will be very eager to share all of their adventures with you.

Have the BEST time girls!



*Jo McGee*

*2nd WW Guides & Rangers*

## West Wickham Methodist Church

Following the decision by West Wickham Methodist Church to close their premises with effect from January 2024, they have been seeking God's guidance to lead them to a new worshipping home. As part of their discernment, they visited two local churches on two Sundays in May, ourselves and Hayes Free Church, and have also been liaising with Bromley and Beckenham Methodist churches.



Emmanuel was delighted to welcome friends from West Wickham Methodist Church at Pentecost, Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May for a special service including our Singing Group and a selection of trees, portraying images of the Church shaped by God's Spirit through the years. Illustrated is a wind-sculpted Torloisk oak with a small flock of sheep sheltering under, from the Isle of Mull.

After the service we continued the Pentecost festivities with a celebratory cake and fizz. Hats off and a big THANK YOU to team Emmanuel for making the occasion so special.

Following their visit to us and other churches, West Wickham Methodist Church held a meeting, to seek their next steps, with the outcome being that they have chosen to look to other Methodist Churches in their circuit. Laura MacBean, their Deacon, conveyed this in a message, in which she also asked me to pass on the gratitude of their church for our welcome and willingness to explore options for their future.

I have included Laura's message and my reply below, David.

*7<sup>th</sup> June 2023*

Dear David

West Wickham Methodist Church had its annual church meeting last night and I am writing to thank you for the warm welcome your congregation at Emmanuel URC gave us when we came to visit on Pentecost Sunday as part of our exploration of our future beyond the Methodist premises on Hawes Lane. Thank you too for the cake and bubbly afterwards!

*Continued on next page*

I also need to let you know that we held a long and prayerful discussion about our visits to different churches in the last few months and the congregation have decided that they wish to look towards the other Methodist Churches in our circuit rather than pursuing a relationship with Emmanuel URC. They have made a similar decision about Hayes Free Church as an option for their future together.

Thank you again for meeting with me and Karen, and then for hosting our congregation so that we might consider what we could do together. I am sorry it has not born the fruit we three ministers had hoped and wish your own congregation all the best as they discern their own mission and future in the years to come, especially with the blessing of your legacy for mission and outreach.

Please could you pass on our gratitude to the congregation and to the elders for being willing to consider further exploration had we decided otherwise, and again for the lovely welcome we received.

Every blessing

Laura

7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Laura

Thank you for sharing this very understandable decision. I fully appreciate the congregation opting for the familiarity of Methodism, including the style of worship and continuity of ministry. If Emmanuel played just the smallest part in the fellowship's prayerful discernment process, then that feels good and right.

If I, or Emmanuel, can help with any other facet of forthcoming church life as you take steps to fold the tent and help people find a new spiritual home, even if for just one or two, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Please thank the good folk of West Wickham Methodist Church for joining us at Pentecost, swelling our congregation and whilst we didn't quite number a 1000 voices for the Wesley hymn, the singing filled our sanctuary with praise and love. Our folk very much enjoyed the fellowship with your congregation after, too!

May you, and each member and friend of your church, experience God's guiding and supporting hand through this year and into a new future in 2024.

Take care, God bless, David



# 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:

- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Veg
- Pasta Sauces
- Oil
- Sandwich Paste
- Jam
- Sugar
- Juice (cordial rather than cartons)
- Rice pudding (in a tin)
- Baby wipes
- Nappies size 5 or 7
- 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

**2nd July**  
**@ 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)

## **SYNOD PRAYER DAYS**

**Starts Saturday 8th July**  
**@ 10.00am**  
Everyone welcome

Details on pages 16 & 17

## **Allegrì Singers**

**Saturday 8th July**  
**7:45pm**

Details on page 19

## **Church meeting**

After morning worship on  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

## **Emmanuel Fellowship**

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

Details on page 14

## **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

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 July

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	Church Parade, Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering  Followed by the Annual Church Fair
Tuesday	<b>4th</b>	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)
Friday	7th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering</b>
Tuesday	11th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship in the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)
Friday	14th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Jonathan Dolling
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 28)
Saturday	22nd	<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23rd</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering</b>  <b>Followed by the church meeting</b>
Friday	28th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering</b>

## Church Diary for the start of August

Friday	4th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 28)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering</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.

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