

Emmanuel Life

Emmanuel
God With Us



September 2023



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

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

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 38



September 2023 Services

3rd (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church led by Revd David Pickering and Pat Best
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Janet Godden
10th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
17th (see below)	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Judy Davies
24th (see below)	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship and Harvest Parade led by Revd David Pickering

October 2023

1st (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship, including infant baptism led by Revd David Pickering

3rd September: Janet Godden is a Lay Preacher from St John's URC Orpington

17th September: Judy Davies is a Lay Preacher from Bromley URC

24th September: Harvest Parade Service followed by Harvest Lunch

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

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)

Minister's Letter

In praise of synergy!

Dear Friends,

Hats off to the lionesses, England's Women's national football team, for achieving what they have 'down under' in the 2023 World Cup. Their success is down to talented and dedicated players and the competence of their manager, Sarina Wiegman, together with her chosen support squad. Indeed, both Sarina and her counterpart, Gareth Southgate – manager of the men's team, have become widely respected for the competence and conduct on and off the pitch. They have each created a sense of synergy in their team, in contrast to many Premier League managers, whose average staying power is a whisker over two years and where last year many didn't last the season.

Have you ever wondered if you could do better as manager of a Premier League team? Well, not exactly the same, but believe it or not, there are millions who take on that role week by week through the season! How is that you may well ask? The answer, through participating in the online game called Fantasy Football.

So how does that work? At the beginning of the season you can sign up as a manager with £100 million to spend on 15 players who play in actual Premiership teams with certain numbers of goalkeepers, defenders, midfielders and forwards. Whilst £100 million can buy some good players, choices have to be made as the budget isn't enough to cram a team with top stars.

With your team formed and once the season opens, your squad gains points according to how your chosen players actually perform week by week. Points are awarded for appearing, scoring or assisting goals, and for keeping a clean sheet. Points are deducted for conceding goals and naughty behaviour marked by a yellow or red card. Ahead of each game you select a team of eleven from your squad, pick a captain and vice captain, who may be awarded additional points, and you can also do some 'wheeler-dealing', buying and selling players, within your available budget.

It's a bit of fun which I confess to have half-heartedly dabbled in. The fun comes from being part of a mini-league of family and friends or workmates. I'm in one called 'Premier Picks' managed by my brother Martin. Sad to say I gave

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precious little time to managing it through the season (none actually!) so finished in a merited lowly position. I failed as a manager to bring any synergy.

My team is just a fantasy team. It only exists on paper. My team doesn't meet to train together week by week, nor to encourage support or challenge one another. They lack synergy – that is the human interaction that creates a sum greater than the parts.

Synergy can be found in various groups such as choirs, orchestras or bands who find synergy when they come together and play. If their leader is pleased, then great pleasure may be experienced. Synergy doesn't mean that everyone plays or sings the right notes, rather the outcome is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Synergy can be found in church as well. Someone once challenged me.... I believe in God, I try to be a good Christian, why should I bother coming to church? For me the answer is synergy. For at its best a church is a place where people come together and find themselves enthused and challenged, supported and, at times, comforted. Church is a place of worship, but it is much more, as the Apostle Paul writes, it is joining and feeling a party of Christ's body, where together we are far more than our individual parts.

Jesus knew he couldn't bring in God's Kingdom on his own, he needed support. So he challenged a 'rag tag' group to follow him, and they became disciples and friends. It wasn't all sweetness and light. There was jealousy, hard-heartedness and even betrayal, but there was also commitment, enthusiasm and zeal. With Jesus in their midst, they had real synergy.

Our church, like many churches, is a collection of individuals with different gifts and different natures. Inevitably there will be challenging times, but more importantly, our church, is greater than the sum of our individual parts. Our synergy comes through our worship and life together and through the presence of God's Holy Spirit - Christian synergy.

I don't know how my fantasy team will perform this year, poorly I suspect based on my failure to invest (waste?) time managing them! But then they lacked synergy, that special quality to keep going through challenges and reach to great things.

Jesus's mission started with a handful of local workers – mingled with God's calling and presence, and look what happened!

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I don't know what the coming year holds for our church, but I hope that through the influence of God's Spirit, with Jesus informing our minds and moving hearts, Christian synergy may help us to be a place where together we can find our lives enriched and make a big difference for Christ's sake. I hope, too, that through our witness, others may be enthused to join team Emmanuel, and we benefit from people exercising their skills and enthusiasm across the mission pitch!!! And remember, there is no limit on the number of people allowed to join our fellowship!

On which note, it is great that in this new season, we will be formally welcoming the 8th West Wickham, as they move their Head Quarters to Emmanuel as a sponsored group. We will give the whole group a formal welcome at our children and youth-themed Harvest Parade Service at 10:30am on Sunday 24th September.

As the nights start to draw in, and Strictly appears on Saturday nights again, may you know God's presence encompassing you through the glow of early Autumn days.

Take care, God bless

David

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

(Philippians Chapter 4 verses 6-7)

A Letter of Appreciation from the denomination's Treasury Team expressing thanks to churches and their congregations for their ongoing committed giving to the Ministry and Mission Fund, supporting core costs of the URC, including ministers stipends.

Dear Friends,

When will normal service be resumed?

As we are writing this letter and closing off the URC's accounts for 2022, the country is still torn with industrial disputes, mostly notably with Health Service workers, rail industry workers, teachers etc. etc. Whatever your view as to the wisdom or justice of such action, we suspect all of us are affected by the disruption to some degree.

In church life too, are we back to "normal life"? Some churches no doubt have returned to something like their pre-Covid level of activity and attendance numbers. Quite a few have recommenced their activity but find their numbers have reduced. Some churches have found re-opening too difficult and have decided to close.

Whatever the "new normal" was to be, we suggest its arrival has (like many trains) been disrupted, delayed, or cancelled all together. The URC's finance officers had concerns that the late arrival of the return to normality would impact very significantly on the giving to the M&M Fund in 2022. However, the churches responded magnificently and the giving to M&M was £600,000 ahead of budget. It was also only 2.5% down on 2021's result.

So, thank you to all who continued to contribute to your local church, thank you to all those churches who met their commitment for 2022 in full, and thank you to all those who, in adversity, continued to treat the M&M Fund as the first priority and paid what they could.

With normal service not yet resumed, 2023 is not going to be an easy year either. We now have the added disruption of high inflation, pushing up wages and overhead costs. As the Spirit directs and as our means allow, can the churches once more respond to the call of our gracious, loving and ever-generous God?

Again, thank you all!

If you have any questions or comments arising from this letter, please speak to your church treasurer who has been provided with more detailed information. If they are not able to help directly then they can get in touch with the finance team at Church House.

Yours in Christ,

Ian Hardie (Immediate Past Treasurer)
Vaughan Griffiths (Deputy Treasurer)

INSIGHTS FROM THE URC AT 50

As the URC prepared to turn 50 years old last year, it commissioned a study by the independent Christian think tank, Theos, to conduct research into the life, identity, and flourishing of our Church. The key objective being to provide a snapshot of the URC today, exploring its identity rooted in practice, what flourishing looks like, what resources exist or need to be sought, and what barriers there are to flourishing in the future.

After a year of in depth research, the following summary paints a picture of 6 key lessons or insights about URC life that it identified. Settle yourself down for a thoughtful read. I'd be interested to know if you think that any of them may ring true for our church?

David

Church at a crossroads: 6 lessons from the URC - from a report by [Theos](#)

1. The church is not always about numbers

The 2021 census data on religion is sobering. The number of people 'checking out' from religion is on the rise. This is a truth, but it is not the whole truth. Indeed, the picture of faith in the UK is more nuanced; the landscape more complex than polling numbers and headlines suggest. While the URC is undeniably experiencing decline and contributes to the sobering national statistics, the lived reality is that very frequently small congregations have a disproportionate impact within their local communities.

In towns, villages and cities across the three nations the URC exists within it is in partnership with many others at local level, meeting community needs and serving Christ, as it serves those beyond its walls. Our research found that for 71% of United Reformed churches, community service is their first priority – a concern that trumps even pastoral care of their own members. So, while the figures and headlines paint a picture of doom and decline, small, even struggling congregations continue to do what they do best: quietly love their neighbours in practical ways and nurture community.

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This is not only true of the URC: Church Urban Fund data in 2017 showed that 93% of Church of England churches at that time were involved in some way in the provision of food banks, and other more recent Theos reports have highlighted the impressive impact of local churches on social cohesion and practical care for the most vulnerable in their communities.

2. Historical theological commitments continue to affect modern church politics

The URC is the result of the merger of the Congregational Church in England and Wales with the Presbyterian Church in England in 1972, with later unions with the Churches of Christ and the Congregational Church of Scotland. The distinctive congregationalist and reformed theologies which underpin the uniting churches continue to influence it in important ways. For example, the congregational ethos can be seen in the way normally individual local members, rather than central leadership, make the decision to start or close a local congregation. Indeed, while the broader structures of the denomination are clearly indebtedness to the reformed tradition, the congregational spirit of equality and inclusive participation in decision-making pervades the denomination.

This highlights the fact that churches are not merely secular organisations, but are driven by their unique faith commitments in all that they do. It is perhaps more accurate to view the church's social witness as "social liturgy" than "social action", reflecting its "deliberately God-focused" motivation in service to others.

More broadly, the popular image of Christianity in the UK draws on a highly idealised view of the traditional Anglican parish: a single priest of a single church, overseeing a clearly defined geographical area and directly accountable to a hierarchical structure above it. But not all churches operate a parochial system, and the URC is just one example of the various ways different Christian communities organise themselves.

3. Disagreeing well is a strength

The URC at its core finds ways to live into significant diversity whilst remaining united. Its approach to same-sex marriage is an example of this. Whilst not without difficulty or frustration at times, people with different perspectives on issues of human sexuality live side by side as siblings. In a societal context where

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such issues are often framed as a ‘culture war’, the URC offers a profoundly counter-cultural reality in holding together difference. Concretely, the approach taken was to trust and allow local churches to make their own decision on same-sex marriage, rather than impose a church-wide position from the ‘centre’.

4. Church structures developed when the church was larger need reassessing

One of the key findings of our research was that the structures and processes of the URC need simplifying and streamlining. Conceived when the denomination was significantly larger, structures that were once fit for purpose now risk stifling rather than enabling congregational life and mission. As many historic denominations with elaborate governance and administrative structures experience decline, the need to reform structures discerningly, to be more agile and fit for mission in changing times, is critical.

The URC is not alone in considering how its structures can best serve the needs of the church and community in the twenty-first century. The Church of England has particularly attracted mainstream media attention as it considers the balance between central structures and the parish level. The Quakers are engaged in a “Simpler Meetings” scheme to reduce the burden of structures and roles on the worshipping community. More positively, this reassessment is not always motivated by decline, as in the case of Pope Francis’s declaration that “synodality [is what] God expects of the Church of the third millennium”, calling the international Catholic Church to an inclusive process of discernment regarding how its culture, structures, and decision-making can be more open to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. These movements are not intended to bring about complete transformation of church structures, but rather seek to be agile and imaginative in the face of modern challenges.

5. Ministers and paid time make a real difference

There is a shortage of ministers in the URC. Ministers are stretched untenably between several congregations and localities. The minister-to-church ratio varies from synod to synod, but in one of the synods we studied, the ratio was approximately 20 ministers to 100 churches. Our research shows that the absence of a full-time minister has a negative effect on the congregational life and ministry of local congregations, limiting particularly their ability to meet the needs of their

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local communities through outreach activities. On the flipside, all of the churches we studied that thrived had a minister.

In a context of church decline, however, there is a need to innovate both at the level of theological training, improving quality and access, and building lay capacity for a more agile, participatory form of local leadership.

Other Theos research has also emphasised the critical importance of investing in leadership – not only for the flourishing of the church, but for the good of the whole community. Churches are wellsprings of formal and informal community leadership, forming (and paying) community champions who take initiative and empower their neighbourhoods, building up ‘dignity’ and a sense of ‘purpose’ in individuals and groups.

6. The church will flourish at the local level or not at all

Flourishing churches we came across in the research had a clear understanding of why they existed in their localities as churches. They could articulate their mission in both spiritual and social terms. They were outward oriented, and maintained active relationship with their local communities.

As older, historic denominations reckon with the reality of decline, the promise of flourishing rests with a renewed sense of missional identity and purpose expressed locally, and the courage to drastically reform or jettison altogether wider denominational structures and processes that hinder rather than enable congregational life and mission.

The full report can be found online here: [URC-report-Final.pdf](https://theosthinktank.co.uk/URC-report-Final.pdf)
(theosthinktank.co.uk)



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church returns on **3rd September**.

Through the autumn we will be following the theme – ‘**I Believe**’

This month – ‘**I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour**’ & celebrate what it means to be **baptised** and follow **Jesus**.

INFANT BAPTISM

Appropriately, on Sunday, **October 1st**, there will be an **infant baptism**. We welcome family and friends for this very special occasion.



EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

Emmanuel Fellowship is back in full swing on **Tuesday 5th September** with David leading the opening worship and maybe with some surprises in store 😊

EMMANUEL
FELLOWSHIP

GUEST WORSHIP LEADERS



David will be in Messy Church all morning this month so we welcome **Janet Godden on 3rd September**.

A warm welcome to **Judy Davies on 17th September**

HARVEST & PARADE

Our Harvest Parade service on **September 24th** will be followed by the traditional Harvest Lunch prepared by our super catering team. Further details on page 26.



CHARITIES



We have had a few suggestions for Local and Overseas Charities for us to support in **2024**. If you have any other nominations, please pass your nominations to **any Elder by the end of September**.

ELDERS

If you are wondering who are **Emmanuel Elders**, don't hesitate to ask! They are the people who give out the notices each Sunday morning, serve communion and each have a pastoral group to care for.



N.B. There is a 'gallery' in the main vestibule of Elders and officers.

Rosemary



Zimbabwe — Life is always better with a cup of tea!

Pat Best reminded us last month that we are holding our annual **Commitment for Life Appeal** on 24th September 2023, which is also the day of our **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** and **Harvest Lunch**.

Our annual Appeal is always well supported, and in giving we can help others in greater need than ourselves.

There will be envelopes and leaflets available, and news of how to give directly.

If you are giving through the use of the envelope, with cash or cheque, or making a bank transfer to the church bank account, and if you are a tax payer, please **remember to supply your name or FWO number**.

This will enable us to make a Gift Aid tax reclaim, which will add 25 % to the value of your donation.

*Ian Scott
Church Treasurer
e-mail "ianscott74@btinternet.com"*



News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community

Henry David Thoreau wrote, "Happily we bask in this warm September sun, which illuminates all creatures." May that be so after a rather dismal second half of the summer!

September also has a new season feel about it, especially at Emmanuel this year.

New Starts

September sees the formal move and start of the 8th West Wickham Scouts to Emmanuel as their Group's Head Quarters. The 8th comprise a Beaver Colony, Cub Pack, Scout Troop and Explorer Unit and are looking at starting a Squirrels Drey for 4-6 year olds. We look forward to welcoming the 8th at our Harvest Parade Service at 10:30am on Sunday 24th September and to a long, happy and fruitful relationship with them as a part of Emmanuel's family.

September also sees a season of new starts for many individuals and organisations, including children and young people starting school, moving to a new school or heading to university, as well as their dedicated staff beginning a new year.

Within Emmanuel, a new season and year begins for a number of our organisations including Emmanuel Toddlers, who restart in September under new leadership following the retirement of Ann Glover as reported in July's edition of Emmanuel Life. Also beginning new years are our Guiding Company, our new Scout Group and Emmanuel Fellowship. Please remember all those in leadership and supporting roles who work hard to ensure that a stimulating programme can be enjoyed by all participants.

World Scout Jamboree

Hats off to Francesca Douglas, representing Guiding and several Scouts from the 8th West Wickham who spent the last two years raising funds to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. Many will be aware that a combination of issues led to a last-minute change of plans to ensure the safety and well-being of the British contingent, together with a newly devised programme based in Seoul. From all accounts it is hats off to British Scouting as well, for managing what was a challenging set of circumstances.

The participants are safely back having had a rather different adventure and we hope to hear more at the Harvest Parade Service on 24th September.

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Bereavement

We're sad to report that Jackie Murtagh died peacefully in St Christopher's on Tuesday 15th August. Jackie, together with her husband Robin, moved from Cornwall to be near their family in Hayes earlier this year, and we've been delighted to welcome them to Emmanuel where they have settled.

Following a private cremation, a Memorial Service of Thanksgiving for Jackie's life has been arranged for the afternoon of Friday 15th September at Emmanuel. The exact time is to be confirmed. Please remember Jackie's husband, Robin, their son Sean and his family at this time.

A Prayer

*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.*

Congratulations



Wedding congratulations to Gaby Stocker and Iain Hann

who were married at Emmanuel on Saturday 26th August.

It was a true family affair for within the service Gaby's Dad, Nick, walked his daughter Gaby down the aisle, Mum, Sara, gave a reading, Nanny, Gill, wrote and led a prayer, Gaby's Uncle Michael led and played the music, Gaby's sister Lauren was chief bridesmaid, her brother Aidan a 'bridesman' and her

Uncle David a witness. Iain's family were also well represented with his brother Alex as best man, sister Jenny as a bridesmaid and Bible reader and Mum, Susan, as witness. The couple left the church in a beautiful Ford Mustang, a surprise gift for Iain who loves classic cars. May Gaby and Iain enjoy a long, happy and loving marriage.

Wedding congratulations to Sarah McCausland and Rod Davies

who were married on Saturday 5th August. They together with their family, Saskia and Kingsley, belong to Messy Church Emmanuel.

The four are pictured together on their special day.

May Rod and Sarah enjoy a fulfilling, loving and happy marriage as a family of four.



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Congratulations to Rosemary and Keith Daniels

who celebrate their 55th Wedding 'Emerald' Anniversary on Thursday 7th September – a very special achievement. May they be blessed with a celebratory day of happy remembrances.

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, breaks, support or treatment, including:

- Freda Banks
- Marjorie George
- Christine Jackson
- Julie Lord
- Jo McGee
- Will Patterson
- 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.*

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 Pickering

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

It was lovely to have a catch-up with everyone who came to the Summer Tea Party on 8th August. Thank you to Janet and Jennifer for the delicious cakes. The preparations and decorating took time and effort, but didn't the hall look lovely! We are very grateful for all the help and support we received as a committee with serving and of course, washing up and tidying afterwards.

You should have all received your Autumn Programme by now, but if you've somehow missed out, or would like a copy for a friend, do get in touch. (Sue Thomas on 8462 5860). There have already been some alterations, as two Speakers have had to withdraw from the Autumn programme:

On October 10th we will welcome Reverend Gareth West who will give a talk entitled 'Hatch, Match, Dispatch' and John Halligan will make a return visit with a talk about 'The Life & Times of King Edward VII' on 14th November. However, that is in the future.

Our Fellowship year begins in September, and here's what's in store for us:

- 5th: Reverend David Pickering, will lead our opening worship, in the Church Sanctuary.
- 12th: Chris Davis makes a welcome return with her intriguing tales of 'The Lost Palaces of Westminster'.
- 19th: Another familiar face, Barbara Stevens brings humour and an abundance of personality to her 'Trials and Tribulations of a Public Speaker, Part 2'.
- 26th: Yvonne and Charles Murdoch will tell us enchanting stories of their many ballroom successes in 'Our Dancing Years'.

We are looking forward to meeting you all again, after our Summer break. I'm sure we'll all be sharing smiles and laughter as we gather together once more.

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee

Nature ramblings - Off to Mull - all creatures great and small!

For the last couple of months Nature Ramblings visited two isles off Mull, Lunga in July to spot puffins and Ulva in August for insectivorous plants. For September's edition we're loitering a little longer in the Hebrides, this time on the Isle of Mull itself.

Whilst Mull is well known for the so-called big five, comprising Red Deer, Otter, Sea Eagle, Atlantic Seal and any one of the creatures of the deep, whether basking shark, whale, dolphin or porpoise, all of which can regularly be seen on or from Mull, the isle has some smaller residents, too. To draw on a line from the hymn 'All things bright and beautiful', Mull has both creatures 'great', and creatures 'small'.

The small category includes beetles. There are nearly 400 species of ground beetles in Britain which vary in size from 2 to 30 mm, that's around an 1/8th inch to 1¼ inches in old money. Their characteristics include having long antennae and long legs and typically elongated oval bodies. They vary in colour from black through many bright metallic colours, with some variation within the same species. I'm no expert on beetles, but if I spot one, I enjoy taking a photo and seeing if I can identify it from a guide. It's a fun way of discovering and learning a little more about the wonders of creation.



With that caveat of my decidedly 'amateur' status, I think that the beetle on the left is the Copper Greenclock (*Poecilus cupreus*) and the one below is the Green tiger beetle (*Cincindela campestris*)

Beetles don't get the best press in the Bible, for they are typically linked with plagues and pestilence. Whilst it is so that some beetles have a penchant for eating crops and produce including leaves, grain and

flour, they also eat some species which are themselves regarded as pests.



A more positive Biblical approach is to draw on the opening story of creation, where we are reminded that alongside the birds of the air, the wild animals of the earth and great sea beasts, God created everything that creeps along the ground.

Many people go to Mull hoping to see the so-called big five, but there is wonder and delight to be found in the small creatures, too. It is a watchword when out walking, whether on Mull or nearer home, to not only look up and around, but to look down, too.

David Pickering

Personal Thanks & Announcements

Dear Friends,

Just to let you know that the West Wickham Choir Concert on 15 July which was held under the auspices of CTWW raised £527.33 and cheques have been sent to The Bromley Foodbank and Shrublands Foodbank totalling this amount. This is a wonderful amount and our thanks go out to everyone who contributed.

This Choir is formed of members of the choirs of the West Wickham Churches and other local residents, under the leadership of Geoff Mussard.

Regards,

Joan Clark

Secretary

CTWW

Photo credits:

- * Photo on the front cover courtesy of Ave Calvar on unsplash
- * Photos on page 12 courtesy of unsplash
- * Photos on page 15 courtesy of DAP and Sarah
- * Photo on page 16 courtesy of unsplash
- * Photos on page 18 courtesy of DAP
- * Diagrams on page 24 courtesy of Ian Moore

Scouts are back at Emmanuel



Scouting at Emmanuel has a long tradition – a tradition with a bright future with the 8th West Wickham Scout Group moving its headquarters to Emmanuel.

For the longest time the West Wickham URC had a Scout group. Unfortunately, that group lost too many members and leaders in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic and had to close down. More or less at the same time we, the 8th West Wickham Scout Group, lost our home of well over half a century because the West Wickham Methodist Church is closing down as well.

Putting these two negatives together results, however, in a massive plus: a thriving Scout Group with over 100 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and around 20 adult leaders moving its headquarters into a thriving church. And while the move was stressful – as all moves are –, we have been made incredibly welcome by everyone involved and we would like to say thank you for this. We are sure that we will have many good years in The Grove.

Our first event at Emmanuel has been the Summer Fair in July where our Cub and Beaver leaders ran a small stall – and where one of our Beaver leaders, Helen, won a cow called Flossie, who has since become a Beaver herself (as you can see from her green-and-red scarf).

From September onwards our sections' meet as follows:

- **Beavers**: (6-8 years old): Thursdays, 18:00–19:00;
- **Cubs** (8-10½ years old): Mondays, 19:00–20:15;
- **Scouts** (10½-14 years old): Tuesdays, 19:45–21:00;
- **Explorers** (14-18 years old): Tuesdays, 19:45–21:30.



All sections meet in the Richmond Hall, except for the Explorers who meet in the Griffiths Jones Hall.

If you know of anyone who may want to enjoy new adventures, interact with others, experience the outdoors, gain confidence, challenge themselves and reach their full potential whilst performing to the best of their ability, please get in touch at waitinglist@8thwestwickham.org.uk or visit our website 8thwestwickham.org.uk.

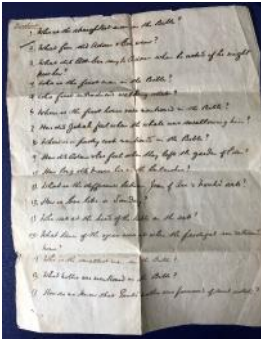
And if you want to work with likeminded people to provide such fantastic experiences to the next generation, please drop us an email at recruitment@8thwestwickham.org.uk.

*Niels Rump,
Chair, 8th West Wickham Scout Group*

From our own congregation...

An old prayer

For a service on 'treasure' Lilo Sutton gave me a prayer from a collection compiled by William Barclay, telling me that the following prayer is sometimes found on the doors of old churches. By popular request I have submitted it to Emmanuel Life for publication.



*Enter this door as if the floor within was gold;
And every wall of jewels all of wealth untold;
As if a choir in robes of fire were singing here;
Nor shout, nor rush, but hush... for God is here.*

An old quiz

And having learnt of my interest in old treasure, Jennifer Scott shared a Bible quiz with me, hand written in old script on a decidedly old piece of paper. See photo on the left.

The questions are below and the answers, deciphered as best as I can, appear on page 39.

One hint – some of the questions are based on the translation in the King James/ Authorised Version.

Quiz Questions

1. Who is the straightest man in the Bible?
2. What fur did Adam and Eve wear?
3. What did Eve say to Adam when he asked if he might kiss her?
4. Who is the first man in the Bible?
5. Who first introduced walking sticks?
6. When is the first horse race mentioned in the Bible?
7. How did Jonah feel when his whale was swallowing him?
8. Where is a pastry cook mentioned in the Bible?
9. How did Adam and Eve feel when they left the garden of Eden?
10. How long did Moses lie in the bulrushes?
11. What is the difference between Joan of Arc and Noah's ark?
12. How is love like a Sunday?
13. Who sat at the head of the table in the ark?
14. What time of year was it when the prodigal son returned home?
15. Who is the smallest man in the Bible?
16. What nobles are mentioned in the Bible?
17. How do we know that Paul's mother was possessed of real estate?

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:

- Jam
- Rice pudding
- Tinned fruit
- Desert of any kind that has a shelf life
- Crackers/savoury biscuits
- Juice (cordial)
- Milk
- Rice - dried in packets
- Tinned veg
- Tinned tomatoes
- Soup
- Washing up liquid/cleaning products
- Washing powder/pods
- Baby wipes
- Carrier bags (branded or unbranded—as long as it can hold a fair amount of items)

Items can be left just outside 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

Eco Hints Round 8: September 2023

Sustainable Tourism

Ok, who am I to preach about harm to the environment inflicted by leisure travel, when my must-go destination is New Zealand? Anyway, you've probably already booked your holidays. But wait, you can change your priorities for the next one!

Whatever our needs or desires for a holiday, there is something to consider on the Greenmatch website. We can care for the environment and support local businesses at our destination, or consider a greener holiday. Here are a few of their ideas, but you can read more on the website: <https://www.greenmatch.co.uk/blog/how-to-be-more-eco-friendly>

- Plane travel and cruise holidays are huge contributors to global warming, so choose alternatives.
- Travelling off-season is likely to be your priority, so great, well done! That helps to lessen the stress on the environment from large numbers of tourists in one place.
- Consider the products you buy to take with you, your use of facilities and the accommodation you choose. With fewer disposable containers, and perhaps fewer luxuries, you won't really suffer, will you!

Thanks to Ciaran Wark at Greenmatch for these suggestions.

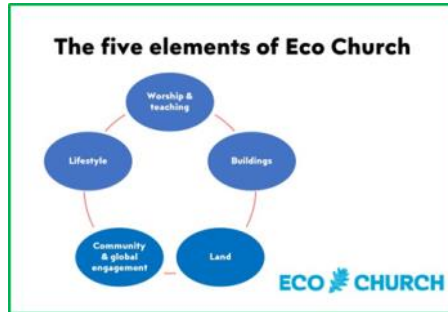
Many of his tips are actually a good common-sense approach to life: Care for the environment, be considerate to others, and have a less self-centred approach.

Happy holidays,

Sue Thomas

Eco Church Network Bromley

The Eco Church Network Bromley was launched in spring this year and has now travelled to 4 different churches and welcomed attendees from 14 different congregations. The various speakers have covered all areas of the Eco Church programme – with deeper dives into bio-diversity, political hustings and energy efficiency in community buildings.



There are two more meetings scheduled for the rest of this year:

- **Tuesday 5th September** – at St Francis of Assisi, Petts Wood (BR5 1QW). Father Stephen Niechcial will be telling us more about the Repair Café they have launched.
- **Wednesday 22nd November** – at Beckenham Methodist (BR3 5JE). Simon Brown from A Rocha will tell us more about the wider work of A Rocha, all the things they do like the Wild Christian programme, their own eco plots, and working with other partners on threatened species and habitats.



As part of Eco Church Network Bromley, Emmanuel receives the bi-monthly Bromley Environment Newsletter published by Greener & Cleaner. We do print off a few copies, which are usually on the tables at Warm Welcome Fridays, but if you'd like to receive this directly by email please let me know and I'll forward it on to you each time.

Ian Moore

Notices

**BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION
STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS,
ACTIVITIES**

**3rd September
@ 10 am in the Richmond Hall**

www.godwithus.org.uk
www.messychurch.org.uk

For more details, please contact:
Pat on 07714 808 498 or
patbest@btinternet.com

Harvest Lunch

Sunday 24th September

In the Richmond Hall

Details on page 26

Macmillan Coffee Morning

**Friday 29th September
10:30am to 12:30pm**

Details on page 27

Emmanuel Fellowship

Tuesdays at 2.15pm
in the Richmond Hall
Everyone welcome

Details on page 17

Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Details on page 34

Emmanuel Art Group

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

Details on page 34

Warm Welcome

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

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

Details on page 33



Please join us for a Harvest Lunch on
Sunday 24th September

After the Harvest Festival and Parade Service enjoy a coffee which will be served from the J.T. kitchen, and then make your way into:

The Richmond Hall at 12.30pm for lunch.

Tickets will be available from me (Janet Pickering).
Prices are £8 for adults and £4 for children under 12

This year you will be able to pay by cash or card and the meal will be suitable for vegetarians, but please let us know when you book your ticket if you have any allergies.

If you miss me at Church or Fellowship please phone me to book your ticket on 07751 114883.

'Last orders' by Tuesday 19th September please, so we can finalise numbers.

Thank you.

Janet Pickering and the Catering Committee



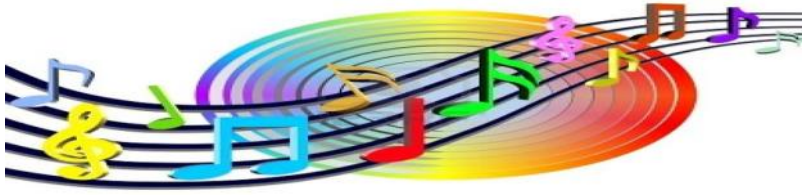
Friday 29th September
10.30 to 12.30

Please support this worthwhile cause and
join us for coffee and cake
Bring along a cake or small cakes for sale
Enjoy a piece of cake with your drink
Why not buy some cake to take home

Every contribution (cake or money) will be
gratefully received



Pat Best and Janet Pickering



St. Francis of Assisi
West Wickham

Saturday 7 October

at 7.30 p.m.

Come and enjoy

The London Concert Chorus

under their Director of Music - Georg Tormann
& hot from their performance at Proms in the Park
Let them entertain you with their selection of songs from
stage, screen and CD, including

**Memory, Hallelujah, Fix You, From Now on, Country Roads,
Make you feel my Love, Old Devil Moon, & many more**

Tickets: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-francis-of-assisi>

or on the door



£12 (under 18's £6)
including an interval drink





Synod Prayer Days

Deployment Missions Future Outreach
 Concerns Buildings Age profiles
 Congregations 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)!



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
 - Centring Prayer
 - Craft & Writing
 - Prayer Walks
 - Labyrinth
 - 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!



God
 is calling you

Lay Preaching Course 2024

Will you answer the call?

Remind Me

Message

Contact Andy Twilley to find out more.

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

Announcing the 23-24 Certificate in Theology & Discipleship for Mission

Session Dates

- 9 & 23 October
- 6 & 20 November
- 4 December
- 15 & 29 January
- 12 & 26 February
- 11 March
- 29 April
- 13 May
- 3 & 17 June
- 1 July

Join our 23-24 Cohort for the CTDM to participate in

- scholarly readings of Mark's Jesus movement led by the founder of UTU, Rev'd Dr. John Vincent
- sharing of stories in faith journey, evolution, change and discovery
- perspective building through liberation theologians, including Black Liberation and Indigenous theologians.
- gain insight from guest speakers who are embedded in mission provide practical insight into what works, how to adapt, and how to flourish as a Kingdom Community.
- Our 15 sessions culminate in student led plans for local mission.

0114 2709907

utushesfield.org.uk

office@utushesfield.org.uk

Urban Theology Union, Victoria Hall
 Methodist Church, Norfolk Street,
 Sheffield, S1 2JB

Training in pastoral care

Sunday 20th August
 TIME: 14.00 – 18.30

Two seminars:
 Introduction to Pastoral Care
 Listening Skills

VENUE: Christ Church URC,
 High St, Tonbridge TN9 1BG

EVERYONE WELCOME

For more details or to book your place, contact Andy Twilley:
training@urcsouthern.org.uk

GROWING TOGETHER

COMMUNITY GARDEN



THURSDAYS 10AM | 1 PM
ST FRANCIS CHURCH
86 RAVENSWOOD AVENUE
BR4 0PW

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT - 0333 335 5209

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

Location: Richmond Sports Hall, Emmanuel Church
Contact details: Lara Doherty on 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

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: Zoe Favata

Email: zoe_04@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07852 153115

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.



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competitive
rates

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or call our team on 020 8461 7701





Church Diary for September

Friday	1st	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 31)
Sunday	3rd	10.00am	Messy Church led by Revd David Pickering and Pat Best
		11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Janet Godden
Tuesday	5th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Opening Service led by Revd David Pickering In the Church Sanctuary (details on page 13)
Friday	8th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 31)
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	12th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Chris Davis: 'The Lost Palaces of Westminster' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
Friday	15th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 31)
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Judy Davies
Tuesday	19th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Barbara Stevens: 'Trials and Tribulations of a Public Speaker, Part 2' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
Friday	22nd	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 31)
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>23rd</i>		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>

Continued on next page



Church Diary for Septembercontinued

Sunday	24th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship and Harvest Parade led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	26th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Yvonne and Charles Murdoch: 'Our Dancing Years' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
Friday	29th	10.00am —4.00pm	Macmillan Coffee Morning/Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on pages 27 & 31)

Church Diary for the start of October

Sunday	1st	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship, including infant baptism led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	3rd	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Tony Harris: 'Churchill' (Professional comedian, raconteur and actor) In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
Friday	6th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 31)

Emmanuel Church Contacts

Answers to the quiz on page 21

1. Joseph – Pharoah made a ruler of him
2. Bear skin!
3. I don't earn a damn (adam!!) if you do
4. Chap 1
5. Eve - she presented Adam with a little Cain!
6. Herodias's daughter got a head of John the Baptist on a charger
7. Down in the mouth - as if he was going to blubber
8. Paul went to fill a pie (Philippi!)
9. Put out
10. Full length
11. One was made of wood, the other hair of Orleans
12. Because she was the first of the weak (week)
13. The cow because she could carve!
14. Winter – it was icy – because we are told that the old man went out and “fell on his neck.”
(note from David – you need to read the King James Luke 15 for clarity!)
15. Peter - he slept on his watch (David – I loved this one once the penny dropped!)
16. Baron Fig Tre and Lord How Long!
17. Because we are told Paul stood beside Mars Hill
(David – check Acts Chapter 17 verse 22)

PS for Q4, 'Who is the first man mentioned in the Bible?', I can think of a man mentioned prior to 'Chap 1', can anyone guess who it is?

Thanks to Lilo and Jennifer for sharing some old treasure!

David



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- 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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 Kent, BR3 6QH Kent, BR1 4PQ Kent, BR2 7EJ

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