

Emmanuel Life

Emmanuel
God With Us



October 2023

I AM
THE TRUTH,
AND
THE LIFE.

NO ONE COMES
to the FATHER EXCEPT
THROUGH ME.

JOHN 14:6

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

**www.emmanuelww.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@emmanuelww.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.

Communications Secretary	Rosemary Daniels		welcome@emmanuelww.org.uk

More contact details can be found on page 37



October 2023 Services

1 st	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship, including infant baptism led by Revd David Pickering
8 th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
		Followed by the Church Meeting
15 th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Accredited Lay Preacher Alan Kienlen
22 nd	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas
29 th (see below)		Gathered/broadcast worship led by Clive Timehin

November 2023

5 th	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering

29th October: Clive Timehin is a Local Preacher with the Bromley Methodist Church Circuit. He preached at Emmanuel around 2014, and, along with his wife, went on a pilgrimage with Rev Bill Bowman and members of Emmanuel Church in October 2013.

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

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)

Minister's Letter

Can the fundamentalists win?

Dear Friends

As I write the first anniversary of the apparent murder of Mahsa Amini within an Iranian gaol is in the news. Her seeming 'crime' being failing to conform to state proscribed dress codes for women. A year on from the peoples' revolt, and fundamentalism still holds sway in her nation.

Fundamentalism is alive and well in other nations too. We see it in the Taliban-governed Afghanistan 2 years on from their retaking of control, and manifested in the increasing restrictions in society, particularly on women and girls, robbing them of many basic human rights.

And whilst now 22 years on, September witnessed the anniversary of so-called 9/11. The day four hi-jacked planes became people-filled weapons, loaded with fuel and fuelled with hate.

Perhaps you, like me, can remember where you were that day. I was in Belfast. I remember seeing the images on repeat of the planes hitting the twin towers, of the explosions and devastating collapse, the desperation shown by the 'jumpers', then as the days turned, these images giving way to tear-streaked faces, the growing roll call of names and abiding heartache. It was a stark reminder to the world of the ability of fundamentalism to foster hate and hurt and justify the worst of atrocities.

It was reported that the hijackers chanted the name of Allah as they hit the Twin Towers. Without wishing to press comparisons, many were also uneasy about a seemingly fundamentalist response in the declaration of a swath of nations and humanity as being an axis of evil.

From my privileged western liberal perspective, it can be easy to call out such horrific acts. But I wonder if in moments of honesty we may identify some fundamentalist tendencies in other nations, including our own? And not just in one faith but appreciate that elements of fundamentalism are alive in all faiths, yes, including Christianity.

Continued on next page

So what are the characteristics of fundamentalism? A study of fundamentalism in the US identified the following, that fundamentalism:

- claims orthodoxy, and perceives itself to be the recipient and protector of the one true faith,
- is reactive – including against what it sees as modern secularism,
- is selective, choosing certain texts to support certain beliefs, rejecting other texts which contradict an ideology,
- fears academic liberty and is generally suspicious of modern scholarship,
- is simplistic, tending to define issues in terms of light and dark, right and wrong, good and evil, heaven and hell; leaving little room for paradox, inconsistency, parable, allegory or metaphor; and
- tends towards absolutism and certainty.

Critically and vitally, there are other approaches to faith, other understandings of God than those held by fundamentalists – of whatever religion, These include faith practice that embraces intellect, reasoning and is open to new insights, which values scientific discovery and is characterised by a freedom from what might be described as dogmatic teaching based on literally understood so-called truths.

But lest I fall into the trap of fundamentalist ‘bashing’ and in doing so become fundamentalist myself, I need to remind myself of some words of US preacher Harry Fosdick:

‘there are many opinions of the fundamentalists of which I am not sure whether they are right or wrong. But there is one thing that I am sure of – courtesy and kindness and tolerance and humility and fairness are right.’

Fosdick also wrote pleading for

‘a clear insight into the main issues of modern Christianity and a sense of penitent shame that the Christian Church should be quarrelling over little matters when the world is dying of great needs’

The prophet Micah wrote of our calling to: ‘Do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God’

So can the fundamentalists win?

Continued on next page

In a world in which religious and political fundamentalism still appears alive and well, it feels increasingly important to hold onto the words of Jesus in our hearts, to love God and love neighbour, and to live out such teaching with tolerance, love, kindness and understanding. That includes the appreciation that many world religions, and their followers, not least Islam, have a sense of divine goodness and love etched in their heart which shapes lives and enriches community. By holding to such tenets, the fundamentalists will never ultimately win.

So can the fundamentalists win?

There will continue to be dark days around the world where people will experience the heartache and horror of terrorism or fundamentalist rule. Yet whenever a tear-streaked face is comforted in unconditional love, wherever forgiveness, healing and reconciliation can be found, wherever love is more powerful than intolerance, then God is present, and fundamentalism cannot win the day.

Further, fundamentalism will struggle to take grip if such open, inclusive love is lived out in every local church, in every local community, including ours.

As the days cool and evenings lengthen, may you know the loving warmth of God in home and heart.

Take care, God bless

David



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church meets on **1st October**

The autumn theme is '**I Believe**'

This month – '**Jesus Christ our Saviour**' – and what it means to be baptised & follow Jesus.

INFANT BAPTISM



On **Sunday, October 1st**, we have an **infant baptism**, We welcome family and friends for this very special occasion.

EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

EMMANUEL
FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship has a very interesting month in store for you (as ever!), including a visit from '**Winston Churchill**'. See page 10.

GUEST WORSHIP LEADERS



We welcome these worship leaders in October:

Alan Kienlen on the **15th**

Bryn Thomas on the **22nd**

Clive Timehin on the **29th** - see page 3

ELDERS NOMINATIONS

It's time for the annual nomination of Emmanuel members to Eldership. We are looking for at least 2 Elders to replace those who have served their 4 year term. Please give this prayerful thought and pick up a nomination form. Nominations to be in by **26th November**. More details on page 17.



CHURCH MEETING



October Church meeting follows morning service on **Sunday 8th**

Grab your coffee / tea after the service and return to the sanctuary with it so we can start the meeting on time!

Rosemary



News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community

“October is the opal month of the year. It is the month of glory, or ripeness. It is the picture month”, so wrote American Congregationalist minister and social reformer, Henry Ward Beecher. We await to see what golden pictures our local woods will portray, but may we experience God’s glory in the beauty of the season, and God’s healing and peace in the wonder of the season.

Bereavement

We’re sad to report the death of Audrey Castle who died on Thursday 31st August. Audrey, together with her late husband Roy, have been a part of Emmanuel since the early 60s. A service celebrating Audrey’s life was held at Emmanuel on Tuesday 26th September. Please remember Audrey’s children Lynn, Sally and Pete together with their partners and children. An ‘In Memory’ of Audrey is published in this edition of Emmanuel Life.

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.*

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
- Marty Jones, together with her daughter, Alison Lessiter
- Roger and Jean Pickering

Continued on next page

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

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)

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

We've reached October already, and the season of Autumn is well underway. The nights are drawing in, but fortunately that doesn't affect us at the Fellowship on Tuesday afternoons. Here's what we have in store for you in October:

- 3rd - **Tony Harris**, a professional comedian, raconteur and actor, who comes highly recommended, will give a **historical performance as Winston Churchill**. Do make an effort to be there, and bring along a friend: he's not to be missed!
- 10th - We welcome **Reverend Gareth West** who will give a talk entitled '**Hatch, Match, Dispatch**'. I'm sure his tales from many years as a Methodist minister will strike a chord and tickle a funny bone or two.
- 17th – It's **Black History Month**, so **Sue Thomas** will uncover more stories of the contributions made by people of colour, in Britain's past.
- **24th is Half Term week, so there will be no Fellowship meeting**
- 31st – **Reverend Bryn Thomas** has some surprises in store from his knowledge of our reformed church history, which began in Germany, way back....when? All will be revealed in a talk entitled '**Hallowe'en reformed & Bus and Bed Day?**' Sounds intriguing!

Well, that's quite a variety of topics. So, come with open minds, good humour, and the expectation that you might learn something new.

We look forward to seeing you at Emmanuel, in the Richmond Hall, Tuesdays at 2.15pm.

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee

Diary of a Mod Elect



Friends,

Is it the end of September already? How the summer has flown by! While we had a bit of a summer break after General Assembly, the past few weeks have been rather busy!

First up was Greenbelt, a Christian festival held near Kettering, where the URC now has a significant presence, running a rather cheap (and therefore popular) café and the youth zone for young people aged 11-17. I was volunteering in this venue, where there is both a space for young people to just hang out, and a dedicated programmed venue. I had a lot of fun at the festival with my friends, and it was great to serve young people for the weekend. Volunteering involved hanging out with the young people, selling them very underpriced sweets and drinks, helping to run the programmed events, and stopping adults from coming in to the venue!

After that, I was off to Glasgow for the third Youth Exec weekend of the year. Again, it was great to see everyone again, and we had a very fruitful time planning Youth Assembly and discussing the Youth Review. This Review had been commissioned by Youth Assembly two years ago, and it is now our job to go over their comments and suggestions, and start to take action to address it. We also almost all tried battered mars bars!

A week later and I went to a Churches Together in England conference on ecumenism. It was great to meet people from lots of different denominations and discuss the successes and challenges we are facing, especially with the other young people there. CTE are currently trying to set up a youth collective, with a potential view to hosting a national event, or expanding a current one to be more ecumenical, and I'm very interested to be involved in this ongoing work. I even got to be involved in a panel for young ecumenists which was an incredible opportunity, and while a lot of what we were saying felt like preaching to the choir, it was good to talk about especially national youth work as it works slightly differently to the local and regional ecumenism that a lot of the conference was talking about.

And now I am at Children and Youth Work Committee in Cambridge, and we have heard plenty of reports on various pieces of work that have been ongoing in the past 6 months since our March meeting. Its very encouraging to hear about the work that's happening, especially based on the paper we took to General Assembly.

As always, if you have any questions about what I or any of these groups do, feel free to email me.

In Christ,

Heather

Nature ramblings - a quiz, and meet some shieldbugs



First up a quiz... how old are the stems that have sprung from this recumbent tree trunk taken in nearby Hutchinson's Bank Reserve?

In August Jan and I had a trip north, including staying with some old friends in County Durham, with whom we enjoyed a walk in a nature reserve. Here we spotted the Red-legged Shieldbug (below right). I was particularly interested having just bought a 400 plus page book on Shieldbugs (as Jan well knows, I can be a nature nerd). Thankfully, our hosts are even more nature nerdy, their idea of nightlife being to go out as dusk falls to set a moth trap!

So with light lit and moths buzzing, we retreated indoors, emerging the next morning to see what had been enticed in. Amongst a collection of moths was a Hairy Shieldbug (left). I'll return to moths another month!



Both species of shieldbug are named after their legs! The Red-legged Shieldbug does indeed have red legs, and also distinctive curved hook-shaped pronotal corners, like those shoulder pads sported by female power-dressers in the 1980s Dynasty and Dallas tv shows. Its cousin, the Hairy Shieldbug, has, yes, distinctively hairy legs. I don't suppose Joan Collins would have publicly sported this characteristic!

Shieldbugs are classed as true bugs, for they suck, unlike beetles which bite. Within their class are bedbugs. Hmmm. But fear not, whilst the mouth parts of shieldbugs are designed to pierce succulent leaves, they don't feed on animals,

Continued on next page

including us humans.

More attractively, they sport a shieldlike back, often glossy and brightly coloured, giving them an heraldic, almost regal look. They are versatile in movement, being able to walk with a distinct gait and take to the wing with a whirr. They can be seen across Britain. I've spotted them in the manse garden, and perhaps they can be found, in season, in a garden near you. If you spot one next summer, try and take a photo and we can identify it together. For me they are but one wonder of God's glorious creation.

And the age of those stems growing from the fallen giant? 36 years. The tree came down in the great storm of 1987. After destruction came new growth. Isn't nature wonderful.

David Pickering

Harvest Service

At Emmanuel's Harvest Parade Service we gave thanks to God for harvest, and brought our gifts which will be passed to The Vine Foodbank, New Addington. During the service we heard from Ranger Fran Douglas about her experience attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree, Brown Owl presented some amazing awards, including fundraising efforts for Beyond Autism, and we formally welcomed the 8th West Wickham Scout Group to Emmanuel, including presenting them with a gift of new Colours. After the service Emmanuel's wonderful catering team prepared a tasty 4 course Harvest Lunch, which was enjoyed by all.



Well done to Tilly, Grace, Sophia and Francesca, and thank you to everyone in Team Emmanuel who contributed so richly.

David

Personal Thanks & Announcements



Mighty Mites

The next collection of Mighty Mites will be in the new year on January 14th. Please keep saving your pennies until then. Having made this collection we shall send a cheque for the year's total to UNICEF.

Gill Childs

Community Police Contact Sessions

The West Wickham Community Police run regular 'contact sessions' on their patch offering local residents an opportunity to meet the team, discuss any pertinent issue or be offered some advice on crime prevention. Warm Welcome Fridays @ Emmanuel is pleased to host some of these sessions with the Autumn schedule including:

- Friday 13th Oct 12:00 – 13:00
- Friday 24th Nov 12:00 – 13:00

Feel very welcome to come along, enjoy a cuppa and light bite, meet the community police team and others at our Warm Welcome venture.

David and Pat



churches
together
in West Wickham

There will be a Churches Together in West Wickham Service on Sunday 29th October at 6pm and this will be held at West Wickham Methodist Church, Hawes Lane.

Sadly this is the last time the Methodist Church will host a joint service before their official closing date of 1st February 2024. Deacon Laura MacBean is looking forward to welcoming us that night.

After the service there will be a meeting when each church is invited to share what we have been doing this last year and any plans for the future, which should be very interesting.

Do keep an eye on the notice board in the Vestibule for details of forthcoming events such as concerts, which are hosted by our fellow churches.

Pat Best

Election of Elders

Emmanuel is to hold a short Church Meeting on Sunday 10th December for the election of new Elders for a four year term starting in January 2024. These new Elders will then be inducted, or ordained and inducted if appropriate, at a Sunday morning service in January.

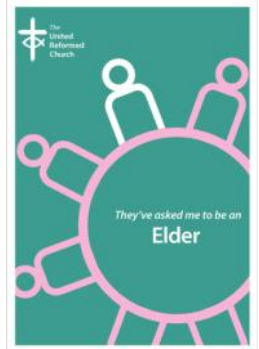
First, the admin bit...

This year, we have one Elder who has reached the end of their current 4 year term, namely Rosemary Daniels. Rosemary has agreed to serve for a further period. However we are looking for at least an additional 2 new Elders.

Nomination forms will be available in both vestibules or available from an Elder and must be returned to Rosemary no later than Sunday 26th November.

Second, what does it mean to be called to be an Elder?

There's a small booklet produced by the URC ("*They've asked me to be an Elder*") which has recently been updated and reprinted and is aimed at answering exactly this question, It describes in practical terms what is expected of Elders as a key part of the church leadership team – working with the minister and sharing responsibility for the spiritual oversight of the congregation.



For those who haven't been Elders before, there's often an acute sense of the unknown, of not being equipped for the role, To which, there's a lovely quote in the booklet which says: "Daunted? Don't be!"

Eldership is a privilege as well as a responsibility, It is an enriching ministry for those who do it and those who benefit from it, We invite anyone who is considering the suggestion to be an Elder, to come and talk about it further. We also hope members may consider approaching someone and asking if they might consider being nominated.

If you'd like a copy of that booklet to help you think about it, do please ask an Elder or David for one. Alternatively there is an online version on the URC website – [called to be an elder.pdf\(urc.org.uk\)](https://www.urc.org.uk/called-to-be-an-elder.pdf)

A prayer for those considering Eldership

Loving God, guide me now as I seek to find your way for me.

Create in me a renewed dedication to your service.

Set before me the example of Christ Jesus.

Fill me with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

This I pray, trusting in your grace.

Amen.

Rosemary Daniels - communications secretary

Sue Carr - minutes secretary



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:

- Milk
- Pasta Sauce
- Soup
- Tinned Meat
- Sugar
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tea
- Coffee
- Juice (cordial)
- Custard (in sachets)
- Jam
- Toilet roll
- Shampoo
- Baby Wipes
- Washing Powder or Pods
- 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

Repair

The idea of repairing things seems to have gone out of fashion over the last couple of generations, So many “things” have become ...too difficult to repair yourself (eg cars),
.....or you can't get spare parts (kitchen white goods),
.....or people just haven't ever learnt the skills (sewing/clothing)
or it's just so much cheaper to throw it away and buy a new one (electronics).

But as “The Repair Shop” on TV shows us, there are so many things which can actually be repaired, And we should celebrate that, and encourage it, because making repairs is a fantastic way to a lighter carbon footprint.



Recently, as part of church maintenance programme, we had the shed doors in the organ alley repaired by the folk at Penge Sheds, The wood was rotting from the bottom up, but it's all now been renewed, and with a nice new lick of paint, should be good for another 15-20 years.

Like many eco tips, it's a win-win outcome, We get “as new” shed doors, the reclaimed timber used for the job gets a second use, and we didn't end up throwing lots of old stuff away into landfill, Add in the fact that people like Mhindi and Jon at Penge Sheds get a huge amount of satisfaction from using their skills and time to deliver a job-well done, and it all cost probably a lot less than half the price of some new doors, and actually it ends up sounding like a 5-way win!

So here's this month's tips, all about getting your repairs done:

- Find and buy spare parts over the internet – from websites such as www.espare.co.uk, or look on ebay for the parts you need
- Learn how to do it by watching videos on YouTube – particularly good for bike repairs, many of which are quite straightforward and where getting spare parts like a chain or brake blocks is actually very easy and cheap
- Buy from brands which offer lifetime repairs – particularly in outdoor clothing, there are brands like Arcteryx and Patagonia which offer this
- If you can't do it yourself, take the item to a volunteer-run repair café, like the one at St Francis CofE in Petts Wood (which meets monthly) or the team at Penge Sheds (ask me for more details of either)

Ian Moore

Tribute to Audrey Castle



Audrey was a warm, chatty, caring, highly-principled person, who had a very strong faith. The most important things in her life were her late husband, Roy and family; her Church; her friends and being a home-maker. Audrey was a very supportive wife and mother and was so proud of all the family and their achievements.

Audrey met Roy at Elmers End Church where they led the Sunday school. On coming to West Wickham they transferred their membership to Emmanuel, where Audrey took on many roles, including being an Elder, guiding the teenagers group, known as "The Seekers", with Roy, organising the flower rota for very many years and of course helping with catering for many different events, such as Harvest Lunches and Carols on the Green - goodness know how many Pavlovas and Mince pies she must have made.

Audrey's skills in cooking and flower arranging were valued too in the community. Having passed her Domestic Science course she taught first at the then Princess Plain School and later on at Coney Hill School, before she left teaching and went to help Roy in the family nursery. Audrey was also involved in the Red Cross and was a volunteer with the Memory Box cafe, as a volunteer.

We were very fortunate to form a close and valued friendship with Audrey and Roy; going on holiday with them several times and enjoying time together in our homes, chatting and putting the world to right.

We may have other special memories and we are sure you will have your own too, How lucky we all are to have known such a special person.

Will and Elizabeth Patterson

In Memory Jackie ‘Diddi’ Murtagh

Jackie, together with her husband Robin, found their way to Emmanuel earlier this year, following their move from Charlestown in Cornwall, where they had retired in 1998. Their move to West Wickham brought them close to their family in and around Hayes, and was a return to the place of their younger family days.

Jackie was born and brought up in West London. After meeting Robin, they married in Richmond, and after a while moved to, and settled in Hayes.

Jackie loved her family. She and Robin enjoyed golden years of marriage, including the arrival of two children, Joanne and Sean.

Tragically they knew deep heartache through the death of their daughter Joanne a few years ago.

Jackie, with Robin, had the joy of grandchildren, Jessica and Jake, Alana and Joseph and were recently blessed through the arrival of great grandson, Mark. Jackie was affectionately known as Diddi by her grandchildren. It was as their own needs grew that they chose to move back to be close to Sean and his family.

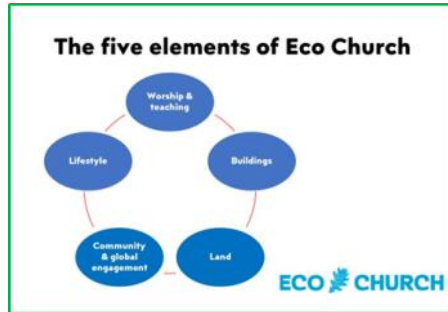
Jackie had a deep faith which she lived out through her life, with personal concern for, and quiet charitable and loving support of, those who had the least. She was a good Samaritan who couldn't walk past on the other side. As she journeyed through life, she had a sense of God in Christ accompanying her. We have been blessed at Emmanuel by getting to know Jackie, even in her relatively brief time with us, and our love and sympathy is with Robin and his family,



David Pickering

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 is one more meetings scheduled for the rest of this year:

- **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

Foster for Bromley

Can you help change a child's life?



We offer
competitive
rates

Visit www.bromley.gov.uk/fostering
or call our team on 020 8461 7701



Notices

BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION
STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS,
ACTIVITIES

1st October
@ 10 am in the Richmond Hall

www.emmanuelww.org.uk
www.messychurch.org.uk

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

The London Concert Chorus

Saturday 7th October @ 7:30pm

St. Francis of Assisi

Details on page 26

Community Police Contact Session

Friday 13th October

As part of 'Warm Welcome'

Details on page 15

Church Meeting

Sunday 8th October

Shortly after the church service
and coffee

Details on page 7

Churches Together in West Wickham

Sunday 29th October
at 6pm
at West Wickham Methodist
Church

Details on page 16

Continued on next page

Notices continued

Emmanuel Fellowship

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

Details on page 10

Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Details on page 36

Emmanuel Art Group

Thursdays
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Details on page 36

Growing Together Community Garden

Thursdays
10:00am to 1:00pm

St. Francis of Assisi

Details on page 32

Warm Welcome

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

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

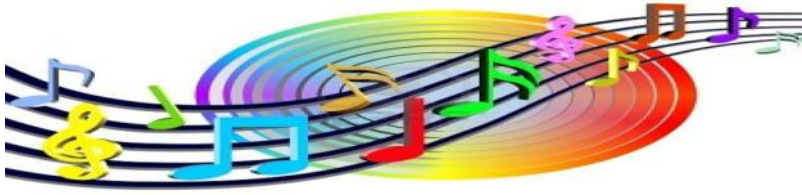
Details on page 35

Mini Athletics

Fridays & Saturdays
9:30am to 12:00pm

In the Richmond Hall

Details on page 33



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



EXPLORE

The logo for 'EXPLORE YOUR CALL' features the word 'EXPLORE' in large, red, sans-serif capital letters. The letter 'O' is replaced by a circular icon containing a compass rose with four colored segments (blue, green, yellow, red) and a white arrow pointing upwards. Below the word 'EXPLORE', the words 'YOUR CALL' are written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font.

YOUR CALL

November 22

19.00 – 20.30

An evening on ZOOM to find out what it means to become a...

**Minister of Word & Sacrament
Church Related Community Worker
Local Church Leader
Lay Preacher**

With input from a range of speakers, this will be an exciting opportunity to hear insights from those who are engaged in these ministries, to ask your questions, and most importantly, to **“Explore YOUR call”**.

To find out more, or to book a place, contact Andy Twilley

training@urcsouthern.org.uk

Invitation

to all who enjoy singing,
from the Joint Benefice of St. Francis and St. Mary, West Wickham.

The Big Christmas Sing 2023

In aid of Christian Aid
Saturday 2nd December at 4pm

Singers from choirs, music groups and congregations of “Churches Together in West Wickham” are invited to sign up to join us in a West Wickham Choir for this event.

Music will be Christmas themed, from traditional carols to secular songs. We also plan to have a primary school choir taking part.

We need to know who would like to join us, so we can plan the singing space. Please don't hesitate to contact me as soon as possible to add your name[s] even though rehearsals are not until late November.

All music copies will be provided, and please note that music reading ability is not essential – neither is previous experience – all who enjoy singing are welcome.

Venue: St. Francis of Assisi Church,
Ravenswood Avenue, West Wickham, BR4 0NW

Rehearsals: Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm
Thursday 30th November at 7.30pm
Saturday 2nd December at 2pm – 3pm followed by a refreshment break for singers while school group rehearses.

Event: Saturday 2nd December at 4pm.

Please respond to Geoff Mussard - geoff@mussard.org.uk or (020) 8650 8389
Please leave a message or contact number if you do not get a reply.

*The Big Christmas Sing: Saturday 2nd December at 4pm
at St. Francis' Church, West Wickham BR4 0NW*

Story STORY STORY

URC = YOUTH ASSEMBLY = = 2024 =

26 to 28 January 2024
Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffs

What will
you discover?



A WEEKEND TO HAVE YOUR SAY, MAKE FRIENDS AND FIND FELLOWSHIP:

- **Youth Decides** – discussions on issues that matter to us – leading to action and engaging the wider church
- **Workshops** – craft, drama, Bible studies, opportunities to grow your skills and thinking
- **Worship** – led by Youth Assembly band plus prayer room, late night communion
- **Entertainment** – campfire, karaoke, games and more

Book your place at

linktr.ee/urcyouthassembly2024

before 2 January 2024

or contact children.youth@urc.org.uk
for a booking form

Cost on or before 13 Nov: ~~£124~~ Cost from 14 Nov: ~~£134~~

Please talk to your church and synod about help with funding. Paid for by Synod!

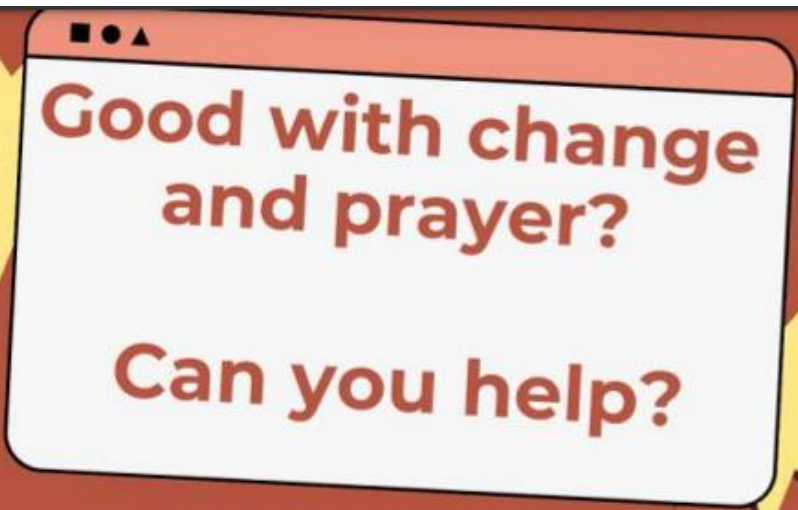

Year 10 students in England & Wales and S3 students in Scotland up to 25 years (inclusive)
Creche available for children 0-5 years old.

Find out more about Youth Assembly at bit.ly/Youth-Assembly

#URCYA24    [urcyouth](https://urcyouth.org)

For all young people with a connection to the United Reformed Church including:





**Good with change
and prayer?**

Can you help?



***South London Churches
need Visionary
Companions***



The role

- Support churches plan their future
- Encourage, advise, unlock ideas
- Short-term (up to 1 year)
- Ideal for those in management
- Full training and support given



MORE DETAILS [HTTPS://BIT.LY/VCS](https://bit.ly/vcs)



OR EMAIL [RJONES@URCSOUTHERN.ORG.UK](mailto:rjones@urcsouthern.org.uk)

WHAT IS A VISIONARY COMPANION?

A VISIONARY COMPANION HELPS A LOCAL URC OR PARTNERSHIP DISCERN ITS FUTURE THROUGH CONSIDERATION OF CORE QUESTIONS.

THEY HELP THE CHURCH TO PRAY, THINK CREATIVELY AND BE OPEN TO NEW POSSIBILITIES TO MAKE IT RELEVANT FOR TODAY - FOR EXAMPLE.

·WHAT VISION IS GOD GIVING US?

·WHAT RESOURCES AND ROLES WILL ENABLE THIS TO HAPPEN?

·HOW COULD WE CONNECT WITH OTHER CHURCHES, AND DERIVE BENEFIT FROM THE GIFTS OF THOSE ACROSS THE WIDER CHURCH.

A VC CAN HELP ELDERS AND OTHER LEADERS FIND INNOVATIVE WAYS FORWARD USUALLY A VC IS A MINISTER OR ELDER BUT ANYONE WITH CHANGE AND PEOPLE SKILLS IN A CHURCH WOULD BE WELCOME.

VC'S ·HELP CHURCHES UNDERSTAND NEW WAYS OF THINKING, EXCITE CHURCHES ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES AND FACILITATE THE JOURNEY AS A CHURCH PRAYERFULLY SEEKS THEIR WAY FORWARD ENSURING CREATIVE AND INNOVATIVE THINKING, AND LOTS OF PRAYER.

PLEASE CONSIDER WHETHER GOD IS CALLING YOU TO THIS ROLE

GROWING TOGETHER

COMMUNITY GARDEN



COME AND JOIN US

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.



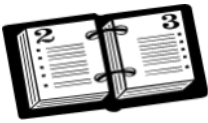
Emmanuel Church Contacts



Church Diary for 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: Historical performance as Winston Churchill In the Church Sanctuary (details on page 10)
Friday	6th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 25 & 35)
Sunday	8th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
			Followed by the Church meeting
Tuesday	10th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Reverend Gareth West: 'Hatch, Match, Dispatch' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 10)
Friday	13th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 25 & 35)
Sunday	15th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Accredited Lay Preacher Alan Kienlen
Tuesday	17th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Sue Thomas: Black History Month In the Richmond Hall (details on page 10)
Friday	20th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 25 & 35)
Saturday	21st		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas

Continued on next page



Church Diary for Octobercontinued

Friday	27th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on pages 25 & 35)
Sunday	29th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Clive Timehin
Tuesday	31st	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Reverend Bryn Thomas: 'Hallowe'en reformed & Bus and Bed Day?' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 10)

Church Diary for the start of November

Tuesday	1st	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; 'Pastime' historical dance performance In the Richmond Hall
Friday	4th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 25 & 35)
Sunday	5th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering

Photo credits:

- * Photo on the front cover courtesy of Tim Wildsmith on unsplash
- * Photos on page 7 courtesy of unsplash
- * Photos on page 12 courtesy of DAP
- * Photos on page 14 courtesy of DAP, Carole Browne and Niels Rumo
- * Photo on page 19 courtesy of Ian Moore
- * Photo on page 20 courtesy of the Castle family
- * Photo on page 20 courtesy of the Murtagh family
- * Diagrams on page 24 courtesy of Ian Moore



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 (FULL FEE LIST SHOWN)

