Emmanuel Life



November 2023



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	
Meetings Secretary	Sue Carr		
Church Treasurer	lan Scott		
Assistant Treasurer	Doug Carr		
Messy Church Leader	Pat Best		
Freewill Offering Secretaries	Sue Carr		
	Ann-Marie Mott		
Emmanuel Life Editor	Flora Kumi		

More contact details can be found on page 47



November 2023 Services

5 th	10.00am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering	
12 th Remembrance Sunday	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering	
19 th (see below)	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Accredited Lay Preacher Marion Moore	
26 th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering	
December 2023			
3 rd (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church	
	11.00am	Combined Christmas Festival and Parade Service Led by Revd David Pickering and Pat Best	

19th November: Marion Moore is an accredited URC Lay Preacher from our own

congregation. Thank you Marion.

3 December: Messy Church begins at 10am with breakfast, to which everyone is

welcome. The Christmas Festival service will follow on from this at

11am.

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

(Matthew Chapter 5 verse 9)

Míníster's Letter

Remembering

Dear Friends,

I'm looking after a collection of my grandfather's memorabilia from his time of service in World War 1 including a couple of hard tack biscuits, a collection of postcards, photographs and magazines, and curiously a bar of German soap. I so wished that I'd asked more questions when he was alive: what he did? what he thought? who he met? but can imagine his natural reticence to give insights to someone who was just a boy. So the remembrances now sit in a collection of artefacts.

Academically, people remember the war in different ways. In her book, The War that Ended Peace, Oxford historian Prof. Margaret MacMillan wrote "the great war was nobody's fault or everybody's... some powers and their leaders are more culpable than others." She went on to explain that you can give answers to the 'who started it' question, but it is much harder to determine 'who caused it?'

What is remembered is that many thought (or hoped?) it would be over quickly and justly. 'We'll be home by Christmas' and 'The war to end all wars'. So with patriotic zeal in the air, it is remembered that a generation of young people from across Britain and the then Empire went forth to serve, accepting risk. The poet Rupert Brooke wrote in 1914 on loss with valour:

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

But by 1915 the hope of a swift end was over, sides were entrenched, literally. Troops were enmeshed in barbed wire and slaughtered by the new mechanisation of the machine gun. With such a turn of events new remembrances were formed, not least as posed in the stark critique of the later war poets whose insight has risen to the fore in subsequent decades. One such poet is Wilfred Owen, who drew on the Old Testament story of Abram and his son Isaac in his poem 'The Parable of the Old Man and the Young'

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So Abram rose, and clave the wood, and went, And took the fire with him, and a knife. And as they sojourned both of them together. Isaac the first-born spake and said, My Father, Behold the preparations, fire and iron. But where the lamb for this burnt offering? Then Abram bound the youth with belts and straps, And builded parapets and trenches there, And stretched forth the knife to slay his son. When lo! an angel called him out of heaven. Saying, Lay not thy hand upon the lad. Neither do anything to him. Behold. A ram, caught in the thicket by its horns; Offer the Ram of Pride instead of him. But the old man would not so, but slew his son. And half the seed of Europe, one by one.

So another set of remembrances are laid, in part drawing on the God-given sanctity of life, on the contrast between a just war which accepts that protecting innocent human life and defending important moral values sometimes requires willingness to use force and violence, and the unacceptable cost of the Flanders killing fields.

As I write at the beginning of the second week in October, the destructive war in Ukraine rumbles on, now into its 20th month, devastating lives and communities. The cost is all too apparent. And painfully, so painfully, the most ancient conflicts has flared into a major battle in Israel Palestine. Devastation and destruction abound in the land called holy. Margaret MacMillan's dictum, you can give answers to the 'who started it' question, but it is much harder to determine 'who caused it', is painfully pertinent in today's Ukraine and Israel/Palestine.

As you may read this, we'll be approaching another season of remembrance. A time when people remember, and ask searching questions, including, where God is in the remembrances?

As you may know, in 2018 I had an opportunity to make a personal pilgrimage to the Somme to see some of the places where my paternal grandfather, Frederick Pickering, served. Most poignantly, I also went to meet my friend of many years, Pfarrer (Pastor) Martin Henninger, whose one grandfather, Friedrich, had also served at the Somme. We explored some of the places where each of our grandfathers have walked together.

Two grandsons whose grandfathers, with the same name, served in the same place but on opposite sides. Two grandfathers who both looked to the same God. It is a memory to cherish and having been with Martin, I can believe no other than

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the God our grandfathers worshipped was shedding tears for both sides in the heartache, hurt and horror of the war.

Many facets of the war are remembered, including the history, personal stories, sacrifice and the service, the bravery and the foolishness, the horror and the heartache. In this list and critically we should also remember that never again should so much inhumanity be inflicted on humanity, brothers and sisters in Christ and children of God. Martin and I agreed that it would be a pertinent induction for the leader of any nation into their new role, to spend some days at the Somme.

Our world can too quickly forget the lessons that a previous generation carried to their graves. I hope that through 'remembering' that war is rarely glorious or great, inevitably devastating and costly, it may bolster the resolve to find ways to prevent future conflicts. Meanwhile, as we remember, and remember the one who said, 'remember me', may we also continue to pray for a just peace.

In peace,

Da.i

PS amongst the magazines in my grandfather's collection are some booklets of cartoons by Bruce Bairnsfather. The one below is entitled 'leave', its poignant question under the backdrop of The Front, "how long have you got Fred?" speaks to Freds on both sides.



" LEAVE "



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church meets on 5th November 10am – 12 noon
The autumn theme is 'I Believe'
This month – Holy Spirit – Best Friend Ever!
Remember, everyone is welcome to pop in for a 'cupper' before the 11 o'clock sanctuary service.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



12th November at 10.30 'Wear your poppy with pride'

GUEST WORSHIP LEADER



We welcome our own Accredited Lay Preacher **Marion Moore** on **19**th **November**

ELDERS NOMINATIONS – a reminder!

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 26**th **November**. Forms are in the main vestibule, along with booklet on Eldership.



ADVANCE NOTICE - 3rd December

Our **festival service** is bringing together Messy Church, Parade & 'well-established church', so for EVERYONE! Come & have lots of fun celebrating the Advent season.

Rosemary

LET'S CELEBRATE DAVID'S THREE YEARS!



The first Sunday 26th November, will be close to marking three years of David's ministry among us at Emmanuel and Elmers End. That service will be a special one featuring St Andrew – do try to be there.

Let's celebrate and express our thanks and appreciation for all that David has brought to us. One aspect I would like to single out:

... the way in which he has called our attention to the wonder of the natural world. Behind his preaching has been a high level of expertise – do we all realise how significant and unusual that has been, if only because of the urgency of humankind's dilemma over global warming?

He has brought us butterflies and bugs, flowers, plants and trees of many kinds, birds and beasts, islands and seascapes, seasons and landscapes. Sometimes I have said to myself that these are David's personal interests, his hobbies – and that is a train of thought that you may have had also, which could diminish the significance of his way of revealing for us what is no less than the nature of God.

What am I getting at? Bear with me as I explain. You may recall my emphasis on the Trinity, not as an ancient theory, but as a key aspect of our understanding of the faith, each of the same status as the other:

- 1. the mind-bendingly amazing 'activity' of God as Creator
- 2. the very special significance of Jesus as Saviour and Lord, and
- 3. the Spirit's power, shown in loud and quiet, huge and small ways... In many a Christian church, the *proportion* of the preaching is:
 - 1. Creation 5%, mainly at Harvest Festival;
 - 2. Jesus 90%, especially at Christmas, Good Friday and Easter with plenty of healing and preaching stories, spread around the year;
 - 3. Holy Spirit 5%, mainly at Pentecost Whit Sunday, if you prefer.

Of course that's guesswork, because all three aspects of God get referred to in various ways throughout the year. But (I hope!) you get my main point: that usually Creation gets little attention.

Well, not in our church, because David has made a constant effort to redress the balance. The created world is EVERYTHING from furthest galaxies billions of light-years away to the tiniest particle only visible with powerful electronic

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instruments. We need to talk about it and show our appreciation of it. What we mean when we say 'Creator' has to be *in some sense bigger* than that: all-comprehending of the whole of what we call 'the natural world' or 'the universe'. Everything comes 'within' that notion of Creator God.

When we sing hymns with lines like 'he made their tiny wings' or 'hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees', we do not think as naively as those words suggest, but in our minds we recast the simple wording to include the wonder of creation in all its greatness.

That is what David is enabling us to do: to take in all the immensity of the created world, with its unimaginable intricacy: the way it works (or at least the principles behind it), its evolving structures, its integrity of being in itself and its purposefulness for the greater good of humanity, not forgetting its awesome quality and sheer beauty. Do think on and find further and better ways of saying what we mean when we say that 'this is *God's* wonderful world'.

So we may say to David that, without diverging from the centrality of Christ and the power of the Spirit, he has presented to us the sheer wonder of God's created world. Join me in thanking him for enlarging our thinking and for bringing back to mind the prime importance of the First 'Person' of the Trinity, without Whom, without Which, none of us would exist.

Bryn

News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community

"November is a month for remembering, beginning as bonfire night approaches, Remember, remember!
The fifth of November,
The Gunpowder treason and plot;
I know of no reason
Why the Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!

And a week later, we pause as individuals, a faith community and a nation in our annual act of remembrance of those who have served and those who have fallen in conflicts, and pray for the peace for which they served.

And the US journalist, Peggy Toney Horton, wrote a November sooth for us all:

"Whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul, I shall recall the memory of warm, sunny, late summer afternoons like this one, and be comforted greatly." In this month of remembering, please remember in your prayers those experiencing some of life's joys and sorrows, heartaches and hopes, including:

Baptism



It was a joy to welcome Taylan Tiandre together with his family on Sunday 1st October for Baptism. The day was shortly after Taylan's first birthday, so his family and friends gathered for a double celebration. Pictured is Taylan with his parents, Narica and Andrew.

Following his baptism the congregation sang the Aaronic Blessing:

The Lord bless you and keep you:
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you:
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
(from The Book of Numbers Chapter 6 verses 24-26)

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Bereavements

We are sad to report the death of three of Emmanuel's fellowship.

Gill Simmons, died suddenly on Sunday 24th September. She will be remembered by a number in Emmanuel, when together with her late parents, Derek and Shirley Simmons, she played an active role in our church life. Her funeral is being held on Tuesday 31st October at Beckenham Crematorium followed by a service of thanksgiving at Christchurch, Anerley at 3pm.

Audrey Grief died on Thursday 28th September in the care home where she lived following a gradual decline in her health. Her sons, David and Philip, arranged a private service at Beckenham Crematorium. At this time we remember her stepdaughter, Catherine in Australia, together with David, Philip and their families. Emmanuel Life includes an 'In Memory' tribute to Audrey.

Helen Matthews, Carol's daughter, passed away unexpectedly on 18th October. Sharing their grief, we extend our heartfelt love and sympathy to Carol, to Carol's daughter Diane and her husband David, to her son John-Paul, now living in Norway, and to David's mother Eileen, a regular member of our Emmanuel Fellowship.

A Prayer

Shepherding, welcoming God, for treasured memories of loved ones, we 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:

- Anne Andersen
- Chris Cutler
- · Marjorie George
- Christine Jackson

Marty Jones, together with her daughter, Alison Lessiter. Marty has now come home from hospital. Anne was transferred from the PRUH to Orpington Hospital, and then to Foxbury Ward in Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, where her rehabilitation is coming on well.

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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 Bryn or an elder know, or David from 5th November.

Bryn & 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)

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- Photos on page 21 courtesy of Katrin Hauf and Dugba Cauley-Hushie on unsplash
- Photo (Goat in Mudzi District) on page 22 by Kevin Snyman

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

It's November!! Well, there's a surprise: it comes along every year around this time. The clocks have gone back, and it's time to look at our November programme.

- 7th Pastime Historical Dance is a group of skilled enthusiasts who perform dances in period costumes. They are colourful, authentic and elegant. Come along, and get caught up in a moment of time.
- 14th John Halligan will return to the Fellowship after a long absence, with a royal theme: 'The Life and Times of King Edward VII'. Well, for those of us who weren't around in his lifetime, which includes us all, there might be quite a lot to learn about this British monarch.
- 21st Can you remember what it's like to be a child, or are you forever young-at-heart? Sue Thomas feels we all need a reminder of the wonder and magic of being young. 'Recalling the Child's Perspective' will be an afternoon of poems, prose, songs and nostalgia.
- 28th With **St Andrew's Day** just round the corner, **Jim Moffat**, a musician of many talents, will bring a Scottish flavour to our afternoon, with his experience of **'A Musical Journey Through Lockdown'**.

We look forward to seeing you at **Emmanuel**, in the **Richmond Hall**, **Tuesdays** at **2.15pm**. Where else can you enjoy tea and biscuits, entertainment and great company for only £3?

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee

From the Treasurer

Dear Members and Friends,

Freewill Offering and Gift Aid

May I thank each of you who continue to give faithfully and regularly to our church through our Freewill Offering scheme and through other voluntary giving.

Most people are no longer using an FWO weekly envelope, but the individual **FWO Number** is still important where a **Gift Aid Declaration** has been signed.

The Gift Aid Declaration enables the church to reclaim an additional **25% Income Tax** recovery on the amount given by those who are tax payers, and this can apply to any other giving to charity through our church – Christian Aid, Commitment for Life are examples of this.

From time to time all of us make other voluntary gifts to our church – extra money in the collection plate, charity appeals, Sunday coffee donations, and these gifts allow us to recover up to £2,000 of Income Tax each year, whether we are tax payers or not.

In our financial year which ended on 30th September 2023 we received an Income Tax repayment of £13,935 to add to our annual church and charity income.

Our income from Freewill Offerings in the Financial Year came to £46,459 which is an increase on last year's total of £44,975, and above our forecast of £45,000.

Looking at the year ahead we anticipate significant increases in costs. Our Ministry and Mission contribution for 2024 has increased by £5,016 to £55,116 and the cost of heating and lighting will be considerably higher under our latest supply agreements.

Thank you for all your financial support to our church in the past year. Please continue that support and let's see if we can improve on last year's total in the year ahead.

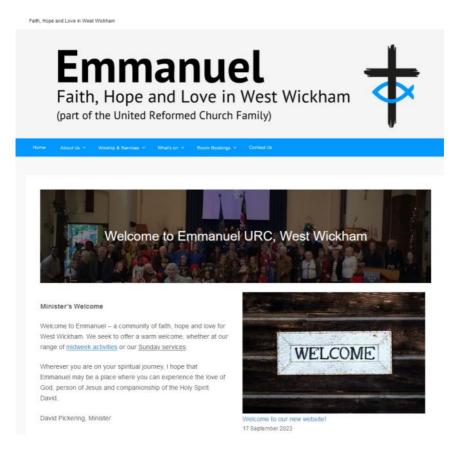
Ian Scott Church Treasurer e-mail "ianscott74@btinternet.com"

www.emmanuelww.org.uk - our new home online

Over the past couple of years the Communications habitat group (David, Marion Moore, Flora Kumi and Doug Carr) have looked at the way the church communicates with people both near and far, who are part of the Emmanuel community or might be searching for us.

Previously we've launched an information leaflet (you have probably seen these in the vestibule and the leaflet dispenser on one of the benches outside) and a new Facebook page. We also reviewed our website and decided that a lot of the content needed updating, and it would be helpful to have more support available to us. So Elders agreed to have a new site designed for us by ichurch, which is run by the URC specifically to design and support church websites.

Here's what the new home page looks like:



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If you are online, do have a browse around the site. I'd love to have your feedback.

Church email addresses are also being replaced. Mostly these are just replacing the second half of the address so minister@godwithus.org.uk becomes minister@emmanuelww.org.uk, for example. They are not all quite the same but don't worry, all the old email addresses still exist and will forward to the new ones for at least the next few months.

The old website still exists but will just direct people to the new site. If you come across references to the old site – on leaflets, notices, letters etc. which you think should be changed please let me know – there are bound to be some I have missed!

We hope this is another way in which we can be a welcoming presence in our community, with a clean and fresh look while having more technical support available for myself and anyone else who helps maintain the site.

Marion Moore

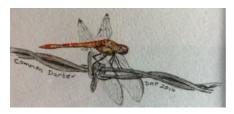
Nature ramblings - Summer's last hurrah!

As I write at the beginning of the second week in October, whilst the days are shortening, Summer is enjoying a last hurrah.



And so I couldn't resist the treat of an afternoon amble to my favourite local pond, set at the foot of Spring Park Woods by Addington Bottom. I wandered there through the Spring and Summer seasons and was rewarded by a succession of dragonflies, so wondered, if I'd yet see a last dragonfly this season.

I was not disappointed. The pond was abuzz, a hornet supping at the water's edge, bees collecting some late-flowering nectar and the delight of dragonflies on the wing. Late season, the Common Darter is the most likely dragonfly to be seen, and I was treated to several, including a sight, the nature of which was worthy of a David Attenborough wildlife documentary. Pairs of darters, the male resplendent in their dusky, rusty red hues and the female, how can I say this, somewhat drabber, mating mid-flight. I once heard a child say to their mother, "look, Mummy, they're holding hands!" And from mid-flight mating, whilst still 'in tandem' the female, in a thrashing operation, dipped her abdomen into the water, laying her eggs, ovipositing!



I spotted two pairs of mating darters and a single male, who clearly felt left out. He repeatedly tried to muscle in on one of the females, mid-copulating flight. But the 'successful' male protected his interests, for by remaining in tandem', the marauder couldn't get

a look in! Their vigour precluded a photo, so I illustrate with a watercolour.

In the Book of Ecclesiastes it is written, 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under the heaven: time to be born, and a time to die'.

I returned home reflecting that in the 'laying down' of the eggs, I saw one season's last hurrah begetting another season's new life. One of nature's 'Easter' stories.

Isn't creation wonderful!

In Memory of Audrey Grief



The passing of Audrey brought to the end an association with Emmanuel spanning the best part of 75 years, which is most of the time that our church has existed on its present site!

Audrey attended Emmanuel for a number of years before she married Harold Grief, a widower in 1951. Harold had a two year old daughter Catherine, and in time the family grew through the birth of their sons, David in 1953 and Philip in 1956.

Audrey formally joined Emmanuel in November 1959 and continued as a regular worshipper at Emmanuel, and became involved in a number of church groups, including the Over Twenties, The Young Wives, (later to become The Guild, then the Ladies Fellowship and more recently Emmanuel Fellowship) the Choir and the Badminton Club.

Audrey and Harold lived for most of their married life on Woodland Way, West Wickham. They later moved to Biggin Hill, and shortly after Harold died in 1990, Audrey moved back to West Wickham, to live in a bungalow within Bencurtis Park, on Corkscrew Hill. This was to become her home for over 30 more years. She made many friends and enjoyed life in the supportive community, and continued her role within Emmanuel.

As the years turned Audrey has needed more care and support, initially provided within her bungalow, but when her health made independent living impossible, she moved to full time residential care, at Cranmer Court on Farleigh Common. It was there that she died on 28th September 2023, at the age of 95.

Catherine Jones

(Audrey's step-daughter, Melbourne, Australia).

Personal Thanks & Announcements

The Vine

t Harvest Festival you generously gave a huge amount of food and other essential items and this is in addition to your weekly donations to the food hamper in The Vestibule.

Major Emma Spencer was very pleased to receive the gifts in support of their work in New Addington.

Dear friends

Thank you so much for once again remembering The Vine foodbank and choosing us to receive your Harvest donations. We are so very grateful to you for your continued support. Without you and others like you we wouldn't be able to help those in our community who are struggling. It's a wonderful team effort and shows what an incredible difference we can make in this world when we partner together.

The food that we have received from the Harvest donations this year will go into the food parcels that we give out weekly but some items will go into our Christmas hampers.

We feel truly blessed to have received from you once again. Thank you so much.

Emma Spencer

On behalf of The Salvation Army New Addington (The Vine Foodbank)

big thank you to everyone who supported our recent MACMILLAN Coffee Morning.

So many people contributed in many different ways, from making cakes to buying,

Continued on next page

eating or selling them.

We had a great support team in the kitchen, serving teas and coffees, washing up etc., and we had a constant flow of people all morning with a large amount of cake being consumed and many generous donations being given

Our joint efforts raised, with Gift Aid included, £501, a great amount which has been sent to Macmillan Cancer Support

Thank you,

Pat Best and Janet Pickering

"Hello How Are You"?

e would like to recruit more volunteer pastoral assistants to help the Eldership with a once monthly telephone call to 3 or 4 designated members of our flock,



and then report back to the relevant elder on pastoral news.

A DBS check is required as per our Safeguarding policy and full help will be given to complete the process.

For further details please phone Sue Beynon.

Community Police Contact Sessions

he 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 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



Improved livestock production, managing and marketing

In the Mudzi District of Zimbabwe, our Commitment for Life partners work to support improved livestock production, managing and marketing.

Livestock such as cattle, goats, chickens, ducks and guinea fowl are incredibly valuable resources for communal farmers. Yet these resources suffer the impacts of climate change most acutely. Thanks to the education, training, and support that you enable through your support, local farmers are taught risk reduction techniques and financial literacy.

"Our training covered goat production and management aspects such as improved housing, nutrition, and disease management.

"We are grateful for the improved knowledge," says communal farmer, Mr Never Kafura.

Thank you to all who contributed to Commitment for Life at Harvest, where we raised £2,785.

Pat Best



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 *
- Toilet roll*
- Rice Pudding* (or any other item we can give as a pudding)
- Biscuits
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Soups
- Tea
- Rice
- Carrier bags (branded or unbranded—as long as it can hold a fair amount of items) (Priority items are marked with an * as they are currently being bought in.)

Items being put aside for Christmas are:

- Boxes of Chocolates (with a sell by date of 2024)
- · Sachets of custard
- Cheese twists
- Pringles (or Supermarket alternative)
- Jam

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 10: November 2023

Library of Things

This month's tip follows on from Ian Moore's excellent Eco Hints last month, encouraging you to repair items where possible. That makes good economic sense, as well as environmental sense. The Library of Things operates with the those aims in mind.

Have you heard of the Library of Things? Well, I hadn't heard of it until recently. It's a really brilliant way to do cleaning, maintenance and repair projects at home, without the expense of buying the necessary equipment. And, of course, you don't need to find space to store the equipment.

Ok, so you might be at the stage in life when you are no longer willing or able to do maintenance or repair jobs yourself, and no family member steps up to do the work. BUT WAIT, you can borrow a variety of items, such as a projector, a dehumidifier, a waffle maker, or even an inflatable mattress. If you choose the latter and welcome a family member to stay, they may decide they can help you tackle some of those little DIY tasks!

Here's how the Library of Things works:

Visit the website, browse, and request an item. Pick the item up from your local self-service kiosk and return it there after use. You can even 'join a skillshare session to learn practical skills like DIY and repair'. https://www.libraryofthings.co.uk/how-borrowing-works

Guess what? There's a Library of Things right on your doorstep in Bromley. Just look online at: https://www.libraryofthings.co.uk

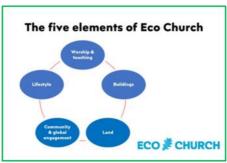
Prices start from £1 per day, depending on the type of item you wish to borrow. With the following categories available, what's holding you back?

- Cleaning
- DIY
- Hobbying
- Gardening
- Adventuring
- Cooking & Hosting

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 is one more meeting 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

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 <u>Sunday 26th November</u>.

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 — <u>called to be an elder.pdf(urc.org.uk)</u>

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

Emmanuel

Faith, Hope and Love in West Wickham

part of the United Reformed Church Family



An Exciting Opportunity

to develop a new role as a

Children and Family Worker



Hours: 18 hours per week: Flexible working

Salary: £15,000-£17,500 depending on experience

(£30,000-£35,000 36 hours Full Time equivalent)

Location: West Wickham, Bromley, Kent

- Emmanuel is seeking a warm hearted, fun, self-motivated person who is
 passionate about working with children and their families, as a key part of
 our plans to develop our church's ministry.
- Emmanuel strives to be an open, inclusive and welcoming community.
- Emmanuel has a strong tradition of children and youth work, now comprising Messy Church which attracts a growing number of families, all the Scouting and Guiding groups and a weekly parent/carer Toddler Group.
- We aim to develop a vibrant presence, integrated in the heart of the community, offering a range of activities for all ages Monday – Sunday.

To find out more and for an application form, please contact:

Sara Stocker: messychurch@emmanuelww.org.uk or please send a stamped addresses envelope to: Sara Stocker, Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham BR4 9JS

Closing Date: 12 noon on 29th November 2023.

VOLUNTEERING AT THE MEMORY BOX CAFE

I have been volunteering at the Memory Box Cafe since November 2021.

The Cafe opens on the first and third Friday of the month from 2pm till 3.30pm.

It has been run by Ravenswood (West Wickham) Women's Institute (WI) at Emmanuel Church, West Wickham for just over 7 years. It provides a place for those with dementia and their carers to go for an enjoyable afternoon. Tea, coffee and biscuits (and cakes on special occasions) as well as entertainment in the way of quizzes, music, singing and dancing are provided free of charge.

When the members arrive, they register and receive a lanyard with their first name on it so everybody knows who they are. On the tables where they sit, they will find wordsearches, quizzes and pictures for colouring as well as pens and coloured pencils.

The volunteers sit at one of the tables, go and collect tea or coffee for the guests and chat with them and help with any puzzles where help is needed. Also, volunteers help set up the Cafe and clear up at the end of the afternoon.

Additionally, it gives the carers an opportunity to meet other carers and we always finish the afternoon by singing 'Bring me sunshine' from the Morecambe & Wise shows. They all love singing.

Jonathan Baxter

Foster for Bromley



Can you help change a child's life?





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
- · Fulltraining and support given



MORE DETAILS HTTPS://BIT.LY/VCS



OR EMAIL 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

Spring Park Film Makers

springparkfilms.org.uk



Richmond Hall
Emmanuel Church
The Grove
West Wickham
BR4 9JS

Thursday
9th November
8.00pm
doors open 7.30pm



Tickets £5 (cash only)
Refreshments during interval







Tickets: £15 on the door available from 6:30 pm. £1 for under 25s.

For more information please visit www.bromleyphil.org.uk Affiliated to Making Music and Bromley Arts Council Registered Charity No. 1026359





As you know Emmanuel has not taken part in Top of the Pew, but some local churches have and the final is coming up, at Christ Church URC, Petts Wood.

Grand Final

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17 8.00 p.m.

at CHRIST CHURCH URC, PETTS WOOD

Tudor Way, Petts Wood BR5 1LH

St. Barnabas V St. Augustine's

ENTRANCE £1 at door

IN AID OF

EVERYBREATH

(The Lung Cancer Charity)

Pat Best

FUNDRAISING CONCERT FOR MEMORY BOX CAFÉ

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2023 @ 7.30 pm

At Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham, BR4 9JS

Featuring Croydon Male Voice Choir & violinist Lizz Lipscombe

Ticket price £10



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

SUPPORT YOUR OTHERS NEW ADDINGTON SALVATION ARMY THIS CHRISTMAS



Across the globe, The Salvation Army supports people in times of crisis throughout the year, and especially at Christmastime.

This is made possible by the generosity of people in communities around the world.

This year, we anticipate that there will be many people who will need our help,

With your help, The Salvation Army in New Addington will ensure that gifts are provided to those who need them most.

HOW YOU CAN HELP... WE



Please bring gifts on any Friday till Friday 1st December, or on Sunday 3rd December as part of the Parade service.

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 ONW



West Wickham Singers

present a programme of Christmas Music and Carols

Coffee and cake served afterwards.



Saturday December 9th at 11.00am **Emmanuel Church**

> The Grove West Wickham, BR4 9JS Entrance fee £5















Soprano

Eleanor Pennell-Briggs

Baritone

Giles Davies

Allegri Singers

Conductor

Stephen Anthony Brown

Organist

Andrew MacMillan

Benjamin Britten

ABOY was Born

Vaughan Williams
Fantasia on Christmas Carols

Finzi In Terra Pax

7.45pm Saturday 9th December 2023

St Francis of Assisi, Ravenswood Ave, West Wickham BR4 0PW

Book at allegrisingers.org.uk Adults £15, u18s £5



Registered Charity 28727



=YOUTH ASSEMBLY=

26 to 28 January 2024 Whitemoor Lakes, Alrewas, Staffs



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)

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

#URCYA24 @ 7 9 urcyouth

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

















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



*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 Fridays at Emmanuel Church

will continue into the autumn with a 'lite bite' lunch

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					

<u>Notices</u>

BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES

5th November @ 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

Requiems

In Memory of Pamela Morgan performed by Bromley Philharmonic Choir

Sunday 12th November at 7:00pm

At Emmanuel Church, WW

Details on page 33

Explore Your Call

Via Zoom

Wednesday 22nd November 7:00pm to 8:30pm

Details on page 36

Spring Park Film Makers

Thursday 9th November
At 7:30pm

In the Richmond Hall

Details on page 32



Grand Final

Friday 17th November at 8:00pm

CHRIST CHURCH URC, PETTS WOOD

Details on page 34

Fundraising Concert for Memory Box Café

SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER Time: 7.30 pm At Emmanuel Church, WW

Ticket price £10

Details on page 35

Community Police Contact Session

Friday 24th November

As part of 'Warm Welcome'

Details on page 21

Notices continued

Election of Elders

Closing date
Sunday 26th November

Details on page 26

Children and Family worker

Sunday 29th November

Closing date for enquiries and application

Details on page 27

Emmanuel Fellowship

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

Details on page 14

Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 9:30am

Details on page 46

Emmanuel Art Group

Thursdays 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Details on page 46

Growing Together Community Garden

Thursdays 10:00am to 1:00pm

St. Francis of Assisi

Details on page 42

Warm Welcome

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

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

Details on page 45

Mini Athletics

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

In the Richmond Hall

Details on page 43



Church Diary for November

Friday	3rd	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 45)
Sunday	5th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	7th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Pastime Historical Dance In the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)
Thursday	9th	7.30pm	Spring Park Film Makers annual film show In the Richmond Hall (details on page 32)
Friday	10th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 45)
Rememb rance Sunday	12th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
		7.00pm	Requiems in Memory of Pamela Morgan performed by Bromley Philharmonic Choir (details on page 33)
Tuesday	14th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; John Halligan: 'The Life and Times of King Edward VII' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)
Friday	17th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 41)
Saturday	18th	7.30pm	Fundraising Concert for Memory Box Café (details on page 35)
Sunday	19th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Accredited Lay Preacher Marion Moore
Tuesday	21st	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Sue Thomas: 'Recalling the Child's Perspective' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)
Friday	24th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 45)



Church Diary for Novembercontinued

Saturday	25th	Last day for Emmanuel Life items		
Sunday	26th	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering	
Tuesday	28th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship 'gathering'; Jim Moffat: 'A Musical Journey Through Lockdown' In the Richmond Hall (details on page 14)	
Wednesday	29th	Last day for enquiries and application for Children and Family Worker (details on page 23)		

Church Diary for the start of December					
Friday	1st	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome, incorporates Drop-In coffee mornings (details on page 45)		
Sunday	3rd	10.00am	Messy Church		
		11.00am	Combined Christmas Festival and Parade Service (please remember to bring donations for the Salvation Army (details on page 33)) Led by Revd David Pickering and Pat Best		



Sponge Kitchens

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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.

Beckenham 106 Wickham Road 473 Bromley Road 38 Station Approach http://spongekitchens.co.uk Beckenham

Kent, BR3 60H

Downham Downham Kent, BR1 4PQ

Check out the website for more details on bespoke Haves

cakes and all of our other ranges.

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