

Emmanuel Life

Emmanuel
God With Us



January 2024

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 next 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	Ian 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 31



January 2024 Services

7 th	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
14 th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Bryn Thomas
21 st (see below)	10.30am	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Hazel O'Sullivan
28 th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
		Followed shortly by the Annual General Church Meeting (details on page 10)

February 2024

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

21st January: Pulpit Swap – We welcome Revd Hazel O'Sullivan, who is the Vicar of St. Mary's and St Frances' Churches of England in West Wickham.

There are three things that last for ever: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians Chapter 13 verse 13)

Minister's Letter

Mark his words...

Dear Friends,

Whilst many in the world begin their New Year on 1st January, the Church starts around a month earlier on the first Sunday in Advent. The worshipping year then moves to Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost, the longest season which takes us round to the next Advent.

During each season we typically follow a series of themed readings known as the 'lectionary' which over a three-year cycle ensures that we cover a range of readings and subjects – and not just this minister's favourites – I promise! Each of the three years has a lead 'gospel'. As we will be focusing on Mark's Gospel through 2024, I thought that I'd offer a few words to introduce the book.

Mark is widely thought to be the first gospel in two senses. His gospel was the first to be compiled and written, probably around 70 AD, ahead of Matthew's and Luke's gospels (80-90 AD) and the John's gospel (c. 100 AD??). Secondly, Mark's Gospel is the very first 'gospel' as a literary genre.

The word 'gospel' is often translated as 'good news', but familiarity with the word gospel may mean we miss the real 'zing' of its meaning which is a cry of great joy. So what is distinctive about the genre of writing called gospel? It isn't meant as a straight historical account but guides the reader through a series of stories and events which give an insight into not just what Jesus did, but critically, his nature. A gospel might be understood as somewhere between a sermon and a sacrament such that in listening in reading or listening to it being read, we may be drawn to meeting Jesus and experiencing him as near as is possible to the experience of the first disciples.

This introduces one of the features of Mark's gospel – discipleship. Mark portrays discipleship as challenging and sometimes very hard, and records how the disciples often misunderstood Jesus' message and sometimes had hearts hardened against it.

Continued on next page

That might ring true to us in our open self-critical reflections. For Mark relates that following Jesus is an all or nothing experience – not much room for those who just want to dip their toes in or be a part-time disciple. If that doesn't put you off, Mark contends that no other decision in life is either more necessary or brings more meaning.

So who is Mark and for whom does he write? There are no certain answers. One insight I read suggested Mark wrote as a minister of one or more likely several congregations, who sought to convey what being a follower of Jesus means against the joys and struggles of 1st century life. There is also an ancient tradition that Mark was a close associate of Jesus' disciple, Peter, and so gained his first-hand accounts of the ministry of Jesus from him. Whichever is right and it might be that both are, Mark wrote around 70AD at a time when many of the first witnesses to Jesus were dying out, so he may have been inspired to set out his gospel to hand on the stories to a new generation before they were lost.

Mark's gospel is the shortest of the gospels, and can be read at a single sitting. That said, one read is seldom enough, for Mark uses a range of literary techniques including irony, allusion, terseness and juxtaposition to make his points, but the following overview of the gospel's structure may help you get started:

Mark 1. 1-15	Beginning
Mark 1. 16 – 8.26	In and around Galilee
Mark 8.22 – 10.52	Travelling from Galilee to Jerusalem
Mark 11.1 – 15.47	Jerusalem
Mark 16. 1-8	Ending

Looking forward to February, I plan to offer a weekly Bible study introducing Mark's Gospel as we journey through Lent. This can be online via Zoom as in past years or in person. Please do mention to me if you have an interest in joining in.

I look forward to exploring Mark's gospel with you as we travel in faith in the footsteps of Jesus through the coming year, and may your New Year journey be rich with what is truly important in life and fulfilling in heart.

Yours in Christ,

David

2024 Bible Verse

One of the best known of passages written by the Apostle Paul is his hymn-like prose in praise of love, which we may read in the 13th chapter of his first letter to the Christian community in Corinth. This most moving of passages has been read at significant occasions, both in people's personal lives and in our national life.

The concluding verse is one which rests in many hearts:

There are three things that last for ever: faith, hope, and love; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 verse 13.

The United Reformed Church chose this verse to speak of our first 50 years as a denomination:



Faith – Hope – Love – Since 1972

May this verse rest in our hearts through 2024, affirming, encouraging and inspiring our personal Christian journey, and our community life together as Emmanuel.



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Will be meeting on **7th January at 10 o'clock**

The theme this term is '**Journeying**'

You are all welcome to join us for a cuppa before 11am sanctuary service .

VISITING WORSHIP LEADERS



We welcome -

Revd Bryn Thomas on 14th January

Revd Hazel O'Sullivan on 21st January

This is a pulpit swap for the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP



Starts the spring term on **Tuesday 9th January.**

For more details see page 11

CHURCH MEETING—AGM



Please grab a coffee (or tea) for our **Church Meeting AGM** which will take place after the **10.30** morning service on **28th January.** Details on page 10.

OUR CHARITIES in 2024



Please remember these charities -

Local – '**Bromley Parish Church Homeless Starter Pack Scheme**'

Overseas– '**The Ideas Partnership**'

Please ask if you would like more information.

Rosemary



News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community

G K Chesterton wrote, "The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul." January can be a time to remember others, and in doing so, nurture our own soul. So, in your prayers, please remember:

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 Anderson
- Marjorie George
- Marty Jones
- John Mackintosh
- Stuart MacIntyre. Stuart had a blue light trip to the PRUH a few days before Christmas, received excellent treatment in Intensive Care for a severe chest infection, and was transferred to a ward on 27th. Glad to say that he is back at home now.
- Lynda Stock

God's Blessing

The Weekend of Friday 26th – Sunday 28th January sees the annual URC Youth Assembly, including the Induction of their new Youth Assembly Moderator, our own Heather Moore.

Please remember Heather in prayer as she sets out on this new for her role and high profile and significant ministry in the life of the URC. Naturally, her family will be joining and supporting Heather on the occasion of her induction to her calling in faith to serve.

Welcome

We'll be offering a BIG Emmanuel Welcome to Julie Cook, who has been appointed as our half-time Children and Family Worker, who will take up the post towards the end of January. Julie has roots from her childhood in Emmanuel and is very much looking forward to beginning her ministry among us. Please remember Julie in this time of preparation for the role.

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Youth Worker

As Emmanuel seeks a half-time Youth Worker to serve alongside our newly appointed Children and Family Worker, please pray for the selection process, that we may be led to appoint the right person, and that you may bless the selection panel with wisdom, insight and discernment.

West Wickham Methodist Church

Please remember our friends at West Wickham Methodist Church as they prepare for and hold their final service giving thanks for the worship, life and witness of their church. Please also remember the members as they seek a new spiritual home. It may be that we are blessed with some joining our number, so do look out for any new faces joining our worship in times to come, as we seek to offer a warm welcome and new spiritual home for each person who is searching. Please remember their minister, Deacon Laura Macbean, at this time, who is guiding and supporting the church spiritually alongside overseeing and undertaking many of the tasks that accompany the closure of a church.

Guiding Awards!

At our December Messy/Parade Church Service, Elena (in front of Christmas tree) was presented with her Brownie Silver Award by Emmanuel's Brownie Leader Carole Douglas after which Carole, who is also West Wickham District



Commissioner was presented with the twin awards of Good Service and Girlguiding Hero for all that she offers Girlguiding both at Emmanuel and across the West Wickham District. Carole, pictured right was presented with the Awards by our Guide Leader, Jo McGee, pictured left.



Thanks

On behalf of Jan and myself to say a very grateful thanks for all the touching cards and expressions of sympathy following the death of my Dad, Roger, and for the lovely reflections from those who had joined the service celebrating his life via the live stream. It touched us deeply. And I am very grateful for each of those who so willingly offered and undertook cover for my usual role, giving me space to visit Dad and prepare for his service, and for everyone's understanding that I wasn't offering 100% of my time to Emmanuel and Elmers End Churches in this time. Thank you,

Continued on next page

too, to everyone for understanding that some of my usual ministry roles slipped by the wayside during this period.

Thanks, too, for the many kind enquiries after our daughter, Rachel and expressions of congratulations of joy following the birth of Isabella Robin, a daughter to Rachel and Charlie and little sister to Rupert.

Jan and I felt touched by the tidings of comfort and joy, with the service saying farewell to my father and Isabella's birth being in the same week, a little ahead of Christmas.

Please let David or an Elder know of anyone known to you who has a special anniversary, birthday or news, or who would value the prayerful support of the church.

Bryn & David

ANNUAL GENERAL CHURCH MEETING

Dear Friends,

Emmanuel's Annual General Church Meeting is being held after the morning service on Sunday 28th January.

The whole morning will be themed around our meeting, with our service having an element of 'looking back' at our church life over the last year, and 'looking forward', asking where God may be calling us through 2024 and beyond.

As such, our gathering is not just a matter of reports and decisions, important though those are, but also critically of discernment, seeking God's guidance for our journey forward.

I warmly invite and encourage as many members as possible, together, of course, with friends of Emmanuel, to attend this most important meeting in our church's annual life. It may help to know that the morning service will be a little shorter than usual enabling us to move to our AGM and still be home for Sunday lunch!

I look forward to seeing as many as can possibly attend, as we go forward in faith.

David

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

A very happy New Year to you all. I hope you have had a blessed Christmas. We have certainly been blessed at Emmanuel Church, with lovely services and carol singing throughout December, celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We look forward to seeing you all again at our first meeting of 2024 in January.

Here is the line-up for the month:

9th - 'New Year, New Beginnings' with Sue Thomas. Do you make New Year resolutions? Does the New Year feel hopeful, or a let-down after the build-up to Christmas? Let's start the year together with good cheer.

16th - 'Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show' with Colin Jones. Colin has first-hand knowledge of the goings-on before the public arrive.

23rd - 'The London Coliseum' (The house that Stoll built) with Ian Bevan, who has a vast knowledge of the history of London.

30th - Franz Hepburn, the remarkable baritone, will entertain us with his own kind of magic.

There's probably something for everyone in that mix, so come and join us if you can.

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee

Nature ramblings – Sexton Beetle

An aspect of my role that has run as a thread through my 30 plus years of service has been the ministry of bereavement. This has variously involved accompanying or people preparing for their own death or guiding them in planning their funeral, helping families shape a service after the death of a loved one, and working with undertakers, who have the role to both put arrangements in place and provide a valued service.

Wind back a 100 or so years and instead of professional undertakers a similar service may have been provided by a combination of a family member or neighbour to lay the person's body out, a carpenter to provide a coffin and a sexton to make many of the church-based arrangements, including digging the grave. It is the ancient role of the sexton that led to the naming of a group of beetles which characteristically seek out bodies, with their service typically offered to small mammals and birds.

Nowadays an undertaker typically hears about a bereavement via a phone call. By contrast, the sexton beetle has antennae with receptors that can detect a corpse many 100s of metres away, and distance depending, can amble along or fly to the body.



On arrival, a male and female sexton beetle will pair up at the scene, mate and bury the body by digging a shallow grave. Eggs are then laid either side of the corpse, so providing a ready food source once the eggs hatch.

As with human undertakers, there is competition, which is resolved in the beetle world by the first arrivals defending the body they claimed. Once the eggs hatch both male and female beetle tend the young, which is atypical of beetles.

Sexton beetles are also attracted by light, so they are sometimes caught in moth traps. When Jan and I stayed with some nature-loving friends in Co. Durham in August we found the sexton beetle shown illustrated in the trap that they had put out overnight.

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Whilst I have worked with undertakers professionally through my ministry, in these last weeks I have for the first time called and engaged an undertaker for a loved one from my own family, and greatly appreciated the service that they offer.

I find it fitting that nature also has appointed undertakers, which play a role in the cycle of life and death in the natural world. Isn't creation wonderful.

David

Photo credits:

- Photo on the front cover courtesy of Vaishakh pillai on unsplash
- Photos on pages 7 courtesy of unsplash
- Photos on page 9 courtesy of Carole Browne and family of Elena
- Photos on page 12 and 15 courtesy of DAP
- Article on page 20 courtesy of A Rocha at arocha.org.uk/wild-christian/

Personal Thanks & Announcements

Salvation Army foodbank

Q

big Thank You to everyone who so generously gave toys and gifts to the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Liz Davies from The Vine Foodbank in New Addington came to our festival Service on 3rd December and told us of the families who would receive the gifts. She was delighted with the donation and expressed gratitude on their behalf.

Pat Best

Minister's email address

U

nfortunately, our minister David has been experiencing difficulties with emails, both sending and receiving them. He is very sorry for the inconvenience that this is causing. Whilst attempts are being made to resolve the issue, it is suggested that people use the following email as their default to contact David minister@emmanuelww.org.uk

Thank you

In Memory – Roger Pickering



Roger who along with his wife Jean joined Emmanuel in 2022, following the closure of the Christ Church URC/Methodist in Ross on Wye, where they belonged, and at a point when they were not easily able to get out and about. They valued continuity of their church membership and joining our services by Zoom.

Roger was born in Hayes Lane, Bromley. His involvement in church stems from his childhood and as a young adult he played a part in Bromley Congregational Church's Young People's Fellowship. It was through the church drama group that he met Jean Appleton, and they were married in July 1957. Jean and Roger were the second couple married in the newly built church (replacing the one destroyed

during the war), following up the aisle in the footsteps of Tony and Janet Kite who were the first couple to wed there, having tied the knot six weeks ahead of them.

Roger went onto serve the church as a Deacon, Church Secretary and Church Treasurer, the latter role he continued to do having joined the local URC following their retirement and move to Ross-on-Wye in 1987.

Roger looked back on his life as being both a long and happy, blessed by much fun and love within his family. Together with Jean they celebrated their silver, ruby, golden, diamond and blue sapphire wedding anniversaries, receiving a congratulatory card from her late majesty, the Queen, for the latter two. He is pictured wearing a diamond patterned tie on their 60th anniversary.

He and Jean had five sons: David, Richard, Andrew, Stephen and Martin, twelve grandchildren and at the time of his death, three great grandchildren, though he knew that a fourth was to arrive imminently. We will miss him dearly, but are thankful for his quiet and typically unassuming ways and consistent love.

David and Jan Pickering



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
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Tea
- Puddings
- Tinned Veg
- Pasta Sauce (ideally tomato)
- Soup
- Toilet Roll

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



An Exciting Opportunity:

to develop a new role as a

Youth 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 young people, 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 addressed envelope to:

Sara Stocker, Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham BR4 9JS

Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 5th January 2024

Diary of a Mod Elect

Friends,

My apologies for missing my usual bimonthly update, but here is my last update for the year!



The last few months have been a lot more about planning than meetings, although we have had a couple. First was Children and Youth Work Committee, a short online meeting to discuss progress since General Assembly, which was very encouraging and allowed us to prepare for February's Assembly Executive. Secondly, there was online Assembly Executive, which was primarily to discuss the budget which was productive.

Throughout this term I have also started meeting monthly with Sam Richards, the head of Children and Youth Work, which has been really useful both preparing for Youth Assembly, and as I think towards my year as Moderator.

We also had our last Youth Executive of the year at the start of December at Whitemoor Lakes, the venue for Youth Assembly. It was great to see everyone again and we had a lot of fun together, especially being able to celebrate Christmas early getting each other presents. We also got a lot of useful planning done for Youth Assembly, including refamiliarizing ourselves with the venue, and planning what rooms we would run each activity in.

Looking ahead to January, I'm sure we will do a lot of last minute planning for Youth Assembly, and that it will all feel quite hectic, but hopefully, the event itself is enjoyable for everyone who attends!

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

In Christ,

Heather Moore

Eco Hints Round 12: January 2024

It's a New Year, so, what better time to try something new? Could you consider a vegetarian diet? Eating less meat is good for your health and for the environment. Ok, so, you may have thought about becoming a vegetarian, or even a vegan, but decided not to because it sounds too weird and too much trouble, but is it really?

How about giving it a go throughout the month of January? You could eat a vegetarian or a vegan meal once or twice a week, and it might become a habit. It does take a bit of thought to create a well-balanced diet if you have a solely vegetarian or vegan diet, but it's worth exploring the tasty options. You may even feel lighter and more energised on your meat-free or meat-and-dairy-free days.

Supermarkets stock a wide variety of meat-free ready meals nowadays, but it's fun to turn your hand to a bit of cooking too. There are some awesome vegetarian recipe books out there and you could try the collection in your local library. Oh, that sounds too old fashioned for some of you: well, there's always the BBC good food website, which has a load of non-meat recipes and sometimes videos to follow. Here's the web address: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes>

Perhaps you already have a favourite vegetarian recipe you'd like to share. Mine is mushroom risotto, but there's not much room to add it to the page this month!! Phone me with your vege recipe which might inspire other cooks and we could feature it in February Emmanuel Life. We must acknowledge the person who devised the recipe too.

Happy cooking and happy eating!!

Sue Thomas

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

Make 'enjoying nature' your priority

From bird watching to writing about or drawing something that inspires you in nature, growing your own fruit or vegetables, or exploring an area of outstanding natural beauty in the UK, be sure to fall in love with nature in a new way this coming year and allow it to lead your thoughts towards God our Creator.

Here are some ideas to help you make 'enjoying nature' more intentional:

- **Bring nature into your home or garden.** Plant a herb or flower as a reminder of our responsibility to steward God's earth. As you tend to this plant, prayerfully ask God how you might nurture nature better at home.
- **Take a wildlife quiz.** From cool questions on the coldest regions to testing for knowledge on the deep blue sea, learn something new about nature alone or with your family with [WWF's](#) selection of fun quizzes. Or could you host an A Rocha UK [Green Quiz](#) event?
- **Spot winter wildlife.** Winter is still a great time to be outdoors and see wildlife. Soak up the seasonal sights on your doorstep or find out what you can see in different parts of the UK [here](#).
- **Walk and Worship.** Go for a walk in nature and note all the signs of the season. Use this time to reflect on the changing season and what we can be thankful for.
- **Write about or draw something that inspires you in nature.** Try this one as a group activity and share your ideas and reflections.
- **Birdwatch.** A great way to begin could be taking part in the [Big Garden Birdwatch](#) this January (27-29).
- **Visit an outstanding area of beauty in the UK.** Many of our [Partners in Action](#) offer beautiful surroundings and even retreat days or weekends. Check out [The National Trust's](#) website for your nearest escape to nature too.
- **Get to your nearest green space more often.** Time spent enjoying God's creation will help set your mind and seek the things that are above. Bring your sketch or note book, your Bible, or whatever helps you connect with our heavenly Father. Or perhaps God is inviting you to just bring yourself (with some extra layers!) and simply sit.
- **Bring a friend along!** Next time you meet up with a friend, why not suggest an extended or brisk wintery walk together (don't forget your reusable coffee cups!)
- **Try out a new delicious meat-free recipe.** [What we eat impacts the earth's resources](#). Get creative in the kitchen and sample some tasty Meat Free Monday recipes [here](#).
- **Grow your own.** What could you grow inside your home, in the garden or even at church? Who can you bless along the way?
- **Plan a Wild Time!** Plan something *completely* wild in nature for later this year. Experience kayaking, wild camping, forest school, forest church... Make it your resolution to *really* enjoy what nature has to offer this year. Break out of your normal routine and join a volunteer work party or take to the water for wild swimming. Whatever you do – do something different and have fun!
- Further ideas can be found at arocha.org.uk/ideas-to-enjoy-nature/

Martin Luther King Day
Monday 15th January 2024



Coney Hill Baptist Church 8pm
Coney Hill Road, BR4 9BU

Pastor, Preacher, Prophet, Politician...

Rev. Ian Hamlin provides a personal reflection on his recent Sabbatical journey, travelling through Atlanta, Boston, Montgomery, Birmingham, Selma & Washington DC, tracing the life of Dr. King, by visiting the places most dear to him.

Refreshments from 7:30pm

All Welcome.

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: ~~£120~~ Cost from 14 Nov: ~~£150~~

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.uk)

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



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 and Get-together

Warm Welcome Fridays at Emmanuel Church

*will continue into spring
with a 'lite bite' lunch*

*10am till 4pm
All welcome*

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

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.





Church Diary for January

Friday	5th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 26)
Sunday	7th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	9th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'New Year, New Beginnings' with Sue Thomas In the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	12th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 26)
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
			Followed by Church meeting (details on page 8)
Tuesday	16th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'Behind the Scenes at the Chelsea Flower Show' with Colin Jones In the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	19th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 26)
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>20th</i>		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd Hazel O'Sullivan
Tuesday	23rd	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'The London Coliseum' (The house that Stoll built) with Ian Bevan In the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Friday	26th	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 26)

Continued on next page



Church Diary for Januarycontinued

Sunday	28th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
			Followed by the Annual General Church Meeting (details on page 10)
Tuesday	30th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; with Franz Hepburn, the remarkable baritone In the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)

Church Diary for the start of February

Friday	2nd	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 26)
Sunday	4th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	6th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship In the Richmond Hall

Notices

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

**7th January
@ 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**

Martin Luther King jr talk

Monday 15th January at 8:00pm

At Coney Hill Baptist Church, WW
Details on page 21

Annual General Church Meeting

Sunday 28th January
(shortly after the church service)
Details on page 10

Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 9:30am
Details on page 37

Emmanuel Fellowship

Tuesdays at 2.15pm
in the Richmond Hall
Everyone welcome

Details on page 11

Emmanuel Art Group

Thursdays
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Details on page 27

Growing Together Community Garden

Thursdays
10:00am to 1:00pm

St. Francis of Assisi
Details on page 23

Warm Welcome

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

Details on page 26

Mini Athletics

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

In the Richmond Hall

Details on page 24

Emmanuel Church Contacts

ACTIVITY	MEETING	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Emmanuel Fellowship	Tues 2:15pm	Sue Thomas	
Baby & Toddler group	Wed 9:30 am	Zoe Favata zoe_04@hotmail.co.uk	
Emmanuel Art Group	Thurs 1.00pm— 4.00pm	Sheila John john.band3@gmail.com	
Rainbows	Fri 5:30pm— 7:00pm	Jess Wright westwickhamrainbows@gmail.com	
Brownies	Fri 5:30pm— 7:00pm	Carole Douglas brownowlcarole@gmail.com	
Guides and Rangers	Wed 6:30pm— 8.00pm	Jo McGee jojmcgee@hotmail.com	
Beavers (6-8 years old)	Thurs 6.00pm— 7.00pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
Cubs (8-10½ years old)	Mon 7.00pm— 8.15pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
Scouts (10½-14 years old)	Tues 7.45pm— 9.00pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
Explorers (14-18 years old)	Tues 7.45pm— 9.30pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
Caretaker		Tony Stephen	
Commitment for Life		Pat Best	
Communion Secretaries		Keith & Rosemary Daniels	
Cradle Roll secretary		Karen Florence	
Fabric Adviser		Ian Moore	
Halls Manager		Katy Macmillan halls@emmanuelww.org.uk	
'Reform' Agent		Gill Childs	
Safeguarding		Gill Chamberlain safeguarding@emmanuelww.org.uk	
WW Churches Together		Pat Best	



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