

Emmanuel Life

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March 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 on the second Sunday of the month where possible.

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		
Children and Family Worker	Julie Cook		child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk
Freewill Offering Secretaries	Sue Carr		
	Ann-Marie Mott		
Emmanuel Life Editor	Flora Kumi		

More contact details can be found on page 39



March 2024 Services

3 rd	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered worship led by Revd David Pickering
10 th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
17 th (see below)	10.45am	Gathered worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas
24 th Palm Sunday	10.30am	Gathered all-age Parade Service led by Revd David Pickering
28 th Maundy Thursday (see below)	7.00pm	Gathered/broadcast Communion Service led by Revd Dr Elaine Colechin, preacher: Revd David Pickering
29 th Good Friday	11.00am	Churches Together in West Wickham Good Friday Devotional Service at St Francis'
31 st Easter Day	10:40am	Easter Hymns on The Green led by Marion Moore – feel welcome to bring some Spring flowers to decorate the Easter Cross
	11.00am	Gathered worship led by Revd David Pickering

April 2024

7 th (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered worship led by Deacon Laura MacBean

Sunday 17th March: Revd Bryn Thomas is a self-supporting URC minister and member of Emmanuel.

Maundy Thursday 28th March: Revd Dr Elaine Colechin is minister of Bromley URC and Greenwich URC/Methodist Church

Sunday 7th April: Deacon Laura MacBean is a leader in the Bromley Methodist circuit.

Minister's Letter

Easter

Dear Friends,

Easter comes at different times... this year on 31st March. I did a little digging...

Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox (21st March), which means that Easter can fall on any one of 35 possible dates from 22nd March to 25th April. That said, neither you or me have, or will, experience Easter as early as 22nd March. The last time was back in [1818](#) when the [Paschal Full Moon](#) fell on Saturday, March 21st (the [equinox](#)) and so the following day, Sunday 22nd March, was Easter Day. The next time Easter is that early is in [2285](#).

Some reading this may recall Easter being on the latest possible date, 25th April, in 1943, and perhaps a number reading this will be spared to celebrate the next time Easter is this late, which is in 2038. I read that someone has calculated that the cycle of Easter dates repeats after exactly 5,700,000 years and that April 19 is the most common date, occurring 220,400 times in that cycle.

Easter comes at different times....

.... And whenever the festival is celebrated, our minds are taken back to the events leading up to the first Easter. For the disciples a rollercoaster week of emotions, the triumphal entry into Jerusalem – their master fêted as a messiah come king. Then daily visits by Jesus to Jerusalem against the background of a whispering campaign by temple officials, which grew louder following the protest that Jesus made in the Temple – overturning both tables and potential profit. That night, the meal together seemed to have an edge, Peter on edge during the foot-washing and Judas on edge through the meal before his sudden exit. The long night, the denials, the guilt, prayer and trauma in the garden, the arrest, with Jesus led away and the disciples fleeing.

Sooner or later they heard the fate of Jesus, that the baying crowd had got their way. After three years of close friendship, high hopes, their world came crashing down. Heartache, guilt and fear, a crushing defeat.

In any normal circumstance the story might have ended there, but it didn't. Something happened, something was experienced, something was witnessed. Something changed their lives and has continued to change the lives of people ever since. The gospels tell us of an empty tomb, discarded grave bandages and a series of appearances of the risen Jesus, who spoke, who could be touched, who appeared in a room through a closed door, who prepared a breakfast of fish, who

Continued on next page

broke bread. It was the human experiences of Jesus that led to stories being told, gospels being written and the recognition of 'Jesus the teacher' as 'Jesus the Lord'.

Easter came at different times.....

.....for Mary Magdalene it was in the morning - an encounter with Jesus in the garden, for two followers heading back to Emmaus it was later that same day, for Thomas it was a whole week later when gathered with the disciples in an Upper Room and for Paul it was an encounter on the road to Damascus. Each experienced something profound that changed their whole understanding – and each shared the news with others.

Easter still comes at different times...

.... the formal celebration, and we do need a special day to celebrate what happened, can be on any one of 35 days- and this year it is 31st March.

Easter still comes at different times...

.... and the reality is that people still experience Easter moments when confounding expectation, new life appears where it seemed to be extinguished.

And having experienced an Easter moment many seek to tell and celebrate with others. Such moments don't necessarily happen on Easter Day, but can happen on any one of 366 days. They can be sudden, unexpected, penny-dropping or a gradual realisation. They can be instinctively known at the time or appreciated retrospectively. They can happen with a congregation in worship or when alone in a garden. They can be in an encounter with someone you took to be a stranger, or in a moment when bread is broken. Between them, the first witnesses to Easter would fit most of those categories. And however such moments come, they can lead people to respond, as with the very first witnesses – the Lord has risen.

May you have a sense of the risen Lord, whether on Easter Day or any of the other 365 days – for it is our conviction that the Lord is Risen! Hallelujah!

David

PS Anyone up for a quiz requiring some research?
Easter has only fallen on my birthday once, when I was 60.
It next falls on my birthday in 2030.
How old will I be at my next birthday?

An Easter Egg for the first correct answer on Easter Day!

PPS Jan – you're not allowed to enter 😊



Bromley Three Faiths Group

For a number of years a Three Faiths Group has been meeting in Bromley, sometimes online, sometimes gathered, to help share insights, understanding and perspectives between Judaism, Islam and Christianity. You can read about their work on their website. If you are reading this online, click: [Bromley 3 Faiths Group](#) If you are reading this in print, please search for Bromley Three Faiths Group.

Their work helps build bridges between those who belong to one of the Abrahamic faiths, and is invaluable in relatively peaceful times, and as you may understand, critical in more testing times, especially right now following the events of 7th October.

I thought you may be interested in a letter which was sent from the Three Faiths Group to MPs across Bromley Borough, which is included on the next page. I chose to personally associate myself with the letter, and forwarded it to our MP, Bob Stewart. I will let you know of any response that I receive from him in the next edition of Emmanuel Life.

Meanwhile, along with churches and those of other faiths, we continue to pray for peace, for Shalom in Gaza and the land we call Holy.

David

Bromley Three Faiths Group
Steering Committee
c/o Rev Andrew McClellan
St John's Vicarage
9 Orchard Road
Bromley
BR1 2PR

To:
Sir Robert Neill MP (Bromley and Chislehurst)
Bob Stewart MP (Beckenham)
Ellie Reeves MP (Lewisham West and Penge)
Gareth Bacon MP (Orpington)
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

19 February 2024

Dear Members of Parliament

We are members of the Bromley Three Faiths Group. For nearly ten years we have facilitated interfaith dialogue and friendship between Jews, Muslims and Christians in the Borough of Bromley. In more recent years, we have had many conversations to understand each other's perspectives on the Israel-Palestine situation. We have focused on what unites us, even when that is the shared experience of grief and fear.

Given the unfolding events, we are writing to you now, together, to request that you use all available resources and political power as our local MPs to bring about the following:

- Full and immediate access for humanitarian aid to all parts of Gaza
- Immediate and permanent bilateral ceasefire (that is, cessation of all hostilities once and for all)
- Release of all hostages
- Protection of Palestinians (and Israeli peace activists) in the West Bank
- Sustained efforts to end the longstanding huge injustices against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank

We all want to see this destructive situation abroad resolved, not only in the interests of a peaceful and stable Middle East, but also to sustain the community bonds we've worked so hard to build in the Borough of Bromley.

With best wishes,

Bromley Three Faiths Group Steering Committee: Sofi Baig, Matthew de Lange,
Andrew McClellan, Amer Saeed, Flora Spiegel, Omar Taha

Also signing: Avais Akhtar, Ismath Hussain, Katie Turner



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church meets on **3rd March 10 – 12 noon**, with the theme of **'Who's a Good Neighbour?'**

Remember, everyone is welcome to pop in for a 'cupper' before the **11am service** in the sanctuary.

LENT BIBLE STUDY via Zoom



Mark's Story

Every Tuesday in March at 7pm

See page 38 for details

GUEST WORSHIP LEADERS



We welcome our own Revd **Bryn Thomas** on **17th March, 10.30am**

Revd **Dr. Elaine Colechin** from Bromley will lead the **Maundy Thursday** joint service on **28th March at 7pm**.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday 24th March is the spring **Parade Service** at **10.30** with our young people in the **Scout & Guide groups**.

Maundy Thursday 28th at 7pm will be gathered & broadcast, **jointly** with **Bromley URC, EEFC & Hayes Free**.

Good Friday 29th - 11am at **St Francis, Ravenswood Avenue**.

WARM WELCOME Friday 29th March

Warm

Welcome No 'WARM WELCOME' for Good Friday

Fridays

Continued on next page



EASTER SATURDAY 30th March

Join in the fun with the **Easter Story and Egg Hunt** on the Green starting at **10.30am**. More information on page 28



SUMMER TIME

Remember to put your clocks forward on **Saturday 30th March!**



EASTER DAY 31st March

Start this **special day** with singing and decorating the cross with flowers on the Green at **10.40am**; followed by **Easter Celebration** in the sanctuary at **11am**. **This service will also be broadcast on Zoom.**



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News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community

"A light exists in Spring, not present in the year, at any other period, when March is scarcely here." - Emily Dickinson. Please pray for the light of Christ to enfold those in our thoughts at this time.

For healing and Care

Those who are or have been poorly, or have had time in hospital, or having medical investigations, treatment and procedures, or needing more care, including:

- Beryl Clinton
- Chris Cutler
- Marjorie George
- Marty Jones
- Alan and Jan Kienlen
- Carol Matthews
- Florence Meredith

Those who have moved home

Anne Andersen following her move to a care home near her daughter in Essex
John MacIntosh who following discharge from hospital has moved to a care home for some respite care and tlc.

Welcomes and Inductions!

Heather Moore



On Sunday 28th January Heather Moore was inducted as Moderator of URC Youth by the Revd Dr Tessa Henry Robinson, Moderator of General Assembly. Following her induction Heather was presented with the giant card from Emmanuel, which had been signed by many of us.



Heather, may God bless you in your ministry across the URC.

Continued on next page

Julie Cook

The following week we had the joy and delight of inducting Julie as Emmanuel's Children and Family Worker during our February Messy Church. Following the promises and induction prayer, Julie was presented with a children's Bible and a sculpture of children.



Ten days later Julie was welcomed anew at a Messy Church Pizza Party arranged by Pat, Sara and Julie, with food and games. 21 children together with parents, carers and helpers joined in the celebratory fun.

Julie, may God bless you in your ministry among us at Emmanuel and in our community.

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.

David

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)

Children and Family Worker



Hi, I am Julie Cook and I'm very excited to join Emmanuel Church as the new Children and Family worker.

Having grown up in West Wickham and attended the church as a child I am really looking forward to working with the Church and wider community to support existing activities and introduce some new ones.

I still live in West Wickham with my family and enjoy playing netball, going on holiday, taking long walks with my 4.5 year old golden retriever and spending time with family and friends.

Both of my sons are involved in the 8th West Wickham Scout Group – one as a Cub leader when he is home from university and the other as an Explorer.

If you have any new ideas you wish to share or meet me or have a chat, please email child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk.

Julie

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

Spring is upon us as we reach the end of our Spring Programme. We can look forward to the delights of colour reappearing in the landscape, as the countryside, and indeed the domestic gardens, awaken after their winter's nap.

Here's what's awaits us at the Fellowship in March:

- **5th – 'St David's Day' brought to you by Bryn Thomas.** What better way to start the month of March, than a visit to the land of daffodils and dragons?
- **12th –** With wildlife on our minds, we will be finding out about '**Birds of Kent**' when as we tap into the vast knowledge of bird expert, **Brian Nobbs.**
- **19th – 'Conan Doyle: The South Norwood Years'** is the topic of conversation as we welcome **Bernard Winchester** to our Fellowship this afternoon. Will our assumptions be challenged, I wonder?
- **26th –** We will slide gently into Easter, as **Mrs Esme Meads** leads us in a meditative afternoon. Esme is a Baptist Lay Preacher, whose light-hearted poetry has entertained us in Christmases past.

We take a break for Easter and return on April 16th for the start of our Summer Term.

We wish you a very blessed Easter,

Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee

Nature ramblings – A Murmuration

David Attenborough is rightly lauded for bringing nature's wonders to the small screen, from the migration of wildebeest across the Serengeti to the annual march of the emperor penguins to their ancestral breeding grounds. The gatherings appear to be moved by forces greater than the sum of the individuals, confer a sense of safety in numbers, and when observed in the field, may elicit gasps of wonder.

You don't need to travel beyond our shores to see collective movements. A few years ago Jan and I visited Leighton Moss in Lancashire, an RSPB reserve which hosts an annual mass gathering. Their star turn, the humble starling, whose numbers are swelled each winter by birds migrating from Russia for our relatively milder winter.

Starlings feed far and wide during the day, then begin to gather to roost overnight. As winter's low afternoon sun started to fade, we made our way to a hide overlooking a scrub area, joining an expectant throng who'd gathered in hushed expectation.



First a swirl of a dozen or so birds were seen, then another dozen coming from a different direction, joining the first, and before long, what were tens had become hundreds, then thousands.

A murmuration.

We watched, rapt, as the swirling gathering mass of birds moved, as if on cue, first one way, then another, in a liquid aerial display, their numbers swelling, until, at an unseen or unheard signal, they collectively dived down into the scrub. The air stilled once more.

We've seen this sight since with smaller numbers from Eastbourne Pier, pictured above, and most recently at Deal. Sad to report, the number of overwintering starlings has declined and so the size of such moving

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murmurations, are reducing too.

A murmuration has some similar characteristics to the Church. It's a mass gathering of people who may be moved by a force unseen, unheard and greater than their individual parts. Church may also feel somewhat smaller than a decade or two ago, and yet, at its Kingdom-building, good-news extolling, justice and peace proclaiming best, the church may still move observers, and even bring a sense of awe.

Enjoy Spring's delights,

David

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

With Gods Creation Over Lent

As we begin the season of Lent this week, Lord, open our eyes each day to see something new and wonderful in your world, so we may choose to be more considerate towards your creation during this time of reflection and beyond.

Week One - Bring nature into your home or garden

Week Two - Connect with creation in a new way

Week Three - Discover the great outdoors with company

Week Four - Plan a Wild Time!

Week Five - Join us to protect and restore nature together

Week Six - Be still in nature

Easter Sunday - The Easter hope of reconciliation is good news for all

Explore some of these changes at <https://arocha.org.uk/connect-with-gods-creation-over-lent/>

Youth Assembly 2024



Youth Assembly 2024 has come and gone, and it was great to gather again as URC Youth. The theme was story story story, which we explored through the worship, workshops and keynote talks.

Business this year focussed on the Honest Church campaign, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and evaluating the role of moderator. Excitingly we had around 50 newcomers which is great for the future of URC Youth, and while this meant we had less formal business than usual, it meant we had time to have roundtable discussions on issues people were passionate about, as well having more free time for fellowship. You can read all about this in the round up, which is on the URC website, or hopefully a physical copy will have been delivered to Emmanuel.

Youth Assembly 2024 also marks the end of my moderator elect year, and my second year on Youth Exec. Serving on this group has been wonderful over the past year, and I really feel like I've found my feet both in Youth circles, and in the wider URC. The people I get to serve with make it even more of a joy as well as everyone on Youth Exec is passionate about young people in the church and allowing them to thrive.

On the Sunday, I was inducted as the URC Youth Moderator in a wonderful service lead by the Revd Dr Tessa Heny-Robinson, who is the Moderator of General Assembly, and which my parents were able to attend. It was great to hear from Philippa as the outgoing moderator reflect on the incredible year she has had, and we will miss her greatly. It was also wonderful to receive a card from all of you at Emmanuel full of well wishes. It means a lot to know you are thinking and praying for me as I take on this role, so thank you for that!

The next year marks a big change for URC Youth Assembly as we move to a new venue. It presents us with a massive opportunity and challenge to shake up the event, and make it something new and better, and it was great to spend time talking to participants about what they wanted Youth Assembly to be. But you

Continued on next page

can rest assured that through all the busyness I will keep writing about my adventures!

In Christ,

Heather

If you want to contact me as the moderator, it is:

urcyamoderator@urc.org.uk



Youth Exec 2024!



Regina Bhobo is a Gender Officer with the Evangelical Fellowship in Zimbabwe and coordinates the Zimbabwe Gender and Faith Network, also known as 'Side by Side, Zimbabwe'.

Side by Side encompasses around eighteen different organisations. Its flagship project is called 'Against Gender-Based Violence'. It operates in six districts of Manicaland.

Raising awareness about the issues surrounding gender-based violence is a key part of the strategy, giving women and men the awareness, language and tools to confront this awful scourge in communities.

The project has also harnessed the support of over five hundred pastors and ministers. Each was trained to be a gender champion in the local community. One large church created a well-respected refuge for survivors of gender-based violence.

Your support through *Commitment for Life* enables Regina's work to thrive in Zimbabwe.

Pat Best

Prayer in a Time of Conflict

Living God, who clothes us in garments of gratitude, adorn this prayer with the light of your grace. We bring to mind the many blessings that you so generously give...

*We pray for
those in our churches...
those in our communities...
for those who selflessly serve in making the world a better place.*

Forgiving God, we too easily diminish the dignity of others, sowing division when you call for openness and trust.

We stand ashamed at the depth to which humanity can sink, how easily we march to the drums of war, how quickly we are swayed and seduced by the savagery of self-justifying narratives.

May the Trinity of Love bind our wounds, challenge our complacency, bring freedom from oppression, and lead all to abundance of freedom.

Amen.

Personal Thanks & Announcements

Penny's Half Marathon



F

irst of all, thank you so much for all the very generous donations which you have already made to this excellent cause - very encouraging as I head out on another breezy wet morning to tick off the miles!

I am running three times a week, and on Friday is my long run, a little longer each week until I reach 13 miles a couple of weeks before April 7 (London Landmarks half). Then I wind down to make sure I can complete the distance on the day!

As well as running the Childline phone line the NSPCC provide therapy to help children and families affected by abuse, do school visits to help children understand what is okay and not okay and how to ask for help. They also work with large organisations to help them develop policies on how best to protect children from harm. Plus research and much more.

If anyone wishes to make a donation just log on to Justgiving, enter Penelope Davies and my page is called Penny's Half Marathon. Or see me!

Thank you so much again.

Penny

Continued on next page

MUSIC AND READINGS FOR LENT
AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH FARLEIGH
SUNDAY 17 MARCH

6pm

St Mary's is a tiny church with parts dating back to the 11th century. Occasionally a group of invited singers come together for an evening service featuring unaccompanied choral pieces, hymns and readings. This year the choral pieces include an Armenian setting of the 'Sanctus', two pieces by contemporary Canadian composer Stephanie Martin, a Bruckner motet and an arrangement by David Willcocks of 'Lord of the Dance', among others. Penny and I will be among the singers. Visitors are welcome! The church is in a very rural setting just off Farleigh Court Road, postcode CR6 9PX

Marion

Scenes around West Wickham

Gin 1997 a limited edition of 6 commemorative china plates were produced featuring scenes around West Wickham. One of these portrays Emmanuel, the other five plates in the set depict:



Wickham Court
The Memorial
The High Street
St Francis of Assisi
St John the Baptist

The plates were made available to local churches and one set of the six was bought by Alan Deverson's late wife, Christine. Alan would now like to find a new home for the set of six, and would be glad if anyone would like to have them in exchange for a donation to Emmanuel.

If you would like to see the plates or find out more, please contact Alan.

David



FOOD BANK DONATIONS...PLEASE

When I was hungry, you gave me food...

As usual, please don't feel under any obligation to give in any way, but this is simply a little guidance for any of you who would like to give at the moment. We are short of the following items, and ask you to consider these in your donations:

- Milk
- Jam
- Tinned veg
- Pasta Sauce
- Toilet Roll
- Washing up liquid
- Washing powder/pods

Other items that are getting low:

- Cereal
- Tinned meats
- Soup
- Spaghetti
- Nappies (we have a very good stock of size 5, 6, 6+, but are giving out a lot of 3, 4, 4+)
- Shampoo (we have lots of shower gel and conditioner though)

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 Church Network Bromley

A series of meetings in 2024, helping eco-churches across Bromley get together, share knowledge and ideas, and hear inspiring talks. Travelling to different churches to see what different congregations are each doing on their patch.

Wednesday 13th March (7pm) Greener & Cleaner, The Glades , Bromley
'Engaging parishioners and the wider public on sustainability and climate' - Parisa Wright, founder

Wednesday 5th June St Mary of Nazareth, West Wickham (BR4 0DX)
"Jesus died to save the planet" - Paul Kunert, author

Wednesday 18th September St Johns URC, Orpington (BR6 0BG)
Carbon footprints (tbc)

Wednesday 27th November Emmanuel URC, West Wickham (BR4 9JS)
Energy audits and funding applications (tbc)

Open to all churches and other faith groups in Bromley.

You don't have to be registered with Eco Church to come, you could be just starting to think about it.



For further details, please contact Ian Moore at
ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com

Desert Island Discs

Following the evening Emmanuel organised in September 2021, Elmers End is hosting a Desert Island Discs evening, with fish and chips or a range of other meals from their local takeaway. This is being held on:

Saturday, 16, March, 2024, 7pm

To book your tickets and food order please contact:

Sylvia Godsmark email: sylvia801@btinternet.com

phone: 07539 568356 or Anthony Bayley: anthony.bayley@hotmail.com

phone: 07983 334946

The Elmers End fellowship look forward to welcoming friends from Emmanuel on the night, which should prove an entertaining evening.

Castaway: David Pickering



Interviewer: Bryn Thomas

Can you guess the isle above where David is castaway?

BARGAINS GALORE!

BIG SALE AT ELMERS END FREE CHURCH ON MARCH 23!

**LADIES' APPAREL, HANDBAGS, CUDDLY TOYS and
more!**

EVERYTHING MUST GO!!!

On **Saturday March 23, from 10.30am-3.30pm**, my wife Jeanette's sister Jenny and I are holding a sale of her things in the Church Hall (entrance from Langley Road), with the proceeds going toward her dementia care in Burrows House. There will be refreshments, in aid of EEFC. Cash will be welcome, though we also hope to have a card reader.

A huge range of clothes, household items and much more will be on sale at knock-down prices. Clothes sizes range from 10 to 16. There will be racks and tables of:

Dresses and suits

Tops and skirts

Handbags and evening bags – around 60 – and tote bags

Coats, jackets and scarves

Jumpers

Cuddly toys – including the Easter bunny and 18 bears

Costume jewellery

Shoes

Hats, belts and gloves

Decorations for next Christmas

Swimwear

Hair bands and clips

Household and kitchen stuff

Haberdashery

and much, much more!

If you would like to help, have any items you would like to add, or would just like to know more, please contact me on nc65464@yahoo.com or 07979 958753.

Nick Comfort

WORSHIP THROUGH HOLY WEEK TO EASTER

Through Holy Week

Elaine Colechin and Alison Smith, respectively ministers from Bromley URC and Hayes Free Church, have compiled a daily devotion which can be joined each day at a time that works for you – see advert on opposite page.

Maundy Thursday

Emmanuel is hosting a Maundy Thursday Communion Service with friends invited from Elmers End and Hayes Free Churches and Bromley URC at 7pm on Thursday 28th March. This year, reversing the roles undertaken last year, the service will be led by Revd Dr Elaine Colechin and the preacher is our minister, David.

People are welcome to gather at Emmanuel or join via the Zoom link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88048240622?pwd=r4lj1zB21X95lbFaKGVsbJ0GitCK7i.1>

Or in the Zoom app: Meeting ID: 880 4824 0622 Passcode: 469335

Phone numbers (for audio only):

0203 481 5237

0203 481 5240

0203 901 7895

0208 080 6591

0208 080 6592

0330 088 5830

0131 460 1196

Good Friday

Churches Together in West Wickham is holding a service at St Francis Church at 11am on Good Friday reflecting on the last seven phrases of Jesus through actions, music, hymns and words.

Easter Day

Come for a good sing on The Green from 10:40am led by Marion. As well as your voices you are welcome to bring some Spring flowers to add to the cross. From The Green we move into church for our Easter Celebration Service led by our minister, David.



HOLY WEEK

2024

AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Daily reflections on some
of the last words of Jesus
from the cross

Monday 25th March to
Saturday 30th March

a new video reflection
will be available each day

at

[http://www.bromleyurc.org.uk/
example-page/holy-week/holy-
week.php](http://www.bromleyurc.org.uk/example-page/holy-week/holy-week.php)

This is a joint project shared with
Bromley URC, St Mark's United Church, Greenwich, Hayes
Free Church, Dulwich Grove URC, Emmanuel URC, West
Wickham, and Elmers End URC

Easter Story & Egg Hunt



**at Emmanuel Church
Saturday 30th March
10.30 am**

**Come and make the Easter Garden
and hunt for eggs**

For more details contact Pat Best 07714 808498 patbest@btinternet.com

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



This is Tania, our chef, who makes delicious soups and other dishes. Tania has come highly recommended from West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church and is extremely talented, cooking everything from scratch with quality ingredients.

Many of us from Emmanuel, regular guests from the community and new visitors enjoy our lunchtime treat, often having second helpings.

We are open from 10am till 4pm on Fridays with toast, crumpets, rolls, biscuits, cakes and drinks. Lunch is served from 12 noon.

*****We will be closed on Good Friday.**

Thanks to all our helpers who together contribute to the success of this venture.

Do come along if you can.

Pat Best

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 March

Friday	1st	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 32)
Sunday	3rd	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Gathered/broadcast worship led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	5th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'St David's Day' brought to you by Bryn Thomas In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
		7.00pm	Lent Bible Study via Zoom (details on page 38)
Friday	8th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 32)
Sunday	10th	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	12th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'Birds of Kent' with Brian Nobbs In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
		7.00pm	Lent Bible Study via Zoom (details on page 38)
Friday	15th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 32)
Sunday	17th	10.30am	Gathered worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas
Tuesday	19th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'Conan Doyle: The South Norwood Years' with Bernard Winchester In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
		7.00pm	Lent Bible Study via Zoom (details on page 38)
Friday	22nd	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 32)

Continued on next page



Church Diary for March

....continued

<i>Saturday</i>		<i>23rd</i>	<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>
Palm Sunday	24th	10.30am	Gathered all-age Parade Service led by Revd David Pickering
Tuesday	26th	2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'A meditative afternoon with Mrs Esme Meads In the Richmond Hall (details on page 13)
		7.00pm	Lent Bible Study via Zoom
Maundy Thursday	28th	7.00pm	Gathered/broadcast Communion Service led by Revd Dr Elaine Colechin, preacher: Revd David Pickering
Good Friday	29th	11am	Churches Together in West Wickham Good Friday Devotional Service at St Francis'
Saturday	30th	10.30am	Easter Story & Egg Hunt (details on page 28)
Easter Day	31st	10:40am	Easter Hymns on The Green led by Marion Moore – feel welcome to bring some Spring flowers to decorate the Easter Cross
		11.00am	Gathered worship led by Revd David Pickering

Church Diary for the start of April

Friday	5th	10.00am	Warm Welcome (details on page 32)
Sunday	7th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Gathered worship led by Deacon Laura MacBean

Notices

BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION
STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS,
ACTIVITIES

3rd March
@ 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

Holy Week

- Palm Sunday (24th March)
spring Parade Service at 10.30
- Maundy Thursday (28th March)
at 7pm jointly with Bromley
URC, EEFC & Hayes Free
- Good Friday (29th March) at
11am at St Francis,
Ravenswood Avenue

Details on page 8

EASTER SATURDAY

Join in the fun at Emmanuel
Church
with the **Easter Story and Egg
Hunt** on the Green on 30th March
starting at **10.30am**.

Worship through Holy Week

Daily reflections from 25th to 30th March

Details on pages 26 and 27

Desert Island Discs

David Pickering is interviewed
by Bryn Thomas

Saturday, 16, March, 2024, 7pm

Details on page 24

EASTER SUNDAY (31st March)

Singing and decorating the cross with
flowers on the Green at **10.40am**;
followed by **Easter Celebration** in the
sanctuary at **11am**.

Details on page 9

Continued on next page

Notices continued...

Big Sale

At Elmers End Free Church
on March 23
10.30am-3.30pm

Details on page 25

Lent Bible Study

Tuesday 5th March at 7:00pm

via Zoom

Details on page 38

Emmanuel Fellowship

Tuesdays at 2.15pm
in the Richmond Hall

Details on page 13

Baby & Toddler Group

Wednesdays at 9:30am
Details on page 33

Emmanuel Art Group

Thursdays
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Details on page 33

Mini Athletics

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

In the Richmond Hall

Details on page 30

Warm Welcome

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

Details on page 32

MARK'S STORY

A LENT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM

FOR THE INTERESTED AND CURIOUS

Over the last three years we've had a Zoom-based Bible study in Lent entitled:

2021 Psalms at Seven

2022 Looking at Luke

2023 Matthew, Mission and Me

So, for 2024 we are going to follow the same pattern, but explore Mark's Gospel, for in the cycle of Bible readings that we often follow, the lead Gospel through to next Advent is Mark's Gospel.

Each session is on a Tuesday evening and will start at 7pm and last for c. 30 minutes, perhaps 40 minutes, with some time for fellowship. Whilst anyone is welcome to come to every evening, each session is stand alone, so if you can only come to one, don't be deterred. It may also help to know that no prior knowledge is needed, but it will be helpful to have a Bible to hand.

You are welcome to bring your own cuppa or glass! The programme is at **7pm on**

5 th March	Part 1	Around and about Galilee
12 th March	Part 2	Through the shadow of the cross
19 th March		Themes along the way
26 th March	Part 3	Night of despair to a new dawn

Tuesdays:

Zoom details

To log on directly: <http://tinyurl.com/emmww-marks-story>

0203 901 7895	0208 080 6591	0208 080 6592
0330 088 5830	0131 460 1196	

To
log
on
from

the Zoom application:

Meeting ID: 833 8351 9391

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 <i>(6-8 years old)</i>	Thurs 6.00pm— 7.00pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
Cubs <i>(8-10½ years old)</i>	Mon 7.00pm— 8.15pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
Scouts <i>(10½-14 years old)</i>	Tues 7.45pm— 9.00pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
Explorers <i>(14-18 years old)</i>	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	



Sponge Kitchens

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Hayes 020 8462 1352

Downham 020 86978848

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- 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>
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