

# Emmanuel Life

Emmanuel  
God With Us



# April 2024



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

**[www.emmanuelww.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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.***

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\*\*\*More contact details can be found on page 38\*\*\*



## *April 2024 Services*

<b>7<sup>th</sup></b> (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered worship led by Deacon Laura MacBean
<b>14<sup>th</sup></b> (see below)	10.30am	Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering
<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Gathered worship led by Emmanuel Fellowship Committee

## *(Start of) May 2024 Services*

<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Gathered worship led by Revd David Pickering

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April:** Deacon Laura MacBean is a leader in the Bromley Methodist circuit.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April:** Church meeting will follow the morning service.

# *Minister's Letter*

## **Toleration...**

Dear Friends,

There have been a number of recent stories in the news relating to tolerance, or sadly, intolerance. As I write the news is still featuring the alleged language used by a major donor to the Conservative Party, and whilst directed at an individual, it is widely acknowledged as racist, misogynistic and most chillingly, with a seeming incitement to extreme violence. This intolerance is not a one-party issue. As it happens the target of this comment is herself being investigated for inappropriate comments she made about Jewish, Irish and Traveller people.

Broadening the issue out, particularly in the wake of the shocking events of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023, both Jewish and Muslim communities in Britain have reportedly experienced an increase of hatred, and with it growing fears for personal well-being.

Into this situation, the Prime Minister has spoken from the steps of Number 10 on extremism and called for the nation to unite to defeat such extremism and hold together our common values, and the Secretary for Levelling Up has announced a new definition of extremism. This was welcomed by some, but sharply criticised by others including the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, with part of their concern being that it risked "vilifying the wrong people" and creating "more division".

I wonder what we may make of what feels like growing intolerance and with it, fear? It is regrettable that some politicians may feel an incentive to create a gap between their position and that of their political opponents, to gain seeming advantage, rather than using language bringing people together. I observe that one person's 'illegal immigrant' is another person's 'vulnerable refugee'.

Sad to say, intolerance, including religious intolerance, is nothing new. Our Reformed Church heritage has been in part shaped by politically-fuelled

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intolerance. Back in 1662, a set of repressive laws were introduced restricting the freedom of worship for those who did not follow the then Church of England authorised prayer book, aiming to marginalise our forbears. These laws were not the beginning, but rather built on repression from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Further back, in the late 1580s a group of reformed Christians from the East Midlands fled Britain for the more religiously tolerant and liberal Holland. Their hope was to be able to practice their faith in freedom without threat. Concerned about losing their identity, the group embarked in 1620 on a voyage on the Mayflower. Sailing via Plymouth, they landed in the 'New World' to establish a colony, becoming known as the Pilgrim Fathers.

Though the Pilgrim Fathers sailed as Reformed Christians they sought to import not so much a particular denomination or even Christianity but the spirit of tolerance and religious freedom. The Pilgrims' motivation of risking everything for the freedom to worship according to their conscience, set a precedent that came to be enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing the free exercise of religion.

Toleration is part of our denominational heritage. This imperative of toleration also contributed to the ethos of the missionary endeavours of the former London Missionary Society, whose evangelism overseas sought to promote Christianity more than any one denominational expression.

Some 400 years on from the experience of the New World pilgrims, religious and ethnic intolerance is sadly alive and well. Across the world there are nations where Christianity is not tolerated. Whilst the worst excesses of persecution in Britain are thankfully confined to the history, it feels just now that there are growing undercurrents of intolerance in society, not least denigrating or even vilifying those who are seen as 'other' or different'. Whilst such messages are typically associated with political movements, it is so that some churches are not experienced as being genuinely open, tolerant and welcoming as others.

For me the inclusive love of Jesus, who went out of his way to embrace the outcast and marginalised, along with our Reformed tradition of tolerance, can inform and characterise churches to be truly open and welcoming, regardless of an individual's nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, physical abilities, mental

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health and capacity or age. Indeed, shaping such an inclusive community may more truly reflect the Kingdom values that Jesus proclaimed.

May tolerance and love bloom in our church and our lives, as the bluebell blooms and fills many a shady glade with new life.

Take care, God bless.

*David*

### **A Prayer for May**

*In a season of new life  
I pray for tolerance and love  
in our community,  
our nation,  
around the world.*

*Amen*



## Secretary's Notes

### MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church meets on **7<sup>th</sup> April 10 – 12 noon**, with the theme of **‘the Easter Story’**.

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

### GUEST WORSHIP LEADERS



David will be in Messy Church all morning on **7<sup>th</sup> April** so we welcome **Laura MacBean** from the Methodist circuit who will lead our sanctuary worship.

**Revd Bryn Thomas** leads our morning service on **April 21<sup>st</sup>**. **28<sup>th</sup> April service** will be led by **Sue Thomas and the Fellowship**.

### CHURCH MEETING 14<sup>th</sup> April



Grab a coffee and stay after the morning service led by our minister, David, for the Church Meeting on **14<sup>th</sup> April**.

### EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP

EMMANUEL  
FELLOWSHIP

Will be leading morning worship on **28<sup>th</sup> April**. Fellowship will NOT be meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> April as it is their Easter break.

*Rosemary*

*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)



## **Synod Spring Together Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March at St Andrew's URC Cheam**

Marion Bayley from Elmers End and I went to Synod with our minister David who kindly drove us to Cheam URC. It was good to meet up with people who have had connections with Emmanuel, Elizabeth Richmond, Russell Furley-Smith, Jenny Sheehan and Bea Pollard, and to see our Moderator Revd Bridget Banks in better health.

Revd Nadene Snyman led our opening worship focussing on a photo of a robin's nest with a tiny hatchling in her garden waste bin, a surprising place for life to begin. Jesus calls us to new life even when and where it seems rubbish and hurts, and to new life in our churches.

During the morning we heard an inspiring presentation from Revd Ashley Evans, Yorkshire Synod Evangelist. Jesus talks all the time about growth and tells us to go and make disciples. We have the best message, God loves you, your family, your friends.

Growth should be central to being church. The Good News is the same, how we tell it changes. We need touching points, to find out about people and ask 'Have you ever thought about God?' perhaps over a meal, making it easy for people to come in, remembering we are the Priesthood of all Believers.

At lunch I met a lady who was asking about Messy Church. She is a convert from Islam and had a fascinating story that had been shown on television.

We next considered the nomination for Moderator of General Assembly 2025-2026. Some of you may know of Revd Neil Thorogood, son of missionary Bernard, ordained in 1992, latterly Principal of Westminster College. Neil is an artist and you may have noticed one of his bright paintings in the vestry. The vote was unanimous.

During Pastoralia we heard of the recent death of Revd David Marshall-Jones OBE, former National Scout Chaplain. We then heard about a project in a new housing estate and the town centre, plus one where counselling in mental health has made an impact.

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Regarding finance John Denison said the Synod cash balance is good (from the sale of buildings) and some of this has gone to the Ministers' Pension Fund. Our M&M contributions are the 'life blood' of the URC.

He also spoke of the Strategic Mission fund for future outreach programmes and Revd Keith Morrison enlarged on this. He quoted Joel 2:28 *'I will pour out my Spirit on everyone: your sons and daughters will proclaim my message; your old men will have dreams and your young men will see visions'* GNB. The Holy Spirit inspires the Kingdom to grow.

Revd Roger Jones spoke of a grant given to a young person at Tolworth URC for a few hours a week. She helps with Junior Church, Pilots, Messy Church and social media, gets alongside young people and there is a buzz in the church. Over 2 years they have given her responsibility, she has grown and developed and it has been good for her and the whole church.

We saw a film of young people speaking of their faith at the Limitless Youth Festival in Staffordshire, who appreciated the money from this fund that allowed them to go.

Next came the Synod Children's and Youth Work report. Heather's successor Zeerak Shahbaz thanked everyone for their support and encouragement and said that it had been a privilege to receive his lay preaching certificate. Youth Assembly had been a good mix of business, resolutions and activities with some attending for the first time, including Zeerak himself. Of course Youth assembly is where Heather Moore was inducted into the role of Youth Moderator and we saw some pictures of the event. Emmanuel have already seen some photos, thanks to Marion and Ian. Synod Together expressed their support for Heather.

Tom Hackett, Children and Youth Development Officer, told us of future events and some resources and gave Emmanuel packs of prayer prompt cards. He was pleased to hear about our Children and Family Worker Julie Cook and the difference she is making at Emmanuel.

We closed with worship reflecting on the image that Nadene had given to us of the robin's nest, with new life and growth beginning in unexpected places.

What should we be doing as a church?

What will you be doing?

*Pat Best*



# *News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community*

“April is a gentle reminder that life’s transformations are beautiful and inevitable.”  
— Ellen Lovell

Please pray the beauty of transforming healing and hope for those in your heart traversing life’s rich journey, especially remembering:

## **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 care, including:

- Beryl Clinton
- Chris Cutler
- Marjorie George
- Marty Jones
- Alan and Jan Kienlen
- Nicky MacIntyre
- David Neighbour

## **Bereavement**

We are sad to report that Carol Matthews died peacefully in her sleep on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March. A Service of Committal is to be held at Bluebell Crematorium on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April followed later that morning at 11:30am by a Service of Thanksgiving at Emmanuel for her friends. An ‘In Memory’ of Carol will be published in the May edition of Emmanuel Life.

Please remember Carol’s daughter, Diane, and her family, and Carol’s son, John, and his family at this sad time, especially so soon after losing their beloved sister, Helen.

### **A Prayer for Comfort**

*Shepherding, welcoming God,  
for treasured memories of loved ones, thank you.*

*May your peace, touch grieving hearts,*

*May your light, dispel death’s darkness*

*May your new life, bring hope.*

*Amen.*

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*

# *Emmanuel Fellowship*

Dear Friends,

We have reached our Summer programme, which takes us right through to July and the school summer holidays. I hope you have all had a blessed Easter break. It has been a time for the Fellowship Committee and helpers, to have a well-deserved rest.

Thank you, our Fellowship members, for all your support and appreciation of the work we do.

Here are the details of our April meetings:

- **16th – ‘Dispatches from the Climate Change Frontline’.** This is a return visit from **Ian Packham**, who has previously taken us on travels: to the African continent; through Bangladesh; and to Italy via North Africa in the footsteps of his Great Uncle. **Ian is a travel-writer and adventurer**, and this time, he will take us to Pakistan where he discovered the devastating effects of climate change on local people.
- **23rd –** On Shakespeare’s Birth and Death Day, we will have the tremendous pleasure of encountering the Bard himself, as **Tony Harris** takes on the persona and talks-the-talk of **‘Shakespeare’**. On his last visit, we were blown away by Tony’s performance as Churchill. Don’t miss this one: bring a friend, if you can!
- **30th –** Do you miss long walks, or even, shorter ones, because they have become too difficult? Do you need to be moving, but don’t quite know the best way to get started? Well, **Gwen Godwin** will tell you how, with her talk and demonstration entitled **‘Exercise the Easy Way in your Chair’**. That sounds perfect for us all.

Just three Fellowship meetings in April, but what variety!

We hope to see you there.

*Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee*

## Nature ramblings – Sounds of Nature

The hymn, How great thou art, includes a verse which opens...

*When through the woods and forest glades I wander*

*And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;*

Through March Jan and I enjoyed a wander or two in Spring Park Woods, in the winter quiet, to paraphrase Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, 'The Sound of Silence', (the screech of parakeets excepted) gave way to Spring's awakening.



Our March walks were accompanied by the guttural crow of the crow, the lighter zee zee zeeing of tits nimbly picking their way through tasty morsels in upper branches, the cheery whistle of the robin, one of the few birds that we spotted, with head held jaunty, and unseen but heard from afar, woodpeckers.

Britain is home to three species of woodpeckers.

The largest being the pigeon-sized green woodpecker, which whilst woodland-nesting, is often seen in open grassy areas, rooting around for ants and other delights. From time to time we've seen them on the manse lawn. They also climb trunks and navigate branches with aplomb, seeking out bugs and beasties. Olive green in colour, they are crowned in red with black around the face. The sexes may be distinguished, with the male sporting a red moustache-like colouration.

The mid-sized woodpecker on the woodland block is the Greater Spotted Woodpecker. Starling-proportioned, they have increased numerically in recent decades, and are now the most numerous of the three species. Colour-wise they are black and white, sporting red under the tail and for the male, a red crown.

The smallest of the trio is the lesser spotted woodpecker, its name reflecting its diminutive sparrow-like size. Sad to say, its population has steeply declined leaving the species restricted to a few woods, mainly in the southern half of England.

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Whilst we didn't spot a woodpecker on our woodland walks (so no photo to share), we heard the distinctive drumming of the greater spotted. Its head-banging, short staccato bursts echo through woods in Spring, communicating to attract mates and stake out territories. Then, joy of joy, our ears caught the distinctive yaffle cry, akin to a shrieking laugh of the green woodpecker. Like God, the two species of woodpecker were unseen but discernibly present, and thus our hearts could echo the chorus,

*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee, how great thou art, how great thou art!*

May you enjoy Spring's audible delights, perhaps less 'Sounds of Silence' and more, as Lou Reed (nearly) sang, 'a walk on the wood side', David

PS I saw my first identifiable butterfly of the season, a peacock, on 20<sup>th</sup> March. I hope that my species count may grow in the coming months, and will keep you informed.

*David*

# *Personal Thanks & Announcements*

*T*

his month Emmanuel has received two thank you letters in response to charitable fund raising, shown on the next two pages.

The first thank you letter is from the Ideas Partnership, our 2024 overseas charity, which received 50% of the donations given to our 2024 Christmas Appeal. From this a cheque for an amazing £900 was presented to Elizabeth Gowing from The Ideas Partnership during our morning service on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February. On that occasion Elizabeth gave us an inspiring presentation on the charity's work. The proceeds of our Summer Fair, planned for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024, will also go to The Ideas Partnership.

The second thank you letter is from The Vine Food Bank, New Addington, following our latest donation of £2000. This comes from donations given at our Warm Welcome Fridays @ Emmanuel Venture. This gift follows one of the same amount last April, so to date Warm Welcome has raised a vital £4000 for the Food Bank.

And an update. Last month I reported that I wrote to Beckenham's MP, Bob Stewart, associating myself with a letter from Bromley's Three Faiths' Group, which brings together Jews, Christians and Muslims, and requested a response. The letter, which was published in March's edition of Emmanuel Life, asked that he used his position and influence to advocate for:

- 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

I promised that I would share any response received. I am sorry to report that I haven't received a response from our MP, despite sending a reminder to him a week prior to the deadline for this edition of Emmanuel Life. Should I hear in the future, I will let you know.

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

*David*

Dear Emmanuel Church Community,

I hope you are doing well!

I'm Almedina Ajvazi - Coordinator of Private Donations at The Ideas Partnership

On behalf of everyone at The Ideas Partnership, I wanted to extend our heartfelt gratitude for choosing us to receive the funds for the insulation of Azure Learning Center. Your generous contribution will significantly impact the lives of those we serve in profound ways.

Your commitment to supporting initiatives that promote education and community well-being is truly commendable. With your support, we will be able to create a safe and nurturing environment at Azure Learning Center, ensuring that individuals have access to resources and opportunities for growth even during challenging times.

We are deeply moved by your trust in our organization and our mission. Rest assured that we will utilize these funds responsibly and effectively, striving to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who rely on our services.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and partnership. We look forward to keeping you updated on the progress of our work and the impact of your contribution. Together, we can continue to make positive change in our community.

Please see some pictures of Azure Learning Center.



Warm regards,

Almedina



The Salvation Army  
New Addington  
Community Church

Major Emma Spencer

Mob 07800646165

[emma.spencer@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:emma.spencer@salvationarmy.org.uk)

Emmanuel United Reformed Church

11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear friends,

This letter comes to express our sincere thanks for another very generous donation of £2000 from your 'Warm Welcome' program.

We are delighted to hear that this ministry continues to flourish and so many are coming into your church and being touched by the love and care you are offering them.

We are so grateful for this huge offering which will once again help to run The Vine Foodbank.

We pray that God will continue to resource you as you provide for others and as you make a significant difference in your community.

Thank you for your continued support of the Salvation Army and The Vine in New Addington.

Every blessing

Emma Spencer

Major

Leader - The Salvation Army New Addington





# 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*

# Diary of a Moderator



Friends,

Safe to say my first two months in post have been rather busy! Although last month I only wrote about Youth Assembly, at the time of writing we had also already had Assembly Executive! This is a smaller version of General Assembly which meets to discuss the work of General Assembly and pass some resolutions. A big part of the meeting for me was the ongoing discussion of the formation of a formal ministry of children's and youth work, which is being led by Children and Youth Work Committee (CYWC). I find this really exciting, as not only does it affirm the importance of children's and youth work (a fun stat is that 83% of people come to faith before the age of 25), but it also shows our intention to make those whose calling it is to work with children and young people more valued and equipped in their call and ministry.

At the beginning of March we had the first Youth Exec meeting of the year, all the way down in Cardiff (a very long way from Durham!). It was so exciting to meet for the first time as a group, and get to know some new people alongside connecting again with my friends. Also, the group is getting younger, which is brilliant as it reflects the changing demographics of Youth Assembly. We discussed the feedback and resolutions from Youth Assembly, did some dreaming about next years event, got to chat to John Bradbury the General Secretary and attended a local church on Sunday morning. Alongside all of this we had plenty of time to have fun together and bond as a group, and I can't wait to see what everyone achieves this year.

Finally for residential meetings, I am currently at CYWC in Leeds! Again we are discussing the resolution from Assembly Executive, and the proposal that will be going to General Assembly, but its also great to hear about the work, resources and stories from children and youth work across the denomination.

Alongside these residentials, I am still meeting with Sam, the head of children's and youth work, and have also got involved in a group discussing all things Israel and Palestine, including working together on some General Assembly motions so we can present and carry out some strong and meaningful work together.

Again, thank you for your continued support, and if you want to get in touch, you can email me at [urcyamoderator@urc.org.uk](mailto:urcyamoderator@urc.org.uk)

*Heather*

# *Children & Families at Emmanuel*

## **Update**

I have been very busy during March with Messy Church (see article on page 23) and preparing for Easter Activities over the Easter Weekend and on Tuesday 9th April where there are two activities organised for families and their children (see flyer on page 24).

I am also pleased to introduce two new groups, one for parents/carers of 0-6 month olds and one for parents/carers of 3 and 4 year olds (see flyers on pages 26 & 27)

*Julie*

### **Fit more active travel into your day and daily routine**

Reevaluate your journeys: explore walking or cycling options, or modify your route to include some form of active travel, i.e. disembark a stop early and complete the remaining part of your journey on foot, indulge in a leisurely stroll, or opt for a bike ride along a cyclist-friendly route. Consider connecting with your local Ramblers or cycling group for shared experiences. Use the extra steps or the changed travel arrangements as a prompt to pray for God's creation, nature's preservation and the reduction in fossil fuel usage.

## Job filled – Jobs vacant

Elders are delighted to report that they will be bringing a unanimous proposal for someone to succeed Ian Scott as our Church Treasurer to our Church Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April. The consequence of this nomination is that we need one or more people to take on the roles below. It may help to know that the following three can be undertaken at home, and at a time of the person's choosing, they each require having a computer with internet connection and that a full briefing is available.

### Copyright Reporting

This role involves periodically reporting the hymns and songs that have been sung in worship. It doesn't require attendance at each service, for orders of service are always available.

### Website Support

This role involves periodically updating the website ([www.emmanuelww.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelww.org.uk)) and in particular uploading Emmanuel Life each month.

### Social Media Posting

This role involves posting a range of news and thoughts on our social media. The group undertaking this role is expanding, so you would be one of a team. This role would dovetail particularly well with website support, as above.

Please speak to an Elder or our minister David if you feel that you could offer to undertake one or more of the roles to help keep our church life running smoothly.

And another vacant post...

### Cradle Roll Secretary

Emmanuel is seeking a Cradle Roll Secretary to succeed Karen Florence, who is willing to hand over the insights that she has. In summary, the role includes:

- Potentially liaising with the family ahead of the baptismal day and being present to welcome them (or arrange for someone to welcome them if you are away) on the day.
- Arranging for a children's Bible to be presented following the baptism.
- Arranging to add the child's (or adult's) name to be added to the Cradle Roll.
- Liaising with Janet or Sue about a flower presentation.

This is a vital ministry of welcome, undertaken a few times each year. Could this be you? If you have an interest or would like to find out more please speak to Karen Florence or David.

Thank you.

# Scouting is getting stronger at Emmanuel

Just about half a year ago, the 8<sup>th</sup> West Wickham Scout Group moved to Emmanuel – and now we are expanding

The 8<sup>th</sup> West Wickham Scout Group is opening a **Squirrel Drey** for children aged four to six which means that we now cater for young people aged 4 to 18 (and beyond).

Please meet our Squirrels team: Claire, Julie (yes, Julie is also Emmanuel's Children and Family worker), Katie and Suzanne (top left to bottom right). The first Squirrel meeting is scheduled to be on 25<sup>th</sup> April.



The waiting list has virtually been filled in hours – clearly showing a demand for safe, exciting, challenging and fun-filled activities for the next generation. We cannot wait for the Squirrels to start!



The activities calendar for this year is also filling up nicely. While I write this, our Cubs have just returned from a trip to the RAF Museum in Colindale, for example.

Other events for 2024 include – besides the parade services – SUP paddling on (or “in”?) the Thames as well as on various lakes and rivers, various camps, the District's St. George's Day at Frylands, the Scouts' “Expedition challenge” – and our first all-Sections Group camp in a long time, taking place in July. Additional events will for sure be added in the coming weeks and months.

And, last but definitely not least, we were able to present the “Chief Scout's 5 Year Length Service Award” to one of our Explorer leaders, Charlotte. Thank you for your service – and hopefully you will stay with us for many years to come!



Niels Rump

Group Lead Volunteer, 8<sup>th</sup> West Wickham Scout Group

# Messy Church – A Good Samaritan

At Messy Church in March it was the story of the Good Samaritan and who we love and who is our neighbour.

The children and adults enjoyed a wonderful breakfast.



David introduced the story of the Good Samaritan and this month we asked the children to get involved in acting out the story .... and they were all great performers.



The children then enjoyed a variety of craft activities including painting their handprints, dressing up as the injured Samaritan, decorating gingerbread biscuits, decorating kindness rocks and creating a card for someone to show we love and care for them.



It was a great morning with 20 families, 36 children, 24 adults, 7 helpers.







Come and join us on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at  
Emmanuel URC Church for some Easter Activities

10-11.30am Cupcake Making and Decorating  
Ages 7-11 years



1-2.30pm Craft, Lego and Games  
All ages welcome



£2 per child

Places are limited for these activities, please contact - Julie Cook, our Children and Family Worker – [child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk](mailto:child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk).

**Emmanuel**  
Faith, Hope and Love in West Wickham  
(part of the United Reformed Church Family)





# 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:ecochurchnetworkbromley@gmail.com)

# Blissful Beginnings



Every Tuesday (starting 16th April)

10.30am – 11.30am

For ages 0-6 Months

Emmanuel Church The Grove, West  
Wickham

Bring your little ones along and join  
other parents for a drink and a chat.



## CONTACT

Julie Cook

Children and Family Worker

[child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk](mailto:child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk)

07444998312

Donations welcome

# TIME TOGETHER THURSDAYS

FOR 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

Every Thursday (starting  
18th April 2024)  
1pm - 2.30pm

Emmanuel Church The Grove,  
West Wickham

Connect with other parents/carers and  
bring your child for themed activities, sing a  
longs, stories, play time and much more ...



## Contact

Julie Cook  
Children and Family Worker  
[child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk](mailto:child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk)  
07444998312  
Donations welcome



## Save The Dates

# Emmanuel's Annual Fair Sunday 7th July 2024



# E

veryone is warmly invited to come along to Emmanuel's Fair, which will be held outside on the Green after the church service on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, or in the church halls if it rains.

There will be live music, a bouncy castle, raffles, games, stalls and refreshments.

As you may already be aware, this year the fair will be raising funds for **The Ideas Partnership**.

If anyone would like to host a stall, or indeed help in any other way then please get in touch with Jim Lord. He would be delighted to hear from you.

## Music Quiz Night

# L

ater in the year on the **19th October 2024** we will be holding a Music Quiz Night at Emmanuel. Please save the date in your diaries! More details nearer the time!

Any queries to Jim Lord.

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



# GROWING TOGETHER

COMMUNITY GARDEN



COME AND JOIN US

THURSDAYS 10AM | 1 PM  
ST FRANCIS CHURCH  
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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](http://www.miniathletics.com)

**Location:** Richmond Sports Hall, Emmanuel Church  
**Contact details:** Lara Doherty on [ldoherty@miniathletics.com](mailto: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.

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*

# Notices

BREAKFAST & CELEBRATION  
STORIES, GAMES, CRAFTS,  
ACTIVITIES

**7th April**  
**@ 10 am in the Richmond Hall**

[www.emmanuelww.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelww.org.uk)  
[www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

For more details, please contact:  
Pat on 07714 808 498 or  
[patbest@btinternet.com](mailto:patbest@btinternet.com)

## **Good Friday (29<sup>th</sup> March)**

11am  
at St Francis, Ravenswood Avenue

## **EASTER SATURDAY**

Join in the fun at Emmanuel  
Church  
with the **Easter Story and Egg  
Hunt** on the Green on 30<sup>th</sup> March

## **EASTER SUNDAY (31<sup>st</sup> March)**

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

## **Easter activities**

**Tuesday 9th April**

10-11.30am—cupcakes  
1-2.30pm—crafts

Details on page 24

## **Church Meeting**

**Sunday 14th April**  
(after the service)

## **Blissful Beginnings**

Starting 16th April  
For 0-6 months olds

Tuesdays at 10.30am till 11.30am

Details on page 26

## **Time Together Thursdays**

Starting 18th April  
For 3-4 year olds

Thursdays at 1.00pm till 2.30pm

Details on page 27

*Continued on next page*



# *Notices...continued*

## **Emmanuel Fellowship**

(Some) Tuesdays at 2.15pm  
in the Richmond Hall

Details on page 11

## **Baby & Toddler Group**

Wednesdays at 9:30am  
Details on page 29

## **Emmanuel Art Group**

Thursdays  
1:00pm to 4:00pm

Details on page 29

## **Warm Welcome**

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

Details on page 33

## **Mini Athletics**

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

In the Richmond Hall

Details on page 31



# Church Diary for April

Friday	5th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered worship led by Deacon Laura MacBean</b>
Tuesday	9th	10.00am— 11.30am	Easter activities—Cupcake making and decorating (details on page 24)
		1.00pm— 2.30pm	Easter activities—Craft, lego and games (details on page 24)
Friday	12th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered/broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd David Pickering Followed by Church meeting</b>
Tuesday	16th	10.30am— 11.30am	Blissful Beginnings For age 0-6 months (details on page 26)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'Dispatches from the Climate Change Frontline' with Ian Packham In the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Thursday	18th	1.00pm— 2.30pm	Time Together Thursdays For age 3-4 years (details on page 27)
Friday	19th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
Saturday		20th	<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas</b>

*Continued on next page*



## *Church Diary for April...continued*

Tuesday	23rd	10.30am— 11.30am	Blissful Beginnings For age 0-6 months (details on page 26)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'Shakespeare's Birth and Death Day' with Tony Harris In the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)
Thursday	25th	1.00pm— 2.30pm	Time Together Thursdays For age 3-4 years (details on page 27)
Friday	26th	10.00am— 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered worship led by Emmanuel Fellowship Committee</b>
Tuesday	30th	10.30am— 11.30am	Blissful Beginnings For age 0-6 months (details on page 26)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship; 'Exercise the Easy Way in your Chair' with Gwen Godwin In the Richmond Hall (details on page 11)

## *Church Diary for the start of May*

Thursday	2nd	1.00pm— 2.30pm	Time Together Thursdays For age 3-4 years (details on page 27)
Friday	3rd	10.00am —4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Messy Church</b>
		<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered worship led by Revd David Pickering</b>

# Emmanuel Church Contacts

ACTIVITY	MEETING	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
<b>Emmanuel Fellowship</b>	Tues 2:15pm	Sue Thomas	
<b>Baby &amp; Toddler group</b>	Wed 9:30 am	Zoe Favata zoe_04@hotmail.co.uk	
<b>Emmanuel Art Group</b>	Thurs 1.00pm— 4.00pm	Sheila John john.band3@gmail.com	
<b>Rainbows</b>	Fri 5:30pm— 7:00pm	Jess Wright westwickhamrainbows@gmail.com	
<b>Brownies</b>	Fri 5:30pm— 7:00pm	Carole Douglas brownowlcarole@gmail.com	
<b>Guides and Rangers</b>	Wed 6:30pm— 8.00pm	Jo McGee jojmcgee@hotmail.com	
<b>Beavers</b> <i>(6-8 years old)</i>	Thurs 6.00pm— 7.00pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
<b>Cubs</b> <i>(8-10½ years old)</i>	Mon 7.00pm— 8.15pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
<b>Scouts</b> <i>(10½-14 years old)</i>	Tues 7.45pm— 9.00pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
<b>Explorers</b> <i>(14-18 years old)</i>	Tues 7.45pm— 9.30pm	Niels Rump niels.rump@8thwestwickham.org.uk	
<b>Caretaker</b>		Tony Stephen	0208 777 1007
<b>Commitment for Life</b>			
<b>Communion Secretaries</b>			
<b>Cradle Roll secretary</b>			
<b>Fabric Adviser</b>			
<b>Halls Manager</b>		Katy Macmillan halls@emmanuelww.org.uk	
<b>'Reform' Agent</b>			
<b>Safeguarding</b>		Gill Chamberlain safeguarding@emmanuelww.org.uk	
<b>WW Churches Together</b>			

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# Sponge Kitchens

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- Sandwich bar

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