



# Emmanuel Life



# August 2025

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

**[www.emmanuelww.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelww.org.uk)**  
**0208 777 1150**

## 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: Vacant**

**Church: 020 8777 1150** (checked 2-3 times a week)

**e-mail: [welcome@emmanuelww.org.uk](mailto:welcome@emmanuelww.org.uk)**

<b>Communications Secretary</b>	Rosemary Daniels	<a href="mailto:welcome@emmanuelww.org.uk">welcome@emmanuelww.org.uk</a>
<b>Meetings Secretary</b>	Sue Carr	<a href="mailto:sc22@btinternet.com">sc22@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	Marion Moore	<a href="mailto:finance@emmanuelww.org.uk">finance@emmanuelww.org.uk</a>
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Doug Carr	
<b>Messy Church Leader</b>	Pat Best	<a href="mailto:patbest@btinternet.com">patbest@btinternet.com</a>
<b>Children and Family Worker</b>	Julie Cook	<a href="mailto:child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk">child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth Worker</b>	Han Brancaleone-Phelan	<a href="mailto:youth@emmanuelww.org.uk">youth@emmanuelww.org.uk</a>
<b>Freewill Offering Secretaries</b>	Sue Carr	<a href="mailto:sc22@btinternet.com">sc22@btinternet.com</a>
	Ann-Marie Mott	
<b>Emmanuel Life Editor</b>	Flora Kumi	<a href="mailto:fkum1@yahoo.com">fkum1@yahoo.com</a>

\*\*\*More contact details can be found on page 40\*\*\*



## August 2025 Services

3 <sup>rd</sup> (see below)	11.00am	Worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas
10 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Gathered and broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Bryn Thomas
17 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore
24 <sup>th</sup> (see below)	10.30am	Worship led by Jonathan Dolling
31 <sup>st</sup>	10.30am	Songs of Praise service led by Sue Thomas

## (Start of) September 2025 Services

7 <sup>th</sup> (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Worship led by Jo Patterson

- 3rd August – There is no Messy Church this month
- 24th August – A welcome return by Jonathan Dolling
- 7th September – Jo Patterson is the Mission and Discipleship officer for Southern Synod

*The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore  
(Psalm 121 verse 8)*

# *Pastoral Letter*

Dear Friends,

Since becoming a member of Emmanuel I have read the Pastoral Letter with great interest. I'm amazed at the knowledge of the bible by the writers and had often wondered what they would make of my idea of Christianity. Most of the Bible means nothing to me. I often think of the stories as perfect for the time in which they were written. A time when things had to be explained to be understood. Today, when so much more knowledge is known, some of it makes no sense. Also being a descendant of slaves, I can't accept that a loving God would tell a slave to honour their master. If we are all God's children, made in His image, then surely we are all the same.

I live by the words attributed to Jesus. "A new commandment I give you...that you love one another as I love you." What a wonderful world it would be. I try very hard to treat everyone as I like to be treated. It doesn't always work, because not everyone does the same. It breaks my heart to see the decline in Church attendance as the years go by, but having experienced the worst racism in Churches, I can understand the decline. When a minister after preaching, can ask you not to come back to his church because you're upsetting the congregation....you have to stop and wonder if he believes what he just preached. Younger people have so many such stories even today, that they can't be blamed for the decline of Christianity. They are so much more inclusive of others in their world. We could learn so much if we listened more to them.

I love the fellowship offered by the members of Emmanuel since joining you. The programme of activities offered weekly speaks volumes of your Christianity. To me we are truly treating others as we would like to be treated.

Love and Blessings.

*Linnett x*





churches  
together  
in West Wickham

Revd Matthew Drummond was welcomed to the United Benefice of St Francis of Assisi and St Mary of Nazareth on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July. A few of us from Emmanuel went to the service of Collation and Induction at St Mary's.

During the service Matt reaffirmed his vows of ordination, then the Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Revd Christopher Chessun read the Deed of collation and blessed the new incumbent. I found these words interesting. 'Receive this cure of souls, which is both mine and yours, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' I looked up 'cure of souls' and found it means care for the whole benefice and is built on love, the ministry of reconciliation between individuals and God, and between people and communities.

For the induction Matt was led to the door of the church, where the Archdeacon of Croydon, the Venerable Greg Prior, placed Matt's hand on the handle of the door, then led him back in. Some meaningful symbolism as he takes on the responsibilities of the parish.

After the service we enjoyed meeting with folk from the West Wickham churches over a delicious spread. It seems to me that there is a growing warmth in our Christian community

*Pat*



## Secretary's Notes

### MESSY CHURCH



No Messy Church in August  
But will resume on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September** at 10am

### SUMMER ACTIVITY for CHILDREN



Games, Craft, Activities for **4 – 11 year olds**.  
Monday **11<sup>th</sup>** & Tuesday **12<sup>th</sup>** August 2 - 3.30pm  
For more details see page 26.

### AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS



**3<sup>rd</sup>** (11am) – Revd Bryn Thomas  
**10<sup>th</sup>** – Revd Bryn Thomas with communion  
**17<sup>th</sup>** – Mrs Marion Moore  
**24<sup>th</sup>** – Jonathan Dolling  
**31<sup>st</sup>** – Sue Thomas with Songs of Praise

**EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP** have their summer break in August and will  
return on Tuesday **9<sup>th</sup> September**

**EMMANUEL  
FELLOWSHIP**

### WARM WELCOME FRIDAYS

Will continue to run throughout August, **10am till 4pm**.

*Warm Welcome  
Fridays*

*Rosemary*

# *Emmanuel Fellowship*

**Emmanuel Fellowship** is taking a break for the month of August

Here is an extract from the report at our recent AGM:

Thanks: I would like to say "Thank you" to all the Fellowship members, for without you, we would not have a Fellowship. Your appreciation and encouragement make all the effort put in worthwhile.

Without the Committee you would arrive each week to sit and chat, and that may be all. I cannot underestimate the value of the combined knowledge, skills, wisdom and achievements that you, the committee members, bring to all aspects of the Fellowship. To each of you, I say, "Thank you".

A pivotal part of each week is our Devotions and that involves preparation beforehand, chairing the meeting, welcoming and supporting the guest Speaker or entertainers and thanking them at the end. To each of you, who have taken on this role, I offer my personal thanks.

Our Refreshment team: Where would we be without you? Parched! Janet Pickering is the team Leader, organiser, trainer, and the go-to person for all our catering requirements. Janet does all this with quiet, gentle efficiency, and we greatly value her forward planning and provision. To all the team, we say a huge, "Thank you".

Once again, at this time of year, I can say a huge, collective "Thank you" to everyone who steps up when a hand is needed: serving tea and biscuits, putting away furniture and generally looking after others. These things make the Fellowship a wonderful environment. It is this care and kindness, along with attentiveness and involvement from you, that endears our members and group to the Speakers and entertainers who come to our meetings.

Tony Stephen, our Church Custodian is faithful, kind, helpful and always in good cheer, doing all he can to make everything run smoothly for the Fellowship. Thank you, Tony!

Blessings: It has been a blessing for me, to be part of this group for a number of years – I don't recall how many. Yes, there is a lot of work outside the hour and a half that we meet here each week, but it is all time-well-spent. What I hope we provide for you – for us all – is a place where we can relax, enjoy each other's company and hopefully, broaden our minds or fill our souls with new things or entertainment.

I wish you all a very lovely summer. See you on September 9th.

Every blessing,

*Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee*



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



Congratulations to Jamie Cook on his first class degree in Mathematics and Computer Science at Birmingham University. He has also been accepted on a graduate scheme starting in November. Well done, Jamie, and best wishes from Emmanuel!

A new baby for the Lewis family! We celebrate with Oliver and Sophia the birth of their daughter on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The birth happened superfast at home before any midwife could get there and, apparently, little (but now big) sister Lottie slept through it. All is going well.



We record with sadness the passing to greater glory of John Mackintosh on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Charles Sebestyen on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Their funeral services were on 24<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July respectively. More will be written about them both in the next edition of *Emmanuel Life*.

Jack Beeson is still doing well; also Moira Bing who sends her best wishes.

Our *Pause for Prayer* is well established now, meeting in the vestry at 9.30am on Friday mornings. You are most welcome to join in, regularly or occasionally.

Do continue to remember in prayer those mentioned above and:

- Tracy Dawkins who has recently had surgery at the PRUH. Also her mother Janet and sister Carol.
- Ann Marie's son Tim Mott in Canada, with a diagnosis of leukaemia, responding to treatment, together with his wife Nancy and Ann Marie.
- John Mackintosh's son John and daughter Janet McAuley
- Sally Mason, Silvia's cousin, who has made arrangements for Charles Sebestyen's services
- Monica Duncan, recovering well from a small stroke
- Marty Jones

*Continued on next page*

- Christine Jackson
- Wes Seldon
- Elizabeth and the Patterson family
- Helena, daughter of Pippa Dowsett, with her ongoing cancer treatment
- Julie Lord's mother and father

Thank you for helping us to know what is happening – your own worries and delights, those of your families and friends – either via your elder or directly. Phone (with answer-phone) 020 8462 5860 or 07957 858 878 or email [brynthomas@uwclub.net](mailto:brynthomas@uwclub.net) or [susanthomas767@gmail.com](mailto:susanthomas767@gmail.com).

*Bryn & Sue*

# *Children & Families at Emmanuel*

## **Update from Julie, our Children and Family Worker**

### **Messy Church**

With the Summer Holidays approaching, the theme of July's Messy Church was how everyone needs some time away. Pat retold the story of Jesus and his disciples seek rest after a busy period of ministry. They retreat to a deserted place to rest and recharge.

The rain held off and we were able to spend the morning at the front of the church. Everyone enjoyed playing with the games, writing postcards, drawing chalk pictures, playing in the sand and painting rocks

We ended the morning with Yoga led by Han and Kathleen and eating ice creams at the end of the morning!



### **Summer Holiday activities**

With one holiday activity morning already happened, we will be running two further activity afternoons during the summer holidays on:

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2-3.30pm

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2-3.30pm

These sessions are for 4–11-year-olds there will be games, craft, toys, Lego and much more (see attached flyer on page 26).

### **Are you pregnant or know anyone who is?**

We are running a couple of informal get togethers for Parents-to-be to meet others in the same situation as you. Join us for a cup of tea and cake in the James Todd room on:

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30-3pm or

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 7-8.30pm

If you are interested in coming along then please email Julie –

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

*Continued on next page*

### **Giggles and Grow**

For those with babies who are crawling and not confidently walking (or only walking a little) then join us on a Tuesday morning 10.30-12noon in the James Todd room. Babies can explore new toys and play with little ones of similar ages. This group will run throughout the summer holidays (except Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August).

### **Blissful Beginnings**

This group gives Parents / Carers to meet others who have little ones too. A lovely group where everyone sits and chats while the babies can play!

This group is on a Wednesday morning from 10.30-12noon in the James Todd Room. This group will run throughout the summer holidays (except Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August).

### **Time Together Thursdays**

On our last week we celebrated with an end of term party – with pass the parcel and party food, lots of dancing and activities, the group has now finished for the summer holidays and resume on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Youth Club**

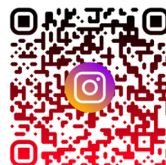
At youth club, we had great fun making waffles with ice cream and yummy toppings. We played some games and a football match. Turns out Pat Best is a fantastic footballer and saved all the goals too. Thanks for your help Pat.

At the following youth club event it was very hot so after playing a game of tag outside we had burgers and drinks. We then played some fun water games as well as a big water fight. After that we enjoyed ice cream with waffles fruit and toppings.



### **WE REQUIRE YOUR HELP!**

With all these groups running, we **need** some volunteers to help us – making tea, playing games, chatting with families, playing with the children. This can be once a week, once a month, once a term – we would love you to join us when you can!



Please speak or email either Julie ([child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk](mailto:child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk)) or Han ([youth@emmanuelww.org.uk](mailto:youth@emmanuelww.org.uk)) or speak with Sara Stocker or Pat Best on a Sunday.

*Julie and Han*



# A letter of gratitude and hope

***To: All members and adherents of United Reformed Churches and our Local Ecumenical Partnerships***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace to you all.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity you have shown to God's work through your local churches. Your contributions - whether through time, talents, or treasure - have been a beautiful expression of discipleship and community.

## **Celebrating Faithful Stewardship**

In these challenging times, when many families have faced difficult decisions about household budgets, rising energy costs, and the ongoing cost of living pressures, your continued commitment to supporting God's work has been truly remarkable. We have witnessed the church at its best: caring for one another, maintaining mission and ministry, and trusting in God's provision.

Your financial contributions through the Ministry & Mission Fund have enabled us to continue our shared calling across England, Scotland, and Wales. Through this Fund, we support ministers' stipends, theological training, Assembly gatherings, and the vital central services that strengthen our witness and ministry in every community we serve.

## **Partnership in Ministry**

As officers of our denomination, we treasure our roots in local URC congregations and LEPs. We understand firsthand the joys and challenges of local church life, including the financial pressures you face. This shared experience strengthens our commitment to wise stewardship of the resources you entrust to us. Your local church treasurer has received detailed financial information and can answer specific questions about our accounts. If further assistance is needed, our finance team at Church House stands ready to help.

## **Our Deepest Thanks**

To every member who has contributed to their local church, to every congregation that has supported the M&M Fund, and to all who have made this work a priority even in difficult times—thank you. Your faithfulness enables ministry to continue, training to be provided, and the gospel to be proclaimed across our three nations.

May God bless you abundantly as you continue to be faithful stewards of all that He has entrusted to you. Together, we participate in God's wonderful work of transformation, both in our own lives and in the world around us.

In Christ's service,

Alan Yates, Treasurer

Vaughan Griffiths, Deputy Treasurer

## From the Treasurer

A few updates which were reported at Church Meeting in July:

The Gift Aid claim for the tax year 2024-25 has been submitted, with thanks to Sam Pickering for his detailed work. Just over £12,000 will come to the general fund which shows how important Gift Aid is to our income. If anyone is a tax payer and has not already signed a Gift Aid form and would like to, please see Marion or Sam.

We received a legacy from the estate of Carol Matthews.

We received a donation from the Kienlen family to pay for the new bench in memory of Alan Kienlen and associated paving in the Quiet Garden

I also reported on donations from collections and events either recently sent or shortly to be sent:

- £3,300 to the URC Commitment for Life appeal. We received a thank-you email which I have included below
- £2,596 is the final total for this year's Christian Aid collection, including proceeds from the Quiz night, e-envelope, church collections and Gift Aid
- £1,200 was raised at the Summer Fair for Oberig school in Ukraine
- £2,000 to the Vine foodbank as another donation from the sums given each week at Warm Welcome.

Huge thanks to everyone for being so generous.

*"Thank you so much for all of your dedicated support for Commitment for Life. Ongoing partnerships like Commitment for Life deepen our relationships with those across the world and challenge us to keep justice and peace at the centre of our Christian life. Together we are part of the transformation of God's kingdom and seeing change happen."*

Marion Moore

## *Soap Box*

When asked to make a contribution to Emmanuel Life there were some things which I had thought of expressing for some time but more along the lines of the “Soap Box” comments which the late Jim Drury had instigated some years ago. Perhaps the following should be read on this basis rather than in the pastoral sense.

During Lockdown I was browsing through our book shelves and came across a book which did leave an impression on me. It was entitled “The End of Faith” and written by Sam Harris; unsurprisingly, it was praised by Richard Dawkins. Essentially it was a polemic on the assertion that it is religion which is the root cause of most of the conflict in the world. It commenced starkly by focussing on what can possibly drive a young man to board a bus carrying explosives on his back with the sole purpose of blowing himself and his fellow passengers up. According to the author, only religious fanaticism could do this and consequently, in an age of increasingly dangerous weaponry, religious faith should be more robustly challenged. The book was highly thought provoking and I think that we all have to accept that organised religion can inspire cultural norms of behaviour which, if they become too embedded, can lead to prejudice. Even within Christianity, traditions and doctrinal issues can range from the minor but interesting to what have been in the past seriously divisive.

Until a few years ago I was a keen enthusiast for the annual Churches’ Walk from which I learned a lot but it was noticeable that some of the liveliest and most welcoming churches were those supported by an ex patriot community so perhaps there can be a blending of organised religion and a sense of nationhood. Dictators are not above exploiting such expressions of identity if they feel it supports their tyranny. However I recall that the book’s main flaw was that not enough attention was paid to the secular extremism arising from nationalistic fascism or extreme forms of socialism with proponents of such movements fostering a quasi religious intensity.

Having read the book it left me with the feeling that extreme attachment to any form of organised religion can lead to conflict. That being said, I have no wish to be sneering about religious tradition in general. I am thankful to have had a fairly conventional Church of Scotland upbringing which I hope imbued me with some moral compass to help me cope in this age of frantic individualism. Perhaps these thoughts are all a bit random but the idea which I am trying to get across is one which I think we all share in that sincerely held personal faith

*Continued on next page*

is likely to be a force for peace and good in the world but blind attachment to religious or political extremism could end up having the opposite effect. Nothing I read made me feel that we should diminish our non zealous U. R. C. type efforts at outreach within our community.

To round off this little piece, I am drawing on two recent services at Emmanuel which featured quotes from Galatians chapter 3, verse 26 which perfectly expresses our ideals in so far that people are “all one in union with Christ”.

I am going to conclude this little piece in a totally different vein. I did mention to the younger generation of my family that I was going to make a contribution to Emmanuel Life and was told “couldn’t you say something about “**Happy Young People of Emmanuel Rejoice**” for which there had been happy memories so I have added this by way of encouragement to those hard working people who are endeavouring to create a youthful community within the church family.

*Brodie Hunter*

## *Just a thought...*

### St Luke – The Amazing Chapter 10



*The 'portrait' of Luke is by Vladimir Borovikovsky (1757-1825) and shows the winged bull, or ox, the symbol of the evangelist.*

This is the first full chapter of Luke's special section. The journey to Jerusalem has begun, with all its implications of opposition, suffering, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. All that hangs over us as we read chapters 10 to 19.

First, he gives us a foretaste of what will happen the Acts of the Apostles, when the gospel message is going to spread out with power. Here in the Gospel Luke now relates how Jesus sends out 70 (or 72).

Imagine you are Luke, with pen poised working out how to organise this symbolic journey towards Jerusalem. You know what will happen at Pentecost in Acts 2, even though you haven't written it yet. You want to be positive, so you make your starting point a successful project in which six times the number of core disciples ( $6 \times 12 = 72$ ) go out into the region, apprehensive, scared even, and come back successful.– even demons have been subdued! Jesus gives a spiritual whoop of delight: 'I saw Satan fall, like lightning, from heaven'. Luke adds: 'Jesus exulted in the Holy Spirit', for it is a glimpse of Pentecost in advance.

Second, Luke lifts a story which Mark tells in the last fateful week of Jesus' life: a scribe challenges Jesus to sum up the Law and Jesus gives the reply. In our special chapter 10, Luke *creatively repositions it in the most telling way*: instead of this exchange happening in the last few days of Jesus' life, Luke brings it forward to the start of this journey to Jerusalem, the lawyer asking Jesus, 'What must I do to inherit eternal life?' Unlike in Mark (where Jesus replies himself) *Luke switches the dialogue around, so that Jesus gets the lawyer to give the answer*: he quotes from Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. Luke must have asked himself, 'How would Jesus have tackled this situation?' Getting the lawyer to respond engages him in dialogue in the way that rabbis or lawyers were trained and, above all, places Jesus in his rightful senior position. And what insight, how creative is that on the part of Luke?

Sometimes the lawyer's follow-up question, 'But who *is* my neighbour?' is seen as niggly and disrespectful, but surely this is not so: it is a highly trained expert

*Continued on next page*

speaking to a greater(!) expert, furthering the argument in the normal way.

The crucial next stage is that Luke has the insight to know that *Jesus would not have continued to argue, but would tell a story instead*, a far more effective way forward and a master-stroke in getting the heart of the Gospel across.

Surely the best-known story in the Christianised world is stunning in its power: pretty well everyone knows what being 'a Good Samaritan' means. Consider some of its challenging aspects that stretch the meaning of 'neighbour':

- professionals of the religious establishment fail to respond to the situation
- the man who does respond comes from a rival, hostile, background
- he uses wine and oil for first aid – items he may have intended to sell.
- he is amazingly generous, offering the innkeeper limitless recompense.



At the end, the lawyer's answer to Jesus' question is: 'The one who showed him kindness'. The theological question about eternal life that the two expert biblical scholars discussed has now been answered with simplicity: *be kind*. This is one of the high points of the gospels, the story that lies behind so many good works, such as the founding of countless hospitals.

But Luke's master stroke is yet to come: he asks himself, 'How does a person become a Good Samaritan?' His answer is to insert the story of Martha and Mary at this point, even though geographically (Bethany is in the south) the two

sisters of John 11 may not easily fit his journey narrative.

Martha is like the Good Samaritan: selflessly serving, because *that*, for her, is loving God and neighbour: love *in action*. Many Christians identify with her: Martha gets on with the job, she walks the talk. If she gets a bit stressed and thinks her sister is not helpful, we sympathise. She is the conscientious one who takes responsibility. We understand her perfectly because, when we want to get something right, we can get stressed too.

The key is in the ending: 'Mary has chosen the best *part/portion/idea/way*. You can't take that away from her.' The word can mean 'part' of anything – it could be a 'portion' of a pie or stew or cake, or even a 'course'. Martha is serving a meal. We are in the Mediterranean: imagine a meal of several 'mezze', on small plates. When Martha and Mary are at home, they usually have just one each, cold or hot. For her special guest, would she make one more small plateful? Of course not – she would make at least six more!

*Continued on next page*



It is now midday and Martha says humorously to Jesus: 'If you want your food before three o'clock, get that idle sister of mine to come and help me!' Mary stays where she is, feeling a bit guilty but not moving. Jesus says, 'Martha, how many mezze are you making? Looks like you're doing extra for me. You're so kind. No wonder you've got such a big job on. You don't have to, you know!' With ironic humour about himself, Jesus goes on: 'Martha, you don't need to provide *many* mezze. Only *one* is needed – and Mary has chosen it – it's *me*! You can't take me away from her, can you?'

Martha bursts out laughing: 'Oh, get away with you!' Mary looks up with relief: Jesus has burst the bubble of Martha's stress. Mary says to Martha while giving Jesus a sideways look, 'I'll do the washing up, then!' Jesus winks at Mary and grins at Martha. There is no criticism of Martha, only sympathy for a good cook who wants to get it all right. Mary is not a lazy and unhelpful sister: she knows she could have helped with the multi-mezze meal without being told. She is just a loving person who makes the most of Jesus' presence, having the insight to know that he may not be with them for ever.

Luke is well aware of this last point, because a few verses back he introduces his special section with: 'As the time approached when he *was to be taken up to heaven*, he set his face resolutely towards Jerusalem': we readers already know that he will not be around for long. We must make the most of his being here: exactly what Mary does. Being with Jesus is a refresher course for being a thoughtful and kind human being, being a... Good Samaritan.

So Luke has placed the Martha and Mary story at this point in chapter 10 to convey the central message that the best training is simply *to be with Jesus*. The story complements the Good Samaritan parable: love in action (Martha and the Samaritan) requires us to *be with Jesus*, just like Mary.

*Artists: Borovikovsky, Harold Copping, Vermeer.*

*Bryn*



## *Personal Thanks & Announcements*



Many thanks to everyone who supported the General Knowledge Quiz on the 12th July, led by Bill Bowman. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves. On the night we raised over £450 which means in total this year Emmanuel has raised £2,596 for Christian Aid.

Thank You,

*Jim Lord and the Community Outreach Group*

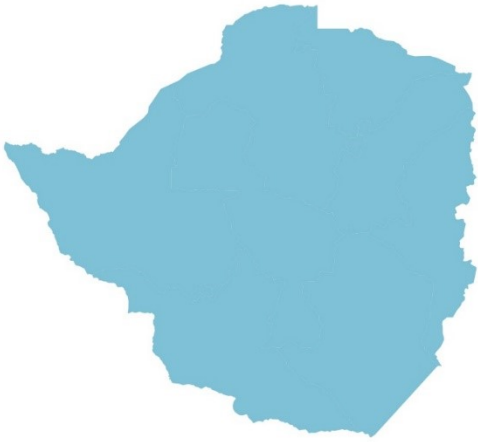
## **A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips**

### **Private gardens, churchyards and other outdoor spaces can make a significant contribution to nature**

We can take action to care for plants, wildlife and soil in the places where we live and around our churches. Caring for the earth was the first instruction God gave to humans. This doesn't mean we all need to be professional gardeners, but perhaps try to learn one new thing this month that you can do for a garden space.

Read more about nature-friendly gardening at  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2024/04/environmentally-friendly-gardening-10-toptips](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2024/04/environmentally-friendly-gardening-10-toptips)

# Commitment for Life



Supporting  
Zimbabwe

Next month we will be celebrating Harvest Festival and giving to Commitment for Life. It is good to know that our money directly helps people such as Blessing. Here is her story.

## **When the family farm began struggling, Blessings' husband moved to the city to find work.**

"Things were hard," remembers Blessings. "We were living hand-to-mouth and had to wait for provisions to be sent from my husband. I found life really tough – doing everything on my own, trying to get something out of the land in drought. When I managed to harvest something, I couldn't get decent prices."

Blessings tells how things changed for herself and the wider community with the coming of BRACT, a *Commitment for Life* sponsored project in Zimbabwe. "The project taught us about disaster risk management, and this helped us plan what we need to do in case of droughts and even price fluctuations. The 'climate smart' agriculture training made us realise we can use less fertilisers, farm without cattle to help us plough and still get a harvest even when the rainfall is low. We can also grow feed for our livestock in our fields and make

*Continued on next page*

hay for the cattle and goats. This was all completely new to us.”

Thank you for your wonderful support for BRACK through *Commitment for Life*. People all across Zimbabwe, like Blessings and her family, have had their lives transformed.



*Pat*



# 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:

- Instant coffee
- Tinned meat
- Tinned meat meals
- Tinned pasta meals
- Shampoo,
- Sanitary towels - but not tampons
- Cooking oil
- Squash
- Carrier bags

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 7pm-8pm, and Saturday mornings 9am-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*

# Quiz—No. 4

*Supplied by Lawrence White*

1. What musical note has double the value of the minim?
2. Who wrote the classic novels: Cranford, Mary Barton and North and South?
3. What is the longest river in France?
4. How old was Moses when he died (according to Deuteronomy)?
5. Where was Dame Shirley Bassey born?
6. What do Americans call candyfloss?
7. What was the first hit Broadway musical composed entirely on guitar?
8. What is the lowest prime number over a thousand?
9. Who was the first English woman doctor?
10. Who was the second wife of King Aethelred II the Unready (968-1016) and the second wife of King Cnut (died 1035)?
11. Who invented the miner's safety lamp in 1815?
12. What is a general term for blood poisoning?
13. Who won the Women's Singles at Wimbledon in 1977?
14. Which ballet did Tchaikovsky compose in 1890?
15. What is the name of the Duke of Marlborough's house in Oxfordshire?
16. What is the name of the Lower House of the Manx Court of Tynwald?
17. Name the English National Parks
18. Where is the largest Welsh castle?
19. In which city is Arthur's Seat?
20. Which country has the second largest Christian population?

Answers can be found on page 37

# **A Thought for the Month**

## **Never give up!**

### **2 Corinthians 4, verses 16-18**

*‘That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long, yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last for ever! So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now, rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last for ever.’*

*To understand these words completely, I encourage you to read the whole chapter – It won’t take too long!*

*The trials Paul experienced were probably greater than anything we will know, but he was ‘knocked down but not destroyed.’*

*So keep your eyes on Jesus.*

*Chris Cutler*

# SILENCE IS GOLDEN

In the days of the Empire, the British Government used to recruit people to serve in overseas territories. When I taught at a school in Brunei, Borneo two of the older teachers had formerly been employed by the British Colonial Service. One of them, John South, told me that he had been recruited to serve in the Malaysian Education Service soon after the Second World War finished. After a training course in England, he was sent to be a teacher in Alor Setar, on the west coast of Peninsular Malaya. One of his colleagues on the same course was sent to be a District Officer, several days journey up river in Sarawak, Borneo. A river journey by boat was the only way to get to this outpost. This colleague was “thrown in at the deep end” and having learnt some Malay in England, he then had to learn the local tribal language and his District Officer Duties on the job. The tradition at that time was that the local Pengulu (Headman) would find a young woman at a certain age to do the new officer’s laundry, cooking, housework and also see to his “other needs”. If children resulted and the officer was posted else where a payment would be made to the family left behind.

About 18 years later, John South, who had since become Headmaster of the school at Alor Setar, was posted as an Education Inspector to Kuching, the main town in Sarawak, Borneo. Imagine his surprise when he met up with his former colleague, who had just returned from long leave in England with a young English wife and a new job in Kuching in Education Administration. John South who had been married for some years, invited them round for an evening meal. During the meal, John looked long and hard at the Eurasian serving girl that his wife had recently taken on. He remembered the up river location that she came from and her age and looking at her features as she served his guest, he knew that she was serving her father and his new English wife.

Nothing was ever mentioned about the matter.

*John Manuelli*





# Summer Time fun for everyone!



**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2-3.30pm**  
**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2-3.30pm**  
**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2-3.30pm**

**If you are aged between 4-11 years,  
come and join us for Games, Craft Activities,  
Lego, Table Tennis and Air Hockey**

**No need to book, just turn up (parents are  
required to stay).**



Donations welcome

Contact: Julie Cook,

Children & Family Worker.

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

07444998312

## Emmanuel

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



# Summer fellowship and fun

## Wednesday 20th August

Everyone is invited to a time for playing, relaxing and conversation at Sparrows Den playing fields off Corkscrew Hill BR4 9BB.

We will meet from 1pm onwards, hopefully near to the cafe and Enchanted Village Crazy Golf and Foot-golf/Putting.

There will be stomp rockets, bat and ball games and the parachute. Please bring a game to share, picnic rug/chairs and your own food and drink, sunscreen etc.

Friends are welcome, and an adult must accompany children.

Cancelled if wet.

Pat Best

# ***SAVE THE DATES***

**Macmillan Coffee**

**Morning**

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.30am – 12.30pm**

-----

**Harvest Lunch**

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September**

**12.30 pm**

following the

**Harvest Festival and  
Church Parade Service**

Full details of both events will be  
in September Emmanuel Life

*Janet Pickering*



Messy Church is a form of church for children, teenagers and adults that involves creativity, celebration and hospitality.

The 1st Sunday of the month (excluding August)

Join us at 10am for breakfast, followed by Bible stories and fun activities until 12 noon.

Email: [child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk](mailto:child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk)  
07444998312  
[www.emmanuelww.org.uk](http://www.emmanuelww.org.uk)

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



# Giggles & grow

Has your child starting crawling, but not walking yet? Then join us on



**Tuesdays 10.30-12.00**

at Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham  
For playing, chatting and stories!

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



# Blissful Beginnings



Every Wednesday  
10.30am - 12.00noon

For ages 0-6 Months  
(or until crawling)

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 2, 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

Every Thursday (term time only)  
10.00-11.30am

Emmanuel Church, The Grove,  
West Wickham

Connect with other parents/carers and bring your child for themed activities, sing a songs, 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



# Join Hayes Wick Primary Care Network at

## Connected Living Café

Are you interested in how we can help community wellbeing?  
Do you need assistance with accessing NHS digital services?



This café is designed for the over-60's registered with a GP in the Hayes and West Wickham area. We offer activities and refreshments with a programme of speakers including clinicians and other local service representatives as well as help and support accessing NHS digital services with our NHS App Ambassadors.

**Free**  
**Join us – no need to book!**

Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday  
(starting from 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025)  
11am – 1pm  
Medhurst Hall, West Wickham  
BR4 0JX





# GROWING TOGETHER

## COMMUNITY GARDEN



THURSDAYS 10AM | 1 PM  
ST FRANCIS CHURCH  
86 RAVENSWOOD AVENUE  
BR4 0PW

COME AND JOIN US

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
AVAILABLE

FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT - 0333 335 5209



## Sponge Kitchens

Established 1938

Beckenham 020 8650 0062

Hayes 020 8462 1352

Downham 020 86978848

## Your Local Master Bakers

- What we have to offer:
- Selections of Fresh bread
- Cakes and patisseries
- Platters for any occasion
- Sandwich bar

Kelsey Park round the corner from our Park Langley branch is perfect for walks with the family, why not come for a coffee and a cake or some light lunch in the newly refurbished store. All our branches would love for you to come in for breakfast, lunch or even a quick snack.

Our staff will always try to make you welcome and answer any questions you may have.

Check out the website for more details on bespoke cakes and all of our other ranges.

<b>Beckenham</b>	<b>Downham</b>	<b>Hayes</b>
106 Wickham Road	473 Bromley Road	38 Station Approach
<u>Beckenham</u>	<u>Downham</u>	<u>Hayes</u>
Kent, BR3 6QH	Kent, BR1 4PQ	Kent, BR2 7EJ

<http://spongekitchens.co.uk>

## 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.





# *Coffee and Get-together*

Breakfast, lunch, drinks, cake



Newspapers, games, conversation

Fridays 10am till 4pm  
**All welcome**

*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.

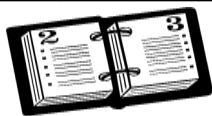
*Janet Pickering and Pat Best*



# Church Diary for August

Friday	1st	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Gathered worship led by Revd Bryn Thomas</b>
Tuesday	5th	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 29)
Wednesday	6th	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 29)
Friday	8th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Gathered and broadcast worship including Holy Communion led by Revd Bryn Thomas</b>
Monday	11th	2.00pm—3.30pm	Summertime fun for Everyone (details on page 26)
Tuesday	12th	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 29)
		2.00pm—3.30pm	Summertime fun for Everyone (details on page 26)
Wednesday	13th	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 29)
Friday	15th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>17th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship led by Marion Moore</b>

*Continued on next page*



# Church Diary for August continued...

Tuesday	19th	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 29)
Wednesday	20th	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 29)
		From 1.00pm	Summer fellowship and fun (details on page 27)
Friday	22nd	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Worship led by Jonathan Dolling</b>
Friday	29th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Songs of Praise service led by Sue Thomas</b>
		<b>6.00pm—7.30pm</b>	<b>Youth club</b>



# Church Diary for September 2025

Tuesday	2nd	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 29)
Wednesday	3rd	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 29)
Thursday	4th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 29)
Friday	5th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 33)
Sunday	7 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Worship led by Jo Patterson
Tuesday	9th	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 29)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 7)

## Photo credits:

- Photo on the front cover courtesy of Zwaddi on Unsplash
- Photos on page 7 courtesy of Unsplash
- Photos on page 8 courtesy of Bryn ad Sue, with the permission from the families
- Photos on pages 10 & 11 courtesy of Han Brancalone-Phelan and Julie Cook, with the permission from the families
- Photo on page 21 courtesy of Christian Aid

# Quiz Answers

*Quiz on page 23 supplied by Lawrence White*

1. Semibreve
2. Mrs Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell neé Stevenson (1810-1865)
3. Loire
4. 120
5. Tiger Bay, Cardiff born 1937
6. Cotton Candy
7. Grease
8. 1009
9. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836-1917)
10. Emma of Normandy (died 1052)
11. Sir Humphrey Davy (1778-1829)
12. Septicaemia
13. Virginia Wade (born 1945)
14. The Sleeping Beauty
15. Blenheim Palace
16. House of Keys
17. Dartmoor, Exmoor, Lake District, New Forest, Northumberland, North Yorkshire Moors, Peak District, South Downs, The Broads, Yorkshire Dales
18. Caerphilly
19. Edinburgh
20. Brazil

# *Notices*

## **Summer Time fun for Everyone**

**Monday and Tuesday 11th & 12th August at  
2pm—3:30pm**

Details on page 26

## **Summer fellowship & fun**

**Wednesday 20th August**

**at Sparrow's Den  
@ 1pm**

Details on page 27

## **Emmanuel Fellowship**

**(Some) Tuesdays @ 2:15pm**

Details on page 7

*Continued on next page*

# *Notices continued...*

## **Giggles and Grow**

Those crawling but not walking

Tuesdays at 10:30am till 12 noon

Details on page 29

## **Blissful Beginnings**

For babies up to crawling

Wednesdays at 10:30am till 12 noon

Details on page 29

## **Time Together Thursdays**

For 2-4 year olds

**Thursdays @ 10:00am to 11:30am**  
**Resumes 4th September**

Details on page 29

## **Pause for Prayer**

**Fridays @ 9:30 am**

In the vestry or on Zoom

## **Warm Welcome**

**Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm**

Details on page 33

# *Emmanuel Church Contacts*

ACTIVITY	MEETING	CONTACT
<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 jojomcgee@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Squirrels</b> (4-6 years old)	Thurs 5:30pm—6:15pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
<b>Beavers</b> (6-8 years old)	Thurs 6.00pm—7.00pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
<b>Cubs</b> (8-10½ years old)	Mon 7.00pm—8.15pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
<b>Scouts</b> (10½-14 years old)	Tues 7.45pm—9.00pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
<b>Explorers</b> (14-18 years old)	Tues 7.45pm—9.30pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
<b>Caretaker (shared)</b>	Monday-Wednesday Thursday-Friday	Tony Stephen Zhanna Tkach
<b>Commitment for Life</b>		Pat Best
<b>Communion Secretaries</b>		Keith & Rosemary Daniels
<b>Cradle Roll secretary</b>		Karen Florence
<b>Fabric Adviser</b>		Ian Moore
<b>Halls Manager</b>		Katy Macmillan halls@emmanuelww.org.uk
<b>'Reform' Agent</b>		Gill Childs
<b>Safeguarding</b>		Gill Chamberlain safeguarding@emmanuelww.org.uk
<b>WW Churches Together</b>		Pat Best