



Emmanuel Life



September 2025

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

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)

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September 2025 Services

7th	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Worship led by Jo Patterson
14th	10.30am	Gathered and broadcast worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Bryn Thomas
21st	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore
28th	10.30am	Harvest Festival Parade Service led by the Messy Church team

More details of September's services can be found on the next page.

(Start of) October 2025 Services

5th	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Worship led by Tina Wheeler from St John's URC, Orpington

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

Sunday worship during September

We give thanks that all our worship leaders are working with the Season of Creation themes in September.

Each service will take up slightly different messages and use different readings, so, if you want to read up ahead, here is a short summary of where we're going this month:

- **Sept 7th** in Messy Church, we'll be exploring the word "CREATION" and making our own promises to the Earth
- **Sept 7th** in Classic Church, Jo will be using Isaiah 32:14-18 and also Luke 12:13-21, and exploring the theme "How much does a bigger barn cost?"
- **Sept 14th** for this, our monthly communion service, Bryn will focus on "Stewardship", using readings from Genesis 1:27-28 and Romans 8:18-23, with Paul's idea of the universe 'groaning'
- **Sept 21st** Marion's service has the provocative title "Jesus died to save the planet", with readings including Psalm 104 and Genesis 11
- **Sept 28th** this is a Parade service with our Uniformed Organisations, and also our Harvest service. Loads to pack in! So we'll be celebrating – celebrating both harvest and the Season of Creation.

Ian Moore

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

across September, we are focusing on the “Season of Creation”. So I wonder how familiar you are with this, or indeed what the phrase “Season of Creation” means to you?

Over the last 30 years, the Season of Creation has grown across all the major denominations, and is a time when the worldwide Christian family unites for celebration, prayer and action, to protect our common home.

Some months back, I wrote a piece in Emmanuel Life about Pope Francis and his encyclical “*Laudato Si*”. In particular, I noted how he interweaves caring for God’s creation and caring for neighbour as two sides of the same coin.

This month, as we focus on the Season of Creation at Emmanuel, we will be exploring this “caring+caring” theme in more detail. Pope Francis wrote one of the invitations in this year’s global Season of Creation Celebration Guide, as follows:

“As sacred Scripture teaches, the earth is the Lord’s and all of us dwell in it as ‘aliens and tenants’ (Leviticus 25:23). If we really wish to prepare a path to peace in our world, let us commit ourselves to remedying the remote causes of injustice, settling unjust and unpayable debts, and feeding the hungry.”

Elders have arranged that for all four Sundays in September, our worship will focus on the Season of Creation and so we explore this year’s theme of “Peace with Creation” in more detail. There being four different worship leaders across the month, and with different readings each time, this will of course give us four different perspectives, and plenty of variety while building up the same overall theme.

And I hope that strengthened by our Sunday worship, we may then go out and take action. Because to me, caring for God’s creation is not only a response rooted in faith, but is also simply the right thing to do as part of caring for our neighbours. From the scientific side we know we all urgently need to take strong action. Climate change and its effects are real - and these changes are here and now, already in our lives, not just some distant threat. But there’s another side as well – taking action is also rewarding, fun, healthy, and a really positive way to rebuild community, justice and peace.

Above all, let’s celebrate the Season of Creation. Yes, come on and celebrate, let’s celebrate the beauties of the earth and our part in caring for this, God’s wonderful world.

Ian Moore



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Merry Church at Emmanuel will be meeting at **10am** on **7th September** with the theme **Season of Creation**

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP LEADERS



7th - Jo Patterson – theme: CREATION TIDE

14th – Revd Bryn Thomas with Communion

21st – Marion Moore

28th – Merry Church Team – HARVEST Parade

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Friday 19th September, 10.30am—12.30pm details on page 29



HARVEST SERVICE & PARADE will be on 28th September and will be led jointly by the Merry Team with Guides & Scouts. Remember to bring your Harvest gifts!



HARVEST LUNCH

Don't forget to book your place at the Harvest Lunch on 28th September – More details on page 30.



EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP are back on 9th September with a full programme, starting with opening service led by Revd Bryn Thomas

**EMMANUEL
FELLOWSHIP**

Rosemary

Emmanuel Fellowship

We hope you have enjoyed your Summer break and have found interesting things to fill your days. Our Committee has reformed after a well-deserved break and is refreshed by the addition of two new members, Gill Childs and Linnett Anderson. We are so happy that you are joining us. Thank you both!

Sadly, we have lost one of our dear members. Wendy Carvalho passed away just a few days after our last meeting. She was a sweet, lovely lady, who always had a kind word to say, showed her appreciation and was very thankful for all we provide at the Fellowship. On a personal note, I will miss her greatly.

Every one of you is a treasure to us, and we value your presence and contributions at our meetings. We hope each of you finds things in our Autumn programme to inspire and delight you. Here is the list for September:

- Our first meeting on the **9th**, will be led by **Bryn Thomas**, who will provide the **Opening Service** to begin our Fellowship season. Bryn always brings us words of wisdom, inspiration and encouragement.
- On the **16th Bob Ogley** returns, this time with stories of **'Doodlebugs and Rockets'**: a walk down memory lane for some, and a revelation of wartime experiences for others.
- **Peter Batty** will be back with us on the **23rd**. This time, his talk is about **'Changing Rooms: Interiors Through the Ages'**. Peter will take us on a lightening tour of domestic life from 1066 to the present day!
- Come along on the **30th** to meet a Speaker who is new to us. **Dean Caston** will be here to tell us **'The History of the Royal Variety Performance'**. It will be a fascinating, nostalgic journey of entertainment!

We look forward to your company.

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee



News of the Church Family, URC and wider Church Community

August used to be the holiday month – if that's you, our best wishes to all who are or have been away! And 'good to be home' to all the rest. Then we pause and think of those who would love to be away, active with this and that, but who no longer have the energy, or the sprightly limbs, that would enable them to enjoy it. Fitting in to Nature's – God's – process of ageing can be difficult. It may be little comfort to know you are in excellent company!

Jack Beeson is still doing well – he is an Emmanuelian, whereas his wife Pat is a stalwart of our sister church Elmers End. They both come to Emmanuel Fellowship. Do remember them both in your prayers.

You will find a friendly no-fuss welcome at our *Pause for Prayer*, meeting in the vestry at 9.30 on Friday mornings, whether you call in regularly or occasionally.

Do continue to remember in prayer people you know personally who are in need of God's blessing, including:

- Tracy Dawkins: we give thanks that she has recovered well at home following surgery at the PRUH. Also her mother Janet and sister Carol.
- Ann Marie's son Tim Mott in Canada, responding to treatment, together with his wife Nancy and Ann Marie.
- John Mackintosh's family
- Charles and Silvia Sebestyen's family members spread around Europe
- Monica Duncan
- Marty Jones
- Christine Jackson
- Wes Seldon
- Elizabeth Patterson, who has had a stay in the PRUH
- Julie Lord's mother and father

Give thanks! We have just received the following from Pippa Dowsett:

"A BIG THANK YOU to all those at Emmanuel who have been praying for Helena. As those who remember me will know, I believe in the power of prayer and last month our prayers were answered. Helena has been given the 'all clear' from her cancer. She still has three months of treatment to go, but she goes through it knowing her outcome is miraculous. Emmanuel is still often in our thoughts and prayers. Pippa"

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 or susanthomas767@gmail.com.

Bryn & Sue

Fix your eyes on Jesus

Hebrews 12 verse 2:

'Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith.'

Do you remember singing the following chorus by Norman John Clayton? -

When the road is rough and steep

Fix your eyes upon Jesus.

He alone has power to keep

Fix your eyes upon Him.

Jesus is a gracious friend

One on whom you can depend,

He is faithful to the end,

Fix your eyes upon Him.

Easy to read the words,

Easy to sing the chorus,

But harder, perhaps, to fix our eyes on Jesus when things are not so easy.

Let us pray for God's help.

Chris Cutler

Season of Creation 2025:

Theme, Text & Symbol

This year's theme is "Peace with Creation" and the core text is Isaiah 32:14-18.

For the palace will be forsaken,
the populous city deserted;
the hill and the watchtower
will become dens forever,
the joy of wild asses,
a pasture for flocks;
until a spirit from on high is poured out on us,
and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field is deemed a forest.
Then justice will dwell in the wilderness
and righteousness abide in the fruitful field.
The effect of righteousness will be peace,
and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever.
My people will abide in a peaceful habitation,
in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

The symbol inspired by this reading is called the "Garden of Peace". The left side of the tree is barren, with roots digging into dry soil, surrounded by an arid, desolate landscape. In contrast, the right side of the tree is lush and green, standing amidst a flourishing landscape. The dove, carrying an olive branch in its beak, flies toward the right—symbolizing peace as a transition from a war-torn, overexploited land to one that is fertile, thriving, and hospitable.



Garden of Peace
Isaiah 32:14-18

**PEACE
WITH CREATION**
SEASON OF CREATION 2025

Season of Creation

– History and Background

When does it take place?

- The Season of Creation starts on September 1st and runs to October 4th.

Why 1st September?

- Sept 1st was first proclaimed a Day of Prayer for Creation for the Eastern Orthodox Church in 1989.
- It was then embraced by the European Christian Environmental Network in 2006
- The World Council of Churches called for the observance of the season in 2008
- The Anglican Communion did likewise in 2012
- In 2015, Pope Francis established the same World Day of Prayer for Creation in the Catholic Church

And why 4th October?

- This is the feast day of St Francis of Assisi
- St Francis is widely regarded as the patron saint of ecology.



World Day of Prayer for Creation

Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi



Children & Families at Emmanuel

Update from Julie, our Children and Family Worker

Messy Church

No Messy Church took place in August, instead, during the holidays we have a fun afternoon with a picnic and games at Sparrows Den

Summer Holiday activities

What a great Summer for the 4-11 year olds coming to Emmanuel!

Lots of hard work creating craft activities, sorting toys and putting out the table tennis and air hockey – but it was really worth it!



We ran 3 activities over the summer holidays and despite two of the days being extremely hot, we have welcomed so many new families to Emmanuel! There was a lovely atmosphere lots of laughter, playing and chatting!



Mum-To-Be group

We welcomed a couple of mums into the James Todd room one afternoon and evening in August to talk all things pregnancy related as they are due their babies over the next couple of months.

It was lovely to meet them and listen to them sharing their stories.

We will be running another session over the next couple of weeks and if you are interested in coming along please email me: 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 restart on Tuesday 2nd September

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 restart on Wednesday 3rd September

Time Together Thursdays

These are for 2,3 and 4 year olds to enjoy fun, games, craft activities and lots of toys. It consists of themed weekly sessions ending with a story and singing.

This group is on a Thursday morning 10-11.30am in the James Todd Room.

This group will restart on Thursday 4th September.



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) or Han (youth@emmanuelww.org.uk) or speak with Sara Stocker or Pat Best on a Sunday.

Julie and Han

Just a thought...



Luke's special chapter 15 about God. Luke takes us on a journey from Galilee to Jerusalem – it takes 10 chapters: 10-19. He begins with the Good Samaritan (Be very kind) and the story of Martha and Mary (To become kind, stay close to Jesus).

Now, at the half-way point in ch15 Luke judges that this is the moment for us to think about what God is like. All good Jews, and followers of Jesus in the same tradition, assume that God makes demands on us – in brief, the 10 Commandments.

That's fine: but what if we fail? Are we doomed? Luke's central ch15 declares that God is like a relieved shepherd, a delighted woman and an overjoyed father. Jesus uses these images of joyful people to portray a forgiving God.

The young woman's lost coin could have dropped from her headband: the picture shows the hand of a neighbour who admires it now that its wearer has sewn it on again. Its *owner*? Her husband, whose property it has become as it was part of the dowry her family had brought to her marriage. Losing a coin was like losing a wedding ring or worse: no wonder she was worried – then delighted to have found it.



God's pleasure is the result of our repentance. A sheep is an animal and a coin is an object, but they represent human beings who lose their way ethically – our thinking moves seamlessly as we interpret the shift from animal/object that cannot repent, to human beings – us – who can.

The point about repentance becomes even clearer when we hear the story of the wayward son. He *has* gone through the painful process of recognising how wrong he was. Now he has returned in repentance to his father. The picture shows the human father's delight, but Jesus' aim in telling this story is to convince us that God, whom Jesus calls Father, is like that: forgiving and loving.



Is there another lost son? These days the elder son, the one working out in the fields, *is* often regarded as a lost son – for at least one commentator, *the* lost son. We easily identify with the elder son, as we like to think of

ourselves as conscientious.

Continued on next page

Of course the older brother is angry, as he has kept faithfully working for his father. He refuses to join the party, but after that his father speaks so passionately that I would like to think he would change his mind, come in, dress up and join the celebrations.

So why doesn't Jesus end the story in my way? It's not real-life – it's a parable. It's not about how humans are meant to behave within a family. The whole chapter is a set piece in which Luke has brought three stories together, using human reactions of joy to show us what Jesus says God is like. A God who is so joyful about human repentance is a loving God – the idea on which Luke wants us to focus at this part of his gospel – and the central point, of course, in the ministry of Jesus.

There's a lovely ironic twist... those characters are so attractive – it is easy for us to take the point about a loving God, and then go back to simply wishing we were a rejoicing shepherd, a delighted woman or a crazily welcoming father... *Human examples* directly help us.

Isn't that exactly what Jesus is and does? THE human evidence that God is loving and THE example to follow? It's officially called 'Incarnation'...

Bryn

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

The Season of Creation

(1 September - 4 October)

is dedicated to God as the creator and sustainer of all life.

During this period of the church calendar, many churches celebrate Harvest, thanking God for His provision through the land and food that is grown.

It's a time when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it, and to pray for our world.

Explore A Rocha UK's season of creation resources at: arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/season-of-creation.

Personal Thanks & Announcements

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER!



Barbara Jewkes was received into membership at Emmanuel on 10th August feeling at home at Emmanuel after being given a warm and sustained welcome. Tuesday 12th August marked exactly 12 years since she, and her husband Ray, first worshiped with us. Ray was a distinguished musician and band leader in the Salvation

Army, and Barbara was a lecturer in adult education.

As a fellowship we are spiritually enriched by her membership.

Welcome, Barbara!

Rosemary

Elizabeth Patterson and family would like to thank everyone at Emmanuel for all their support and condolences during the last 3 years and after Will's death.

We would also like to express our appreciation for all help given to enable Will's Thanksgiving Service to be so special for us all.

The Patterson family

Sue Thomas printed her Fellowship AGM report in the August Emmanuel Life, in which she graciously thanked the committee and members for all they contributed towards the success of the Fellowship.

Of course the biggest vote of thanks should go to Sue herself. She works tirelessly to find excellent speakers to put together an interesting and varied programme each term, and with support from Bryn leads the Fellowship with humility and humour.

So, a huge thank you Sue from everyone at Fellowship for what you do and who you are.

Janet Pickering



FOOD BANK DONATIONS...PLEASE

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

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

- Shampoo/shower gel
- Sanitary towels (not tampons at present)
- Coffee/hot chocolate
- Cereals
- Milk
- Sugar
- Squash
- Cooking oil
- Tinned tuna, tomatoes, veg, meat, meals, fruit
- Pasta sauce
- Rice (either small bag of rice or instant rice)
- Soup
- 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

John Mackintosh's final words

10 August 1927 – 22 June 2025



I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to and for so many people who have helped throughout my life.

First of all, to all my friends here at Emmanuel Church in West Wickham, and my friends at Beccehamians Rugby Club, I'm sorry that it's such an age since I last attended any of the services or pub lunches. Long may

they enjoy the thriving futures that they deserve.

And thank you too for my neighbours, especially Betty Bentley and her family, who have been close friends for many years. Thank you to our friends in Sidmouth who have been so helpful recently.

And I can't forget the staff and residents at Wilhelmina House, the care home where I've been for the last year and a bit. Everyone there has been so kind and caring, and many of the carers have become close friends. Thank you too to the people I used to work with. Amazing still to be in touch with some of them, after all these years.

Then, at last, my thanks to and for my family. First of all, Janet and John, my daughter and son, for their loving care throughout my life, especially more recently. When I was in hospital last year, they visited me every day, and since then have looked after my affairs so lovingly and faithfully. I'm very proud of them. Thank you then for my niece Judy and cousin Ted, and for Lynne and Nick, my daughter-in-law and son-in-law, for their warmth and affection, and for making themselves such an integral part of the family.

Thank you also to my grandchildren, Will, Imogen and Angus, for their help and support. Will spent hours sitting with me when I was in hospital, even though I probably didn't say more than a dozen words to him.

Then thank you for my wife, Audrey, for her loving kindness over many happy years, and for putting up with me. Her life was so cruelly cut short, but she gave us Janet and John, and that made Will and Imogen and Angus possible. Thank you, darling, and thank you Heavenly Father for all your blessings.

I don't know what happens after this. Whether we'll meet again. Perhaps. So I won't say Goodbye, just Farewell, and may God bless you all.



John Mackintosh - words for Emmanuel Life

We were blessed with incredible good fortune to have Dad. His reserves of energy were incredible. His great sense of humour, and his love of laughter. He was so kind and generous, to so many people. He would do anything for anyone. Nothing was too much trouble for him.

We have so many happy memories from all the time we spent together with Dad - as children, then as adults, and then with him as Grandad. We were always proud of his incredible resilience and his ability to overcome any setback. He never gave up, he just kept going. We are grateful that he lived to such a great age, and we cherish the time we were able to spend with him at that stage of his life, time which so many people don't get.

Dad's love and kindness for his family were unlimited, and we will miss him dearly.

Thank you to everyone at Emmanuel Church, past and present. Emmanuel was at the heart of Dad's life, the church meant so much to him, and we know how much he would have loved it that we were able to celebrate his life with everyone from Emmanuel.

Thanks also to Bryn, and to Bill Bowman, for leading the service, and to everyone else who helped with the arrangements for the day, to make it such a lovely tribute to Dad.

Janet McAuley, John Mackintosh junior and all the family

Charles Sebestyen

11 September 1938 – 1 July 2025



There were many parts to Charles Sebestyen's life – his love for his wife Silvia, his love of his and her family and his interest in helping them progress, his faith, his passionate belief in the freedom and free speech which were missing from his early life in Hungary, his work for the local community in West Wickham both at church and through the resident's association and his love of music – there were I am sure others. This brief memory tells a story which was so typical of Charles and indeed Silvia.

We lived about 6 houses down from Charles and Silvia – we knew them as neighbours saying hello and initially exchanging pleasantries as we all do. But then our son Mark who had special needs and an unusual genetic condition called Noonan Syndrome arrived back home from college wanting to live semi independently in the area but for the time being unable to do anything but come back to Mum and Dad. Mark wanted to ride a bike and had always been unable to do so because of problems with balance. We got him a junior's bike and fitted it with stabilisers and so off he went on the pavement initially for just a few hundred yards and then eventually for little trips round the block.

The stabilisers were noisy, very, very noisy but Mark loved it and soon he met Charles and Silvia tending their front garden and happy to chat to this young man noisily rumbling along the road. They talked and joked and pretty soon Mark would make sure that whether they were in the front garden or not, he was going to see them and have a chat!

And of course, we had recently started to attend this brilliant church in the Grove and there were Silvia and Charles always on time in their Sunday best and ready to have a "cheeky" conversation with young Mark. It wasn't long before Mark was "volunteering" the three of us to sing in the extended men's choir whether it was "A Policeman's Lot is Not A Happy One" from "The Pirates of Penzance" or "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ending of the First World War. Charles and I had no choice – too late Mark had put our name on the list and we were going to be singing!

In a lovely thanksgiving service on 29 July organised by Sally Mason, Sylvia's cousin and led by our own Rev Bryn Thomas, Charles' friendships, his warmth

Continued on next page

and humour and in later years his ability to live each day as it came shone through. Family from across Europe, friends from work many years ago and friends from both West Wickham and Ealing gathered to remember Charles and be thankful for his life. Like many others we are so pleased that we knew both Charles and Silvia and we are grateful for their friendship and support in good and bad times. We will not forget them. God bless you both, may you rest in each other's arms with perhaps the sound of bicycle stabilisers coming along the pavement!

Ian and Lesley Legg

Charles Sebestyen's Remembrance Day Address



In 2012 Charles gave some wonderful insights about the values for which so many had given their lives. Janet Knott had asked for a copy of the address, kept it and kindly shared it just before the funeral services. Bryn quoted a part of it at the Emmanuel service. A number of people have asked to read it in full. Here it is:

On the outbreak of the second World War, 3rd September 1939, I was just under one year old; and having been born in a country dominated by Nazi Germany, I was, technically speaking, your enemy. I was still in the enemy camp some six years later on 8th May 1945 when Germany finally surrendered. But, enemy or not, around the time of your Remembrance Day in 1945 I, my family and everyone in Hungary, did exactly the same as you and most of Europe. We went to church to give thanks for the end of the killing, and remembered the dead and other victims of the war. And, full of optimism and hope, we prayed for peace, democracy, freedom and justice in the years to come.

Sadly, our hopes were not realised. You in Britain went on to strengthen democracy, while we in Hungary faced an illegitimate and tyrannical government imposed on us by the Soviet Union. You enjoyed freedom of speech, while we learned always to look around to see who was listening and spying on us, before saying, even whispering, anything in public. You were free from persecution and arbitrary arrests; we learned to dread the midnight knock on the door and the grey van with the blue light and reinforced window grilles parked ominously outside our house. The secret police always came for you in the blackness of the night. And we accepted it as a fact of life that those arrested for not actively supporting this evil communist regime would be tortured (like my godfather), end up in a concentration camp (like my aunt) or simply disappear without trace (like her husband). Every time my father was more than ten minutes late home from work, we feared that we might never see him again. And, as we were growing up, we lost all hope that any other kind of existence was possible.

But why? (you may well ask) Why is he keeping on about life in Hungary more than half a century ago? What has this to do with our Remembrance Sunday? Well, let me fast forward to 5th November 1956. This was the day when, having escaped retribution after the defeat of the Hungarian uprising, our refugee boat docked at Harwich. It was the first day of my life in Britain, which ultimately taught me something very important about Remembrance Day.

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For the first time in my life, at the age of 17, I experienced the sheer exhilaration of being able to speak freely without looking over my shoulder. I no longer froze with fear on seeing a policeman approach me. Sunday after Sunday at Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park I was on cloud nine, being part of a large crowd, free to hear, heckle and argue with a multitude of speakers promoting a multitude of views. At the same time, I was rubbing shoulders with relaxed, helpful policemen and police women without a hint of menace. And later on, as my English improved, it was a mixture of great excitement, elation and delight to read newspapers of different political persuasions, and to have access to virtually every book ever written, all available in bookshops and libraries. Now, I realise that words like *all the books ever written*, *exhilaration*, *elation*, *cloud nine* and *great excitement* may be seen as a bit over the top. But I have used them advisedly, because it was exactly how it felt being part of a truly free country for the first time in my life.

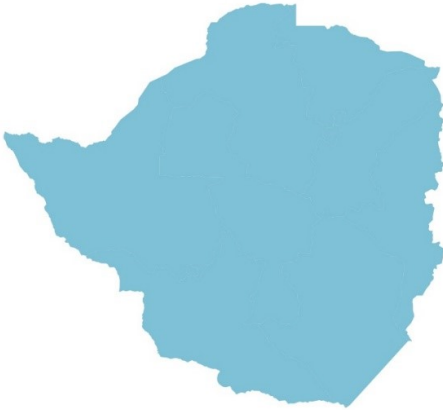
On this Remembrance Day, in the stillness of the two-minute silence, we remembered those who fell and suffered in the two great wars and subsequent conflagrations. And we said thank-you for their sacrifice which enables us to live in freedom today. But this is not enough. We must also make a promise: a promise that, having been given this priceless gift, we will do everything possible to nurture and defend it. This we owe not only to those who died, but to ourselves and generations to come.

Of course, most of us take freedom for granted. After all, we have had it for such a long time and it seems unlikely to come under attack by force of arms in the foreseeable future. But make no mistake. It is still under threat. The fatwa on author Salman Rushdie, which called for his murder for supposedly offending Islam, still remains in force. It was and remains an attack on our liberty. As is the threat of violence, forcing theatres to drop plays that offend certain militant groups. Or the constant pressure and threats by certain vested interests to prevent free discussion of an increasingly large number of taboo subjects in case it upsets others. These and many other similar restrictions undermine free speech. And without free speech there is no freedom. And without freedom there is no dignity. There is only fear.

'Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.' So wrote Thomas Paine, the great Anglo-American revolutionary and writer 235 years ago. Having had the misfortune to experience 17 years of oppression, lack of dignity and fear, before boarding that refugee boat to the blessings of freedom in Britain, I am in no doubt that eternal vigilance is a very small price to pay for it. So, as we thank those who paid the ultimate price, we pray for peace and give thanks for our freedom. But, thinking back to those wonderful, glorious days of *my* discovery of freedom 56 years ago, I also pray that Britons – men and women – will never, ever, tire of defending it.

Amen.

Commitment for Life



Supporting
Zimbabwe

at Harvest

Our **Harvest Festival Parade Service and Harvest Lunch** is on Sunday 28th September when we hold our annual **Commitment for Life Appeal**. This is always well supported and in giving we can help others in need.

Emmanuel supports the work of Commitment for Life in Zimbabwe. Political instability is an ongoing concern in Zimbabwe. Most Zimbabweans face socio-economic crises, every year. Millions rely on food aid. Drought, floods and erratic rainfall patterns are costly. Ruined infrastructure and a broken economy means many cannot grow enough food.

Church partners in Zimbabwe focus on food security, nutrition, HIV, health and gender equality. During the last year I have written of ways your money has helped individuals.

Last year we raised £3,300. It would be wonderful if we could top the amount this year.

There will be envelopes and leaflets available and news of how to give directly. If you are giving through the use of the envelope, with cash or cheque, or making a bank transfer to the church bank account, and if you are a tax payer, please remember to supply your name or FWO number. This will enable us to make a Gift Aid tax reclaim, which will add 25% to the value of your donation.

'But in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.'
(Philippians 2:3b-4)

Pat

A STRANGE CO-INCIDENCE

The ruthless attack on Ukraine by the Russian Dictator Vladimir Putin through the Russian Army under his control seems to go on and on. It reminds me of a teaching situation many years ago about another Russian Dictator called Joseph Stalin. At that time I had just got a job as a supply teacher at Ravensbourne Secondary School for Boys. Their History Teacher was ill and so I was asked to take her classes. On Friday the Head of History asked me to read up about the Dictator Joseph Stalin over the weekend as I would be teaching the senior boys about him the following week. So, on Saturday I went to Bromley Library and found several books referring to Stalin. I sat down at a table there and made some notes and then selected two books to borrow and take home. I already knew what a ruthless dictator he was but had not realized what a murderous monster he was to his own people.

On Sunday, two of our four children had invited their best friends for lunch with us. My wife Rita put herself out to serve a splendid roast leg of lamb for the eight of us. As we sat eating and chatting and laughing I thought what a bizarre situation it was that the next day, I would be teaching the senior boys about this mass murderer Joseph Stalin, while at this moment his granddaughter who was our daughter Tanya's best friend, was having Sunday lunch with us.

John Manuelli

Quiz—No. 6

Supplied by Lawrence White

1. Where does Church tradition say St Luke was a native?
2. Who drew up a list of 95 theses on indulgences, on 31st October 1517, denying the Pope any right to forgive sins? Where did he place the list?
3. Whose first and best novel 'Evelina' was published in 1778? Her letters and diaries (1846) showed her skill in reporting events of her time.
4. Who sat as MP for Huntingdon in the Parliament of 1628-9?
5. Who was the singer and variety star born in Rochdale, who won a unique place in the affections of British audiences? She first sang her theme tune 'Sally' in 1931.
6. What is the largest species of big cat in the Americas?
7. Where is the seat of the Netherlands government?
8. Who became a major star after appearing in films such as *Odette* (1951) and *The Lady with the Lamp* (1951)?
9. What was the surname of the quintuplets born in 1934 in Ontario, Canada?
10. Where is the Taj Mahal located?
11. Who won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1964?
12. Who were the husbands of Catherine Parr (1512-1548)?
13. Which is the largest English county?
14. Which is the second largest Scottish island?
15. What is an ait?
16. What is a carnot cycle?
17. What country has a Bible on its flag?

Answers can be found on page 41

Eco Church Network Bromley

A series of meetings in 2025, 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. Meetings start at 7.30pm, with teas/coffees/chat beforehand.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 10th @ St Francis of Assisi, Petts Wood (BR5 1QW)

"Implementing the CofE's Net Zero Plan"

Cat Jamieson & Kayleigh Ward, Rochester Diocese Net Zero Team

NOVEMBER

Saturday 22nd @ Emmanuel Church, West Wickham (BR4 9JS)

QUIZ NIGHT!

Bring your Eco Team—£5 per head—proceeds to A Rocha UK

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



This is the logo for our new aprons for Warm Welcome and has been designed by our Youth Worker Han Brancaleone-Phelan. You can see that we have drawn on her artistic talent (pun intended).



Han has also repainted the boards that we take down to the High Street so that passing folk can see that we serve more than coffee. We have drinks all day, toast, crumpets and biscuits in the morning and Tania cooks a different dish each week, such as soup, pasta, and ratatouille. Then desserts and cake until 4pm. Of course this would not be possible without the faithful band of volunteers in the kitchen and Hewitt Room who prepare and serve, greet and chat. We continue to welcome our regular guests and new people each week. If you are around on a Friday do call in.

Pat



Friday 19th September
10.30am to 12.30pm

Please support this worthwhile cause and
join us for coffee and cake

Bring along a cake or small cakes for sale

Enjoy a piece of cake with your drink

Why not buy some cake to take home

Every contribution (cake or money) will be
gratefully received

Pat Best and Janet Pickering



Please join us for a Harvest Lunch on
Sunday 28th September

After the Harvest Festival and Parade Service enjoy a coffee which will be served from the JT kitchen, and then make your way into

The Richmond Hall at 12.30pm for lunch

You can book a place for the lunch from the beginning of September with me (Janet Pickering).

The cost of the meal is **£10** – payable please when you book

The meal will be suitable for vegetarians, but please let us know when you book your place if you have any allergies or special dietary requirements

If you miss me at Church or Fellowship please phone me to book your place on 07751 114883

Last orders by Tuesday 23rd September please, so we can finalise numbers. Thank you

We look forward to seeing you then.

Janet Pickering and the Catering Committee

Talent Evening for sister churches

Elmers End Free Church are proud to present a Talent Evening for your delectation in our Sanctuary (Goddard Road, BR3 4AE) on **Saturday 4 October, starting at 6 pm.**

We will be delighted to welcome members of your congregation to join the audience – and we still have room for guest performers if any of your members would like to volunteer their talents. Music, dance, songs, recitations, magic – all are welcome. The bill will be topped by Mark Dowling's ensemble, which practices at EEFC, and our very own Flamenco group.

Proceeds will go to EEFC's charity for 2025, Medecins Sans Frontieres. Tea, coffee and cake will be served during the interval; anyone who hasn't eaten is encouraged to bring their own food and drink – preferably not alcohol given where the event is taking place. There will also be a raffle.

Admission is £5 – pay in cash at the door. Please book your place with Anne Sander, our Church Treasurer, on info@elmersendchurch.org.uk to give us an idea of numbers.

EEFC is a stone's throw from Elmers End train, bus and tram stations. You can park for up to 3 hours in Tesco opposite – not that we plan to go on that long!

We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Nick Comfort
Secretary, Elmers End Free Church

SPOOKY HALLOWEEN QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2025

DOORS 7PM – FIRST QUESTION 7.30PM

**ENTRY: £5 PER PERSON (TABLES OF 6-8)
BRING YOUR OWN REFRESHMENTS ETC**

PRIZE FOR THE WINNING TEAM

IN SUPPORT OF BROMLEY MIND (DEMENTIA)



Venue:

**Emmanuel Church Hall, The Grove, West Wickham BR4 9JS
Contact: Tony Stephen (caretaker) M: 07761 202767**



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
07444998312
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
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
07444998312
Donations welcome

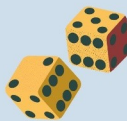
TIME TOGETHER THURSDAYS

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
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 1st and 3rd Tuesday
(starting from 4th 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.

Beckenham	Downham	Hayes
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

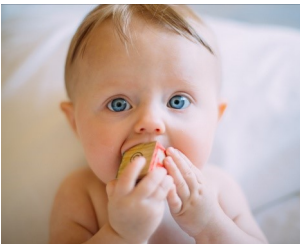
The Emmanuel Art Group usually meets on Thursday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm at Emmanuel URC Church, The Grove, West Wickham, BR4 9JS.

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

Community Baby & Toddler Group



Where: Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham

When: Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, term time

Fee: £3.00 per family

Contact: Zoe Favata

Email: zoe_04@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07852 153115

We meet each week in the Richmond Hall, which is a large safe place. Mums, dads, grandparents and carers have a chance to catch up while watching their children play, build friendships and develop alongside their peers. There are many toys and resources allowing the children to play freely, as well as structured activities, story time and songs with actions.

Come along to our friendly inclusive group and try us out.



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.

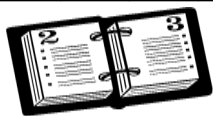
We can remain at tables or spill into the vestibule, the sanctuary or outside, so there will be plenty of space.

Janet Pickering and Pat Best



Church Diary for September

Tuesday	2nd	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 33)
Wednesday	3rd	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 33)
Thursday	4th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 33)
Friday	5th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 37)
Sunday	7th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Worship led by Jo Patterson Mission and Discipleship Officer for Southern Synod
		5.00pm—6.30pm	Youth club (offsite)
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)
Wednesday	10th	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 33)
Thursday	11th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 33)
Friday	12th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 37)
Sunday	14th	10.30am	Gathered and broadcast worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Bryn Thomas
		5.00pm—6.30pm	Youth club
Tuesday	16th	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 33)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 7)



Church Diary for September continued...

Wednesday	17th	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 29)
Thursday	18th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 33)
Friday	19th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 37)
		10.30am—12.30pm	Macmillan Coffee morning (details on page 33)
		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
Sunday	21st	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore
		5.00pm—6.30pm	Youth club
Tuesday	23rd	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)
Wednesday	24th	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 33)
Thursday	25th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 33)
Friday	26th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 37)
Sunday	28th	10.30am	Harvest Festival Parade Service led by the Messy Church team
		12.30pm	Harvest Lunch in the Richmond Hall (details on page 29)
Tuesday	30th	10.30am—12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 33)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 7)



Church Diary for October 2025

Wednesday	1st	10.30am—12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 33)
Thursday	2nd	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 33)
Friday	3rd	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 37)
Sunday	5 th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Worship led by Tina Wheeler from St John's URC, Orpington

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Quiz Answers

Quiz on page 26 supplied by Lawrence White

1. Antioch in Syria
2. Martin Luther (1483-1546). He nailed the list to the church door in Wittenberg.
3. Fanny Burney, popular name of Frances Burney, married name Madame D'Arblay (1752-1840)
4. Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658)
5. Dame Gracie Fields OBE originally Grace Stansfield (1898-1979)
6. Pangolin (scaly anteater)
7. The Hague –Dutch is Gravenhage or Den Haag
8. Dame Anna Neagle, originally Marjorie Robertson (1904-1986)
9. Dionne (born 28.05.1934) They were identical girls
10. Agra, India. It is a white marble mausoleum erected by Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife
11. Dorothy Hodgkin FRS (1910-1994)
12. i) Edward Borough, then Lord Latimer (1508-1533),
ii) Henry viii (1491-1547),
iii) Lord Seymour of Sudeley (c1508-1549)
13. North Yorkshire
14. Skye. It is the largest island of the Inner Hebrides.
15. Small island. Eyot is an alternative word
16. A carnot cycle is an ideal heat engine of maximum thermal efficiency
17. Dominican Republic

Notices

Macmillan Coffee Morning



Friday 19th September
10.30am—12.30pm

Details on page 29



Sunday 28th September

in the Richmond Hall

Details on page 30

Emmanuel Fellowship

(Some) Tuesdays @ 2:15pm

Details on page 7

Youth Club

Sundays 7th (offsite), 14th &
21st September

5.00pm—6.30pm

Continued on next page

Notices continued...

Giggles and Grow

Those crawling but not walking

Tuesdays at 10:30am till 12 noon

Details on page 33

Blissful Beginnings

For babies up to crawling

Wednesdays at 10:30am till 12 noon

Details on page 33

Time Together Thursdays

For 2-4 year olds

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

Details on page 33

Pause for Prayer

Fridays @ 9:30 am

In the vestry or on Zoom

Warm Welcome

Fridays 10:00am to 4:00pm

Details on page 37

Emmanuel Church Contacts

ACTIVITY	MEETING	CONTACT
Emmanuel Fellowship	Tues 2:15pm	Sue Thomas
Baby & Toddler group	Wed 9:30 am	Zoe Favata zoe_04@hotmail.co.uk
Emmanuel Art Group	Thurs 1.00pm—4.00pm	Sheila John.john.band3@gmail.com
Rainbows	Fri 5:30pm—7:00pm	Jess Wright westwickhamrainbows@gmail.com
Brownies	Fri 5:30pm—7:00pm	Carole Douglas brownowlcarole@gmail.com
Guides and Rangers	Wed 6:30pm—8.00pm	Jo McGee jojomcgee@hotmail.co.uk
Squirrels (4-6 years old)	Thurs 5:30pm—6:15pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Beavers (6-8 years old)	Thurs 6.00pm—7.00pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Cubs (8-10½ years old)	Mon 7.00pm—8.15pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Scouts (10½-14 years old)	Tues 7.45pm—9.00pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Explorers (14-18 years old)	Tues 7.45pm—9.30pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Caretaker (shared)	Monday-Wednesday Thursday-Friday	Tony Stephen Zhanna Tkach
Commitment for Life		Pat Best
Communion Secretaries		Keith & Rosemary Daniels
Cradle Roll secretary		Karen Florence
Fabric Adviser		Ian Moore
Halls Manager		Katy Macmillan halls@emmanuelww.org.uk
'Reform' Agent		Gill Childs
Safeguarding		Gill Chamberlain safeguarding@emmanuelww.org.uk
WW Churches Together		Pat Best