



Emmanuel Life



January 2026

**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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January 2026 Services

4 th (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Worship led by Rev Bryn Thomas Celebrating Epiphany with Matthew
11 th (see below)	10.30am	Worship including Holy Communion, Elder's Induction and John Wesley's Covenant Prayer led by Rev Bryn Thomas
18 th	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore
25 th (see below)	10.30am	Worship led by Jonathan Dolling Followed by Church AGM
	6.30pm	Churches Together United Service in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Coney Hill Baptist Church led by Rev Ian Hamlin

(Start of) February 2026 Services

1 st (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church
	11.00am	Worship led by Janet Godden

- 4th January—We begin our look at the way Matthew presents Jesus
- 11th January—John Wesley's Covenant Prayer – please see page 17
- 25th January—A welcome return by Jonathan Dolling

- 1st February—A welcome return by Janet Godden, a Lay Preacher from St John's URC Orpington

*The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are God's everlasting arms.*
(Deuteronomy 33)

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

New Year is a time to look back and a time to look forward, and there is benefit in both, as long as we don't get stuck on moments from the past, whether good or terrible. Looking to the future is also valid, as we prepare and choose the way forward, but being present in the moment is perhaps the most valuable thing of all, especially when that moment is spent in prayerful contemplation.

We don't need to concern ourselves with formulating the right words, or search for a prayer written by someone who 'knows' how to pray. God is always with us and in us, and when we focus on God, our thoughts are already known and understood. Psalm 139 speaks plainly to us:

*'O Lord, you have searched me and you know me...
you perceive my thoughts from afar...
Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.'*

So, my prayer for you today, is to be with God, each and every day of 2026. Thank God for your life, appreciate all you are and all you have, and receive each breath as a blessing from God. Endeavour to enjoy all that you can, and to share your gifts of life, love and joy with others. Look for the good things, in the moment, in the people you are with, and in yourself.

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Will be meeting on **4th January** at **10 – 12noon** with the theme '**Jesus's Childhood**'

As ever, everyone is invited to join in Messy for a cuppa and activities before the 11o'clock sanctuary service.

And on February 1st at 10-12noon

WORSHIP LEADERS for January



We welcome -

Revd Bryn Thomas on **4th (Epiphany)**

Revd Bryn Thomas on **11th (Covenant Sunday)**

Marion Moore on **18th**

Jonathan Dolling on **25th**

And on **1st February** – **Janet Godden**

ELDER'S INDUCTION

One Elder will be inducted at the morning communion service on **11th January**



CHURCH MEETING - AGM



Please grab a coffee (or tea) for our **Church Meeting AGM** which will take place after the **10.30** morning service on **25th January**.

Marion Moore will be presenting the accounts for the year ended 30th September 2025. Marion will provide a summary of the accounts for everyone but if anyone would like to see the full accounts either before or after the meeting please speak to her.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18-25 January

Everyone is invited to a service for this week at **Coney Hill Baptist Church** on Sunday **25th January** at **6.30pm**. This **Churches Together in West Wickham** service will be led by **Revd Ian Hamlin**



Rosemary



Church Family News

With sadness we report the passing of Mrs Nina Klymenko, mother and mother-in-law to Lada and Roland Sinden, on 28th December. Her funeral service will be at Beckenham Crematorium at 3pm on Friday 23rd January. We offer our sympathy to Lada and Roland, who have become well known among us during recent months and whose presence we value greatly.

On 30th December the Thanksgiving Service for Gita Nandra was held at Beckenham Crematorium. She had had cancer in childhood, and sadly it recurred when she was in her 50s. Gita had much appreciated the way she and her mother Kay were valued at Friday's Warm Welcome with much warmth and kindness, such that she asked for a Christian cremation, even with a background of giving years of devoted service to her Sikh temple in Croydon. It was a rare privilege for me (Bryn) to lead it, and appropriate that Sue, with Pat and Colin Best, were there to represent Emmanuel, too. After the cremation the mainly Sikh congregation continued to celebrate Gita's life at the Croydon temple. Gita's mother Kay is always very welcome at our Warm Welcome Fridays.

We continue to offer our sympathy to the families of Elizabeth Patterson and Nicky MacIntyre, and to so many other people for whom the memory of a loved one arises (unbidden or consciously recalled), sometimes with renewed sadness, sometimes with more positive happy thoughts. As a church we try to be a centre of support, love and kindness - this can be a source of strength for those going through bereavement, for that love is a reflection of God's love, however imperfectly we may offer it.

Among others, we remember in prayer:

- Peter Grafham
- Ann Marie's son Tim Mott in Canada, together with his wife Nancy
- Monica Duncan
- Marty Jones
- Christine Jackson
- Wes Seldon
- Julie Lord's mother and father
- Ann Saunders, recovering from an eye operation

Letting us know...

The start of a new year is a good time to remind you that sharing family news lies at the heart of church life: this a general point, not just relating to this article in *Emmanuel Life*. Birthdays, anniversaries, family events, special holidays... as well as illness, operations and other health concerns. **Please** tell us! Do **not** say to yourself, 'Sue and Bryn are too busy'. We are **not** too busy. It's the other way round: we worry about missing something we could have picked up – we do not have magic insight... You can tell us whether you wish your news to go into *Emmanuel Life*, or not. The same thought about sharing news applies to your elder, also. Thank you for keeping us informed – we do appreciate it – and need your help.

Phone (with answer-phone) 020 8462 5860 or 07957 858 878
or email brynthomas@uwclub.net or susanthomas767@gmail.com.

Bryn & Sue

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to you all.

We have had quite a long break over Christmas, but for the Committee and the 'work team' it has really been needed. Our Spring Programme begins on the 13th of January, and these are the details:

13th: **Bryn and Sue Thomas** will begin the term by taking you on a virtual **Journey across Sicily** following their trip there in October 2025. They hope to wrap you in the warmth of the welcome they received there, to help you bear the cold of winter here.

20th: We are really looking forward to welcoming **Dot Pullen** presenting her '**Monologues**'. Dot has quite a reputation for entertaining, with her sense of wit and her timing. I hope you will be there.

27th: Not to be outdone, **Tony Harris** will make a special return appearance as a woman! He is a historian-raconteur-actor, who will take on the persona of **Margaret Thatcher** on this occasion and tell her story through a dramatic performance.

On behalf of the Fellowship Committee, I wish you all a very happy, healthy New Year, and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas and the Fellowship Committee

Children & Families at Emmanuel

Update from Julie, our Children and Family Worker

As expected, December was a busy time for all of us!

Messy Church / Church Parade and Gift Service

We started December with our all in one Parade Service. It was lovely to see the Church decorated ready for Christmas, Sara, Pat, Anna and I led the Service with a very interactive retelling of the Christmas story.

During their weekly meetings, Squirrels, Rainbows and Beavers had made decorations for our tree. During the morning, everyone in the congregation decorated their own wooden heart and added them to the tree – it looked wonderful!



Christmas Eve Crib Service

This was a fantastic family afternoon of fun, joy and celebration!

Families joined us for some craft activities, tea, coffee and a mince pie before many of the young people (and some of the adults) dressed up and joined in as we retold the Christmas Story.

Thank you to everyone who came to this wonderful afternoon!

News from my groups

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.

The first group of 2026 will be Tuesday 6th January.

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Blissful Beginnings

This group gives Parents / Carers the chance 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.

The first group of 2026 will be Wednesday 7th January.

Time Together Thursdays

This group is for 2,3 and 4 year olds to enjoy fun, games, craft activities and lots of toys.

Each week I have a different theme, some examples are Diwali, Remembrance, Fireworks, Nursery Rhymes, Gingerbread Man.

We end the morning with a snack made by the children, story and singing (if time allows!)

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

The first group of 2026 will be Thursday 8th January.

Youth Club



The last Youth Club before Christmas was a themed Christmas evening – the young people made mince pies, played party games (of course the flour game!) and watched a movie.



The next Youth Club will be on Sunday 11th January 2026 5-6.30pm.
Please email Julie – child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk for more information.

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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 speak with Sara Stocker or Pat Best on a Sunday.

Julie

Your favourite bible verse

Each month, it would be lovely to change the bible verse on page 3. Therefore, I would welcome your favourite verse(s). It can be a verse that has special meaning to you, one that speaks to you in the moment, or your favourite, etc.

I will put the verse in the magazine, with your name and any words of explanation (if you wish). Deadline for contribution in the calendar towards the back.

I hope I will be inundated with contributions!!!

Flora

🦋 A Day I'll Never Forget 🦋

by

Jamie (Leader, 8th West Wickham Cubs and Julie Cook's son)



Today, I had the immense honour of standing as part of the Scouts' Guard of Honour at the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph and laying the wreaths from the parade.

It's hard to describe the feeling, standing in silence, surrounded by so many who came to pay their respects. To represent Scouting, an organisation that has shaped so much of my life, was incredibly special.

I first joined Beavers at 6 years old, not realising how deeply the Scout values of service, community and leadership would influence who I've become. From those early meetings, through Cubs and Scouts, to achieving my King's Scout Award, Scouting has given me unforgettable experiences, lifelong friendships and lessons that continue to guide me.



Today brought all of that together, a powerful reminder of the importance of service, remembrance and being part of something bigger than yourself. Now, as a Cub Leader, I feel proud to be able to give back to the movement that gave me so much, helping inspire the next generation to live by the same values that have shaped my journey.

Thank you to everyone - leaders, helpers, and fellow Scouts - who have been part of my story so far.



News from the Scouts



“No news is good news” they say and, fortunately, there is not a lot to report: the 8th West Wickham Scout Group, since having moved to Emmanuel, is thriving.

All our sections, Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers are fully subscribed, and it is a lovely sight to see rooms being filled with young people doing “scouty” things. (Pictures from our ~120 members’ adventures can be found on our picture gallery at 8thwestwickham.org.uk/gallery.) Even our waiting list is full — a clear sign that the everyday adventures we offer remain very much en vogue — and this makes us hopeful for the future of the group as well as for the wider community.

Scouting thrives with good leaders, and I would like to take the opportunity to welcome five(!) new volunteers into our leadership team. From left to right: Dwarak (Cubs), Jacob (Cubs), Ian (Scouts, no photo), Lucy (Scouts) and Jack (Scouts). And, yes, the three Scout leaders made their promise in the shimmer of the Christmas lights outside.



While Jacob joined the leadership from our own Explorers and Lucy joins us from a Scout Group in Bromley, the other three are new to Scouting. Welcome!

Another welcome goes to Aisha (sorry, no photo either) who helps us with doing criminal background checks (“DBS”). And long-standing trustee, Jo Champkins (below) was elected to become chair of our Trustee Board at our 2025 AGM. Thanks, Aisha; thanks Jo!



Photos of our leaders and other volunteers are also on our website, 8thwestwickham.org.uk.

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Scouting gives young people opportunities – one such example is Jamie who joined our Beavers in 2010. He is now a leader with the Cubs and after completing his Kings Scout Award (the most prestigious badge a Scout can earn), he was selected to be part of the Scout's Honour Guard at the 2025 Remembrance Parade in London where he also helped to lay the country's wreaths at the Cenotaph. Read his story on page 11.



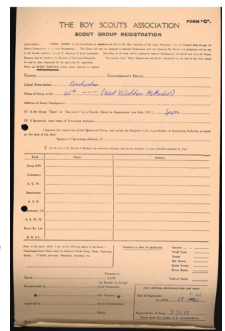
One of our Beavers followed in Jamie's footsteps and laid a wreath at the West Wickham Remembrance Parade.

It is also worth mentioning that the 8th West Wickham Scout Group is celebrating its 80th Birthday this year; we were founded in 1946 as the “46th Beckenham”¹ after all. Alas, we recently discovered that we were actually founded on 19th January 1945. We thus should be celebrating our 81st anniversary — but what's one year between friends (just don't tell anyone, please)!

We are currently planning two birthday events: the main one will be a three-day camp for our members over the May Day bank holiday. The site is already booked, and the leaders have started to put the programme together.

We are also planning an event, a bit later in the year, at which we can celebrate with parents, carers, former leaders and volunteers as well as other people connected to the 8th. We are still working out what this event will be, so please stay tuned.

All the best – and have a wonderful 2026!



Irish King

¹The group became the “8th West Wickham” when the Scouting district of Beckenham was amalgamated into the district of Bromley.

Just a Thought...



The Call of St Matthew

Now that the Lectionary has since the first Sunday in Advent moved on to the first of the Gospels, we shine a new light (Matthew's) on the same landscape (Galilee and Jerusalem) and its central figure, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Last year I received appreciative comments about the way we looked at Jesus through Luke's eyes – mainly, I think, because knowing that a gospel is in some sense the 'word of God' is too far-off to give us confidence in its message. But to realise what actually happened helps: like Luke and Matthew having Mark's gospel on their desk, along with some material they have in common, and some other

sayings and stories that only one of them knows (like Luke's *Good Samaritan* and *Lost Son*).

They picked up developments of thought during that first century, like Jesus' conception being by the Holy Spirit, to explain his amazing life (no inherited tendency to sinfulness). They show their own preference regarding aspects of the teaching and conduct of Jesus, like Luke's prioritising poor people (e.g. the shepherds) and Matthew's point that the intellectual élite set aside their superiority in deference to a small boy under the age of two.

So we come to Epiphany, celebrated on 6th January. The word means a manifestation, with *epi* meaning 'upon', 'over' or 'to', and *phan-* meaning 'shine' or 'appear'. In the early centuries of Christian usage it included any manifestation of Christ as Messiah, including his birth – where it remains in Eastern Orthodox Christian practice. On the western side of the faith (Catholic and Protestant) it became more specialised and refers to the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles, as represented by the Wise Men – while our Christmas on 25th December picks up and converts a pagan festival of the winter solstice.

The aspect of Epiphany that appeals to me is the identification of the Magi with the intellectual élite. They may well have been Zoroastrian priests,

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who, within that calling, could have been astrologers – which is the translation used in our Revised English Bible, as was used for our Carols by Candlelight a few weeks ago.

I had some fun a year or two ago with the Magi being professors or research fellows at the Babylon Institute of Advanced Science, with specialisms of Astrology (that star...), Metallurgy (turning iron into gold?) and Pharmaceutical Botany (researching medicinal myrrh). All that is fiction, of course, but maybe not far from the truth – highly-tuned expert minds, who came to pay homage to, not to lord it over, the precious small boy.



In that vein, kings also were to be subject to the power of the risen Christ – but their appearance dates (apparently) to the 4th and 5th centuries, and was developed by zealous medieval monks who had a point to make about temporal power being subject to spiritual power – a pity that did not quite work between Henry II and Thomas Becket, whom we have remembered recently as he was assassinated on 29th December (in 1170).

Matthew is masterly in his organisation of all he has to say about Jesus: 5 blocks of teaching – chapters 5/6/7, 10, 13, 18 and 24/25. The first block (the Sermon on the Mount) will keep us going (if you see what I mean) for a lifetime...

Bryn

Lent study group

During Lent, Emmanuel will be running a study group on the subject of “Carbon literacy for congregations”. This is a new course, developed by the Carbon Literacy Project with direct input and guidance from the CofE, with URC dimensions woven in as well.

Rooted in a faith view of God’s creation, and working through the lens of stewardship, justice and compassion, it provides the resources, knowledge and tools to understand climate change and empowers people to take meaningful action.

The course runs for 5 sessions of 2 hours each. Those that complete the course gain accreditation from the Carbon Literacy Project.

We will be running this as an in-person study group as follows:

Dates: Tuesdays - 24 February, 3 March, 10 March, 17 March, 24 March

Time: 10am-12noon

Location: Hewitt Room

We will also be running the same course as an online series via Zoom on Thursday evenings (26 February – 26 March). The online version will be offered out to other URCs in the South London Synod Area.

And who’s the “we” running it? Well, it’s a joint effort from myself (with my Synod Green Apostle hat on) and Revd Charisa Hunter-Crump (the Synod Training & Development Officer). I’m really looking forward to working with Charisa on this.

More details in February’s Emmanuel Life, or come and talk to me.

For now, if you are interested, please save the dates!

Ian Moore



JOHN WESLEY (1703 – 1791) was, of course, the founder of Methodism, and his brother Charles was the great hymn-writer. We forget that, based on his own experience, he encouraged a deeper spirituality in general and within the Church of England, of which he was an ordained minister all his life. Methodism's becoming a separate denomination is another story.

While I have not recently checked this, I believe that around a third of URC churches are united pastorates with Methodists, as, locally, at Emmanuel Sidcup, Herne Hill and East Dulwich. In parts of the country such churches are grouped: e.g. while we in South London are in a URC Synod Area, Central Sussex is a Methodist/URC.United Area.

For Methodists the first Sunday of the year is Covenant Sunday, with a service designed around John Wesley's Covenant Prayer. As our second Sunday is a communion service, we are including Wesley's prayer in our worship then. Even a quick reading of the prayer reveals how special it is and worth returning to throughout the year.

John Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.

Your will, not mine, be done:

*in all things, wherever you may place me,
in all that I do and in all that I may endure,
when there is work for me and when there is none,
when I am troubled and when I am at peace.*

Your will be done:

*when I am valued and when I am disregarded,
when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking,
when I have all things and when I have nothing.
I willingly offer all that I have and all that I am,
to serve you as and when you choose.*

*Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you are mine and I am yours. May it be so for ever.*

Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven. Amen.

Bryn

Come

John 1: 38-41

Jesus invites us to come.

In John 1 verses 38 to 41, two disciples were following Jesus. He asked them what they wanted.

“Where are you staying?”, they said and his reply, “Come and see”.

They went with Jesus and spent the rest of the day with him. What a special time that must have been.

Another ‘come’ is in Matthew 4 verse 19. Jesus said, “Come follow me”. Peter and Andrew were doing their daily work, fishing, but they left it and followed Jesus.

A different sort of ‘come’ is in Matthew 11 verse 28, when Jesus said,

“Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest”.

This isn’t the rest of lying on the sofa and sleeping, although that can be helpful! It’s a rest of heart and mind. You know, when your brain won’t be quiet, you just can’t stop thinking, but Jesus says “Come and I will help you”.

Chris Cutler

Quiz—No. 10

Supplied by Lawrence White

1. Who was the first British saint?
2. Who wrote *Mrs Dalloway*? 1925
3. Which river forms the boundary between Devon and Cornwall? It is 97 km (60 miles) long
4. What is the meaning of amphoteric?
5. What gas forms almost 1% of the Earth's atmosphere? It was discovered after all the oxygen and nitrogen had been removed chemically from air
6. Which is the most populous country in Africa?
7. What type of animal is an ungulate?
8. What is the lowest hereditary titled British order?
9. What is the study of the origin, structure and composition of rocks called?
10. How is the number 9 written in binary notation?
11. What was the name of the family home of Rudyard Kipling? (1865-1936)
12. What is the title of Shelagh Mary Delaney's first play? (1938-2011)
13. Which sculptor was born in Wakefield in 1903? Her second marriage was to the painter Ben Nicholson
14. Who replaced Judas Iscariot as an apostle?
15. What do Americans call the game of draughts?
16. Can you name the Cinque Ports?
17. Who sold over a million copies with her debut song 'Those were the Days'?
18. What Welsh city is known in Welsh as Abertawe?
19. What language is the word 'Ombudsman' derived from?
20. Which is Europe's longest river?
21. Which are the most northerly, westerly, southerly and easterly points in mainland Britain?
22. In what 2 books of the Old Testament are the 10 Commandments found?
23. Which Kent castle was Anne Boleyn's home? (c1507-1536)

Answers can be found on page 39

Memories of Nicky MacIntyre



Just a few of my Memories of Nicky, my best friend.

Nicky and I became very good friends particularly as she lived within 10 mins walk of my home and she joined Guides at Emmanuel. Neither of us had close friends at our senior schools in Croydon.

It soon became clear that she had an independent streak. She decided to earn some money doing a paper round and persuaded me to continue it whenever she was away on holiday with the family!

We both enjoyed singing and independently were learning to play the flute at our senior schools. Sundays were fun as a group of 4 of us would go swimming at W Wickham baths; would breakfast and then run to Emmanuel to participate in the Junior Church choir.

As teenagers, Nicky particularly enjoyed clothes shopping, I didn't! However, it was always fun to go into Croydon together, often to C & A & the Guide shop.

Nicky was my obvious choice to be chief bridesmaid when I married Simeon!

Holidays- A memorable occasion was travelling by train up to Lancaster. Nicky then was using a manual wheelchair. We had been invited to stay in a friend's lodge overlooking a lake; Nicky was always first up, pottering around making a cup of tea; we enjoyed breakfasting outside; a habit from camping!

More recently, we would enjoy lunch in Corza and then pop into a few charity shops and often go into Lanta boutique. I particularly remember finding a lovely navy sparkly top which was an ideal birthday present for Nicky. On another occasion, she found the lovely dresses she often wore the last few summers.

Jeanette Hopkins

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I first knew of Nicky back in the 70s but it wasn't until we were both leaders of Emmanuel Lights that we became friends. Most Sunday mornings we would be in the Griff with Ruth and Lynn, bringing some Bible story or teaching alive with various activities. Nicky was very good at crafts, singing (and signing) and knowing the children and their families. Even with MS she was up the step ladder adding to the notice board.

When we started Messy Church, Nicky was there serving breakfast and greeting children and parents. One Dad said 'She always made me feel welcome'. On the Saturday evening before MC, Nicky would come and help set up the breakfast table, and notice 'the gaps' where I had forgotten we would need scissors, pens or glue for a craft.

Nicky knew so many people in West Wickham and beyond. If we were in the High Street she would meet and have a chat with perhaps a parent of a Rainbow, even recognising someone who had been a Rainbow many years before. Or perhaps a neighbour or another Guide leader. Nicky had been involved in Guiding since she came to Emmanuel aged 14 and ran 2 Rainbow units for 23 years.

Her love of Guiding and camping led her to help at the yearly Pathfinders Camp at Woodlarks, enabling ladies with limited abilities to enjoy the outdoors. Nicky brought her crafting skills as well as her flute and sense of fun. Stuart, Eleanor and lately Caroline became firm supporters of Pathfinders too. I think being at Pathfinders was the highlight of Nicky's year.

Nicky worshipped at Emmanuel, playing her flute on occasions and was a member of the singing group. She knew everyone at Fellowship and served on the committee, helped at Warm Welcome and recently helped form a small group of knitters. She also went to Craft 'n' Mingle at Corza.

Despite her health challenges, Nicky was determined to stay as independent as possible and never lost her sense of humour. When asked how she was she often replied 'I'm fine, thank you' and 'I'm ok, it's all 'em uvvers'. She was devastated when she had to stop driving and rely on lifts.

Moving to the bungalow in Park Avenue gave Nicky a new sense of freedom especially when she got a power chair. She could get to Emmanuel, her second home, and to the High Street, even venturing onto the bus.

A life well lived in the service of others.

Pat Best

Continued on next page

On Sunday mornings if Nicky wasn't in the vestibule welcoming all the arrivals she could often be found doing a turn in the kitchen where she was an ace coffeemaker.

Highly organised and efficient with an attention to detail she put her practical life-long girl guiding skills to excellent use for the benefit of Emmanuel's Sunday morning community. It was always a pleasure to work with Nicky as you knew the job would be thoroughly done and with good grace.

It was at one of these sessions a couple of years or so ago she excitedly showed me an estate agent's leaflet for a bungalow in Park Avenue. It was to become her home and a Godsend to her with its proximity to the church to which she was so devoted. She immediately knew its potential just as we all did too! Although her stay there wasn't very long it was still a lovely base from which she could continue to use her many talents to serve the Lord.

Moira Bing

Personal Thanks & Announcements

Season of Creation



As part of our Season of Creation this year (Sep 1st – Oct 4th), one of our activities was to make a new banner which is now hanging in the church as a permanent display. Lots of different groups of people across the church fellowship contributed in different ways, from Messy Church (twice), a couple of Scout Group leaders, everyone at the September Parade Service, Squirrels, Warm Welcome and not forgetting the special addition of the doves on Remembrance Sunday. Thank you everyone for your help making such a wonderful display, truly a collective effort!

Ian Moore



Thank you to everyone who came to the Eco Church Quiz Night at the end of November. We raised a total of £450 for A Rocha UK, and had lots of fun doing it.

The quiz winners were from All Saints CofE in Orpington, closely followed by “Liquorice Allsorts”, a mixed table which included quite a few folk from Emmanuel.

Ian Moore

Janet and Kenneth Hotten send love and good wishes to all at Emmanuel and a happy new year.

FWO end of year letters

With apologies for the delay in the end of year letters for those who kindly give their donations by standing order. We will ensure you receive these by the end of January.

Sue Carr & Ann-Marie Mott
FWO Secretaries



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:

- Tinned fruit
- Tinned ham
- Tinned tuna
- Squash
- Jam/honey
- Cereal
- Rice
- Pasta sauce
- Cooking oil
- Washing up liquid
- 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



Tania prepared a wonderful Christmas dinner which was enjoyed by about 40 people who came to Warm Welcome on 19th December- turkey, pigs in blankets, roast veg, stuffing and cranberry sauce.

On Fridays Tania cooks a wholesome vegetable soup, perhaps pasta with sauce or something with rice. She may also bring pastries or fruit from M&S which are served from 10am throughout the day.

Warm welcome is becoming increasingly popular and is a time for conversation, reading the paper and just being with other people.

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 it will be lovely to see you.

Pat

OUR NEW/OLD LIGHTS IN THE HEWITT ROOM

As some of you have already noticed our old/new lights in the Hewitt Room have returned. For the last few weeks, they've been with Penge Shed, a repair collective, being retrofitted with LEDs. Let's tick off the number of good things this has achieved:

- For us - better quality light, and lower electricity consumption (the new LED bulbs consume 210W per luminere, about half the consumption of the compact fluorescent bulbs that have been taken out)
- For Penge Shed - a nice challenging job, helping their mission of sharing skills and building community among their team
- For the planet - a proper repair, not throwing stuff into landfill when it's still usable
- For the fabric team – knowing the new lights should last 50,000 hours and so the horrible job of replacing light bulbs as they blow (that used to take 2 people, 2 ladders, & at least 2 hours) is put off for around 15 years!



Thanks for your patience while this work was going on. We'll also be re-using the temporary LED strip lights in the future in another part of the buildings, to replace older less efficient lights.

Ian Moore

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

The **RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch** (Friday 23-Sunday 25 January) is the world's largest garden wildlife survey! Last year, nearly 600,000 people took part and over nine million birds were counted. We've lost a staggering 38 million birds from UK skies in the last 60 years. With birds facing so many challenges, it's more important than ever to get involved in the Birdwatch. To take part, spend one hour counting the birds you see in one location – your garden, balcony or a local park. Submit your findings to the RSPB. You can download a free guide and ID chart to help you identify the birds you spot on the RSPB website. Find out more at: [rspb.org.uk/whats happening/big-garden-birdwatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats happening/big-garden-birdwatch)

DAD'S ARMY

My wife and I were great fans of the TV series called Dad's Army. For some reason one of the episodes brought back childhood memories.

I was with a small gang of 8 and 9 year old boys'. One of them, Peter, said that his Mum and Dad were out for the day and so we could go and play in his house and garden. He suggested that we lit a bonfire on a spot in the garden where his Dad was already preparing one. We liked bonfires and we soon got it burning merrily. Peter went back into his house and rummaged around in his Dad's desk and came back to the garden with a handful of bullets. "My Dad's in the Homeguard", he said proudly. "Let's see what happens when I throw these into the middle of the fire". There were soon a series of small explosions and missiles shot out in all directions. A neighbour came out and told us off.

We retreated into the house and Peter said "I have another idea". He pulled out more bullets from his Dad's desk and gave us one each. He then found a large hammer and a dustbin lid.

We all went out into the street and Peter knelt down, put his bullet on the pavement, held the dustbin lid in front of him for protection and whacked the end of the bullet hard with the hammer. There was a satisfactory sharp bang and the bullet shot down the street. We then took it in turns to fire our bullets. No one came out to tell us off.

When I got home I told my Mum and Dad what fun we'd had. My Dad who was also in the Homeguard was surprised, in fact he was amazed and a bit angry at my story as he kept his equipment under lock and key and said that he had to account for every bullet that he had.

When I recalled this event I thought that Captain Mainwaring's blood pressure would have gone through the roof if he had heard what fun we had that day.

John Manuell

Celebrity Spot



My son Alex works part-time as a steward at Bromley FC.

He was surprised when Gary Neville appeared out of the blue and asked to buy a ticket for the Bromley FC vs Salford City FC match.

Gary, as many of you will know, is a famous ex Manchester United player. He was one of the class of '92 including David Beckham and Paul Scholes. He is now a pundit on SKY Sports. He is also a major investor in Salford City FC.

It seems he always pays for his ticket when he visits clubs and mixes with the regular supporters.

After a bit of a flurry the turnstile was flung open and a selfie was willingly and graciously allowed. Bromley did beat the boys from Manchester though. The final score was 2:0 to Bromley FC.

Frances Thornton



churches
together
in West Wickham

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
JOINT WORSHIP
CONEY HALL BAPTIST CHURCH
SUNDAY 25th JANUARY
AT 6.30pm
Led by Rev Ian Hamlin**



**Emmanuel Church
Memory Box
A Dementia-Friendly Service
Looking back, looking forward
Friday 30th January 2026 2pm for 2.15pm start
with refreshments to follow at *Warm Welcome***

Save The Date – Emmanuel's Annual Summer Fair

Sunday 5th July 2026

Now that we are in 2026 just to let you all know that Emmanuel's Annual Summer Fair will be held after the church parade service on Sunday 5th July.

There will be live music, a bouncy castle, a raffle, activities, stalls and refreshments.

Please put the date in your diaries.

As you may already be aware, this year the fair will be raising funds for **Tools With A Mission – www.twam.org.uk**

If anyone would like to host a stall or help in any other way then please get in touch with Jim Lord or anyone on the Community Outreach Group. They would be delighted to hear from you.



Coffee and Get-together

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



Messy Church
 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

11am – 1pm
Medhurst Hall, West Wickham
BR4 0JX



GROWING TOGETHER

COMMUNITY GARDEN



COME AND JOIN US

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

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE

FOR FURTHER INFO CONTACT - 0333 335 5209



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 106 Wickham Road
Downham 473 Bromley Road
Hayes 38 Station Approach

<http://spongekitchens.co.uk>

Beckenham
Kent, BR3 6QH

Downham
Kent, BR1 4PQ

Hayes
Kent, BR2 7EJ

EMMANUEL ART GROUP

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

A friendly group, new members always welcome.

Please contact us before coming so that we can discuss what you would like to do and how we can help you.

- Sheila 02086882707 or
- John 07708194093 john.band3@gmail.com

Community Baby & Toddler Group



Where: Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham

When: Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, term time

Fee: £3.00 per family

Contact: Zoe Favata

Email: zoe_04@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07852 153115

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

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

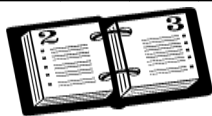




Church Diary for January

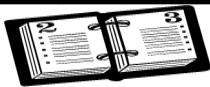
Sunday	4th	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Worship led by Rev Bryn Thomas Celebrating Epiphany with Matthew
Tuesday	6th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
Wednesday	7th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Thursday	8th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	9th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 25)
Sunday	11th	10.30am	Worship including Holy Communion, Elder's Induction and John Wesley's Covenant Prayer led by Rev Bryn Thomas
		5.00pm—6.30pm	Youth club
Tuesday	13th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 7)
Wednesday	14th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Thursday	15th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	16th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 32)
Sunday	18th	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore

Continued on next page



Church Diary for January continued...

Tuesday	20th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 7)
Wednesday	21st	10.30am— 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Thursday	22nd	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	23rd	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 25)
		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life articles</i>	
Sunday	25th	10.30am	Worship led by Jonathan Dolling Shortly followed by Church Meeting AGM
		6.30pm	<i>Churches Together United Service in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Coney Hill Baptist Church led by Rev Ian Hamlin (details on page 29)</i>
Tuesday	27th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 7)
Wednesday	28th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Thursday	29th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	30th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 25)



Church Diary for February 2026

Sunday	1st	10.00am	Messy Church
		11.00am	Worship led by Janet Godden
Tuesday	3rd	10.30am— 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 32)
		2.15pm	Emmanuel Fellowship (details on page 7)
Wednesday	4th	10.30am— 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 32)
Thursday	5th	10.00am—11.30am	Time Together Thursdays For age 2-4 years (details on page 32)
Friday	6th	10.00am—4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 25)

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Quiz Answers

Quiz on page 19 supplied by Lawrence White

1. St Alban, died 305
2. (Adeline) Virginia Woolf (1882-1941)
3. River Tamar. It arises in north Cornwall and flows to Plymouth Sound
4. Able to react as an acid and as a base
5. Argon. It was discovered in 1894 by Lord Raleigh (John Strutt) and Sir William Ramsay
6. Nigeria. Abuja was formally recognised as its capital in 1991. A replacement for Lagos
7. A hoofed mammal (they can be odd-toed and even-toed, along with subungulates such as elephants)
8. Baronet (below baron, above knight). It was created in 1611 by King James I to finance the Settlement of Ulster.
9. Petrology
10. 1001
11. Bateman's. Rudyard Kipling is buried in Poet's Corner, Westminster Abbey
12. A Taste of Honey, 1958. She was born in Salford
13. Dame (Jocelyn) Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975)
14. Matthias
15. Checkers because of the chequered board of 64 squares
16. There were originally 5 only: Hastings, Dover, Sandwich, Hythe and Romney. Later Rye and Winchelsea were added
17. Mary Hopkins born 1950
18. Swansea. 2nd largest city in Wales. Abertawe means mouth of the River Tawe
19. Swedish
20. Volga 3,685km (2,290 miles), of which 3450km (2,200 miles) are navigable
21. Dunnet Head (N), Ardnamurchan (W), Lizard Point (S) and Ness Point, Lowestoft (E)
22. Exodus and Deuteronomy
23. Hever Castle. She was the 2nd wife of Henry viii

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 jojmcgee@hotmail.co.uk
Squirrels <i>(4-6 years old)</i>	Thurs 5:30pm—6:15pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Beavers <i>(6-8 years old)</i>	Thurs 6.00pm—7.00pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Cubs <i>(8-10½ years old)</i>	Mon 7.00pm—8.15pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Scouts <i>(10½-14 years old)</i>	Tues 7.45pm—9.00pm	Niels Rump glv@8thwestwickham.org.uk
Explorers <i>(14-18 years old)</i>	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