



Emmanuel



August 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)

e-mail: welcome@emmanuelww.org.uk

Communications Secretary	Rosemary Daniels	welcome@emmanuelww.org.uk
Meetings Secretary	Sue Carr	sc22@btinternet.com
Church Treasurer	Marion Moore	finance@emmanuelww.org.uk
Assistant Treasurer	Doug Carr	
Messy Church Leader	Pat Best	patbest@btinternet.com
Church Community Development Worker	Anna Seabrook	community@emmanuelww.org.uk
Children and Family Worker	Julie Cook	child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk
Youth Worker	Emily Dubourg	youth@emmanuelww.org.uk
Freewill Offering Secretaries	Sue Carr	sc22@btinternet.com
	Ann-Marie Mott	ann-marie.mott@ntlworld.com
Emmanuel Life Editor	Flora Kumi	fkum1@yahoo.com

More contact details can be found on page 39



August 2026 Services

2nd (see below)	10.30am	Worship led by Tina Wheeler (There is No Messy Church in August)
9th	10.30am	Communion service led by Rev Bryn Thomas
16th	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore
23rd	10.30am	Songs of Praise service led by Sue Thomas
30th (see below)	10.30am	Worship led by Rev Dr Elaine Colechin

(Start of) September 2026 Services

6th (see below)	10.00am	Messy Church
	10.30am	Worship led by Janet Godden

AUGUST:

- 2nd - Tina Wheeler is Church Secretary and a Lay Preacher from St Johns URC Orpington
- 30th - Rev Dr Elaine Colechin is the new Southern Synod Clerk

SEPTEMBER:

- 6th - Janet Godden is an accredited Lay Preacher from St John's URC Orpington

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

Are you, like me, tired of the overuse of the word king?
King of the north – king of football – king of soul - king, king, king....

What of our King Charles III? He has a lot of good Christian intentions and ideals, such as caring for the planet and support for countless charities and much voluntary work. He has long used and advocated organic farming, which he has had the time and the money to do. But he is king by birth; he has inherited a great fortune; he has people around him to look after his day-to-day needs and wants. Can you appreciate why some people feel that monarchy is becoming outdated?

There is only one king who holds my devotion – with all due respect to King Charles III – Jesus was born into a humble family, his surroundings were less than ideal and he was put on the then king's hit-list shortly after. He became a refugee and had to leave his homeland. Even when the king died, his successor was equally bad, so the holy family had to relocate to another province (in the north!) for Jesus' safety.

Now, all that would not bode well for the future of a child, would it? However, God's plans are greater than man's plans.

Jesus' Kingdom lives on, 2,000 years after his death: it is in the hearts and minds of people who follow him. It is a kingdom of morals, love and kindness, not of grandeur or self-aggrandisement. As we have recently heard, in the Parables of the Kingdom, it brings with it the sheer wonder, amazement and delight that Jesus attaches to people who seek his Father's Kingdom.

Many of today's important people are great in their own eyes, or are rich and powerful because people buy into their product, be it sport, music or retail.

How refreshing and wonderful to have, in Jesus, a King whom we can love because he loved us and gave his life for us, unconditionally. We can follow his example of love and generosity. Jesus' first recorded 'job' was not in carpentry, the trade his father taught him: it was saving the reputation of a bridegroom, whose wedding he was attending when the wine ran out! Jesus valued people, and cared about their pain and suffering, and he rejoiced with them in their happiness. Can we do the same?

Sue Thomas



Southern Synod Big Day Out at Shires Oast Hop Farm

On Saturday 20th June a few members of Emmanuel had a Big Day Out at the Southern Synod event. We arrived in time to attend the gathering in the large marquee.



We all had a lovely welcome from the ladies in charge, singing songs and prayers.

Afterwards there were crafts and keep fit to join in. We had a lovely BBQ lunch which we could eat outside as the weather was warm and sunny.

In the afternoon Richard and I wandered round the ground, chatting to some of the people who had attended and were thoroughly enjoying themselves.



I think the highlight of the day was when we all gathered again in the marquee for the final service. We had to plait strands of wool together and join them up with the person sitting next to us and place them on the cross. This was an expression of our faith and friendship to each other.

We celebrated Holy Communion in a rather different way with grapes and crackers which were passed around in baskets.



It was a very uplifting and meaningful day as Richard and I had never attended such an event before.

We can thoroughly recommend such a lovely day out.

Marion and Richard Hirst



Secretary's Notes

MESSY CHURCH



Messy Church at Emmanuel will not be meeting in August but will resume on **Sunday 6th September** at 10.00am

SUMMER ACTIVITIES for CHILDREN & FAMILIES in AUGUST



Tuesday 4th 2:00-3:30pm *Parent & Child craft session (ages 8+)* (Booking required for 4th Aug)

Tuesday 11th 2:00-3:30pm *Board Games session (ages 8+)*

Monday 17th 2:00-3:30pm *Summertime Fun (ages 3-11)*

Tuesday 18th 2:00-3:30pm *Summertime Fun (ages 3-11)*

More information on page 14 & 29.

AUGUST WORSHIP LEADERS

2nd – Tina Wheeler

9th – Revd Bryn Thomas with communion

16th – Mrs Marion Moore

23rd – Sue Thomas with Songs of Praise

30th – Revd Dr Elaine Colechin



EMMANUEL FELLOWSHIP have their summer break in August and will return on **Tuesday 8th September**

**EMMANUEL
FELLOWSHIP**

WARM WELCOME FRIDAYS will continue to run throughout August, 10am till 4pm.

*Warm Welcome
Fridays*

Rosemary



Church Family News

Not everyone enjoys the warm weather. You do? You don't? Either way, you are in good company. Please be aware of the need to be hydrated (we used to say, 'Drink enough water!') – it's important, however you express it. Whatever the weather, there are certainly plenty of warm hearts around – let's celebrate that!

The Dawkins family (Janet, Carol and Tracy) are coping with medical and other demands, with Janet at Coloma Court, Tracy at home and Carol holding things (including the dogs!) together alongside her work.

We wish you well if you are off on holiday, or doing grand-parent duty to help the family in school holiday time. If going away is too demanding on energy, we wish you well for some days out or for finding something interesting to do at home.

We have had a few conversations about how Emmanuel can try to keep track of people who are no longer able to come to church regularly on a Sunday, or to the Fellowship on a Tuesday afternoon. Some may feel left out because the grapevine is not as active as it might be; but there are also those who prefer to keep things private. We are thinking of contacting by email, or by mobile-phone text, people whom we tend not to see at church: please let us know your thoughts, especially if you have ideas about how better to keep in contact.

Please continue to remember:

- Tim Mott in Canada, and his wife Nancy
- Christine Jackson
- Monica Duncan
- Lada, Roland, Anna, Emily and Lauren, our recently received members
- Julie Lord's mother and father
- The Dawkins family
- The Douglas family

Requests for home communion are gradually increasing: please tell us if you would like that. Maybe encourage someone else, or request on their behalf?

Please let us know your news, about yourself, family or others: 020 8462 5860 or 07957 858 878. Texts on the mobile, or voicemails on the landline, are fine. Or email brynthomas@uwclub.net.

Bryn & Sue

Emmanuel Fellowship

Dear Friends,

Emmanuel Fellowship is now closed until 8th September. I wish you well during the holiday season. I am sure you appreciate that our hard-working committee members all need a much-deserved break.

We haven't forgotten you though. Here are a few thoughts to fill the gap: Out and about: do you, like me, enjoy being outside, not necessarily for any particular reason, just outdoors? It's amazing how you can experience a new perspective on things just by taking time out, breathing the air, looking at the sky, hearing the birds, or taking a walk. Thoughts shift from narrowness to openness; creativity awakens, stimulated by different surroundings. I write stories and poems, plan meals for guests, or sing worship songs – usually in my head! – while out walking.

Another idea occurred to me – yes, it was while I was out walking. Were you ever asked, at the start of a new school year, to write about what you did in the holidays? For some children it must have been daunting: how to express yourself, or, 'we did nothing'. We all did something, even if it wasn't exciting or different enough to inspire us to write. How about trying to jot down some thoughts about your day, or an account of some time spent outside? I won't be 'marking' it when we are back at Fellowship, but I would be very interested to read what you've written and find out how you have been.

We shall begin our Autumn term, which is the start of our Fellowship year, with a gentle service led by Reverend Bryn Thomas, who is a member of our fellowship. I look forward to seeing you all there on September 8th

In the meantime, in the words of Shirley Erena Murray,
'Go gently, go lightly,
go safe in the Spirit...
go trusting God's goodness,
go spreading God's kindness,
stay centred on Jesus
and where he will lead...
God keep you, God bless you
in all that you do'.

Every blessing,

Sue Thomas, on behalf of the Fellowship Committee

Songs of Praise August 23rd 2026

Do you value the Songs of Praise services we hold at Emmanuel? I certainly do, as they are an opportunity for anyone to share something they enjoy singing, or appreciate listening to.

Perhaps a hymn or song holds special memories for you; maybe it's the tune that catches you, or the words might be particularly meaningful. Whatever the reason, please give me your choice of hymn, song or music, for the next Emmanuel Songs of Praise, which will be on August 23rd.

I would like to receive the details early, please, if possible: by Friday 14th August. It takes time to coordinate your choices into a coherent order, and I'm all for less stress and better planning.

It would be really helpful if you could either phone me or write your choice, along with your name, and hand it to me so I have a paper version to refer to.

Many thanks,

Sue Thomas.



SAVE THE DATE !

Our Harvest Lunch will be on

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER

and will follow the Harvest Festival and Parade Service

All the details will be found in the September Emmanuel Life

Janet Pickering

Community News Update

Hello from the shade, I hope everyone has stayed safe and to those not so able to get out in the heat I look forward to catching up with you when possible.

We had an epic day on the 5th July, welcoming many of the uniform groups and our church family for a Messy Parade service complete with baptism AND Summer Fair after! The Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, Rainbows, Squirrels and Memory Box kindly ran stalls alongside Emmanuel members and the bouncy castle was very popular. The funds raised were for the charity Tools With A Mission (TWAM) and we had also asked people locally for donations of tools and haberdashery items. It was great to have a new way to meet others locally as people were generous with their donations and sharing the stories of how the tools had been previously used.

I've had a lot of time on the High Street this month, mainly getting to know the independent shop owners and publicising events we do. The highlight was Bryn and I had the privilege of praying with a local café who wanted a blessing on their shop and staff, it was a very special occasion.

Warm Welcome continues to be a great source of enjoyment for many; we have been showing a few new volunteers the ropes and they all especially want to be involved with the ethos of making others welcome. Visitor numbers are slightly down in the heat but that has meant there's more chance to chat to everyone and we regularly have new people responding to the invitation to join us for a cuppa and rest.

Watch this space for upcoming events in the Autumn but one date for your diary is I'll be running a quiz night on Friday September 25th at Wickham Hall in aid of the West Wickham Christmas Lights, more details next month!

Anna Seabrook
Community Development Worker
community@emmanuelww.org.uk / 07900 744383

Anna Seabrook
07900 744383
community@emmanuelww.org.uk

Children & Families at Emmanuel

Update from Julie, our Children and Family Worker and Emily, our Youth Worker

July has been a very busy month, and with the summer holidays here means lots of fun for children and their families with the activities I organise.

All in one Service – Messy Church and Church Parade

We started July with the all in one service with Messy Church families and the Uniformed Organisations involved. The theme was Celebration and on Sunday 5th July, we had plenty to celebrate.

First was the baptism of Cali. I met Cali when she was about three months old and Victoria bought her along to my Blissful Beginnings group, she regularly came and as she started to crawl she moved up to Giggles and Grow, where she loves to play with all the toys and particularly now enjoys 'tidy up time' followed by singing and a story!

As she is now 2 and outgrowing Giggles and Grow, she will join Time Together Thursdays when I restart in September.

We then celebrated the joy of giving and introduced Emmanuel's Charity TWAM (Tools without a mission). Thank you to Tilly and Oliver Lewis and 8th West Wickham who helped us during our role play.

Finally, we celebrated our Uniformed Groups in particular the 8th West Wickham Scout Group who celebrate 80 years this year. It is always lovely to see so many of our uniformed group members in the congregation at Parade and this month it was great to see some of the older faces of the 8th!

Children and Family groups, run by Julie.

During the Summer Holidays, Giggles and Grow and Blissful Beginnings will continue to run (with the exception of week commencing 31st August). However, Time Together Thursdays has stopped and restarts in September.

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Giggles and Grow

For those with little ones 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, all year round.

Little ones can explore new toys and play with others of a similar age. The session ends with singing and a short story.

Blissful Beginnings

Have you recently had a baby? Want to meet other new mums? Want a space where your babies can play? Then bring your babies along and join others for a drink and a chat.

This group is on a Wednesday morning for newborn to crawlers from 10.30-12noon in the James Todd Room, all year round.

Time Together Thursdays

The last few weeks at Time Together Thursdays have been incredibly hot, however, children have come along and played with the toys, made lots of craft items, enjoyed making the snack – the absolute favourite has to be ice cream with a cone with strawberry sauce and sprinkles. Then finished with a story and some singing.

It is an extremely friendly group and I really get to know the families that come along. One particularly young lady has been coming to my group for some time and it was her last session as she now goes to school in September. She very kindly bought gifts for me and my wonderful helpers (Gill and Lucy) – I received a Unicorn book for me to read to the other children at the end of session and some hand cream as she knows we always have lots of washing up to do at the end when they have gone home!

This group is on a Thursday morning 10-11.30am in the James Todd Room. The next group will be on Thursday 10th September (and then not the 17th September as I am away) but after that will continue term time only.

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Youth Club run by Emily



July was another wonderful month at Youth Club, and it has been a joy to see both familiar and new faces each week. Earlier in the month, we enjoyed a summer picnic at Sparrow's Den, where our young people were joined by their families for an evening of food, games and fun. It was lovely to spend time together outside the usual Youth Club setting, and the highlight of the evening was a giant game of rounders, with young people, parents and leaders all joining in. It was a wonderful opportunity

to strengthen friendships and enjoy spending time together as a church family.

We finished the term with a music-themed evening, where our young people had the chance to try a range of instruments, including guitars, violins, flutes, recorders and saxophones. Stephen Davies also very kindly gave everyone the opportunity to have a go on Emmanuel's wonderful church organ, before we ended the evening making music together. It was a fantastic way to round off the term before the summer break.

As always, Youth Club is about much more than the activities themselves. It is a place where young people can build friendships, grow in confidence and know that they are valued and welcomed. Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time to make these evenings possible - your support makes a real difference!

Youth Club has now finished for the summer holidays and will return in **October** (after my wedding and honeymoon!) I hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and I look forward to welcoming both returning and new young people for another exciting term.

Youth Club is for young people in **Year 7 and above** and meets on **Sunday evenings from 6.00pm–7.30pm during term time**. If you know a young person who would enjoy coming along, we'd love to welcome them.

Julie & Emily



Summer Holidays at Emmanuel



Fun Activities for Children and Families This Summer!

Six weeks can seem a long time to entertain children, so we've planned a range of fun activities for children and their families throughout the summer holidays.

Thursday 30th August | 2:00–3:30pm

Summertime Fun (Ages 3–11)

Crafts, games, toys, table tennis and much more!

Tuesday 4th August | 2:00–3:30pm

Parent & Child Craft Session (Ages 8+)

Create a scrapbook page or collage and enjoy die-cutting and stamping activities.

Booking required: Please contact Julie, our Children and Family Worker, to reserve a place.

Tuesday 11th August | 2:00–3:30pm

Board Games Session (Ages 8+)

Play your favourite board game or come and try a new one!

Monday 17th August | 2:00–3:30pm

Summertime Fun (Ages 3–11)

Crafts, games, toys, table tennis and much more!

Tuesday 18th August | 2:00–3:30pm

Summertime Fun (Ages 3–11)

Crafts, games, toys, table tennis and much more!

Parents and carers must stay with their children at all sessions.

All sessions are **FREE** of charge.

Donations are welcome and will be used to purchase new toys and equipment for Julie's groups.

We look forward to seeing you this summer at Emmanuel!

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 to or email either Julie (child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk) or Emily (youth@emmanuelww.org.uk). Or speak with Sara Stocker or Pat Best on a Sunday.

Thought for the Month

Rest a while

These words from Mark chapter 6 verse 30 appealed to me, as I am writing them on one of the hot days we have had recently!

In the Bible passage, the apostles had had a very busy time and they were telling Jesus all they had done and what they had said to the people they had visited.

Jesus responded by saying,

“Let’s get away from the crowds and rest a while”.

So many people were coming and going they scarcely had time to eat.

Have you had that feeling that everything is too much, you’ve come to the end of your resources?

Well, Jesus understands and says, *“Come away and rest a while”.*

Recharge your batteries, we say. It is ok to do it! Even a few hours can make a difference. Try it!

Chris Cutler

URC General Assembly

At the beginning of July the URC held its annual General Assembly. You can find information about what was discussed and decided on the URC website (urc.org.uk). I found the following reflection from the Revd Peter Rand writing for Northern Synod, and looked like a thoughtful piece which deserved sharing

Reflections on General Assembly 2026 Peter Rand

What is General Assembly *for*? It *looks as if* it's for taking decisions, and certainly, lots of decisions were made. Some affect a small number of people in deep ways, some affect lots of people in small ways, and some decisions are momentous, and will affect many people over many years to come. It has to be so because we are a conciliar church. We are not a 'top-down' organisation, 'ruled' by a small group of managers and directors. The United Reformed Church is a 'bottom-up' organisation, where 'ordinary folk' decide what the church believes, how it acts and how the church is organised and run.

Except . . . that officers and committees of the church, elected (notionally) by us, work through issues, examine all the possible ways forward through a problem, ask lots of knowledgeable people lots of complicated questions, then finally bring a report and a resolution to 'us' and ask us to decide – actually, they ask us to agree with them, because they've done all this work and they know best.

We hear a lot from politicians about "difficult decisions". Some decisions are difficult because the arguments for each side are genuinely close. Some decisions are difficult because, although the arguments clearly seem to favour one 'side', the outcome hurts. General Assembly 2026 had one of those – the decision about Resource Centres for Learning (RCLs) where people are trained for ministry. With smaller numbers of people feeling called to ministry, three RCLs cannot be sustained. It was painful. But we have to believe that, just as resurrection followed crucifixion, good will emerge in the form of new patterns and relationships.

A new concept discussed at General Assembly regarding ministry in the church was 'ecology'. It seems to be about the way that different forms of ministry can work together to complement each other to make a more resource-rich whole. My own feeling is that we need to let go of the model of ministry we've cherished for a long time and nurture the different gifts in our congregations. Not a new idea really!

Amid the gloom, there was lots to encourage us at Assembly. We're encouraged to be ever more inclusive and welcoming – to create and publicise safe congregations for LGBTQ+ people, for transgender people, for prison leavers, for refugees and

Continued on next page

asylum seekers. A brilliant, inspiring keynote address by Krish Kandiah showed us how strangers can show us important truths. Resolutions were passed committing us to work towards deeper relationships with Muslims, to study and work towards solidarity with the people of the Palestinian territories and to work towards eliminating antisemitism within the life of the Church.

We heard with joy and agreed to continue the work to repair the legacies of slavery by providing anti-racism training for people at all levels in the Church, by mentoring young black men to enable them to have a more fulfilling role in their communities, and to begin to build free villages in Caribbean lands, beginning in Jamaica.

Dr Peter Green led our Bible Study on the theme of “Ordinary People doing Extraordinary things”. In each of three stories – Melchizedek, the Syrophenician woman and Barnabas, the question was asked: “Who am I in this story?” It’s a question we could all do to ask whenever we read the Bible.

Finally, the Community Awards and the Synod Moderators led us on a journey of hope around the Church, showing us that, despite the big issues that turn us inwards, there are lots of ordinary people in ‘ordinary’ local churches doing extraordinary things to demonstrate the love of God.

Marion

*I know that whatever God does endures forever;
nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it.*

(Ecc 3:14)

How Matthew develops his Gospel – chapter 13 – Parables of the Kingdom

In the July edition of *Emmanuel Life* we noted the amazing way by which Matthew takes a very large collection of the words of Jesus and shapes them into coherent blocks of teaching. Some of this material is short sayings (one-liners), some of it is parables, some of it is longer teaching. Scholars have named these the five great discourses, which are particular to Matthew. (Luke, as we saw last year, had similar material, but he arranges it all differently – neither Matthew nor Luke knows exactly when Jesus spoke the words, so they select and edit to the best of their ability.) In addition, of course, he has accounts of what Jesus did and where he went, especially to heal people.

He has spotted five major subject areas, into which he allocates the material:

1. How to live a life pleasing to God - short sayings grouped under the title of 'Sermon on the Mount' in ch 5/6/7 – to extend Moses' Ten Commandments.
2. Being a disciple and being called to go out and spread the Good News in ch 10.
3. The Parables of the Kingdom, to which we now come, in ch 13.



There are seven of them, most of them well-known to most congregations, especially the first: The Sower. As the seed is broadcast (original meaning of the word) with a sweeping movement of the sower's hand, dipping into a broad basket hanging around his neck, some falls on the path (no growth), some on rocky ground (apparently successful but not for long), some among thorns/thistles (too much competition from rival attractions), and some on good soil, which brings results: 100, 60 and 30-fold.

There are two parables (Wheat among Weeds, and the Net of Good and Bad Fish) which illustrate the need for the things of the Kingdom to be in line with God's will:

obvious, really, given human crime and selfishness. Some human actions have to be, as we say, 'weeded out', or separated (edible from inedible fish).

The remaining four are good fun:

the tiny Mustard Seed that grows to be a tree big enough for birds to nest in – Jesus knew it would only become a bush, but his exaggeration (tree where birds nest) is his whole point about the wonder of the Kingdom;

the thumb-sized lump of Yeast that enables loaves to grow huge;

the Treasure that the finder values so much that he buys the whole field(!);

Continued on next page

and the Pearl that is so much better than any other, that the jeweller sells everything so that he can afford to buy it.

Imagine Jesus really going to town in talking either to the disciples or the crowd.

That treasure... you'd dig it up, clean and polish it, and take it to Jerusalem to get it valued? Yes, but he didn't – you won't believe what he did – he covered it up again! Yes, he did! You know what he did next? He got all his cash together and bought the whole field!! (laughter all round). My father's Kingdom is like that – it IS SO WONDERFUL, you can't really put a value on it – it's beyond valuation – it's delightful – it feels great – it's rewarding – yes, it needs effort – yes, you have to put yourself in His hands – it's so worth it – it's the best any human being can do.

Each parable starts with 'The Kingdom of heaven is like this...' but when you read them all, they do not tell you how to live in a way that grows God's Kingdom. Think a bit further: all that – the ethical basis for the Kingdom – is not here, but in ch 5/6/7 The Sermon on the Mount. What we have here is how something tiny and apparently insignificant can grow way beyond human expectation to be truly of God's Kingdom; how you have to align yourself with God's will; and how delightful, amazing and rewarding it all is.

Chapter 13 is just one of those inspiring – and fun – chapters. As the third of five, it is, if you like, central to Jesus' teaching – and central among the 28 chapters of Matthew's gospel. Central in our lives? Personally? In the life of the church?

Bryn

Personal Thanks & Announcements



A massive thank you to everyone who supported Emmanuel's Annual Charity Summer Fair on the 5th July in any way, it was a huge success and we are delighted to let you know that we raised £885 for Tools With A Mission. That is obviously in addition to the fantastic amount of actual tools that were donated.

Thank you from the Community Outreach Group.



On the next page you will see that we sent a total of £1,450 to TWAM. This was made possible because we raised £885 at the Summer Fair, and added another £565 raised through the Christmas collection.

Emmanuel URC
The Grove
West Wickham
BR4 9JS
23 July 2026



Dear Friends

Thank you for your kind and generous donation of £1,450 towards the work of Tools With A Mission. We are delighted that you have felt inspired to help empower people with tools.

One of the many groups that we have supported with tools are the Haven Of Serenity Training Centre, in Zambia. There, we meet Ivy Ngosa - a divorced and disadvantaged mother of two, who receives no help from her estranged ex-husband.

For many women in these situations, intense social pressure can result in hopelessness and helplessness. Not so with Ivy. Not content to sit at home with nothing to do, she started to learn a new skill, using a knitting machine at Haven Of Serenity. "I wanted to come here to help myself and my children," she told us. "With knitting, I can sustain my family and meet their needs."

Now, after passing a course in knitting, she worked her way up to become the main knitting instructor, using TWAM knitting machines and hand knitting kits every day. Her goal is to learn advanced skills. "People want high quality things," she says proudly. "And I want to deliver the best."

Thanks to you, women like Ivy have a new shot at life with skills learnt on TWAM tools. Hundreds of organisations like Haven Of Serenity are helped every year through our work. And you have made this possible!

Yours sincerely,

Karen

Karen Mitchell
Administration Assistant

Giving communities tools to build a future for themselves

Tools with a Mission, 2 Bailey Close, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate, Ipswich, IP2 0UD t: 01473 210220 e: post@twam.uk twam.uk Registered charity No: 1104903 (England and Wales) VAT Registration Number 347292286 A company limited by guarantee and registered in England no: 5114575



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 many things but are in need of the following items:

- Shampoo, empty washing up bottles
- Cooking oil
- Squash
- Pasta
- Rice
- Tuna
- Tinned meat
- Tinned meals
- Cereal / oats
- Biscuits
- Crackers / crisps
- Instant hot choc
- 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



FirstAid Support for Schools in Zimbabwe Team

Many schools in parts of Africa operate without first aid kits, trained staff or reliable emergency response systems. During his sabbatical, Rev George Kalu received a grant from Commitment for Life and partnered with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society to help change that reality. Together they delivered seven first aid kits to church-related schools serving less privileged communities in Zimbabwe, where government funding is limited. The Falcon Junior School in Rainham, Harare, also received professional, certified training from Red Cross instructors. Headteacher Vimbai Nyamakambo described the week as “blissful... challenging but exciting” and said she is eager to apply the new skills and knowledge. George hopes this first visit will open doors to further support, enabling more schools to receive lifesaving equipment and training.

We are very fortunate in the UK to have resources such as First Aid training. Recently several people from Emmanuel received First Aid training.

Thank you for supporting Commitment for Life. The money goes to local projects such as this. Our next opportunity will be at Harvest in September

Pat Best

KIBBUTZ MATZUVA 1968

In April 1968 I stayed for two weeks in a Kibbutz called Matzuva which was founded by German Jews in 1940. It was situated in northern Israel near the Mediterranean Sea and the Lebanese border. While there I worked nearly every day doing one of three jobs. The duty work lists were put up in the communal dining hall. My first job was making up a compost to grow mushrooms in. The main ingredient was chicken faeces and then the mushrooms were grown in dark spacious cellars. The second job I had was taking nails out of wood that had been used in shuttering to make concrete structures, so that the wood could be used again. My work mates were young Arabs, employed for money and who wanted to know about England and what I thought of the Jews. I gave them my stock answer that I had travelled in many countries and that there were good and bad people in all of them but fortunately most of them were good. The third job which I enjoyed the most was picking bananas. We were a team of six and the boss carried a large sharp knife and he led us in turn to a banana tree where he manouvred a hand of bananas over our shoulder and when comfortable cut the stem and we then carried the bunch of bananas to a nearby trailer and then came back for the next one. The trees were grown to just the right size so that the bananas were in a good position to be cut and carried easily. They were green when cut and were driven on the trailer straight away to the port of Haifa and thence to various European ports.

One thing I noticed on my first day was a patrol system of young men with machine guns. This operated 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to guard against terrorists as we were near the Lebanese border. The philosophy of the kibbutz seemed to be to give according to your ability and take according to your needs. I got free board and lodging but no pay while senior members of the kibbutz got a small weekly allowance of money to spend if they ventured outside the kibbutz. A young lady at the kibbutz who was disabled and in a wheel chair told me that she was well looked after and had all the best treatment; while a young teacher told me that he gave up teaching there in preference for agricultural work and they were prepared to pay for a teacher to come in from the town and teach the children that he had been teaching. Social activities were organized in the evenings and one Sunday I went on an organized outing to do some caving. In the Kibbutz there was an open air swimming pool which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Trained nurses and teachers looked after the children in a communal children's house. As there was communal eating and laundry this emancipated women from the yoke of being tied to the kitchen sink and having responsibility for

bringing up their children. The parents could collect their children in the early evening and play with them for two or three hours before they went back to their dormitories in the children house. The idea of the kibbutz was to share property like cars etc. and if members received gifts of money or food from outside they would share. However I did hear that the balance between individual values and collective values was beginning to tip. There was a decline in the pioneering spirit and a decline in the importance of self sacrifice values in the life of the kibbutz. I believe that some young people found it difficult to find marriage partners from the kibbutz because having brought up collectively they looked at their fellows as brothers and sisters. So some left the kibbutz to find marriage partners but a healthy sign was that in my dormitory there were a number of young Americans keen to become members and enthusiastically learning Hebrew and take on the Kibbutz ideals.

A trivial memory of my two weeks at the kibbutz was the taste of the most juicy and sweet oranges that I have ever had. This experience was from 53 years ago and many things may have changed from this prosperous and idealistic community that I spent a brief but very memorable time with.

John Manuel

A Rocha UK's Easy Eco Tips

Looking after wildlife in the heat. Times of drought and dryness can be dangerous for wildlife. Provide water for birds and insects - put a dish of water out to help wildlife stay hydrated. Insects, small mammals, birds, and even badgers, foxes, and deer could benefit. A stone in a plant saucer helps bees to perch and drink without drowning. These small actions make a big difference and are just some of the ways we can live out our calling to care for God's creation. See our blog on looking after wildlife in the heat for more warm weather eco tips: arocha.org.uk/looking-afterwildlife-in-the-heat/.

Prayers – and seeds – grow

At the service on 17th May we used a prayer idea from Christian Aid and 'planted' prayers in a cone garden planter. They suggested we plant seeds as well but there were so many prayers there was no room to easily add seeds!

So after the service I moved the planters to the quiet garden, hung the prayers from the tree and added seeds.



Sam has been watering diligently (thank you!) and you can see the rocket has grown well!



Please do take some for your salads and remember what God can do with our prayers and our actions in the world.



Marion

West Wickham Floral Group



With the summer florals turning to autumn leaves I'd like to highlight a local group where flowers and creativity can be celebrated all in all seasons.

The West Wickham Flower Club (formerly Floral Art Group) are friendly floral display enthusiasts who meet on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 8pm at Emmanuel Church in The Grove, with a break in August and December. The group celebrates creative uses of flowers to make displays and bouquets large and small, hosting demonstrations and workshops and linking into the wider floral arrangement community. They are part of The National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (NAFAS) so are committed to offering top quality demonstrations and advice but the club is open to all levels of experience and interest.

I was fortunate to be at the June meeting where professional demonstrator Claire Bryant made these beautiful displays while talking us through her favourite flowers and greenery to work with. Despite the heat it was amazing to see them take shape and some lucky members won the raffle to take the creations home.

Future events will include more demonstrations and hands-on workshops so if you have an interest in flowers or just fancy a new social event this would be a great group to visit.



The first visit is free so a great opportunity to meet the group and see what is involved, then membership is £60 for the year or £10 for visitors. To find out about their upcoming programme or more information you can get in touch with the team at:

e-mail www.flowers@gmail.com

phone Sheila Tasker on 020 8777 4445.

Instagram: westwickhamflowerclub

There is parking in front of the church and the building is accessible for wheelchairs but contact the group for any further access queries.

Anna Seabrook

Quiz—No. 17

Supplied by Lawrence White

1. Which was the first capital of the USA from 1790-1800?
2. Name the six counties of Northern Ireland which was created in 1921?
3. What is the principal town and port of Anglesey (Welsh Ynys Môn)?
4. What was the capital of Scotland from the 12th Century until King James I of Scotland was assassinated there on 21/02/1437?
5. Which British photographer made lively and dramatic portraits of the Victorian intelligentsia? Her sitters included English astronomer Sir John Herschel, the poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Charles Darwin.
6. What does Exodus, the second book of the Bible relate?
7. What is the hardest substance known (10 on the Mohs scale)? The Mohs Scale is a scale of hardness for minerals in ascending order.
8. When was the first English translation of the entire Bible?
9. What is the 3rd largest constellation in the sky, in the North Polar region? Its seven brightest stars make up the familiar shape of the Big Dipper or Plough.
10. What is an oxymoron?
11. What is the Fibonacci Series?
12. In which European capital do you find the headquarters of the Spanish Riding School?
13. What links the number 'four' in English, 'four' in German, 'three' in Italian and 'five' in Spanish?
14. What character did Andrew Sachs play in 'Fawlty Towers'?
15. Which nobleman led the Barons' Revolt against King Henry III of England, in 1264, at the Battle of Lewes?
16. Which author's books include 'The Bell' 1958 and 'Under the Net' 1954 ?
17. What is the largest and uppermost part of the human brain?
18. The Canary Islands get their name from what kind of animal?

Answers can be found on page 38



Summer Holidays at



Emmanuel URC, The Grove West Wickham



Six weeks may seem a long time to entertain your children, which is why we have planned some activities for children and their families over the summer.



Thursday
30th July
2-3.30pm

Summertime Fun for 3-11 year olds

Crafts, games, toys, table tennis and much more ...



Tuesday
4th August
2-3.30pm

Parent and Child craft session 8 years plus

Make a scrapbook page or collage / die cutting/ stamping activity.
(please contact Julie, our Children and Family worker to book).



Tuesday
11th August
2-3.30pm

Board Games session – 8 years plus

Come along and play your favourite board game or try a new one!



Monday
17th August
2-3.30pm

Summertime Fun for 3-11 year olds

Crafts, games, toys, table tennis and much more ...



Tuesday
18th August
2-3.30pm

Summertime Fun for 3-11 year olds

Crafts, games, toys, table tennis and much more ...



Parents/Carers are required to stay at all sessions.

All sessions are free of charge, however, any donations would be appreciated – all donations will be used to purchase new toys and equipment for Julie's groups.



Please email child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk for more information.



Coffee and Get-together

Sunday Coffee

GOOD NEWS!

Now that the service on the 1st Sunday of the month has been moved back to a 10.30am start, and following requests from several church members, we will be serving coffee after the church service every week from the beginning of September.

However, if you would still like to drop in to Messy Church on the first Sunday of each month they will be pleased to see you for a cuppa at 10am.
(Please note there is no Messy Church in August)

We look forward to welcoming you every Sunday in The Hewitt Room after the service for coffee, biscuits and fellowship.

Janet Pickering and Pat Best



We run a 'Warm Welcome' cafe on Fridays at the church from 10am - 4pm

Come and join us
on the 1st Sunday of the Month (excl. August)



**Emmanuel Church,
The Grove, West Wickham**

Messy Church starts with breakfast at 10am
(enjoy croissants, cereals, yoghurts and fruit).

Then join us for an interactive retelling of a
Bible story and lots of activities for all ages
to take part in!

Messy Church is Christ-centred, for all ages, based on
creativity, hospitality and celebration and each
month there are plenty of ways everyone is involved!

We finish the morning at 11.30am with
a group activity and the Messy Grace.



For more information, email:
child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk
07444998312

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

Giggles & grow



**Is your child crawling,
but not confidently
walking?**



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
No need to book!



Blissful Beginnings

**Have you recently had a baby or have
a young baby?
Want to meet other new mums?
Want a space when your little ones
can play?**



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

**No need to book, turn up when
you are ready between 10.30-12
noon every Wednesday**

**For ages 0 to
confidently crawling**

**Emmanuel Church, The Grove,
West Wickham**



Julie Cook
Children and Family Worker
child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk
07444998312
**Donations welcome, no need to
book**

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 longs, stories, play
time and much more ...**



Contact

Julie Cook
Children and Family Worker
child.family@emmanuelww.org.uk
07444998312
Donations welcome, no need to book



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



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

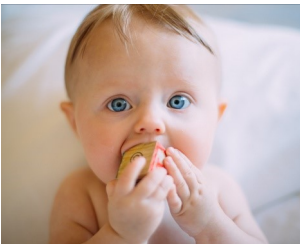
The Emmanuel Art Group usually meets on Thursday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm at Emmanuel URC Church, The Grove, West Wickham, BR4 9JS.

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.

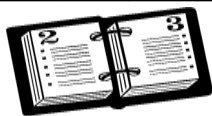




Church Diary for August

Sunday	2nd	10.30am	Worship led by Tina Wheeler
Tuesday	4th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 31)
		2.00pm - 3.30pm	Craft and play session For 8+ year olds (details on page 29)
Wednesday	5th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 31)
Friday	7th	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 30)
Sunday	9th	10.30am	Communion service led by Rev Bryn Thomas
Tuesday	11th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 31)
		2.00pm - 3.30pm	Board games session For 8+ year olds (details on page 29)
Wednesday	12th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 31)
Friday	14th	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 30)
Sunday	16th	10.30am	Worship led by Marion Moore
Monday	17th	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Summertime fun For 3—11 year olds (details on page 29)

Continued on next page



Church Diary for August continued...

Tuesday	18th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 31)
		2.00pm - 3.30pm	Summertime fun For 3—11 year olds (details on page 29)
Wednesday	19th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 31)
Friday	21st	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 30)
		<i>Last day for Emmanuel Life items</i>	
Sunday	23rd	10.30am	Songs of Praise service led by Sue Thomas
Tuesday	25th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Giggles and Grow for those crawling, but not walking (details on page 31)
Wednesday	26th	10.30am - 12.00noon	Blissful Beginnings babies up to crawling (details on page 31)
Friday	28th	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 30)
Sunday	30th	10.30am	Worship led by Rev Dr Elaine Colechin



Church Diary for September 2026

Friday	4th	10.00am - 4.00pm	Warm Welcome (details on page 30)
Sunday	6th	10.00am	Messy Church
		10.30am	Worship led by Janet Godden

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Quiz Answers

Quiz on page 28 supplied by Lawrence White

1. Philadelphia, the US Constitution was drafted there in 1787
2. Antrim, Armagh (smallest), Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry (Derry), and Tyrone (largest)
3. Holyhead (Caergybi). Llangefni is the administrative headquarters.
4. Perth
5. Julia Margaret Cameron (born Pattle) 1815-1879
6. It relates the departure of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt under the leadership of Moses for the promised land of Canaan.
7. Diamond, an allotrope of carbon
8. It was in 1535 by Miles Coverdale, a priest
9. Ursa Major (The Great Bear)
10. A figure of speech that involves the combination of two or more words that are normally opposite. Eg Bitter sweet, cruel to be kind, beloved enemy
11. In the simplest form a sequence in which each number is the sum of its two predecessors (1,1,2,3,5,8,13...) It has possible applications in botany, psychology and astronomy
12. Vienna
13. They have the same numbers of letters in the word as the number itself. German 4=vier, Italian 3=tre, Spanish 5=cinco
14. Manuel
15. Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester (1208-1265)
16. Dame (Jean) Iris Murdoch, considered an English writer although born in Dublin.
17. Cerebrum
18. Dogs, the Spanish name of the islands is Canarias

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 <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

